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

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**President's Message****James May – KCMS President 2022**

It is the middle of February, and many great adventures are ahead of us. As I write this message, the Tucson Rock and Gem show is concluding their annual event. We also have Super Bowl Sunday and Valentine's Day, followed by a three-day weekend including Presidents Day. With everyone tuned in to the Big Game at SoFi Stadium, the usual collecting sites should be relatively free of people, so you can get out there and collect that special rock, cut it, polish it, cab it, and have it ready for your Valentine's sweetheart the following day. The following weekend may give you one last chance to head out to Arizona or Death Valley prior to the temperatures soaring.

My apologies for not having a General Membership meeting in January. With the post-holiday surge in the number of cases of the virus and flu, it seemed like the appropriate course of action. We do plan on meeting face-to-face this Thursday, Feb. 17<sup>th</sup> at the Veterans Hall. We have an exciting presentation scheduled for the meeting. Connie Fleishauer is going to give a presentation on the powers of crystals. I hope you all can attend.

If you did not receive my email correspondence a week ago, please read the Tribute to Alicia Johnson (AJ) article in this Newsletter. AJ was a very popular member of the Club and especially well known out in the Taft area. We will all miss her.

We have a workshop scheduled for Saturday, February 26<sup>th</sup> at Michael and Anita's house. Anita has agreed to give a class on setting gemstones in macramé. It should be a good workshop. Please bring some gemstones that you would like to set.

Speaking of Anita and Michael. They took an exciting road trip out to Nevada a few weeks back, did some sight-seeing, and of course collected some rocks. Anita did an outstanding write up summarizing their adventures. The article is included in the newsletter.

I believe it is official, the Pseudomorph has broken a record. This must be the greatest number of pages ever presented in the Pseudomorph. Part of the reason for the novel-like presentation is that the bylaws are included. The Bylaws Committee has put a tremendous amount of effort in getting them ready for your review. They were completed at Hart Park, and the committee is pictured in front of the landmark rock house for prosperity. Please note the changes are all in yellow and they can be compared with our current 2017 working bylaws. If you have a chance, please review before Thursday. The Bylaws Committee will read out the appropriate edits to the membership and we will vote on them during the March General Membership meeting.

Looking ahead, March is filled with a plethora of Rock and Mineral shows. There is the Ventura Show, Stoddard Wells, Lemoore, and finally Clovis at the end of the month. The KCMS also plan to participate in the Wind Wolves Annual Spring Fair. We could really use your help in filling shifts for Saturday, March 19<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, March 20<sup>th</sup> (Morning and Afternoon). --- James



**Upcoming General Membership Meeting**

➤ **Thursday, February 17<sup>th</sup> - East Bakersfield Veterans Hall at 7:00 PM**

**GENERAL  
MEETING**



**Next Workshop**

➤ **Saturday, February 26<sup>th</sup>  
Anita and Michael's House @ 10:00 A.M.  
Macramé Stone Wrapping**





## A Tribute to Alicia Johnson (AJ)

On Sunday, January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022, the Rock Club community lost a valuable member, Alicia Johnson to a brief and sudden illness. Those who knew her well referred to her only as AJ. It was a terrible shock to all of us that knew her. AJ became interested in rockhounding back in 2019, and she was a vital member of the Rock Club with her positive attitude and passion for all things outdoors. AJ was one of the most outgoing and active people that you would ever have the pleasure of meeting. When speaking of her, the word “lazy” and AJ were never used in the same sentence. It seemed like there was never a weekend in which she wasn’t out camping, fishing, four-wheeling, hiking, hunting, or visiting her mother up in Bishop. In her spare time, when she wasn’t doing the above, she was “wiring-up” houses, training her dog, or making delicious home-made beef, ostrich, and turkey jerky. She was a woman of many hobbies and talents. AJ was even an original member of the Taft Columnar Club. She always spoke very highly of her hike along the treacherous slope to the cresting waters of the Pacific Ocean (picture at end).

AJ grew up in Long Valley and ended up working and raising her family in the Buena Vista area near Taft. She worked for the Department of Corrections as a Probation Officer while raising her four children [Audra, Carrie, Sara, and Zack]. Looking for a career change, she eventually got a job at Aera Energy working out at the Belridge Complex concentrating on Health & Safety. She was due to retire from Aera Energy later this year and was planning on relocating to Nevada. She had a beautiful scenic property picked out and was going to enjoy her retirement doing the outdoor activities she loved so much. Additionally, she planned on staying active with the Rock Club including joining them on their annual trek to the Arizona desert.

AJ loved going on field trips, and often left days in advance to set up her trailer for overnight camping, and she frequently took out the Razor Quad to scout the area well in advance. By the time the rest of the rockhounds arrived, AJ had a bunch of specimens set aside that she had already collected. She was always quick with a joke and was a great personality to be around. She had a classic story for every occasion. It seems like the greatest memories of AJ always were regarding the annual trips to Quartzsite. AJ loved to spend the day out in the Arizona desert collecting unique specimens like chipboard rhyolite, and she was back at the campsite barbecuing some delicious food and getting the campfire ready for the returning group. Those were some of our fondest memories of AJ. Future trips to Quartzsite will never be the same!

It goes without saying, AJ was lost to us that knew her all too soon, but we can all recall a special adventure we had with her. She really was really an awesome person and loved by many!

The Rock Club is in contact with the family and will notify all of you in regard to a service for AJ.





## Weekend Excursion to Pahrump Nevada

During the first week of January 2022, my partner Mike and I took a trip out to Pahrump Nevada to visit some friends who had just purchased a house. We of course, took the opportunity to explore the desert and visit a few rockhounding spots on the way there and back. Having recently gone on a club field trip to the Kramer Junction and Pipeline areas out that way, we were very excited to explore further into the desert of eastern California. Bernie, KCMS's field scout, generously loaned us his GPS unit and gave us lots of information about several places we could stop to search for nice material.

The first place we stopped was off Claymine Road, north of the 58 in North Edwards. We found red and yellow jasper, petrified wood, and some interesting specimens that neither one of us has been able to identify quite yet! It was quite a clear, crisp day without a cloud in the sky--perfect for rockhounding. AND for losing track of time...ha! We spent about 2 hours there, wandering all over the rolling hills, collecting rocks, and watching fighter jets from the Air Force base zoom through the sky.

After leaving the first area, we jumped back in the Subaru to drink water and locate the next spot. Michael had spent several hours prior to our trip studying maps, trail guides, GPS coordinates and detailed notes from Bernie, and therefore was much more informed about our itinerary than I was. I ate snacks in the passenger seat while Michael drove AND navigated the bumpy trails. ;) Before long, we found the second spot which had good-sized, brightly colored red and yellow jasper as far as either of us could see. After roughly an hour and a bucket's worth of rocks--we decided it was time to hit the road and try to make it to Nevada before dark.

On the second day of the trip, our friends Dave and Jeanne took us sightseeing/rockhounding around the California/Nevada border. We drove, hiked, and searched for rocks all around South Nopah Range Wilderness area, China Ranch Date Farm, and an abandoned talc mine. The geology throughout was stunning and an interesting paradox in many ways. China Ranch Date farm was a wonderful, shady oasis with yummy date shakes, large gift shop, friendly folks and fascinating history. I would highly recommend visiting for anyone traveling through the area!

We spent the entire third day in Death Valley national park. Although I grew up in Bakersfield, I had never been to Death Valley before and was excited for the opportunity to visit such an iconic area. I was not disappointed, and we all thoroughly enjoyed the beautiful scenery, rich history, and temperate weather. Some of my personal favorites of the park were Badwater Basin, Harmony Borax Works, Zabriskie Point, Salt Creek Interpretive Trail, and the Artist's Palette.



On the morning of day 4, Michael and I said goodbye to our good friends and headed back to Bakersfield. We had wonderful visit to Pahrump, Nevada and the surrounding locale. On the drive home, we explored the wilderness on northern side of the freeway across Afton Canyon Rd and found lots of beautiful green marble and an empty tortoiseshell laying right in the middle of the trail! Then we headed back over to Afton Canyon but were only able to get as far as the Mojave River Crossing by the railroad tracks. The water was quite high, so we explored the area on foot and found some nice material right off the trail/road by the campground. Before heading back, there was a small convoy of about 4 souped up nice rigs that looked to be sponsored (judging by the decals/stickers on the vehicles) that took turns crossing the river and filming it via a drone. It was really neat to watch.

Back on the freeway, it was getting dark and decided that we should stop for something to eat. Eddieworld in Yermo was a nice reprieve (with clean bathrooms!) and good food. Michael and I both enjoyed our trip thoroughly but were very happy to come home to our pets and a warm shower and bed after a whirlwind trip. The buckets of rocks had to sleep in the car our first night home, and I spent the entire next day moving, washing, and separating our new-found treasures.

:) Anita Andersen







## EVENTS AT THE BUENA VISTA MUSEUM



### [Meet the Expert, Geology: Dr. Matt Herman VIRTUAL EVENT](#)

Do Earthquakes Cause More Earthquakes? Dr. Matt Herman is a geologist who researches earthquakes. Dr. Herman will present the issue of earthquake "triggering," which is the question of whether earthquakes (or other processes) can make another earthquake more likely to happen.

Date: Feb 17

Time: 5:30 PM – 6:30 PM PST







## UPCOMING ROCK, MINERAL, AND GEM SHOWS



### **March 5-6, 2022 - Ventura, CA**

Ventura Gem and Mineral Society

Ventura County Fairgrounds, 10 W. Harbor Blvd., Ventura

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

Gems and Minerals, fossils, jewelry, healing stones, silent auction, exhibits, dealers, kids activities, lapidary arts demonstrations, raffle, flea market, plant sale. A successful and valued South Coast show since 1963. We are happy to be back again after COVID!

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

### **March 11-13, 2022 - Victorville, CA**

Hours: 9 to 5 Daily

Victor Valley Gem and Mineral Club

46th Annual Stoddard Wells Rockhound Tailgate

Dry camping, silent auction, grab bags, spin the wheel, restrooms, handcrafted and faceted jewelry, slabs, cabs, findings, equipment, minerals and fossils. Tons of rough material and more.

Contact: [smaquilter12@gmail.com](mailto:smaquilter12@gmail.com)

### **March 12-13, 2022 - Turlock, CA**

Mother Lode Mineral Society

Stanislaus Fairgrounds, 900 N. Broadway in Turlock, CA 95380

Hours: 10 AM - 5 PM daily

55th Annual Rock, Mineral & Jewelry Show! EDUCATIONAL FAMILY EVENT!

Rocks, Minerals, Fossils, Jewelry, Beads, Fluorescents, Children's activities, and More! Learn to make beautiful jewelry out of natural rocks and gemstones from our demonstrators.

### **March 19-20, 2022, Lemoore, CA**

Lemoore Gem & Mineral Club

Lemoore Trinity Association Hall, 470 Champion St., Lemoore, CA 93245

Hours: Saturday, 10 AM - 6 PM; Sunday, 10 AM - 4 PM

Contact: (559) 362-8904, [dmorrell321@gmail.com](mailto:dmorrell321@gmail.com)

Website: <http://lemooregemandmineralclub.org>

### **March 25-27, 2022, Clovis, CA**

Fresno Gem & Mineral Society

748 Rodeo Dr., Clovis, CA 93612

The 2nd Annual Central Valley Gem and Mineral, sponsored by the Fresno Gem & Mineral Society, presents a great show for viewing, learning about and purchasing minerals, fossils, gems, beautiful handmade jewelry & much more! FREE ADMITTANCE AND PARKING

Friday and Saturday 10 AM - 5 PM; Sunday, March 27th 10 AM - 4 PM

[Central Valley Gem and Mineral Show | Facebook](#)

# 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

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





# KCMS Monthly Meeting

Please join the KCMS at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 17<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; \$15 for singles, \$20 for couples.

## 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.

James May, Editor  
Email [geojim9@hotmail.com](mailto: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 2022

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

**Vice President**  
Connie Fleishauer

**Secretary**  
Anita Anderson

**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 Anderson



## FUN, GAMES, & FIELD EXCURSIONS



### GUESS THIS MONTH'S MYSTERY SLAB



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 Bernie Bensten who correctly identified the slab as Rhodochrosite.





**The Bylaws Committee (Ken, James, Bernie, Kay, Anita, and David)**

**The Rock House at Hart Park**

**Friday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022**





# 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.

Dues Paid: \$15 for Individual  \$20 for Couple  Partial (after Oct 1<sup>st</sup>)

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_