

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

President's Message
James May - KCMS
President 2023



The 2023 Calendar Year has come to an end, and we are all look forward to a strong upcoming year. We had a wonderful Christmas Party Extravaganza and Gift Exchange on December 21st. The food items were delicious, and we all came away with good gifts. The event would not have been possible without Jack Stewart allowing us to host the event at the East Bakersfield Church of Christ. The Christmas Party is always one of the outstanding events that we have every year.

We started the year off with a field excursion to Quartzsite, Arizona the first weekend in January. The annual pilgrimage has always been exciting, and we see a number of different types of rocks, minerals, and fossils. The Flesihauers led Renee, Paul, and me on the excursion. The weather was fantastic, and we certainly enjoyed the experience. We also came away with several unique items that any collector would envy.

Please remember that we have our first General Meeting of the year this upcoming Thursday. We have an exciting meeting planned and the best news is that we will be downstairs in the larger meeting room. As you probably know, we held our meetings in the larger room for several years until last year when we were forced to have our meetings in the smaller upstairs meeting room. We are very fortunate to be back in the larger meeting room. We have several fun activities planned and a presentation on tumbling rocks. Hope you can all attend our first General Meeting of 2024.

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. Our next scheduled field trip is to Lavic Siding and Theolite near and just east of Ludlow. We plan on leaving this Saturday, January 20th at 7:00 am from Bakersfield. Please remember this is a three-hour drive out to Ludlow.

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 for those who will not be using the lapidary equipment.

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. We also have been notified about Wind Wolves Annual Spring Festival which is scheduled for the first weekend in April with hopes of capturing the bloom of flowers.

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. Please note we have added a student membership rate of ten dollars per year. Thank you for all being valued members of the Kern County Mineral Society. -- James

Next General Meeting

**Thursday, January 18th at 6:30 PM
East Bakersfield Veterans Hall
1501 Ridge Road**

**GENERAL
MEETING**



NEXT FIELD TRIP

**Saturday, January 20th (Weather Permitting)
Lavic Siding and Theolite, Ludlow, CA**





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>

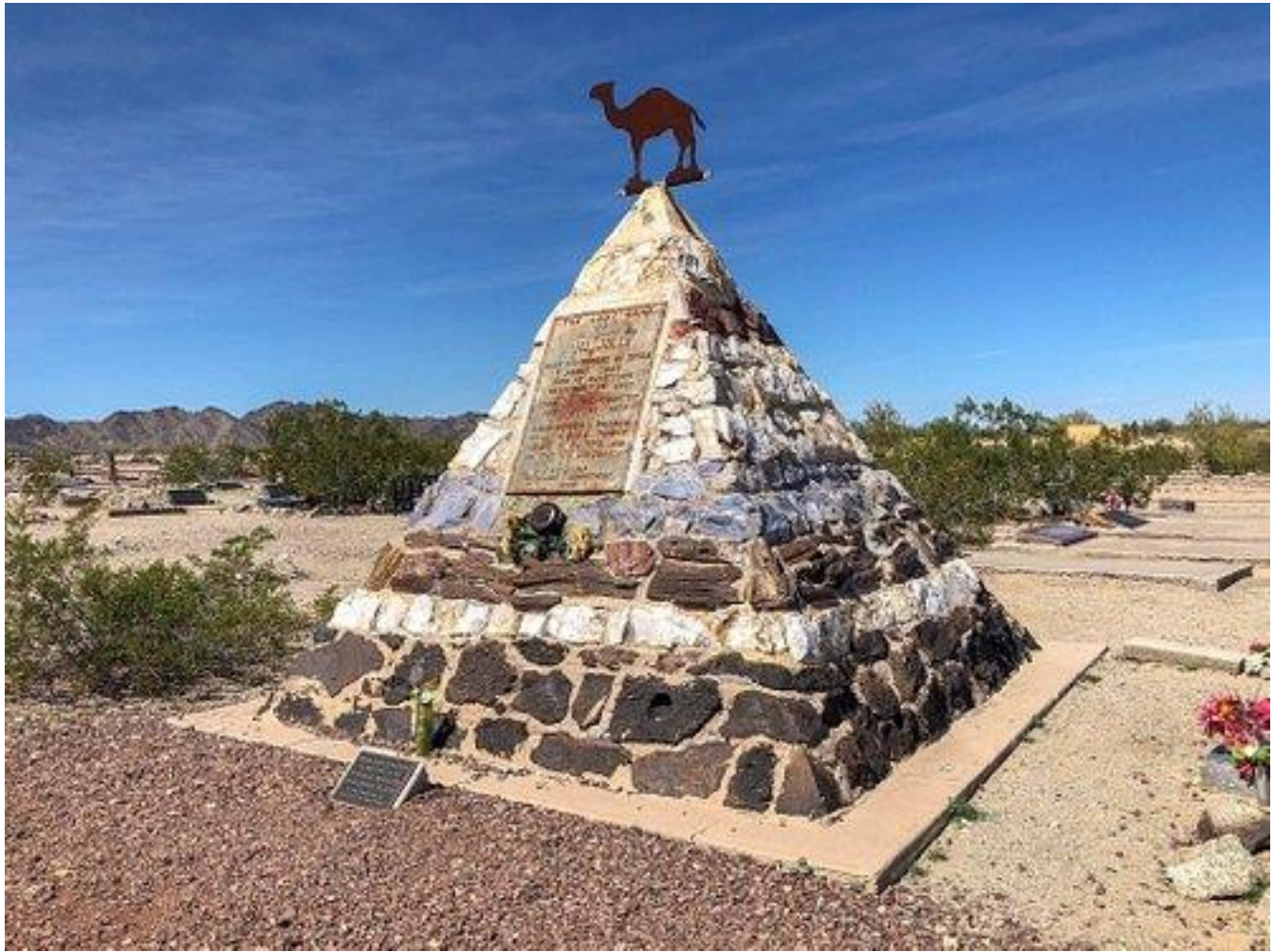
Annual Trip to Quartzsite
January 6th – 8th











During the weekend of January 5th, 2024, the Kern County Mineral Society made their annual pilgrimage to Quartzsite to take part in the annual rock and mineral show. Steve, Connie, and Karen Fleishauer were joined by Paul and Renee Real and James May. The weather for the most part was sunny and warm, but we did get a little chilled on Sunday when the storm blew through.



What is a Rockhound?



What is a *rockhound*? I started thinking about what makes up a “*rockhound*” when I was leaving an emerald field in North Carolina. The owner had shown me several of the emeralds from her diggings and then made a derogatory remark about the *rockhounds* that visited her mine, citing their lack of knowledge in looking for these gems. At the moment I was hot, sweaty and covered with a layer of wet red clay from digging at the bottom of a pit for several hours.

I did not take to this remark kindly and had to bite my tongue not to make a caustic comment in return. However, as I drove away, I remembered that she had several beautiful emeralds she couldn’t bear to part with, along with a stunning piece of quartz that she recently bought from one of her customers. Ha, I thought, she is nothing but a *rockhound* herself. She just has more specialized knowledge of the minerals in her area.

Rockhounds come in all shapes, sizes, occupations, and ages. I recently left Arizona and turned over the leavings of the rockpile in my backyard to the neighborhood children. Within hours, it disappeared – the baby boom of five new rock piles and five new *rockhounds*.



Small Rocks

Some *rockhounds* just collect micro-mounts. They usually give one the feeling that they are the crème de la crème of *rockhounds*. I have spent many tedious hours looking through a magnifying glass at the minute grains in their collections.

They always have several of these glasses around and at least one microscope. I've noticed they lower their voices at what they have paid for these tiny bits of rock if their spouse is not a collector. *Rockhounds* do get sneaky if only one partner collects. I once moved 1,500 pounds of rock across the country in cartons marked "books" so that my husband wouldn't realize just why the moving company was charging us so much.

Precious Metals

I have been friends with many a gold prospector that maintains all he wants to do is "strike it rich." But, when they do find a nugget of considerable size, where is it?

I'll tell you! It's usually in their home or pocket so they can show it to others. They are just *rockhounds* of precious metals.



Latent Rockhounds

I have friends who own a commercial quartz crystal mine in Arkansas. Do you think they can part with their best pieces? Of course not. Their home is lined with shelves of beautiful specimens, along with their driveway, porch patio and even their kitchen window. They have all the symptoms of dyed-in-the-wool *rockhounds*.

You don't need to carry the label *rockhound* to be one. I've met people who would scoff if I called them that. The stray rock I saw in their yard or home was just something they picked up because it was pretty or interesting looking. I know one person who has a ping-pong table filled with rocks picked up over the years because they were interesting. In my estimation, all of the above are latent rockhounds.

Artifacts & Precious Gems

If you have ever met a collector of Native American artifacts, have you noticed that they can tell you just what kind of minerals their arrowheads are made of — quartz, chert, granite, obsidian, etc. Rockhounds all! And, I can't help but think that precious gem collectors and jewelers are in it for more than just monetary reasons. The few I know can give me a rundown on each gem, virtue by virtue, carat by carat, sheen by shine. They are just the elitists in the *rockhound* field. I might add that I would love to graduate into this type of collector myself.

Fossil Hunters

Have I mentioned fossil hunters? Ordinary rocks are not for them, their collection has to tell a story of inland seas and ancient times. They collect anything from petrified foraminifers to agate dinosaur droppings. I must admit that most of us rockhounds have some fossils in our collections, but we would be hard-pressed to tell you just what we had and what age it came from. We usually take our finds to knowledgeable members of our group for identification. I once met a *rockhound* I called an "old fossil" but that had nothing to do with collecting. Almost every group has one of them present!



Budding Rockhounds

Rockhounding can be catching, and we “rockers” usually infect the people around us. My husband, who at one time wouldn’t get out of his chair to look at a meteor if it fell from the skies in front of him, has changed his attitude over the years. I once made him go gold panning with me and he sat on the banks of a small stream and watched me work for several hours.

I dug deep holes, moved large boulders, carried tons of dirt in pails and fell into both the creek and a patch of poison ivy. His only comment was, “If I made you work this hard at home, you would divorce me!” Cleaning out the car after I arrived home, I found this useless piece of granite with mica in it. “Where did this come from?” I asked. “Well,” he replied, turning a little red, “I found it in the stream and thought it was pretty.” I call this a budding of a blooming rockhound.

Another little bud is my daughter. She is vehement in declaring that she is no rockhound. Last week I talked her into going with me on a trip to a nearby quarry. She agreed as long as I didn’t expect her to look for anything and she reinforced this statement by putting a lawn chair, suntan lotion and a book in the truck with us. She also made several nasty comments about crazy people who spend the day breaking apart boulders and calling it fun.

When we got to the quarry, she took one look at the beautifully fractured garnets impregnated in the granite schist, grabbed my extra sledgehammer and went to work. Hours later, she had the truck filled with huge rocks, saying that she collected more than she needed because she wanted her brothers to have some of them for their homes. Now, all of my children have 30 to 40-pound doorstops and enough rocks to start a rock garden. I hate to think of what we would have brought back if she had been a “rockhound.”



Being Aware

One nice thing about *rockhounding* is that it heightens your awareness of nature and the riches of this planet earth. Rockhounds also develop an ability I call “vision sharpening.” I now notice everything on the ground around me. Indoors, this talent has led to minutes more play at the one-armed bandits in Las Vegas as I am now adept at finding coins on the casino floors. Outdoors, I not only find lots of interesting rocks, but I also have collected pop can rings, petrified bubble gum, lost keys and a smattering of dried rabbit and burro droppings. Once, I found what I thought was a fantastic fossil and only after picking it up, did I realize that it was a decomposing fish that still needed a few thousand years to cure. I might add that no one in the group came near me for the rest of the day. I smelled as ripe as the fish after this encounter!

Rockhounds are dreamers. If we weren't, we wouldn't pursue our hobby to the extent that most of us do. My favorite dream is where the curator of the Smithsonian is begging me on bended knee to donate the magnificent specimen that I just found to the museum. I already know my answer, “Golly, I would like to, but it looks so good on my fireplace mantel that I can't give it up.” This answer also proves that some of us have rocks in our heads.



The First Rockhounds

The woman I met at the emerald mine just doesn't realize that a person needn't be a geologist, or specialist, to enjoy rockhounding. You can be a housewife, doctor, lawyer, or truck driver — whatever. You can rockhound every weekend or just collect whenever you see a rock that catches your eye. You can

join a club or go it alone. As far as I am concerned, civilization started when a rockhound first picked up a stone and decided that it might make a good tool. One of man's greatest accomplishments included a rockhound field trip. We call that resultant collection "moon rocks." In conclusion, I think that rockhounding is born and bred into all of us, it remains passive in some, but the rest of us can be seen trekking through fields and streams hauling out "specimens" for our collections.



*This story about what is a rockhound appeared in Rock & Gem magazine.
Story by Marilyn Mchugh Meier.*

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.

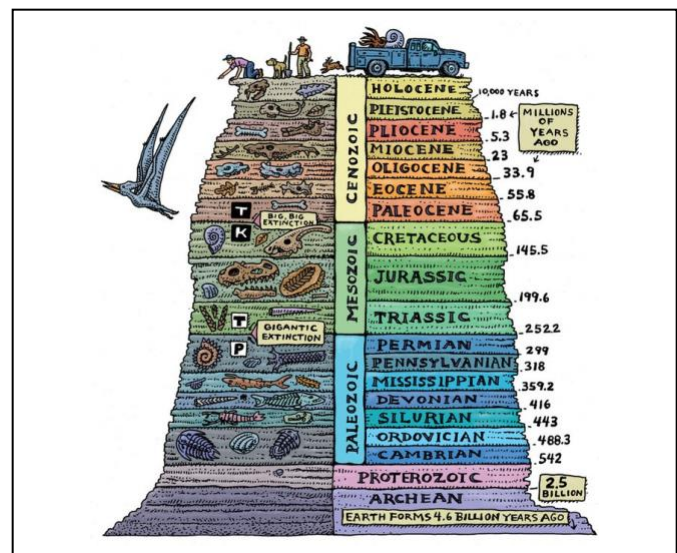
James May, Editor
Email geojim9@hotmail.com

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 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 18th at the East Bakersfield Veterans Hall 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, \$30 for couples, and \$10 for students.

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*



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Steve Fleishauer

Sunshine
Sue Kimbriel



FUN, GAMES, & FIELD EXCURSIONS



JANUARY'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. We did not have a winner last month. The mystery slab was turquoise.



- *Mystery Slab Hint:* a beautiful ornamental stone used in carvings, beads, or cabochon cut gemstones. The dominant color is green and is formed of amphibole minerals such as tremolite and actinolite.

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.



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 \$30 for Couple \$10 for Student

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: _____

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