



**Official Bulletin  
of the  
Chugach Gem & Mineral Society**

Alaska Pebble Patter  
Chugach Gem and Mineral Society  
P.O. Box 92027  
Anchorage, AK. 99509-2027

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**CHUGACH GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY, INC.**  
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THE CHUGACH GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY, INC. maintains memberships in:  
AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES  
NORTHWEST FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES

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THE CHUGACH GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY MEETINGS ARE HELD AT  
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
725 WEST 9<sup>TH</sup> AVE., ANCHORAGE, AK  
(Enter the church from the rear parking lot.)

BUSINESS MEETING – 7:30 PM — 2nd Thursday of each month.

POTLUCK MEETING – 6:30 PM — 4th Thursday of each month.

Bring a hot dish, salad, or dessert (plus serving spoon) to serve 5 people.

Also bring your own plate, silverware and drink. But most importantly, bring a rock to show!

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Annual membership fees: Individuals - \$15.00; Families (2 or more) - \$20.00; Bulletin Only - \$10.00  
Lifetime membership fees: Individuals - \$150.00; Families (2 adults & children under 18) - \$200.00



## President's Message

January – February 2005

Happy New Year to all. 'Tis the season to start planning our 2005 field trips. So speak up and let us know where you would like to go during the coming year. If we can't get there this year then it'll be on the list for next year. Also don't be afraid to step up to the plate and offer to lead a trip. It's really not so hard and your efforts are greatly appreciated by everyone in the club. Bonnie Hepburn is the field trip chairman this year and has a rough outline of trips on the drawing board. Please remember we are always looking for "winter" trips too, so share your thoughts and ideas. I might add that if you have a trip planned outside of the club's agenda and you would like to have some company, make an announcement at the meetings. We've all got different interests and abilities and the whole idea of the club is to get out and about, meet new folks, bring home rocks and treasures and all that stuff.

Our first meeting of 2005 will be January 13th at 7:30 and Bonnie will present a preliminary field trip outline. However, I want to mention the first two trips just so you all can have a heads up. On January 22nd Greg has offered to host an educational event at the USGS with Bob Blodgett. He will be demonstrating how to use the USGS fossil database look-up system. They can handle a group of 8 at a time so sign up right away if you are interested. If we get enough participants Greg has offered to do two sessions.

And speaking of Greg, he is our program chairman and has a big job setting up two programs a month. If you have a program, demonstration or whatever that you would like to share with the club, contact Greg and get on his calendar.

Coming up towards the end of February is the Fur Rondy. The club always puts up member displays so get your thinking caps on and your creative juices flowing and design a display. Also think about helping to set up and take down the cases. It doesn't take much time and the effort is well appreciated and, believe it or not, fun. Joe Turnbow is leading the charge on communicating with the Rondy folks. Although plans and coordination sound a little hazy right now, we'll keep you informed as events unfold.

March will bring a shop night at Nature's Jewels. Learn how to use some of the cutting and lapidary equipment. We will also have a trip to ARLIS (the Alaska Resources Library Information Services) now located in the new UAA library.

As a final tribute to 2004 I'd like to thank Heather and Dorothy for their work in making the Christmas Party a happenin' event. We had a capacity crowd, tons of food, great gifts and a fun gift exchange. In short, a good time was had by all. It was a fitting conclusion to our 2004 year.

Bye for now,  
Anita

**Chugach Gem & Mineral Society**  
**January Business Meeting Minutes**

President Anita Williams called the January 13, 2005 meeting of the Chugach Gem and Mineral Society to order at 7:40 PM.

No guests were present.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Treasurer - Greg reported a balance of \$5653.84 in our checking account and \$4433.60 in our savings account. There were no changes in the certificates of deposit but one matures on 01/24/05. A full report will be presented before the new treasurer takes office.

Recording Secretary - Bea read the minutes from the November 2004 business meeting. The minutes were approved as read.

Membership - Jean reported our memberships to the Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies and paid a total of \$579 for current dues-paid CGMS members. Jean also stated that NFMS directories may be ordered for \$5 each.

Northwest Federation Liaison - Tom Cooper was absent.

Correspondence Secretary - Nancy turned all mail over to the President.

Sunshine - Dorothy said she knew of no members who were ill or in need.

Pebble Patter - Sue expected to put one out within the month. She asked that we help by submitting articles by the 20th. Betty suggested that fieldtrip reports and other articles from past editions be reprinted. Mary said that articles about minerals would be educational too.

Website - Adeline said she would be working on an online sign-up for fieldtrips.

Fieldtrips - Bonnie's committee met and put

together a list of proposed trips for this year. Trip leaders should confirm their availability. Changes would possibly be made and some trips would need researching before confirming. The trip to Paraguay was canceled. Adeline said that our website would soon have the trip list.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Fur Rondy - Joe and Bobbie tried many times to contact the Rondy people and no response was forthcoming. Steve said he understood that there wouldn't be an arts and crafts show this year. This leaves the Club with no opportunity to display, and Joe proposed holding a rock & mineral show near his shop. The space next door is available temporarily and his landlord is agreeable. Rental cost is unknown. Joe suggested the last week of February or the first week of March. Steve agreed to ask the Rondy organization if we could be listed in advertising. Some expressed concern about the location. Joe said he would look into this and no vote was taken.

Anita expressed appreciation to Heather and Dorothy for their work in making the Christmas party such a success.

Shop night at Nature's Jewels - Joe said that after consideration, he would continue the Wednesday night shop night from 6 to 9:30 PM for a \$10 fee but members would have to call ahead to notify him they would attend.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Scholarships - Steve asked if he was to solicit UAA for scholarship applications for next year. Anita suggested we hold off until we can review our bylaws and discuss distribution of our funds at the Board meeting on January 23. All members were informed they may attend.

Picnic - Anita asked if members would like to hold a picnic potluck in the summer. Everyone was in favor of this. The date and

location were not set yet.

Dorothy asked for a volunteer to assist her in disconnecting her old VCR and connecting a new one.

Toni, a new member, asked that there be some method or list to identify ourselves and our various duties and positions in the Club. Linda Ewers volunteered to make nametags so officers and others may be identified.

## FIELDTRIP REPORTS

Steve was in Orange County, CA, and noticed some interesting open land but was unable to easily reach it by walking or by car.

Gretchen was in Hawaii and enjoyed a helicopter flyover to view the volcano, which was very active. She said she would show the photos at a future meeting.

Anita called for a short break followed by a slide show of Dwight and Nancy Smith's trip to Kazakhstan. Door prizes were to be given after the show.

Dwight also had many mineral specimens on display.

The meeting adjourned at 10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bea Allen, Recording Secretary

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Trip Report  
By Sheila Macias

There was a fascinating and very educational trip on January 22<sup>nd</sup> to Greg's USGS office to learn from Dr. Robert B. Blodgett how to access and use the Alaska Paleontological Database. Bob is a wealth of information; just to listen to him is so interesting. He showed us many of the types of field notes and pamphlets that he has gathered to enter into this database.

The information is very scientific and useful to people in this field and yet I can understand and use it with ease. In this database there are many ways to access the information you are after such as by type of fossil, location, age or quadrangle; some of the information is given by longitude and latitude, and there is a search that guides you step by step to find what you are looking for. Any rockhound who is interested in fossils will be thrilled to use this site. It opens up Alaska in a way for which many of us have only wished. If you can't reach me by phone ever again it is because I am on the Internet visiting this "golden egg", if you will.

As you may imagine there are multitudes of information yet to be entered. Dr. Robert B. Blodgett and Dr. Ning Zhang are beginning their third year on this project and hope to list over 3,000 locations per year. The total number of entries made to date is 4,827 of an estimated 14,000 localities. Wow! I am awestruck. Bob simply calls it work in progress. Features they hope to add later include: 1) ability to download locality data; 2) dynamic map plots; and 3) a complete bibliography of Alaskan Paleontological literature with partial annotations. If Dr. Blodgett and Dr. Zhang weren't doing this valuable work, none of us would have such ready access to this information that, by the way, dates back to the late 1800's. It would continue to lie in drawers and on shelves gathering dust and would perhaps be lost with time. Bravo, gentlemen, I applaud you.

As a side note we walked down to see the newly updated Volcano Observatory. All of the seismic data that used to be recorded on drums is now located on monitors. They can access information from any volcano in Alaska and also others such as Mount St. Helens. Just to let you know, Mount St. Helens is growing at the rate of a dump truck per second, yes, per second! We might want to keep an eye on that one.

I am sorry to say I believe many of you will be sad you missed this one, as this was one

of the most valuable and interesting indoor trips that I personally have been on. Thanks so very much, Greg and Bob. Please keep up the good work.

The Alaska Paleontological Database can be found at: [www.alaskafossil.org](http://www.alaskafossil.org).

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More Information on Mount St. Helens  
Submitted by Greg Durocher

Recent observations of Mount St. Helens (1/26/05): The volcano is obscured by clouds this morning. Although conditions for the gas-sensing flight on Monday were poor, analysis of data suggests that the emission of sulfur dioxide is about the same as in previous measurements (range of 50 to 250 tons per day). At yesterday's press briefing there was a lot of interest in gaining better perspective about the size of the uplifted welt and new lava dome. The total volume change represented by the welt and dome as of 3 January of this year is 34 million cubic meters (or 44 million cubic yards). For Portlanders, that is equivalent to 134 Rose Garden arenas. The area of the dome and uplift covers about 60 city blocks. The top of the new lava dome rises about 550 feet above the pre-eruption surface of the flanking glacier, but the lava dome probably extends to the base of the glacier, which means that its true height is closer to 1100 feet.

For additional information (and some interesting equipment stories), go to: <http://vulcan.wr.usgs.gov/Volcanoes/MSH/Eruption04/framework.html>

Here's a live Web cam site: <http://www.fs.fed.us/gpnf/volcanocams/msh/>

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Upcoming Lecture

Erik C. Katvala, a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Calgary, will be presenting a talk entitled "New Applications and Importance of Conodont Data in Tectonostratigraphic Terranes: Examples

From the Late Paleozoic and the Upper Triassic of the Alexander and Wrangellia Terranes".

Erik recently completed an M.S. thesis on the stratigraphy and conodonts of Upper Triassic rocks of the Keku Strait region, southeast Alaska, and is now embarking on a Ph.D. study of Permian conodonts from accreted terranes of southern Alaska. This talk will be of interest to stratigraphers and paleontologists, as well as tectonicists. It is scheduled for 10 AM, Friday, February 25 in Room 49 (conference room) in the basement of the Gould Hall (USGS Bldg.), 4200 University Drive on the APU campus. The talk is open to the public and all are encouraged to attend. For further information contact Robert B. Blodgett at 786-7416 (e-mail: [rblodgett@usgs.gov](mailto:rblodgett@usgs.gov)).

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FOSSIL WORD SEARCH

T E T I N M E L E B  
R H G L B P E J R U  
I T A S I N H A R T  
L O S D O S C M M D  
O M T B I H S M C S  
B M R C I O R O T H  
I A O O E N N N F E  
T M P R P O A I D L  
E O O A S L W T R L  
D M D L P Y S E H C

FOSSIL

TRILOBITE  
CRINOID  
BRACHIOPOD  
GASTROPOD  
PLANT  
MAMMOTH  
AMMONITE  
BELEMNITE  
CORAL  
SHELL  
BONE

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Greetings rockhounds:

pot-luck) and which month you'd prefer.  
First come, first choice!

I'm going to try to schedule as many programs as possible now, so that they can be posted. If you have a slide show, Power Point presentation, video, speaker, demonstration, or hands-on activity, please let me know which meeting (business or

Also- if you have an idea about something you'd like to see, please let me know.  
Thanks!

--Greg

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***A FIELD TRIP IS A SOCIAL OCCASION***



--Cartoon by Erston Barnhart in *Are We Having Fun Yet? An Irreverent but Affectionate Look at Rockhounds*

via Golden Spike News 11/01

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