



THE JASPILITE

WINTER 2013 ISSUE

FROM THE PRESIDENTS' DESKS...

Our Purpose:

*To enjoy, to learn, to
teach and conserve*

*The rocks, the gems, the
fossils and ores,*

*To collect, to admire, to
brag and to show*

*The material we've found,
we'll trade for yours.*

*-Bob & Marian Markert
(founding members)*

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Out with the old and in with the new! Congratulations Charlie on your new challenge as President of the Ishpeming Rock and Mineral Club for 2013! As your outgoing President I see 2013 as another busy, challenging and changing year for you and the club. We are all here to help, participate and have fun!

I would like to thank the club for all of your support over the last three years. We made some changes and faced some challenges that made our club a stronger organization. It meant so much to have the members' support throughout the changes and challenges. Thank you! I plan to stay active in the club and help Charlie through the transition.

Remember, everything is twice as fun if you get involved. I will see you at our Sunday meeting very soon!

Bev

Don't forget to check the website regularly for current updates.
www.ishpemingrockandmineralclub.org

Greetings and a Happy New Year to one and all! It's been my privilege to have been selected as President of the Ishpeming Rock and Mineral club for 2013. During the coming year I hope to help expand the club's membership and increase collaboration with other clubs in the region.

In my efforts I hope to uphold the high standards of service and leadership set by my predecessors Bev Trynoski and John Crady. I consider myself, and the club, fortunate to have the continuing support from our returning members of the executive committee including; Ernie Johnson - Vice President and Program Chair, Dawn Hoffman - Secretary, Dave McGowan - Treasurer, Dan Fountain - Field Trip Co-Chair and Jaspillite Editor, Bob Clark - Field Trip Co-Chair and Trustee and John Crady -Trustee, as well as our curators, Joyce and Al Smith. When you see them please thank them, as do I, for their continued service.

Respectfully,

Charlie Richardson

GEM AND MINERAL SHOW 2013

Our show is set for August 2, 3 & 4, 2013 at the Elks Club In Ishpeming and is only 6+ months away and time goes fast. So now would be the time to mark your calendars, so you don't miss a great weekend. A list of the different activities that need to be done prior to and at the show will be discussed at upcoming meetings. To make it another successful year the club needs your help. In your trips, travels, cleaning your basement or wherever you find or pick up an extra specimen and you don't know what to do with it, save it for the show! We need specimens for the silent auction, door prizes, kids table and if you have something special, for the raffle. I have one demonstration, wire wrapping, but would like to have at least one or two more as it keeps people at the show.

Along the same line, I need suggestions for Saturday evening's program, as it has become one of the high points of the show. At the next meeting there will need to be a discussion on the raffle, as the last two years it has not generated the revenue for the work or cost involved since a lot of the members did not sell any tickets.

Always remember it is your show and the major fundraiser for the club.

-Ernie Johnson

LIBRARY NOTES

The club has purchased *The A. E. Seaman Mineral Museum: Its History and Collections* by George W. Robinson and Robert Rann for the club library. Along with the book is a CD of the mineral specimen images. It will be a worthwhile addition to the library.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

February 17, 2013

Faceting

Mr. Brian Becker of Marquette will demonstrate the general lapidary art of faceting. He will explain the steps involved and the equipment that he uses to facet a stone. Mr. Becker will have faceted stones and equipment on display for members to view.

March 17, 2013

TBA - Need suggestions.

April 21, 2013

Annual club silent auction.

Members will be asked to donate specimens for the auction. All proceeds from the auction go to the club to meet ongoing expenses.

May 19, 2013

TBA - Need suggestions.

Wire Wrapping Class

We are looking at organizing a wire-wrapping class this year. Date, time and fees are yet to be determined. Stay tuned!

THE ISHPEMING ROCK AND MINERAL CLUB, INC.

By Bob Markert

(Reprinted from the 1972 Souvenir Booklet of the *Jaspilite*)

True rock hounding in Marquette County began many years before the formation of the Ishpeming Rock & Mineral Club in January of 1953. The deep seated underground iron ore mines of the Marquette Range were constantly uncovering numerous beautiful iron ore and related specimens during their early years of existence. These specimens were collected by miners who made room in lunch buckets that probably on some occasions were filled with aromatic Cornish pasties. Seems only right that on the return trip to surface a beautiful specimen would occupy the dinner bucket space vacated by that delicious pasty.

Because of the collections assembled by those early miners, shift bosses, and mining captains, interest mounted and it was only a matter of time before some of the people who were exposed to these unusual collections would band together in the form of a club. This was the case in Ishpeming as about 12 persons who were more exposed to these things of 'beauty did get together on frequent visits as early as 1950 to compare notes and even arrange some impromptu field trips. It still took three years of such meetings to actually develop the regularity which is part of an organized club.

An organizational meeting was called for in January of 1953 and on the 28th of that month a hardy group of rockhounds braved a January snowstorm to attend the meeting at the Ishpeming Winter Sports Clubhouse. A temporary name, *The Ishpeming Rock & Mineral Club*, was picked and the following officers became the first official executive committee of our club: Bob Markert, president; Bud Bamford, vice president; Anita Davis, secretary; and Bob Davis, treasurer. A by-laws committee was made up of Len Trebilcock, Tom Hughes and Ero Luostari. Other persons in attendance were Marian, Dud and Scott Markert, Lena Bamford, Lyle Trebilcock, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hawes, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Collick, Gust Engman, Mrs. Bensen, Dan Mitchell, Ted Buetner, Paul Lesage, Bill Locher, and Jim Urquhart. The first dues

collected were \$1.00 for adults and 50¢ for children.

It is interesting to note that rock auctions were considered in this first meeting of the club and they have been an important function ever since. Proceeds from the first auction were used to affiliate with the MWF and they are now being turned over to the same organization to be used in the scholarship fund. The Club is presently a 300 percenter and well on the way to becoming a 400% club.

The Club gained its wings very early in its history by entertaining the Michigan Mineralogical Society on a three day field trip in the Ishpeming area only six months after organizing.

The Club owns a large case of mineral specimens which can now be viewed in the Ishpeming Chamber of Commerce Office on Division Street in Ishpeming. This display had its beginning in the fall of the first year of the Club with the first stage of completion in the fall of 1954. We have had several work bees on the displays since then to upgrade the specimens and the cases as well as to move them to three different locations. Bake sales during the first couple of years of existence provided us with funds to augment the many projects undertaken by the Club. The *Jaspilite*, our Club paper, had its birthday in October of 1954 with Anita Davis serving as the first editor. The paper has been published every year with the aid of the following editors: Carol Kokko, Marian Markert, Bob Markert, Dominica Carlyon, Roy Hansen, Claris Smith, and our present editor, Olive Sain.

The Club has created and sent displays to the following Midwest conventions: Detroit in 1955, St. Paul (Minn.) in 1956, Downers Grove (Ill.) in 1958, and Springfield (Ohio) in 1959.

The Club has hosted several other clubs on field trips throughout its 19 years and has embarked on a few field trips of its own. Probably the most comprehensive was a five day field trip around Lake Superior the year that

Highway 17 was opened. Several Club trips have been held in the Copper Country, a few in Gogebic County, and quite a number in the Iron River-Felch area.

The first Gem Show of the Club was held on June 25 and 26, 1959, at the Ski Hall of Fame. The Hall was crowded to overflowing with excellent displays of all facets of the hobby.

Subsequent Gem Shows of the Club were held in the St. John's School in Ishpeming. The second show occupied four classrooms and the hallway and certainly paved the way for the First Annual Upper Peninsula Gem and Mineral Show which took up the complete space of the gymnasium at St. John's Church and School. Six dealers and about 74 individual and club displays made up this very interesting show attended by several thousand people.

A highlight of the Ishpeming Rock and Mineral Club took place in 1960 when this Club hosted the Midwest Federation Field Trip Convention. A total of 806 registrations were recorded which included all members of the local club. The mining companies and Lindberg Brothers provided wholehearted cooperation to make the field trips exceptional and quite productive.

This year's Gem Show will be the fifth annual Upper Peninsula show and it is hoped that this event will be continued into the future. Thus far participation has come from the Copper Country Rock and Mineral Club, Iron County Rock and Mineral Club, Bay De Noc Rock and Mineral Club, and Pictured Rocks Gem and Mineral Club. The 32nd Annual Convention of The Midwest Federation has been arranged for by a steering committee who has worked long and hard to provide the MWF with the best field trip convention in its 32 years of conventions. The Ishpeming Rock and Mineral Club is indeed proud to have hosted the MWF during two of the 32 years of conventions – not many clubs in the Midwest can claim such honors as that. We urge you to be good sports, safety minded and please observe the ground rules laid down by this very small club in order to assure each of you with collecting items. In order to assure you a quantity of kona dolomite, forty members of the Ishpeming Rock and Mineral Club spent Sunday, June 25, collecting 18,000 pounds of

kona dolomite just ahead of the steam shovel and trucks of the quarry. We were afraid that the supply would run out by convention time.

OFFICERS – 1972

President	Charles (Pat) Bemis, Gwinn
1st Vice Pres.	Ernest Johnson, Marquette
2nd Vice Pres.	Frazier Tubbs, Ishpeming
Corresp. Sec.	Mamie Jarvi, Ishpeming
Record. Sec.	Helen Johnson, Marquette
Treasurer	Dorothy Tubbs, Ishpeming
Publicity	Pat Elie, Gwin Edith Anderson and Ray Anderson, Marquette
Curator	Elmer Jarvi, Ishpeming
Editors - <i>Jaspilite</i>	Olive Sain and Laurence Sain, Marquette

38th ANNUAL UPPER PENINSULA Gem & Mineral Show

Saturday, August 3, 2013 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
(All times eastern Daylight savings Time)

Ishpeming Elks Club Hall
597 Lakeshore Drive, Ishpeming, Michigan

Dealers

Silent Auction

Crackerbarrel

Displays

Kids Area

Working Demonstrations throughout the day

• **FREE Admission** • **Door Prizes** •

Field trips Friday and Sunday

Space available for all who sell or swap:
outside \$25, inside \$50 per 8 lineal feet.

2012 FIELD TRIP RECAP

The club's 2012 field trips offered collectors a variety of collecting opportunities, from iron mines to a gold and silver prospect to a dolomite quarry.

We started the year with another trip to the Republic Mine in May. We collected in three different areas of the abandoned iron mine property. The first site, alongside the old crude ore bins, gave participants the opportunity to collect the Republic's signature mineral, specular hematite. Some collectors were fortunate to find specimens with quartz druzes and barite. The second location, at the base of one of the rock dumps ("waste rock stockpiles" in currently PC terminology) yielded hematite, magnetite, quartz, calcite, actinolite, some micro tourmaline, and altered garnet in schist. A third site along another rock dump gave the opportunity to search for the Republic's hidden treasure, iron lace agate, but nobody admitted to finding any. Minerals collected there included more hematite and magnetite, quartz, calcite, pyrite and an unusual form of banded iron formation comprising alternating thin layers of magnetite and black cryptocrystalline quartz.

For the June field trip we visited the Champion Mine for the first time in several years. While some collectors were happy to fill their buckets with the Champion's beautifully sparkly specular hematite, others went in search of some of the more obscure minerals. Diligent searching yielded such treasures as massive magnetite, tourmaline in quartz, garnet with pyrite and marcasite, and some nice specimens of molybdenite.

In July, the club visited two of the westernmost mines on the Marquette Iron Range - the Ohio Mine and the Spurr Mine. The Ohio mine was one of the first mines on the range to use a beneficiation process to process the low grade Bijiki Formation ores to produce a marketable concentrated iron ore. Most of our collecting was done on the big orange reject pile, where the lower grade (iron-wise) rock was piled after crushing, screening and heavy-media flotation. One advantage to collecting there is that there are no big rocks to lift or break up; the disadvantage is that there aren't any big specimens to collect. Collectors did find specimens of goethite, quartz, calcite, apatite and a number of specimens of the unusual fibrous mineral sepiolite. The second stop of the day was a mile back toward Ishpeming at the Spurr Mine, which had been active in the latter part of the 19th century.

Like the Michigamme Mine a mile to the east, the Spurr is known for its chlorite pseudomorphs after garnet. Plenty of these altered garnets were found in the rock dumps; the only problem was removing them from their matrix, a process that involved heavy hammering as well as a good bit of luck. The garnets seemed to shatter more easily than the hard rock surrounding them. A few collectors found that it was just as productive to scratch through the piles of finer broken rock for crystals that had already been freed from the matrix during mining. Other minerals collected included some attractive grunerite, pyrite and possibly rhodocrosite.

August brought the club's annual Gem and Mineral Show and the traditional field trips to the Republic Mine for iron range minerals and to the Lindberg Quarry for its distinctive Kona dolomite, a highly silicified dolomite with patterns resulting from ancient algae colonies known as stromatolites. Rockhounds from around the country came and collected, filling buckets, car trunks and even trailers with rocks from these sites.

The Ishpeming Rock and Mineral Club wrapped up the collecting season with a trip to a special location, the Silver Creek gold and silver prospect. Thanks to the landowners, Larry and Nancy, and the assistance of Thom Skelding, we were able to visit this site, which has been explored since 1888 for gold and silver. Most recently, the property was drilled in 2010 by an exploration company that is hoping to mine precious metals there someday. Collectors climbed the ridge and dug into the old rock piles alongside the shafts and trenches from the 19th century. Galena in amounts ranging from a speck to boulders with inch-wide veins of mineral were found. Excitement ran high when a few collectors found quartz with bright yellow metallic minerals visible, but close examination revealed that it was the copper ore chalcopyrite. The zinc ore sphalerite was also found in sizeable cleavages. Careful inspection of a few specimens from the dump revealed delicate leafy patterns of iron or manganese oxide dendrites on fracture surfaces, while inspection under ultraviolet light showed fluorescent secondary minerals hydrozincite, smithsonite and an unidentified green-fluorescing zinc mineral. We ended the day with cookies and coffee at our hosts' beautiful log home. A big **Thank You** to Larry and Nancy!

The Ishpeming Rock and Mineral Club

www.ishpemingrockandmineralclub.org

President	Charlie Richardson
Vice President	Ernest Johnson
Secretary	Dawn Hoffman
Treasurer	David McGowan
Program Chairman	Ernest Johnson
Jaspilite Editor	Dan Fountain
Trustees	Bob Clark
	John Crady
	Beverly Trynoski

The club meets at the Cliffs Shaft Mine Museum in Ishpeming at 1:30 p.m. on the third Sunday of the month, September through November and January through May. During the summer business meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. on the third Monday of the month.

FIELD TRIPS 2013

We are in the process of setting dates and selecting sites for this year's field trips. Your input is appreciated.

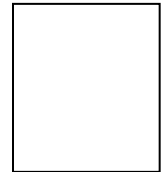
When do you want to go? Saturdays?
Sundays?

Where do you want to go? Local sites?
(Marquette County?) More distant sites?
(Copper Country, etc.?) Field collecting sites
or museums etc.?

Another suggestion has been to require club membership for field trip participation. What do you think?

Please send your suggestions to:
irmc@ishpemingrockandmineralclub.org

Ishpeming Rock and Mineral Club
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