



**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

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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

May - June 2004

It's hard to believe that only a month ago I was hip deep in snow in my yard. Now I have a few snow patches left but the flowers are coming up and all my outdoor rocks are exposed. This time of year is kind of like reuniting with some old friends who slept through the winter. Of course with spring also comes the inevitable "itch" to get out and about. The club planned a sea level trip for this past weekend as our first outing of the season. I'm sure everyone enjoyed beachcombing down on the Kenai. Speaking of field trips, we have a full agenda for the month of May so check the calendar on our website

(<http://www.chugachgms.org/>). Our next trip is trash pick-up at Moose Creek on the 8th. It may not sound like fun, but it really is. Plan to join us if you can.

Speaking of field trips, it is our club policy that you must be a paid up member to participate in any field trip. Check with Jean if you are not sure of your status. We sure don't want anyone to miss out on our field trips if we can help it.

Good collecting,  
Anita

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

President Anita Williams called the April 8, 2004 business meeting of the Chugach Gem & Mineral Society to order at 7:30 PM.

There were no guests present.

**Officer & Committee Reports:**

Treasurer - Greg was delayed.

Membership - Jean reported that 2004 membership dues were due and that she and Nancy were designing new cards for lifetime memberships that would be laminated.

Recording Secretary - Bea reported that the March minutes were in the Pebble Patter newsletter and Anita noted that the correct amount of money in the Morgan-Stanley account is \$6,047.32 not \$16,047.32. It was a typo on Bea's part when transcribing the minutes.

Corresponding Secretary - Nancy Danford reported no new mail.

Newsletter Editor - Sue Hilton said the new issue of the Pebble Patter was ready and available to be picked up at this meeting, thus saving postage for the Club. It will no longer be sent out via e-mail, but a notification will be sent by e-mail when each new issue is posted on the website. The website address is [www.chugachgms.org](http://www.chugachgms.org).

Website - Webmaster Adeline reported she and Steve of Alaska Mining & Diving had worked together to set up a link that will send you to our site from theirs. She has also submitted our address to appear on many search engines.

**Old Business:**

Anita presented former President Bobbie Turnbow with a jade and ivory ulu crafted by talented Club member Tom Cooper, in appreciation of her two terms as president of our Club. Bobbie was actually

speechless at the beauty of the ulu but managed an emotional thank you to all.

Anita reported that an Officers' meeting was held on March 25, at which all agreed with Greg in terminating the Morgan-Stanley account due to fee increases. It was felt that the Club needed some ideas on how best to spend some of the Club's money wisely.

Rockhound of the Year Award nominations were called for. The only one submitted was for Andres and Sheila Macias as a team. It was seconded by Joe and passed unanimously. Tom will submit their names to the Federation.

Anita reminded the Club that we have had two inquiries from Oregon clubs about rock and newsletter exchanges; one from Grants Pass and one from Reedsport. We received a wooden crate of rocks from a third club and Andres volunteered to coordinate an exchange with that club, and set the two recent inquiries aside for now.

Anita announced that the Alaska Miners Association sent a thank you for the Club's members' displays of collections and for taking an active part in the show. They hope we will participate in next November's show. Anita said there would be a silent auction at the next show that we wouldn't want to miss out on.

**New Business:**

Anita suggested we replace one of the summer potluck meetings with a picnic potluck, perhaps in July, and the Club would provide the meat. Everyone liked the idea and several locations were suggested but none selected.

Announcements: The Alaska Miners are planning a trip to diamond mines in Canada; departing on July 6 and returning on July 8, at a cost of \$2600 per person, which covers transportation, food and lodging. We were invited to make reservations if interested. It generated interest but the cost for a 2-day trip was thought to be too expensive.

Tom will be attending the NW Federation meeting next week and will get 2 extra directories if anyone wants to buy one. He is still working on liability insurance for the club and reminded us to save our stamps too.

**Field trips:**

The field trip list can be found on the Club Website. Bea said all the trip folders were on the table for people to sign up. A few minor changes have been made. Heather will be the leader for the annual trash pickup on Saturday May 8th. The Gunsight & Sheep Mountain trip that was inadvertently scheduled for a weekday is changed to June 5 and 6 for those who want to camp over. See the trip leader to settle on the preferred day.

The Unga Island trip is firm and the boat from Sand Point will take a maximum of 20 people. The cost of the boat trip is \$150 each with payment going to Neil. The plane fare to Sand Point is to be arranged and paid for by each individual. Diana Strzuk has a companion ticket available for \$50 plus half the cost of the other ticket. Participants were warned NOT to wear denim or cotton as it takes a long time to dry and the wearer would be wet and cold, possibly becoming hypothermic.

The August 27th trip to Red Mountain near Seldovia will have to take place without Anita, who starts a new job soon that will rotate 2 weeks on, 2 weeks off. Members wishing to go to Red Mountain can arrange for their own transportation while taking part in the field trip to Yukon Island.

Gretchen Bersch reported on her exciting trip to the United Arab Emirates and the fascinating cities she visited. She had many photos and minerals, sand, and other mementos to share with us.

Door prizes were given and many lucky members received beautiful and interesting minerals and rocks that were generously

donated by Gretchen from her recent trip. This was followed by a break.

The evening's program was a video shown by Craig about the '64 Good Friday earthquake that many of our members lived through. Craig also had free booklets to hand out from the USGS on earthquakes.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM

Respectfully submitted,  
Bea Allen, Recording Secretary

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**Chugach Gem and Mineral Society**  
**May Business Meeting Minutes**

1st Vice President Heather Jordan called the May 13, 2004 business meeting of the Chugach Gem & Mineral Society to order at 7:30 PM.

The evening's guest was Peter Garcia who was introduced by his cousin Andres Macias.

**Officer and Committee Reports**

Treasurer - Greg Durocher was absent due to participating in the Club field trip to Unga Island.

Recording Secretary - Secretary Bea Allen read the minutes of the April business meeting. A motion by Sue, seconded by Adeline, to approve the minutes as read was passed.

Membership - Jean reported that there were 140 paid members as of this evening.

Federation - Tom Cooper was absent.

Corresponding Secretary - Nancy has submitted the mail to the President.

Sunshine - Dorothy reported that member Lenore was home recovering from hand Surgery and that Dorothy would be taking her flowers from the Club.

Newsletter - Sue said the Pebble Patter had not been sent out yet.

Website - Adeline had nothing new to add but the Pebble Patter will be included on the website when the newsletter is ready.

Fieldtrips - Bea read the list and reminded everyone to sign up.

Dorothy said the trip to the Golden Zone mine required advance notification and to contact her as soon as possible if interested.

#### **Old Business:**

Heather said Greg had purchased 2 CDs with the funds for the scholarships and each would mature at different times.

Rock Exchange - Andres said many clubs had responded via e-mail and he was overwhelmed. Members may take the e-mail addresses and contact them if they wished, but Andres would like suggestions as to how he should respond to them on behalf of the Club. He is busy working on the first request we received.

Heather asked for a motion to hold our July 22 potluck at Russian Jack Park. Andres so moved and Nancy seconded, followed by discussion. The club will provide the meat, and a map will be in the Pebble Patter. The motion passed.

#### **New Business:**

Andres said that Sheila had been looking into getting t-shirts with the Club's logo on them and asked if there was an interest among members for them. Sue moved and Dorothy seconded that we have club t-shirts bearing our logo. Heather said that we should form a committee to look into the costs and get back to the members for a final decision. As it was Sheila's idea, Andres volunteered her to form the committee. Sue Sutherland said she could sharpen and enhance the image, which is now on our old t-shirts and it could be taken to the various t-shirt printers. The original motion died and a committee will be formed.

A motion to have business cards printed professionally was made by Unice and seconded by Dorothy. They would have our Club's name, phone number, website and other pertinent data but not any individual's name, so they may be used by everyone. These will be useful when approaching businesses, etc. on behalf of the Club. The motion passed.

#### **Announcements:**

Mel said he had taken a trip to the Wishbone Hill fossil beds and the old mine road was in good condition.

Andres said Sheila had contacted various public buildings about the Club having rock displays and the Loussac Library will permit a display for one month. We must decide on what to display and when. The Library will review and approve our plan. He volunteered Sheila to handle this.

Betty Motes suggested the Club collect chrysanthemum stone, a type of rock which is unique to Alaska, and send it out to other clubs.

Dorothy said the Elder Hostel had a trip to Katmai on 6/1 - 6/7 and we may sign up for it. The cost for lodging and meals is \$857 and individuals must arrange their own air transportation at about \$450. A bus from the Brooks Lodge will take participants to the Valley of 10,000 Smokes for \$125. See Dorothy for more information.

Heather said a list for car-pooling for the Whitehorse trip is available.

#### **Field trip reports:**

Adeline said the trip to Homer and Kenai beaches was rainy but some sugar agates were found. Also, the annual cleanup trip to Moose Creek was good and was followed by a trip to Wishbone Hill to find fossils and amber.

Andres and Sheila were led by Curvin up the Glenn Hwy near Caribou Creek to look for ammonites, but a landslide had covered the site.

Bea said she had been to the new site of the AK Museum of Natural History in Mountain View on Bragaw St and it will be opening on June 4<sup>th</sup>. Volunteer help is needed for many jobs now and after opening.

Norval read a witty story and then door prizes were given. After a break, Mary Smith presented a slide show of a trip to Kodiak Island taken some years ago by the Club.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM

Respectfully submitted,  
Bea Allen, Recording Secretary

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**Wrangell Trip 2003**

Part 2d by Bonnie Hepburn

Wednesday May 28:

By early afternoon, John had transported Bobbie, Sue, and me from Garnet Ledge to Wrangell. Sylvia met the boat and John hoisted our gear and booty onto the dock. After squaring away the finances for the expedition, we wandered across the street to the gift shop in search of Doug Schwartz, one of our large-garnet benefactors. We found him there and he was just as thrilled to meet us as we were to thank him for the awesome gifts.

Next stop was a delicious lunch at the Diamond C Café. This was followed by souvenir shopping in town. Bobbie and Sue were booked on the evening ferry, but I was staying till the following morning and leaving on the M/V LeConte's "milk run" to Juneau. So we nabbed a ride from John and made a quick stop at Fennimore's B&B to check in. The banner on the building proclaimed "Voted #1 by Members of the Immediate Family". With that kind of endorsement, how could one go wrong? It was clean, modestly priced and convenient to the ferry terminal

across the street. From there John drove us to Petroglyph Beach.

"Petroglyph Beach in Wrangell has the highest concentration of petroglyphs in Southeast and has recently been designated a State Historic Park. Access to the beach was improved in the year 2000. There is an accessible boardwalk to a deck overlooking Petroglyph Beach, the Stikine River and Zimovia Straits. Replicas of several designs are displayed on the deck for visitors to make rubbings on. Access to the beach is provided directly from the deck overlook." [For more information, see: <http://www.wrangell.com/visitors/attractions/history/petroglyph/> ]

Nobody knows why these images were carved in the beach rocks. But time, water, and sand have eroded them to the point that some were barely discernible. We had a great time there hunting out the petroglyphs and beachcombing for shells and beach glass. But the afternoon was waning and Bobbie and Sue were booked on the 6:15 PM sailing of the M/V Taku. So we walked the mile to the ferry terminal and awaited the arrival of the vessel.

As the Taku was docking, the small parking lot started filling with cars that were disgorging children and tables. Soon these "children of Wrangell" were setting up their garnet stands to sell their wares to the tourists on the ferry. Then Bobbie and Sue boarded and I bid farewell to them and to the Taku as it faded into the mist on its journey to ports north.

I had the evening left to myself in Wrangell. So I pulled my hood over my head to protect myself from the rain and decided to visit Chief Shakes Island one last time. The island, accessible by a footbridge, has many intricately carved totem poles and a rehabilitated Tribal House. It is a very peaceful setting and a very reflective way to end a visit to Wrangell.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION  
**CHUGACH GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY, INC.**  
P.O. Box 92027, Anchorage, AK 99509-2027

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Receipt No. \_\_\_\_\_ Membership Card No. \_\_\_\_\_

- Individual \$15                                       Lifetime – Individual \$150                                       Bulletin Only \$10
- Family \$20     Lifetime – Family \$200
- New Membership                                       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

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