

# “CUTTING REMARKS”

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

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Vice President - Gloria J Dana 369-7225

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## Membership Chairperson

Wayne Klement 954-6298

Please join us **June 11th** 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](mailto:silverlininggemstones@gmail.com)), or feel free to call him at 520-203-8430. Submission deadline is the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month. Thanks!

## THE PREZ SEZ ..... by John Poole



Well folks, summer is here! The work shops are still open and you can enjoy your time at OPLC in cool comfort.

Our A/C units are all working great.

The last load of aluminum cans I took to the scrap yard, 133 pounds, netted the Club \$110.60. Keep them coming!

For your info, if they are squashed straight down we get five cents more per pound. They take up less space.

Silver Shop monitors Bill Cascio and Terry Cox are assisting me giving basic silver-smithing classes. Bill Cascio is doing his class Thursday evenings 6 - 9p and Terry Cox is Fridays 4p to 6:30. I'm still doing Tuesday afternoons 1-4p. The

sign-up sheet is in the meeting hall on a clip board to the right of the display cases on the south wall. The class is

very basic, but with a little effort and no prior metal-smithing experience, you

can fabricate a cabachon and sterling pendant. There are photos posted in the silver shop from Bill Cascio's last class, great job Bill!

See you June 11th at 8 a for coffee and treats. At 9 a great program will start, followed by a short business meeting.

Don't forget, wear your OPLC badge and get a free raffle ticket with a purchase.

Tom McDevitt, our silent auction

Chair, will have some great stuff waiting for our winners.

See you on the 11th!

-John

*The inner life of a human being  
is a vast and varied realm and  
Does not concern itself alone  
With stimulating arrangements  
Of color, form, and design  
- Edward Hopper*

**Front Cover Pictures:** Exceptional "sixling" group of **Alexandrite** crystals, the color-changing version of **Chrysoberyl**, and June's Birthstone. Beautiful **Fire Agate** cabochons from Mexico.

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OPLC MONTHLY MEETING

May 14, 2016

The meeting was brought to order by President John Poole as a quorum was present. He thanked our speaker Mike Conway from the Arizona Geological Survey office in Tucson who gave us a talk entitled "Abridged History of Arizona Mining." The AZGS office on Congress Street will soon be moving to the U of A campus. Mike gave us two useful websites related to AZGS:

[azgs.az.gov](http://azgs.az.gov) and [minedata.azgs.az.gov](http://minedata.azgs.az.gov)

John thanked Monica Williams for bringing the refreshments, and we have volunteers to take care of refreshments through the November meeting.

Six new members and guests were introduced. We now have 409 members.

Minutes of the April meeting as published in Cutting Remarks were approved.

Bob Powell gave a brief treasurer's report which will be filed for audit.

Pima County Fair updates: Many OPLC brochures were given out in addition to the free rocks for kids.

And three of our OPLC members won ribbons at the fair: Jonathan Ziegler: First place and Best in Class for "Miss Page", a digital painting.

Mary Beth Roberts: First place for "Bathed in Gold", a beaded set, and second place for "Stardust", a beaded set.

Kerrie Gimmler: First place for "Sunflower", a sculpted sunflower setting with a green agate cabochon, for silver casting and fabrication.

The new entryway roof on the south main entrance has been completed and John Poole thanked Dave Schulte and Stacey Brown for their excellent work.

Dawn Truitt planned a wonderful memorial pot luck for our late member Ron Davidson and quite a few of our members attended. \$165 was raised that day to start the Ron Davidson scholarship fund. Kim Filips sent to the Board a four page outline of ideas to institute the scholarship fund. Bill Penrose will chair a committee to work on a plan to present to the Board and eventually it will be brought to the general membership for approval.

November Silent Auction: Tom McDevitt thanked all for the help and donations he has received.

Field trips: Janelle Cortright is planning a petrified wood hunting trip in the Show Low area in the fall. A trip to San Carlos reservation for peridot is being planned. A trip to Round Mountain for chalcedony and fire agate will happen in the fall and will be announced in the September newsletter.

Old Pima County courthouse: The building is being renovated and part of it has been donated to the U of A Mineral Museum. Different organizations in town such as TGMS, ASDM and others have been invited to possibly participate in sharing space for displays or work areas. The OPLC board will be invited to tour the facility. We will eventually need to decide whether to become involved and it may be two years before the facility is ready for the new project.

Door prize was won by Ted Rupp.

We adjourned at 11 AM followed by the raffle drawings.

Twink Monrad, Secretary

## JUNE GEMSTONE: ALEXANDRITE

June's birthstone could easily be derived from Gemini's twins: it sports a birthstone possessed of not simply one color, but two! Meet **Alexandrite**, the color-changing version of the gemstone **Chrysoberyl**. Depending on the wavelength of the light entering it, this stone displays as either red or green, two colors at polar opposites on the color wheel!

Chrysoberyl, chemical formula  $\text{BeAl}_2\text{O}_4$ , commonly occurs as orthorhombic crystals, typically tabular parallel to the {001} plane (the basal plane), with striations parallel to the  $a$  axis. Twinning on the {130} (rhombic plane) is quite common, and often repeated to form pseudo-hexagonal trillings (often referred to in Chrysoberyl as "sixlings" - the picture of rough crystals below very well demonstrates this behavior, with an easily-seen "sixling" noticeable near the upper-right of the group...) Cleavage is distinct on the {110} plane, and indistinct on {010}. Hardness is an impressive 8.5 on the Moh's scale, making this stone rate third in hardness only after diamond and corundum for typical gems. It is transparent and has a vitreous luster. Color is green to yellowish-green or brownish, and can alternate between green and red, in the case of Alexandrite.

Chrysoberyl has a crystal structure very similar to olivine, in which Be replaces the tetrahedrally-coordinated Si, and Al replaces the octahedrally-coordinated Mg. O ions form an almost-hexagonal closest packing of spheres, which explains the pseudo-hexagonal character of Chrysoberyl. Chromium replacing Mg is the chromophore responsible for the ability to change color. In truth, most Chrysoberyl only displays a mild color-shift (perhaps greenish-yellow to brownish-yellow or orangish). Very occasionally, however, the effect is dramatic, with the stone displaying a green or teal color daylight, and a red or purplish-red color in tungsten or incandescent light. These are the only stones that should be truly labeled as Alexandrite. Many chrysoberyl crystals display excellent chatoyance, and are cut by lapidaries as "cat's-eye" stones. This habit is so common and well-presented by chrysoberyl, that most gemologists refer to cat's-eye-Chrysoberyl stones simply as "Cat's-eye".

Chrysoberyl occurs in granites and granitic pegmatites, in mica-schists, and in sands and gravels in association with other resistant minerals like diamond and corundum. The largest gravel deposits with Chrysoberyl are found in Brazil, Tanzania, and Sri Lanka, whereas the most-prized Alexandrite gems come from a mica-schist near the Takowaja River in the Ural Mountains of Russia.

Pearls and moonstone are also gemstones for June, though neither holds the provenance of the "King of Gems", Alexandrite.

*Written/Compiled by Mike DeMeritt, June 2013*



Fine-gem quality faceted Alexandrite showing both indoor (incandescent) and outdoor (full-spectrum) colors.



Natural "sixling" Chrysoberyl crystal group with Alexandrite coloration.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



Thomas	Bingel	Cheryl	Lee
Ron	Bryan	Rob	Pearson
Wei	Chen	Pat	Pearson
James	Germaine	Vince	Reterstorf
Kevin	Gibson	Thomas	Tuten

## GRAND OPENING

**JUNE 6 - 11**



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**James and Christine Schauer: Slabs**

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

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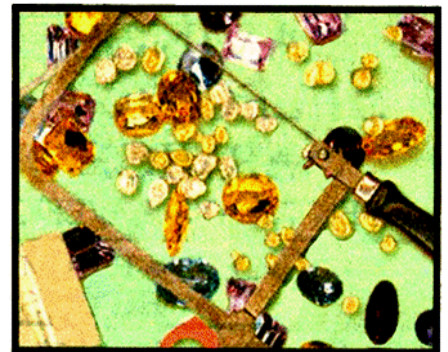
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- **DAH Rock Shop** - 10% on most items, \$10 minimum purchase. 520-323-0781  
**3401 Dodge Blvd, Tucson**
- **Colorwright** - 520-623-3874 Web address: <http://www.color-wright.com/>, **MAILING ADDRESS:**  
1520 S Desert Crest Dr., Tucson, AZ 85713. 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](http://www.tucsonmineral.com) **2801 South Kinney Road, Tucson**
- **Arizona Lapidary** - Arizona Lapidary & Gem Rough - 10% Discount \*Excluding Finished Jewelry  
520-399-6641 - 7320 E Broadway Blvd, 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](http://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!**

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

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Gloria Jean Dana 369-7225

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Wolfgang Mueller 896-3197

Shiela Powell 578-1976

Janelle Cortwright 761-1924

### HISTORIAN

Bill Cascio 638-8144

### JUNIOR EDUCATION

Ron Graichen 529-2661

### KITCHEN

General Membership

### LIBRARIAN

Twink Monrad 297-9454

### MEMBERSHIP

Wayne Klement 954-6298

### SECURITY

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

**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

**\* INSTRUCTION AS AVAILABLE; MAY REQUIRE DOUBLE-PUNCHED HOURS**

Old Pueblo Lapidary Club  
 (Cutting Remarks - June 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 (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

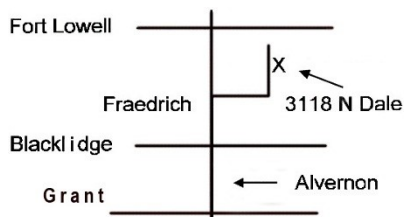
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Summer Address \_\_\_\_\_

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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.