

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

Alaska Pebble Patter
Chugach Gem & Mineral Society
P.O. Box 92027
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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

PROGRAM

Andre Macias 274-2204

MEMBERSHIP

Bea Allen 696-4047

FIELD TRIP

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

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CLUB GREETER

Melvin C. Bennett 569-5700

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

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, south of 8th Avenue between G & H Streets.)

BUSINESS MEETING – 2nd Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM.
 POTLUCK MEETING – 4th 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!

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!

While it appears that winter will not soon loosen its grip on Anchorage, the enthusiasm of the CGMS members warms any event or meeting where they gather. There has been no hibernation either, with a trip to Arizona and California in January, a mini-trip to the Alaska Resources Library & Information Services (ARLIS), staffing a very popular CGMS/Natural History Museum table at the Fur Rondy, and several upcoming events. This is a group that can truly laugh at the feeble inconveniences of summer rains or fall snow squalls and stand steadfast against the inclemencies of winter!

I'm looking forward to our "spring" silent auction - although I'll probably be more a buyer than a seller. My collection has been pared down to mostly display and educational items and yard rock. Not many tradeable duplicate items left. Guess I'll have to do something about that this year!

Speaking of educational items, if anyone is a Den Leader or the equivalent and wishes to take their group here (USGS Earth Science Information Center) to check off requirements for the geology patch or badge, I'm more than happy to schedule a time. We go over minerals and their uses in our lives, plate tectonics, geology tools, etc. - pretty much whatever they wish to cover in an hour and a half or so.

Rock on!

Greg Durocher

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January Business Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 p.m. with 18 members in attendance.

The November 2008 business meeting minutes were accepted with one correction.

Club accounts totaled \$65,111.57.

A member of a Michigan club wrote requesting an exchange of state gems.

CGMS member Neil Shishido passed away recently and club members were invited to attend a ceremony in his honor.

Bea Allen reminded the club that she was leaving the state and a new membership chair was needed.

The list of field trips through April 4th was read.

Andre Macias read a “thank you” letter from scholarship recipient Ryan Campbell.

New Business:

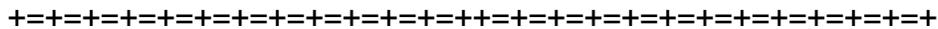
A motion was made, seconded and passed for a club table during Fur Rendezvous.

The 2009 Science Fair was discussed. Andre read a letter from the Science Fair coordinator in which we were thanked for our support.

“Norvalisms” and door prizes rounded out the evening along with a video: “Giant Crystal Cave”.

The meeting was adjourned 9:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Teutsch, Recording Secretary



February Business Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. with 26 members and 2 guests in attendance.

The January minutes were approved as written.

Club accounts came to a total of \$68,824.59.

Katch Bacheller volunteered to be the new membership chair.

Sunshine: Dorothy Arnold sent “get well” cards to two members.

The list of field trips through July 12th was read.

Field Trip Reports:

Anita Williams described her recent trip to Quartzsite and Tucson, AZ.

Phillip Elrod returned recently from a trip to Honduras and Guatemala.

New Business:

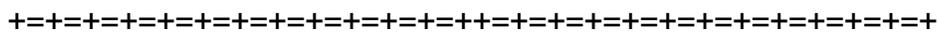
Anita suggested that we hold a contest for a CGMS 50th Anniversary design. Participants were asked to submit designs to any board member.

Norval’s quips & witticisms and door prizes concluded the business meeting.

Scholarship recipient Ryan Campbell presented a program on the geology of the Himalayas.

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Teutsch, Recording Secretary



Antarctica
A Trip of a Lifetime

By Dorothy Arnold

I left Anchorage at 2:00 a.m. on November 12th, 2008 and flew to Seattle, changed planes, flew to Atlanta and changed planes again for Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Upon arrival in Buenos Aires on November 13th we had to claim our baggage and I found that mine was not with me. I

immediately reported this and was given a claim paper.

I boarded the flight for Ushuaia (pronounced u’swaia), the southernmost town in the Western Hemisphere, if not the world, and hoped that my bag would come in the next day at 3:00 p.m. The missing bag was reported in Ushuaia before leaving for the hotel.

The following day I took a trip to the nearby national park to see the beautiful scenery. When I returned I checked to see if

the bag had arrived and was told that the plane would be late but not to worry, the icebreaker was going to leave at 7:00 instead of 4:00. The plane finally arrived, but without my bag.

The icebreaker had no stabilizers, so had the trip from the tip of South America been as rough as my previous crossing in 1991, I am sure most would have been sick. As it happened, the trip was fairly smooth so many people did not get sick. As we approached the Great White Continent many icebergs appeared in various sizes and shapes.



Palmer Station

We did not stop at the peninsula but sailed right on by to Palmer Station where scientific studies are made. Here we saw our first group of Adelie penguins.



Adelie penguins

We were requested to stay on the outskirts of the colony and not bother them because they were preparing their nests. We learned that two people with us were scientists counting pairs of penguins in each colony to keep track of how the penguins were doing; in order to do their work they could go closer to the colony than we.



Penguin rookery

As we sailed westward we made stops from time to time to visit other penguin groups. We saw thousands of penguins. Each time we went ashore in Zodiacs and hiked at least two miles roundtrip to do our observations. At every stop our leaders took ashore all the emergency things needed should the weather change and prevent our return to the ship. The leaders also dug latrines into the snow and ice. I learned from those who visited them that they were quite good, with toilet seats over the buckets and equipped with all the essentials. The only problem was that they were placed far away from the main tent.

One of the stations visited had a runway on the ice. This particular station was studying the underwater life and had an aquarium showing most of the life beneath the ice. Krill of various sizes were seen here. All the animals found in Antarctica depend upon this small shrimp-like creature for food. Even the large whales found in

Antarctica during the summer depend upon it as a source of food.



Krill

On the eastern edge of the Ross Sea we saw where Byrd's Little America sat until it fell into the sea.

Finally we came to the magnificent Ross Ice Shelf where the helicopters ferried us to the top as the ship continued westward. We returned to the ship and sailed along the shelf for a little over 400 miles and were told it reached 600 miles toward the South Pole and that the part we were seeing was 150 feet tall.

As we sailed farther west the ice became thicker, and when it was time to go to McMurdo Sound, McMurdo Station and the Dry Valley, we could not because the ice was too thick. We were within 54 miles of the station but our helicopters could not fly us because their range was fifty miles.

We did get to Shackleton's hut by going forward and backwards for a long distance. His granddaughter was with us and wished very much to see the hut. It was more like a nice cabin and contained much of the gear that had been left behind by this great explorer.



Shackleton's hut

Up the mountain from the cabin and across the lake from the cabin were more penguins. The penguins living here were having a hard time of it because they had to go so far for food.

Sailing farther we came to the large emperor penguins that spend their entire lives on the ice. The chicks looked like round balls of grey fur with a smaller ball for a head. We saw how the parents fed them. Some of the chicks were beginning to lose their baby feathers and grow adult ones.

Shortly after this we got stuck in the ice for fifteen hours. When the tide finally changed our ship was released.

Next we headed north toward New Zealand, stopping at two sub-Antarctic islands belonging to that country to see the giant albatross. Now we hiked through mud to reach the other side of the mountain or its summit. In some places the steps were about two feet high and there were no handrails. One had to depend upon two hiking sticks to stay upright in some places.



Trekking on the snow

This part of the trip was super even though I did not get to see everything I was supposed to see.

Since the trip ended in New Zealand I opted to go sightseeing in the Christchurch area. Anyone that goes near Christchurch

needs to see the museum and the Antarctic Center. Both are outstanding and must-sees.

After a short time in New Zealand my next stop was four days in Hawaii to enjoy the beach, and then home where my bag was to be sent but was not.

The lost bags for Delta are sent to Atlanta, Georgia, and they were notified of the lost bag by the baggage man in Anchorage. Delta baggage in Atlanta did nothing to help retrieve my bag or I would have gotten it back sooner. They knew that

it was in Buenos Aires on January 10th but did nothing to get it. Meanwhile the baggage man here and I were trying to contact the baggage person in Buenos Aires by phone, but to no avail. Finally the baggage man here was able to get through to the head person of baggage in Buenos Aires and three months after I had lost it, it was in my hands.

Advice—if you lose a bag keep bugging the nearest baggage person for the airline that lost it.

