

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

Alaska Pebble Patter
Chugach Gem & Mineral Society
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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!

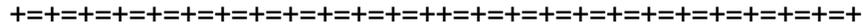
Annual membership fees: Individuals - \$15.00; Families (2 or more) - \$20.00; Bulletin only - \$10.00
Lifetime membership fees: Individuals - \$150.00; Families (2 adults & children under 18) - \$200.00

contributed to. The story of the Siberian ice cave bear, and mammals and reptiles from ancient times were fascinating and fired everyone's imagination.

There was a good selection of adult and children's books in the gift shop area, as well as other items

to tempt the wallet.

It was a great way to spend an early spring Saturday morning, and a great way to kick off our annual field trips. Everyone enjoyed it.



Alaska Science and Engineering Fair
This Year's Theme:
Celebrating the International Polar Year
By Sheila Macias

On Saturday April 11th, the committee met for breakfast at 8:00 AM then proceeded to Nick Begich Middle School to begin the judging around 9:00 AM. The judges present were Joe Turnbow, Katch Bacheller, Phillip Elrod, Sue Hilton and me. Also present was Andre Macias, Event Chairman. Bobbie Turnbow joined us just for breakfast.

After arriving at the school, we began by looking over the projects done by the elementary students. Each of us looked over the projects that related to earth sciences. This was a difficult task as so many of the kids had put much thought and research into their projects. Andre reminded us that we needed to begin our final judging as it would be more difficult as we moved on to the middle and high school projects.

We had a discussion, formed our decisions and agreed upon the winners.

We moved on to the middle school and then to the high school projects. All of the projects were very well done and well thought out. Several of the students had thought outside of the box, if you will, and grabbed our attention with their scientific thought processes and creativity. We were able to talk with many of the students, as they were

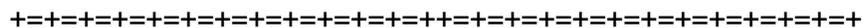
present to discuss their projects with us. We were all a bit disappointed to find only 32 total entries at the high school level. When talking later with the Science Fair personnel they said that they were going to work harder next year to encourage more high school participation. Overall, we were impressed with the science fair, and I for one would love to participate again next year.

During the award ceremony, I presented the awards packets, each of which included a one-year membership to the CGMS, a one year membership to the Alaska Museum of Natural History, a CGMS certificate of award, a 2008 trip list, a club t-shirt and if appropriate, a check to the winner. The ribbons were placed with the projects on Saturday. The winners were as follows:

- Elementary level
- Honorable Mention to Druante Verzola
- 3rd place to Meghan Thompson
- 2nd place to Elijah Faso-Formoso
- 1st place to Jennifer Goertz

- Middle school level
- Honorable Mention to Kendall Malsen
- 3rd place to Jahanna Tennant
- 2nd place to Anna Woern
- 1st place to Kelsey Meacham

- High School level
- 2nd place to Vera Simmonds
- 1st place to Bradley Foster



Sunshine Report
By Dorothy Arnold

Jean Kane is still fighting the results of shingles which she had over a year ago. It still causes her pain at times. She is a firm believer that anyone who had the chicken pox in the past should have a

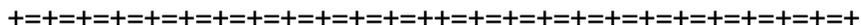
shot to prevent shingles even though it may not work but 50% of the time.

Andre Macias spent a few days in the hospital during the winter due to surgery for a hernia repair.

Kurt Rein recently had outpatient surgery on his foot and knee. At first he had to get about with a walker or crutches but now uses neither.

Craig Casner was hospitalized but is now home.

As this is being written Norval Kane is in the hospital expecting to be released within the next day or two. He is doing fine after surgery. We hope Norval hurries and gets well so he can come to the next potluck. We want to hear more of his jokes.



Scholarship Program and Science Fair Awards Program
A Comprehensive Report
By Andres Macias, Committee Chair

In October of 2006 I took over the position of Scholarship Program Chair. This has been a very important program for our club, but as it stood, the program lacked direction and most of all club member involvement. I hope with all sincerity that my efforts to revive student interest in the CGMS scholarship program do not fail.

After receiving only one application in May 2006, the club extended the deadline to October in hopes of getting more. Several club members called the universities and solicited help from some of the professors. This plan worked wonderfully. Even though the scholarship amount was reduced by a thousand dollars we still received five more applications, proving that it was not the dollar amount but participation by club members that made a difference in the number of applicants.

The next year was a different story. Our presence at the UAA job fair in the spring of 2007 led me to believe that we would have an exceptional number of applicants eager for our scholarship; I was wrong. The total of applications for the 07/08 year was one. The one applicant that we did get was a very deserving, well-qualified and ambitious person, and I'm sure our money was not wasted by giving it to her. I have to say that the number of people who applied, or lack thereof, was very disappointing, which leads me to the conclusion that just saying we have a scholarship available is not enough. We have to be consistent in our efforts with the universities to make sure that the young adults who are going to school in Alaska know our scholarship is available.

The following pages of this report contain a list of our scholarship applicants and recipients, and also

a summary of our science fair program since I took over in place of the last chairman. The direction we head from this point is crucial to the impression we as a club leave on the communities and schools of this state. We are a part of Alaska history, and as such, our legacy to the state deserves recognition. Let's put any differences aside and focus on how we can work together to contribute our resources, knowledge, and make a commitment to the youth of this state that every club member can be proud of.

At the end of this report are several suggestions that I believe would improve our chances of getting a better response on our scholarship. Please remember that these are just suggestions, and any changes must be voted on by the club. There is also a brief summation.

- Earth Sciences Scholarships
 2005 – 2006 Applicants: Margaret Brawley, Nicole De Yong, Marshall Ezelle. No scholarships were awarded that year.
 2006 – 2007 Applicants: Rebecca Boettcher, Kevin Connaker, Jill Michalak, Jamie Suttie, and Racheal Westbrook. Recipients were Racheal Westbrook and Kevin Connaker.
 2007 – 2008 Applicant: Jessequa Parker. Recipient: Jessequa Parker

- 2007 Alaska Science and Engineering Fair
 Elementary school winners: First place, Emily Gordon; Second place, Cody Keith; Third place, Cierra Cowin; Honorable mention, Peter Seeganna. There were no middle school winners.
 High school winner: Second place, Josiah Hendrickson.

- 2008 Alaska Science and Engineering Fair
 Elementary school winners: First place, Jennifer Goertz; Second place, Elijah Faso-Formoso; Third place, Meghan Thompson; Honorable mention, Durante Verzola.

Middle school winners: First place, Kelsey Meacham; Second place, Anna Woern; Third place, Jahnna Tennant; Honorable mention, Kendall Malsen.

High school winners: First place, Bradley Foster; Second place, Vera Simmonds.

The science fair was a complete success this year. Our judges did an excellent job on every aspect of what was asked of them. I could not have asked for a better group. I believe that our participation at this point in young adults' lives is beneficial to them and to us as a club. Because college is very expensive, any support parents can get is vitally important to the education of their children.

The first problem with the science fair that needs to be addressed is the fact that the club has to hand out awards without some necessary information; I am not given addresses or phone numbers for any of our winners. I'm sure this is to safeguard the students; the problem that comes up is with the membership because the club has a blank page on any of the winners. The winners of our memberships cannot receive anything from us because we do not have an address to send our newsletter to. Consequently they never receive their membership card, or any contact whatsoever unless they call us. This we have to work on.

The second problem is the storage of the projects themselves. I think it is very important that the projects be displayed at the Alaska Miners Association/CGMS rock show. We reach our largest numbers of the public at that time and it would be beneficial to have the projects displayed to be seen by the children who did not participate in the science fair. I do not think it is feasible for the Museum of Natural History to display the project for the time needed till the rock show arrives. We must consider storing them in the connex until the show in November, though I worry about the preservation of them while they are out there. If we tell the

winners that we can safely store their displays, we need to be able to follow through.

At this point I am going to offer some suggestions for club members to consider concerning the scholarship and science fair programs that we offer:

- The scholarship amount should be increased to \$3,000
- The scholarships should be reduced to one only per year
- The scholarship should be open to freshmen and sophomores as well as juniors and seniors
- The GPA requirement should be raised to 3.0
- We should offer a \$1,000 scholarship at the high school level in the science fair; money that would be put in a savings account to be used at the college of the recipient's choice
- The club should consider having members on the boards at the science fair and/or the college level
- The members of the club should actively solicit the geology staff at the colleges for applicants

If we work together we can come up with a good package that will draw students from all levels of education. The goal of this project is to create more avenues from which the students can get our scholarship money. We know that there are bright, enthusiastic students who just don't have the resources available to them to consider college right out of high school, which limits our potential applicants later down the line. I hope members will give serious consideration to some if not all of the changes that I have suggested; the benefits of which I believe will start to show within a few years.

Thank you for giving these matters your consideration.

