

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

Alaska Pebble Patter
Chugach Gem and Mineral Society
P.O. Box 92027
Anchorage, AK. 99509-2027

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

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FIELD TRIP	FEDERATION LIAISON
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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 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!

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

Hi Rockhounds,

I'm hoping we have a few weeks of wonderful Indian summer in our future to make up for the soggy weeks of August this year. However, even with wet weather the club managed to have a full summer of field trips.

Congratulations to Bonnie and all trip leaders, and thanks for your willingness to organize and/or lead a trip. Everyone can be involved in trip planning or implementation in one way or another. For one thing if you have a place in mind that you've been dreaming of visiting, let Bonnie know and maybe we can arrange a trip there (maybe not, too...). The trip planning meeting usually occurs in January so start your thinking engines and put in your requests and suggestions.

Our last "field" event this year is our annual rock and mineral show. This year it will be November 10th and 11th on the very top floor of the Sheraton in Josephine's. Andre is the coordinator for making things happen and he will need plenty of help before, during and after the show. So please, if you have some time to help out, volunteers are greatly appreciated. Before the show the chores will be getting cases and materials to the hotel and set up. During the show the CGMS has a table with club information, tee-shirt sales and rocks to give away. We get LOTS of inquiries and new members during this event so it is important to man the table at all times. Also during the show we need folks to put displays together. The displays are very important to show off our club and our interests. Dust off some of your rocks, minerals and lapidary crafts and put a display together. You just never know how many people your display may stimulate. Of course after-show help is needed to disassemble the cases and get everything back to the connex in a timely manner. Speaking of the connex, about mid-October we are going to look over the case inserts and cases and do repairs and replacements as needed. If anyone is interested in helping with this project please contact Andre.

Two more items to discuss before I let you all off the hook: the first is elections. Several of us are maxed out (time wise) of our offices and need to be replaced. Joe and Toni have offered to be on the nominating committee and will be looking for volunteers for the positions. Please consider taking an active role in the club if you are able. Our club needs active members to keep us alive and alert. We will make the November meeting our annual meeting and have a show of all our activities through the year, refreshments and elections. Please try to attend. Last of all is our Christmas potluck party the second Thursday of December. This is a fun way to end our year so again please plan to attend. There will be plenty of good food (Dorothy will do the turkey), fun and a gift exchange.

I'm gone for the next two meetings--a float trip down the Grand Canyon is on my agenda. I'm already planning a slide show of the trip.

Happy trails,
Anita Williams
President

Chugach Gem & Mineral Society
July Business Meeting Minutes

President Anita Williams called the July 12, 2006 business meeting of the Chugach Gem & Mineral Society to order at 7:35 PM.

The club welcomed guests Dale Bond and Lois Ramocki.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Recording Secretary – Minutes of the June business meeting, taken and submitted by Dan, Dave, and Groom, were read by Anita and approved as read.

Treasurer – Linda Ewers was absent.

Membership – Jean Kane reported there were 162 paid members.

Corresponding Secretary – Nancy Danford had turned over all mail to President Anita.

Northwest Federation Liaison – Tom Cooper said he had attended several annual meetings and would like to see our Club represented every year. He has continued to send them stamps.

Sunshine – Dorothy Arnold had nothing to report. Greg Durocher showed the day's edition of the Anchorage Daily News with an article reporting the death of state park ranger Pat Murphy and it was agreed that the Club would send flowers or an appropriate donation when final plans were known.

Newsletter – Sue Hilton said the newsletter was going to the printer that night.

Website – Adeline Geldenhuys was absent and likely would not be available any longer.

Field trips – Bonnie Hepburn was absent but Andre reported that Mel had made arrangements for the club to have access to the mine road going to Wishbone Hill fossil site, and participants were to be at the gate at 11:30 AM, Sunday, July 16th.

Bird Point trip - Andre would be leading this trip and it would need to start at low tide on July 22nd.

Little Nelchina trip – members were to meet in the trailhead parking lot on July 29th or could go on their own if unable to meet on that day. Andre was available to give more details, if needed.

Golden Zone mine trip - Dorothy would need payment at the July business meeting from those going on the trip.

OLD BUSINESS

Anita said the flyers for the fall Rock and Mineral show were available and urged everyone to get them out. Information for vendors concerning renting table space was not yet available.

Andre asked if the club had followed through with the \$500 donation we had agreed to give to the Alaska Museum of Natural History. It was thought we had not.

Tom said the nomination of Greg Durocher for the Rockhound of the Year award had appeared in the Federation's newsletter. Tom then presented Greg with a copper and jade trophy.

NEW BUSINESS

A motion was made by Tom and seconded by Joe that the club pay the airfare for a member to attend the Federation's annual meetings, and that the member chosen as Rockhound of the Year be given first option

Chugach Gem & Mineral Society
August Business Meeting Minutes

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

The club welcomed guest Susan Anderson, a friend of Candace.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Recording Secretary – Bea Allen read the minutes of the July business meeting. Greg Durocher pointed out two errors and the minutes were approved as corrected.

Treasurer – Linda Ewers reported that the total amount of all club accounts was \$48,801.11.

Membership – Jean Kane reported there were 162 paid members.

Corresponding Secretary – Nancy Danford mentioned a letter from Jim Forshee of California stating that he was planning to visit Alaska in 2007 and wanted to take a field trip with the club. Nancy said she would reply to him.

Northwest Federation Liaison – Tom Cooper was absent.

Sunshine – Dorothy Arnold was absent but Toni Carlos reported she had sent a condolence card to the family of Park Ranger Pat Murphy. Bonnie Hepburn said the memorial service would be held at the Mother Lode Lodge on Sunday from 3:00 to 8:00 PM.

Field trips – Bonnie Hepburn said she and Greg Durocher would lead the Kennicott trip from September 1st through 4th, and rooms were available at the lodge for \$129 per

night which included parking, shuttle, and a tour.

The Dalton Highway trip was postponed and would possibly be canceled.

Andre said he was planning to fly to Kodiak Island from September 18th through 20th to scout it for a future club field trip, and asked anyone interested in tagging along to please contact him.

OLD BUSINESS

Anita had the floor plan for the room at the Sheraton where the fall show would be held, and said she would draw a diagram for the vendors' spaces.

A donation of \$500 was sent to the Alaska Museum of Natural History and they were able to purchase a cast of a fossil dinosaur skull.

NEW BUSINESS

Jane Parkhurst moved, and Greg seconded the motion, that the club send \$50 to the Pat Murphy memorial fund. Betty Motes suggested the amount be increased to \$100. Jane amended her motion, Greg seconded, and the motion was passed to send \$100 to the memorial fund. Toni offered to send the check and a card and also said she had made a Grieving Mask for the Murphy family.

Andre suggested that we consider not having a program at some of our business meetings so we would have more time to present and discuss ideas on ways to award scholarships, and other matters. Greg said that having the programs was an important part of our meetings and that some members attended just for the programs. Nothing was decided.

Joe said that Steve and Sue Jensen were moving to the Lower 48 and that we would need to replace Steve as scholarship committee chairman. Andre agreed to serve as chairman and said that the committee would meet to develop a plan for presentation at the October business meeting. We would need to be ready by January.

Linda suggested we invest in a microphone as the meeting room acoustics were poor and many members were unable to hear what was being said. Bobbie Turnbow said she would check the cost at Best Buy, and Greg said he had an old karaoke machine that would possibly work.

Melvin C. Bennett said he had made a new liability waiver form which had larger print and fit on one legal size page which members were allowed to copy for club field trips. Mel also expressed concern about the preservation of the area at Wishbone Hill where fern fossils were found. He said they were very rare specimens and should be protected. Greg said he would draft a letter of concern and send it to the DNR. Joe suggested he try to get some support from UAA.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mary Smith had finally gotten the replacement black granite base she had ordered for her statue.

Greg had a map from USGS on display for everyone to view, and said that the Dynamic Planet map was also available at USGS for those who wished to buy one.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Bonnie Hepburn visited Fossil Beach on Kodiak Island while teaching for the summer

on a Coast Guard ship. She also went to Prince of Wales Island and toured El Capitan Cave.

Moore Creek Gold Mine trip - Greg Durocher, Anita Williams, Linda Ewers, and Fred Ward had a great time, with Fred finding a 5 penny weight nugget. Not much gold was found, and all agreed the trip was a great experience, but the bugs were fierce and thick.

Joe Turnbow, and Linda and Tom Cooper went to Nabesna and found minerals.

Anita and Linda went to Iowa where they found fossils and geodes.

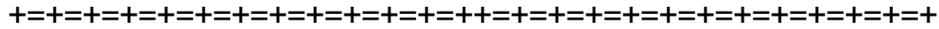
Little Nelchina Trip - Andre, Sheila, and Sue were joined by Rick and Chris, but five of the people who had signed up for the trip canceled. The trip going in was easy, but heavy rains began on the first night and never stopped. Some interesting specimens were collected before they had to cut the trip short. Chris decided to go to Ferry, an old mine site north of Healy, where it was warm and sunny. He got some good ore samples.

Norval read us some funny jokes and then door prizes were drawn, followed by a short break so everyone could admire all the specimens collected on the various trips.

The evening's program was video taken by Greg on the Peters Hills trip and also on the Moore Creek Mine trip.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Bea Allen, Recording Secretary



Field Trip Report
Little Nelchina River – 2006
By Chris Teutsch

Field Trip Dates: July 29th - August 2nd
Trip leaders: Andre & Sheila Macias
Trip participants: Andre & Sheila and their two fine malemute companions
Rick Parkhurst
Sue Hilton
Chris Teutsch

Weather conditions: Temperatures in the low 60's, intermittent rain throughout the trip.
Trip Purpose: Collect Ammonites, Belemnites, Brachiopods and other bivalves from the Jurassic period, and whatever else caught the eye, notably fossilized wood and agates.

NARRATIVE:

Everyone rendezvoused at the trailhead off the Glenn Highway, 1½ miles past the Eureka Road House at 10:30 AM, July 29th. All used an ATV for transportation, except Rick who drove his 4-wheel drive Toyota pickup truck. Rick chained up and experienced no problems getting in and out. He demonstrated his experience and good driving skills climbing over Monument Mountain in fine shape.

Andre & Sheila led our group into the Horn Mountains along the Little Nelchina River and into the confluences of the Cadoceras & Cardioceras creeks.

We set up camp along the Little Nelchina for the duration of our trip, taking daily side trips.

One side trip took us into the Little Oshetna River Valley where we found encrusted stream gravels with what looked like pink Rhodonite (still needs to be confirmed).

Everyone found something to take back home. Sheila had an eye for agates, and Rick and Andre for the Ammonites, of which they found a number. Sue limited her daily excursions due to the walking cast she was wearing. Chris found one Ammonite fragment. Everyone came across fossilized wood.

Although Rick had to leave earlier because of his work schedule, the rest had planned to stay until Friday, August 4th. The rainy weather however caused Andre to think about potential problems during our numerous stream crossings and so we all agreed to pull up stakes on Wednesday, August 2nd.

CONCLUSION:

Many in the group had been to the Little Nelchina before, but it was Chris' first trip into this area.

Andre & Sheila demonstrated good leadership and knowledge of the country. They led a well-planned and safe trip, made sure everyone had enough to eat and drink and found interesting fossils.

Despite the rainy weather, Andre provided additional cheer with his rendition of: "O' Golden Orb," a fine refrain, whenever the sun peeked out to warm us up. It went something like this:

O' Golden Orb,
O' Golden Orb,
O' Golden Orb,
Etc.

This was sung or chanted (whatever) in various tones of exclamation, usually when people were just waking up in the morning!

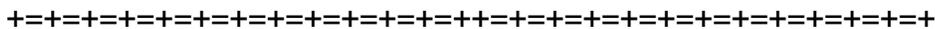
At 3:45 we took an excellent guided tour of Kennecott given by a park ranger. It included getting inside the ammonia leaching plant and one of the small family houses. The ranger really knew her history. At 5 p.m. the Lodge provided another tour, which at first covered buildings not mentioned on our earlier tour, but we bailed when the overlap began. Then it was time to kick back on the deck with our glacier view, drinks in hand, and await the family-style prime rib dinner. At 8:30 p.m. we got an interesting slide show in the common room upstairs, after which all of the driving and fresh air took their toll. Bed-time came early!

Sunday morning dawned cold and overcast. It was 38 degrees out on the deck at 9 a.m. when our "Gang of Three" left the 2,000 foot elevation of Kennicott and headed up the mountain. After clearing timberline, Shari and I headed into the clouds towards the Bonanza Mine, while Bonnie maintained a slower pace with her destination being the "watering hole" up at around 5,000 feet. I kept stopping to take video for a future program, but the fog-shrouded landscape may lend it more of the feel of Lord of the Rings! At an elevation of 6,000' above sea level, Shari waited outside two of the remaining tram station structures (where the ore was sent down the mountain) while I got some interior footage. As we headed back down the mountain, there came Bonnie much to our pleasant surprise. Seemed that she saw the old buildings during the one

break in the clouds earlier and succumbed to the temptation. Ironically, about the time Shari and I reached the watering hole on our descent, the clouds lifted, revealing the entire Bonanza bowl.

We made it down in half of our ascent time. Gravity took its toll on our knees and quads though, as we performed endless repetitions of shallow knee-bends. Being a rockhound, and gentleman, I carried all of our gear but the camcorder and all of our newly acquired ore specimens. My quads are still sore! With growling stomachs we relentlessly trudged on, fixed upon the vision of the Labor Day BBQ awaiting us at the Lodge. At 5:30 p.m. under now-sunny, warm skies, the feast was better than imagined! We saved some brownies for Bonnie, and she talked the kitchen out of leftovers (at reduced price) when she returned at 8:30. By then the air chilled, and we bundled up for more deck socialization. At about 10, we watched the staff's fireworks display on the flats behind the old school. Bedtime was shortly thereafter. Not much dreaming that night!

We all caught the 9 a.m. Monday shuttle down the hill. The trip back on the McCarthy Road was dry, but overcast (what else?). Bonnie caught up to us one last time having lunch at the Hotel Chitina. The trip back on pavement was uneventful. We arrived home at 5:30 p.m., feeling just a bit sorry for the ones who missed out on an excellent adventure.



5th Annual Rock and Mineral Show
By Anita Williams

The 5th annual Rock and Mineral Show will be held on November 10th from 5 to 9 pm and November 11th from 10 am to 6 pm at the Sheraton Anchorage Hotel, 401 East 6th

Avenue. This year we will be at the very top of the Sheraton in Josephine's, a very nice setting for the show. This event has been incredibly popular with kids and adults alike over the years and the show truly has something to offer everyone. There are tables with information about clubs and

museums. There are displays of fossils, rocks, minerals and related items from around the state and around the world. And there are vendors with wonderful natural crafts, mineral and fossil specimens, polished stones, carvings, jewelry and many other fascinating items for sale.

On Saturday our resident clown will be on site helping to keep the kids busy getting their rock bags ready to customize with stamps while doing a treasure hunt. The displays sponsored by the Chugach Gem and Mineral Society are both fun and educational. Displays from previous shows

have included Alaskan jade, animals carved from stone, fossils, dinosaur bones, beautiful minerals, polished stones, rocks that glow in the dark, cores from Alaskan mineral exploration projects and a dinner place setting of stones that look quite tasty.

The event is sponsored by the Alaska Miners Association and the Chugach Gem and Mineral Society. Best of all, the event is FREE and open to the public. Bring yourself, bring the kids, have some fun and take a rock or two home with you. This could be the start of a fun new hobby.

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All packed up at the end of the Little Nelchina field trip.

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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