



Official Bulletin
of the
Chugach Gem & Mineral Society

Alaska Pebble Patter
Chugach Gem and Mineral Society
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CHUGACH GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY, INC.
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THE CHUGACH GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY, INC. maintains memberships in:
AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES
NORTHWEST FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES

THE CHUGACH GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY MEETINGS ARE HELD AT
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
725 WEST 9TH AVE., ANCHORAGE AK
(enter the church from the back 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!**

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

September – October 2003

Oh my goodness! Someone was cussing at the office the other day. They said the S word. Now, who would want to go and do that? No matter, time catches up with all of us. I'm looking forward to fall this year. Maybe we will have a chance to slow down!

OOPS! I don't think slowing down is an option. The State Fair is going on in Palmer, the last of the season's outings are happening in the next few weeks, we've got a mini-show to put together for November in conjunction with the Alaska Miner's Association, and our Fur Rondy show is just a few months away. I woke up in a panic the other day when I realized we haven't addressed these issues at the last few meetings.

Heather Jordan and Andre Macias have taken the lead on the November Rock Show. Be sure to connect with them concerning dates, places, displays, contests, or anything else that comes to mind. I think we still need a coordinator for the Fur Rondy Show. Anyone interested?

Another item fast approaching is the election of new officers. Be sure to look over the different offices and committees and decide which ones interest you. Your ideas and participation are what make the club strong. New officers will be installed in March 2004. I look forward to working with the new team.

Time to go play with some rocks!

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

August 14, 2003

The August 14, 2003 meeting of the Chugach Gem & Mineral Society was called to order at 7:40 PM by President Bobbie Turnbow. Bobbie announced that club members participating in the evening's silent auction needed to fill out a form before it begins.

Present were two guests, Vern Price and John Giacolone.

Reports**Treasurer's Report**

Greg was absent.

Recording Secretary's Report

Bea read the minutes of the July 10th meeting. Heather moved and Nancy seconded that the minutes be accepted as read. Motion carried.

Corresponding Secretary's Report

Unice reported that the mail had not yet been opened.

Website Committee's Report

Heather reported no progress had been made as yet.

Field Trip Reports

Caribou Dome Mine - Neil reported a good turnout of club members who all had a great time. The road to the mine was in good condition. Once at the mine, Andre provided transportation with his four wheeler up and down the hill to collection sites to those who desired it. After Andre took a spill on his machine, Dwight provided medical care and Andre was driven to Providence Hospital by Sheila with an assist by Rick. Sedimentary copper, malachite, azurite and pyrite were found by participants.

A trip to the Little Nelchina river was made by Andre and Sheila where they came across Sue and Adeline, all of whom found more agates, fossils and leaverite.

The Black Rapids glacier was visited by Tom and Joe, who after realizing they could not reach the area easily chartered a helicopter to take them in and pick them up. With some extreme exploring, they found some black tourmaline. While being flown out they convinced the chopper pilot to put down where Tom had seen some

tantalizing white rocks glimmering in the distance the previous day, and were rewarded with a large deposit of watermelon tourmaline (which was the envy of all present at the meeting!).

Craig and a friend took the Taylor Highway to the 40 Mile area, found a little gold and rhyolite, and stopped at Forest Hayden's claim.

Dwight and Nancy spent 2 weeks in Barrow and enjoyed bird watching and beachcombing where Nancy found some fossil bone and pretty stones. They also took a trip to McCarthy- Kennicott and rented horses to reach their campsite where they found minerals. Nancy managed to hold on to a prize specimen while taking a tumble and breaking a finger. Dr. Dwight to the rescue!

Dorothy went on a 3 week road trip with her houseguests and also went to the Golden Zone Mine. Flooding in places had closed the narrow trails the tour company maintains so the truck blazed a way around them. They found rocks and saw wild life.

Announcement

Bobbie announced that Sue Hilton will take over as editor of the Pebble Patter newsletter and urged everyone to contact Sue with reports of fieldtrips, etc. Her phone number is 694-1934, and her email address is sueh@mtaonline.net.

Upcoming Fieldtrips

August 23 – Independence Mine area for a historical tour and berry picking. A leader is needed.

August 29 through September 7 – Taylor Highway to Dawson City and surrounding area. The Keno-Mayo portion of the trip is not advised due to change of mine ownership. A leader is needed.

September 16-21 – National trip to Colorado and Wyoming. Craig is unable to attend and is not sure if Greg is still planning to go. This trip would include the Denver Rock Show if it is a go.

September, late – Golden Zone Mine, Denali Park via big wheeled truck charter. Cost is approximately \$100 per person. A leader is needed. Bea has agreed to research it before the next meeting.

October – Alaska Marble and Granite works. An appointment will be needed. Steve Jensen is a possible leader.

October or November – Nature’s Jewels Rock & Mineral Shop. Tentative. Joe Turnbow is leader.

Winter -- Tsunami Warning Center, Palmer. Tentative. Greg Durocher is leader.

No door prizes were awarded because of the silent auction event. The tables with the silent auction specimens were quickly surrounded as were the tables with the specimens from all the field trips. After much friendly bidding everyone collected their purchases and the meeting was adjourned at 9:40 PM by President Bobbie.

Respectfully submitted by Bea Allen, Recording Secretary.

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WRANGELL TRIP, 2003

Part 1, by Bobbie Turnbow

Thursday and Friday, 22 & 23 May:

Feeling guilty, Sue and I skipped out on what I know was a great presentation by Dwight on their recent trip to Russia to adopt Jericha. After stopping to pick up my refrigerated stuff and filling up all tanks, we hit the road--it was 9:50 PM Thursday and we had a Friday 6:30 PM boat to catch in Haines. Not difficult until you realize there are 775 miles to go, not to mention multiple construction projects between us and the boat! Never fear, slow and steady wins the race.

We made good time until we came upon the sign that said “Road closed from 1 AM–7 AM Monday–Friday.” Oh, my goodness! It was 12:18 AM and we weren’t there yet. Will we make it through in time or is it all for naught? Sue and I looked at each other in mute distress but kept moving down the road.

Suddenly we saw brake lights. No, no, say it ain’t so! It was 12:40 and vehicles weren’t moving. We pulled up to the end of the line to wait. The good news was we weren’t too late. The bad news was we weren’t moving! We didn’t want to miss the boat, you know... Sue found a sure way to make the line move—she turned the truck

off. Sure enough, within 8 minutes we were moving again. After all the slowpokes got out of the way, Sue put her foot through the floorboard and we were off again. (Well, at least as fast as a really overloaded diesel F350 can go.)

I had planned to stay awake to help keep Sue going. No such luck! I cat-napped from Caribou Creek through Glennallen, on down the road through Tok, and on to our roadside breakfast stop. Seven AM found us chowing down. After breakfast, I took the opportunity to get my purse organized--you know how important that is to a wilderness waif! OH NO!!! Where’s my wallet? Here’s my driver’s license, military dependent ID, my work ID, \$300 cash and 2 checkbooks. First instinct was to call Joe and have him search the car, house and shop and overnight it to me—I need those airline miles from the credit cards! I stewed about this all the way to the border.

I finally decided my only problem was the air miles. After all, I had entry into Canada covered with not one but three photo IDs. Seems I forgot about Border Barb! My Driver’s license and military ID weren’t good enough at first but she finally relented and said she’d LET me in just this once. I was appropriately grateful. Sue had a different problem. She needed to declare her shotgun. She pulled over, went in and filled out the necessary paperwork, paid the outrageous fee and we were on the road again.

Jim and Dorothy at Kloison’s were back early this year but Sue and I couldn’t stop to visit. Darn, they are so much fun. Oh well, our ship is coming in and we can’t miss it. Too bad, I would have enjoyed introducing them to Sue and--of course--looking through Jim’s rocks. Down the road we went. More bad news—the bakery was closed. Just as well. We didn’t want to miss the boat. The road seemed a continual string of frost heaves but Sue bravely navigated from crest to crest.

We pushed through and made the right turn at Haines Junction. At the border again but without the hassle this time. We’re off! Not much happened along that stretch of road except a burning garage. We decided it was a *controlled* burn since the other drivers didn’t seem at all surprised. We made it to the dock with three hours to spare. HA!! Take that, Mr. Doubting Joe!!! All we had to do then was finish packing, get on the ferry and crash. And that’s exactly what we did.

Of course the show was a success because of the vendors who were brave enough to participate in a “first annual” event in the 3rd floor meeting rooms of the Sheraton. For a while success looked like an uphill climb, but the hordes of rock lovers ignored all the obstacles (what obstacles?) and found their way. The vendors were: Kathleen Aronstam, Anchorage; Joe and Bobbie Turnbow, Nature’s Jewels, Anchorage; Kathy Byers, Stewarts Photo Jewel and Jade Mine, Anchorage; Steve Cemet, Alaska Stoneworks, Palmer; Tom and Linda Cooper, Alaska Horn and Antler, Soldotna; Gail Edgerton, Double J Mining and Jewelry, Wasilla; Marlyss Engelle, Grubstake Gulch Creek Mining Company, Anchorage; Steve Fearnough, Delta Junction; Karen Henderson, Alaska Opal Creations, Anchorage; Lori Kirker, Alaskana Books, Palmer; Lisa Lehrman-Bon, Bear and Raven, Wasilla; Ben Porterfield, Anchorage; Mary Wester, Anchorage; Anita Williams, Anchorage; and Cara Wright, Nanook Resources for the Alaska Miners, Anchorage.

Many pounds of stunning rock and mineral samples were donated to the AMA by Red Dog Mine, Greens Creek Mine, Ft. Knox Mine and Pogo. These samples were a big hit at the silent auction table and at the mineral show. Lots of folks took home a suite of ore samples from around the state without having to leave Anchorage! Nova Gold sent a beautiful display and explanation of rock and ore samples from the Donlin Creek prospect.

Needless to say, we were very pleased with the first annual rock and mineral show. It is now time to start planning the second...

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Letter From The Alaska Miners Association

August 21, 2003

Hi Everyone,

First of all I want to thank all of last year’s participants for making the rock and mineral show a reality here in Alaska. Last year was a terrific success from both a vendor and a participant standpoint. This year we plan to do the show again and try to make it a little bit better. I hope you all will want to participate

again and maybe get the event established as truly “annual”.

The Rock and Mineral show will again be at the end of the Alaska Miners Association’s annual convention and trade show at the Sheraton Hotel in Anchorage on November 7 and 8, 2003. The Alaska Miners Association is pleased to support the rock and mineral show by providing support, organization and space. Fortunately this year the AMA convention committee arranged well in advance to have the Yukon-Kuskokwim Room on the 2nd floor for the rock and mineral show. This will give us more visibility and a lot more room.

We have listed the show in all of the rock and mineral club newsletters and magazines. However, if anyone knows of a person or company that would like to participate or thinks they might like to participate, please give me a contact number or address and I’ll send out information, The more vendors we have the more goodies we have to choose from!!!!

Tables/booths are available for \$50 per booth. Setup will be between 3 and 5 pm on Friday. Hours will be 6 pm to 9 pm on Friday (it generally starts as soon as someone spots rocks on tables) and 10 am to 5 pm on Saturday.

Anita Williams
 AMA Rock and Mineral Show Guru(et)
 awilliam@alaska.net.
 907 345-2541

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An appeal from your struggling editor:

Please send stories, field trip reports and information for publication to:
 Sue Hilton – 694-1934
 sueh@mtaonline.net

