

“CUTTING REMARKS”

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

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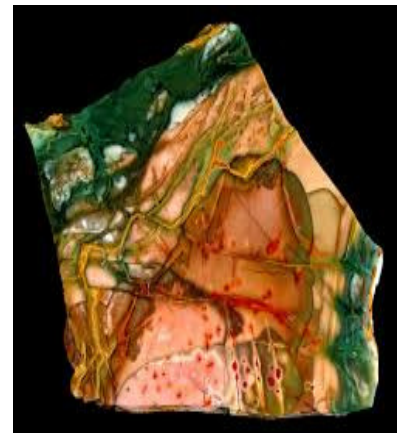
2014 - 2015 Dennis Murphy 490-9188

2013 - 2013 Pete Peterson 886-9021 (Advisor)

Membership Chairperson

Wayne Klement 954-6298

Please join us **January 10th** 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



By the time you read this, Christmas 2014 and New Year's 2015 will be behind us. I hope you all had a great and Happy Holiday Season!

For all of us who attended our Christmas Meeting/Potluck, we owe a big thank-you to Helen Serras-Herman, Norma Lackow, and their small army of helpers. It was a great time - food was excellent, and attendance was close to 100.

I mentioned at our December meeting that some work would be taking place in our club kitchen. Well, our core volunteers have already started. It's going to be more user-friendly and greatly updated.

Dues are due! If you joined OPLC any time in 2014 your dues were pro-rated for that year, and are now once again due - \$20.00 for a single and \$25.00 for a couple, quite a savings!

The sign-up sheets for the TGMS show at the TCC, February 12th—15th, is up on the white board in OPLC's kitchen. It's a fun time to talk about OPLC and our wide range of club activities. So, if you are a new member, it is a great way to learn more about our club by signing up with older members. Get your feet wet, I promise you will have an enjoyable experience!

The Hob Nob will be February 7th, 2015, from 6-9pm. Diana Hara, the Chairperson of this event, will have more details and information at our January 10th, 2015, general meeting.

Our January meeting will start at 9am. Join us at 8am for coffee, morning treats, and talk of rocks and minerals. Don't forget, wear your OPLC badge and get a free raffle ticket with a purchase!

-John

Dear OPLC fellow members,

I would like to thank all of you for participating in our 2014 Annual Holiday Party and for sharing all those delicious goodies with your fellow members. These gatherings are not successful without your involvement and partaking and I am deeply appreciative to all of you for pulling behind the Holiday Party committee and making this event as good as ever.

And, of course, I am deeply grateful to my co-hostess, Norma Lackow and our husbands Andy Herman and Abe Lackow, along with Sheila Powell, Kim Filips, Twink Monrand and Don Morin, Dennis & Christine Murphy, Diana & Wolfgang Mueller, John Pool and the rest of the Board, and all those little elves that helped setting up the tables, wash and clean up, and getting everything back in place for the next meeting in no time!!

With my gratitude and warm wishes for a Happy and Successful New Year 2015!
Helen Serras-Herman

Front Cover Pictures: *Stunning faceted Garnets of many colors are also January's Birthstone. An outstanding slab of Morrisonite, material that is often titled "The King of Jaspers".*

Cutting Remarks, Volume 2015, Issue 1, January 2015. Published monthly by the Old Pueblo Lapidary Club, 3118 N. Dale, Tucson, AZ 85712. Telephone: (520) 323-9154, a non-profit organization.



OPLC MONTHLY MEETING
DECEMBER 13, 2014

The meeting was brought to order at 11:00 AM by President John Poole.

Those who helped with making the Christmas luncheon meeting a success were thanked:

Set up: Charlie and Elaine Reece, Don Morin and Twink Monrad

Centerpieces: Kim Filips brought the lovely poinsettia centerpieces and helped set up on tables.

Kitchen: Helen Serras-Herman and Andrew Herman, Norma and Abe Lackow, Ruby Munson, and Shiela Powell. All who brought the delicious food were thanked. Many stayed to fold up tables and set out chairs after the meeting. Helen and Norma did a spectacular job on the luncheon.

Tickets were handed out to everyone present and numbers were drawn for attendees to win either a poinsettia plant or a Mexican geode of which there were many of both items.

Our door prize was a spectacular slice of Mookaite Jasper from Australia donated by Helen Serras-Herman, owner of Gem Art Center. The winner was Kathy O'Donnell.

The minutes of the November meeting were approved as published in CUTTING REMARKS.

Membership: We now have 425 members.

Treasurer's report: Mark Gibson will file the report for audit. He reported some of our recent expenses such as new AC system in the shop and new roof job on the clubhouse building. He thanked Diana Hara for all of her assistance throughout the year with treasurer duties and help with computer.

Field Trip: Janelle Cortright announced the Quartzite trip which was described in the December newsletter.

Our club is still in need of an Education Chairman to replace Shiela Powell. We also need an historian and a Hob Nob chairperson as this will be Diana Hara's final year of doing that. She is willing to help the new person.

Election of officers and board: Dennis Murphy presented the slate of officers and they were elected.

TGMS booth for Tucson Gem and Mineral Show in February: A sign-up sheet is in the kitchen to ask for volunteers to work at our booth. At the booth OPLC offers demonstrations related to lapidary and also takes names so that rock samples can be sent to or delivered to schools.

Grounds and building: Pete Peterson

was thanked for making several improvements in our kitchen and Wayne Klement located a donation of kitchen cabinets which will be installed in the future. In 2015 more estimates will be obtained to replace the ductwork in the clubhouse building.

Silent Auction: Dennis Murphy and Phil Madsen will replace Danny Harmsen as Chairmen of the Silent Auction held the first Saturday of November. Danny was thanked for doing such a fine job for many years.

Jean Barkley, outgoing Vice President, thanked all who volunteer time and effort throughout the year to keep our

Club going. She asked that all consider stepping up to fill open jobs and to keep on volunteering.

SAW ROOM REQUEST from Pete Peterson. When leaving a rock to be cut, please leave detailed instructions on size of slices, which direction of cutting or anything else the saw person would need to know. Marking with lines on the rock itself would be very helpful.

There being no further business, we adjourned at 11:35 for lunch.

Twink Monrad, Secretary

2015 DUES ARE DUE

MEMBERS: This will be your last newsletter unless you are current with your membership dues. All membership renewal dues are due January 1st of each year: Couples \$25, Singles \$20, and Juniors \$10.00.

For recent new members ... the dues you paid when you signed up was prorated for the partial year, unless you decided to pay 2015 dues at the same time. Please look on your membership card which will show the expiration year of your paid up membership. If you're not sure, send an email to: wayneklem@aol.com and ask.

On page eight of this newsletter is a long form for membership renewal. The long form is provided to enable you to update your volunteer preferences. Please help out the Club by volunteering for something. Some of the members who have been doing the same job(s) for a while would welcome some relief.

Thank you, Wayne Klement, Membership Chairperson

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



Audrey Harry	Kimber Brewer
Dustin Scheere	Dan Williams
Bill Wiggins	Janet Williams
Rene Wiggins	Jerry Smallwood
Bob Bates	Donna Kouw
Pam Bates	David Watson
Tim Brewer	Barbara Watson
Barbara Brewer	Newell Pugh
Donna Brewer	Marie Pugh

LAPIDARY ESTATE SALE

Equipment- Frantom 16" Saw, Frantom carbide cab unit with 10" trim saw, Foredom unit, 4"trim saw, vibrating lap, etc. There is a huge selection of slab material including agates, jaspers, jade, carnelian, tiger eye, etc. Rough material from Mexico, Oregon, Arizona, and India. **CASH ONLY.** Sale to be held on February 6 and 7, 2015 from 9am to 1pm at 3850 West Sweetwater Drive, Tucson, AZ. (west of Silverbell and north of Grant). Questions or directions contact Debbie at [808-989-3222](tel:808-989-3222).



Ken Ledbetter: 18 buckets of Jaspers, Agates, Petrified Wood, and Arizona
Copper Specimens

Ellen Abrams: Electric Kiln

To donate to OPLC, just see or contact Dennis Murphy at 490-9188.

JANUARY'S GEMSTONE: GARNET

January has the distinction of owning not a single gem species, but rather a group of inter-related nesosilicates called **Garnets**. Garnets, widespread minerals that are particularly abundant in metamorphic rocks, are easily recognizable, since they are generally found as well-developed crystals with very characteristic crystal forms. Garnets form as 12-sided dodecahedrons, and occasionally as trapezohedrons, 24-sided crystals that can also be called icositetrahedrons. They can also be found as massives in fine- to coarse-granular. Moh's hardness is approximately 7.0, and density varies from 3.5 - 4.3. It has a vitreous, or occasionally resinous, luster, and is transparent to translucent. Garnets possess no cleavage planes, and have a conchoidal fracture. The general chemical formula for Garnet is $A_3B_2(SiO_4)_3$, in which *A* includes relatively large divalent ions such as Magnesium (Mg^{2+}), Iron (Fe^{2+}), Manganese (Mn^{2+}), or Calcium (Ca^{2+}); and *B* relatively small trivalent ions such as Aluminum (Al^{3+}), Iron (Fe^{3+}), or Chromium (Cr^{3+}), along with a host of others. *A* and *B* refer to positions in the crystal structure in which *A* is surrounded by eight O atoms at the corners of a polyhedron resembling a distorted cube, and *B* is surrounded by six O atoms in octahedral positions. Si is in isolated tetrahedra and is normally not replaced by other elements. The group includes the following end-members: *Pyrope*, $Mg_3Al_2(SiO_4)_3$; *Almandine*, $Fe_3Al_2(SiO_4)_3$; *Spessartine*, $Mn_3Al_2(SiO_4)_3$; *Grossular*, $Ca_3Al_2(SiO_4)_3$; *Andradite*, $Ca_3Fe_2(SiO_4)_3$; *Uvarovite*, $Ca_3Cr_2(SiO_4)_3$; and *Schorlomite*, $Ca_3(Ti,Fe)_2[(Si,Fe)_2O_4]_3$. Garnets are divided into two species, *Pyralspite* (pyrope, almandine, and spessartine), and *Ugrandite* (uvarovite, grossular, and andradite). Considerable solid solution exists within each series, but the miscibility between the two series is very limited (in non-gemologist-speak, this means that many garnets will be combinations of either pyrope, almandine, and spessartite; or uvarovite, grossular, and andradite; and very few will be combinations that jump across the two distinct species). Pyrope occurs in ultrabasic rocks such as peridotites and the serpentinites derived from them; it is also found in high-grade metamorphic rocks rich in Mg. Almandine is common in metamorphic rocks such as gneisses and schists and also in sediments. Spessartine is found in granite pegmatites and in metamorphic Mn-rich rocks. Grossular and Andradite are typically found in contact-metamorphosed or regionally metamorphosed impure limestones, commonly in association with other skarn minerals and sulphides. Schorlomite is found in heavy-alkaline rocks. Uvarovite is uncommon and only occurs in Cr-bearing serpentinites.

Garnets are found the world over, and important deposits include Four Corners, Arizona; Umba River, Tanzania; Teita Hills on the border of Tanzania and Kenya; the Ural Mountains of Russia; and the Stikine River in Alaska. There are far too many others to list here! Unlike quartz, a gem variety known for stones of lesser value, garnets run the gamut, from lowly "Rose Rhodolite" (a gem-almandine garnet), to Demantoid and "Tsavorite" (gem andradite and grossularite varieties). As a person within the industry for many years, I believe the time is coming where Tsavorite garnet will replace emerald as the "King of Green Gemstones" (this is easy to understand - the garnet has a higher refractive index, is more typically found "gem-clean", and doesn't possess emerald's "fussy" nature as a stone that can be brittle and difficult to work with...) With its lack of cleavage and decent hardness, garnets cut and polish very easily for the lapidary of any skill level. The only bad news here for those of you experiencing trouble with garnets is that you shouldn't be! I always recommend garnets to those I teach faceting to, and the broad range of costs makes the less-expensive varieties very affordable for amateurs. So, the next time you reach for a piece of facet rough at the gem show booth, try a garnet! You'll be happy you did!

Compiled & Written by Mike DeMeritt, 2012

JANUARY CUTTING TIPS

Easy Electrolysis At Home...

This is a great tip both for the jewelry owner or those of you who perform jewelry repair, especially in situations where the stone must be left in the mounting, allowing limited cleaning. Professional jewelers often use an electrolysis unit to clean or flash-plate jewelry. These devices are amazing in their ability to perform these tasks. What most don't realize is that they are far less sophisticated than they seem, and a simple "at-home" version can be constructed both easily and affordably!

All you need are the following: a 6- or 9-volt dry-cell battery, Electro-Cleaner salt bath solution (available at most jewelry/lapidary supply stores), a glass bowl, some ordinary copper wire, and a small strip of stainless steel (2.0x0.5x0.125 inches is plenty...)

Attach a length of copper wire to each of the battery leads. Fill the glass bowl with Electro-Cleaner solution, and attach the stainless steel strip to the negative lead coming from the battery (the negative lead is hereafter referred to as the "cathode", and the positive lead referred to as the "anode".) To clean silver or gold, attach the piece in question to your anode, and drop both the anode (with jewelry piece) and the cathode (with stainless steel strip) into the electrolysis bath. The solution will rapidly bubble (it's not a bad idea to put newspaper under your bowl!), and after ten seconds or so, the jewelry piece will sport a thorough cleaning! Over time, as your "machine" works less effectively, it may be necessary to replace the stainless steel strip with a new, clean version.

The machine works by electrically attracting anything other than gold or silver through the salt bath to the stainless cathode. Basically *anything* that isn't silver or gold will end up at the cathode, leaving the anode (the jewelry piece) spotlessly clean! You can use more than one cathode/stainless steel strip (always attached to the negative lead!) to increase the volume of cleaning and decrease the time needed... You may also attach either a volt-meter (across the battery terminals in parallel) or an ammeter (in series on the positive side of the battery), to monitor your setup.

This simple machine may also be used for flash-plating with gold. Many jewelers do this as a simple, economical way of cleaning and polishing a finished piece of jewelry (it is far easier than polishing on wheels/buffs, and gets in every crevice...) For this operation you will need gold-plating solution (the non-cyanide version), a new glass bowl, and new stainless steel strip (**do not use the bowl/steel strip from your electro-cleaner!** Non-cyanide gold-plating solution is available from a company called Delmar Manufacturing out of Chicago, Ill.) Plating is basically the opposite of cleaning - the jewelry piece will be connected to the cathode, and the stainless steel piece is connected to the anode. Now the electrical current will carry the gold particles in the solution to the negative cathode (the jewelry metal), and deposit them there. Presto! In ten-fifteen seconds you'll have a piece of jewelry that looks like it just came off a set of polishing wheels!

Provided by Mike DeMeritt, 2012

OLD PUEBLO LAPIDARY CLUB MEMBERSHIP FORM

(Rates Effective Jan 2011)

Date _____

Name #1: _____ Name #2: _____

Local Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Summer Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Summer Address dates: From: _____ To: _____

E-mail: _____ Phone: (____) _____

<u>New Members:</u>	<u>Jan - Mar</u>	<u>Apr - Jun</u>	<u>Jul - Sep</u>	<u>Oct - Dec</u>	<u>Annual Renewals</u>
Single	\$25.00	\$20.00	\$15.00	\$10.00	\$20.00
Couple	\$35.00	\$27.00	\$22.00	\$15.00	\$25.00
Juniors	\$12.50	\$10.00	\$7.50	\$5.00	\$10.00

Make check out to OPLC and mail to: Old Pueblo Lapidary Club
 Attn: Membership Chairperson
 3118 N. Dale Avenue
 Tucson, AZ 85712

OPLC Volunteer Opportunities:

OPLC cannot function without volunteers. Please check the appropriate box(es) indicating areas in which you are willing to help. Your volunteer assistance is necessary to the running of a successful organization. We can function only through volunteers.

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Officer | <input type="checkbox"/> Club Historian | <input type="checkbox"/> Librarian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Board Member | <input type="checkbox"/> Field Trips (Sponsor) | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Advertising | <input type="checkbox"/> Hospitality at meetings | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter Contributor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Buildings, Grounds, Eqt | <input type="checkbox"/> Junior Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Silent Auction |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Class Instructor | <input type="checkbox"/> Kitchen | <input type="checkbox"/> Share expertise |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Programs (speakers) | <input type="checkbox"/> Lab/workshop Monitor | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

Show Volunteer Opportunities:

Hobnob (early February)

Setup Takedown

Tucson Gem and Mineral Show (early February)

Setup Cab/Faceting demos Manning booth Takedown

Pima County Fair (April)

Setup Cab/Faceting demos Manning booth Takedown

Tell us about yourself: Lapidary interests, other clubs, positions held, other interests: (Also, where did you hear about our club?)



Rocky Rockhound

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“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, Mark Gibson, or any monitor or Board Member. Thanks!



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- Confucius

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- **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** - 10% discount for OPLC members. See ad in this issue. 520-399-6641 -
4699 E Pima St, Tucson
- **Silver Lining Gemstones** - 20-35% discount on most items. 520-203-8430, or see Mike De-Meritt at any of his labs. Includes eBay Store at www.stores.ebay.com/high-lonesome-turquoise.

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!**

Rate Schedule for Advertisements - - - Ad Sizes & Prices

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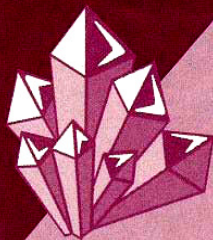
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\$4.00 per month

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Wolfgang Mueller 896-3197

Shiela Powell 578-1976

Janelle Cortwright 761-1924

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Twink Monrad 297-9454

JUNIOR EDUCATION

KITCHEN

General Membership

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Twink Monrad 297-9454

MEMBERSHIP

Wayne Klement 954-6298

SECURITY

John Poole 777-5588

SILENT AUCTION

Dennis Murphy 490-9188

Phil Madsen

WEEKLY WORKSHOP SCHEDULE Phone 323-9154

Mondays

9AM - 12PM **Cabbing**

Monitor - Gloria Jean Dana

1PM - 4PM **Faceting Guild**

Monitor - Billy Bob Riley 225-9060

1PM - 4PM **Silversmith Lab**

Monitor - Lou Akerman 290-6968

5PM - 9PM **Cabbing**

Monitor - Joseph Blackcoyote 891-6822

6PM - 9PM **Beginning Faceting**

Monitor - Earl Zoeller 886-3518

Tuesdays

9AM - Noon **Cabbing***

Monitor - Mike DeMeritt 203-8430

9AM - Noon **Silversmithing Lab**

Monitor - John Poole 777-5588

1PM - 4PM **Beginning Faceting**

Monitor - Mike DeMeritt 203-8430

1 PM - 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

6 PM - 9PM **Faceting**

Monitor - Billy Bob Riley 225-9060

Thursdays

9AM - 12PM **Cabbing**

Monitor - Bob Powell 403-8980

9AM - 12PM **Rock Sawing**

Monitor - Pete Peterson 886-9021

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

Saturdays

10AM - 3PM **Silversmithing**

Monitor - Terry Cox 296-4949

10AM - 3PM **Cabbing***

Monitor - Ron Davidson 400-2125

Sundays

10AM - 3PM **Cabbing**

Monitor - Dennis Murphy 490-9188

10AM - 3PM **Silversmithing Lab**

Monitor - Giac D'Aquisto 207-6219

***INSTRUCTION PROVIDED AS AVAILABLE, MAY REQUIRE DOUBLE-PUNCHED HOURS**

Old Pueblo Lapidary Club
 (Cutting Remarks - January 2015)
 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 (____) _____

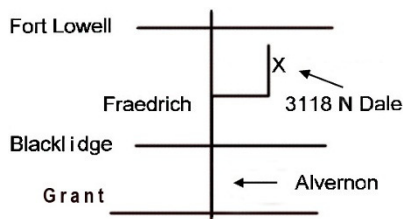
Email address _____ Summer Dates: From _____ To _____

Summer Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Type of membership:	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	Annual Renewals
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.