

Monthly Newsletter of the *Kern County Mineral Society (KCMS)***President's Message**  
**James May - KCMS**  
**President 2023**

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. It was a little cooler this year compared to other years, so that was nice, and some of the music acts were outstanding like the classic 70's rock and roll band Blue Oyster Cult singing *Don't Fear The Reaper*. I want to extend a special thank you to each one of you who contributed to the success of this year's fair. Without your help we would not have had such a successful showing at the Kern County Fair. It was nice to see everyone wearing their green and red jasper shirts that Michael and Anita had specially made. I am sure everyone can't wait till next year's Kern County Fair.

I know we have always been fortunate enough to have Steve and Connie's daughter Karen help us out at the Fair. Her energy and positive attitude are an inspiration to all of us who were lucky to have worked alongside her. She has always been helpful in setting up and taking down the "store." Two days after the conclusion of the Fair, Karen was returning home to Santa Ana and was involved in a terrible accident and was immediately taken to a nearby hospital in Santa Clarita. She sustained significant injuries and was hospitalized there for some time afterwards. Obviously, this has been traumatic for the entire Fleishauer family, and we will do what we can to support them during these trying times. Karen has recently been moved to a hospital in Bakersfield and will be recovering at the Fleishauers house through the holidays.

Elections are right around the corner. We typically hold our elections in November of each year. A member of the KCMS will be calling to get your nomination for one of the coveted positions open including President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Field Scout, Federation Director, and Newsletter Editor. Our Board Meetings are scheduled for the first Tuesday of each month at the Veterans Hall in East Bakersfield. If you have a desire to become an officer, we would love for you to be on the Board of Directors in 2024.

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. Last week, the SJVLS and the KCMS traveled out to San Simeon for a few days of rest and relaxation along the beach and they spent some precious time collecting in the San Simeon Streambed. In November, Bernie will lead us all out to the Mojave Desert for some collecting of jasper and other semiprecious stones. 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.

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, October 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM  
East Bakersfield Veterans Hall  
2101 Ridge Road, Bakersfield, CA**



**Next Rock and Lapidary Workshop  
Saturday, October 28<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM  
Steve and Connie's House**



Come on out to use the lapidary equipment at the Fleishauers...

NEXT FIELD TRIP

November 2023

Somewhere in The Mojave Desert



## The Snows of Castle Butte

A short memoir inspired by Ernest Hemingway

(reprint of article from March 2022)



*Castle Butte is an occasionally snow-covered mountain 3,124 feet high, and it is said to be the highest mountain in North Edwards. Its western summit is called Prospect Peak or the House of the Lion. Close to the western summit there are the tracks and scat of a large mountain lion. No one has explained what the mountain lion was seeking at that altitude.*



The day was selected because of the recent snow in the Tehachapi Mountains, the calm northeast breeze, the Sun-splashed morning, and the company of great rockhounds. Bernie led us down a dirt road at the north end of Clay Mountain Road to multiple collecting sites. Buckets, rock hammers, solid shoes, and strong backs were needed for this excursion. The Rockhounds were ready for collecting.

The rock of choice that day was the mysterious chapenite, which is described as a yellow nodular jasper that was brecciated by tectonic activity, we were near the left-lateral strike-slip Garlock fault, and then fortified and recemented with silica. It took a while to find some pieces, but once we did, we filled up our buckets. Once cut, polished, and shaped, you get something that looks like this.



A little further down the beaten path, we came to an isolated volcanic deposit with aplite dikes, large potassium feldspar-rich pegmatite rocks, and even porphyritic andesites. Steve thought it necessary to dig out a number of unique pieces from the vein using a pry bar.



The main reason for the excursion was the Castle Butte though....

*What about the ranch with the silvered gray of the sage brush, the quick, sparse water in the irrigation ditches, and the heavy green of sage brush. The trail went up into the hills and the cattle in the spring were shy as deer. And behind the butte, the Tehachapi Mountains covered in snow, the clear sharpness of the butte in the afternoon light. Now he remembered coming down through the rocky slope on past field trips in the dark guided only by dim flashlight and all the stories that he meant to write.*



Castle butte has been described as a Late Cretaceous aged quartz monzonite with andesite breccia and occasional dusting of volcanic tuff. The feeder dikes radiating to the east appear to be porphyritic dacite and occasional veins of aplite. The samples of agate and jasper are associated with the Miocene-aged Tropico Group.

*He remembers the snow before in the desert. That one trip to Ludlow when the weather turned. It rarely snows in the Mojave Desert, not because it doesn't get cold enough, but because the Sierra Nevada Mountains strip the moisture from the clouds. I think the guide said it was orographic lifting or something like that. The last significant snow fell the morning of January 18, 2021, while he was out collecting jasper from Lavic Siding. Gosh he loved that stuff. The red color shined up real nice when polished and made real nice spheres. The stuff out at North Edwards was ok though. I really love Lavic though! Now in his mind he saw the railcars at Ludlow and the headlight of the BNSF trains as he collected the precious jasper from the hillside called Siding.*

It was late afternoon now and had been daylight for some time now. He heard the plane off in the distance, but then it closed in and made a long round loop and landed to the north of the trucks in the hard sand. We all made introductions to the pilot and offered him water and oranges. The pilot said he had room for only one to take for a plane ride and that would have to be Bernie, after all he was the Field Scout.

As the plane began to climb, Bernie and the pilot started off to the north heading into the prevailing winds before banking around to the west and Bernie pointed and there, ahead, all he could see, as wide as all the world, great, high, and unbelievably white in the setting sun, was the jagged top of Castle Butte with only the well camouflaged mountain lion bearing witness. And then he knew that there was where he was going.

**UPCOMING ROCK, MINERAL, AND GEM SHOWS****UPCOMING ROCK AND MINERAL SHOWS – Fall 2023****October 21, 2023 – West Hills, CA**

Woodland Hills Rock Chippers

First United Methodist Church, 22700 Sherman Way, West Hills, CA 91307

Twenty Fourth Annual Gem Show

Hours: 10 AM – 5 PM

Contact: whrc@rockchippers.org

Website: www.rockchippers.org\

**October 28-29, 2023 – San Diego, CA**

Sponsor: San Diego Mineral &amp; Gem Society

Liberty Station Conference Center, 2600 Laning Road, San Diego, CA 92106

Hours: Saturday 9:30 AM – 5 PM, Sunday 10 AM – 4 PM

Admission and Parking – Free

Contact: luannz@att.net

Website: <https://SDMG.org>Show Web page: <https://bit.ly/gemdiego2023>

GEM DIEGO IS BACK! – San Diego's Finest Gem Show

**October 28-29, 2023 – Orange, CA**

American Opal Society

Velvet Rose Event Center, 300 S. Flower St., Orange, CA 92868

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

53rd Annual Opal, Gem &amp; Jewelry Show

Rough &amp; cut opals and gemstones, jewelry, supplies. Hugh drawing. Free demonstrations.

Contact: (714) 501-9959, info@opalsociety.org

Website: <http://opalsociety.org>**October 28-29, 2023 – Sacramento, CA**

Sacramento Mineral Society

Scottish Rite Masonic Center, 6151 H St., Sacramento, CA 95819

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

The Sacramento Gem, Mineral, and Jewelry Show is the annual fundraiser for the Sacramento Mineral Society and features a wide variety of vendors, exhibits.

Contact: (916) 662-5819, webadmin@sacramentomineralsociety.org

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

**November 3, 4 & 5, 2023 – Eureka, CA**

Humboldt Gem & Mineral Society

Humboldt Gem & Mineral Society 68th Annual Show

3750 Harris St., Eureka, CA 95503

Hours: Friday 9 AM – 6 PM, Saturday 10 AM – 6 PM, Sunday 10 AM – 5 PM

Live Demonstrations, Games for the kids, Geode Cutting, Vendors with Gemstones, Rocks, Lapidary Tools & Equipment, Fossils and Jewelry

**November 4, 2023 – Lake Elsinore, CA**

Lake Elsinore Gem & Mineral Society

32097 Corydon Rd., Lake Elsinore, CA 92530

Hours: 10 AM – 4 PM

Rock and Craft Show

Contact: (909) 208-6956, berylman50@aol.com

**November 4-5, 2023 – Concord, CA**

Contra Costa Mineral & Gem Society

Centre Concord, 5298 Clayton Road, Concord, CA 94521

New vendors, additional family activities, along with our entry door prizes, free rock give away to kids, rock painting and many other things to do!

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

Contact: mike@diablorocks.com

Website: [Contra Costa Mineral and Gem Society | Facebook](#)

**November 4-5, 2023, Ridgecrest. CA**

Indian Wells Gem & Mineral Society

Desert Empire Fairgrounds, 520 S. Richmond Rd., Ridgecrest, CA 93555

Indian Wells Gem & Mineral 67th Gem & Mineral Show. Located in Ridgecrest, CA. Vendors selling gems, minerals, rocks, jewelry and other rock related items for sale. Field trip on Sunday, November 5th at 9:30 AM (depending on road conditions). Free Admission and Free Parking.

Vendor spaces available: Contact John De Rosa (760) 375-7905

Contact: (760) 375-7905, iwgmjfrocks@gmail.com

**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>



# 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.

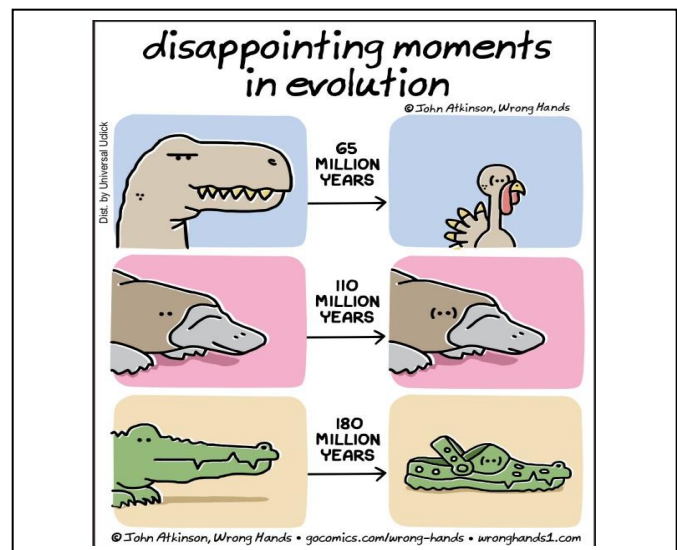
**James May, Editor**  
Email [geojim9@hotmail.com](mailto:geojim9@hotmail.com)

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 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, October 19<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.

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

Facebook: Kern County Mineral Society

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### KCMS Officers 2023

**President**

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

**Vice President**

Connie Fleishauer

**Secretary**

Anita Andersen

**Treasurer**

SB

**Pseudomorph Editor**

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

**Federation Director**

Bernie Bentsen

**Field Scout**

Bernie Bentsen

### Committee Chairs 2023

**Kitchen**

Sue Kimbriel

**Scholarship**

David Schaad

**Door Hostess**

Kay Hevle

**Facebook Editor**

Anita Andersen

**Curator**

Steve Fleishauer

 **FUN, GAMES, & FIELD EXCURSIONS** 

**OCTOBER'S MYSTERY SLAB**

Here is this month's mystery slab. Please submit your answer to [kerncountymineralsociety@gmail.com](mailto:kerncountymineralsociety@gmail.com) and [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 mystery slab as bean mahogany obsidian. Awesome work Anita.



*Mystery Slab Hint:* A fossiliferous rock comprised of Devonian-aged hexagonal-shaped cnidarians. The rock can be found scattered along the beaches on northwestern edge of the lower peninsula of Michigan. This is a prized specimen that can be tumbled, polished, and made into unique jewelry.

**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 following are pictures of members working at the "store" at the 2023 Kern County Fair. Thank you to everyone who was able to work at this year's fair. We could not have done it without you.







