

# “CUTTING REMARKS”

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

### Officers

- President Dave Richardson 520-245-2172
- Vice President Chuck Lundstrom 520-241-9262
- Secretary Bill Penrose 520-780-1143
- Treasurer Bruce Noble 520-991-1383

### Board of Directors

- 2025 - 2026 Mark Marikos 520-360-4264
- 2025 - 2026 Mark Dragoslovich 520-906-4657
- 2026 - 2027 Wendy Huber 206-669-6002
- 2026 - 2027 Ray Darragh 480-652-0648
- 2026 Ken Briggs 520-780-0640

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

**March 14, 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

It's been a very busy February and March is going to have more activities. The Faceters Guild and HobNob turned out great! Then we had the TGMS show. Our display was one of the best we have had. I hope you were able to see it. This month we have two field trips and the tail gate sale. Very busy month with every weekend having activities on top of the lab facilities we offer. April has the Pima County Fair from the 16th through the 26th. The club needs volunteers of our activities. I hope you will consider getting involved by joining in the activities and using the lab facilities. Our club strength is in our members. I look forward to seeing you at some of the club activities.



As a reminder, if you have key access to club facilities and are the last to leave the Club, please ensure the door/gate is padlocked and secure before leaving.

Check out the rest of the newsletter to see more details on the field trips and the tail gate sale.

**MARCH 21 TAILGATE SALE**

**Old Pueblo Lapidary Club—3118 North Dale**

**THIRD SATURDAY OF MARCH from 8am to 12pm**

**OPLC members only as sellers!!**

**Items for sale MUST be related to the lapidary  
or metalsmithing arts, or OPLC activities!**

**Parking for vendors in North Lot -- FROM 7:30 AM TO 8:00 AM only.**

**The North parking lot WILL be open to monitors working that day.**

**The South parking lot will be open to members and shoppers.**

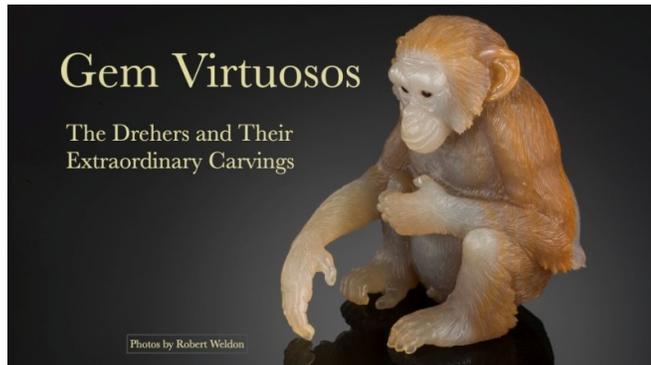
**Participants need to bring their own tables.**

**A suggested donation of \$10 per vendor is requested.**

**If any questions, call Dave Richardson 520-245-2172.**

March 14, 2026, OPLC speaker – Robert Weldon

## Gem Virtuosos: The Dreherers and their Extraordinary Carvings



Photos courtesy © Robert Weldon

We are in for a special treat for our March 14, 2026 OPLC monthly meeting with a new speaker and OPLC member Robert Weldon, world-renown photographer and journalist, who will present **The Dreherers and their Extraordinary Carvings**.

Robert will share the Dreher family's four-generation legacy that mirrors the history of Idar-Oberstein, Germany. He will explore their recent gem-carving mastery and some of their family's renowned works through his stunning photography, complemented by poignant interviews with the family.

Robert Weldon received a BS in Business from the University of Arkansas, and is GIA Graduate Gemologist. Robert started his career as **Senior Editor on colored gemstones for JCK Magazine** (1991-1998), for which he traveled around the world, covering many gem materials, miners, and the business of gemstones. He then worked as **Senior Writer for Professional Jeweler magazine** (2000-2006), for which he traveled to some major gem producing countries, including Colombia, Brazil, Bolivia, Russia, China, and Burma (Myanmar) to report about gems and the people who mine them. His illustrated articles featured his own brand of gemological photojournalism.

Robert served as **Director of GIA's Richard T. Liddicoat Gemological Library** at the GIA Headquarters in Carlsbad, California, from August 2017 until he retired in March 2024. During all those years Robert did extensive international travel, reporting, writing, photographing, and giving seminars and lectures. As a writer and photographer for **Gems & Gemology**, GIA's scholarly publication, Robert sees and handles superb gemological treasures from around the world. Using his gift for photography and storytelling, he often writes feature, peer-reviewed articles for the journal. His images have enriched numerous articles in G&G and other publications

Cont'd on top of next page.....

.....Speaker of the Month Cont'd from prior page.

and books with over forty of his photos gracing the journal's cover.

Robert has been involved in the production of several books, including the *Splendour & Science of Pearls*, which he co-authored and edited. *A Rough Guide for Artisanal Miners* is an educational book which he has delivered and lectured on to artisanal miners in Tanzania, Kenya, Zambia, and other East African countries, as a part of GIA's Artisanal mining program, funded through its Endowment.

In 2020 Robert Weldon was awarded the *Antonio Bonanno Award for Excellence in Gemology*. Since his retirement, he and his wife Orasa, have moved to Tucson, Arizona, but he remains active and vital to the gem and jewelry industry. He is currently working on illustrating and writing a book about the *Somewhere In The Rainbow Collection*.

This is a do-not-miss meeting,

Looking forward to seeing you all, 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:

March 14, 2026, Robert Weldon, world-renowned photographer and journalist,

**Gem Virtuosos: The Drehers and their Extraordinary Carvings**

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.....

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

Minutes of OPLC Membership Meeting  
February 14, 2026, at 9:00 am at OPLC  
William Penrose, Secretary, wrp0143@comcast.net

The presentation was given by Bernie Emery, "Introduction to Gemstone Grading" .

**Announcements –**

The Board of Directors approved the removal of Johnathan D. McCabe, former President, from the Pima Federal Credit Union account and to add David Richardson, the newly elected President, to the Pima Federal Credit Union account.

Thank you to Wayne Klement for bringing the donuts today.

New members and visitors were introduced.

**Treasurer Report –** no report.

**Membership Report –** Janet Keisler – So far, 278 members have renewed plus many more received today.

**Library –** no report.

**Field Trips –** Mo Garrett – Field Trip Committee consists of Mo Garrett, Mark Dragoslovich, and Rod Trevino:

Notification of planned field trips will occur on a monthly schedule.

Rowley Mine trip will be the first Saturday of March. The mine is west of Gila Bend on I-8, exit 102. There is a \$30 fee. One day. Lead: Mark D. 520-906-4657.

Yuma/Quartzsite will be end of March and last 2 days with an optional Sunday trip into California. Sign up at the March membership meeting. Lead: Mo Garrett.

**Reports –**

The surplus saw was auctioned for \$810.

Faceters' Guild and Hob Nob – were successful, earning \$3,000.

The TGMS Show is underway. Our main floor display and booth arrangement were coordinated by Wendy Huber with the help of several other members.

We will be exhibiting at the Pima County Fair in April, which is 11 days. Members can sign up in the kitchen. Those who sign up for three or more days will also get a pass to the whole fair.

Spring Tailgate sale – will be held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of March. Sellers are asked for a \$10 donation.

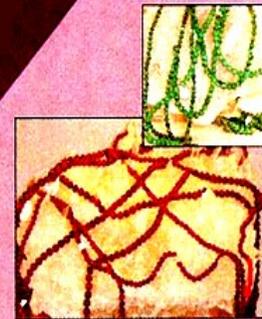
Classes – were reviewed. General attendance in labs is increasing.

The door prize was won by Russ Buhrow.

The raffle earned \$181.

# DAH ROCK SHOP

- Crystals
- Fossils
- Minerals
- Meteorites
- Faceted Stones
- Cabochons
- Turquoise
- Tumbled Stones
- Eggs & Spheres



**YOUR BEAD STOP**

All Beads Picked  
by Resident Graduate  
Gemologist

Huge Selection of  
Sterling Silver Findings

3401 N. Dodge, 3 blocks N. of Ft. Lowell (520) 323-0781

STERLING SILVER JEWELRY  
BOOKS - SLABS - ROUGH  
STONES - BEADING SUPPLIES

**HOURS:**  
**WED - FRI 10:30 - 4:30**  
**SATURDAY 10:30 - 4:00**  
**CLOSED SUNDAY, MONDAY &  
TUESDAY**

OPLC MEMBERS RECEIVE 10%  
OFF ON ALL MERCHANDISE  
EXCEPT SPECIALS.  
\$10 MINIMUM PURCHASE

STERLING SILVER WIRES AND  
SHEET RECEIVE THE NEXT  
PRICE BREAK

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



Mark Backes  
Mark Barnard  
Kevin Blaker  
David Eicher  
Connie Flynn  
Robb Keely  
Josie Keller

Bryan Kus  
Mason Kus  
Kathryn Lake  
Jovanna Treto  
Mendoza  
Debbie Meraram  
Karen Moschinger

Michelle Robeson  
Dylan Simpson  
Patrick Twomey  
Tom Walsh  
Gary Wright  
Dennis Wylder

## DONATIONS

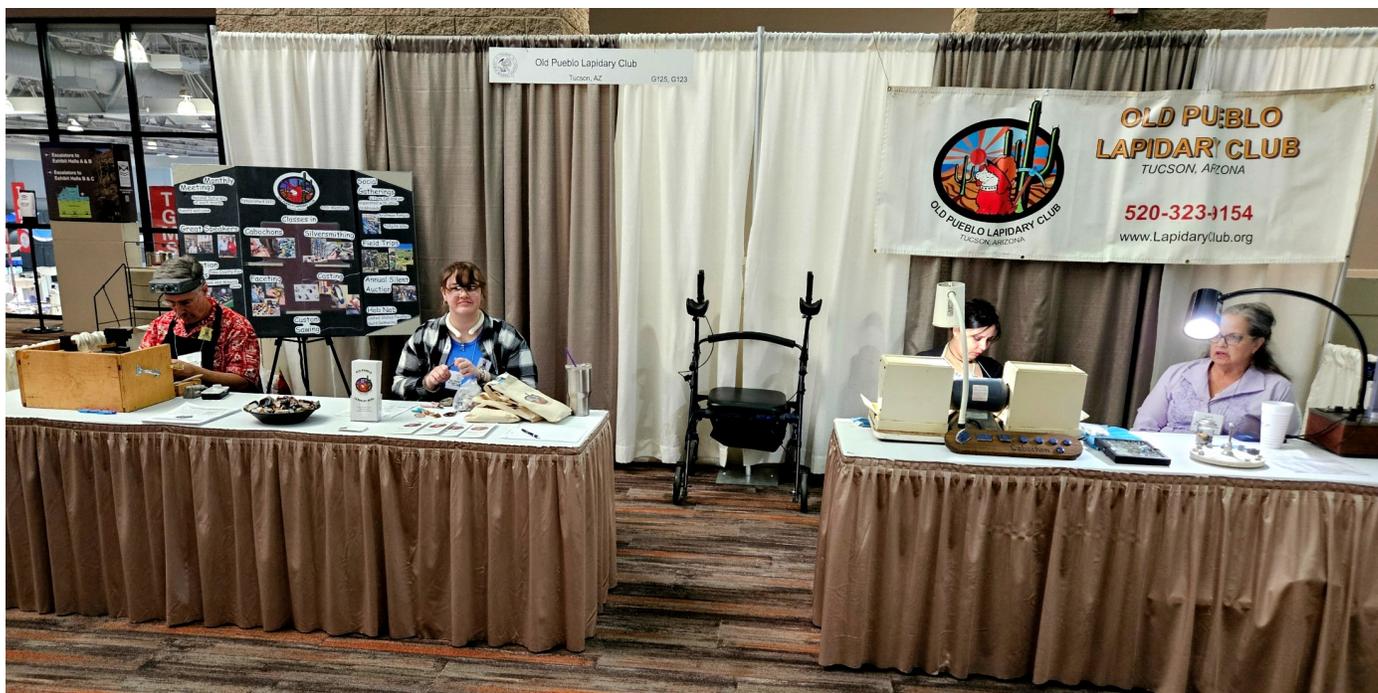
Thanks to those that have made donations in the past to help keep this Club running! We welcome donations so if you have lapidary related items, please call Chuck Lundstrom, 520-241-9262 or Wayne Klement, 520-954-6298 and leave a message to make arrangements to have the donation picked up if you need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

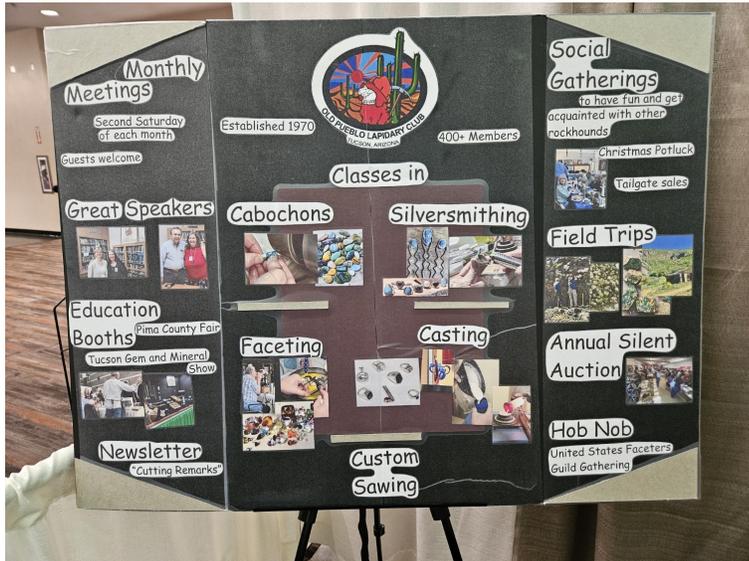
# OPLC HAVING FUN AT THE TUCSON CONVENTION CENTER GEM SHOW

The OPLC display case on the main floor



The Information booth on the mezzanine level - nice job on the poster Wendy





Close-up of Wendy's poster



It was fun watching how inquisitive some of these young minds can be. And the polished stones were really kid magnets.

Photos by Wendy





This was one of the presentations given at the Club by the Hob Nob event during the gem show. As you can see, attendance was exceptional this year.

### OPLC MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

An application form can be downloaded from the Club website at: [www.lapidaryclub.org](http://www.lapidaryclub.org)

#### MEMBERSHIP RATES FOR NEW MEMBERS

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

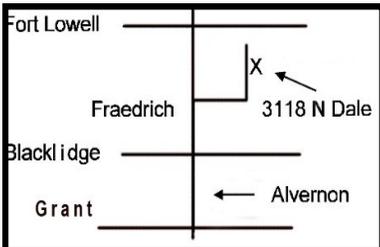
#### MEMBERS RENEWING

\$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.

Our email address is: [oplc3118@gmail.com](mailto:oplc3118@gmail.com)

### Rate Schedule for Advertisements - - - Ad Sizes & Prices

1/8 of a page -  
 2" H by 3 1/2" W  
 \$36.00 per year  
 \$18.00 per half year  
 \$3.00 per month

1/4 of a vertical page -  
 4 1/2" H by 3 1/2" W  
 \$48.00 per year  
 \$24.00 per half year  
 \$4.00 per month

1/4 of horizontal page -  
 2" H by 7 1/4" W  
 \$48.00 per year  
 \$24.00 per half year  
 \$4.00 per month

1/2 page - 4 1/2" H by 7 1/4" W  
 \$96.00 per year  
 \$8.00 per month

Full page - 9 1/2" H by 7 1/4" W  
 \$168.00 per year  
 \$14.00 per month

# BEADHOLIDAY

Tucson's beading destination

KUMIHIMO  
SWAROVSKI CRYSTAL  
CZECH GLASS  
BETSY BEADER  
SEMI-PRECIOUS  
STONES  
SLEEPING BEAUTY  
TURQUOISE  
CLASPS  
BEADS  
WIRE  
AND MORE



520.696.0032

355 E FORT LOWELL RD  
TUCSON, AZ 85705



SKIP THE TRIP  
SHOP WITH US ONLINE AT  
[WWW.BEADHOLIDAY.COM](http://WWW.BEADHOLIDAY.COM)



ALL THE FINDINGS YOU NEED

OPEN 11AM - 4:30PM DAILY

## **MONEY SAVING DISCOUNTS**

- **Allen's Treasure House** -10% off of finished jewelry (except custom made), decorator items, and novelties (excludes unformed minerals and specimen sets). 5% off of all other merchandise not having its own discount schedule, including unformed minerals and specimen sets. No discounts on services except per applicable schedule if any. See ad below.
- **DAH Rock Shop** - 10% on most items, \$10 minimum purchase.  
520-323-0781 **3401 Dodge Blvd, Tucson. See ad.**
- **Kent's Tools** - 10% discount except for net priced merchandise.  
520-461-1350 - **2745 N 1st Avenue, Tucson 85719. See ad.**
- **Raining Rocks** - 6756 S Nogales Hwy, Tucson, AZ 85756. OPLC members 10% discount. Call for appointment.

### *Allen's Treasure House*

Lapidary supplies, minerals, decorative objects, watch batteries, maps, prospecting tools, and more.



[www.allens-treasure-house.com](http://www.allens-treasure-house.com)

4313 E Grant Road (near Columbus); Tucson AZ 85712;

(520) 326-5550; [agate@allens-treasure-house.com](mailto:agate@allens-treasure-house.com)

Usually open: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday 9:45AM—5:30PM

Saturday 9:45AM—5:00PM      Closed major holidays

# FACE TING FASCINATION?

Supporting Tucson's fast growing community of faceting enthusiasts, Faceters Paradise is your supply destination featuring the full line of Ultra Tec Faceting Machines.

TUCSON'S  
ULTRA TEC  
SUPPLIES DEALER

Ultra Tec  
↓

VISIT US ONLINE  
[WWW.FACETERSPARADISE.COM](http://WWW.FACETERSPARADISE.COM)

# Faceters Paradise

3955 E FORT LOWELL RD.  
TUCSON, AZ 85705

520.907.5527

OPEN 11AM - 4PM DAILY



# Kent's Tools

Jewelry  
Lapidary Tools  
and Supplies  
Acacia Jewelry  
Tuesday - Saturday  
9am - 5pm

**OPLC Members**  
**10% Discount**  
*on most items!*

[www.kentstools.com](http://www.kentstools.com)

*Masks Required - provided free inside*

@kentstools78

**520.461.1350 2745 N. 1st Ave. Tucson, AZ 85719**

## 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

## MINUTES OF OPLC BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, March 3, 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, Mark Marikos, Mark Dragoslovich, Janet Keisler, Ken Briggs, Wendy Huber, Giac D'Aquisto, Brian Peterson. A quorum was present.

**Treasurer Report** – Bruce Noble – The club is in a strong cash position. Specific numbers cannot be published here but are available to members on request.

**Membership** – Jan Keisler – currently 336 plus 3 unprocessed renewals.

### Lab Reports –

Cabbing lab – Ken Briggs – Machines are in good condition. The drain is being repaired. Ken suggested that the lab charge be reduced from \$4/hr to \$2. His protocol for changing wheels as needed will likely reduce the cost of replacing new wheels. MOTION: The cost of the cab lab be reduced to \$2/hr, to be instituted after announcing the change at the next general meeting. PASSED.

Silver lab – Giac d'Acquisto – OK.

Saw room – Ray Darragh – Business is slow but steady.

Casting – Chuck Lundstrom – The melting furnace burned up and has been replaced, costing \$350.

Faceting – Dave Richardson – A new Sunday morning class is starting, by invitation only.

**Silent Auction** – A large donation of silver and gold was sold to a refiner for \$2,250.

**Website** – Brian Peterson indicated that the newsletters have been caught up on the site. The new computer will be custom built for website purposes, rather than purchasing one.

**Facilities** – The mystery water leak has solved itself without the cause being determined.

**Field Trips** – Mo Garrett was not present. Mark Dragoslovich reported on preparations for the Rowley Mine trip for the coming weekend. Members are meeting at the gate at 10 am. The turnoff is at Painted Rock Rd, about 5 miles west of Gila Bend, then 12.5 miles to the gate and mailbox.

**TGMS Show** – Wendy Huber – The show went well, although there was not as much foreign representation as usual. The Faceter's Guild raffled off an entire machine. The Hob Nob was the biggest so far.

**County Fair** – We will be participating in this year's County Fair. Participation lists are posted in the clubhouse. Members are encouraged to sign up for a shift.

**Tailgate Sale** – On the third Saturday of March (21<sup>st</sup>) from 8 am to noon. Sellers \$10 donation.

**Security** – A key has been lost, which brought up the issue of key security. Dave R suggested a key-card system, which will allow us to immediately account for lost keys and make facilities accessible as needed. Mark Marikos will investigate the possibilities for next Board meeting.

**Payment** – The club will open a Zelle account, which will permit members to pay renewals. Sales of shop cards and class fees will not yet be payable by Zelle until we have more experience with it.

**Adjourned 6:00 pm.**

**This is the lab schedule which is current as of 03-05-26. 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
	3:30pm-6:00pm Margarette Harris (520) 561-2315	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>	9am-12pm 3rd and 4th Monday of the month Trevor Mock (520) 461-5902
	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>	1pm-4pm 1st, 2nd & 3rd Fridays Travis Austin (540) 420-3866
<b>Sunday</b>	10am-12:pm Steve Weeks, (978) 807-0075
	1pm-4pm 3rd Sundays Travis Austin (540) 420-3866

**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 - March 2026  
3118 N. Dale, Tucson, AZ 85712  
(520) 323-9154

Mailing Address