

“CUTTING REMARKS”

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

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Please join us on May 14th
for the next 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, Wayne Klement (wayneklem@aol.com), or feel free to call him at 520-954-6298. Submission deadline is the 20th of each month. Thanks!

THE PREZ SEZ by Pete Peterson



April is gone and the county fair show is over, May is here, and its time to do some cleaning.

If you happen to be in the Training Center, you may see some rearrangement of equipment for better utilization of space. We need some help cleaning the hallway too. We also need some help cleaning the Club House and to clean and move some of the display cases and bulletin boards, scrub floors, dust, and get the coolers running. It would be in our best interest to get these tasks completed before the HOT weather sets in.

I noticed that ONE person

had filled out a shop survey. Thank you, whoever you are.

One survey is great but we can't form a schedule for everyone on just a single survey.

Come on folks, help us out. Tell us what you want for classes and times and days you can attend.

Also, lab instructors, monitors and committee chairpersons, we, the Board, need to have your requests for equipment and supplies for the 2012 budget. I know this seems a little early, but these things seem to creep up on us every year.

Another thing is election of

Officers and Board members. Nominations are in November, election in December and installation in January. I know this is also early but start thinking about who you would like to have in office for 2012.

Have fun this summer and remember these two important rules, fill all the holes you create and leave nothing behind but foot prints. I almost forgot, watch out for rattlesnakes.

See at the meeting on May 14th.

Pete

CHANGE IN LAB AVAILABILITY

- ◆ Bill Cascio's Silversmithing lab on Thursday evenings from 6-9PM has been discontinued.
- ◆ Danny Harmsen's winter cabochon lab held on Fridays from 9am-Noon will be suspended for the summer. His last lab will be held May 20th and will resume on October 7th.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Barbara Bloxham

Jan Cunningham

Joshua Warren

Dan Bloxham

William Martin

Ann Woods

Karen Coolbaugh

Jeremiah Mosij

DONATIONS

If you are interested in making a donation (rocks, equipment, etc.) to the Old Pueblo Lapidary Club. Please call: Bill Carmody at 760-8598 or Dan Harmsen at 721-8452.

Cutting Remarks, Volume 2011, Issue 5, May 2011. Published monthly by the Old Pueblo Lapidary Club, 3118 N. Dale, Tucson, AZ 85712. Telephone: (520) 323-9154, a non-profit organization.

APRIL MEETING MINUTES By Pat McMullen, Secretary



The meeting was opened at 9:10 and Jerry Glazman introduced our speaker Dr. Bob Casavant who currently serves as the Research and Science Manager and Natural Resource Manager for



Jerry & Dr. Casavant

Karchner Caverns State Park. Dr. Bob talked not only on Karchner but also on the geology of the entire area and the possibilities of more caves in the vicinity. His presentation was well received and many questions were asked and answered.

President Pete called for a short break.

The meeting was called to order at 10:50, a quorum being present.

The first order of business was the minutes of the last meeting. Pat McMullen noted a correction was in order. Jerry Behn and not Jerry Foley would be one of the leaders for our future rock hounding trips. A motion to approve the

minutes of the last meeting with the correction was approved.

Diana Hara gave the financial report noting that we are still within our budget for the year.

Our visitors were, Don Spencer, 2 people from Nebraska who declined to give their names, Victor Vagerus, Josh Woods and Shirley, no last names given.

Murray Hiller passed out tickets and parking passes for the upcoming Pima County Fair which will be going on 14th through the 24th of April. He explained that the role of the volunteers who man the booth are to demonstrate faceting, cabbing and engaging in general conversation regarding the Club benefits. All members were encouraged to submit their material for display at the Fair.

Pete announced in May there will be spring cleanup around the clubhouse to make the area more presentable. Sign-ups will be at next month meeting.

It was noted during the meeting that the rain outside was leaking inside through the roof. Oh, oh!

The classes in the labs are filling up to almost overflow.

We need to fill out a lab survey in order to make times accessible to all members.

Survey sheets were available at the table in the back of the room, please take time to fill one out.

Silent Auction Chair Danny Harmsen's report was excellent as usual.

Education Chair Shiela Powell reported they had attended Robbins Elementary PTA Carnival where they set up tables with minerals and materials to pass out. They also made bracelets that were a big hit. Good work by the education people.

Barbara and Keith Miller donated a map to the club showing all the major turquoise mines in the state of Arizona. Barbara gave accounts of their rock trips searching for turquoise, which provided material for her many articles in Rock and Gem Magazine.

Art Kavan and Charles Reece brought faceted stones for show and tell.

Tim Hicks announced that Tucson Gem & Mineral Society is sponsoring a gem

Cont'd on next page

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and jewelry sale from
9am-4pm on May 7, 2011.

Jerry Behn has agreed to

setup rock-hunting trips later
after the hot weather season
for OPLC members.

Ray Brown will give tours of
the lab facilities to new
members and visitors after

today's meeting.

President Pete adjourned
the meeting at 11:15.

Jim Griffin won the door
prize.

HAPPENINGS AT THE PIMA COUNTY FAIR

I would like to express OPLC's appreciation and thanks to all the members who volunteered their time and efforts in the manning the booth and helping with the setup, manning, and takedown



Pat McMullin, Elwyn Wooster, Charles Reece, and Phil Babcock
Photo by Staff

"Box O'Rox" on the table filled with tumbled stones from which we allow each child to "Pick a Rock". These Free Rocks for Kids is probably the most popular part of our operation!

All those who participated in this year's celebration can be very proud of their part in making a success of this opportunity to further our Club's goal of educating the public in the lapidary arts and skills.

Thank You so Much

Murray Hiller

at the
Centennial Celebration of
the Pima County Fair. The
response to the call for
help was tremendous!

I would also like to
express our appreciation to
Peggy Bauernfeind from
the Pima County Fair
Association, who, each
year provides a booth at no
expense to the Club so
that we may display and
demonstrate our lapidary
arts and skills to the Public.
Another facet of our program
each year is that we have a



Phil Dunton, Raymond Pajkos
Photo by Trevor Chilcote

SPRING FAIR AT ROBINS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

By Shiela Powell, Photos by Shiela Powell

Robins Elementary School's Parent Teacher Organization's Christy Nibbons called Old Pueblo Lapidary Club and asked if we would set up an exhibit for their Spring Fair on April 2, 2011. Pete Peterson gave me a call and I said I would do it with a couple of volunteers. Claire O'Donnell and Jo Ann Sam agreed to help. On April 2, with a promise of 95 degrees and a 30 mile per hour wind, we arrived at the school about 11:A.M.

Christy had a motorized cart to assist us with hauling the 2 tables, 8 flats of minerals, an OPLC sign, and other materials to our booth. The motorized cart was a life saver. Sam joined me with her tub of sand with buried petrified wood. She tried to set up a poster showing the process that the wood went through to become petrified, but the wind was too much so she put them up for another day. Claire O'Donnell came with about 20 necklaces to give to the children and some lovely larger quartzes and polished stones. We had a flat of hands-on minerals for the children to examine and ask questions.



Shiela Powell, Jo Ann Sam, Claire O'Donnell

About 70 children visited our tent and kept the three of us busy answering questions and letting

them pick out the mineral of their choice from each flat of minerals. There were quartz crystal from Arkansas and Cave growths (calcium carbonate) donated by Shiela Powell, selenite crystals and tumbled stones donated by OPLC and thanks to Wolfgang Mueller's Club field trip to the Mission Mine, we had pyrite and sand chrysocolla, (Thank You



Samples of various minerals were available as well as a chart depicting the composition of some specific minerals.

Mission Mine and Wolfgang). We also had petrified wood from Jo Ann Sam and necklaces donated by Clare O'Donnell. The children all were given a bag to put their treasures in with labels and wrapping material. A great time was had by all.

The minerals we had left over were donated to Marisa Kleiman, a science teacher at Stafford Magnet School along with a flat of hands-on minerals for her classes.

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NOTE: OPLC members who would want to set up a booth must also be a member in good standing with TGMS. If interested, please call the TGMS office at 520-322-5773 to sign up, and send your \$20 fee to TGMS or fax Friday night or Saturday morning set-up.

Helpful Hints! (they never hurt)

Many lapidarists now heat nodule and thunderegg halves under a heat lamp for a few minutes before polishing with tin oxide or cerium oxide on felt. The polish comes up almost instantly. Alternatives include putting specimens in a 200° F oven until they are warm to the touch or putting specimens in hot water until they are warm. Dry off excess water before polishing.

To repair a spread apart link in a small broken chain, insert a toothpick in the two adjacent links. The faulty link is thus held in place for pliers to pinch it together again.

To break a cavity filled with fragile crystals away from a large matrix specimen: fill the cavity with fine dirt and hold the piece with the cavity facing up to retain the dirt while you trim the specimen. The dirt prevents the shock of the hammer blow from loosening the crystals.

Dinosaur bone is handled much like agate, sanded to 600 grit on silicon carbide, and polished on hard felt with tin oxide. The stone is finished with black rouge on mus-lin buff. The muslin buff can clean out the tin oxide that remains between the bone cells, and the black rouge applies a stain to the tin oxide that remains behind. What color rouge you use might depend on the color of your bone.

To spot cracks and vugs before sawing, first soak it in a tub of water for at least an hour. Remove the rock and place it in a sunny spot. The surface will dry quickly, but the fractures and vugs will not. Use a soft pencil to mark the rock for guidance in sawing.

Take lint from your clothes dryer lint catcher and add it to the polishing compound for tumbling. It will speed up the polishing and prevent chipping.

Did you know that malachite is very poisonous in its raw state? Never lick the material to see the color. Don't even repeatedly lick your finger and apply. When you grind, wipe the contaminated oil off your skin right away. If you smoke and the taste becomes very sweet you are absorbing the malachite dust. The copper oxide dust is mixing with the moisture in your mouth and re-acting to the tar in the tobacco, turning it into saccha-rine. Needless to say, you should take some immediate steps to stop the Inhalation.

From the Ft. Collins' Lodestone, Feb '11 via Rocky Mountain News March 2011

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CHOOSING BEADS

by, Mary Sue Bucher, San Francisco GMS

I don't think anyone would purposely buy poor quality beads. But how do you pick the good ones?

The hole...is a very important part of the bead, and if it's a round bead, it *should* be DEAD CENTER unless of course it's a side drill. Stretch the string between your hands and spin the line of beads on it. If they appear to "jump up and down." Then they are off center. While doing this, try to move the beads back and forth on the string. There should be some play. If they're too tight on the string, that could be a sign of bad holes. Sometimes a bead is drilled from one end with a slightly cone shaped drill and then drilled from the other end. If the holes don't meet properly in the center, then they're bad and can be a bear to work with. Neither should the hole be too big as that can cause grief too. There may also be cracks, air bubbles, flat places, and "%*\$#&"s in your beads. Be sure to check them before buying. If it's a hand carved bead, is it a good one?

Be critical! Is it dyed? More and more gemstone beads are being dyed; in fact it's hard to find gem beads that haven't gone into the dye pot. What color is the string? If it's the same as the beads, that can be a giveaway. Becoming familiar with what the stone is supposed to look like is the best way to tell. Chip and nugget beads are some of the cheapest stone beads, they're just left over hunks that are tumbled and then drilled, although some of the better stones can make a nice informal necklace.

Many glass beads have coatings that rub off. Some Delicas, and other Japanese cylinder beads have this problem and some of them are dyed too. Neither treatment is permanent, but you can get some good information from bead companies online as to which beads to avoid. When buying faceted beads, stone or glass, always check the edges of the facets. Sometimes they have little chips running along the edges, and you don't want those, This can be a problem with vintage crystal beads. Also, many of those old crystal beads, such as Swarovski, have an AB (Aurora Borealis) coating, which can be badly worn, and ends up looking gross.

There's really no magic to choosing good beads. You just need either good eyes, good glasses, and/or a loupe or optivisor. Take one with you. Look at the beads closely and study them. It has always amazed me how people just seem to buy things without giving them a good looking over. Anything you buy, anything, should be carefully examined whether it's a used car a plant that might harbor bugs, or some really yucky beads.

Source: the glacial Drifter – 11/2009 via Rock Chips March 2011

HOW MANY BEADS IN A STRAND?

As there are 25.4 millimeters in an inch, and as beads are often measured in millimeters (mm), this is only a matter of mathematics. A common length for a strand of beads is 18 inches, and there are approximately 460 mm in such a strand. Thus, the average 18 inch strand will contain the following approximate number of beads:

4 mm: 115 beads

6 mm = 79 beads

8 mm = 58 beads

Cont'd on top of next page

.....Cont'd from prior page

10 mm = 46 beads

This should help you know if you have enough beads for the strand you are planning.

Source: *The Glacial Drifter* – 11/2009 via *Rock Chips* March 2011

TELLING LAPIS LAZULI FROM SODALITE

If you want to know whether you have sodalite, lapis or imitation lapis, look for pyrite inclusions. Lapis-Lazuli will have pyrite inclusions. Sodalite does not have pyrite inclusions. In imitation Lapis the inclusions are golden flakes not pyrite crystals.

Lazurite is the mineral name of the gem and ornamental stone Lapis-Lazuli. Lapis Lazuli is a gemstone with a rich blue color. It has a hardness of 5-5-1/2, is composed of sodium aluminum silicate with some sulphur. Most of the properties of lazurite are similar to those of sodalite, but the association of pyrite with lazurite determines the identification.

Sodalite is composed of sodium aluminum silicate with chlorides. It is 5-1/2 to 6 on the hardness scale and the color is usually blue but may tend toward white, grey, yellow or red. It is associated with other feldspathoids, so called because they resemble feldspars but are of a slightly different compositing.

When working Lapis to a polish it requires fine sanding to prevent pyrite inclusions from protruding. Leather may be used with chrome oxide for polishing. Sodalite, on the other hand polishes perfectly on felt with cerium oxide, after a fine job of sanding.

A drop of Hydrochloric acid is good for testing lapis-lazuli. A drop of it on the blue stone creates an odor of hydrogen sulfide. On the white areas of the stone it usually effervesces because the white is usually calcite. This test will distinguish Lapis from Sodalite.

This report was inspired by an article from Tulip City Conglomerate via the Roseville Rollin' Rocks via Rolling Stones Beacon April 2011.

DONATIONS

Brenda Peo of ST. David, Arizona, donated beads (fish spine, azurite, stone, glass, sea, and other miscellaneous beads), necklaces, charms, bracelets, cabs, various stones, various types of findings, and bolo ties and tips.



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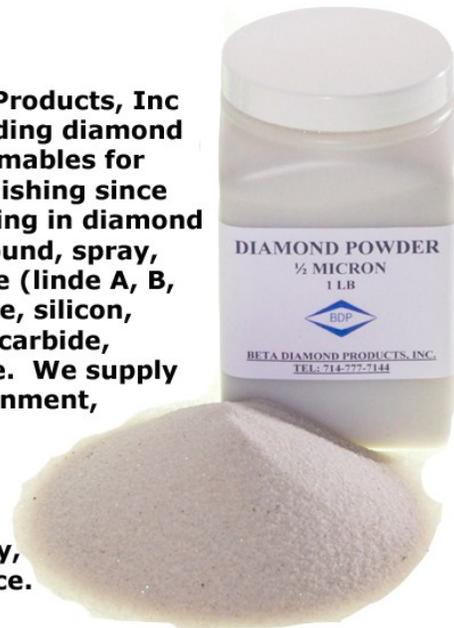
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Ad Expires June 2011

DON'T FORGET

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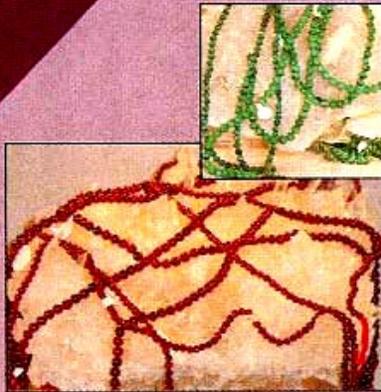
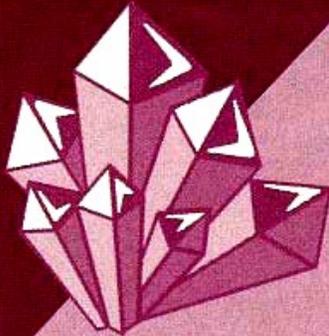
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WEEKLY WORKSHOP SCHEDULE Phone 323-9154

Mondays

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

Monitor - Paul Head 296-0331

1PM - 4PM **Silversmith Lab**

Monitor - Lou Akerman 290-6968

6PM - 9PM **Beginning Faceting**

Monitor - Earl Zoeller 886-3518

Tuesdays

9AM - Noon **Cabbing**

Monitor - Ron Davidson 749-3157

9AM - Noon **Silversmithing Lab**

Monitor - John Poole 777-5588

10AM - 1PM **Rock Sawing**

Monitor - Jim Baker 886-2126

(Call before showing up at the Club)

6PM - 9PM **Silversmithing**

Contact Ray Brown 390-5667

Wednesdays

6PM - 9PM **Beginning Casting**

Monitor - Chuck Lundstrom 577-6446

6PM - 9PM **Cabbing**

Monitor - Keith Haubert 888-8719

Thursdays

10AM - 1PM **Rock Sawing**

Monitor - Jim Baker 886-2126

Fridays

9AM - Noon **Cabbing**

Monitor - Dan Harmsen 721-8452

NOTE: Last lab for the winter will be May 20th. Lab will resume October 7th !!!!!

Saturdays

9AM - 2PM **Rock Sawing**

Monitor - Jim Griffin 578-3765

10AM - 3PM **Silversmithing**

Monitor - Ray Brown 390-5667

10AM - 3PM **Cabbing**

Monitor - Ron Davidson 749-3157

COMMITTEES

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MEMBERSHIP

Wayne Klement 954-6298

SECURITY

Ron Davidson 749-3157

SILENT AUCTION

Dan Harmsen 721-8452

Old Pueblo Lapidary Club
 (Cutting Remarks - May 2011)
 3118 N. Dale
 Tucson, AZ 85712
 (520) 323-9154

OPLC Membership Application - Please Print

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

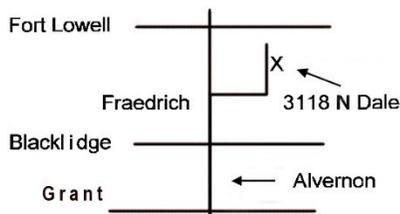
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Type of membership:	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	Annual Renewals
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Couple (same address)	\$35.00	\$27.00	\$22.00	\$15.00	\$25.00
Junior	\$12.50	\$10.00	\$8.00	\$5.00	\$10.00

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.