

# “CUTTING REMARKS”

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

## Officers

President Victoria Fila 664-0302  
Vice President Malcolm Currie 360-707-1630  
Secretary Bill Penrose 780-1143  
Treasurer Mark Davidson 975-6075

## Board of Directors

2019 - 2020 Skip Barkley 546-1651  
2019 - 2020 Bob Powell 762-1089  
2020 - 2021 John Poole 777-5588  
2020 - 2021 Ted Rupp 743-8012  
2020 Dave Richardson 245-2172  
2020 David Schulte (Advisor) 954-8554

## Membership Chairperson

Janet Keisler 333-3398

The November General Membership Meeting have been cancelled. Please check in often for updates regarding scheduling of meetings, labs, and field trips. Some labs are open again - see inside.



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 520-455-5378 or (520) 240-5133. Submission deadline is the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month. Thanks!



Hello everyone hope everyone is doing great and keeping safe.

must be done electronically through emails.

Tailgate sale had a good turn out thanks to all who helped and came out to set up.

Labs: The current list does not reflect what labs are open. (**Editor's Note:** this has been fixed - see next page...) A current temp list will be made up and sent out to all members. Any monitors that are ready to open their lab time up please email me or Malcolm so we can send out a current list. If you are not opening your lab you do not have to email us.

November general meeting has been canceled. We will do a vote at the next board meeting for December general meeting.

Upcoming events: silent auction on 11/7/20 information for this is in the newsletter.

The labs that are open now are reporting everything is going great and everyone is adhering to safety measure put into place.

Field trips: I am trying to get one together - with work right now it is a challenge. I am grateful for any suggestions or if anyone wants to lead a trip. Rules for safe rock trips: keeping 6 ft distance, while near anyone must wear masks and all trip waivers

Keep safe and until we all get to hang out together take care of yourselves.

Victoria Fila  
President

**Front Cover Pictures:** October's primary birthstone is **Opal**, like this incredible Lightning Ridge, Australia, piece. November's birthstone is **Topaz**, represented by this luscious faceted stone from Brazil.

Cutting Remarks, Volume 2020, October/November 2020. Published monthly by the Old Pueblo Lapidary Club, 3118 N. Dale, Tucson, AZ 85712. Telephone: (520) 323-9154, a non-profit organization.

## Current Lab Sessions as of 10/23/2020

**Lab Sessions to be Re-Opened on a Limited Basis** (be sure to read the rules before calling)

### **Cabbing:**

Monday, 6 - 9 pm, Monitor: Donovan Wagner, (520) 869-2050

Tuesday, 9 -12 am, Call for dates. Monitor: Dan Lilly, (801) 995-9692

Tuesday, 3:30 – 6 pm, Leave message on phone. Monitor: Margarette Harris (520) 561-2315

Wednesday, 9 - 12 am, Monitor: Mark Davidson, (520) 975-6075

Wednesday: 6 - 9 pm, Monitor: Keith Haubert, (520) 784-8283

Thursday: 6 - 9 pm, Monitor: Tom Tuten, (803) 260-5423

Friday: 9-12 am, Monitor: David Schulte, (520) 954-8554

Saturday: 9:30 am - 2:30 pm, Call for dates. Monitor: Victoria Fila (520) 664-0302

Sunday: 10 am - 2 pm, Monitor: Gloria Shenanaquet, (520) 396-9715

Sunday: 2 - 5 pm, Monitor: Malcolm Currie, (360) 707-1360

### **Silver:**

Tuesday 9 -12 am, Monitor: Dennis Murphy, (520) 490-9188

Wednesday 9 am - 1 pm, Monitor: Dennis Murphy, (520) 490-9188

Friday 9 - 12 am, Monitor: Kim Knebel, (520) 873-8990

Saturday 9 am - 2 pm, Monitor: Jamie Germaine, (520) 288-0315

### **Casting:**

Call Chuck Lundstrom at (520) 241-9262

Tuesday 9 -12 am, Monitor: Liz Williams, (818) 300-5262

### **Faceting:**

Monday 9:00 - 12:00 am, Monitor: Dave Richardson, (520) 245-2172

Monday 1:00 - 4:00 pm, Monitor: Dave Richardson, (520) 245-2172

Monday 6:00 - 9:00 pm, Monitor: Rick Franz, (520) 401-6414

Wednesday 6:00 – 9:00 pm, Monitor: Dave Richardson, (520) 245-2172

### **Saw Room:**

Call Mark Gibson (520) 297-4412 or Pete Peterson (520) 886-9021

For cutting times and procedures.



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at a safe distance!

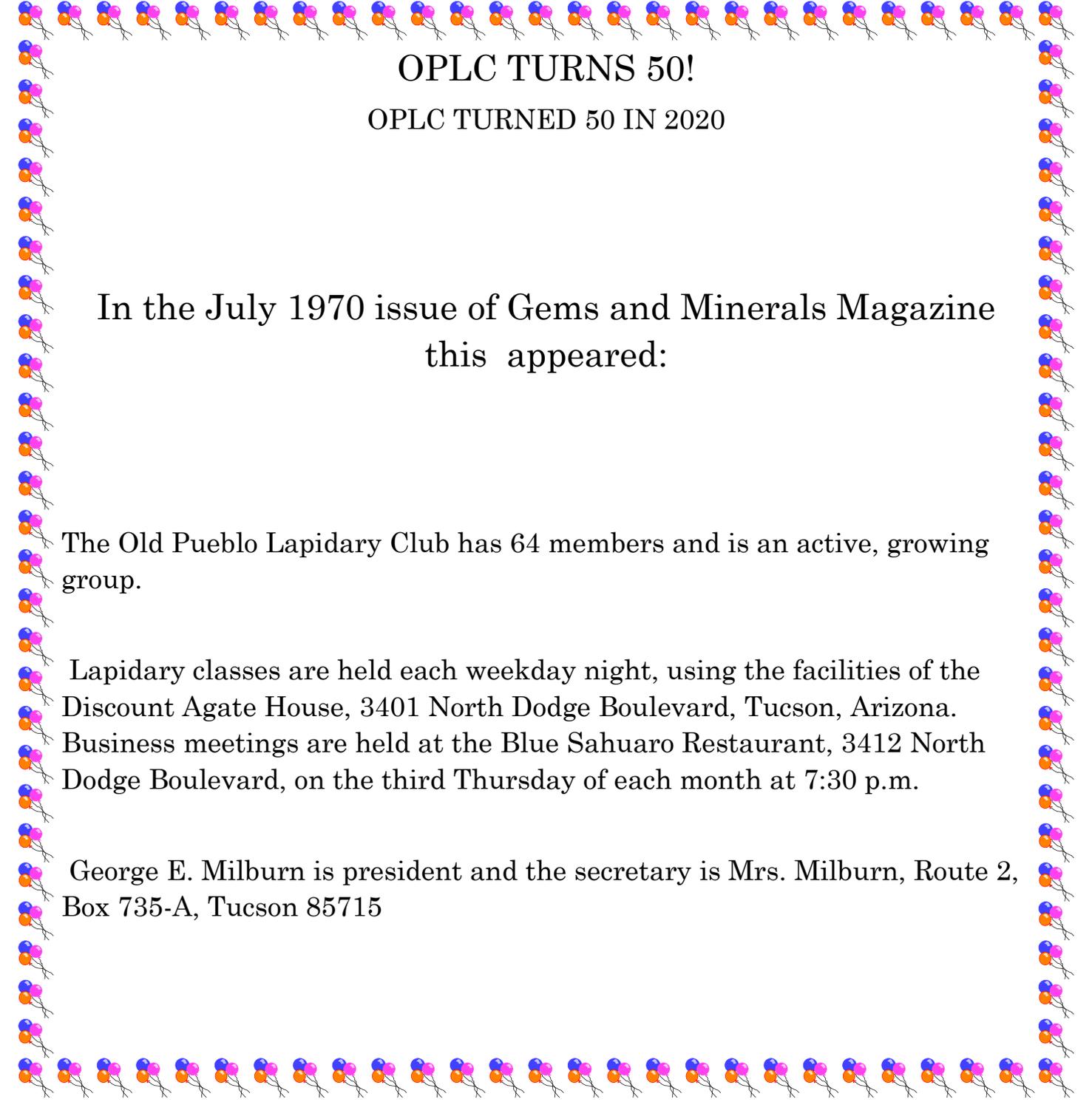


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**OPLC TURNS 50!**  
OPLC TURNED 50 IN 2020

In the July 1970 issue of Gems and Minerals Magazine  
this appeared:

The Old Pueblo Lapidary Club has 64 members and is an active, growing group.

Lapidary classes are held each weekday night, using the facilities of the Discount Agate House, 3401 North Dodge Boulevard, Tucson, Arizona. Business meetings are held at the Blue Sahuaro Restaurant, 3412 North Dodge Boulevard, on the third Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m.

George E. Milburn is president and the secretary is Mrs. Milburn, Route 2, Box 735-A, Tucson 85715

OPLC Members should check the  
Facebook page of the Old Pueblo Lapidary Club Lab Monitors Group  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/335450367346008>  
for current lab times and days

## OCTOBER TAILGATE SALE HIGHLIGHTS

The weather was great for the sale and the first club activity since March. We had 13 vendors and lots of shoppers and buyers. I saw and talked with members I had not seen in months. Several told me it was great to be outside and be involve in a club activity. Everyone worn a mask and I only had to mention gloves were required to a few.

Mark Davidson, our treasurer had OPLC tee shirts and ball caps for sale. And tee shirts will also be available at the Silent Auction. Sorry folks, I bought the last ball cap.

Dave Richardson, Chairperson for the Silent Auction, set up a table and sold some items that had been donated to the club. He was very successful and added many dollars to our club's coffers. The favorite sale item was some blue lace agate from Africa which was donated by Farooq Hashmi. Farooq is a regular vendor at our Facetor's Frolic and has donated very generously in the past. For those who missed out on this beautiful material, Dave tells m there will be more at the Silent Auction, Nov 7th ,2020. This Auction will also be held outside, weather permitting. So come and join us for another club activity. See old friends, get some great deals and help the club with another much needed injection of funds to our treasury.

Stay safe and healthy. Hope to see you Nov 7th, 2020,

-John Poole





## 18TH ANNUAL SILENT AUCTION OLD PUEBLO LAPIDARY CLUB

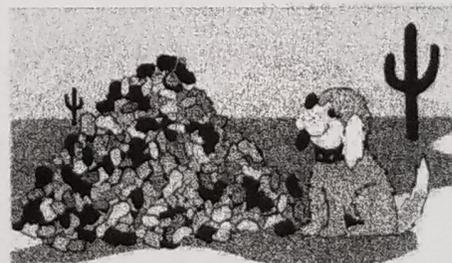
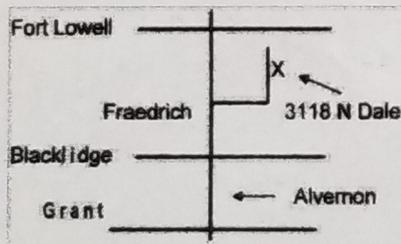
3118 N. Dale, Tucson, AZ 85712  
Free parking - Free admission

**DATE: Saturday, November 7, 2020 HOURS: 9:00am—2:00pm**

Don't miss it! This is your chance to select material and lapidary needs from a myriad of mineral specimens and cutting materials including petrified wood, agate, crazy lace agate, blue lace agate, thunder eggs, jasper, obsidian and more. Also faceting rough, slabs, polished stones, & equipment including: silversmith tools, cab grinding wheels, faceting machine, and more. Cash and check only. No cards.

Face masks are required. Auction will be outdoors, weather permitting.

For additional information, please contact Dave Richardson 520-245-2172



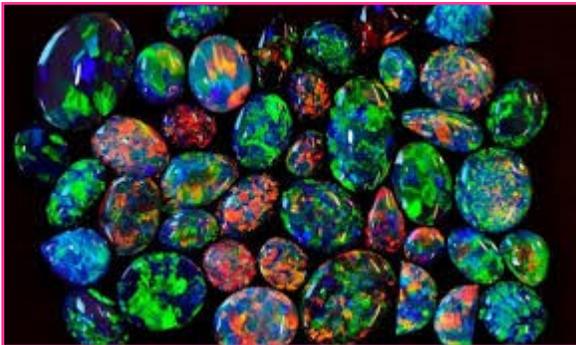
(Donations are tax deductible)

## 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 amorphous, whereas in other opals the spheres



Outstanding carved white opal from Coober Pedy, Australia



Exceptional assortment of fine black opals from Lightning Ridge, Australia

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.

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* refers to opal (with or without play-of-color) from Quetaro, Mexico, that principally



Fire Opal cabochons from Quetaro, Mexico

*-Written/Compiled by Mike DeMeritt, October 2013*

## NOVEMBER BIRTHSTONE: TOPAZ

Those lucky enough to be born in the month of November have a particularly beautiful birthstone in **Topaz**. Topaz is a nesosilicate with the chemical formula  $\text{Al}_2\text{SiO}_4(\text{F},\text{OH})_2$ . Orthorhombic crystals are common, usually short to long prismatic along the *c* axis; crystals are terminated by bipyramids, other prisms, or pinacoid; the prism faces are often vertically striated. It also occurs as fine to coarse granular. Topaz has perfect basal cleavage [001], a Moh's hardness of 8, and a density of 3.5. It has a vitreous luster and is translucent to transparent. Chemically, F usually dominates over OH, so the crystal structure consists of chains of  $[\text{AlO}_4\text{F}_2]$  octahedra parallel to the *c*



Faceted Topaz gems come in an incredible array of colors.



Gorgeous Topaz on Albite specimen from Pakistan.

axis, linked by isolated  $[\text{SiO}_4]$  tetrahedra. This structure is reflected in the common prismatic crystal habit. Cleavage can take place by breaking only Al-O and Al-F bonds, without breaking Si-O bonds. The structure is a relatively dense packing of atoms, which explains the high density. Topaz can be colorless or shades of brown, orange, yellow, green, blue, and rarely pink to purple. Topaz is a characteristic mineral in pneumatolytic and pegmatitic veins related to Si-rich igneous rocks such as granites and rhyolites, and are typically associated with albite, tourmaline, cassiterite, apatite, fluorite, beryl, and micas.

Topaz is found all over the world, and important deposits include Ouro Preto and a few other locales in Minas Gerais, Brazil, where crystals over 200 kilograms have been unearthed; Siberia and Mursinka in Russia; Pike's Peak in Colorado and Hart's Range in Utah; Sri Lanka; Pakistan; and Germany. Most blue topaz rough started life as a lesser color and was heated and irradiated to final color - little of it is natural. Pink colors can be heated as well. Although most topaz is relatively inexpensive, "Imperial Topaz" from Brazil is much sought-after and very expensive to procure. Good, clean crystals only appear on the market when old collections are sold. Topaz isn't difficult to facet, but the perfect basal cleavage and occasional "finicky-ness" can be complicated for beginners.



Highgrade Imperial Topaz facet rough. Like tourmaline, topaz displays two different colors in different crystal axes. Some of the most beautiful are pink-orange and orange-red.

*-Written/Compiled by Mike DeMeritt, November 2017*

## OPLC MEMBERS,

The time has come when the club must elect a new slate of officers for 2021. True, not much has happened this year, although you need to know that

- the **October and November meetings are canceled**, for the familiar reason.

- the **Silent Auction is going ahead November 7**, as usual. The sale will be held in the north parking lot at OPLC, weather permitting, with entry and exit and cash through the club building. Some drinks will be provided, but no food this year.

### **The Election:**

**A ballot is being emailed or mailed to all members** in good standing. You may vote by printing and mailing the ballot to OPLC or by voting in person at the Silent Auction. All ballots must be signed. Ballots must be mailed or turned in by the date of November 20th. The slate of officers has been prepared by the Nominating Committee consisting of Chairman John Poole, Twink Monrad and Mike Tucker.

That slate is:

Victoria Fila, President

Malcolm Currie, Vice President

Mark Davidson, Treasurer

Bill Penrose, Secretary

Board Members:

Bob Powell

Mike Tucker

Donovan Wagner

John Poole and Ted Rupp remain on the board until end of 2021.

Signed, Bill Penrose, Secretary, 520-780-1143 , [wrp0143@comcast.net](mailto:wrp0143@comcast.net)

## OPLC PROXY BALLOT 2020

(please print) I, \_\_\_\_\_, a member of the Old Pueblo Lapidary Club of Tucson, Arizona, cast my vote for the candidates, and in my absence, do hereby tender my proxy to the Board of Directors (per By-Laws Article IV Section 9B)

**(VOTE FOR ONE FOR EACH OFFICER POSITION)**

**President:**

Victoria Fila

\_\_\_\_\_

**Vice President:**

Malcolm Currie

\_\_\_\_\_

**Treasurer:**

Mark Davidson

\_\_\_\_\_

**Secretary:**

Bill Penrose

\_\_\_\_\_

**Board of Directors - Two year term: VOTE FOR 2**

Bob Powell

\_\_\_\_\_

Donovan Wagner

\_\_\_\_\_

**Board of Directors - One year term: VOTE FOR 1**

Mike Tucker

\_\_\_\_\_

**Signed** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please mail your proxy or turn in by November 20th to:**

**Old Pueblo Lapidary Club ATT: Bill Penrose Secretary**

**3118 N. Dale Ave.**

**Tucson AZ 85712**

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



**Donald Pierce  
Jackson Fleder  
Amatha Edgerly  
Elliott Hendricks  
Evan Jones  
Jeff Siegel**

**Ken Salber  
Mican Rasmusan**



The following donations have been received so far this year:

<b>Multiple bags and buckets of rough and slabs</b>	<b>Ted Rupp</b>
<b>Approx. 200 pounds of Namibian blue lace agate</b>	<b>Lionel Swanson</b>
<b>"6"" trim saw"</b>	<b>Lionel Swanson</b>
<b>5 buckets rough and slabs</b>	<b>Patti Polk</b>
<b>Australian opal</b>	<b>Robert Grant</b>
<b>Multiple buckets and flats of rough and slabs</b>	<b>Falk Burger</b>
<b>Two faceting machines and a concave cutter</b>	<b>Linda Tasley</b>
<b>Power tools</b>	<b>Mike Tucker</b>
<b>Airless paint sprayer</b>	<b>Bob Powell</b>
<b>Faceting rough</b>	<b>Dan Lynch</b>
<b>Rough amazonite</b>	<b>Farooq Hasmi</b>
<b>Faceting rough</b>	<b>Mike Miller</b>
<b>Vacuum chamber</b>	<b>Gail and John Mundean</b>
<b>\$500 Donation</b>	<b>Freeport-McMoran</b>

**Thank you to all that have made donations to help keep this club running!  
We are still receiving donations if you have lapidary related items. Please contact  
Dave Richardson at 520-245-2172 to arrange a pickup or drop-off.**

# Helzarockin' Gem & Mineral Show



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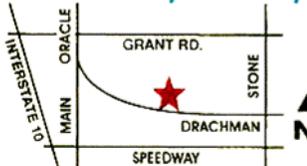
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**3401 Dodge Blvd, Tucson**
- **Colorwright** - (928) 862-4120, Web address: <http://www.color-wright.com/>, **MAILING ADDRESS:** . 2160 Shelby Road, Suite 101, Sedona AZ 86336. Amount of discount depends on item(s) being purchased.
- **Jay's of Tucson** - 30% discount excluding orange tag items, sterling silver sheet and wire. 520-323-1123 (**4813 E Speedway in Pinecrest Center**)  
**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. 520-461-1350 - **2745 N 1st Avenue, 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 off rough rock 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 Instagram Store (IG Name **silverlininggemstones**)
- **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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\$4.00 per month

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Ad Expires Sept 2015

## COMMITTEES

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### BUILDINGS, GROUNDS & EQUIPMENT

Wayne Klement 954-6298

Mike Tucker 400-9656

Pete Petersen 886-9021

### PROGRAMS

Helen Serras-Herman 761-9907

### CLASSES

Victoria Fila 664-0302

### FIELD TRIPS (COMMITTEE)

Victoria Fila 664-0302

### HISTORIAN

Twink Monrad 297-9454

### JUNIOR EDUCATION

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### RAFFLE/DOORPRIZE

Kim Filips 743-8070

### KITCHEN

General Membership

### LIBRARIAN

Bill Cascio 638-8144

### MEMBERSHIP

Janet Keisler 333-3398

### SECURITY

John Poole 777-5588

### SILENT AUCTION

Dave Richardson 245-2172

### BUSINESS MEETING REFRESHMENTS

Twink Monrad 297-9454

Victoria Fila 664-0302

### SILENT AUCTION

Dave Richardson 245-2172

### NEWSLETTER

Mike DeMeritt (520) 455-5378

**NOTE: SEE PAGE 3 FOR COVID-19 LAB SCHEDULING**

**WEEKLY WORKSHOP SCHEDULE Phone 323-9154**

**Mondays**

9AM - Noon **Faceting Lab & Class**  
Monitor - Dave Richardson 245-2172

9AM- 3:30PM **Cabbing**  
Monitor - John Watt 520-247-6811

1PM - 4PM **Silversmith Lab**  
Monitor - Pat Droll 345-2792

1PM—4PM **Faceting Lab & Class**  
Monitor - Dave Richardson 245-2172

3:30PM - 6PM **Cabbing**  
Monitor - Margarette Harris 561-2315

6PM - 9PM **Faceting Class**  
Monitor - Earl Zoeller 886-3518

6PM - 9PM **Cabbing\*\***  
Monitor - Donovan Wagner 869-2050

6PM - 9PM **Silversmithing Lab**  
Monitor - Bill Penrose 780-1143

**Tuesdays**

9AM - Noon **Cabbing\***  
Monitor - Mike DeMeritt 520-455-5378

9AM- Noon **Casting**  
Monitor - Liz Williams (818)300-5262

9AM - Noon **Silversmithing Lab**  
Monitor - John Poole 777-5588

**Wednesdays**

9AM - 1PM **Silversmithing**  
Monitor - Dennis Murphy 490-9188

3PM - 6PM **Rock Sawing**  
Monitor - Steve Lutes 320-360-4329

6PM - 9PM **Cabbing**  
Monitor - Keith Haubert 784-8283

6PM—9PM **Faceting Lab & Class**  
Monitor - Bob Powell 403-8980

**Thursdays**

9AM - Noon **Rock Sawing**  
Monitor - Pete Petersen 886-9021

9AM - Noon **Cabbing**  
Monitor - Bob Powell 403-8980

1PM - 4PM **Silversmithing**  
Monitor - Giac D'Aquisto 207-6219

6PM - 9PM **Silversmithing**  
Monitor - Bill Cascio 638-8144

6PM - 9PM **Cabbing**  
Monitor - Tom Tuten 803-260-5423

**Fridays**

9AM - Noon **Cabbing\*\***  
Monitor - David Schulte 954-8554

9AM—Noon **Silversmithing**  
Monitor - Kim Knebel 873-8990

1PM - 4PM **Silversmithing**  
Monitor - Lou Ackerman 290-6968

1PM - 4PM **Cabbing**  
Monitor - Pete Valentine, 208-409-7910

**Saturdays**

9AM - 2PM **Silversmithing**  
Monitor - James Germaine, 288-0135

9AM - 2PM **Cabbing**  
Monitor - Ron Bryan 619-495-7967

**Casting Class**

Monitor - Chuck Lundstrom 241-9262

*Investing second Saturday of every month 12 - 3*

*Casting pour third Saturday of every month 3PM until finished.*

**Sundays**

9AM - Noon **Rock Sawing**  
Monitor - Mark Gibson 297-4412

10AM - 3PM **Silversmithing Lab**  
Monitor - Giac D'Aquisto 207-6219

10AM - 2PM **Cabbing**  
Monitor - Gloria Jean Shevanaquet 369-7225

2PM - 5PM **Cabbing**  
Monitor - Malcolm Currie

• **INSTRUCTION AS AVAILABLE**

\*\* **FIRST TWO MON/FRI OF EVERY MONTH IS CAB-  
OCHON CLASS, WHILE THE OTHERS ARE OPEN  
LAB**

Old Pueblo Lapidary Club  
 (Cutting Remarks - October/November 2020)  
 3118 N. Dale  
 Tucson, AZ 85712  
 (520) 323-9154

**OPLC Membership Application**  
**Complete form can be downloaded at: [lapidaryclub.org/join\\_us.shtml](http://lapidaryclub.org/join_us.shtml)**

Name1 \_\_\_\_\_ Name 2 \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Local Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

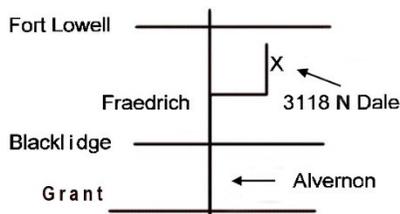
Email address \_\_\_\_\_ Summer Dates: From \_\_\_\_\_ To \_\_\_\_\_

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

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Type of membership:	<u>1st Quarter</u>	<u>2nd Quarter</u>	<u>3rd Quarter</u>	<u>4th Quarter</u>	<u>Annual Renewals</u>
Single Member	\$30.00	\$23.00	\$16.00	\$11.00	\$25.00
Couple (same address)	\$40.00	\$30.00	\$23.00	\$16.00	\$30.00
Junior	\$14.50	\$11.00	\$9.00	\$6.00	\$12.00

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.