



The Jaspilite

Winter 2014 Issue

From the President's Desk...

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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It doesn't seem possible that another year has come and gone, but here we are and it's 2014 already. I'd like to take this opportunity to wish you all a healthy and prosperous new year. In addition, I'd like to offer my personal gratitude to all those who in so many ways, large and small, contributed to our Club's successes during the past 12 months, some of which I'd like to enumerate here:

- We started the year with our participation in the annual Kaleidoscope event at the Dome at which we helped introduce some 400 children and their families to the joys of rocks and minerals
- Our next big event was Family Night at Aspen Ridge School where children and their families were exposed to our favorite activity. We were fortunate to have shared a room with Leo La Fond from the Cliffs Shaft Organization who enhanced the program with a historical perspective on local mining.
- Also during the intervening period, our Community Education coordinators, Al and Joyce Smith along with Leo, made numerous presentations as part of the curriculum at local schools.
- We hosted a group of students from North Star Academy at the Cliffs Shaft where they viewed our collection and enjoyed an educational presentation by Joyce and Al.
- We initiated a long overdue and laborious review of our Constitution and By-Laws with an eye toward bringing them into line with contemporary standards and practices. This work is ongoing.
- We instituted a Face Book page in hopes of better informing a younger generation on our activities. Look out Twitter and Instagram, here we come.
- We conducted a reasonably full schedule of field trips culminating in a late October trip to the Republic on which we were joined by a group of 18 faculty and staff from Notre Dame University. We also had a couple of exchange trips with the Copper Country Rock and Mineral Club. Unfortunately we were compelled by a lack of a site and trip leader to cancel the July trip. I invite anyone who has a prospective location to suggest and/or would be willing to lead a summer trip to contact me with your suggestions so that we can give our hard working Trip Coordinators some support.
- With the assistance of our dear friend George Robinson from the Seaman

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Museum we were able, as the Club requested, to return one of the barites we had on loan to the Seaman so it could be displayed in our collection. The specimen featured in George's book on the Seaman collection continues to be on loan and is displayed there so it can be enjoyed by a wider audience.

- Again with George's assistance, Al, Joyce and Bob Clark were able to go through the Hawes Collection and correct some misidentifications and identify some specimens and locations, labels having been lost or switched when the collection was transferred to our control. George retired this summer and moved back to his native New York. He will be sorely missed.
- We had an exceptional Gem and Mineral show in August, thanks once again to Ernie Johnson and a cadre of tireless volunteers. We had excellent attendance and unlike recent years the weather couldn't have been better.
- We developed and produced a T-shirt celebrating our 60th Anniversary which we marketed at the August show. Limited quantities remain, so consider getting some as gifts for family and friends.
- We awarded two \$500 Earth Science Awards, one each to students from Northern Michigan University and Michigan Tech who were nominated by professors at their respective institutions .
- And, last but not least, we produced a couple of issues of the Jaspilite. This effort would benefit greatly from a volunteer who could act as copy editor who could assist in collecting material to be sent to Dan Fountain our Jaspilite editor. If you have any literary skills and would like to help assemble copy three or four times a year, your help would be greatly appreciated. To volunteer contact me through the website.

I'm sure I express the sentiments of all the officers and volunteers of the Ishpeming Rock and Mineral Club when I wish you all very best in the coming year.

- Charlie Richardson

GEM & MINERAL SHOW 2013

The show is now history and we can look back on it and know that it was another success. It could not have been a great show for the club without those who stepped forward to make it what it was. The turnout at the field trips was down a little bit in relation to past years, but every year is different. Everyone found specimens that they liked and were happy. The show itself was great and I am estimating that we had between 1500 and 2000 attendees, as we and the dealers were busy all day. The dealers both inside and out provided a broad array of minerals for the attendees which helps to keep them at the show and think about coming back next year. We had to stop accepting reservations for outside space as we ran out of room. There were 73 attendees at the Saturday evening activities and every one had a great time. The live auction was the highlight of the evening, as the minerals were great, which created some very, very lively bidding.

I want to thank everyone who helped in any way because that is what makes the show great and also provides a positive imagine for the club.

GEM & MINERAL SHOW 2014

Now that we have put one show to bed, it is time to both think about and start on next year's show, the 39th. The dates have been set, August 2 for the show and August 1 and 3 for the field trips. The letter has gone out to the Elks Club with a deposit. Information has been sent to two web sites concerning the show and one request for funding has been submitted with a second due by December 1. More activities and discussions will start after the first of the year. Any suggestion you may have concerning the show, please let us know.

- Ernie Johnson

WINNERS!

GEM & MINERAL SHOW RAFFLE WINNERS

<u>Prize</u>	<u>Donor</u>	<u>Winner</u>
\$100.00	IRMC	Kevin Foster
\$ 50.00	IRMC	Jim Kallioinen
Rock & Mineral Book	Bev Trynoski	George Miljour
Rock & Mineral Book	Bev Trynoski	Janet Irwin
Mineral Clock	Bob Clark	Jolene Garceau
Rock Pen Set	Olive Sain	Gary Guibord
Calcite Specimen	Anonymous	Nina Damron
Kentucky Agate	Earth Prospect	Pat Gruber

GEM & MINERAL SHOW LIVE AUCTION WINNERS

<u>Item</u>	<u>Donor</u>	<u>High Bidder</u>
Copper - Keweenaw	Gary Richards	Sue Howe
Geothite - Mqt. Range	IRMC	Bill Mitchell
Hematite - Needle Ore	IRMC	Bob Clark
Hematite - Grape Ore	IRMC	George Balogh
Hematite - Lily Mine?	IRMC	George Balogh
Sulfur Crystals	Keeper of the Earth	Ken Mazzoline
Crock Pot	Joyce Smith	Jocelyn Jonas
Tumbler Kit	Kingsley North	Bruce McCombie
Calcite on Magnetite	George Balogh	Sue Howe
Calcite - Shullsburg WI	George Balogh	Tom Buchholz
Datolite Case - Assorted	George Balogh	Melissa Gueits
Magnetite w/Magazine	George Balogh	Joel Vicary
Hematite - Montreal	George Balogh	Ken Mazzoline
Geothite - Mather B	George Balogh	Bob Clark
Hematite - Cumbria UK	George Balogh	Dave Midkiff
Calcite - Montreal Mine	George Balogh	Tom Buchholz
Geothite, Lake Superior	George Balogh	Ken Mazzoline
Calcite & Pyrite	IRMC	Lacy Gear
Gold Specimen	Gary Richards	Sue Howe
"Bevite" Conglomerate	Tim Lemke	Tim Lemke



WINNER!



Alanah Mattson was the winner of the rock tumbler given out at the Kid's Corner during the annual IRMC Gem and Mineral Show in August. Her name was picked from over a hundred entries. Alanah is seven years old and attends Lakeview Elementary School in Negaunee. Her mom said that they have been collecting agates and they will use the tumbler to polish them.

-Joyce & Al Smith

AN APOLOGY - AND THANKS!

Your editor would like to apologize for the lack of the 2013 Summer and Fall editions of The Jaspilite. I would also like to thank Charlie Richardson, Ernie Johnson, Joyce and Al Smith, and Glenn Kivela for their contributions of material for this and future editions of the newsletter.

-Dan Fountain

HELP NEEDED AT KALEIDOSCOPE 2014

The 22nd annual Kaleidoscope will be held at the Superior Dome in Marquette from noon to 4 p.m. on Saturday, February 22, 2014. The IRMC will once again be offering kids from around the U.P. a chance to learn about rocks and minerals through hands-on activities. A display will be available for children to look at and handle. There will be a sand tub for them to "dig" for a rock specimen. A microscope will be available for viewing mineral specimens along with a fluorescent display and some amazing fossils. Free specimens will be given to each child.

These and other activities need adult supervision. You do not need to be an "expert" to help out. If you would like to give of your time to help set up or work at the tables for an hour or so, let Joyce or Al Smith know by calling 225-0408. Set up will take place from 11:00 to noon on that day. Take down will take place around 3:45.

This is a wonderful opportunity to give our club some great exposure to the community and helps promote our hobby.

-Joyce & Al Smith

It is difficult to write about a friend and fellow rock hound who will no longer be with us. Jan Ruonavaara, a club member and a great supporter of the Ishpeming Rock and Mineral club passed away this past summer just prior to our show. Some of you may not have known her, but she supported the club and was interested in the happenings of the club even after she was diagnosed with cancer. Jan attended and helped at our shows, and donated many items to our show and club. She continued to be active in our hobby after her husband, Don, passed away a number of years ago. All who knew her will miss her.

-Ernie Johnson

UPCOMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY 16, 2014

Program Meeting

Jim Paquette will speak on a historical mid-17th century site in Marquette County that he has been working on over the last few years.

MARCH 16, 2014

Program Meeting

Program TBA

APRIL 20, 2014

Business Meeting and
Annual Club Silent Auction

SUMMER, 2014

Field Trips!

39th ANNUAL UPPER PENINSULA Gem & Mineral Show

Saturday, August 2, 2014 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** •

**THE LATEST PROSPECTING TECHNOLOGY
19TH CENTURY STYLE**

Recently, while researching some of the more conventional history of mining in the state, I came across an article I wanted to share with you. I'm sure many of our readers are familiar with the prestigious publication Scientific American through whose pages the public has been introduced to cutting edge science for more than 150 years. The following article is taken from the January 29th, 1848 edition.

Clairvoyant Miners

A company is now formed at Jackson, Michigan, called the "Clairvoyant Exploring Company of Michigan", for the object stated "of examining different sections of the country for coal, iron and other treasures which are hid from natural vision, and to direct the enterprising in their labors, to prevent constant losses by digging in vain, and also to direct improvements in machinery and applying them aright".

This company is undoubtedly the greatest invention of the age and it is a great pity that it has not been organized before the expensive Geological Survey of this State was made. What a savings it would have been, but then those were days when such ethereal light had not penetrated our bedarkened country.

The clairvoyants of Michigan have a great deal of trouble out of the hands of our inventor, and as they are to preside over improvements in machinery, we suppose that the Patent Office will be laid upon the shelf as a relic of the dark ages. Our machinists and millwrights and engineers should lay down their squares and compasses, and refer the whole subject of machine manufacture and engine and railroad construction to the *seers* of Michigan.... What lucky fellows these clairvoyants are. They can know everything. We have often tried a magnetic flight but have never got above our chair and have always been proof against such spiritual

locomotion. No wonder we have heard of gold mines being discovered in Michigan lately.

From the tone of the article the author might well have had his tongue firmly planted in his cheek when writing, but then again you never know. So what I'm suggesting is that the next time you're out on the rock piles, hot and tired and you're just not finding anything, it couldn't hurt to try channeling that perfect specimen that you've dreamed about and that would be the centerpiece of your collection. Rock on!

- Charlie Richardson

LIBRARY

I think most members know that the club has a library. Is it used? No! Part of that could be my fault in not being more active in highlighting what is in the library. There is information on just about any subject concerning our hobby. A great many of the books in the club library are a number of years old but they contain a vast amount of information on our hobby; from identification of minerals, to locations, jewelry making, lapidary, fossil collecting and the cleaning and preserving of minerals. There are some magazines from Germany that have some of the most outstanding pictures of minerals you will ever find. The company was only in business a few years and we are lucky to have some of their magazines in our collection.

The next time you are at a meeting please take time to look at what the club has to offer. I have used a number of them over the years. We only ask that you check them out for no more than two months at a time. I am looking for someone to help me at the meetings in checking out and in of the books.

-Ernie Johnson

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.

Ideas and Contributions Needed

The Jaspilite is YOUR newsletter, so let us know what YOU want to see in the upcoming issues!

Collecting tips?

Lapidary how-to articles?

Mineral identification?

Color mineral photos? (Eye candy!)

Storage and display techniques?

Collecting trip reports?

Crystallography?

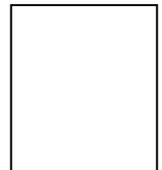
Your suggestions are welcomed!

If any of you have an area of expertise you'd like to share with our members, please consider writing an article or a story for the Jaspilite. Drop off a paper copy at a club meeting, send it by US Mail, or email it to:

editor@ishpemingrockandmineralclub.org

- we'll take care of editing it into a format suitable for publication!

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