

**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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Jean Kane 243-4648	Norval Kane 243-4648
<b>FIELD TRIP</b>	<b>FEDERATION LIAISON</b>
Bonnie Hepburn 274-0941	Tom Cooper (907) 262-9759

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

November 18, 2006

Happy Holidays Everyone,

'Tis the season to be jolly... that sounds like great advice. Happy is a good thing and the club has every reason to be happy. We just completed our 5<sup>th</sup> (I think) annual rock show in association with the Alaska Miners Association Convention. Personally, I think this was a great show. We had eighteen excellent displays, a wide selection of rocks, minerals and associated materials from our vendors, face painting, AMA, CGMS and UAA Geology club tables with great kids' activities, and superior support for the show from all the volunteers. Many thanks to all of you and particularly to Andre for making it all happen in a timely manner.

The year is winding down. We have one meeting left and it is our Christmas potluck. This is a fun time of filling up on turkey and all the fixings and getting together with the other club members. The date is December 14<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 pm at our regular meeting place. Be sure to bring a plate, utensils and a dish to share. The club will be providing turkey. We will also have a gift exchange, so if you would like to participate, bring a gift appropriate for rockhounds (no food items, please) in the \$10 to \$20 range.

This will be my last president's message. Greg will be taking over the gavel starting in January. I've enjoyed guiding (or maybe being guided by...) the club these last few years and enjoyed working with all the wonderful members. Thanks.

And of course there is a last thought... the field trip committee will soon start planning activities for 2007, so if you have any ideas on where to go on field trips or places you might like to go, please let us know. No idea is too farfetched for consideration. Join in the planning and don't be afraid to lead a trip, either.

Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow!

Anita Williams

Lame Duck President



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

President Anita Williams called the September 14, 2006 business meeting of the Chugach Gem & Mineral Society to order at 7:35 PM.

There were no guests.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Recording Secretary – Bea Allen read the minutes of the August meeting. Greg Durocher noted there was one error; the minutes were then approved as corrected.

Treasurer – Linda Ewers was absent but Anita reported there were no changes in our accounts.

Membership – Jean Kane said the number of paid members was still 162.

Corresponding Secretary – Nancy Danford had turned in all current mail, and reported she had responded to a communication from future visitor J. Forshee.

Northwest Federation Liaison – Tom Cooper was not present.

Sunshine – Dorothy Arnold had nothing to report, but said she would be going to New England and would be gone for a while.

Website – A new webmaster will be needed and Anita expressed the hope that a volunteer would offer to fill the position.

Scholarships – Andre Macias and Joe Turnbow discussed the lack of applicants and suggested that if there were no qualified applicants, perhaps the club would consider making a donation to the Alaska Museum of Natural History for a like amount. However, discussion with Dr. Leanne Monk of the UAA geology department indicated her confidence that there would be applicants. She stated that if we were to send her a flyer via e-mail, she would make copies and distribute them. Joe had tried to contact UAA but had gotten no response. We will try to offer scholarships for the spring semester. Ways to reach out to students were discussed such as a science fair for

elementary, junior high or high school levels with modest monetary prizes awarded. It possibly could be held at the 2007 Alaska Miners Association show. Some members said they had contacts within the school district and they would sound them out on this idea.

Fieldtrips – Bonnie Hepburn reported that the tour of Independence Mine was postponed due to high water in the mine tunnel. Those who helped in the road cleanup last spring had been planning to take that tour. She said that the park rangers would be very pleased if we would do the cleanup again in spring 2007. Bonnie said that she was planning a trip to the Lower 48 from February through June and was still willing to be fieldtrip chairperson next year, but someone would need to take over while she was away. Sheila volunteered.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Rock Show - Anita had a rough sketch of the floor plan at Josephine's in the Sheraton which was to be our show area for November 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. Signup sheets were on the back table for vendors to sign up and pay their fee. Anita hoped that club members would exhibit their collections and said there would be space for 18 club cases. Bobbie suggested a visit to the connex to check over the cases and the inserts, as they might have water damage and new lining cloth would be needed.

Microphone - Greg Durocher said he would bring his karaoke machine to test but the audio problem seemed to exist only when we had to use the other meeting room.

Heritage Museum - Greg said the club's display cases were coming down on September 27<sup>th</sup> and reminded everyone to visit the museum, located in the Wells Fargo bank at C Street and Northern Lights, to see the big gold nugget and fine native handcrafts and carvings.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Andre made and Joe seconded a motion to purchase new fabric if needed for the display case inserts after their condition was inspected. The motion passed.

Greg reported he had been contacted at USGS by the chairman of a home schoolers group and was asked to have an information table at a conference to be held on October 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> at the Birchwood Community Church. They gave permission for our club to also have a display and Greg asked for volunteers to set up a couple of cases and help out for the two days. Bea and Andre volunteered.

Anita reminded us that the election of officers would be held at the November business meeting and expressed the hope that new people would step up and volunteer to hold office. Most of our current officers have served the maximum number of terms allowed by our bylaws. Joe Turnbow and Toni Carlos agreed to serve as the nominating committee to try to recruit a slate of officer candidates for our upcoming elections.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mary Smith happily reported that her statue, which depicts small children, had finally been erected on the proper granite base.

A Halloween party was not planned for the October potluck, but anyone was welcome to dress in costume and bring Halloween trims and treats.

Only one meeting will be held in December, a Christmas party potluck scheduled for the second Thursday. Dorothy said she would be in town and volunteered to roast the turkey. Anita asked that

everyone bring three decorations for a tree, maybe some original decorations using rocks and minerals. (Sheila and Andres made some good looking ornaments last year). It wasn't determined if we needed to bring a tree or if there would be one here from a church activity. The usual gift exchange has been planned, and remember that gifts should be from \$10 to \$20 in value, no food, and be something appropriate for a rockhound such as a rock or rock-related item.

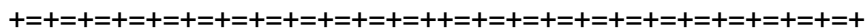
Jean Kane said she heard from long-time members John and Sally Van Horn. Sally was feeling better, but they found the climate in the Southeast too warm and were looking for a new location.

Joe Turnbow said that long-time member Sam Dunaway was recently in Nature's Jewels, and stated that his mine in Virginia was for sale and was closed at present.

After Norval Kane read us a few short, humorous anecdotes, door prizes were awarded followed by a short break. Sheila had an ultraviolet light available for anyone wishing to see rocks fluoresce. After the break, Dorothy showed slides from her trip to Peru and of the famous ruins of Machu Picchu.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bea Allen, Recording Secretary



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

The October 11, 2006 business meeting of the Chugach Gem and Mineral Society was unable to be called to order by First Vice President Greg Durocher because there was not a quorum of the general members present.

There were no guests present.

Greg reminded those present of the need to prepare for the November rock show at the Sheraton, and for members to participate by displaying their collections. The dates will be Friday

November 10<sup>th</sup> from 5 PM to 9 PM, and Saturday from 10 AM to 6 PM. Mary Smith said she planned to have a display case.

Tom Cooper said he had just been notified that we were not going to be in Josephine's restaurant space and that we had been assigned back to our regular space along with the vendors. Greg said he would verify this with the Alaska Miners Association.

There being a quorum of officers present, Greg proceeded to call to order a board meeting at 8:00 PM. Present were First Vice President Greg Durocher, Corresponding Secretary Nancy Danford, Second Vice President Andre Macias and Recording Secretary Bea Allen. Also present were

Membership Chairperson Jean Kane and Parliamentarian Norval Kane.

Betty Motes asked if it was possible to obtain some old fashioned rock candies for the show. Toni Carlos said she knew of a mail order company that advertised them. A motion was made by Bea Allen and seconded by Nancy Danford to approve \$25 for purchasing and shipping charges for some rock candies. The motion passed and Greg volunteered to order the candy.

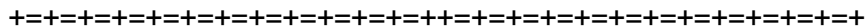
Greg announced he and Andre would be going to the connex to examine the display cases as it was feared that a leaky roof may have caused water damage. Bea said she had some fabric if the liners needed to be recovered, and the fabric was not white but a pastel color which should look okay. Greg asked if the Mat-Su rock club was expected to participate in the show. Bea said she would attend that club's meeting on October 17<sup>th</sup> and get an answer, as one of those folks had several concerns.

Bea asked if the nominating committee was having any success in recruiting candidates for our

upcoming election of officers. Toni said she was on the committee and that they had several nominees, but none for recording secretary. Most current officers had served the maximum number of terms permitted by club bylaws. Officers may not be elected to the same position for more than 3 consecutive years. The following positions were elected: president, first and second vice presidents, treasurer, recording secretary, and corresponding secretary. The federation director, newsletter editor, webmaster and all committee chairpersons were appointed. After this was clarified, Chris Teutsch agreed to be a nominee for the office of recording secretary. It was also noted that a new webmaster was needed as soon as possible and that a member with appropriate skills should be encouraged to fill that position.

There being no other business requiring discussion, the Board meeting was adjourned. No program had been scheduled so Greg awarded the door prizes and then everyone socialized.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bea Allen, Recording Secretary



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

President Anita Williams called the November 9, 2006 business meeting of the Chugach Gem & Mineral Society to order at 7:35 PM.

There were no guests.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Recording Secretary – Bea Allen reported that the minutes of the September meeting would be in the Pebble Patter. The October business meeting failed to have a quorum present so a board meeting was held instead. Those minutes were read and approved.

Treasurer – Linda Ewers was stranded in Cordova due to weather and no report was available.

Membership – Jean Kane reported there were 164 paid members.

Corresponding Secretary – Nancy Danford reported that only two newsletters had been received from other clubs. Joe Turnbow said he had responded to an earlier inquiry about our club from a man in California.

Sunshine – Dorothy Arnold had no reports of members ill or in distress.

Fieldtrips – Bonnie Hepburn needed ideas and suggestions for field trips. She planned to hold a committee meeting on Wednesday December 27<sup>th</sup>. It would be a potluck, possibly at Greg and Shari Durocher's home.

Greg said Dwight Smith had proposed a nine day field trip to Utah in September, 2007. We would need to rent some 4WD vehicles. Estimated cost was about \$600 per person excluding airfare. Many members were interested.

Anita said there would be a miners' convention from March 20<sup>th</sup> through 24<sup>th</sup>, 2007 in Juneau that would make a good club field trip, and could include tours of mines and museums. About nine members expressed interest in participating.

## OLD BUSINESS

Rock Show - Anita said that set-up for the November 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> show would begin at 3:00 PM. Those able to help should be at the connex about noon to get cases and equipment loaded.

Andre thanked Joe Turnbow for donating a pail of polished rocks to give away and moved that the club reimburse Joe in some way to show our gratitude. The motion was seconded by Sheila. Joe said he appreciated the gesture but was happy to be able to contribute his time and materials for the children who attend the show. The motion was withdrawn.

Andre said that we have awarded prizes for the best display in the past and asked if we were planning to do so this year. Greg made and Andre seconded a motion to purchase prizes as follows: first prize - \$30, second prize - \$20, and Sheila volunteered to donate third prize. Greg amended his motion to state that gift certificates would be purchased at Nature's Jewels for the prizes of \$30, \$20, and \$30. Andre seconded the motion. Joe offered to give a 20% discount. The motion passed.

Betty Motes asked if the rock candy discussed at last month's meeting had been sourced and purchased. Greg said he was not able to find any in small packages, only large bags, and didn't order due to lack of time to repackage into small bags and make the required labels. He also said that he planned to do research later and hoped to have a source for next year's show.

Christmas Party - our December meeting has been planned for the 14<sup>th</sup> and will be a potluck and gift exchange. Dorothy Arnold volunteered to cook the turkey and Mary Wester volunteered to bring the dressing. Anita reminded us that the gifts should be items in the \$10 - \$20 range which were rock or mineral related and suitable for either gender. No food items.

Scholarships - Andre and Greg reported that there were five applicants. Two were disqualified because their majors were not in the earth sciences field. The first choice was Rachel Westbrook of UAF who was in volcano studies and the second choice was Kevin Conaker of UAA who was in

geological sciences. The amount to be awarded was \$500 for each of the fall and spring semesters. Nancy Danford moved and Dorothy Arnold seconded that the committee's recommendations be accepted. Greg asked that the motion be amended to state that the award was contingent on getting grade transcripts for the first choice student. The motion passed as amended.

## NEW BUSINESS

Election of Officers - Toni Carlos presented the slate of candidates as follows: president - Greg Durocher, first vice president - Phillip Elrod, second vice president - Andre Macias, recording secretary - Chris Teutsch, corresponding secretary - Nancy Danford, treasurer - Linda Ewers. There being no further nominees, nominations were closed. Sue Hilton moved and Joe Turnbow seconded that the slate of nominees be elected by unanimous consent. The motion passed.

Anita Williams announced that Jean Kane wished to retire as membership chairperson. Andre nominated Bea Allen as her replacement and Bea accepted but said her computer skills may be lacking.

Bonnie Hepburn said she would be traveling much of the coming year and asked for a co-chair for the fieldtrip committee. Sheila Macias volunteered.

Bea Allen expressed concern over the club's loss of members and poor attendance at meetings and felt the meetings could be modified somewhat. Bea moved and Andre seconded that there be fewer programs so that guests and new members would have more time to get acquainted with everyone and feel more welcome. After much discussion, Anita suggested the motion be amended to state that every third month a social time be substituted for the program. The motion was amended and a hand vote was taken. The motion passed.

Andre brought up the subject of the club sponsoring or taking part in a science fair. The Anchorage school district had suggested we go to one of the schools' fairs and award prizes. We could display the winning entries in our fall club rock show and also at the Alaska Museum of Natural History. Anita appointed Andre to form a special committee to develop a plan and present it at our January meeting.

Fur Rendezvous – Andre asked if the club wanted to participate in Rony 2007. After much discussion over the uncertainties it was agreed at this time not

to participate as little information was available from the Rondy committee.

Donation to the Natural History Museum – it was agreed that the issue will be addressed at our January meeting.

Kurt Rein read a humorous field trip report from a 1965 Pebble Patter on a gold panning trip to Hope. It was a rockhoulder's tale of misadventure.

Norval reported he had met our new Governor-elect Palin and was impressed with her youthfulness. He also read some amusing anecdotes.

Door prizes were awarded, and the meeting was adjourned at 10:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
 Bea Allen, Recording Secretary

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**Alaskans Loved Arizona Rock Sites**  
**By Lynne Wheeler**

I was fortunate to correspond with Anita, the president of the Chugach Gem & Mineral Society of Anchorage.

Anita, club Treasurer Linda and friend Diana journeyed to Arizona. Luckily, I had just finished with a bout of pneumonia, so I was ready to rockhound! They drove to Payson and spent three days at my home and we collected! Sandy Peace joined me Sunday to take Anita, Linda and Diana to the Oxbow Mine. Finds included hematite and pink calcite, and I found a piece of actinolite that Anita identified for me. Next we visited Bob and Lee Norman (Bob being president of our Payson Rimstones club); then finished the afternoon at Whispering Pines and the Control Road collecting geodes, colony fossils, tube corals, crinoids, horn corals and a few Diamond Point crystals.

Monday, Sandy and I took the ladies to the Paleo Site for ancient sea life slabs; up to Forest Lakes to the original Sandstone Quarry and then to the Petrified Forest. We drove through and then collected north of the energy plant off I-40 just west

of Joseph City. We went to a place further in and found some beautiful logs -- one 66 feet long -- it photographed well! Many wonderful pieces were collected and we finished off the day with dinner at La Posada in Winslow. We even enjoyed seeing three bull elk with great racks, one cow elk, and a fox that crossed the road on our way home.

For the final day, Peggy Randall joined me to take Anita, Linda and Diana to collect brachiopods, sponge corals and sea urchin spines off of 87/260 W on the way to Camp Verde. The Salt Mine Road took us to collecting sites for glauberite pseudomorphs in the washes by the old Salt Mine. With the rain we had this summer, some great finds were made.

All in all, I think our Alaskan visitors had a great time collecting and sightseeing. We left them in Camp Verde as they were heading to Flagstaff to meet eleven others for a sixteen day rafting trip down the Grand Canyon. I hope the weather stayed good, and I enjoyed the rock collecting and making new friends as much as they did. Great group of rockhounds!!!

Thanks to Sandy and Peggy for joining us.

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**Arizona Rockhound Hospitality**  
**By Anita Williams**

A float trip down the Grand Canyon at the end of September was on the schedule for Linda Ewers, Diana Stzrok and me. Since it was hotter and higher in Arizona than Anchorage we decided to go down a few days early to acclimate ourselves. What to do those extra days? Well, we figured it might be fun to do some rockhounding. So I got in contact with Lynne from the Payson, Arizona club to find out some possible collecting sites to visit.

One e-mail led to another and pretty soon we were making plans to meet up with Lynne for a couple of days' adventure. Not only that, but the lady offered to put us up at her place; pretty darn nice since she'd never even seen us before.

Sunday after visiting Diana's sister in Phoenix, we drove up to Payson and met up with Lynne and her friend Sandy at the Sonic drive-in. We wasted no time. Lynne gave us a bag of Arby sandwiches and we were off with a screech of rubber to our first site, the abandoned Oxbow gold mine just south of town. There we collected quartz, pink calcite,



hematite and traces of malachite. We also noticed the heat and altitude as we puffed our way up hills. At this point Lynne told us she had just gotten over a bout of pneumonia so she was going a little slow. Wow! It didn't seem slow to us!

Our next stop was a visit to the club president's house in Payson. They had an impressive rock garden in the yard. We ooh-ed and ah-ed over their specimens and talked about collecting around the state.

There was still daylight left, so we headed off to an area called Whispering Pines up on the Mogollon rim. We stopped at several areas to collect fossils, agates and concretions. It was also beautiful country with large pine trees and lots of elk. As evening approached we tried to find one more location with quartz crystals in limestone, but it really was too dark to find anything, much less wander around in the woods without so much as a flashlight.

We headed back to Payson for the evening. We sorted and packed rocks, planned for the next day's excursion, and finally hit the sack for a little sleep.

Monday morning brought another beautiful day; something a person comes to expect in Arizona, I guess. Anyway, Lynne packed up her vehicle with all the gear we would need for the day. Sandy joined us again and we were off for eastern Arizona and petrified wood.

First stop was a fossil location right along the road and a public collecting site blessed by the state. Then we were off again to Holbrook. We made a stop at the local rock shop specializing in petrified wood. They had an impressive supply of wood to say the least and a nice museum display of wood varieties inside. Well, we wanted to collect our own wood so we hit the road again.

We drove through the Petrified Forest National park on our way. It is actually a desolate place, but beautiful and littered with colorful petrified logs. The rangers were VERY attentive about visitors NOT collecting any wood from the park. They did look us over a bit as we left since we had a car full of collecting equipment.

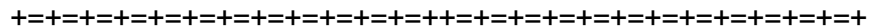
Finally we reached public land. We drove off-road to a collecting area and poked around a bit there. We decided to explore a bit further down the road and then we found some interesting wood and agatized wood. One tree we found was 66 feet long. That was pretty neat.

Once again though, the sun was sinking rapidly over the horizon so we packed up our finds and headed out. Next stop was dinner at the newly restored La Posada restaurant/hotel in Winslow (this always brings to mind the song "standing on the corner in Winslow, Arizona..."). Anyway, La Posada is a neat hotel from the late 40's - early 50's era of Fred Harvey hotels along the railroad routes and in some of the national parks. The food was great and it was a wonderful way to finish a great day, although we still had a bit of a drive to return to Payson.

Tuesday again dawned bright and beautiful. Piles of rocks lined the front porch so we had to get them sorted and packed up. This was our last day of collecting since we had to be in Flagstaff by 5:00 pm. The cars got packed up and we headed north to pick up Peggy in Pine and collect some brachiopods from Peggy's ranch. On the way out, Lynne had a flat tire. It was a new car for her so we all got to learn where the tools were and how they worked. With the combination of five female minds we did get the tire changed and were back on the road in a short time heading up to Camp Verde and our last collecting spot of the day.

After a great Mexican lunch in town we headed out to the old salt mine to collect glauuberite crystals. Since they had been having occasional rainstorms in the area the crystals were well exposed in a stream bed and we had a great time filling our bags with them.

Our time was up so we said our goodbyes and heartfelt thanks to Lynne and Peggy. Flagstaff and the Grand Canyon were the next items on our agenda. Although those few days with Lynne, Sandy and Peggy were intended to be a preparation for our canyon trip we all felt like we'd already had a wonderful, complete vacation.



Membership Application  
**CHUGACH GEM AND 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 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
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Printed Name	Signature	Date
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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. — 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 spoon) to serve 5 people.  
 Also bring your own plate, silverware and drink. Most importantly, bring a rock to show!