

President's Message

James May - KCMS President 2023



The rains seem to have finally let up which has given us a rich palette of vibrant colors with the local wildflowers in bloom. The rains have also churned up some fresh samples of minerals and rocks that have been hidden from our view for eons but now can be collected freely. The bad news is the weather is starting to warm significantly and next thing you know the desert will be off limits due to extreme temperatures. We might only have a few more opportunities to head out into the Mojave Desert for collecting.

Our General Meeting is coming up this Thursday, April 20th. The good news is we will be having our meeting downstairs in the larger room. We will certainly need the increased space because we are sure to have guests in attendance. As you are aware, profits we make during the annual Kern County Fair are used to help support two students on their upcoming summer field camps. The KCMS takes great pride in being able to award these stipends to deserving earth science students. Recipients have always been gracious in accepting their award and have given presentations on what got them interested in geology in the first place, overall career goals, and their field camp selections. This year's recipients are Monica Hinson and Hannah Warner. Monica has agreed to give her presentation this month and Hannah will give her presentation in May. A short write on each candidate is included in this edition of the Pseudomorph. Both candidates have interesting stories to share, and we will be treated to two outstanding presentations.

Bernie will be leading the KCMS on an exciting field trip to the world-renowned Rainbow Ledge location on Saturday, April 22nd. There is some fantastic jasper found at this location and you won't go home disappointed. As mentioned earlier, we might not have too many opportunities to explore the Mojave Desert with summer closing in so please try and attend this fieldtrip.

As you are aware the last Rock and Lapidary workshop was cancelled. I know many of you are anxious to use the equipment so our next workshop will be on Saturday April 29th from 9 AM till Noon at the Fleishauers. You will have an opportunity to work with the rock equipment and perhaps finish off a couple of cabochons. Supplementing this workshop, Connie will be leading a workshop on making necklaces. Anita and Michael spent a good amount of time drilling polished rock pieces that can easily be assembled into necklaces.

Please note that the June General Meeting is approaching quickly. For those of you who are new to the KCMS, this is our June Auction. Members bring in various items to be auctioned off to club members with all the proceeds going to benefit the KCMS. We encourage each member to donate a few items for the benefit of the Club. Items do not need to be rocks, as we have had various artwork, and food items donated to the auction. The June auction is always a fun time.

-- James

Next General Meeting

Thursday, April 20th at 6:30 PM
East Bakersfield Veterans Hall – Large Room Downstairs
Address: 2101 Ridge Road, Bakersfield, CA



The Pisgah Crater



NEXT FIELDTRIP
Saturday, April 22nd, 2023

Rainbow Ledge and Ridgecrest
Meet Bernie at Harbor Freight at 7:00 AM



Next Rock and Lapidary Workshop
Saturday, April 29th at 9:00 AM
The Fleishauer's House



San Gabriel Anorthosite

Approximately one billion years ago, the position of today's continents would have been vastly different. Some in the 1920s called this movement *continental drift* and as a result an occasional supercontinent would assemble. This candidate for a supercontinent one billion years ago was called Rodinia, and we would have lived on a section of the supercontinent situated directly on the equator called Laurentia. Prior to the assembly of Rodinia, the crust and underlying mantle would have been under tremendous stresses, fracturing, and buckling, and it was subsequently intruded by a unique variety of gabbro called *anorthosite*.

Gabbro is the coarse-grained compositional equivalent of the rock basalt which we are consciously aware from our field trips to the Mojave Desert (think Pisgah Crater). Due to this compositional equivalency, a geologist would expect to see copious amounts of dark pyroxene minerals and gray calcium-rich plagioclase; however, what is unique about this gabbro is that the pyroxene has been stripped from this rock and we are left with large crystals of bluish-gray plagioclase. This reasons for this upper mantle anomaly have been hotly debated amongst petrologists for years, but to us it creates a unique and easily attainable rock. Geologists have a name for the minerals that comprise *anorthosite* (rock name) called anorthite (mineral name) which is a close relative of labradorite. The iridescence or blue flash found in labradorite is not as pronounced in anorthite, but the uniqueness of the rock lies in the window of time that it formed in various locations around the world between 1.3 and 1.0 billion years ago. It would be one of the oldest rocks you could add to your collection.



A nice outcrop of San Gabriel anorthosite can be found off Highway 14 heading north towards Palmdale. Exit off Soledad Canyon Road and head south following the winding road into the mountains. As you travel along the road you will see the Santa Clara River off to the west and eventually the spectacular grayish-white outcrop will appear around the bend of Soledad Canyon Road. Please be careful of the traffic on the road. Large pieces that have found their way onto the road have been pushed into a collecting spot.





UPCOMING ROCK, MINERAL, AND GEM SHOWS



UPCOMING ROCK AND MINERAL SHOWS – SPRING 2023

April 22-23, 2023 – Thousand Oaks, CA

Conejo Gem & Mineral Club

Borchard Park, 190 N. Reino Rd., Thousand Oaks, CA

Hours: Saturday 10 AM – 5 PM, Sunday 10 AM – 4 PM

Jewelry, Gems, Minerals, Fossils, Rocks, Hobby Supplies, Exhibits, Demonstrations, Door Prizes, Silent Auction, Plant Sales and Youth Activities

Contact: conejogemandmineral@gmail.com

Website: <https://cgamc.org>

April 29-30, 2023 – Anaheim, CA

Anaheim Searchers Gem & Mineral Society

Brookhurst Community Center, 2271 W. Crescent Ave., Anaheim CA

Contact: nancybird68@gmail.com

Website: <https://www.searchersrocks.org/>

April 22-23, 2023 – Santa Cruz, CA

Santa Cruz Mineral and Gem Society

Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium, 307 Church Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Hours: Saturday 10 AM – 5 PM, Sunday 10 AM – 4 PM

The show features displays, fun activities, and loads of rocks, minerals, crystals, gems, jewelry, and lapidary arts for sale. Browse the bargains and pick up some great gifts. That's April 29th and 30th at the Civic in downtown Santa Cruz.

Contact: scruzmg@gmail.com

Website: <http://www.scrockngem.org>

May 6-7, 2023 – Lancaster, CA

Antelope Valley Gem and Mineral Club

Antelope Valley Fairgrounds, 2551 West Ave. H, Lancaster, CA 93536

Hours: Saturday & Sunday 10 AM – 5 PM

We will have lots of vendors, displays and activities for individuals and families. We look forward to seeing you there.

Admission and Parking are free. Please note that dogs are only allowed if they are Service Animals.

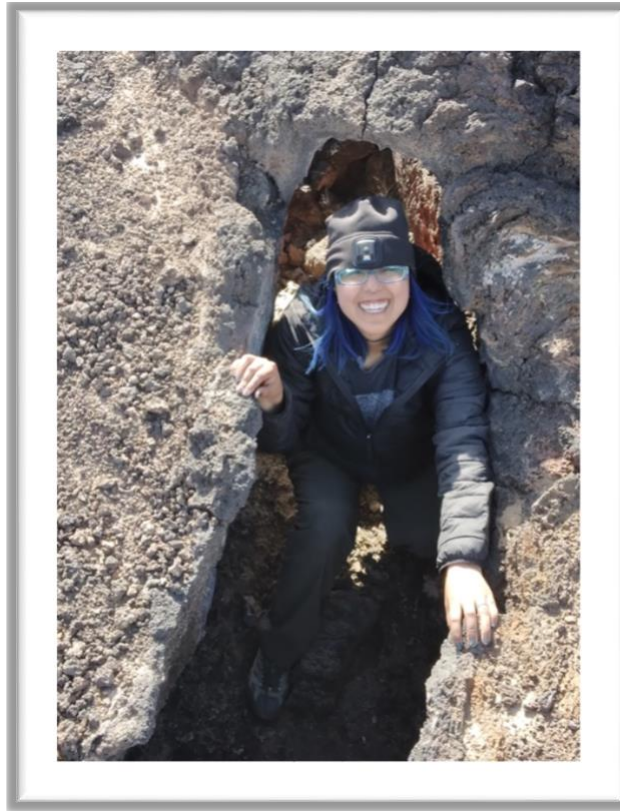
Contact: marylandoriola@gmail.com

Website: <http://avgem.weebly.com>

flyer: [antelopeshow](#)

2023 CSUB STIPEND WINNERS

Monica Hinson



My name is Monica Hinson, and I am a senior Geology major at CSU Bakersfield. As a child I loved creating moats around rocks we had in the garden. I would dig into the ground, finding rollie polies and worms along the way, removing the dirt so I could fill it all up with water. When I was done, I would grab all the mud I took out and pack it all back in. I have always loved the outdoors and I have never been afraid of getting dirty, but I wasn't exposed to geology in primary school, so I had the misconception that the field of geology only dealt with oil and gas. I graduated high school and decided to work for a while before returning to school. I started with only the aspiration of a digital media certificate, but I enjoyed taking classes and I decided to pursue an English degree. I excelled and went on to receive the department award in both English and Philosophy from Bakersfield College.

When I transferred to CSU Bakersfield it was fall of 2020. I had spent the last half of my time at Bakersfield College online and I was about to begin my junior year fully online. I quickly realized that I had no interest in learning in my bedroom and I sought out a new direction. I thought back to a required science class I took at Bakersfield College with Robert Lewy, physical geology. I remember thinking I wanted to switch majors back then to Geology, but I had already come so far in English that I would be foolish to switch. However, sitting in my room looking at a computer screen I wanted to be outside, in the mountains, in the ocean, anywhere but inside. Even though I had come so far in one discipline I knew that changing majors would be the right choice. Now I am preparing for a trip to field camp in Spain as I finish my last semester, I have sailed on a research vessel twice, and I am planning on continuing my education in oceanography with a wonderful professor named Dr. Ashely Burkett at Oklahoma State University.

Hannah Warner



I'm Hannah Warner, one of the CSUB seniors being awarded the scholarship for field camp.

I jumped into CSUB right after high school. I chose to major in engineering because I was aware my career paths wouldn't be obstructed if I had a degree with universal demands. But I didn't enjoy it and, in fact, my first few semesters at the university were miserable. I didn't make any friends and was failing multiple courses. I found geology in my third semester. I enrolled in Physical Geology to fulfill a GE requirement, but I absolutely fell in love. I've always loved earth sciences, but I never figured it was something I could make a career out of. I didn't have any prior knowledge of college so how could I know?

The last 5 years have been awesome! My grades improved and I got myself onto the Dean's List and I've made some life-long friends! I've discovered a great fondness in oceanography and paleontology. Last year, I did an internship at Scripps Institution of Oceanography at UCSD working with deep sea sediment cores and sailed on two UCSD research vessels as a scientist and student leader, with Monica Hinson. I'm graduating in Summer 2023 and will be attending field camp in Scotland through the University of St. Andrews. Scotland is the birthplace of geology. I intend to earn my Master's degree after a gap year. I have no clue what I want to be when I grow up, but, at least now, I have direction and have an idea of what I want my future to look like. My college career has been filled with so many memories; and that's really all I want for the rest of my life. A career around oceanography and/or paleontology is ideal, but my goal is to ultimately have a fulfilling life.

KCMS CLASSIFIEDS

KCMS is proud to announce the addition of a Classified Ads Section to the Pseudomorph Newsletter!!

Calling on all members who have any items that they want to sell or those looking to buy.

Rocks, Minerals, Rock Saws, but that's not all!! We will also accept Lawn Equipment, Electronics, Homemade Crafts, etc.

The Pseudomorph Classifieds will not be limited to only rock & mineral related items, but to any items members are looking to sale.

When making a classified ad for the newsletter be sure to include:

- Description of Item
- Asking Price
- Contact Information
- Picture(s)

Pictures are not necessary but will be added if provided. Please send photographs in JPEG (.jpg) format if possible.

Classified Ads for the Pseudomorph are due to the editor no later than the first Thursday of each month, via Email or by U.S. Mail.

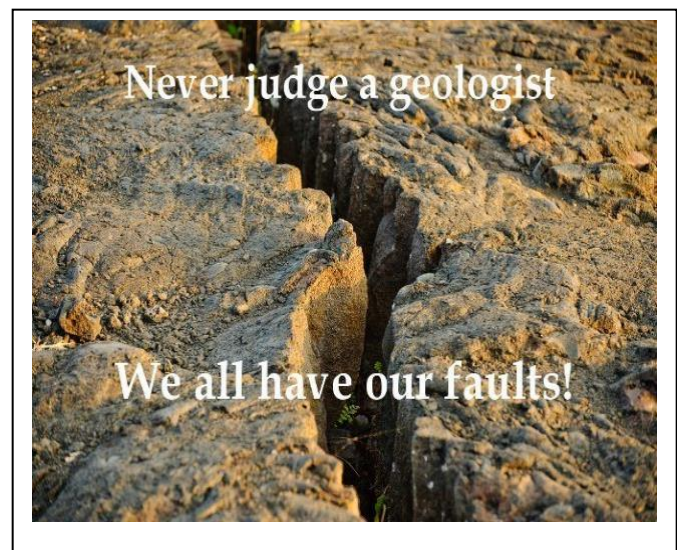
James May, Editor
Email geojim9@hotmail.com

If you have any ads, you want added to the next Pseudomorph, please email me the details and I will post.

Don't Forget the BREAKFAST CLUB

The first Wednesday of each month, year-round, KCMS Members and occasional guests meet at 8:30 AM at Lorene's Coffee shop at 23rd and Eye streets in downtown Bakersfield. Everybody is welcome to attend!

-- Dalia Hernandez



Pictures from Field Trip on Sunday, March 26th

Pisgah Crater





KCMS Monthly Meeting

Please join the KCMS at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 20th at the East Bakersfield Veterans Hall located at 2101 Ridge Road in Northeast Bakersfield. We hope you can attend, and visitors are always welcome.



Kern County Mineral Society

is a Charter Member of the
California Federation of Mineralogical Societies
and is affiliated with the
American Federation of Mineralogical Societies



The Kern County Mineral Society, Inc. was organized in 1935 to promote the study of mineralogy and allied earth sciences, to collect and study minerals and rocks, to study and practice the techniques of jewelry making, to promote good fellowship and good citizenship and to promote education in the earth sciences. Membership dues are \$20 for singles, \$25 for couples.

KCMS WEBSITE: <http://www.kerncountymineralsociety.org/>

Pseudomorph Subscriptions

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KCMS will email a free .pdf subscription to any high school, college, or university student who wishes to receive it. Just email a request to geojim9@hotmail.com

Articles for *The Pseudomorph* are due to the Editor no later than the first Thursday of each month, via Email, via Facebook, or by US Mail. Please send photographs in JPEG (.jpg) format if possible, and text as Notepad, Word, or other simple text for me to paste and edit.

James May, Editor
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Facebook: Kern County Mineral Society

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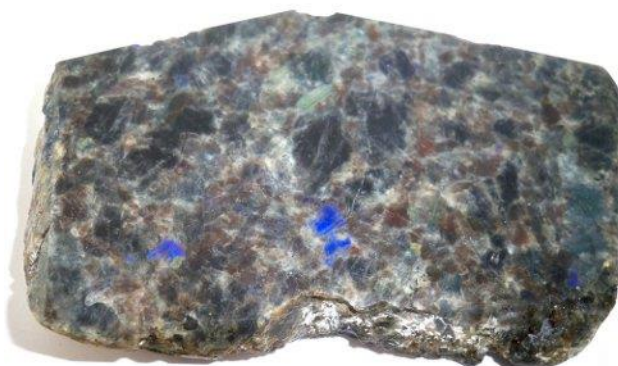


FUN, GAMES, & FIELD EXCURSIONS



MARCH'S MONTH'S MYSTERY SLAB

Here is this month's mystery slab. Please submit your answer to kerncountymineralsociety@gmail.com and geojim9@hotmail.com. Each month's winner will be placed in a drawing at the end of the year for a special prize. Last month's winners were Carlos Monzon, Monica Hinson, and Maricruz Vasquez who correctly identified the mystery slab as unakite. Nice work Carlos, Monica, and Maricruz.



Mystery Slab Hint: A calcium-rich plagioclase with a hint of iridescent blue. The name originates from the region in Canada where it was first identified. You might also find the name in the story about the San Gabriel anorthosite.

To make sure you are credited with the correct answer, please email the Kern County Mineral Society and James (see email addresses above). We would like to keep track of those who get the correct identity of the mystery slab each month.

