

“CUTTING REMARKS”

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

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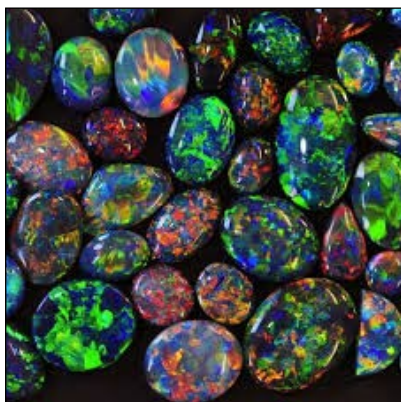
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Please join us **October 10th** at 9:00am for the monthly meeting. There is an optional social hour that begins at 8:00am followed by an educational program at 9:00am, followed by the monthly meeting. Visitors are always welcome.



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



Fall is in the air. It should be quite pleasant October 10 for our Tailgate Sale after the Business Meeting.

real treasures (or maybe not!)
Get the auction fever, you and the Club will be winners!!

But, the real deal of the year is our Annual Silent Auction, the first Saturday of November, the 7th. This is our biggest fund raiser of the year. There will be table after table of rocks, slabs, cabs, minerals and tools.

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

See you on October 10!

It'll be a fun time to converse with friends and fellow rockhounds and outbid them on some

John Poole

Up-coming OPLC Attractions – Speakers

We are very excited about all the programs coming up in 2015 and spring of 2016! Please add them to your calendar and we hope to see all of you at every meeting!!

Helen Serras-Herman, OPLC Program Chair

October 10, 2015, Robert & Elaine Royer, will share their fabulous trip to
Antarctica

November 14, 2015, Eric Fritz, gemologist, will give a presentation on Emeralds
from North Carolina

December 12, 2015- Holiday Party

January 9, 2016, Wolfgang Vaatz, gem & jewelry artist, will give a presentation on
his work

February 2016 No Program

March 12, 2016, Mike Conway, geologist from AZ Geological Survey will give a
presentation

Front Cover Pictures: October's gemstones in all of their glory: stunning **Black Opal** from Lightning Ridge, Australia, across from a rainbow of faceted **Tourmaline** from all around the world!

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



OPLC MEETING SEPTEMBER 12, 2015

The meeting was brought to order by President John Poole at 10:15 AM. A quorum was present. He thanked our speaker Jim Turner for a most interesting talk with photos about Arizona gold.

Lynne and Jerry Pulley were thanked for bringing the refreshments.

One new member was introduced, and membership is now 458.

Minutes from the August meeting were approved, as was our treasurer's report.

PARKING LOT SALE October 10th: this will be held after our business meeting. Only OPLC members can sell and all merchandise must be lapidary related. Vendors must park in the north lot between 8 AM and 8:30 AM. After 8:30 the lot will be opened up for anyone.

SILENT AUCTION November 7th. Phil Madsen said that he has lots of nice things for the auction. There will be a volunteer sheet in the kitchen for members to sign up to help run the kitchen between 9 AM and 12 noon.

FIELD TRIPS: Janelle Cortright is working on some locations for future trips. Nothing is planned at the moment. All waivers from field trips will now be saved and filed at the club.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT: Several members have stepped up to run for office this fall: Gloria Jean Dana, for Vice President, Bob Powell for Treasurer plus Carol Brown and Tom McDevitt for board members.

CLASSES: Mike DeMeritt's Tuesday cab lab will now be from 9:00 to 1 PM and will run concurrently with his faceting lab so both labs will be at the same time.

Jerry Glazman will have a cab lab on Tuesdays from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM.

For information on Terry Cox's silver class see John Poole.

Members of the Green Valley lapidary club came to OPLC and met with John and looked at our facility.

HOB NOB:

Diana Hara took the floor and spoke about the Tucson Faceters Frolic, the Hob Nob, and the Clean-up effort that takes place at the end of January and first week of February each year. She has coordinated these events for the past two years but is looking for two people to take over the coordination of the Clean-up effort and the Hob Nob. She has found someone to coordinate the Faceters Frolic for next year. Diana gave a short description of all three events for new members: The Clean-up effort takes place the Saturday before the Hob Nob. It usually takes about an hour and a half and has traditionally started at 9am. Volunteers clean the clubhouse and set up the main room and kitchen for the Faceters Frolic/Hob Nob. This will take place on Saturday, January 30th next year.

The United States Faceters Guild (USFG) hosts the Faceters Frolic and rents the OPLC clubhouse for several days during the gem show. They present seminars related to the jewelry industry – faceting, gemology, industry trends, etc. The current plan is for this to take place on Thursday through Saturday, 2/4/16-2/6/16.

The Hob Nob is a social event that was started by Art Kavan many years ago when he was president of both the USFG and OLPC. USFG members and faceters from all over the world who are in Tucson for the gem show come together for an informal pizza dinner and socializing. Many participate in the Natural and Synthetic Most Beautiful Stone contest sponsored by our club. OPLC presents each winner with an award plaque. Dealers are also invited for a fee and sell their products to the attendees. This event will take place on Saturday, 2/6/16, from 6-9pm. Volunteers helping with this event come in anywhere from 3:30-6:30pm depending on their job.

Diana has a 'to do' list for all three events. Activities that need to happen as part of the planning are mapped out and the coordinator just needs to follow the list and check things off as they are done. If you are interested in coordinating the Clean-up event or the Hob Nob, please contact Diana at 572-0339.

Door prize winner: Rick Day

The meeting adjourned at 10:50 AM.

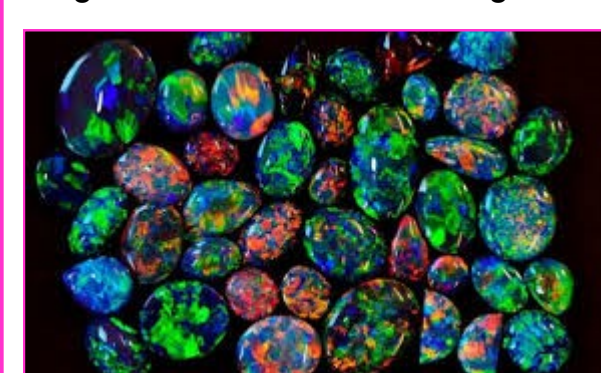
Twink Monrad, Secretary

OCTOBER BIRTHSTONE: OPAL

Those who celebrate a birthday in October have the honor of a birthstone unlike most others: the colorful variety of silicon dioxide known as *Opal*. Opal, chemical formula $\text{SiO}_2 \cdot n\text{H}_2\text{O}$, is basically the amorphous form of chalcedony. It has a Moh's Hardness between 5 - 6, a conchoidal fracture, and a density that varies between 2.0 - 2.2, depending on water content. The water content in opal varies; it is typically 3 - 9 wt% (percent by weight) but can be up to 20 wt%. Although opal isn't crystalline in the usual sense, order of some kind exists: opal consists of a dense packing of spheres, typically 1500 - 3000 angstrom in diameter. In common opal without play-of-color, the size of the spheres varies greatly, whereas the spheres in precious opals (those with play-of-color) are so uniform in size that they form a regular lattice, in which the light is refracted. In some opals the spheres are completely



Outstanding carved white opal from Coober Pedy, Australia



Exceptional assortment of fine black opals from Lightning Ridge, Australia

amorphous, whereas in other opals the spheres are partially crystalline and consist of disordered layers of tridymite and cristobalite. Opal occurs in fissures and cavities in various rocks, where it is deposited by hydrous solutions at relatively low temperatures. It occurs as siliceous sinter or 'geyserite' at hot springs and geysers and constitutes the majority of diatomites, which are fine-grained chalk-like deposits formed by the accumulation of shells from diatoms.

Fire Opal refers to opal (with or without play-of-color) from

Quetaro, Mexico, that principally comes in bright orange and red body colors. *Black Opal* refers to opal with a black body color, whereas *Crystal Opal* or *Hyalite* refers to opal with no body color, and is clear (except those pieces with heavy play-of-color!) *Boulder Opal* refers to ironstone concretions sporting opal found in Queensland, Australia. Most precious opals are from the various sandstone deposits in Australia, but they are also found in Ethiopia, Brazil, Mexico, and even the United States.



Fire Opal cabochons from Quetaro, Mexico

-Written/Compiled by Mike DeMeritt, October 2013

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



Courtney Anderson
Dave Crumley
Marilee Crumley
Flora Edwards
Pamela Gurgevich
Mike Kubana
Annabea McKinley
Joseph Pickard

Mary J Pickard
Sherry Quarles
Bonnie Reed
Don Reed
Jim Rundlett
April Sandmeyer

Volunteerism is the ultimate act of community!



Linda & Tom Nunn: Turquoise & Mother of Pearl Fetishes, bag of Turquoise and & Chrysocolla

Pete Petersen: 2 buckets assorted rocks, 2 tubs selenite crystals, 1 crate of banded sandstone

To donate to OPLC, just see or contact Dennis Murphy at 490-9188, or Phil Madsen at 398-5688

OPLC Fieldtrip Friday December 4, 2015, 1:00pm

Meeting place: Phoenix Art Museum



A rare exhibit titled *Cameos: Sculpture in Miniature* is opening on November 28, 2015 at the Phoenix Art Museum, in downtown Phoenix, Arizona. The cameo collection was acquired in 1944 by world renowned jeweler Pierre Touraine, who created inspiring jewelry from the 1930's until the 1970's.

Join me and curatorial assistant Chelsea Ellsworth for a very special private tour of this exhibit. We will meet at the lobby of Phoenix Art Museum on Friday December 4, 2015, at 1:00pm. We are truly fortunate that Ms. Ellsworth has made time on her busy schedule for our tour!!

You are welcome to go earlier and tour the museum. I will be there lecturing to the museum docents on "*Carved gems: Origins, Inspirations & Skills*", and we'll all meet at 1:00pm. If you are planning to join us, please RSVP at helen@gemartcenter.com so we have a count of attendees.

The Phoenix Art Museum is located at 1625 N. Central Avenue in Phoenix. For open hours, directions, and admission fees, visit <http://www.phxart.org/>

About the Touraine Cameo Collection

The Pierre J. and Velma J. Touraine cameo collection was donated in 1983 by the estate of Pierre Touraine to the Phoenix Art Museum. The origin and creation of the cameos is shrouded in mystery. Sadly, we don't know anything about the original collection owner, the cameo artists, or where the cameos were created. The first and only time the Touraine cameo collection was shown to the American public was in May of 1954 at the Glendale Gem Festival, the annual show sponsored by the Glendale Lapidary & Gem Society, in Glendale, California.

Phoenix Art Museum curatorial assistant Chelsea Ellsworth is responsible for curating this Cameo exhibit; she contacted me some months ago asking for some help with these cameos. She has done some incredible work researching the history, timeline and iconography of the cameos. Ms. Ellsworth was very kind to invite me to the Phoenix Art Museum for a private viewing of the collection. The 174 unmounted pieces in the collection were fitted in precise cut-out openings in 11 wooden box frames, the way they were displayed at the 1954 show. Most of

them are carved in agate; many are in banded black-and-white or brown-and white onyx, while others are in orange-and-white sardonyx, and several are engraved in pure cornelian. A handful of them are carved in different materials, such as turquoise, variscite, rock crystal, and shells. The vast majority are cameos with a few intaglios, dating from 100-200 years ago. They are tiny masterpieces ranging in size from less than an inch to over two inches across. Themes depict figures and scenes inspired from the ancient Greek mythology, as well as some historical portraits.

I am overwhelmed with the artistry of these pieces and intrigued by the mystery surrounding the collection and the artists. The *Cameos: Sculpture in Miniature* exhibit will be on display for a very limited time until April 17, 2016, and should not be missed by any art and gem lovers.

Helen Serras-Herman

IN MEMORIAM

Paul Head was an OPLC member for 30 years and a Board member for 8 of those years. He also was a monitor and faceting instructor for many years. His presence, wisdom and gentle nature will be greatly missed.

October 2015 OPLC speaker

Voyage to Antarctica– Geology and Natural Beauty



We are in for another very special treat for our October 10, 2015 OPLC monthly meeting. If you have ever dreamed of going to Antarctica, following the steps of famous explorers Norwegian Amundsen and Englishman Scott, Robert and Elaine Royer did just that. They will share

with us their voyage to Antarctica that started in Buenos Aires in Argentina, then embarking on the boat at Ushuaia- the southernmost city in the world, sailing through the Drake Passage and finally landing on Antarctica. They will talk about the geology and the rocks of this ice-covered continent, as well as showing the natural beauty of Antarctica.

Bob and Elaine Royer, members of the Tucson Gem & Mineral Society, retired in 2000 and have been actively travelling since then to several beautiful places in the world.

Their talk is fantastic, full of great photos and sprinkled with stories and humor, so please mark your calendars and not miss it!!!

Looking forward to seeing you all,

Helen Serras-Herman, OPLC Program chair

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- **Jay's of Tucson** - 30% discount excluding orange tag items, sterling silver sheet and wire. 520-323-1123 (corner of Speedway & Swan)
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- **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 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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Mondays

9AM - 12PM **Cabbing**

Monitor - Gloria Jean Dana

1PM - 4PM **Faceting Guild**

Monitor - Billy Bob Riley 225-9060

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

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

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

Saturdays

10AM - 3PM **Silversmithing**

Monitor - Terry Cox 296-4949

9:30AM - 2:30PM **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 - October 2015)
 3118 N. Dale
 Tucson, AZ 85712
 (520) 323-9154

OPLC Membership Application - Please Print

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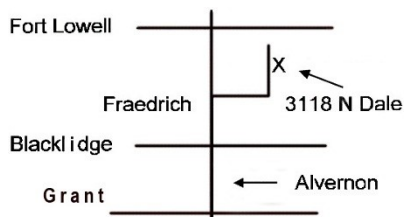
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Couple (same address)	\$35.00	\$27.00	\$22.00	\$15.00	\$25.00
Junior	\$12.50	\$10.00	\$7.50	\$5.00	\$10.00

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.