

“CUTTING REMARKS”

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

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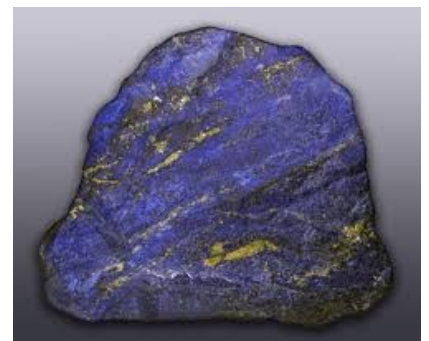
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Please join us **March 8th** at **9:00am** for the monthly meeting. There is an optional social hour that begins at 8:00am followed by an educational program at 9:00am, followed by the monthly meeting. Visitors are always welcome.



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



Hi Folks!

Well, I hope you had a great time at the Gem Show! Bring some of your best finds and share them with the rest of OPLC! Remember, OPLC will meet March 8th, so wear your OPLC badge and you will receive a free raffle ticket with a purchase. To those members making the trip to Deming, have a good, safe, and fun trip.

Jean Barkley, V.P. and Program Director, has an interesting speaker lined up. He will speak on the Curiosity Mars Rover - now that is real rock-hounding!

February the 7th OPLC hosted the US Faceter's Guild. They held a seminar in our meeting room with 20-25 attendees.

After our meeting on February 8th in the evening the USFG held the 12th "Hob Nob" in our facility. Sixty-two faceters from all over the world attended. Although no program was planned, a good time was had, discussing and showing off the newest and latest cuts or newly-found facet rough.

We had two vendors of faceting rough. Stevie Joey, from the San Carlos Apache Reservation, with some peridot from his mine. He also said we could arrange a field trip to his mine. The other vendor, Farooq Hashmi, had a large selection of faceting rough. In addition to his vendor's fee, he donated \$500.00 to our club! He hoped that OPLC will have more club faceters in the near future. Thank You, Mr. Hashmi!

Winner of the Natural Stone competition was James Rombur. He won a plaque and a faceter's transfer block. The Synthetic Stone contest was won by Victor Tuzlukov, who won a plaque. The awards were presented by Will Smith, USFG President.

A big Thank You to Chairperson Diana Hara for a well-planned and organized event. The following volunteers made this a success: Pat McMullen, Donna Pugh, Wayne Klement, Murray Hiller, Bob Powell, Mark Gibson, Jayne Poole, Paul & Dorothy Head, Twink Monrad, Lorraine 7 Dennis Demerly, Frank Beaven, Barb Elliot and friend Barb, Patti &

Mark Davidson, Jim Griffin, and Elayne & Charlie Reece.

The TGMS show at the TCC is also behind us! OPLC's booth at the TCC was an incredible success thanks to all the volunteers: Mike Tucker, Dennis Murphy, Phil Madsen, Gloria Dana, Bill Penrose, Robert Munoz, Skip & Jean Barkley, Bill Cascio, Claire O'Donnell, Pat McMullen, Phil Babcock, Ginny & Pete Petersen, Barb Elliot, Sharlene & Jim Baker, Shelly & Roger Tanner, Carol & Elwyn Wooster, Bob Powell, Murray Hiller, Lou Ackerman, and Frank Beaven.

The kids had a great time picking out the best and prettiest rocks. We also had 25 teachers sign our "Hands on Minerals" kit sign-up. The kits will be sent out later this year. I'm sure Sheila Powell, our Jr. Education Chair, could use some help getting the kits together and delivered. Please check with Sheila at our March meeting.

I would like to thank Patricia McClain, Administrative Manager of TGMS, and her crew for all of their assistance in keeping me on the right track in the application and set-up process.

The Pima County Fair is OPLC's next big event, and we will have a booth in the exhibition hall for the whole fair, April 17th - 27th. There is a sign-up sheet in the kitchen area. It's another opportunity to demonstrate some of the club's activities and showcase some of our member's talents. It gives prospective members an idea of what they may be able to learn and do as a member.

We also have two locked display cases for members to show faceted stones, cabochons, silver-work, and other related crafts that can be done at OPLC's workshops. It's a fun time, so sign-up with a friend and enjoy the fair!

Our brush and bulky collection is scheduled for March 31st, 2014, so I would like to have a work party on Saturday, March 22nd. More details and a sign-up sheet at the meeting.

Thanks again to all of the February volunteers.

-John

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PRIOR MONTH'S MEETING MINUTES... Twink Monrad, Secretary



The meeting was brought to order at 9 AM by President John Poole and a quorum was present.

January meeting minutes were approved as published in the OPLC newsletter.

Four guests and new member Jim Duff were introduced.

Dennis Murphy was installed as a new Board member as he was absent during the January meeting.

HOB NOB: Diana Hara has been in charge of arranging the Hob Nob which is held this evening, February 8th. Faceters from all over the world are present and plaques are given to the best judged synthetic entry and natural entry. There will be a \$50 fee for sales tables and a \$5 entry fee for all attendees and will include pizza, sodas and homemade cookies.

TGMS BOOTH AT TCC FOR GEM SHOW: Volunteers have signed up to work at the booth, which will be located in the Galleria. There is no charge to enter the Galleria, but there is a \$10 charge to attend the Gem Show.

ROOF REPAIR ON OPLC CLUBHOUSE: John Poole reported that the work has been completed: replaced damaged wood, replaced nails with screws, roof was washed and coated.

TRIP TO RUBY, ARIZONA: Sheila Powell was thanked for arranging the outing to the old mining town. Those who attended said it was very interesting and enjoyable.

FUTURE OUTINGS: The Board is working to find a few volunteers to plan future trips

for the members.

TREASURY REPORT: Mark Gibson gave a report which will be filed for audit. Mark also thanked Diana Hara for helping him when he needs it and also for assisting him in purchasing a new computer for the club.

MONTHLY REPORTS: Security-all is well. Silent auction: Danny Harmsen said things are excellent.

Mike DeMeritt, newsletter editor and Lead Monitor, thanked Mike Tucker, Glenn Hansel, Dennis Murphy and Phil Madsen for stepping up in the cab room as Mike is busy during the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show.

NEW OPLC T-SHIRTS: A vote passed to allow the Board to order new T-shirts and hats as this item was not in the current budget. \$2000 was approved. The best deal is 100 shirts and 40 hats. Members have requested hats and the suggested colors by the members seem to be some in light tan and some in dark earth color. Jean Barkley has done extensive research on this and the Board will make a decision.

MARCH PROGRAM: Jean Barkley has a student from the U of A who will speak on the Curiosity Mars Rover. John also suggested that those who made interesting purchases at the Gem Show bring them in for show and tell.

REFRESHMENTS: Paul Gonzalez and Ruby Kayo were thanked for bringing the snacks today.

Norma Lackow would like additional volunteers to bring refreshments for the March, April and May meetings. The Club offers \$30 toward the food each month.

Please call Norma Lackow at 742-7561

NEW BUSINESS: John Poole related some of the ideas which were suggested by several members regarding safety in the silversmithing room: Changing tips on torches should only be done by monitors, emergency shut-off valves will be installed and a light over the sink will be added.

MARCH MEETING: The Board had voted that ALL monthly meetings be held the second Saturday of each month.

A clean up day for the Brush and Bulky

pickup by the city of Tucson will be held on March 22nd or 29th.

John Poole will give the tour today of facilities for visitors or new members present.

Raffle ticket sales today: over \$120.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE PIMA COUNTY FAIR OPLC BOOTH: The 2014 fair dates are April 17-27th. The sign-up sheet will be posted at the March and April meetings.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 AM.

Twink Monrad, Secretary

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



Georgia Best

Nancy Carey

Dana Cote

Andy Coulam

James Duff

Alex Estrim

Stephanie Garrett

Kelly Gillespie

Anne Gillespie

Tim Hughes

Debby Hughes

Helen Ladd

Alex Legat

Mindy Liu

Tom Millican

Sue Reynolds

Ken Summers

Cindy Summers

Ron Graichen

Carolyn Graichen

Emi Harvey

Elise Mitchell

Gay Thompson

Johnny Thompson

MARCH BIRTHSTONE: AQUAMARINE

People born in March are proud to show off their birthstone: the beautiful and subtle birthstone **Aquamarine**, a greenish-blue variety of the cyclosilicate *Beryl*. In cyclosilicates the $[\text{SiO}_4]$ tetrahedral are linked together to form rings. The Si:O ratio in the silicate part of the formula is always 1:3, e.g. Si_3O_9 , or Si_6O_{18} . The symmetry of the rings is normally reflected in the crystal symmetry, as in the case of beryl, which has $[\text{Si}_6\text{O}_{18}]$ rings and is therefore hexagonal. Crystals are commonly found in the simple prismatic form, and less commonly with several crystal forms. Prism faces are often vertically striated or grooved. They can be larger than 200 metric tons, and sometimes form as columnar aggregates. Cleavage is indistinct on the basal plane $[0001]$, and fracture is conchoidal or uneven. Hardness varies from 7.45—8.0 on the Moh's scale, and density is about 2.7. It has a vitreous luster, is transparent to translucent, and large crystals can vary in transparency. As noted previously, the crystal structure of beryl is characterized by sixfold rings of $[\text{SiO}_4]$ tetrahedral, linked by Beryllium $[\text{BeO}_4]$ tetrahedral and Aluminum $\{\text{AlO}_6\}$ octahedral; the $[\text{Si}_6\text{O}_{18}]$ rings lie on top of each other, and thus form endless channels along the *c* axis of the crystal. Minor amounts of Li, Na, or other alkali metals can be present, which like H_2O and CO_2 can be accommodated in the channels. Small amounts of Cr^{3+} , Mn^{2+} , or other transition elements give rise to color caused by these impurities. In aquamarine, ferric $[\text{Fe}^{3+}]$ and ferrous iron $[\text{Fe}^{2+}]$ are the impurities which impart the lovely color: Fe^{2+} causes blue, and Fe^{3+} imbues a yellow hue. The mixture of the two causes the seawater color. Most aquamarine stones are heated in the rough to drive off the Fe^{3+} (the yellow component), so that the stones maintain as saturated a blue hue as possible. This is done to probably more than 95% of all aquamarines, which puts this stone in the same category as Tanzanite in a fashion - most of the "natural" stones out there actually aren't natural! Aquamarine is a common mineral, primarily occurring in granites and granitic pegmatites. Other forms of beryl can be found in mica-schists and in veins in bituminous limestone.



Aquamarine is found all over the world, and important gem deposits include Minas Gerais, Brazil; Mozambique; Nigeria, Zambia; Pakistan; and a few other African deposits. Aquamarine rough is among the easiest of all facet rough to procure, though prices have been steadily escalating since the 1990's. Top-clarity, top-color, and larger-sized pieces are out there, but substantially more difficult to locate than more typical pieces. Most aqua is very lightly-toned, and



Top Aqua rough from Santa Maria



Aquamarine Crystal Group

darker pieces tend to have fairly grey masking. If you can find it, rough from Santa Maria, Brazil, is very dark for aqua (40% tone or better), and rarely displays the grey mask that makes faceters cringe. Aquamarine tends to have good "crystal" in switching from outdoor to incandescent lighting, though it is definitely a "nightstone" (prefers incandescent). Aquamarine is incredibly easy to facet, and presents few problems for the novice. In smaller pieces of lighter-toned material, it is very inexpensive (compared to other facet rough, anyway!) Don't scrimp on clarity - most aqua rough is very clean, and inclusions lower the price.

March Program: Rocks on Mars and Earth

From NASA's Curiosity Rover's Discoveries to Rare Earth Minerals

Presented by Shauuna Morrison

Shaunna Morrison is a third-year graduate student in geosciences and rare earth mineralogy at the University of Arizona and a NASA Mars Science Laboratory (MSL) science team member. She is the assistant to UA professor Dr. Robert Downs, PhD., who is the co-investigator working on the chemistry and mineralogy instrument that will analyze powdered rock and soil samples delivered by Curiosity's robotic arm. Morrison will discuss her experiences on the MSL mission – from the launch of the Curiosity rover to the first X-ray diffraction patterns from space. Additionally, she will outline her more-earthly research projects involving rare earth element (REE) minerals."

Morrison pictured with Scarecrow'rover - a model designed with the exact weight and mobility of Curiosity on Mars.



Background on the NASA program

With its rover named Curiosity, Mars Science Laboratory mission is part of [NASA's Mars Exploration Program](#), a long-term effort of robotic exploration of the red planet. Curiosity was designed to assess whether Mars ever had an environment able to support small life forms called microbes. In other words, its mission is to determine the planet's "habitability." To find out, the rover carries the biggest, most advanced suite of instruments for [scientific studies](#) ever sent to the Martian surface. The rover will analyze samples scooped from the soil and drilled from rocks. The record of the planet's climate and geology is essentially "written in the rocks and soil" -- in their formation, structure, and chemical composition. The rover's onboard laboratory will study rocks, soils, and the local geologic setting in order to detect chemical building blocks of life (e.g., forms of carbon) on Mars and will assess what the Martian environment was like in the past.

REMINDER!

With the new year comes renewed responsibility...

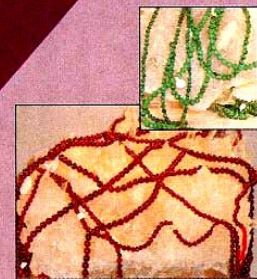
Don't forget to renew your OPLC dues!

Renewal forms are available at the Clubhouse, from any Monitor, and even on the back of this newsletter.

Monitors will be checking to ensure dues are paid before you are allowed to use the shops!

DAH ROCK SHOP

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 Unfortunately, it kills all of its pupils.*
 - Hector Berlioz

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MONEY SAVING DISCOUNTS

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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** - 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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Jean Barkley 546-1651

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Jerry Behn 761-1924

Bob O'Donnell 886-0384 (Chairperson)

Shiela Powell 578-1976

Al Romey 325-7263

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Gretchen Arnaiz 747-1511

Sheila Powell 578-1976

KITCHEN

General Membership

LIBRARIAN

Twink Monrad 297-9454

MEMBERSHIP

Wayne Klement 954-6298

SECURITY

John Poole 777-5588

SILENT AUCTION

Dan Harmsen 721-8452

WEEKLY WORKSHOP SCHEDULE Phone 323-9154

Mondays

9AM - 12PM **Cabbing**

Monitor - Gloria Jean Dana

10AM - 1PM **Rock Sawing**

Monitor - Jim Baker 886-2126

1PM - 4PM **Faceting Guild** (Exp. Facetors Only)

Monitor - Billy Bob Riley 225-9060

1PM - 4PM **Silversmith Lab**

Monitor - Lou Akerman 290-6968

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

Wednesdays

6PM - 9PM **Beginning Casting**

Monitor - Chuck Lundstrom 577-6446

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

10AM - 1PM **Rock Sawing**

(BY APPOINTMENT ONLY)

Monitor - Jim Baker 886-2126

Fridays

9AM - 12PM **Cabbing***

Monitor - Mike DeMeritt 203-8430

Saturdays

8AM - 12PM **Rock Sawing**

Monitor - Jim Griffin

10AM - 3PM **Silversmithing**

Monitor - Terry Cox 296-4949

10AM - 3PM **Cabbing***

Monitor - Ron Davidson 400-2125

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



Marvin Chaiken: Apache Tears, Sonic Cleaner, soft carving material

To donate to OPLC, just see or contact Dan Harmsen. at 721-8452.

Old Pueblo Lapidary Club
 (Cutting Remarks - March 2014)
 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 (____) _____

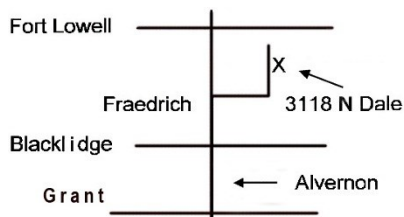
Email address _____ Summer Dates: From _____ To _____

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.