

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

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

Published by the  
**CHUGACH GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY, INC.**  
Box 92027, Anchorage AK 99509-2027

**OFFICERS**

**PRESIDENT**

Greg Durocher 337-2553

**FIRST VICE PRESIDENT**

Phillip Elrod 349-5457

**SECOND VICE PRESIDENT**

Andre Macias 274-2204

**TREASURER**

Linda Ewers 345-2541

**RECORDING SECRETARY**

Chris Teutsch 694-6586

**CORRESPONDING SECRETARY**

Nancy Danford 694-3288

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

Sue Hilton 694-1934  
sueh@mtaonline.net

**COMMITTEES**

**PROGRAM**

Anita Williams 345-2541

**MEMBERSHIP**

Bea Allen 696-4047

**FIELD TRIP**

Bonnie Hepburn 274-0941

Sheila Macias 274-2204

**SUNSHINE & MEMORIAL**

Dorothy Arnold 279-3876

**PARLIAMENTARIAN**

Norval Kane 243-4648

**FEDERATION LIAISON**

Tom Cooper (907) 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 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 utensil) to serve at least 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

Greetings, Rockhounds!

This is a bittersweet time of year for me. Torn between two passions — skiing and rockhounding — I view each lengthening day as an end of winter adrenaline rushes and a beginning of back-country adventures. It won't be long, however, until the din of hammering crowds out useless reminiscence!

As usual, there are some very promising trips this season. Some will require good clearance and four-wheel drive, but some are accessible by car. I'm even kicking off the home rock collection tour series so folks won't have to leave town! Trip participant numbers may be limited, so sign up early.

Before starting your season, don't forget to include a stop at the Map Store at USGS for obtaining topographic maps, nautical charts (PWS and Cook Inlet), geologic maps and publications, and many geology guidebooks (Geology of Prince William Sound, Geology of Anchorage, Roadside Geology of Alaska). It is located in Grace Hall on the Alaska Pacific University campus. Call 786-7011 for more information. Stop by my office to say hi when you visit (just ask if Greg's in).

Hope to see you at a meeting in the near future. Meanwhile, Rock On!!

Greg Durocher

### **Chugach Gem & Mineral Society** **February Business Meeting Minutes**

President Greg Durocher gaveled the February 8<sup>th</sup> meeting to order promptly at 7:30 PM, and the first order of business was to confirm that the January meeting minutes would be accepted as presented in the Pebble Patter. A show of hands was called for and no objections noted.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Treasurer** – Linda Ewers had no new figures from our balance sheet to report since last January. However, \$267.50 was brought in from the silent auction of older Fur Rondy pins and buttons. This money was dedicated to the Alaska Museum of Natural History.

**Membership** – Bea Allen stated that there was no new membership update. Bea distributed new membership cards to those who had already renewed their membership for 2007.

**Fieldtrips** – Bonnie Hepburn stated that the proposed Juneau trip had been cancelled. However, an Alaska Miner's Association field trip to the Kensington and Green's Creek mine was still planned. The cost was \$200 per site visit. The date for this trip was to be March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2007. Those interested would have to choose one site, as the date and times would overlap. The Hatcher Pass clean-up was planned for May 19<sup>th</sup>. Interested parties were asked sign up if they had not done so already.

Andre and Sheila reminded us that the Kodiak trip would be the last week of April. Final plans were to be solidified by March. It was mentioned that there were about a hundred miles of roadway on Kodiak that could be explored.

The Golden Zone Mine trip was to cost \$120, and the sign-up sheet was out for members to sign up if interested in this trip. Further details were available from Dorothy Arnold.

The subject of "mini-trips" was brought up, i.e., mini field trips to see the mineral/fossil collections of other club members. Members were asked to contact Greg or Bonnie for more information. As of the meeting, Fred Ward, Anita Williams, Greg Durocher, and Mary Wester had shown interest in participating. Others would be welcome. Perhaps this would provide a good incentive for the rest of us to clean-up, label, and arrange our personal collections to the point that we would be able to show them to others. To encourage more participation, Greg mentioned that there was no need for anxiety if our collections were not perfectly arranged or labeled, and that we just needed to be willing to share information about our specimens, such

as where they were found, or how we came to add them to our collections.

Another idea was proposed for a mini-trip, or better put, a workshop; to be given by Mary Wester to introduce club members to some of the methods used for wire-wrapping. Bonnie brought up that the museum in Mountain View would provide a good meeting place for this activity. Details for this wire-wrapping demonstration workshop still needed to be worked out between Bonnie, Mary, and Katch Bacheller, Alaska Museum of Natural History Director.

Bonnie brought up the idea of visiting the Tsunami Warning Center. The time would have to be coordinated with the TWC staff, however. Also a trip leader needed to be identified.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

Anita and Linda purchased a display case for the museum. The dimensions according to Greg were 5 feet X 18 inches, inside dimensions. It was planned to display copper minerals from the Kennecott Mines near McCarthy. It was suggested that each display be kept for six months, and then be changed out for a new display.

Andre and Sheila handed out an information sheet for the March 10<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> School Science Fair. Some changes were necessary, and these were to be re-typed by Bea Allen. Greg entertained a motion to accept the changes, Sue Hilton then made that motion, and Bonnie seconded the motion, which passed.

The question was raised on who the judges would be. Recognition for winners would be made at the Alaska Miners Association Convention in November, and prizes would be awarded at the March 27<sup>th</sup> potluck.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Andre mentioned that the Alaska Museum of Natural History had requested meal recipes for their April 3<sup>rd</sup> field trip. Our members gained a wealth of knowledge from many field trips what did and did not work well in the food department. Quick, nutritious meals not requiring too much water for preparation was what they were looking for. Those with proven recipes were requested to get with Andre.

Kurt Rein, with Dorothy Arnold's permission, read an excerpt from the book: Stories from the '64 Alaska Earthquake – The Day Trees Bent to the Ground. Dorothy contributed her account of the earthquake to this book.

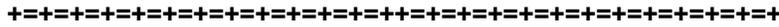
Kurt suggested that those club members who had experienced the '64 earthquake could put together a program for one of our meetings.

Norval Kane, club Parliamentarian, shared a number of funny witticisms.

The program, Anita's slide presentation on Moore Creek, was not shown since the projector equipment failed to work properly. She said she would try again at a future meeting.

Door prizes were awarded, and the meeting was adjourned around 9:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Chris Teutsch, Recording Secretary



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

The March business meeting of the Chugach Gem and Mineral Society was gaveled to order at 7:30 PM by President Greg Durocher.

There were no visitors present.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Recording Secretary** – Chris Teutsch said that minutes from the last business meeting were not available to be read. However they would be available in the Pebble Patter.

**Treasurer** – The balance as of the meeting was \$50,396.77.

**Membership** – Bea Allen reported that there were 175 current club members on the books. Bea also mentioned her difficulties with getting her computer to print out the membership database, and asked if someone else with that capability would like to take over the position of membership director. There were no volunteers.

**Northwest Federation Liaison** – Tom Cooper was not present, but Greg referred everyone to page 6 of the Northwest newsletter which made mention of Craig Casner.

**Sunshine** – Dorothy Arnold was absent, but Greg read a card that mentioned the passing of Leonard Larson. Leonard was a past member of CGMS who would be missed. Many members present remembered him.

**Fieldtrips** – Andre Macias provided details for the Kodiak trip scheduled between April 26<sup>th</sup> and May 1<sup>st</sup>.

- Cost for the 13 hour ferry ride from Homer to Kodiak would be \$78.00.
- Additional cost information: a cabin with berths for 2 was \$ 78.00, a cabin for 4 was \$103.00, and a cabin for 4 with private bath was \$125.00.

- If you were to take your own vehicle on the ferry, the costs would be as follows:
  - 15' vehicle — \$147.00
  - 19' vehicle — \$173.00
  - 21' vehicle — \$222.00
  - 22' vehicle — \$268.40
  - 23' vehicle — \$280.60
  - 24' vehicle — \$292.80
  - 25' vehicle — \$305.00
  - 26' vehicle — \$317.20.

Interested members were advised to contact Andre or Sheila for additional Kodiak trip information.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Bea Allen found that her computer apparently was not adequate to deal with the membership database and also that she did not have the necessary program. It was suggested that the club might consider paying for a portion of the upgrade to Bea's computer. Nancy Danford moved that the club pay for one hour at \$40 per hour for this service. Philip seconded the motion which passed.

Anita Williams reminded everyone that the Science Fair awards ceremony would take place at East High, Sunday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2007, in the afternoon. Members who volunteered to judge the Earth Sciences entries were: Katch Bacheller, Anita Williams, and Phillip Elrod.

Joe Turnbow gave out CGMS membership applications to a number of interested individuals during Fur Rondy.

Club member Mary Wester had a display table with her items at the Fur Rondy.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Greg mentioned that more copies of "Alaska – A Guidebook for Rockhounds" were needed. It was decided that this matter would be brought up again during the next business meeting.

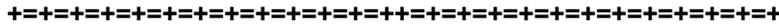
CGMS parliamentarian Norval Kane put everyone into a light mood with his humorous stories and anecdotes.

Scheduled guest speaker Jennifer Adleman from the Alaska Volcano Observatory was unable to come. Instead, Greg presented the first half of a video showing the story behind a Tyrannosaurus Rex dinosaur named "Sue". The video chronicled the discovery and excavation in north-central South Dakota of the fossil remains. A large portion of the story dealt with the legality of private ownership of such

fossils, and in the case of Sue, the confiscation of all of the fossil remains and documentation of the excavation by federal authorities.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Chris Teutsch, Recording Secretary



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

President Greg Durocher called the April business meeting of the Chugach Gem & Mineral Society to order at 7:34 PM.

The evening's guest was Jim Prentiss from the Mat-Su rock club.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Recording Secretary** – Chris Teutsch was absent so minutes were taken by Sue Hilton. A motion was made and passed to dispense with the reading of the previous month's minutes.

**Treasurer** – Linda Ewers was not present, but had given Anita Williams the current total of the club's accounts, which was \$51,613.29.

**Membership** – Bea Allen reported that we had 179 members.

**Northwest Federation Liaison** – Tom Cooper said that the NFMS was planning to have the Rockhound Retreat at Hancock Field Station again this year and that details could be found in the Federation newsletter.

Tom also mentioned that postage stamps were still being collected by the Federation and urged members to save them.

The NFMS also wanted articles to be submitted for the newsletter. Melvin C. Bennett suggested reprinting old trip reports.

**Sunshine** – Dorothy Arnold was unable to attend the first part of the meeting, but other members had news that Joe Turnbow's mom had passed away.

**Fieldtrips** – Sheila Macias was not able to make the meeting due to circumstances at work and had asked Sue to take over reporting on upcoming trips. However, as she was busy recording the minutes of the meeting, Andre stepped up and took on responsibility once

again. He stated that there were seven people so far signed up for the Kodiak field trip. Four people were planning to take a pickup and camper on the ferry and chip in for a 4 berth cabin on the overnight ferry trip. The three members of the Cook family from Soldotna were going to fly to the island on Saturday and rent a car for the duration of the trip.

Greg added a new trip which he called, "Growlers, Grillers and Gravel," a mini field trip to his house for a cookout and to see his collection of specimens. He limited it to the first ten people to sign up, and said that the date and time of the "trip" would be Friday, May 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM.

Andre listed the other two trips coming up in May; a trip to Nikiski for beachcombing led by Candace Arlian on May 13<sup>th</sup>, with camping the previous evening at Captain Cook State Recreation Area; and the final trip for the month, the clean-up of roads at Independence Mine State Historical Park (Hatcher Pass) led by our intrepid president, Greg.

**Programs** – Anita Williams had a list of programs for several of the upcoming meetings;

- April 12<sup>th</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> half of T. Rex video.
- May 10<sup>th</sup> Jennifer Adleman from the Alaska Earthquake Information Center.
- May 24<sup>th</sup> silent auction.
- June 14<sup>th</sup> nothing scheduled yet.
- June 28<sup>th</sup> the yearly picnic potluck.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Concerning the Science Fair, Andre made a motion to amend the amounts of the prizes. Anita seconded, and a lengthy discussion followed. Due to the high quality of the entries in the Earth Sciences category, the judges felt that an Honorable Mention should be awarded. The judges decided that the Honorable Mention winner should get a t-shirt and a one year family membership in the club. Third place received a t-shirt, family membership and a cash prize of \$25.00. Second place was awarded a t-shirt, family membership, and \$50.00. The first place winner got a denim shirt with the club logo embroidered on it, a family membership and \$200.00. After considerable

discussion, the motion was passed. Andre said that our participation in the 2007 Science Fair had a steep learning curve. He felt that it would be necessary to discuss thoroughly what would be happening in 2008 and subsequent years. Decisions would need to be made about categories, money prizes, and certificates or trophies, etc. Bea moved that we give a certificate to everyone who won this year, and her motion was seconded. However, the School Board wouldn't allow names and addresses of students to be given out for safety reasons, so Bea rescinded her motion. Finally, Andre offered to continue as chairman of the Science Fair committee.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Dorothy Arnold, leader of the Golden Zone Mine field trip said that payment was due no later than the potluck on April 26<sup>th</sup>. Scholarships: Andre went to UAA and updated the information on our application for scholarships. There was discussion and some confusion about the number of students who were to be awarded scholarships and the cash amount of the awards. Greg asked Sue to

look through business meeting minutes for the last few years and determine if there was a permanent change from two scholarships to one, or if it was a one time thing.

Mel said that he needed a new folder to store nametags, and a second folder to store nametags of people who seldom come to meetings. Rick moved we spend \$30.00 for new folders as Mel requested, Anita seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Greg mentioned that the cabinet where stuff was stored between meetings was too crowded, and the congestion could be relieved by giving away more rocks for door prizes.

Door prizes were then drawn and twelve lucky members were winners. A break followed the drawing.

The evening's program was the second half of the video about the Tyrannosaurus Rex, after which the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sue Hilton, Recording Secretary Pro Tem



**Sunshine Report**  
By Dorothy Arnold

March 27<sup>th</sup>:  
At the Chugach Gem & Mineral Society potluck held on Thursday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, the group found out that Norval and Jean Kane were missing because Norval was not feeling well. Later it was learned that Norval needed a new pacemaker and that he was waiting for his doctor to schedule the surgery. Norval is still waiting, as of this writing, to hear when he can get his new pacemaker. Then it was announced that Mel Bennett was admitted to the hospital just shortly before the potluck began. It was learned that Mel was at a meeting when his heart

began to beat rapidly. It was going at 180 beats per minute so off to the hospital he went. After numerous tests a wire was run from the groin to a spot at the base of the heart that controls the speed of the heart and a tiny cauterization was done to cure the problem. He finally was released from the hospital on March 26<sup>th</sup> and says he feels fine.

April 16<sup>th</sup>:  
Toni Carlos lost her husband back in March and was sent a bouquet on behalf of the CGMS. Norval went back to the hospital because his new pacemaker had a fault. A card was sent to Joe offering the club's condolences on the death of his mother.



+++++

**NOTICE!**

**If you have not paid your dues for 2007,  
this is your last copy of the Pebble Patter.  
All memberships expire at the end of February,  
so if you haven't paid up yet, this one is a freebie.  
But it's your last freebie!**

+++++

**It's a Matter of Science**  
Corrected by Greg Durocher

(Yep, this was in the January - February issue of the Pebble Patter, and it's in this one too because the editor thoroughly messed it up. Sorry, Greg! —Editor)

The following was written in response to those who write to the USGS inquiring about planetary alignments causing an increase of seismic activity on Earth.

The 'planetary influences' on Earth are exceedingly minimal compared with the moon and sun. The sun exerts ten thousand times the gravitational influence of all the planets combined - if you could line them all up at their closest points - and the moon exerts over twice the force of the sun! It has been said that the human bodies arranged around the birthing bed have far more gravitation influence on the newborn than any arrangement of planets. Gravity decreases as the square of the distance and so becomes a very tiny force at planetary distances. Thus, if any

faults or volcanoes were to be triggered by gravitational tugs, it would be the lunar or solar tides that would do it. You can do the math:

The gravitational force (in newtons) between bodies can be calculated with the following formula:

$$F = ([6.6732 \times 10^{-11} \text{ newton-meters}^2/\text{kg}^2] \times M_1 \times M_2) / (R^2)$$

M is mass in kg

R is distance between bodies in meters

Mass of planets available at the following:  
<http://www.nineplanets.org/data1.html>

Distance from Earth:

<http://nssdc.gsfc.nasa.gov/planetary/planetfact.html>. Scroll down for distance for each planet and multiply by 10<sup>9</sup> meters (e.g. Jupiter at its closest is 588.5 x 10<sup>9</sup> m from Earth)

Greg Durocher  
USGS Alaska Science Center  
Earth Science Information Center – Anchorage

+++++

**2007 Chugach Gem and Mineral Society Activity List**  
**CGMS Membership is Required for all Club Trips**

<b>Dates</b>	<b>Days</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Leader(s)</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Apr 27-30	Fri - Mon	Kodiak Island (KF) *	Andre & Sheila Macias	Explore Kodiak. Collect marine fossils at Fossil Beach. Add a date on either end if taking ferry.
May 4	Fri	"Growlers, Grillers & Gravel"	Greg Durocher	Mini field trip to Greg's for a cookout and to see his specimens. Limited to the first 10 to sign up. Starts at 6:30 PM.
May 12 - 13	Sat eve - Sun	Nikiski Beach Combing (KF) *	Candace Arlian	Camp Saturday night at Capt. Cook SRA and hunt for agates on Sunday.
May 19	Sat	Hatcher Pass Cleanup (KF) *	Greg Durocher	Ranger Kym is looking forward to our help again cleaning the Independence Mine area road.
June 16 - 17	Sat - Sun	2007 Alaska Gold Show at Crow Creek Mine (KF) *	Not a trip. Just FYI	Carpool possibilities
June 17	Sun	Golden Zone Mine	Dorothy Arnold	\$120 for transportation from MP188 Parks Hwy. Payment due to Dorothy by May 24. Make check payable to "Denali Sightseeing Safaris". Could camp nearby on Saturday.
June 22 - 24	Fri - Sun	Boulder Creek	Andre Macias	ATV trip. Fossils, thunder eggs, etc.
June 28	Thurs	Picnic Potluck Meeting (KF) *	Greg Durocher	Lyn Ary picnic pavilion or other (?)
July 6 - 8	Fri - Sun	Cache Creek in Peters Hills (KF) *	Greg Durocher	4WD w/clearance trip. Cabin:\$45/night dbl occupancy; Meals:\$35/day; Gold Panning:\$20/day; Dredging: \$20/day +\$10/inch
July 14	Saturday	Gunsight/Sheep Mt. & Caribou Creek (KF) *	Bea Allen	Fossils, etc.
Jul 20 - 22	Fri - Sun	Alfred Creek†	Greg Durocher	ATV trip or 4WD w/clearance. Fossils, gold.
Aug 25	Sat	Wishbone Hill (KF) **†	Melvin C. Bennett	Plant fossils.
Sep 28 - Oct 7	Fri - Sun	Utah Rockhounding (KF) *	Dwight & Nancy Smith	Rockhounding in Delta, Mt. Carmel and Moab areas.
Nov 9 -11	Fri - Sun	Rock and Mineral Show (KF) * in conjunction with AK Miners Association Convention	Anita Williams	Get your displays ready for this year's show!

Last updated: 4/23/2007 Trips are subject to change. Please visit our web site for updates: [www.chugachgms.org](http://www.chugachgms.org).

\*(KF) - Kid Friendly trips, however, keep in mind that parents are solely responsible for the safety and behavior of their children!

†Possible joint trip with the Mat-Su Rock Club.

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
-----------	------------	---------------

Mailing Address	City	State	Zip
-----------------	------	-------	-----

Home Phone	Work Phone	Spouse's Work Phone
------------	------------	---------------------

Occupation	Spouse's Occupation
------------	---------------------

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
--------------	-----------	------

Printed Name	Signature	Date
--------------	-----------	------

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 p.m. — 2nd Thursday of each month.  
 POTLUCK MEETING – 6:30 p.m. — 4th Thursday of each month.  
 Bring a hot 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!