

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

Alaska Pebble Patter  
Chugach Gem & Mineral Society  
P.O. Box 92027  
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<http://chugachgms.org/>

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**ELECTED POSITIONS**

**PRESIDENT**

Greg Durocher 337-2553

**FIRST VICE PRESIDENT**

Phillip Elrod 349-5457

**SECOND VICE PRESIDENT**

Sheila Macias 274-2204

**TREASURER**

Anita Williams 345-2541

**RECORDING SECRETARY**

Chris Teutsch 694-6586

**CORRESPONDING SECRETARY**

Nancy Danford 694-3288

**APPOINTED POSITIONS**

**PROGRAMS**

Andre Macias 274-2204

**MEMBERSHIP**

Bea Allen 696-4047

**FIELD TRIPS**

Bonnie Hepburn 274-0941

**SUNSHINE**

Dorothy Arnold 279-3876

**PARLIAMENTARIAN**

Norval Kane 243-4648

**FEDERATION LIAISON**

Tom Cooper 262-9759

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

Sue Hilton 694-1934

sueh@mtaonline.net

**CLUB GREETER**

Melvin C. Bennett 770-2732

CHUGACH GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY maintains memberships in:  
AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES  
NORTHWEST FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES

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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, south of 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue between G & H Streets.)

BUSINESS MEETING – 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM.  
POTLUCK MEETING – 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month at 6:30 PM.  
Bring an entrée, side dish, salad, or dessert (plus serving utensil) to serve at least 5 people.  
Also bring your own plate, silverware and drink.  
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

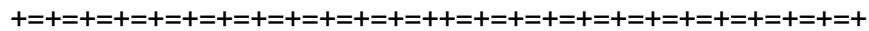
Greetings, Rockhounds,

Our 2007 season is now naught but fond memories. Ah, but we have permanent reminders lying about always keeping the memories vivid, as we watch the snow pile up on the fresh cairns in our yards, and plead to be allowed to add "just a few more" specimens to the household decor. In recent years it seems that more matrix and larger specimens have been gathered, completely opposite what one would expect considering the increasing age of some of the gatherers!

Now it's time to look towards the 2008 season. There will be numerous trips whose success will depend upon good participation. Many will be kid-friendly (under about age 12). Sign-up sheets will be posted at our meetings. For some trips, participation will be limited. First signed, first served! I'm looking forward to adding to the cairns, but even more so to the campfires and camaraderie of the summer.

Till next time, Rock On!

Greg Durocher



**January Business Meeting**

President Greg Durocher called the meeting to order January 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:39 pm; 24 members were present.

Treasurer Linda Ewers stated that accounts totaled \$52,290.83, and passed out a year-end financial report. A motion was made, seconded and passed to accept it as presented.

Membership chair Bea Allen reported 174 members.

Northwest Federation Liaison Tom Cooper discussed Federation issues and requested "Rockhound of the Year" nominations, to be voted on at the April business meeting.

Old Business consisted of voting for officers as there wasn't a quorum in November. A motion was

made, seconded and passed to accept the slate of candidates as presented. [See page 2, "Elected Positions", for results.]

New Business discussions concerned the club exhibit at the Alaska Museum of Natural History, and the club's role at the annual Anchorage School District Science Fair. There was considerable discussion on both topics but no motions were passed.

Following door prizes and a break, for the evening's program Bonnie Hepburn presented the tentative field trip schedule.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Chris Teutsch, Recording Secretary



The next morning was beautiful, the sun was out and it was going to be hot, by Alaskan standards, anyway. After breakfast, we packed our gear for the daytrip upstream. The creek was low and that crystal blue that we like so much. It took about an hour to get up to the first area, a slide area Curvin had pointed out a few years earlier. There were signs that others had been in that same area recently. In just a few minutes, we found a couple nice fossils. Sheila found a nice ammonite first thing.



*The productive slide area. Photo courtesy of Sheila Macias*

Sue and I had a little more trouble. After pounding on rocks for a while we remembered that they used to punish people that way, but the practice was stopped as it was deemed cruel and unusual punishment. We wiped the sweat from our brows and went back to pounding on rocks.

We took a break for lunch; I had a beer or two as we discussed our next plan of attack on Boulder Creek. Little did we know, Boulder Creek had its own plans. That sun we had been enjoying so much was melting the snow rather quickly so the creek was rising exponentially. We headed back down to the creek to find that the beautiful crystal blue creek had turned into a raging red monster. The creek crossing that was easy in the morning had become a dangerous situation in the afternoon. Our plans changed from exploring upstream to heading back downstream where the river spread out more making the crossing easier. All said, it was a good day.

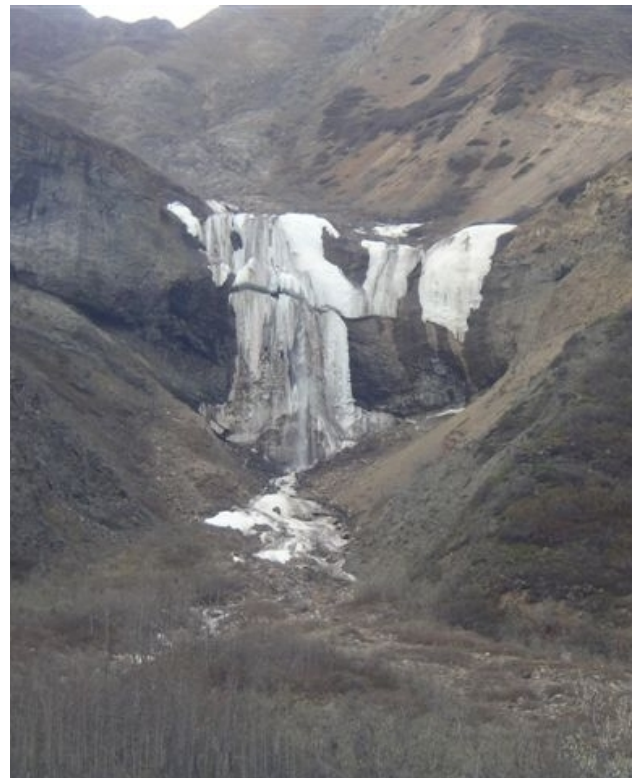
The second day began with another gorgeous morning. It was sunny and warm, and soon to be hot. The creek level was back down making the crossings easy, at least in the morning. Our morning of rockhounding was not near as

productive as the previous day, but what we lacked in quantity we made up for in quality. We went up the creek bed to the right of Chitna Pass trailhead. Sue found what appeared to be a coprolite. It mostly looked like a poodle relieved itself and it turned to stone. There were several opinions of what it was, though I believed it to be the finest specimen of coprolite found in the Talkeetna Mountains.



*Poodle poo? Photo courtesy of Sue Hilton*

After having a break and some lunch I headed up-creek to the waterfall, getting a bit off the trail but still we found it. The falls appeared about 80 feet high. We were going to explore there but decided against that when we saw the large crack in the ice covering the front of the falls.



*Photo courtesy of Sheila Macias*



**Pictures from the Utah Trip**

*Photos courtesy of Dwight & Nancy Smith*



*At Arches National Park*



*He really wants some topaz!*



*At the trilobite quarry*



*There were people from New York, Colorado, Michigan, California and Alaska*

