

“CUTTING REMARKS”

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

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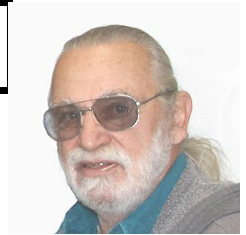
Wayne Klement 954-6298

Please join us **April 9th** at **9:00am** for the monthly meeting. There is an optional social hour that begins at 8:00am followed by an educational program at 9:00am, followed by the monthly meeting. Visitors are always welcome.



Articles or news to be included in the *Cutting Remarks* should be emailed to your Editor, Mike DeMeritt (silverlininggemstones@gmail.com), or feel free to call him at 520-203-8430. Submission deadline is the 20th of each month. Thanks!

THE PREZ SEZ by John Poole



At our March meeting we had over 100 members sign in! The Deming Show didn't slow us down, though some of our members went and had a great time and even brought back some great finds. Those who came to the meeting enjoyed a great presentation by Jim Turner, entertaining and informative with some humor, a wonderful combination. Thanks, Jim!

After a short business meeting we had our raffle which was profitable for OPLC and a joy to the winners.

Our Tailgate sale was short on vendors, but that made for pretty good sales for them.

Don't forget the County Fair starts April 14th through the 24th. Contact myself at jayne-poole@sbcglobal.net or Giac D'Acquisto at montaquisto@gmail.com if you have items to be displayed in the locked cabinets at our booth. Let's show the folks what can be done at Old Pueblo!

I'll see you April 9th at 8 am for coffee and treats. Wear your OPLC badge and get a free raffle ticket with a purchase. For all of you winter folks headed home, have a safe trip and we'll see you in the fall.

-John

*The smith also sitteth by the anvil,
And fighteth with the heat of the furnace,
And the noise of the hammer and the anvil is ever in his ears,
And his eyes look still upon the pattern
Of the thing that he maketh.
He setteth his mind to finish his work,
And waiteth to polish it perfectly.*

-Ecclesiasticus

Front Cover Pictures: April's birthstone is **Diamond**, like the 273-carat "**Centenary Diamond**" from South Africa. **Cat's-Eye Chrysoberyl** rough from Sri Lanka will cut fine catseye stones.

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OPLC MONTHLY MEETING

March 12th, 2016

President John Poole brought the meeting to order at 10:05 AM and a quorum was present.

John thanked our speaker, local historian and author Jim Turner. Jim showed beautiful and interesting photos from his upcoming book about the history and geology of the Colorado River. Our library owns Jim's last book titled "ARIZONA."

REFRESHMENTS FOR MEETINGS:

Norma Lackow has no volunteers for the upcoming meetings as of today so please call her at 742-7561 to sign up. The Club will pay up to \$40 to defray cost.

There were 14 new members and guests introduced. Membership chairman Wayne Klement said we are down to 362 members as some have not yet renewed dues for this year.

The minutes of the February meeting as they appeared in Cutting Remarks were approved.

Treasurer's report: We are 9% into our new budget and the report will be filed for audit.

Our February Frolic and Hob Nob went very well. We had a couple of nice donations.

SILENT AUCTION: Our biggest annual fundraiser will be held Saturday November

5th. John thanked board member Tom McDevitt for stepping up to be the auction chairman. Several club members have offered to assist him.

PIMA COUNTY FAIR: The fair is coming up April 14-24. Members are encouraged to loan items of jewelry or anything lapidary related for our display cabinet located in our booth. At our OPLC meeting on April 9th parking passes and tickets will be handed out to those who have signed the volunteer schedule for our booth.

FIELD TRIPS: Janelle Cortright is arranging a trip to the San Carlos reservation for peridot hunting but would like someone to head up the event. Skip Barkley may be planning a rock hunting trip to the Pearce, AZ area. Stay tuned.

SHOP SIGN IN SHEETS: Members working in the shops should sign the sheets with times in and out.

Classes: Some of our classes such as silversmithing are now available afternoons and evenings. Sign in on clipboards at the club and members will be called by the instructor in the order of signing up.

DOOR PRIZE: It was won by John Doncsecz.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 10:30 AM.

Twink Monrad, Secretary

IN MEMORIAM

Ron Davidson, a beloved member of OPLC since 1972 passed away March 24, 2016. He was born March 12, 1938. Ron was preceded in death by his wife, Gay. He is survived by a brother, Max, and a sister, Margaret.

While a member of OPLC Ron wore many hats, President, Board Member, Security Officer and monitor of the cabbing room, saw room and the silver shop. In the early days he was monitor to all the shops in a single day. He was an avid rock hound and collector, as anyone who has been a guest to his home can attest.

Ron was always ready and willing to help or teach a new member the lapidary arts or get you started with a silver project. Over the years he helped in most all of the improvement projects. The last time we trimmed the trees at OPLC he was there in his motorized wheelchair dragging out limbs to the pile by the road!

Ron's presence, friendship and mentoring will be missed by all who knew him. May he rest in peace.



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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



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Elijah Bindine
Jim Bowen
Karen Bowen
Bonnie Bradford
Jacqueline Bradley
Merle Bradley
Jo Caldwell
Willie Caldwell
Mike Campagne
Tammy Campagne
Brian Cook

Vicki Fletcher
Joann Marcus
Larry Michael
Judy Michael
Jose Ramirez
Joe Reams



Don Heitman: 8" Frantom Combination Lapidary Machine & Saw

Andy Rouse: 24 12-packs Soda

To donate to OPLC, just see or contact Mike DeMeritt at 240-5133, or Tom McDevitt at 575-0517

APRIL BIRTH STONE: DIAMOND

April's birthstone is nothing short of nature's most spectacular gemstone - the ever-loved and revered *diamond*. Diamond is among the so-called "native elements" - it is composed entirely of pure Carbon, and is thus a polymorph of graphite. Graphite is the stable form under low pressure-temperature conditions, diamond under high pressure-temperature conditions. This pair of polymorphs represents the largest contrast in mineralogy with respect to crystal structures and physical properties. In diamond, every C atom is tetrahedrally bonded to four other atoms with a covalent bond. In consequence, all of the atoms have their outermost electron shells completed, and this provides the structural explanation for the extreme hardness of diamond.



Exceptional natural-colored diamond group

Crystals are common, and often occur with curved faces. Twinned crystals on {111} (any of the four tetrahedral planes) can occur. It has perfect cleavage on these same planes - despite the extreme hardness, it is easily cleaved along any of the {111} planes. Diamond is brittle. It has a Moh's hardness of 10.0 (the hardest on the scale), and a density of typically 3.50. Diamonds are colorless to yellowish, also brownish or grayish, and more rarely pink, red, green, or blue; and can be black owing to inclusions (typically graphite). It has adamantine luster, and is transparent to translucent. Very high refractive index and remarkably strong dispersion are the optical properties that cause the famous "fire" (sparkle), often enhanced by various faceted cuts in gem diamonds. *Bort* is industrial-grade diamond used for abrasives and saw-blades (such as we cutters appreciate!); *carbonado* is a cryptocrystalline (very fine-grained) variety of diamond. Bort and carbonado are usually black or grey (though bort may be of other colors), and neither is used for gemstones.

Diamond occurs as scattered crystals in kimberlites, which are ultrabasic rocks having their origin in the upper parts of the Earth's mantle. At this depth, the pressures and temperatures are suitable for the crystallization of diamonds. It is also found in secondary deposits in sediments formed by the erosion of primary diamond-bearing rocks. In these deposits diamonds have survived the processes of weathering and transport owing to their great hardness and chemical resistance. The diamonds are usually concentrated in certain beds because of their relatively high density. Most natural diamonds come from such occurrences.

Diamonds are found all across the globe, and important deposits occur in Australia; Canada; Brazil; India (including the famous water-clear Golconda stones); Russia; and even in the USA - Crater of Diamonds National Park in Arkansas gives up many diamonds every year to those willing to go dig for them! African deposits are too numerous to list, but include Sierra Leone (known for the infamous "blood diamonds"), the diamond beach sands of Namibia, and perhaps the most famous find of all - South Africa's Kimberley Hole, the diamond mine which Cecil Rhodes took control of, and started the diamond-monopolizing and marketing behemoth known today as DeBeer's. It may surprise you to discover that diamonds aren't typically as rare as most of the gem materials we facet today, but are worth far more, thanks mostly to DeBeer's ruthless production, stockpiling, and marketing of these fairly common stones.



Unsorted rough diamond crystals

- Written/Compiled by Mike DeMeritt, April 2013

JEWELRY THAT STANDS OUT

If you take a serious look at ten production-made sterling silver jewelry pieces, and compare them objectively to one well-constructed one-of-a-kind jewelry piece made by an accomplished silversmith, the differences will be vast and very noticeable. If you are interested in being the latter, read on! I will highlight the best ways to improve both your jewelry-fabricating skills, as well as your profits, should you sell your wares.

I personally believe that the most important place where the biggest difference in quality can be made in any silversmithing project is the bezel. Poor fit, both in terms of stone fit and bezel-to-back fit, abound in production pieces. Thin metalwork that can't be repaired is another common trait (perhaps better read "problem"!) Ill-fitting stones with uneven girdle edges and full-height bezels result in buckling of silver formed over bezel edges. Often, entire pieces are unfinished, or simply tumble-polished to keep costs down. This is perhaps the most discernable difference between these pieces and professional, quality silverwork.

Keep in mind that these recommendations are mine - they don't need to be followed precisely, and can be used simply as a guide, with differences in practices being perfectly fine. Use your best judgement, and don't be afraid to try something different.

Bezel mounts should fit the stone tightly - the stone should fit the bezel snugly with slight drag. If your bezel is too large, start over! You will almost certainly buckle your bezel if you continue. If it is too small, use a smooth metal rod to roll over the flat edge of the bezel over a smooth, flat, surface. Work slowly and gingerly, as it doesn't take much, and you can always do it more. I prefer to use hard sheet solder to join the bezel butt joint, which I always file both sides to ninety degrees. Use tweezers to hold everything together, and apply heat to the underside of the joint to pull the solder through. Grind both sides absolutely flat with a cylinder-shaped diamond bur under water. Check your stone for fit, and sand the bottom edge of the bezel with the stone in it to ascertain a perfectly flush joint with your backing. Sand or file any burrs before you join the pieces. I prefer using wire solder for the bezel-to-back join, 1/16th inch pieces about a half-inch apart, all on the inside of the joint, with liquid flux. Heat from underneath until the solder everywhere starts to soften, then heat from above and outside the bezel edge until everything flows and fills all parts of the joint. Use a solder pick to assist if necessary. Finish any other soldering on the piece. File the outside of the bezel to expose any low spots. Use a pointed object to push out these low spots from the inside of the bezel (carefully, now!) to keep from sanding through your bezel to get everything straight and true. Good bodywork on a car to be painted is very similar - we want everything perfectly straight and even! Sand the entire bezel with 600-grit sandpaper, and further repair any low spots. Use a knife-edge Cratex wheel to finish the outside of the bezel-to-back joint. Yes, you can make it difficult, if not impossible, to detect the actual seam. This is what makes your work stand out! Where the stone is lower or edges are sharp, sand the height of the bezel lower to prevent buckling. Buff the entire bezel area with Tripoli on a hard felt wheel using a flex-shaft unit. Check to be certain there are absolutely no nicks on the top edge of the bezel, and then buff it with Tripoli as well. A full-size wheel actually works better for this than a flex-shaft unit, though either will do. Buff from the inside out to avoid closing the bezel at all.

Clean your jewelry piece. Boiling in soapy water works well, or use a steam cleaner made for jewelry work, or a vibratory cleaning system. Set your stones (or stones) with a bezel pusher, starting with the sharpest corners first and working your way to the center areas. It is a good idea to use a pusher or tool made from something soft enough to not harm the stone or the silverwork - nylon, wood, or plastic work well. Finish your piece with fine polishing compound (I use Zam for silver).

- *Written/Compiled by Mike DeMeritt, April 2016*

“THE TREZ SEZ...”

It's that time of year - dues are “due” at OPLC! Don't forget to renew your membership, so you'll enjoy uninterrupted use of the facilities here at our fine club!

Renewal forms are available at the club (try asking a monitor) or on the back of this newsletter. Bring your completed forms to Wayne Klement, Bob Powell, or any Monitor or Board Member. Thanks!



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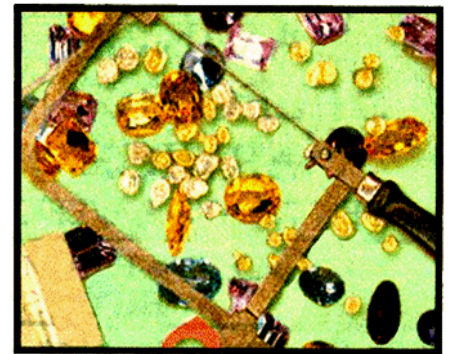
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3401 Dodge Blvd, Tucson
- **Colorwright** - 520-623-3874 Web address: <http://www.color-wright.com/>, **MAILING ADDRESS:**
1520 S Desert Crest Dr., Tucson, AZ 85713. Amount of discount depends on item(s) being purchased.
- **Jay's of Tucson** - 30% discount excluding orange tag items, sterling silver sheet and wire. 520-323-1123 (corner of Speedway & Swan)
4627 E Speedway, Tucson
- **Jed's Rock Shop** - 20% on all items. 520-882-6044 - **6275 N Sandario Rd, Tucson**
- **Copper City Rock Shop** - See ad in this issue. 10% discount with ad. 928-425-7885
566 Ash, Globe, AZ 85501
- **Kent's Tools** - 10% discount. 520-624-8098 - **133 E Grant Road, Tucson**
- **Tucson Mineral & Gem World** - 10% 520-883-0682 Web address: www.tucsonmineral.com **2801 South Kinney Road, Tucson**
- **Arizona Lapidary** - Arizona Lapidary & Gem Rough - 10% Discount *Excluding Finished Jewelry
520-399-6641 - 4699 E Pima St, Suite 101, Tucson
- **Silver Lining Gemstones** - 20-35% discount on most items. 520-203-8430, or see Mike DeMeritt at any of his labs. Includes eBay Store at www.stores.ebay.com/high-lonesome-turquoise.
- **Starr Gems** - 10% Discount on select merchandise, and 3-ounce price break for all silver purchases. See ad in this issue. **220 W Drachman, Tucson**

DON'T FORGET

Please don't forget to continue to bring in **YOUR** (or anyone else's for that matter) aluminum cans to the Club for recycling. Your contribution would be greatly appreciated to help add \$'s to the Club's treasury. **Thanks!**

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MEMBERSHIP

Wayne Klement 954-6298

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John Poole 777-5588

SILENT AUCTION

Mike DeMeritt 240-5133

Tom McDevitt 575-0517

BUSINESS MEETING REFRESHMENTS

Norma Lackow 742-7561

WEEKLY WORKSHOP SCHEDULE Phone 323-9154

Mondays

9AM - 12PM **Cabbing**

Monitor - Gloria Jean Dana

1PM - 4PM **Silversmith Lab**

Monitor - Terry Cox 296-4949

5PM - 9PM **Cabbing**

Monitor - Joseph Blackcoyote 891-6822

6PM - 9PM **Beginning Faceting**

Monitor - Earl Zoeller 886-3518

Tuesdays

9AM - 1PM **Cabbing***

Monitor - Mike DeMeritt 203-8430

9AM - 1PM **Beginning/OpenLab Faceting***

Monitor - Mike DeMeritt 203-8430

9AM - Noon **Silversmithing Lab**

Monitor - John Poole 777-5588

9AM - Noon **Rock Sawing**

Monitor - Tim Rose

Noon - 3PM **Casting Open Lab**

Monitor - Ron Brooks 520-378-2592

1PM - 4PM **Cabbing**

Monitor - Jerry Glazman 860-689-3432

Wednesdays

6PM - 9PM **Beginning Casting**

Monitor - Chuck Lundstrom 241-9262

6PM - 9PM **Cabbing**

Monitor - Keith Haubert 784-8283

6PM - 9PM **Silversmithing Lab**

Monitor - Bill Penrose 544-7517

Thursdays

9AM - 12PM **Cabbing**

Monitor - Bob Powell 403-8980

9AM - 12PM **Rock Sawing**

Monitor - Pete Peterson 886-9021

1PM - 4PM **Silversmithing**

Monitor - Giac D'Aquisto 207-6219

6PM - 9PM **Silversmithing**

Monitor - Bill Cascio 638-8144

Fridays

9AM - 12PM **Cabbing***

Monitor - Mike DeMeritt 203-8430

1PM - 4PM **Silversmithing**

Monitor - Terry Cox 296-4949

5:30PM - 8:30PM **Cabbing**

Monitor - David Schulte 954-8554

Saturdays

10AM - 3PM **Silversmithing**

Monitor - Terry Cox 296-4949

9:30AM - 2:30PM **Cabbing***

Monitor - Jeff Hanson

Sundays

10AM - 3PM **Cabbing**

Monitor - Dennis Murphy 490-9188

10AM - 3PM **Silversmithing Lab**

Monitor - Giac D'Aquisto 207-6219

Old Pueblo Lapidary Club
 (Cutting Remarks - April 2016)
 3118 N. Dale
 Tucson, AZ 85712
 (520) 323-9154

OPLC Membership Application - Please Print

Name1 _____ Name 2 _____ Date _____

Local Address _____

City _____ State ____ Zip Code _____ Phone number (____) _____

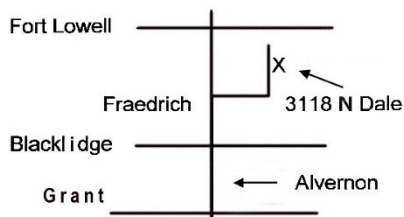
Email address _____ Summer Dates: From _____ To _____

Summer Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Type of membership:	<u>1st Quarter</u>	<u>2nd Quarter</u>	<u>3rd Quarter</u>	<u>4th Quarter</u>	<u>Annual Renewals</u>
Single Member	\$25.00	\$20.00	\$15.00	\$10.00	\$20.00
Couple (same address)	\$35.00	\$27.00	\$22.00	\$15.00	\$25.00
Junior	\$12.50	\$10.00	\$7.50	\$5.00	\$10.00

Mail to: Membership Chairperson, Old Pueblo Lapidary Club, 3118 N. Dale, Tucson, AZ 85712



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