

President's Message
James May - KCMS
President 2023



As we approach the last couple months of the year, we can all rejoice as the holidays are approach and soon family and friends will be visiting and spreading holiday cheer.

The 2023 Kern County Fair has officially come and gone, and the Kern County Mineral Society made another important contribution to the memories of those smiling faces who attended the fair this year. The Club always loves participating at the Fair and hopes to be part of the festivities in future years.

Please join us this Thursday for our General Meeting. The meeting starts with the elections for new officers so please make sure you attend to make your vote count. Thank you to those of you who took the call from one of our representatives and placed your nominations for the various offices. We will likely have three vacant officer positions that we need to be filled in order for the Club to remain viable. We also have a presentation scheduled and another competition to locate the mystery rock.

Our Annual Potluck and Christmas Party will be held during our December meeting scheduled for the 21st of December. We will be having this event at the East Bakersfield Church of Christ. In the past we have played BINGO for prizes, but we plan to try something a little different this year so please stay tuned for details.

With the holidays scheduled during the end of November and December, we will not be having a Rock and Lapidary Workshop till the end of January.

As the weather begins to cool off, there will be more opportunities for us to get out into the field for rock and mineral collecting. We hope to have one or two collecting opportunities before the end of the year. We had planned on heading out to Ballart to collect marble on Saturday, but we may have to postpone the trip to a later date. We definitely want to get out into the field soon. We are running a little low on tumbling material, so it will be a great opportunity to restock and enjoy the camaraderie of being with other dedicated rock collectors.

The Barstow Show is scheduled for the first weekend in December. It is a bit of a drive, but they always have excellent rocks, minerals, and gemstones at this show. They have hourly auctions if you want to pick up some excellent specimens for slabbing.

The California Federation of Mineralogical Societies (CFMS) this last weekend in Visalia. It was nice to visit with directors of the other clubs operating in the state. Next year's summer show will be held in Ventura and hosted by the Ventura club.

Please also let me know if you are interested in tumbling rock for the club. It is something we need to keep up with for the stocking of grab bags next year. Those who take on the responsibility of tumbling keep the tumblers going pretty much nonstop and we can get you the various types of grit and media to sustain the process if you want to assist in tumbling.

-- James

Next General Meeting

**Thursday, November 16th at 6:30 PM
East Bakersfield Veterans Hall
2101 Ridge Road, Bakersfield, CA**





UPCOMING ROCK, MINERAL, AND GEM SHOWS



UPCOMING ROCK AND MINERAL SHOWS – Fall 2023

November 19 – 20, 2023 – Lakeside, CA

El Cajon Valley Gem and Mineral Society

El Cajon Valley Rock and Gem Round Up! Family Friendly! Free Admission!

12584 Maplevue St., Lakeside CA 92040

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

Contact: (619) 277-4981, ecvgms@gmail.com

Website: <http://ecvgms.org>

December 2-3, 2023 – Barstow, CA

Mojave Desert Gem and Mineral Society

Cora Harper Community/Fitness Center

841 Barstow Road, Barstow, CA 92311

Hours: Saturday and Sunday 10 am – 5 pm

Contact: John Printz (760) 979-6138, MDGMSsecretary@gmail.com

Website: <http://www.mdgms.net>



"The Wonders of Mookaite - Unveiling Nature's Tapestry"

By Kyle Webster

Expedition deep into the heart of Australia



In the heart of Australia lies a hidden treasure, a gem that whispers tales of time and nature's artistry—Mookaite. Nestled in the ancient lands of Western Australia, Mookaite is a captivating stone, revered for its vivid hues and mesmerizing patterns, each piece telling a unique story etched by the passage of time.

Legend has it that the Aboriginal people, custodians of the land for thousands of years, revered Mookaite for its healing properties and its ability to connect them with the spirits of the earth. They cherished its vibrant shades of red, yellow, and ochre, believing it held the energy of the land and the wisdom of their ancestors.

Geologically, Mookaite is a form of jasper, characterized by its kaleidoscopic range of colors, which are a result of the minerals seeping into sedimentary rock formations over millions of years. Its name derives from the Mooka Creek in Western Australia, where it was first discovered.

But beyond its geological marvel, Mookaite transcends its physical form. It's believed to possess metaphysical qualities, fostering a sense of adventure, encouraging new perspectives, and embracing the beauty of change. Many believe it enhances decision-making abilities and aids in taking on new opportunities with confidence.

Artisans and jewelry makers alike are drawn to Mookaite's rich palette and unique patterns, incorporating it into stunning pieces that carry the essence of the Australian landscape. Its presence in jewelry isn't just ornamental; it's a testament to the wearer's connection to nature and their appreciation for its inherent beauty.

Whether you're a collector, an enthusiast, or someone seeking a deeper connection with the earth, Mookaite's allure is undeniable. Its beauty, steeped in history and adorned with mystical attributes, continues to captivate hearts and minds, inviting us to explore the harmonious blend of time and nature's canvas.

As we celebrate the wonder of Mookaite, let us not only cherish its stunning aesthetics but also embrace the stories it holds within—stories of resilience, change, and the enduring majesty of our natural world.



"Mookaite's Odyssey: Unveiling Nature's Thrilling Tapestry"

In the heart of the rugged Australian Outback lies a hidden trove of wonder—the vibrant Mookaite. This gem, forged over eons in the sun-drenched landscapes of Western Australia, whispers tales of adventure, courage, and the untamed spirit of nature.

Legends intertwine with the stone's existence, echoing the ancient beliefs of Aboriginal tribes who roamed these lands for millennia. They regarded Mookaite not just as a gem but as a conduit to the energies of Earth, a talisman guiding them through the wilderness and connecting them to the raw essence of the Outback.

Forged through time and geological marvels, Mookaite's kaleidoscopic hues—ranging from fiery reds to sunlit yellows—mirrored the fiery sunsets and the golden horizons of the Outback. The stone was said to be imbued with the spirits of the land, guiding adventurers on their quests for discovery.

One such tale speaks of an intrepid explorer who traversed the rugged terrains, drawn by the mystique of the Mookaite. Guided by whispers from the elders, she followed the vivid trails of the stone, navigating through the labyrinthine gorges and rocky outcrops of the Australian wilderness.

With each step, she felt the pulse of ancient energies resonating through the vibrant hues of Mookaite. Its metaphysical properties seemed to fortify her spirit, infusing her with the courage to explore uncharted paths and embrace the unknown.

As she journeyed deeper into the heart of the Outback, she encountered artisans who revered Mookaite for its beauty and mystical essence. They crafted it into magnificent jewelry, each piece a testament to the wild and untamed landscape from which it hailed.

The allure of Mookaite wasn't just its physical beauty; it was the embodiment of adventure and the epitome of nature's resilience, urging travelers to embrace change and discover the unexplored corners of their own souls.

So, as we celebrate the saga of Mookaite, let's not merely admire its hues and patterns but heed its call for adventure—a call echoing through time, inviting us to embark on our own thrilling odyssey through the tapestry of life.



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.

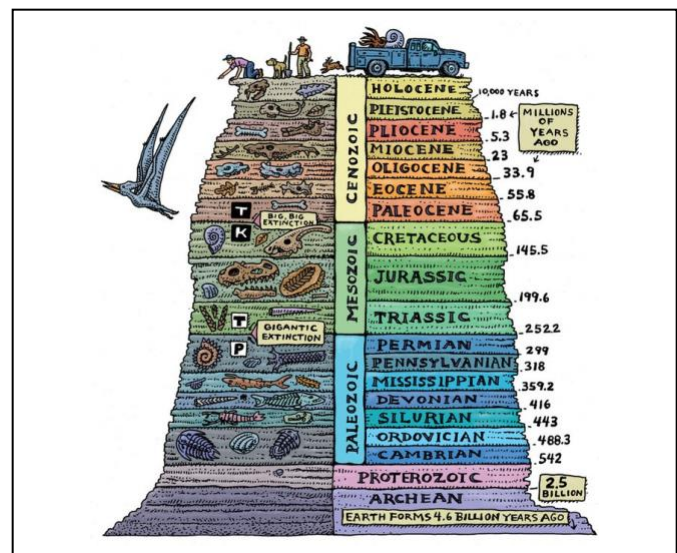
James May, Editor
Email geojim9@hotmail.com

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 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, November 16th 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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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 2023

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Anita Andersen

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Steve Fleishauer



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 winners were Monica Hinson and Michael Sarr who correctly identified the mystery slab as Petosky stone. Awesome work Monica and Michael.



Mystery Slab Hint: The clues are found throughout the newsletter.

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.

The Cave of the Crystals or Giant Crystal Cave

The cave of crystals is a cave connected to the Naica Mine at a depth of 300 meters (980 ft), in Naica, Chihuahua, Mexico. It takes the form of a chamber within the limestone host rock of the mine and is about 109 meters (358 ft) long with a volume of 5,000 to 6,000 cubic meters.

The chamber contains giant selenite crystals (gypsum, $\text{CaSO}_4 \cdot 2 \text{H}_2\text{O}$), some of the largest natural crystals ever found. The largest is 11.40 meters (37.4 ft), with a volume of about 5 cubic meters (180 cu ft), and an estimated mass of 12 tons. When not flooded, the cave is extremely hot, with air temperatures reaching up to 58 °C (136 °F) with 90 to 99 percent humidity. This is comparable to temperature records in Death Valley, but with much wetter air. The cave is relatively unexplored because of these factors. Without proper protection, people can only endure approximately ten minutes of exposure at a time.

The cave was discovered in April 2000 by brothers Juan and Pedro Sánchez while drilling in the mine. As of October 2015, the mine had reflooded and the cavern filled once more with the water rich in minerals required for the crystals to grow.



2024 KERN COUNTY MINERAL SOCIETY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND COMMITTEE LEADS

NOVEMBER 16th ELECTION BALLOT

Board of Directors: (check one per office)

- *President* James May
- *Vice President* Anita Andersen
- *Secretary* Vacant
- *Treasurer* Vacant
- *Federation Director* Michael Sarr
- *Field Scout* Vacant
- *Pseudomorph Editor* James May

Committee Leads: (check one per office)

- *Curator* Steve Fleishauer
- *Door Hostess* Renee Real
- *Sunshine* Sue Kimbriel
- *Kitchen* Karen Engelman
- *Scholarship* David Schaad