

Monthly Newsletter of the *Kern County Mineral Society (KCMS)***President's Message**  
**James May - KCMS**  
**President 2022**

Thanks again to all of you were able to attend Thursday's evening's General Membership meeting. We made excellent progress towards planning the schedule, and the logistics of display cases for the upcoming Kern County Fair. I know the Fair doesn't start till September 21<sup>st</sup>, but it will be upon us in no time. We definitely could use everyone's help in volunteering for shifts for the 12 days the Fair is scheduled. Let us hope for a little break in the high temperatures so we can have a comfortable experience at the Kern County Fairgrounds this year.

The Rock and Lapidary Shop has really gotten off to a tremendous start. We started back in April and the membership has benefited from being able to use the equipment. Our next scheduled workshop is Saturday, August 27<sup>th</sup> from 9 am till noon. The west-facing patio stays relatively cool in the early morning but around eleven it might be a bit warm using the equipment. To compliment the experience, Anita will be leading a rock macramé workshop if you are interested. We will also have a laptop to ensure that you are following correct steps in registering your display case. Steve Collett mentioned in the meeting Thursday that they are no longer accepting handwritten entries for the display cases. Each individual or group representative has to login and register their own display case. It will be a learning process initially but hopefully this will streamline the process in the future.

I want to thank everyone who attended the July workshop. We filled approximately 500 grab bags. Members really worked hard to get bags

filled efficiently. There were generous contributions from many members who tumbled rocks throughout the year and Julie who sewed a lot of the grab bags. We also had Sue's world-famous taco salad. Connie had the essential items for delicious root beer and diet root beer floats.

Bernie Bentsen led a joint field trip with the San Joaquin Valley Lapidary Society to Jalama Beach on Saturday, July 16<sup>th</sup>. Bernie has a nice write up of the experience in this issue of the Pseudomorph. I concur with Bernie; I was caught off guard a bit by the number of vehicles heading to the beach for the weekend, but it was not surprising because of the temperatures in Bakersfield. We waited only briefly before we were allowed entry to the parking area. We had an enjoyable potluck and did some collecting of rock along the beach. I even heard the word "chert" used on occasion. Lynette also had a wonderful experience traveling with her church to Poland. Please read that wonderful story as well.

Field trips will be put on hold till mid-October after the Kern County Fair has been completed. All of our efforts go into preparation for the Fair and it's difficult to schedule a field trip. We will bring up at the September Board Meeting when our next field trip will be conducted to give you plenty of time to prepare.

--- James



## Upcoming General Membership Meeting

- Thursday, September 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM  
East Bakersfield Veterans Hall  
Address: 2101 Ridge Road, Bakersfield, CA



## The next KCMS Rock and Lapidary Workshop

- Saturday, August 27<sup>th</sup>  
Steve and Connie's House @ 9:00 A.M. till Noon  
Concurrent with Macramé workshop



## Reflections on Jalama Beach Fieldtrip

by Bernie Bentsen

On a beautiful **HOT** summer day of Saturday July 16<sup>th</sup>, a group from KCMS and SJVLS went on a combined field trip to Jalama Beach. We started out at Harbor Freight with James, Becky, Donna, Cindy, Michael and Anita. We headed to Taft where we would meet Arthur, Connie, and Steve F. We would meet Reko at Jalama Beach. We stopped at Santa Maria for a rest stop and to pick up some items for our potluck. As we approached the beach, you could see the ocean and hear the waves crashing on the rocks below. What an amazing sight. Then we made the last turn, and my heart skipped a beat because there were fourteen cars waiting to get in. My heart slipped another beat when we found out that only after a vehicle leaves, another one can go in. It was about 11:30 am and who in their right mind would want to leave the beach. I thought it was going to be a LONG time before we got in, but it was not too bad as we enjoyed the 63-degree weather and the pounding surf. But as we sat there in line, about every four or five minutes a car left. Most of those leaving were surfers. They had been there since early morning, at low tide when the waves are bigger. So, there was hope after all that everyone would get in, and we did. It was also amazing that everyone got a parking place fairly close.

I opened the tailgate, and everyone started to bring food for our tailgate potluck. We were all hungry and ready to eat. We had plenty of food as we enjoyed the cool temperature and talked about what it was going to be like in Bakersfield. After we had our fill, everyone headed to the beach. Just amazing to walk in the warm sand and be sprayed by the ocean mist. There was not as many rocks this time as the high tide was at 2 pm, but still, plenty of chert and jasper to locate. Just along the shoreline was great.

After about 3-½ hours I thought it would be an experience to stop in Nipomo, to see Mr. Wes. Half of our group had never visited his home. He sells almost all his rocks for 25 cents a pound, no matter what you find. There are always treasures to be found. We were only going to stay a short time, but 1-½ hours later it was hard to get everybody out so Wes could eat dinner. After leaving Mr. Wes', some went to eat and some of us went home. It was still only 69 in Nipomo, but it did not take long for the temperatures to climb. As we got close to Bakersfield, it was 106. We should have had car trouble so we could have stayed at the beach. As we approached Bakersfield, there was a beautiful red sunset. What a way to finish our trip to Jalama Beach.

Thank you everyone for another great trip and for bringing all the food to the tailgate potluck.







## UPCOMING ROCK, MINERAL, AND GEM SHOWS



### UPCOMING ROCK AND MINERAL SHOWS – SUMMER/ FALL 2022

#### August 20-21, 2022 – Arcadia, CA

Pasadena Lapidary Society

“Inspiration Unearthed”, 62nd Annual Tournament of Gems

Arcadia Masonic Center, 50 W. Duarte Rd., Arcadia

Hours: Saturday 10 AM- 6 PM, Sunday 10 AM – 5 PM

Contact: Ellen Ferrell 1-727-512-0381

Email: ellenbf2007@aol.com

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

#### August 20-21, 2022 – Tehachapi, CA

Tehachapi Valley Gem and Mineral Show

500 East “F” Street, Tehachapi, CA

Hours: 9 AM – 5 PM

Rocks, Minerals, Fossils, Beads, Gifts, Collectables, Gemstones and Jewelry

Dealer inquiries accepted. For information contact Ron Myrick, E-Mail:

travis462@outlook.com (661) 972-1117 or Robert Papac: getback@csurfers.net

Contact: email: getback@csurfers.net

Website: <http://tvgms.org>

#### September 10-11, 2022, Reno, NV

The Reno Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.

Jackpot of Gems

Reno Convention Center, 4390 S. Virginia, Reno, NV 89502

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

Contact: sailondan55@aol.com

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

#### September 17-18, 2022 – Chico, CA

Feather River Lapidary and Mineral Society

Silver Dollar Fairgrounds, 2757 Fair St., Chico, CA 95928

Hours Saturday 9 AM – 5 PM, Sunday 9 AM – 4 PM

Contact: (530) 586-7052, mmpg@att.net

Website: <http://featherriverrocks.org>

# 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](mailto: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





# KCMS Monthly Meeting

Please join the KCMS at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 15<sup>th</sup> 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

*The Pseudomorph* is published 10 times a year (September through June) by Kern County Mineral Society, P.O. Box 12305, Bakersfield, CA, 93389-2305. Subscription included with Membership. Non-members \$5.50 per year, Jan. thru Dec., not prorated.

**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](mailto: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.

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Facebook: Kern County Mineral Society

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### KCMS Officers 2022

**President**

James May  
[geojim9@hotmail.com](mailto:geojim9@hotmail.com)

**Vice President**

Connie Fleishauer

**Secretary**

Anita Andersen

**Treasurer**

Dennis Huggins

### Board Members 2021

**Pseudomorph Editor**

James May  
[geojim9@hotmail.com](mailto:geojim9@hotmail.com)

**Curator**

Steve Fleishauer

**Federation Director**

Bernie Bentsen

**Sergeant at Arms**

Dennis Huggins

**Field Scout**

Bernie Bentsen

### Committee Chairs 2022

**Kitchen**

Sue Kimbriel

**Scholarship**

David Schaad

**Door Hostess**

Kay Hevle

**Facebook Editor**

Anita Andersen



## FUN, GAMES, & FIELD EXCURSIONS



### GUESS THIS MONTH'S MYSTERY CABACHON



Here is this month's mystery slab. Please submit your answer to [geojim9@hotmail.com](mailto: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 winner was Anita Andersen who correctly identified the slab as ocean jasper. Nice work Anita.

Picture Below: Moqui marbles from Southern Utah.







Closing Picture. A mile distant from the crowds looking north at the depositional layers of rock along Jalama Beach.

Actually, amber was just an inclusion in a greater 11-day trip to Poland! I played piano with an internationally-collected group of 30 musicians that told Polish people, and Ukrainian refugees about life and hope we can have in Jesus in the midst of dark times. We don't always include sight-seeing time (much-less rock-hounding time!), but God gave me some of both, as well as a French-horn player from Poland on the team, who had worked before with amber!

Our very first concert was in Sopot in an amphitheater on a Baltic shore beach, that was lined with dozens of stalls selling amber, and other items. The Baltic is the best place in the world to find beach amber- after stormy weather and strong winds churn it up and float it to the shores from Gdansk to Kaliningrad. My preferred theory is that the huge amounts of forests, that produced so much amber, were buried, and heated in the geologically- and volcanically-active time of the great flood of Noah's day. That would also explain why all the inclusions of flora and fauna have either shown remarkable similarity to today's creatures, or extinction.

We even had an hour between our rehearsal and prayer-time to spend as we wished! I set off with two singers and a flute player from Texas to walk the beach. But they soon took off, because I was scanning the wet sand for glimpses of translucence.

Lifeguards kept anyone from swimming. There were many beach-combers, sunny weather, and uniformly fine sand, so, I didn't have much hope. But I did find 2 eensy sand grains that were amber. More than that, I enjoyed feeling the northern water so far from the Pacific, the cargo ships on the horizon, the Polish chatter all around me, and knowing that I had gotten a chance to search for amber! On my way back, I bought an amber bracelet, a piece of raw amber, and an amber heart pendant.

I had read that many large, cheap pieces of amber that have bugs in them could be insects inserted into melted plastic. So, the time I pulled out a hair and did the static-electricity test on a big piece, the vender assured me in broken English that it was authentic. My French-horn friend said anything like



*Baltic shore beach at Sopot.*

that, if it is real, will be very expensive and come with a certificate. But the bracelets are made of little pieces so common, that they don't try to sell fakes.

After times of music and ministry over the next week, we got to see the shops in old-town Gdansk,

and in old-town Warsaw. There were fine jewelry stores, and many little shops that included amber things. I was skeptical of some of the big, beautiful treasures. The three tests my friend



*My amber pendant and bracelet*



*Amber shop in old-town Gdansk*

mentioned were the burn test (amber smells like incense), the static-electricity test (he said tiny paper bits were better than hair, because hair can be wiry, like mine), and the red-hot needle test (withdrawn from plastic, a needle will draw out a thread, but from amber the needle will come out clean.) The rest of the outreach was too busy to have him help me do the tests on my pieces.

But at home in California, I did tests with a family that had children interested in rocks. All my pieces repelled bits of thin plastic after being rubbed. And the hot needle came out of my raw piece clean. So, I'm content that my pieces are genuine. As a further test, I rubbed my pendant against fabric for half a minute, and that created enough static electricity to attract paper bits. The Greek word 'elektron' means 'amber'.

The most valuable gems of this experience for me were the lives that were changed, and the friendships that were made. But glimmering in the middle is the knowledge that my God graciously allowed me this amber adventure, and amber tokens to remind me.



*Amber in old-town Warsaw*