

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
CHUGACH GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY, INC.
Box 92027, Anchorage AK 99509-2027

ELECTED POSITIONS

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

APPOINTED POSITIONS

PROGRAM

Anita Williams 345-2541

MEMBERSHIP

Bea Allen 696-4047

FIELD TRIP

Bonnie Hepburn 274-0941

Sheila Macias 274-2204

SUNSHINE

Dorothy Arnold 279-3876

PARLIAMENTARIAN

Norval Kane 243-4648

FEDERATION LIAISON

Tom Cooper (907) 262-9759

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Sue Hilton 694-1934

sueh@mtaonline.net

CLUB GREETER

Melvin C. Bennett

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 7:30 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

May 23rd, 2007

Greetings, Rockhounds!

I can't believe how fast the time is passing. My summer gear is still stashed and I'm still hoping for one more ski day at Alyeska - yet the Boulder Creek trip is almost here. Wasn't April just a couple days ago?!!

For those of you who didn't list an e-mail address on your membership form, I send out occasional e-mails on CGMS programs, interesting USGS websites, Alaska Geological Society meetings of interest, volcano updates, etc. Something to consider the next time you renew your membership!!

An underutilized service provided for free by my office (USGS Earth Science Information Center) is the "ASK" program. You can send Earth Science questions to our drop-box at askusgs@usgs.gov or you can write to me directly at gfdurocher@usgs.gov. Whether you want to know how many volcanos are on elevated alert codes in Alaska (three), how many verified meteor impacts sites are known in Alaska (one), or how much the Sumatra Earthquake affected the length of Earth's day (approx. 2.6 microsecond decrease), feel free to drop a note and save the e-ddress! After all, if you pay taxes, you're our boss. We don't do students' homework, but we're happy to provide them with useful links where they can find helpful information.

Have a productive summer. Rock on!

Greg Durocher, President

Chugach Gem & Mineral Society
May Business Meeting Minutes

Greg Durocher, club president, called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM, May 10th, 2007.

Seven new club members were introduced.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Recording Secretary – Chris Teutsch — the April minutes were not read during the meeting because they were already posted in the Pebble Patter. Sue Hilton moved to accept them as printed, Bobbie Turnbow seconded, and the motion passed.

Treasurer – Linda Ewers – The bank balance as of May 10th, 2007 was \$52,540.51.

Membership – Bea Allen – There were one hundred reported club members.

Northwest Federation Liaison – Tom Cooper – There was no Federation report.

Programs – Anita Williams informed members that the program for the May potluck would be a silent auction.

Scholarships – Andre Macias stated that two scholarships of \$1,000 each had been awarded for the 2006 – 2007 year, and said that no changes were planned regarding how the scholarships would be awarded in the future.

Fieldtrips – Sheila Macias reported on upcoming field trips, including a reminder of the beachcombing trip to Nikiski planned for May 12th and 13th.

Andre Macias, the leader for the Boulder Creek trip, requested that the trip be rescheduled for early June due to some time conflicts.

Members planning to participate in the May 19th cleanup at Independence Mine State Historical Park were asked to meet at the Gold Mint trailhead parking area across from the Mother Lode Lodge, and proceed from there to the upper parking area near Hatcher Pass Lodge.

Bea Allen had done some scouting for the August 25th trip to Wishbone Hill to be led by Melvin C. Bennett, and briefed members that the best way to approach the Wishbone Hill fossil area would be on the south side of the lake. Specific dates for the field trip were still flexible as of the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

There was a lengthy discussion regarding the Stewart estate. Since Chugach Gem & Mineral Society was named as a beneficiary for \$10,000 in Oro Stewart's will,

interest was high in making sure the executor observed the intent of the will. Greg Durocher said he would continue to pursue the matter with an attorney, and Bobbie Turnbow made a motion to spend up to \$5,000 to settle the matter. Sue Hilton seconded. Bea Allen recommended that every bit of correspondence be documented. The motion was put to a vote and passed.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Andre gave a hilarious account of the April field trip to Kodiak Island. Many events made for an enjoyable and interesting, as well as productive field trip. Andre, Sheila and other participants brought back numerous fossils from Fossil Beach, and beachcombed near the end of the Chiniak Highway. Travel time from Anchorage to Fossil Beach was 30 hours. The Cook family from Soldotna flew to Kodiak, stayed in a hotel and rented a car to meet the rest of the group at Fossil Beach. The group from Anchorage divided their overnight arrangements between camping out and motels.

Following the trip report, Norval Kane, club parliamentarian, provided some wit and wisdom. Then he mentioned that the first meeting of CGMS took place on Elmendorf Air Force Base in December, 1959. Norval became a member at that time.

Door prizes were given.

The evening's program was presented by Jennifer Adleman, Education & Outreach Specialist from the Alaska Volcano Observatory, who showed a Power Point presentation on her organization entitled: From Augustine to Yunaska: Keeping an Eye on Alaska's Dynamic Volcanoes.

Some facts from the presentation:

--The Alaska Volcano Observatory is one of five in the United States. The other four are located at: Cascades, Hawaii, Long Valley, and Yellowstone.

--There are between 44 and 53 active volcanoes in Alaska alone; however, only 41 are noted as having been historically active in the state. Most are located along the Aleutian Chain.

--30 volcanoes are seismically monitored in Alaska.

--Continuous GPS monitoring is used to measure swelling of active volcanoes.

--The following websites are available for more information:

<http://www.avo.alaska.edu/>

<http://volcanoes.usgs.gov/>

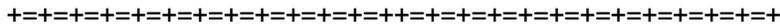
The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
 Chris Teutsch, Recording Secretary

Field Trip Report
Growlers, Grillers & Gravel at Greg's
By Greg Durocher

The last snow was finally gone, the fire pit lit, piles of yard rock freshly stacked, and growlers of beer were chilling in the cooler when a group of rockhounds began their mini field trip at my house Friday evening, May 4th. A number of new club members were there and got a chance to meet and greet. In true "field" style, a fair number of sausages were deeply blackened, but the near-dozen folks enjoying the weather and smoke didn't

seem to mind too much. Many plans and pleasantries were exchanged around the fire until a rogue shower sent us indoors where we reconvened downstairs around the display cases. Time passed amazingly quickly and too soon it seemed, folks were leaving (some did get back out to the fire for a while). Shari and I ended up roasting marshmallows later, as it seems that a fire is a terrible thing to waste! I'd encourage others to host mini field-trips to show off their collections and just have a good time. You can place a limit on the number, and it's a great way to get excited about a past or future adventure!



Field Trip Report
Kodiak Island
By Sheila Macias

We enjoyed yet another great adventure with the Chugach Gem & Mineral Society, led by my esteemed husband Andre. We had a few obstacles to overcome before leaving town on Thursday, April 26th, but we finally got on our way. Sue was at the helm, I was the navigator, and Andre and Phillip sat in the back, in charge of the backseat driving and snacks. We headed on down the Kenai Peninsula and made a stop at Alaska Horn & Antler where we visited with Linda Cooper; Tom had left for Anchorage earlier that day for the club meeting. We drooled over the carvings and rock specimens, set aside a few treasures to pick up on our way home, and we were on our way again. We stopped along the way for a break or two and to take a few photos, one of which was a steaming volcano; I can't remember which one as we could see four. When we got to Homer we checked in at the ferry terminal, left to find a place to have a bite of dinner, then returned to the terminal to load the truck onto the ferry. That was an adventure in itself. We parked the truck belowdecks then stowed our gear in the stateroom and explored the ship. When the ship got underway it was late in the evening hours, and we went to the vending machine to get some Dramamine, which turned out to have expired in January, 2007. We got a good laugh out of that. The trip was nice until the middle of the night when we had some rough seas. As it turned out, the expired Dramamine was still effective. We awoke in the morning to an announcement that we would be pulling into Port Lions soon. Andre and I got up to take a few photos of the port, and then went to the galley for breakfast. Phillip soon joined us. We watched as they unloaded and loaded a few vehicles, got breakfast-to-go for Sue, and we headed on our way again. When we were about an hour or so out of Kodiak we all began taking showers and packing up. I was the last to

shower; the water was very hot, and while I was in there the ship started rocking and rolling. Andre came in to check on me as I quickly got out of the shower, and there was an announcement by the Captain that we were going to be in rough waters while we made the turn to head into Kodiak. Being hot from the shower and tossing back and forth was taking a toll on me; Andre looked over at me and told me that I looked green. I said, "I am green, but I won't be for long if this doesn't stop soon". Just a few minutes later it settled down as we approached the stretch into Kodiak port. We went below to load our gear and prepare to pull the truck off the ferry, and some of the crew told us that they had had to "put the camper to bed." They pointed to the mattress that they had folded in half and shoved between the camper and the bulkhead to keep it from banging into the bulkhead during the rough seas the night before. Wow! We pulled the camper onto the elevator and swiveled around to the exit. And then we were on Kodiak Island, the second biggest island in the United States, the biggest being Hawaii. We did a little shopping and found rocks for sale. I spotted some that I knew would fluoresce, so Sue went to the truck and got her handy dandy black light. Sure enough, we had struck gold, so to speak. We bought a few things and were on our way again. We headed out of town to find Fossil Beach and had a nice drive, although the road wasn't in the best shape; we dodged potholes and the occasional bison along the way and drove through the Kodiak Launch Complex. When we got to the beach we only looked for about a half hour and found a few fossils, but it was getting late and we wanted to find a place to camp for the night, so we drove back past the bison, back through the missile launch site, and found a nice spot near the water in Pasagshak State Recreation Site. Rain had started falling which made it tough for Andre and Phillip to get a fire going, so we ate a little late that night and then settled into our sleeping arrangements in the camper.

Our plan when we got up the next morning was to meet the Cooks at Fossil Beach. Chuck, Debbie and Matthew Cook, club members who live near Soldotna, had arranged to fly in, rent a car, and stay in a hotel for the night.

We headed for the beach, and the fun began. Just as we began to unload our gear the Cooks arrived.



*Debbie, Matthew & Chuck Cook
Photo Courtesy of Sheila Macias*

I stayed behind to look for fossils while Andre led a side excursion to the old military gun turrets overlooking the beach. Andre and the others took some great pictures up on the hill, including an eagle's nest with two occupants. They also got pictures of the gun emplacement, ammo bunker, scenery and each other. When everyone got back to the beach we all found fossils. Almost every rock had fossils in it.

The Cooks didn't stay long but seemed to have fun while they were there; shortly after they left we discovered that the tide had gone out enough that we could make it around the bluff to the bedrock at the ocean's edge. We found some of our best specimens there. They generally chipped out of the rock easily; some were in deeper and took more work, but most popped right out.

As it headed toward evening, we were tired, cold and hungry, so Andre suggested that we go back towards town and get a room so that everyone could shower.

We found a Comfort Inn near the airport; while in the bar we inquired about finding sharks teeth or worm wood, and the server told us one of the cooks was a diver and might have information for us. Andre and Phillip stayed to talk with the cook while Sue and I went to the room and downloaded the day's pictures to her laptop.

Andre and I cleaned up and got some rest, and the next morning Phillip and Sue wandered in from the camper for their showers.

It was a whole new day for rockhounding, and we tried to get a hold of the Cooks to join us, but they had already checked out, so we utilized the information gotten the previous evening and headed out for another adventure. The road went the opposite way of the road to Fossil Beach and was in much worse shape, but we finally

arrived at a beach; not necessarily the one the cook had referred to the previous evening, but still it was going to be fun to beachcomb. We were told it might be possible to find old bottles or glass floats there, so we began searching the shore. Sue stayed near the camper, Andre headed out in one direction, and Phillip and I in another direction.

I found an antler from a Sitka black-tailed deer, some shells, and a clear light bulb, and told Phillip I had found a glass float. It was a glass float, just not the type he had in mind.

Andre found a piece of net and a starfish the size of a dinner plate, but the stuff smelled bad and Sue stuck it in a plastic bag and tied it to the ladder on the back of the camper.



*Andre Macias, Phillip Elrod, Sheila Macias & Sue Hilton
Photo Courtesy of someone who took it for us!*

I told everyone about a patch of seaweed I had walked through that was a little too ripe and smelled worse with every step. We then dubbed the beach, "Stinky Beach".

We wrapped up our finds and headed back to town, and got another room so all could clean up that night.

The next day we did some more shopping and exploring in town. We talked with some nice people; a man in a pawnshop, and a woman in a craft store who told us we could find some "chippin' stone" on a beach just across the bridge right near town. We went looking for the place only to find that the majority of the beach had been paved and turned into a parking lot.

With that it was nearly time to park in line for the ferry headed home.

I believe a good time was had by all. I would go to Kodiak again, especially if I could do it in such good company.

Chugach Gem & Mineral Society 2007 Activity List

Dates	Days	Activity	Leader(s)	Comments
June 28	Thurs	Picnic Potluck Meeting (KF)*	Greg Durocher	7:30 PM at Didlika Park on the NW corner of McKenzie Dr. and Clay Products Dr.
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!

CGMS Membership is required for all club trips. Trips are subject to change.

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

+++++

May 24th Potluck & Silent Auction
Photos Courtesy of Neil Tysver



*That muffin is almost as big as he is!
Almas & Jirehka Smith, two of our Pebble Pups*



*The clock is running... Put that bid form down, Joe!
Anybody got a pen? Quick, somebody gimme a pen!*

Membership Application
CHUGACH GEM & 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 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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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 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!