

# “CUTTING REMARKS”

The Official Publication of the Old Pueblo Lapidary Club  
520-323-9154

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President Dave Richardson 520-245-2172  
 Vice President Chuck Lundstrom 520-241-9262  
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 2026 Ken Briggs 520-780-0640

Advisor - Jack McCabe 520-297- 3029 (Past President)  
 Membership Chairperson - Jan Keisler 520-333-3398

**April 11 at 9:00am for the next monthly meeting. There is an optional social hour that begins at 8:00am followed by the monthly business meeting. Visitors are always welcome.**



Articles or news to be included in the *Cutting Remarks* should be emailed to your Editor, Wayne Klement (wayneklem@aol.com) or call him at 520-954-6298. Submission deadline is the 25<sup>th</sup> of each month. Thanks!

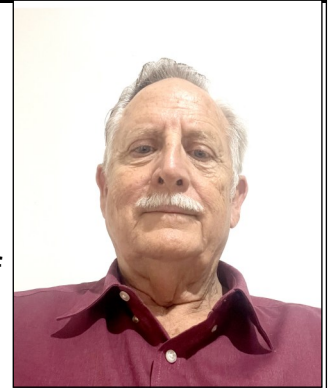
Club mailing address: Old Pueblo Lapidary Club, 3118 N Dale, Tucson, AZ 85712

See us online at: [www.lapidaryclub.org](http://www.lapidaryclub.org)

Email address: [oplc3118@yahoo.com](mailto:oplc3118@yahoo.com)

## THE PREZ SEZ ..... by Dave Richardson, President

The month of March had two field trips, one overnight, and the spring tail gate sale along with the normal lab activities. We are continually trying to get more people involved. This month we will have a special activity on identifying rocks by Moe Garrett and possibly some more special events. Stay tuned. April will have the Pima County Fair April 16 - 26. We will have a display booth in the Pueblo building hosting demonstrations and displaying the types of items that can be created.



Two of the labs are reducing costs in the hope this encourages more club usage however I must remind you of the membership we are a 501C3 club. As such no member is allowed to use club facilities for business purposes. Each lab owner has been instructed to monitor his lab for inappropriate use and stop the activity. Failure to stop using the facilities for business will be cause for loss of membership and lab use. That being said, using the club for hobby purposes allows for occasional sales but **not** for business. Let's keep our 501C3 status secure. If you have any questions about the lab owner, any board member or myself can be asked. We want the club members to utilize the facilities and enjoy their hobby.

Dave Richardson  
Ph. 520-245-2172



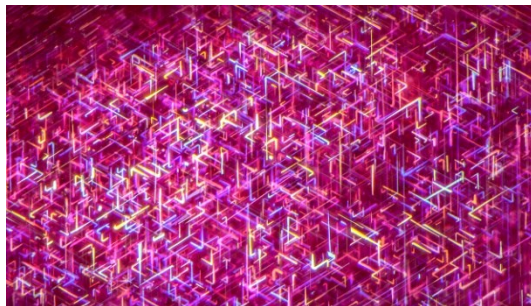
The Cab Lab fee has been reduced to \$2 per hour! Come in, do some work, and enjoy the company of fellow members!

Ray Darragh, the lead saw room monitor has announced some good news regarding price changes. Per approval at the recent Board meeting, the saw room is making the following changes to generate more club activity: All setup and dopping fees will be eliminated and cutting fees will be reduced from 50 to 40 cents per square inch on the 24-inch saws and from 30 to 20 cents per square inch on the 16 and 20-inch saws.

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# APRIL 11, 2025, OPLC SPEAKER CLAIRE SCRAGG

Inside the Stone: Exploring the Fascinating world of Gemstone Inclusions



Claire Scragg, photo courtesy Claire Scragg; Helen and Claire, TGMS Show, courtesy HSH, Inclusions, Photo GIA

We are in for a special treat for our April 11, 2026, OPLC monthly meeting, with returning speaker **Claire Scragg** FGA DGA GG (GIA), presenting **Inside the Stone: Exploring the Fascinating World of Gemstone Inclusions**. Gemstone inclusions, often referred to as nature's fingerprint, are captivating and unique features found within many gemstones. In this talk, we will explore a selection of the different types of inclusions, including the role inclusions play in gem identification, with a particular focus on how they may help distinguish natural gemstones from synthetic gemstones. Additionally, the presentation will cover how inclusions can enhance the beauty of certain gems, transforming them into one-of-a-kind treasures. So, join us to uncover the hidden world inside gemstones.

Claire Scragg comes with an incredible depth of knowledge. She began her journey with gems and jewelry in the 1990s working in a family-owned retail jewelers store in Great Britain. Over that time, her fascination and love of gemstones grew into a passion which brought her to full-time study with the Gemological Association of Great Britain (Gem-A), whose headquarters are in London's jewelry district of Hatton Garden. Claire joined Gem-A as a full-time instructor in 2004 in London and participated at conferences and seminars in London and at overseas. She has written articles for gem and jewelry trade publications in the UK and USA. Claire moved to the USA in 2017 working with Gem-A and JTV to establish the first 'in-person' gemological teaching center for Gem-A's gemological programs here in the USA.

Claire's passion and enthusiasm for gemstones, minerals, and gemology education have also taken her on gemological adventures around the world. She has travelled to the gemstone mines of Europe, USA, East Africa, Brazil, Madagascar, and Sri-Lanka, but her home and happy place is now here in Tucson working as a freelance gemologist and volunteering as a Docent at the UofA Alfie Norville Gem and Mineral museum.

Please make sure you don't miss this great speaker, Helen Serras-Herman, OPLC Program Chair.

## OPLC Speakers Forecast 2026

I would like to thank all of our speakers who give us some terrific and diverse presentations that our members have truly enjoyed. They come near and far and we are definitely enriched by their shared knowledge and expertise. And huge thanks to all of our members who come and are great audiences for our speakers.

Here is the latest list for our upcoming speakers:

April 11, 2026, Claire Scragg, FGA gemologist, **Inside the Stone: Exploring the fascinating world of gemstone inclusions**

May 9, 2026, Jim Turner, historian, **Arizona's Famous Prospectors**

June 13, 2026.....

July 11, Dr. Jeffrey Martz, paleontologist, talk on fossils

August 8, 2026.....

September 12, 2026, Mo Garrett, **Cataloging Your Collection**

October 10, 2026, Bill Gardner, **The Purple Passion Mine & Fluorescent lights**

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Life's Little Instruction Book Continued....by H. Jackson Brown, Jr.....

- Treat everyone you meet like you want to be treated
- Plant a tree on your birthday
- Make new friends but cherish the old one.
- Keep secrets.
- Never refuse homemade brownies.
- Write "thank you" notes promptly.
- Don't waste time learning the "tricks of the trade." Instead learn the trade.

## **MINUTES OF OPLC MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

March 14, 2026, at 9:00 am at OPLC

William Penrose, Secretary, wrp0143@comcast.net

The presentation was given by Robert Weldon, "Gem Virtuosos: The Drehers and Their Extraordinary Carvings," tracing the history and accomplishments of a family going back to the 18<sup>th</sup> Century that made carvings in agates from Germany and Brazil.

### **Announcements –**

Thank you to Wayne Klement for bringing the donuts today.

The TGMS Show went well. The County Fair is coming up soon and volunteers are needed for our booth.

New members and visitors were introduced.

The Spring Tailgate Sale will be held March 21 from 8 am to noon.

**Treasurer Report** – reimbursements for parking at the TGMS show are available. All finances are in good order.

**Membership Report** – Janet Keisler – So far, 350 members have joined or renewed, with more received today.

**Library** – most borrowed books have been returned.

**Security** – We are studying an improved keycard locking system for buildings and labs. Also we may be establishing a Zelle account for payment of dues and eventually other expenses.

**Website** – is now up-to-date.

**Labs** – the cab lab rate is reduced from \$4/hr to \$2.

**Field Trips** – 27 members attended the Rawley Mine field trip, collecting chrysocolla and wulfenite

– Mo Garrett is leading a field trip to the Quartzsite-Yuma area on March 27 to 29, jointly with the Yuma club. Bring camp chairs and drive high clearance vehicles.

Mo Garrett contact is 928-446-9947.

The door prize was won by Amparo Gross.

Meeting adjourned at 10:45.

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## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



Svellen Black  
Russell Bruce  
Cole Collums

Hubert Garcia  
Norman Hoang  
Collin Kennon

Carolyn Knoblock  
Johan Morris

## DONATIONS

Thanks to those that have made donations in the past to help keep this Club running! We welcome donations so if you have lapidary related items, please call Chuck Lundstrom, 520-241-9262 or Wayne Klement, 520-954-6298 and leave a message to make arrangements to have the donation picked up if you need help, or to drop off at the Club.

## MINUTES OF OPLC BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, March 31, 2026 5:00 pm,  
W Penrose, [wrp0143@comcast.net](mailto:wrp0143@comcast.net)

Present: Dave Richardson presiding, Chuck Lundstrom, Bruce Noble, Bill Penrose, Wayne Klement, Janet Keisler, Twink Monrad, Ken Briggs, Wendy Huber, Giac D'Aquisto, Ray Darragh, David Schulte, Mo Garrett. A quorum was present.

**Treasurer Report** – Bruce Noble – Club tax return is ready. Our income last year was over \$50K, which puts us in a different tax category. Bruce recommended reducing our gross income to less than \$50K. Suggestions included reducing class fees and sawroom charges.

**Membership** – Jan Keisler – currently 366 members in good standing.

### **Lab Reports** –

Cabbing lab – Ken Briggs – The lab has been running at \$2 per hour since the reduction in fee was announced. Lab use has increased.

Silver lab – Giac d'Acquisto – OK. The chainmaking class was successful.

Saw room – Ray Darragh – Ray suggested reducing sawroom charges since lab throughput has fallen off. MOTION: Eliminate dopping and setup fees and reduce curring fees to 40 cents and 20 cents per square inch for the 24” and 16” saws, respectively. PASSED

Casting – Chuck Lundstrom – OK – A new 5-week class begins Thursday evening.

Faceting – Dave Richardson – OK – He is starting a separate invitation-only lab as an experiment.

**County Fair** – The duty schedule is complete. Dave is requesting items for display. The certificate of insurance has been obtained. Members manning the table will enter via the Green entrance.

**Key Replacement** – Postponed. No report.

**Zelle for Membership Fees** – Postponed. No report.

**Discussion of Monitor Responsibilities** – Chuck Lundstrom

Is the monitor privilege being abused? And are some members using the labs for business purposes (risking out nonprofit tax status)?

*Board Meeting Minutes Cont'd on top of next page.....*

.....Board Meeting Minutes Cont'd.....

CONFIDENTIAL DISCUSSION, followed by MOTION: Allow Lab owners to determine when a monitor privilege is being abused, or a lab is being used for business purposes. Disputes will be resolved by the Board. PASSED

**Field Trips** – Mo Garrett – Yuma/Quartzsite Trip – Although there were cancellations because of the unseasonable heat, the members that did attend had a very productive weekend. There were 7 participants from Tucson and 5 from the Yuma club. Times were adjusted so collecting ended before noon.

Mo is planning another field trip for autumn to the same locations.

Rod Trevino is planning a trip to the Redington Hills under the Rincon Mts for the end of April.

The Alfie Norville Museum in Tucson is planning a behind-the-scenes weekend on April 4.

Mo wants to buy a backpack first aid kit for use on field trips, and whistles in case of lost members. She will research what is available and report later.

### New Business

Mo Garrett wants to hold a mineral identification class at the club on May 16, 10 am to 2 pm. A signup sheet will be available at the Membership Meeting.

**Adjourned 6:15 pm.**

## OPLC MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

### MEMBERSHIP RATES FOR NEW MEMBERS

	Jan - Jun	Jul - Dec
Single	\$35.00	\$20.00
Couple	\$50.00	\$35.00
Juniors	\$15.00	\$10.00

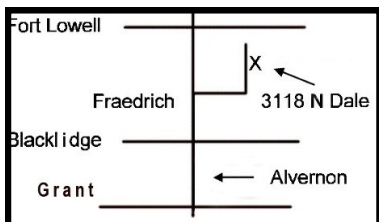
### MEMBERS RENEWING

\$30.00
\$45.00
\$10.00

Note: Renewal fees will apply for members returning to rejoin regardless of the time of year.

Make check out to OPLC and mail to:

Old Pueblo Lapidary Club  
Attn: Membership Chairperson  
3118 N. Dale Avenue  
Tucson, AZ 85712



The Business Meetings are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month except for December. A pre-meeting social hour is at 8:00 a.m., followed by an educational program, and ends with the monthly meeting. Visitors are most welcome.

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## COMMITTEES

### ADVERTISING

Twink Monrad (520) 297-9454

### BUILDINGS, GROUNDS & EQUIPMENT

Wayne Klement (520) 954-6298

Mike Tucker (520) 400-9656

### PROGRAMS

Helen Serras-Herman (520) 761-9907

### CLASSES

See class signup sheets outside of each lab

### FIELD TRIPS (COMMITTEE)

Donovan Wagner (520) 869-2050

### HISTORIAN

Twink Monrad (520) 297-9454

### JUNIOR EDUCATION

Teresa McCabe (520) 490-7850

### RAFFLE/DOORPRIZE

Kim Filips (520) 743-8070

### KITCHEN

General Membership

### LIBRARIAN

Bill Cascio (520) 638-8144

### MEMBERSHIP

Janet Keisler (520) 333-3398

### BUSINESS MEETING REFRESHMENTS

Twink Monrad (520) 297-9454

Wayne Klement (520) 954-6298

### SILENT AUCTION

Chuck Lundstrom (520) 241-9262

### NEWSLETTER

Wayne Klement (520) 954-6298

### WEBSITE

Brian Peterson (520) 449-2660

**This is the lab schedule which is current as of 04-01-26. Please CALL or TEXT (see below) the Monitor that is running the lab to make sure that they have space for you.**

**Cabbing**

<b>Monday</b>	8am-12pm Mike Wendler 817-751-0622	Text
	11am-3pm 1st & 2nd Mondays Dan Lilly (801) 995-9692	Text
	2pm-5:30pm Dennis Stock (602) 421-2707	Text
	6pm-9pm Donovan Wagner (520) 869-2050	Text
<b>Tuesday</b>	9am-12pm 1st and 3rd Tuesday Dan Lilly (801) 995-9692	Text
	6pm-9pm Brian Peterson (520) 449-2660	Text
<b>Wednesday</b>	5pm-8pm Keith Haubert (520) 784-8283	Text
<b>Thursday</b>	8am-11am Ken Briggs (520) 780-0640	Text
	1pm-4pm Wendy Huber (206) 669-6002	Text
<b>Friday</b>	10am-1pm David Weaver (520) 548-4414	Text
	1pm-4pm Brianne McNally (520) 589-4791	Text
<b>Saturday</b>	2pm-5pm Wendy Huber (206) 669-6002	Text
<b>Sundays</b>	8am-11am Betty Mehlhoff (253) 208-7460	Text
	12pm-2PM Paul Fickle (520) 883-6061	Call

**Silversmithing**

<b>Monday</b>	10am-1pm Jane Morris (727) 743-0883
<b>Tuesday</b>	9am-12pm Bill Cascio (520) 343-9927
<b>Wednesday</b>	10am-2pm Sloane Padilla (520) 808-8699 (Text Only)
	5:30pm-8:30pm Stephanie Mendibles (520) 460-2101
<b>Thursday</b>	10am-4pm Sloane Padilla (520) 808-8699 (Text Only)
<b>Friday</b>	10am-2pm Giac D'Acquisto (520) 444-4143
<b>Saturday</b>	9am-12pm David Schulte (520) 954-8554
<b>Sunday</b>	10am-2pm Giac D'Acquisto (520) 444-4143

**Faceting**

<b>Monday</b>	9am-12pm Dave Richardson (520) 245-2172 Class & Open Lab
<b>Wednesday</b>	5:30pm-8:30pm David Schulte (520) 954-8554 Open Lab
<b>Thursday</b>	4pm-7pm Chuck Lundstrom (520) 241-9262 Class
<b>Sunday</b>	12:30pm-3:30pm Dave Richardson (520) 245-2172 Class & Open Lab

**Casting**

**Upcoming winter/Spring Casting classes sign up outside the Casting Department clip board outside the lab door. Chuck will teach Lost Wax Casting classes every other month starting in January in addition Both Steve and Mark will teach 3D casting in February & April.**

<b>Monday</b>	Noon-3pm 1st Monday of the Month Investing Liz Williams (818) 300-5262
	Noon-3pm 2nd Monday of the month Burn Out Liz Williams (818) 300-5262
<b>Tuesday</b>	9am-12pm Steve Weeks, (978) 807-0075
<b>Wednesday</b>	4pm-7pm Chuck Lundstrom (520) 241-9262
<b>Thursday</b>	9am-12pm Mark Dragoslovich (520) 906-4657
<b>Friday</b>	9am-12pm 3rd and 4th Friday of the month Trevor Mock (520) 461-5902
	1pm-4pm 1st, 2nd & 3rd Fridays Travis Austin (540) 420-3866
<b>Saturday</b>	10am-1pm Steve Weeks, (978) 807-0075
<b>Sunday</b>	12pm-3pm Shiwen Meyers (520) 609-5130

**Saw Room**

<b>Monday</b>	7am-11am Ray Darragh (480) 652-0648
<b>Wednesday</b>	7am-11am Ray Darragh (480) 652-0648
<b>Sunday</b>	8am-11am Betty Mehlhoff (253) 208-7460

Old Pueblo Lapidary Club,  
Cutting Remarks - April 2026  
3118 N. Dale, Tucson, AZ 85712  
(520) 323-9154

Mailing Address