

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

Alaska Pebble Patter
Chugach Gem & Mineral Society
P.O. Box 92027
Anchorage, AK. 99509-2027
<http://chugachgms.org/>

Published by
CHUGACH GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY, INC.
Box 92027, Anchorage AK 99509-2027
<http://chugachgms.org/>

ELECTED POSITIONS

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Greg Durocher 337-2553

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

Phillip Elrod 349-5457

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

Sheila Macias 274-2204

TREASURER

Anita Williams 345-2541

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Chris Teutsch 694-6586

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Nancy Danford 694-3288

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PROGRAM

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FIELD TRIP

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SUNSHINE

Dorothy Arnold 279-3876

PARLIAMENTARIAN

Norval Kane 243-4648

FEDERATION LIAISON

Tom Cooper 262-9759

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

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CHUGACH GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY maintains memberships in:
AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES
NORTHWEST FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES

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, south of 8th Avenue between G & H Streets.)

BUSINESS MEETING – 2nd Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM.
POTLUCK MEETING – 4th Thursday of each month at 6:30 PM.
Bring an entrée, side dish, salad, or dessert (plus serving utensil) to serve at least 5 people.
Also bring your own plate, silverware and drink.
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



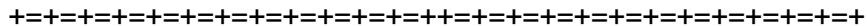
President's Message

Greetings, Rockhounds!

Well, I'm now officially declaring this "The Summer that wasn't". Despite cold weather records we'd rather not see repeated, we still managed to get some great trips in - Eagle, Castle Mountain, Fossil Creek, to name a few. For me, the evening campfires are the best part, rain or shine. I won't soon forget the "Wedgie Pit" and screamer bottle rockets on Independence Day!

While autumn is upon us, rockhound season is not through yet. There is still Fire Island, mini-trips to ARLIS and the Alaska Volcano Observatory and even a winter getaway to Arizona! Our gem & mineral show at the Alaska Miners Convention is anticipated by many in the community (help with this is greatly appreciated!). The silent auction is coming right up at the September pot luck meeting. There are so many activities coming up that we'll be halfway to next summer before we know it. It's not too early to suggest trip ideas for next year. Better still would be an offer to lead one... Meanwhile, enjoy the fall colors, clean up those treasures for display, and rock on!

Greg Durocher



August Business Meeting

First Vice-President Phillip Elrod called the meeting to order on August 14th at 7:44 p.m. Two new members attended, but no guests.

Phil read the July minutes, which were accepted as read.

Treasurer Anita Williams gave a total of \$67,358.44 in club accounts.

Membership Chair Bea Allen reported 187 members.

Northwest Federation Liaison Tom Cooper noted the continuing need to save stamps for the Federation.

Corresponding Secretary Nancy Danford said that she had handed out all the mail.

Editor Sue Hilton said that the Pebble Patter had been mailed but was not yet posted on the website.

Field Trip Co-Chair Sheila Macias listed the season's remaining trips, after which Tom Cooper talked about a trip to Quartzsite, AZ, January 26th through 31st, 2009.

Scholarship and Science Fair Chairman Andre Macias asked for a vote on the board-recommended changes to the Scholarship and Science Fair programs. The members voted to make the changes.

Very good, but I'm sure they raise one's cholesterol by 20% or so!

We stocked up on beer in Hancock and headed to McClain State Park where we'd rented a "primitive" cabin (by their park standards). It was a large one-room job that slept eight, but it could easily sleep 10. It had 3 kerosene lamps, a sink (no running water), gas stove and gas heater. We didn't need the latter, and only used the former to perk (yes, percolate!) our coffee. This was going to be home for 3 nights, so we bought 3 gunnysacks of hardwood boards supplemented with local sticks.

Brats (pronounced 'brahts', not like the nasty kids) were cooked over the outside grill for supper, followed by a late campfire. We left the windows open so we could hear the roar of Lake Superior at night. The nearest other cabin was about 175 yards away, and the number of campers was way down, so we had the place almost entirely to ourselves.

Sunday morning we perked up a surprisingly good batch of java, consulted our maps and books, and then headed to Hancock for breakfast. The restaurant we discovered had awesome pancakes. I had them 3 days running! Completely stuffed, we headed up to the Quincy Mine for a tour of the hoist and an underground tour on which you take a cog train down a steep hill, and a tractor pulls a trailer back into level 6 of the mine. Later, after wandering around the ruins above, we headed off on an indirect route to Lake Lindeman, where they were having some kind of "days". We arrived near the end, but still got to see their narrow gauge steam engine running. More importantly, we got to watch an old John Deere get started, hissing petcocks and all. What a blast from the past!

On Monday after rock shops and much driving, we ended up at the Delaware Mine, where you watch a movie then descend into the mine on your own self-paced tour of the top level. It was

a great way to poke around! We had lunch down there too. Then we did some metal-detecting on old tailings piles, which produced a LOT of rocks. The wind picked up noticeably in the evening. Superior's waves were quite loud from our cabin.

Tuesday morning gave us intermittent rain squalls as we packed up camp. We left McClain Park under circumstances similar to our trip 6-7 years ago when a storm was tearing the place apart. This time the winds were only 30-40 mph and the rain wasn't torrential.

I had the usual pancakes - this time with a side of eggs, and then we headed southwest toward Ontonagon, Michigan and another mine.

Our tour of the Adventure Mine had been planned for a long time. I'd written to the owner and sent pictures of my Kennecott explorations in Alaska. When we arrived there I mentioned that to the young gal at the counter. She expressed surprise that she didn't see them and I asked if she was the owner, to which she replied "one of them". Her husband looked to be the same age. We were surprised to see such young proprietors of such a vast holding (mine, store, mineral rights, tours, employees, equipment, etc.). They looked to be about my oldest son's age! They called up an off-duty guide for their serious tour (has age and health restrictions), and we got a private showing - including two rope rappels and a route not usually taken. Now THAT's a tour!!

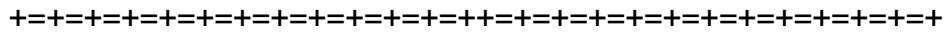
We had supper in Ontonagon, wind whipping the flags into a frenzy, then headed to Porcupine Mountains State Park. As we drove one stretch along the Superior shoreline, it was blowing so strongly that sand was snaking across the road like snow does up here. The lake was frothing with whitecaps. I shuddered to think about being out there in a small boat.

Our camp was just a tent and campfire, but the car made an excellent wind-block. We went to

the bluff to look at the sunset and got hit with 50+ mph wind. My camcorder neck-strap was blowing straight back! The tent was pretend and the night was cold. Ah, primitive camping!

Wednesday saw us heading out of the park without perking any coffee. We stopped at the

first restaurant we came to and had enough java and grub to get us to my folks' cabin near Spooner, Wisconsin. Another brief foray into the legacy of the Upper Peninsula, and already I'm thinking of my next trip!



Intarsia

By Sue Hilton

At the September business meeting Anita Williams gave a field trip report about the NFMS Rockhound Retreat near Fossil, Oregon. She described some of the workshops that she attended and her mention of "intarsia" especially piqued my curiosity.

The word "intarsia" comes from the German, which was derived from "intarsio", an Italian word. Its roots may go even farther back to an Arabic word. The word is pronounced "*in tar see ya*" I've also heard it pronounced "*in tarsh uh*". As with so many words these days, either pronunciation may be correct.

Most dictionaries define "intarsia" as it relates to woodworking or even knitting. But for lapidaries, it means inlaying pieces of polished stone in an object, such as a box or jewelry, to create a design or picture. It has even been used in furniture for things such as tabletops or drawer fronts.

In fine art, intarsia is more often referred to as "pietra dura", an Italian phrase meaning "durable stone". Pietra dura differs from mosaic in that a) it is not held together with grout, and b) it is generally a portable work of art, rather than say, a stone-inlaid floor or wall panel. Of course there are always exceptions and one online encyclopedia in particular (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Intarsia>) shows a photo of the floor in St. Peter's Basilica as an example of "marble intarsia". Interestingly, one website uses yet another word for the art of inlaying stone, "commesso", as well as the more familiar "intarsia".

Whatever it's called, there are numerous American artists working in intarsia these days who create some unbelievably beautiful works of art. For examples, try the website "American Masters in Stone". (<http://www.americanmastersofstone.com/index.htm>).

