

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.
 P.O. 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 p.m. — 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month.**  
**POTLUCK MEETING – 6:30 p.m. — 4<sup>th</sup> 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. Most importantly, **bring a rock to show!**

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



President's Message

November – December 2003

Hello out there all you tired, worn out rockhounds! If everyone had as much fun as Joe did this summer I know you're glad to see termination dust on the mountains. It's time to wrap up another year and start playing with those indoor rocks instead of trying to move the Talkeetna range into your back yard.

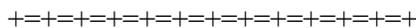
For those who missed it, we had elections for the 2004 officers. Anita Williams will be your new president. She knows LOTS more about rocks and how they got here than I do and I'm excited about helping her to keep the club growing. Who knows what she'll come up with to keep us on our toes! Be sure to check out the full slate of officers in the business meeting minutes.

We've got lots of fun INDOOR activities coming up.

Heather and Andre are putting the final touches to the plans for the November rock show. Since our set up time is 2 hours (from 3 to 5) they'll need all the help they can get to be ready for the folks who will expect to see our finest! Heather has picked out the three prizes for the People's Choice award. (I wonder if I can bribe all the people and get that 1st place prize????)

Since there will be only one meeting in November I'll take this opportunity to wish all of you who can't make the November business meeting a Happy Thanksgiving. Hope to see you at our Christmas party on December 11th. Until then, let's get working on the rocks we acquired this summer and start plotting the next season's harvest.

bt



Important Announcements

November and December Meetings:

During the months of November and December we will have only one meeting each month.

November 13th: Business Meeting at 7:30 p.m.

December 11th: Christmas Party at 6:30 p.m.
(Bring food and a gift for the gift exchange!)

November Rock Show:

Location: Anchorage Sheraton Hotel, 2nd floor.

Date: November 7th and 8th, 2003

Setup takes place on November 7th at 3 p.m. The show starts at 5 p.m. Volunteers are needed for setup and break down. Please contact Heather Jordan at 345-2755.

Chugach Gem & Mineral Society Business Meeting Minutes

September 11, 2003

President Bobbie Turnbow called the September 11, 2003 meeting of the Chugach Gem & Mineral Society to order at 7:30 p.m.

There were no guests present.

Officer and Committee Reports

Treasurer - Greg

There were no changes in accounts. The checks were written for the scholarships and are ready to go out.

Membership – Jean

There are 131 paid members.

Corresponding Secretary – Unice

The mail has been distributed.

Recording Secretary – Bea

The minutes from the August meeting were in the recently mailed Pebble Patter newsletter. Joe moved to accept the minutes as they appeared, Heather seconded, and the motion carried.

Sunshine – Dorothy

Dorothy shared a thank you card from Lenore Preston for the plant the Club sent during her recent hospital stay. Dorothy also mentioned her recent houseguests had left some coffee and tea that she donated to the Club.

Newsletter Editor – Sue

The mailing list may not be complete, please meet with Sue if you didn't get a newsletter. The fieldtrip reports submitted by Club members were appreciated; please continue to submit articles of interest. On behalf of the Club, Bobbie expressed gratitude to Sue for taking on the job of editor.

Old Business

November Rock Show - Heather is coordinating this effort and proposed a friendly competition between Club members only for best case display, with prizes provided by the Club and winners determined by votes from public viewers.

Steve moved that a sum not exceeding \$100 be granted for Heather to obtain the prizes. Nancy seconded the motion. After discussion the motion passed.

Anita reported that we wouldn't be able to access the showroom on the 2nd floor of the Sheraton during the Miners Convention to set up until 3 p.m. on Friday November 7th. This will be a tight schedule and she will try to make some arrangements with the hotel to hold the cases somewhere on the premises prior to 3 p.m. We should easily be able to fill 9 cases, probably more. Anita said that there was space, so Bobbie suggested we try for a "baker's dozen". See Heather for the sign up sheet for displaying, setting up, tearing down, and staffing the floor.

New Business

Bobbie asked if the Club wanted to have a "dress up" Halloween potluck; there was no enthusiasm so a regular potluck meeting will be held in October. We were reminded that there would be no potluck meeting in November, and no regular business meeting in December - only the annual Christmas party and potluck on the 2nd Thursday. Heather and Nancy volunteered to organize the event and gift exchange. All agreed that last year's method of having smaller groups worked well. Bobbie thanked Heather for taking on yet another job for the Club and all joined in.

Bobbie reminded us that Andre was trying to arrange a trip to the Goldenzone Mine in Denali Park. Andre needed to know who would be going by the end of the meeting. The cost was approximately \$100 for the guided truck tour. Participants were reminded to plan on approximately two hours in, six hours at the mine area, and another two hours traveling back out. Everyone was reminded to meet at the Igloo at 9 a.m.

Fieldtrip Reports

Joe reported taking a visitor from Uruguay on an outing up Boulder Creek. The man was impressed with the scenery and the ride in (and on) Max.

Joe and Neil reported another trip to Black Rapids Glacier by Joe, Tom, Neil and a guest on Labor Day weekend. They hired a helicopter to take them in to look for more tourmaline. Rain turned to snow and the morning was cold and wet. Specimens as large as 155 lb. were found. Getting all that weight carried out in the helicopter was another adventure. Bobbie's role was to provide ground support out of Ft. Greely. Norval reminded members that weight and balance in small aircraft is important and our lives could depend on that factor. Please don't overload!

Matt went to MacLaren Summit on the Denali Highway. The weather was mild, the views good, but he didn't find any rocks!

Craig's routine trip for a haircut turned into a thrill when a sinkhole opened under his faithful old truck (not the new one), on Spenard at 33rd in Anchorage. He didn't see any rocks in it and passersby were helpful in getting his truck out.

After door prizes were awarded, Bobbie announced the evening's event would be a slide show by Rick Parkhurst covering trips to the Little Nelchina River.

Rick showed slides that featured several members on the June trip led by Sheila and Andre during very dry weather conditions. A trip last month taken by some of the same members was dry going in, but very wet coming out.

Greg added that Rick had had the foresight to put chains on his truck at the beginning of the trip, and though they clanked a lot, he was sure glad to have their effectiveness on the wet, muddy trip back out. Participants found agates and interesting fossil specimens.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Bea Allen, Recording Secretary

Chugach Gem & Mineral Society Business Meeting Minutes

October 9, 2003

President Bobbie Turnbow called the October 9, 2003 meeting of the Chugach Gem & Mineral Society to order at 7:44 p.m.

Visitors - Clint Taylor

- John and Ron Keller

John is the president of the rock club in Le Grande, Oregon and was up here visiting his son Ron.

Officer and Committee Reports

Treasurer - Greg

The Club had \$14,876.69 in its savings account and \$1,241.39 in its checking account. Greg did not have totals for the money market accounts.

Corresponding Secretary – Unice

The mail had been distributed.

Recording Secretary – Bea

Bea was not present. Adeline recorded the minutes.

Old Business

November Rock Show - Heather mentioned that she had sign-up sheets for volunteers. She said that there were plenty of spaces available for displays. Prizes for displays will be awarded at the November business meeting. The rock show will take place at the Sheraton Hotel on November 7th and 8th. Setup starts at 3 p.m. on the 7th and the show starts at 5 p.m. on the same day. The club will also have a question booth set up and have tumbled stones for kids.

Fur Rondy – None of the members indicated at this point that they wanted to set up displays at this event, but the general consensus was that we should start thinking about it if we want to participate.

New Business

Tables – Bobbie reported that we needed to purchase tables for the November rock show in the interest of saving time on setup. The motion was made by Unice and seconded by Heather to purchase 8 x 8’ and 2 x 4’ tables. Bobbie said she would make the purchase.

Elections – Heather was in charge of the slate. Elections were held at this meeting and officer installation will take place during the business meeting in March. The vote was taken and the motion carried to install the following people as officers:

President	Anita Williams
1 st Vice President	Heather Jordan
2 nd Vice President	Bobbie Turnbow
Treasurer	Greg Durocher
Corresponding Secretary	Nancy Danford
Recording Secretary	Bea Allen
Membership	Jean Kane

Announcements

Greg – Greg announced that he was performing with the Anchorage Concert Chorus on Saturday, October 10th. He also stated that the Nights of Columbus had a raffle going with a \$50,000 first prize. Tickets were on sale for \$20 a piece.

Jean – Dorothy Kane’s cookbooks were being sold for \$1 a piece. The proceeds were going to the Dorothy Kane Memorial Fund.

Craig – The T. Rex named Sue was on display at the museum until January. He asked if we wanted to do a field trip there.

Field Trip Reports

Curvin, Andre, and Mel went to Wishbone Hill.

After the door prizes were awarded, Greg announced that the evening program was canceled.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Adeline Geldenhuys

**Little Nelchina Field Trip
Labor Day Weekend**

By Greg Durocher

Having missed the official CGMS trip into the Little Nelchina River in June, I jumped at the opportunity to head into that country for a Labor Day Weekend adventure. On Friday Aug. 29, Rick Parkhurst picked me up in his old but reliable Toyota 4X4 truck, and we were on the road around 3 p.m. After a stop at his cabin near the Matanuska Glacier for a load of firewood, we got back on the Glenn Highway just in time to be the 4th car in line awaiting a pilot car to bring us through the Caribou Creek construction project. As we climbed up the far side of the valley, we could look across at the line of cars and RVs strung out two miles. We were smugly pleased to be ahead of all of the lumbering "tin toilets"!

Rick and I enjoyed coffee and fries at the Eureka Lodge while we waited for our trip leaders, Andre and Sheila Macias. Later, Rick chained up all of his tires at the gravel pit east of the lodge, then somewhere around 8 p.m. we followed Andre, Sheila and their dog Merlin into the boonies. Although the sky was monsoon-gray, the trail was dry and the driving was fairly easy. It was so good in fact that I really saw no reason to have chained up for the 14 miles of trail and the 3.5 miles of gravel bars along the valley of the Little Nel. We arrived at our campsite in the dark. Rick's headlights provided illumination for camp set-up. Beats working with a headlamp! Once the tents were secured and the lights out, we got a nice fire going with the wood Rick brought. The trip in had been a visual feast, with hillsides festooned in a palette of rusty reds, oranges, and an entire suite of variegated yellow. For dessert, we were served clear skies and auroras competing with the Milky Way for our attention. As expected, the lure of campfire conversation kept us awake way past bedtime. Rick retired at an "early" 1 a.m. Andre, Sheila and I didn't call it quits until after 2! Saturday morning found us getting up at our own leisure and kicking back until Andre headed out to the highway to pick up Anita Williams and Linda Ewers, who would be following him with his other ATV. After he left, Sheila, Rick, Merlin and I checked out the outcrops of a nearby side valley for a while. Didn't find much in the way of rocks, but did find the electronics of an old weather balloon.

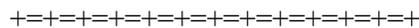
We started finding agates along the Little Nel gravels en route back to camp.

Andre had estimated that he'd be back in camp around 2 p.m. He, Linda and Anita came roaring into camp at exactly 2 p.m. Now THAT's timing! Once the new tent site was selected and tent secured, we all set off for Flat Creek then worked our way back to camp, periodically stopping to wander around seeking the elusive blue-white nodules. The initial sprinkles of late afternoon became a steady rain by the time we hit camp. We got the campfire lit and constructed a blue tarp shelter using the truck and both ATVs as anchors. The rain was not to deter us from our beloved campfire!

Andre had pre-grilled a massive batch of ribs prior to the weekend and now placed the two aluminum-wrapped bundles on a griddle atop the coals. He also added twice-baked potatoes and Rick provided the corn-on-the-cob. We all eagerly awaited the feast while crowded beneath the tarp. By the time dinner was ready, we were a bit cool and damp, and we tore into the ribs like starving hounds. Merlin had a veritable feast of bones! I have always cut as much fat as possible away from ribs. Not tonight -- I ate everything that wouldn't break my teeth! The potatoes and corn were also delicious. The ensuing campfire conversation faded around 10 p.m., and we all fell asleep under the steady drone of rain on our tent flies. It was still raining Sunday morning when we got up, though not as hard. We'd gotten about an inch of rain, judging by the level in containers around camp. Rick was out gathering agates and small caribou antlers for quite a while before I joined him out on the gravel bars. I found a beautiful agate right next to camp, so one doesn't always have to wander far! After breakfast we all headed up to the Little Nel headwaters, about 8 miles away. We'd occasionally stop and fan out to rockhound. Some stops produced specimens, others were fruitless. Some good specimens were spotted from moving vehicles. At about 5:30, Rick and I realized that we had a long way to go before getting back to the highway. It didn't take too long to return to camp, as we weren't looking so hard! However, Andre found a football-sized agate that we'd all driven over earlier! Anita and Linda took off for the highway while Rick and I loaded the truck with a lot of everyone's stuff. Andre and Sheila were going to stay an extra day, but we were making it easier for them by carrying their extra gear.

Up until we reached the bottom of Monument Mountain on our return trip, I kept thinking that Rick's chains were unnecessary. But as we crawled up that treacherous incline, squirted through the now-filled puddles, and skidded along the rain-greased trail, I kept repeating the mantra "Come on chains! Come on chains!" I don't think that I'll ever doubt any actions that Rick undertakes to prepare for future trips!

We hit the highway in the waning twilight, got everyone's stuff put in the proper vehicles, then had dinner at the Eureka Lodge with Anita and Linda. Hit the road just after 10 p.m. It was a wet, dark ride home. Rick dropped me off around 1 a.m., tired, but happy to have had a great trip with excellent company!

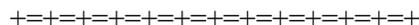


Addendum to Greg's Report

By Sheila Macias

We had good weather Sunday night and most of the next day. We found more nice specimens as we worked our way out.

Everything was great until we started up Monument Mountain. We stopped to take a picture of a rainbow and three minutes later we were being pelted with horizontal hail. The rain and hail lasted about 45 minutes of our 2-hour trip. We arrived back at the trailhead wet and tired but happy with our finds.



Wrangell Trip, 2003

Part 2a, by Bonnie Hepburn

Sunday, 25 May:

We awoke Sunday to the sound of Southeast "liquid sunshine". We sprang for the hot breakfast to energize us for our scheduled kayak and hike. Then we stuffed our brown bags from the all-you-can-pack bag lunch offerings. Sylvia Ettefaugh and John Verhey of Alaska Vistas met us at 9 a.m. to get us outfitted for the expedition across Zimovia Strait. It soon became apparent to them that we wanted a guided trip not just some kayaks. Without missing a beat, Sylvia announced to John, "Well I guess you get to go kayaking today instead of

cleaning the garage.” He made no protest.

After suiting up and stuffing ourselves into the doubles (Sue and I shared one, Bobbie and John were in the other), we put in from Sylvia and John’s place at Mile 12 Zimovia Hwy. It was about two miles across the strait and then another 2 miles to our trailhead. Just before our takeout point we ran into a small squall. Waves began to lap over the bows of our kayaks. John and I were used to this but Bobbie and Sue were novice kayakers. Bobbie started yelling “Yee Haw!!” She later commented that John seemed nonplussed so she figured we were safe.

Upon our arrival at the Kunk Lake trailhead on Etoilin Island, we dragged our boats above the high tide line then began our exploration of the rainforest. John was an excellent guide. He immediately assessed our needs and quickly fashioned a walking stick for Bobbie. We trudged through the woods and up the hill to our destination. The only mammal we encountered was a porcupine that wanted to share the boardwalk with us. On a sunny day we would have said our destination was the lake, but since it continued to rain, our destination was the picnic shelter provided by USFS at the lake.

We arrived hungry and damp. The bag lunches were immediately devoured. The FS was remiss in that there was no wood for the fire pit. So we stoically said, “No problem. It’s not that cold anyway. After all, the temperature is above freezing. What’s a little rain? This is Southeast. Shall we dismantle the outhouse and burn it?”

We didn’t. Instead we admired the view we had and imagined the one that might have been if the clouds would have lifted. Reluctantly we left our dry shelter for the return passage, which was mostly uneventful except when a sea lion started to follow Bobbie and John’s boat while we were in the middle of the strait. I guess he wanted to play with them!

We turned in all our soggy gear at Sylvia and John’s. Then they called ahead to Bruce at the Old Sourdough Lodge to have him fire up the sauna for us. What an excellent and toasty idea!! Bobbie and I enjoyed the sauna while Sue nursed her cold. We missed dinner in town. The

fisherman’s bar that had good pizza stopped taking orders at nine. So Bruce put the leftover spaghetti fixings on the counter and pointed to the microwave. “Have at it ladies”, he commanded. “But if you start a fire, rescue the dog and the cat!” We ate our fill. Then exhausted, crashed in our beds.

Monday: 26 May

We awoke the next morning and did the hot breakfast and bag lunch thing again. Only this time we had to have all our gear packed. We were leaving the lodge for the next leg of our adventure - a tour of the lower Stikine River with a drop-off at Garnet Ledge Cabin where we would stalk the elusive Wrangell garnets.

-to be continued in the next newsletter-

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A Healthy Hobby

By Greg Durocher

It has always been apparent to me that the hardiest, healthiest seniors I've known have been rockhounds. My hypothesis for this observation had been that since rockhounding is best done outdoors, where also reside sunshine and fresh air; and since rockhounding carries into their later years more than other activities such as skiing, rockhounds should be healthier. In accordance with this thought, I've just read an article in the current Readers Digest entitled "Healing Power of Hobbies", which reports that various studies have shown that people who are active with ANY hobbies: 1) are more relaxed, 2) have lower blood-pressure, 3) have increased immunity, 4) lower their risk of Alzheimer's, 5) are less likely to die of stroke or circulatory disorders. The article also mentions the benefits of belonging to a social community of fellow hobbyists.

I now will politely contend that rockhounding combines the best features of having a good hobby, a supportive social group, AND fresh air and exercise, and that its place in the healthy hobby hierarchy is right up there at the head of the heap!

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Hints for the Hardy Hiker

By Greg Durocher

Discarded CDs make very lightweight emergency signal mirrors. They take virtually no room in your pack, and are quite durable. The next time you get that junk-mail offer on CD, throw it in with your emergency gear. In a year's time you can probably have one in every pack and off-road vehicle! When signaling, it is important to remember that the sun will reflect at the same angle that it hits. Thus, you have to point the face of the reflector half way between the sun and your signal target. If the target is a plane way off on the right, and the sun is way on the left, you should be pointing it up at basically nothing right in between. Be sure to wobble it, to make sure that they are getting the reflection!

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Additions to the Club Website

By Greg Durocher

Be sure to check out the updated Chugach Gem & Mineral Society Website, courtesy of Steve Herschbach and Alaska Mining & Diving: <http://www.akmining.com/mine/cgms.htm>. While you're at it, click on their Mining Website at: <http://www.akmining.com/mining.htm>.

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The Paleontological Resources Preservation Act (HR 2416)

By Kreigh Tomaszewski

I am asking you to contact your US Representative to seek their vote against HR 2416. The Paleontological Resources Preservations Act is a flawed solution that would result in the elimination of geology and paleontology as sciences in the United States by outlawing the amateur collectors needed to keep these sciences alive. In the long term it would probably eliminate our nation's ability to prosper due to the demise of mining. By its lumping of fossil and mineral collecting it would make rockhounding a crime.

As a fellow rockhound I am sure you are aware of

the long history of contributions from amateurs to science in general, and to geology, paleontology, and mineralogy in particular. This bill places amateur rockhounds and fossil collectors in the same category as drug dealers, calling for the seizure of their vehicles and property as a civil penalty for even minor infractions.

I fail to see any benefit to the country from outlawing a family oriented collecting hobby that produces science-educated adults. I foresee great long term harm if it should pass. Please make every effort to stop this bill (and its companion Senate version, S 546, that has already passed) from becoming law.

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Two Dinosaur Exhibits Coming to Anchorage

Press release by Anne Pasch

Two dinosaur exhibits will be on display in Anchorage from October 5, 2003 to January 18, 2004 at the Anchorage Museum of History and Art. This museum is sponsoring "A T. rex named Sue" and in collaboration with it, the Alaska Museum of Natural History has created a "Meet the Dinosaurs of Alaska" exhibition.

The latter exhibition will introduce the viewer to major dinosaur finds in the state, what they are, where they are located, and why they are so important. Specimens will include a beautiful full-size replica of a juvenile hadrosaur, dinosaur bone fragments, casts, models, photographs, sketches and murals by well-known artists Tom Stewart and Jennifer Jolliff. A collection of Cretaceous plant fossils will be on exhibit for the first time, as will two very rare ammonites that have never been found before in North America.

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Please send all Pebble Patter submissions to: Sue Hilton: sueh@mtaonline.net

This issue of the Pebble Patter was compiled by Adeline Geldenhuys.

