

Monthly Newsletter of the *Kern County Mineral Society (KCMS)*

President's Message
James May - KCMS
President 2023



The 2023 Calendar Year is coming to an end next week and we are all very thankful for the progress, fun, and comradery we had as a Club this year. We always like to finish off the year with our Christmas Party Extravaganza and Christmas Gift Exchange. This event is scheduled for Thursday, December 21st at the East Bakersfield Church of Christ. We of course would like to see all Club members attend and participate in this fun event. Dinner starts at 6 pm followed by the gift exchange. There will be delicious appetizers, salads, main course delights, and of course decadent desserts.

We held our election for Officers and Committee Chairs at the November General Meeting. Thank you to all who volunteered to take on a role as an Officer as these positions are important in advancing the vision of the Club. I was elected as President, and I appreciate the continued support from the membership to continue in this capacity. Renee Real, Anita Andersen, Maggie Izumi, Michael Sarr, Brian Aguilar, and Monica Hinson were elected as Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Federation Director, Field Scout, and Pseudomorph Editor, respectively.

As we all know, this is the best time to get into the field to collect rocks and minerals assuming the weather does not include wind, snow, or rain. The upcoming schedule includes Ballart Marble, Lavic Siding, and we would like to visit Clear Creek. Our goal is to schedule a field trip on the third Saturday of each month assuming the weather shines in our favor.

We will be hosting our January Rock and Lapidary Workshop on Saturday, January 27th. at Steve and Connie's home. We will be supplementing the event with a lapidary workshop.

The first good Rock and Mineral Show of the year is Exeter. It's always great to travel to this show as it gives us ideas on what rock art is selling, check the prices, and best of all to collect some thulite for making slabs and spheres. The Exeter Show is scheduled for January 20th and 21st. A bit further out is Quartzsite Show which is a paradise for rock and mineral collectors. The Pow Wow is an annual event put on by the Quartzsite Improvement Association. The show first started in 1967 and the tradition continues today. This year's event is scheduled from January 17th through the 21st.

As mentioned in the last General Meeting, the Ventura Gem & Mineral Society is very active. Not only are they hosting their annual show on March 2nd and 3rd, but they are also hosting the CFMS/AFMS Gem and Mineral Show and Convention in late May.

It's that time of year when we start collecting dues for 2024. I am including an application in the back of the newsletter. Please fill out the application even though you may have been a member for many years, so we have an updated spreadsheet. The fees will remain the same for the upcoming year. Thank you for all being valued members and have a Wonderful Holiday Season. -- James

Next General Meeting

Thursday, December 21st at 6:00 PM

East Bakersfield Church of Christ

3500 Bernard Street, Bakersfield, CA

Christmas Party Extravaganza and White Elephant Gift Exchange





UPCOMING ROCK, MINERAL, AND GEM SHOWS

UPCOMING ROCK AND MINERAL SHOWS – Winter 2024

January 20-21, 2024 – Exeter, CA

Tule Gem and Mineral Society

Exeter Veterans Memorial Building, 324 North Kaweah Ave., Exeter, CA 93221

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

2024 Gemboree

Contact: Gayle Bingaman, Show Chairperson, (559) 802-6029, bandgbing@aol.com

Website: <http://www.tulegem.com>

February 17-18, 2024 – Antioch, CA

Antioch Lapidary Club

Contra Costa County Fairgrounds, 1201 West 10th Street, Antioch, CA

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

Contact: (510) 693-9075, kellyplumb900@yahoo.com

Website: <http://antiochlapidaryclub.com>

February 24-25, 2024 – Vallejo, CA

Vallejo Gem and Mineral Society

Solano County Fairgrounds, McCormack Hall, 900 Fairgrounds Drive, Vallejo, CA 94589

Hours: Saturday and Sunday 10 AM – 5 PM

Contact: (415) 254-1506, dduhonvgms@gmail.com

Website: <https://vjgems.co>

March 2-3, 2024 – Ventura, CA

Ventura Gem & Mineral Society

Ventura Co. Fairgrounds, 10 W. Harbor Blvd., Ventura CA

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

Contact: (805) 312-8467, info@vgms.org

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

March 8-10, 2024 – Victorville, CA (Stoddard Wells area)

Victor Valley Gem and Mineral Club

Stoddard Wells Tailgate. Take I-15 toward Barstow EXIT #157 stay on Stoddard Wells Road.

Follow the signs 7 miles to Tailgate. GPS 34.671852347, -117-117133037

Contact: (760) 243-2339, president@vvgc.org

Website: <http://vvgmc.org>

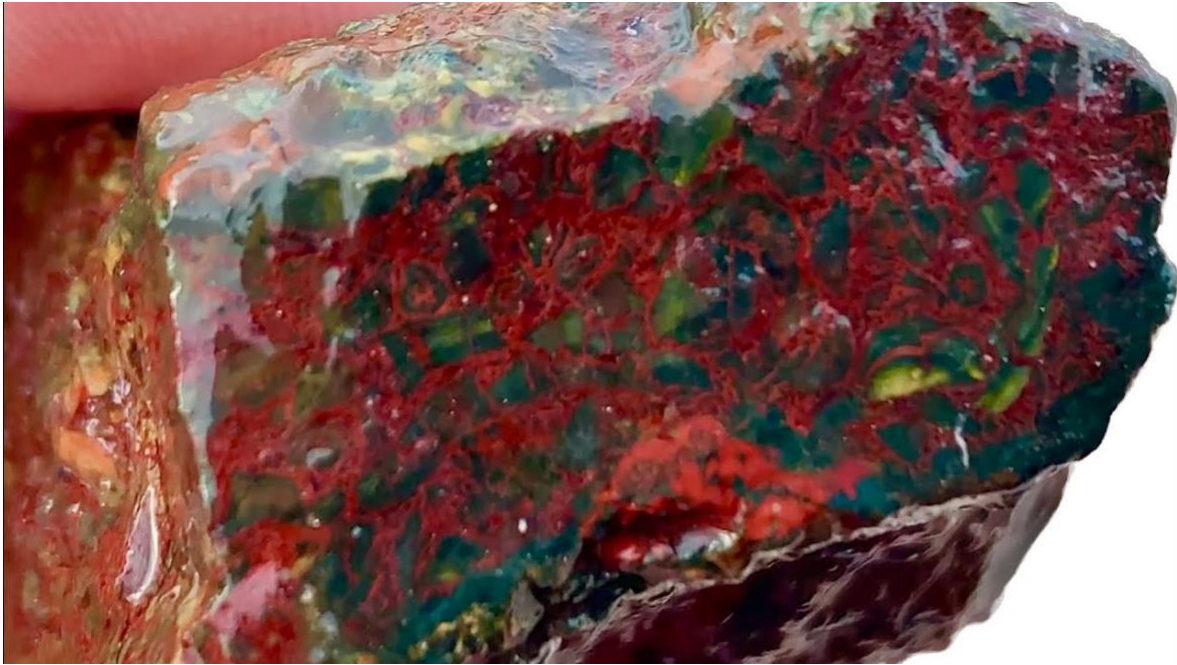
Quartzsite Gem and Mineral Show
(January 2024)



"Exploring the Festive Frontier: Rockhounding on Christmas Day"

By Kyle Webster

A Search for Christmas Tree Moss Agate



Amidst the twinkling lights and merry melodies of Christmas, a different kind of adventure awaits those daring enough to seek it: rockhounding along the Yellowstone River east of Billings, Montana on a crisp cold December morning! While most are nestled by the fire watching the quadruple header of NBA basketball games, a brave few hunters traverse the rugged terrain in pursuit of the ultimate stocking stuffer of all Earth's hidden treasures, *Christmas Tree Moss Agate*.

As the Sun peeks its rays over the Yellowstone River on this magical day, enthusiasts with chisels, rock hammers, and extra-warm clothing venture into the untamed wilderness, eager to uncover a sample or two of this sparkling red and green rock. The outcrops are glazed with snow and ice partially concealing these Earth treasures. The crisp winter's morning air adds an extra thrill to the quest, invigorating the spirit with each step through the frost-kissed landscape. A necessary thermos filled with scolding hot coffee keeps the rockhounds moving forward in their journey.

The thrill of discovery propels these adventurers forward, their hearts filled not just with holiday cheer, but also with the anticipation of unearthing the unexpected. Navigating rocky cliffs and navigating through snow-dusted valleys constantly in the eye of a hungry gray wolf, the rockhounds embrace the challenge, knowing that every strike of the hammers brings them closer to providing these specimens to the hanging stockings.

With each minor find – a glistening geode, a shimmering quartz crystal, or a fossil ammonite, their excitement crescendos, creating a symphony of triumph echoing through the crisp Montana air. The day reverts to an odyssey of exploration and wonder, forging unforgettable memories against the backdrop of a unique Christmas adventure. Soon the hope to reach their ultimate destination, the site of the glistening *Christmas Tree Moss Agate*. No finer gift than to bring home a few of these specimens to place under the Christmas tree.

As the sun bids farewell to the glorious day, the adventurous rockhounds return home, adorned not just with rocks but with tales of bravery and exhilaration. For them, this Christmas was not just about the presents under the tree, but about the priceless treasures found in the heart of Mother Nature herself.

So, as you gather around the warmth of your celebrations, spare a thought for those who ventured beyond the comfort of home, exploring the wild frontier of rockhounding on this extraordinary Christmas Day – a day etched in their memories as a daring, adventurous escapade like no other.



Kyle Webster is a contributing author for the Pseudomorph. He is a world traveler and a collector of historical tales and rock specimens. Above is a beautiful pendant that is grounding, activating personal powers and instincts.



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.

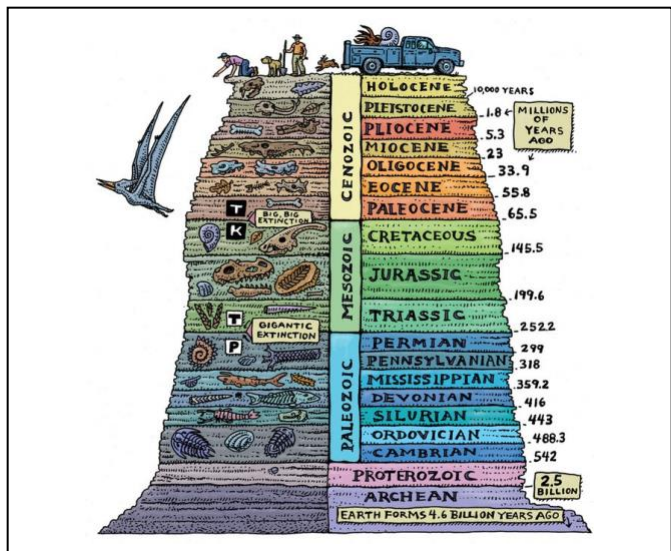
James May, Editor
Email geojim9@hotmail.com

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



KCMS Monthly Meeting

Please join the KCMS at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 21st at the East Bakersfield Church of Christ located at 3500 Bernard Street 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

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
Email geojim9@hotmail.com

Facebook: Kern County Mineral Society

Articles in this publication may be reprinted if attribution is given to the author and to *The Pseudomorph, Monthly Newsletter of the Kern County Mineral Society*



KCMS Officers 2024

President

James May
geojim9@hotmail.com

Vice President

Renee Real

Secretary

Maggie Izumi

Treasurer

Anita Andersen

Pseudomorph Editor

Monica Hinson
Mhinson4@csu.edu

Federation Director

Michael Saar

Field Scout

Brian Aguilar

Committee Chairs 2024

Kitchen

Karen Engleman

Scholarship

David Schaad

Door Hostess

Renee Real

Facebook Editor

Anita Andersen

Curator

Steve Fleishauer

Sunshine

Sue Kimbriel



FUN, GAMES, & FIELD EXCURSIONS



NOVEMBER'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 winner was Monica Hinson. The mystery slab was mookaite. Awesome work Monica.



- *Mystery Slab Hint:* semitranslucent to opaque, color that usually ranges from light to medium blue or greenish blue, often mottled and sometimes has dark splotches, and veins of matrix running through it.

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.



2024

Kern County Mineral Society

Membership Application

Applicant Information

Full Name: _____ Date: _____

Last First M.I.

Address: _____

Street Address Apartment/Unit #

City State ZIP Code

Phone: _____ Email : _____

Birthday (Month/Day): _____ Occupation: _____

How did you hear about the Kern County Mineral Society? _____

What skills do you have that may benefit the Club? _____

Interests

What are some activities you would like to pursue in the Kern County Mineral Society?

Field Trips: Camping: Community Outreach:

Lapidary: Presentations: Collecting Rocks/Minerals:

Jewelry Making: Rock/Mineral Sales: Social:

Membership Dues and Signature

The Kern County Mineral Society was organized in 1935 to promote the study of mineralogy and allied Earth sciences. We are a social club, interested in collecting rocks and minerals, learning lapidary techniques, sharing our experiences with each other and with our community, and promoting rockhounding and jewelry making hobbies throughout our community. A Member is any individual 18 years or older. A Couple are two individuals who lives in same household.

Dues Paid: \$20 for Individual \$25 for Couple Partial (after Oct 1st) \$9.00

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Kern County Mineral Society

Unlimited Personal Release Agreement for Social Media Outlets

Grant

For consideration which I acknowledge, I irrevocably grant to Kern County Mineral Society (KCMS) the right to use my image and name in all forms and social media sites affiliated with the Club. I waive the right to inspect or approve versions of my image used for publication or the written copy that may be used in connection with the images.

Release

I release to Kern County Mineral Society and the Club assigns, licensees, and successors from any claims that may arise regarding the use of my image, including any claims of defamation, invasion of privacy, or infringement of moral rights, rights of publicity, or copyright. Kern County Mineral Society is permitted, although not obligated, to include my name as a credit in connection with the image.

I agree to allow Kern County Mineral Society to publish my name and image on social media sites such as Facebook and Pseudomorph.

I DO NOT allow Kern County Mineral Society to publish my name and image on social media sites such as Facebook and Pseudomorph.

The Kern County Mineral Society is not obligated to utilize any of the rights granted in this Agreement. I have read and understood this agreement and I am over the age of 18. This Agreement expresses the complete understanding of the parties.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Signature: _____

I agree to allow Kern County Mineral Society to publish my name and image on social media sites such as Facebook and Pseudomorph.

I DO NOT allow Kern County Mineral Society to publish my name and image on social media sites such as Facebook and Pseudomorph.

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Name: _____

Date: _____

Signature: _____



**Best wishes for a happy and blessed holiday season!
Kern County Mineral Society**