

**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.
Box 92027, Anchorage AK 99509-2027

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FIELD TRIP	FEDERATION LIAISON
Bonnie Hepburn 274-0941	Tom Cooper 262-9759

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

THE CHUGACH GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY MEETINGS ARE HELD AT
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
725 WEST 9TH 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!

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

Hi everyone,

I think summer may have finally arrived. It is warming up at least. This summer may be something of an offset to the upward global warming trend here in Alaska, which may at last give the worriers a bit of a break. Anyway, back to the fun stuff: rock and mineral trips. Although I haven't been able to participate much this summer, it sounds like the trips have been fun and productive so far. The club has had an overnight trip out to Fire Island in early May, a class in rock identification, beachcombing in Nikiski, clean-up at Hatcher Pass, gold panning at Peters Hills and our picnic potluck meeting. Neither rain nor sleet nor clouds nor wind will keep our members from having a good time; as it should be.

A few more trips are on the horizon. Near the end of July, Andre will be leading a trip to Bird Point to look for quartz and pyrite at low tide. This is a kid friendly area, so families please consider participating on this trip. Also at the end of July will be a trip to the Moore Creek gold mine. In order to find out if any space is still available, check the website at moorecreek.com. Also, Andre and Sheila are going to lead another trip into their favorite fossil hunting grounds along the Little Nelchina. An ATV or 4 wheel drive vehicle is necessary. Some folks do have extra ATV's so if you're interested in participating, please speak up at the next meeting and see if you can get a ride. In August we have two trips: one to the Golden Zone led by Dorothy and the other to Kennicott and McCarthy with Bonnie and Greg. Check for specifics on our web site.

That's about it for now, gang. Have fun and be safe and don't forget to write up a trip report for Sue and the Pebble Patter. It doesn't have to be from an official club trip. If you've done something fun and interesting that you'd like to share, please write it up and become a published author!

Anita

Chugach Gem & Mineral Society May Business Meeting Minutes

First Vice President Greg Durocher called the May 11, 2006 business meeting of the Chugach Gem & Mineral Society to order at 7:35 PM.

The Club warmly welcomed guests Montana Hodges from California and her friend Laura Sandusky. Montana expressed a desire to become a club member and to go on some of the field trips.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Recording Secretary – Bea Allen said that the April minutes would be in the Pebble Patter and also on the website, so it was agreed by all to dispense with the reading of the April minutes.

Treasurer – Linda Ewers was absent and no report was available.

Membership – Jean Kane didn't have a current count but said that several members had not paid their dues and a report was being prepared. Greg said that they would be dropped from our mailing lists.

Corresponding Secretary – Nancy Danford said that all the mail was taken care of.

Northwest Federation Liaison – Tom Cooper said that the Federation directories hadn't come in yet, and thanked everyone for saving stamps. He then announced that Rockhound of the Year award nominations had been submitted to the officers and that Greg Durocher had been chosen because of his years of service to the Club in various officer positions, his leadership, enthusiasm, and his knowledge of and interest in the earth sciences. Everyone clapped their approval.

Sunshine – Dorothy Arnold was absent. It was noted that Steve Jensen's mother had recently passed away, but no other information was available.

Fieldtrips – Bonnie Hepburn reminded us of the trip to Nikiski Beach on May 14th, and that the annual trash cleanup at Hatcher Pass would be on May 20th. Members were to meet at the Gold Mint parking lot at 11:00 AM.

The June 4th trip to Wishbone Hill was canceled. The road leading to the site was officially closed and gated by the DNR due to underground mine fires, and would not be open until the fall of 2007.

The Peters Hills gold panning trip was planned for June 16th through 18th.

The club Picnic Potluck would be 6:30 PM on Thursday, June 22nd at Goose Lake pavilion. Members were told to

use the entrance off UAA Drive as the Northern Lights Boulevard entrance was closed.

Bonnie again asked for a volunteer to temporarily chair the fieldtrip committee, as she would be gone from June 2nd through August. No one came forward.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

Andre stated that the Alaska Museum of Natural History had recently held a fundraiser, and that some time ago the club had discussed making a donation, but we had not done anything since last year. Andre moved that the club donate \$500 to the museum's general fund to be used as they determine. Bonnie seconded the motion, which passed.

Greg said that Mel had alphabetized the members' nametags to speed up everyone finding their name. Mel asked that as you return your tag, you place it in the file IN FRONT of the first letter of your last name, making it easier to get them out for the next meeting. In appreciation of Mel's efforts on this project he was presented with a fish fossil from Wyoming.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Greg said there were some free maps on the back table for anyone to take.

Greg stated that our club would have a table at the opening of an Alaska Heritage Museum exhibit at the Wells Fargo bank at C Street and Northern Lights Boulevard on June 2nd. Volunteers were needed to pass out information about the club. He also said that we would have an exhibit case and asked that we loan some of our better fossil finds.

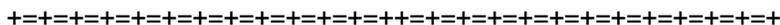
FIELD TRIP REPORTS

The Fire Island fieldtrip was a huge success as reported by Bonnie, Bobbie, Greg and other members who went. The boat captain was very good and made two trips to get everyone across. The campsite was out of the wind and everyone overnighted comfortably in decent weather. Greg entertained around the campfire, Bobbie found the most agates, Beverly and Greg found large tree burls to bring home, and everyone had a great time exploring the beach and beachcombing.

After door prizes were awarded and a brief break, Rick Parkhurst showed his slides of last year's tour through the gold mine at Hatcher Pass.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Bea Allen, Recording Secretary



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

President Anita Williams called the June 8, 2006 business meeting of the Chugach Gem & Mineral Society to order at 7:35 PM.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Recording Secretary – Bea Allen wasn't present and the task of taking the minutes was given to the three college students/rockhounds, Dan, Dave, and Groom. Anita read the May minutes, which were approved as read.

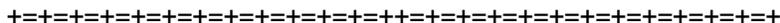
Treasurer – Linda Ewers was absent, but Anita stated that club funds totaled \$4,837.45.

Membership – Jean Kane said that we had 161 members, and that it was the last day to pay membership dues before being dropped from the membership list.

Fieldtrips – Sheila Macias, filling in for Bonnie Hepburn, said that trip lists were on the back table for people to sign up for field trips. The Matanuska River raft trip was canceled due to the fact that not enough people signed up.

OLD BUSINESS
There was none.

NEW BUSINESS



**Field Trip Report
Peters Hills Gold Panning Trip
June 16th – 18th, 2006
By Greg Durocher**

Our adventure began Friday evening at the Forks Roadhouse, about 19 miles in on the Petersville Road. Instead of encountering the usual "remote-lodge" atmosphere, we were assaulted with blaring outdoor speakers. Seems that we had stumbled upon the preparations for a Saturday wedding there. At least we got some relief from the decibels inside as we corralled the herd!

For a group of our size - 6 vehicles - we left the Roadhouse surprisingly close to our originally scheduled time of 8: 30 p.m. At this point the Petersville Road became more of a trial (not trail!) of potholes, mudholes

Mel was again congratulated for organization of the nametags.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Greg said that the Alaska Heritage Museum was really cool, it was well worth the time and everyone should go see it. The exhibit had both old and new mining artifacts and equipment.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Sheila and Andre took a camping trip to Portage Glacier, but the trip was cut short due to a visit by a black bear. Everyone was all right.

Eleven people went to the ABC's of mineral identification class/field trip at Greg's office at the USGS. It went well and everyone liked it.

UAA geology students went on a field/mapping class that took them to the Nenana Gorge, Healy, Fairbanks, Chena, Delta, & Chitina.

Following some of Norval's jokes, members took a break and were able to look at some rocks from the Dalton Highway and the UAA Geology field trip.

The program was Greg's eleven minute video from the Fire Island field trip. Due to technical delays, the program lasted somewhat longer than 11 minutes.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Dan, Dave and Groom, Recording Secretaries Pro Tem

and stream crossings. Bonnie Tisler's van wasn't four-wheel drive, and we were amazed at her prowess in navigating through areas where we thought for sure she'd get stuck.

After about 5 miles of bad road, we came upon a Dodge 350 pickup with a camper and huge trailer that were stuck along the side of a deep mudhole. The driver, Ken Lee, had tried to drive around the hole and gotten hung up. He was busy depositing shovels of gravel under his tires and slowly rocking his way upward. We assisted in this tedious process for a while, but it became evident that more drastic measures would need to be taken in order to move his twenty-four thousand pounds out of there! Years ago Big Red and I were helped out of similar straits by a little ATV. So in order to "pay it forward," I plunged Clueless through the mudhole and pulled forward to face my tow rings toward Ken's

monstrosity. Three times I'd give a bit of slack, then jerk backwards - all 4 of my wheels and all 4 of his - spinning in place. On our 4th try his rig got a bit of purchase; then with the guys all yelling encouragement, we gathered momentum like an overloaded steam train. I backed up as fast as I could to keep from getting run over, until the trailer cleared the soft ground. After we stopped, Ken shook his head and said that he - a confirmed Dodge man - would forever have to eat crow after being pulled out by a little Ford Ranger. He invited us to the Ken-Win Bed & Breakfast for coffee and free panning. We said that we hoped to see him the next day, and off he went.

We stopped briefly at the old Petersville town site to check out panning possibilities. Some guy by the creek said that the place wouldn't be ready for recreational mining until next season, as the current owner was doing some remediation. Likely story, but we kept going. It was 11:30 p.m. under orange-tinted cirrus when we reached the Gap, and around midnight when we started selecting our camping spots. Chuck, Debbie and Matthew Cook pitched a tent, while the rest of us (Sue H, Beverly & Jim, Chris Teutsch, Phillip, Bonnie T and Greg) sought refuge in vehicles. No flashlights necessary.

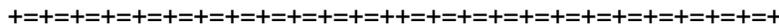
Saturday dawned bright and dry - a rarity this summer - and after coffee and whatever, we prospected various spots near our campsite. Fred drove in to join the group. He must have really awakened early in Anchorage! A number of us came up with flour gold, but there was nothing of note. So we decided it was time to take Ken and Win up on their offer. Their place was on Cache Creek about 3 or 4 miles from our camp. They invited us in for coffee and a long chat. Ken has a wealth of Alaska stories that he's willing to share, and Win makes wonderful Java! Eventually we tore ourselves away from the conversation and started panning. Increasing clouds

and far-off rumbles portended atmospheric mischief, but at that point nobody cared. Eventually we received a few sprinkles.

I think that most folks found color on Cache Creek, but Phillip and Fred really did well by patiently breaking up the rock-like clay. Phillip even had a couple pickers - not bad for just panning! I tried sluicing the gravel above the clay layer, but only recovered fine gold. However with the scenery and company, none of us complained. More coffee and conversation followed. It was decided that this would be a great place to have a follow-up trip next year!

The Cooks headed back to the Kenai and the rest of us headed back to camp where the rain began in earnest. Our Saturday night campfire was a soggy affair. Some of us gathered 'round while the saner folk sought the dry confines of their rigs. Phillip and I were the last of the hardy - or foolhardy - souls to call it a night.

Sunday morning dawned thinly overcast, but no rain. Sue gave Beverly some ATV lessons, which caused some consternation among those of us who knew that she liked racing cars!! Beverly did fine; we really should have been worried about Sue walking around on a broken foot. After a leisurely camp-breaking, we headed back out under mostly-sunny skies. I just had to "swim" back through the mudhole - and made it - but the rest of the group wisely went around. Once back at the Forks, some of us decided to have lunch, while the remainder continued back to town. The last of us ran into shower activity around Willow that was so intense it slowed all of the Parks Highway traffic to about half-speed. At least it cleaned off some of the mud! En route to town, Phillip and I were already talking about our next trip. He may have gotten the gold, but Clueless and I got some pretty good braggin' rights!



Birthstones
By Toni Carlos

Birthstones for July

1. Beryl

Color: pink, golden, yellow, green, white, blue
Attributes: friendship and meditation

2. Moonstone

Color: white, cream, yellow, blue, green
Attributes: love and happy times

3. Sapphire

Color: blue, yellow, green, black, purple, pink
Attributes: good judgment and allows you to make good decisions

Birthstones for August

1. Amber

Color: golden brown or yellow
Attributes: warms the soul and brings comfort

2. Carnelian

Color: red, pink, orange, brown
Attributes: increases energy and passion

3. Topaz

Color: golden yellow, brown, blue, clear, reddish pink, green
Attributes: prevents procrastination

4. Diamond

Colors: clear, white, yellow, blue, brown, pink
Attributes: innocence

Membership Application
CHUGACH GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY, INC.
 P.O. Box 92027, Anchorage, AK 99509-2027

Date _____ Receipt No. _____ Membership Card No. _____

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$15 | <input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime – Individual \$150 | <input type="checkbox"/> Bulletin Only \$10 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family \$20 | <input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime – Family \$200 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> New Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership Renewal | |

Last Name	First Name	Spouse's Name
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Mailing Address	City	State	Zip
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Home Phone	Work Phone	Spouse's Work Phone
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Occupation	Spouse's Occupation
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Would you like to receive the club's newsletter, the "Pebble Patter," by e-mail? Yes or No

 E-mail address

Release of Liability

In applying for membership in the Chugach Gem & Mineral Society, Inc. (CGMS), each applicant agrees to abide by the rules adopted by CGMS. The applicant acknowledges that there are risks associated with all CGMS activities – including but not limited to travel, acts of God, natural and manmade hazards – and agrees to hold CGMS, its officers, and membership harmless for any injuries sustained while engaged in these activities.

I have read and understand the Release of Liability.

Printed Name	Signature	Date
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Printed Name	Signature	Date
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