

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

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

Published by the  
**CHUGACH GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY, INC.**  
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 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

No president's message is available because Anita is working out at Pebble again this summer and has a very busy schedule.  
--Editor

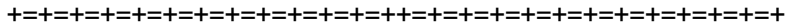




camp. The return sequence was repeated: first in, first out, so as Group 1 roared back towards Anchorage, we got waves from folks scattered along the beach, heading to break down their tents. The crossing this time was fairly smooth and we made great time. There was a smattering of rain at the ramp, which was steady by the time we reached East Anchorage. We're really grateful

that the trip wasn't one day later however, or we'd have awakened to freezing temperatures and snow!

Another trip too soon over but fondly remembered. It was a fine First Trip and a mighty fine group of rockhounds!



**Field Trip Report**  
**Nikiski Beach Combing Trip: May 13 - 14, 2006**  
**By Bonnie Hepburn**

It was a beautiful weekend. The drive to Nikiski from Anchorage was absolutely stunning. Eight of us camped out at Captain Cook State Recreation Area (CCSRA) Saturday night. Amy, Winston, Phil, Arlene and Rachael had arrived in their Tioga motorhome that afternoon. The rest of us, Bonnie, Montana and Sue, arrived in the evening. Despite the sunshine, the campground was nearly empty.

think we need to go further north for them. After a few hours of beachcombing, we enjoyed a late lunch with a gorgeous view of the inlet and volcanoes. Then the Tioga group left to visit historic Kenai, and Montana left to check out campgrounds further south for the guide she is researching.

The campground host, Ila, showed us some "Spirit Rocks" that Michael Carlson had gotten from his fish camp at Otter Creek, 6 miles north of where we were. She said some have been found near CCSRA also. These rocks are mud concretions in very fascinating shapes. (See the Peninsula Clarion, Aug 21, 2005 for a story on these rocks.)

Meanwhile, Sue and I headed 3 miles south to Bishop Creek. Sue at this point had found no agates. I could sympathize with her as I had been in that situation on other trips. After about 40 minutes of searching there, I found about a half dozen more agates. But Sue was still agate-less. So I placed one in the gravel for her to see and after a while she found her first agate! Then in less than 5 minutes she had her second one!!

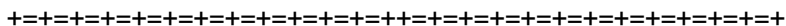
We got a roaring fire going, made s'mores, and socialized. Around midnight, we walked over to the bluff to enjoy the stunning view of the inlet bathed in the pastels of the setting sun.

The official trip was over, but the fun was not. Sue, Montana and I camped at Quartz Creek Sunday night in a torrential downpour. That campground had a lot more campers when I scouted it out in Saturday's sunshine. I quickly pitched my tent and we all convened in Sue's heated camper for our socializing. Before we knew it, it was after midnight. Since it was still raining in the morning, we all slept in and had early lunch at the Sunrise Inn.

Sue had been contacted by two women from Arizona who were arriving in Anchorage on Saturday afternoon and planned to join us Sunday morning, but we never met up. As there was no cell phone coverage in the area, communication was not possible.

Then Sue left to return to Anchorage while Montana and I headed 10 miles south to the Lower Russian Lake trailhead. We hiked the 3 miles to the lake and would have gone to the cabin, but a sizable avalanche runoff was blocking the trail. Since we didn't feel like tackling it, we took an hour-long break by the lake shore watching the ducks in a nearby open area on the still mostly ice-bound lake. What a great way to end a weekend on the Kenai!

So after Sunday morning breakfast we headed for the beach and began our search for agates, spirit rocks, and whatever else interested us. The agate hunting was fair. Arlene scored the most. But no one found a spirit rock. I



**Nomination for**  
**CGMS Rockhound of the Year**  
**By Tom Cooper**

Nominee – Greg Durocher  
A member since the mid-seventies, Greg is now a life member and a pillar of the club who has helped guide our club through the years by serving in many positions.

Greg has been vice-president two times, president three times, was our treasurer for seven years, has been on various committees and is currently the Program Chairman and first vice-president.

Greg's years of proven commitment are cemented in with numerous volunteer actions during Fur Rondy and the Alaska Miners Association Convention rock shows. Always there for move-in and take-down, Greg helps set



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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