

“CUTTING REMARKS”

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

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Please join us **September 12th** 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



Hope you have a great Labor Day! The Fall Gem Show, Sept. 10 to 13, is small, but always interesting. It will be located at 4475 S. Country Club. I believe it is a wholesale only event.

Tail Gate Sale is in October and will be held AFTER the business meeting. Vendors for the sale must be members and the items must be related to OPLC activities, rocks, slabs, cabs, tools, etc. You must provide your own table.

I'd like to thank Dennis Murphy, Mike Tucker and Woodrow Beck for giving me a hand in

cleaning up our junk pile and getting it out to the curb in time for Brush & Bulky pick-up.

I'll see you Sept. 12 for coffee and treats, 8a - 9a, a program and then a short business meeting. Don't forget, wear your OPLC name badge and get a free raffle ticket with your purchase. Our Silent Auction Team, Dennis Murphy and Phil Madsen will have some great prizes out.

-John

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

September 12, 2015 Jim Turner, Arizona historian, will give a presentation on
Arizona Gold

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: Incredible gem-quality faceted **Sapphire** from Ceylon, Sri Lanka, *September's Birthstone*. Beautiful **Lapis Lazuli** from the cutter-preferred location, Afghanistan.

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OPLC MONTHLY MEETING
August 8, 2015

President John Poole thanked our speaker Chris Osterman, geologist, who gave a most interesting presentation with great photos on turquoise from Mongolia.

A quorum was present and John opened the meeting by thanking Ginny and Pete Peterson for bringing the meeting refreshments. Norma said the meetings are taken care of for the next few months.

We had nine new members and guests who introduced themselves. Our membership is now 451.

The July minutes were approved as published in the Cutting Remarks.

Mark Gibson read the treasurer's report which will be filed for audit.

John thanked Mike DeMeritt for yet another fine newsletter. As usual there were interesting articles and tips plus reports on Club business.

Mike in turn thanked all of the new monitors who are all doing a fabulous job.

Field Trips: Nothing is scheduled right now since it is still summer. A trip may be planned in the future

to the Yuma area to look for fossils and minerals.

ANNUAL SILENT AUCTION: This is always held the first Saturday of November which will be November 7th. Please save the date and also save your money as this great fundraiser helps our Club.

After our October 10th meeting we will hold another parking lot sale. Members who wish to sell need to bring their own tables. There is no charge to members, only members can sell, and the sale does not begin until AFTER the business meeting. This fall will be election time again. The Club is in need of a Vice-President . Please consider helping out our Club and join the officers and board. Contact any officer or board member if you are interested in running for office.

Door prize: Was won by Gloria Dana.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:45 AM, followed by the raffle prizes.

Twink Monrad, Secretary

SEPTEMBER STONE: SAPPHIRE



Fine Faceted Sapphires in various colors

Sapphire is the gemstone for September, and the common name for gem-grade **Corundum** (technically, **Ruby** is another name for gem-grade corundum, but only for those rare red crystals with chromium as the chromophore, or coloring agent...) Corundum is an oxide of Aluminum that occurs as trigonal crystals (typically barrel-shaped with several steep hexagonal bipyramids, tabular bipyramids, usually lamellar, and sometimes granular). It has vitreous luster and is translucent to transparent. It has no cleavage, a Moh's hardness of approximately 9.0, and a density of approximately 4.0. Color is usually grey, weakly blue, yellow, or red, but all colors can occur. Normally pure Al_2O_3 , the color-giving ions, such as Cr (ruby) or Fe and Ti (sapphire), are present only in very small amounts - typically only a

few parts per million! Crystal structure can be described as an almost-hexagonal close packing of spheres of O atoms in which two-thirds of the octahedrally-coordinated interstices are occupied by Al and the remaining third are empty. Corundum occurs in silicon-poor igneous rocks such as syenites and nepheline-syenites and associated pegmatites, in contact zones between peridotites and surrounding rocks, and in metamorphic rocks such as gneisses, mica-schists, and crystalline limestones. Because of its hardness and chemical resistance, it is also widespread in sand and gravel deposits.



African Sapphire Rough

Sapphire is found all over the globe - important deposits occur in Sri Lanka, Cambodia, Thailand, Vietnam, Tanzania, Madagascar, and Queensland, Australia, among others. We have gem occurrences in the United States in North Carolina and Montana. The most famous sapphire deposits, though long mined-out, occurred at high altitude at Padar in Kashmir, India, where marble and other metamorphic rocks are cut by pegmatitic dykes. New sources are found often, especially in Africa, but a very recent find in Ceylon, Sri Lanka, shows amazing promise with deep-blue transparent crystals that can weigh over 20 grams! Sapphire is fairly easy to cut and polish, though beginners sometimes have trouble with pre-polish. Try using a 8,000-grit diamond on zinc lap, followed by 50K on zinc, with 3/4 to full speed. You will probably never cut another stone with such sharp facet breaks (unless you are a diamond brillianteer!) You *will* go through laps/saws more quickly, thanks to corundum's incredible hardness. But after factoring in corundum's high refractive index (1.76), decent dispersion, and amazing variety of colors, you'll come to understand why this species is truly "king of the colored gems"!



Top-Quality Faceted Sapphire surrounded by diamonds in platinum ring

Compiled/written by Mike DeMeritt, 2012

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



Albert Amerson

Stacie Brown

Mary Cook

Bill Droste

Sandy Droste

Edward Eastburn

Matt Gore

Emily Jones

Tish Hunter

John Prince

Judy Taylor

James Vollintine

Dan Bach

Sherri Cleveland

David Morris

Tom Beneze

The universe is full of magical things patiently waiting for our wits to sharpen...

-Eden Philpots



Jeff Hansen: 4 bags of slabs - Bruneau Jasper, Lace Agate,

Other assorted jaspers and agates

Ted & Janet Rupp: 5-Gallon pail of jasper and agate rough

And slabs

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

September 2015 OPLC speaker

Jim Turner on Arizona Gold

We are in for another very unique treat for our September 12, 2015 OPLC monthly meeting. Noted Arizona historian, retired professor, and author, Jim Turner, is coming back to speak to us, this time with a new theme:

“There’s Gold in Arizona! Strikes and Hoaxes from the 1850’s to the 1910’s.”

Jim Turner will present a PowerPoint presentation on Arizona's mining history from the first strikes on the Colorado River in the 1850s to Buffalo Bill's "salted" mine in the 1910s, with plenty of big strikes, washouts, lost mines, and hoaxes along the way, from Prescott's Rich Hill to the Lost Dutchman and the Mine with the Iron Door. He is a very knowledgeable and eloquent speaker, so please mark your calendars and not miss this fascinating talk!!!

Looking forward to seeing you all,

Helen Serras-Herman, OPLC Program chair

MONTHLY UPDATE

Upcoming Events at OPLC: Don't forget folks - there are two important upcoming events here shortly... The **October Tailgate Sale** takes place October 10th immediately following the business meeting. Any OPLC member may be a vendor, though you are required to bring your own table. Please only sell lapidary/metalsmithing and related articles. The past few Tailgate Sales went very well, so come join the fun! Perhaps even better is the **14th Annual OPLC Silent Auction**, taking place on November 7th (the 1st Saturday of November). If you've never been, come see for yourself just what it is that everyone at OPLC is talking about! A perfect way to pick up those "always-needed" rough materials, gemstones, findings, equipment, and all related supplies by bidding against your peers in a fair competition. All proceeds go to our wonderful club, and the event is open to the public. The Silent Auction runs from 9am until 2pm or so. See you there!

Workshop Schedule: Mike DeMeritt will be extending his Tuesday hours at the Cab Lab to end at 1pm instead of 12pm (an extra hour). He will also be adding a concurrent faceting lab during the same hours, 9am - 1pm on Tuesdays. This lab is principally meant for beginner faceters and those in need of training or help with faceting, but any member may use any equipment not being used by those amateurs (ie, they have priority...) There is no class fee, though hours will be double-punched for actual instruction (simply using the equipment is single-punched). Don't know anything about faceting? Come on in! Know how to cut stones, but can't figure out how to cut and polish sapphires? Come on in! Don't know how to orient this stone, or how the other stone's varying hardness will affect your cutting? Come on in! Beginners to experts, Mike will be there to help.

WHAT ARE ROCKS?

Rocks are the principal constituents that make up the crust or the Earth's outer "rocky" shell. Most rocks are aggregates of minerals. Consequently they range widely in appearance and other properties according to the minerals present, the number of kinds and their relative abundance, the size of the mineral grains, and the manner in which the minerals are associated. The kinds of rocks are many, but if classified according to the ways in which they come into existence they fall into three major classes: 1. Igneous rocks, formed by the solidification of molten rock-matter as exemplified by the rocks formed by the cooling of lava poured out from a volcano. 2. Sedimentary rocks, most of which were formed by their substance settling as sediment from a body of water. 3. Metamorphic rocks, which were formed from preexisting rocks by developing new characters as the result of geologic processes acting on them within the Earth's crust.

Every rock carries within itself evidence of its mode of origin, and as one of the prime purposes of geology is to determine the constitution, structure, and history of the Earth's crust the recognition of rocks and the ability to read them is of fundamental importance.

CHARACTERS USED IN IDENTIFYING ROCKS

The properties most useful in identifying rocks are structure, texture, hardness, and fracture. Structure is a term reserved for the larger features of rocks. A layered or laminated structure generally indicates sedimentary origin; if the rock contains numerous spherical or almond-shaped cavities or vesicles (formed by the expansion of gases in molten rock matter) it has a vesicular structure and is of igneous origin. Other distinctive structures are referred to in the appropriate places.

Texture is the appearance of a rock as determined by the size, shape, and arrangement of its constituent mineral grains. The magnitude of the grains determines the grain size of the rock: if the grains are as large as peas, the rock is coarse-grained in texture; if they are the size of those in granulated sugar, the rock is fine-grained; and if they are so small that they can not be distinguished as individuals by the unaided eye and the rock seems to be a

homogeneous substance, the rock is said to be aphanitic.

The shape and arrangement of the mineral grains with respect to one another produce the fabric of a rock. For example, a rock composed of grains approximately of one size has an even-grained or equigranular fabric, and a rock in which the grains are of differing sizes has an inequigranular fabric. There are various fabrics, many of which are distinctive of the rocks in which they occur. Inasmuch as texture is the conjoint effect of grain size and fabric, it has become customary to use texture for grain size, for fabric, or for their conjoint effect. Certain textures are of definite help in identifying rocks. The texture of a granite, which is so distinctive that it is termed the granitic texture, proves not only that the rock is of igneous origin, but that it was formed under conditions of slow undisturbed cooling. A glassy texture also proves that the rock is of igneous origin, but that, unlike granite, it was formed by the sudden solidification of molten rock-matter, for glasses are the result of the extremely rapid chilling of molten rock matter. The clastic texture, which occurs in rocks made up of fragments of minerals more or less rounded, is characteristic of many sedimentary rocks. Other textures are described in connection with particular rocks.

Hardness is of service in distinguishing between certain kinds of rocks. Many rocks resemble limestone, but the test for hardness with the knifepoint serves at once to distinguish a limestone, whose hardness is 3, from the much harder rocks that resemble it.

Fracture is a less useful property. However, a semi-conchoidal fracture yielding shell-like fragments characterizes shales, and the tendency of most metamorphic rocks to split into slabs or thin flakes is a valuable aid in their recognition.

(Excerpted from Rimstones Review, February 2008)

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turquoisevane@hotmail.com

Text: 520- 405-3614

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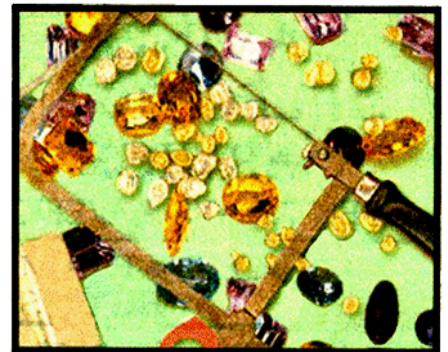
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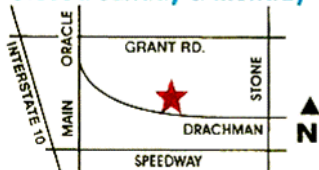
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- **Colorwright** - 520-623-3874 Web address: <http://www.color-wright.com/>, **MAILING ADDRESS:** 1520 S Desert Crest Dr., Tucson, AZ 85713. Amount of discount depends on item(s) being purchased.
- **Jay's of Tucson** - 30% discount excluding orange 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
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- **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 DeMeritt at any of his labs. Includes eBay Store at www.stores.ebay.com/high-lonesome-turquoise.
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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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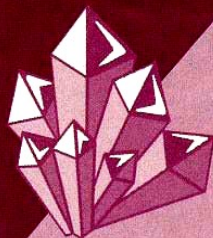


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Dennis Murphy 490-9188

Phil Madsen 398-5688

BUSINESS MEETING REFRESHMENTS

Norma Lackow 742-7561

WEEKLY WORKSHOP SCHEDULE Phone 323-9154

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 - September 2015)
 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 (____) _____

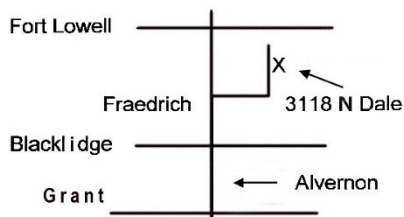
Email address _____ Summer Dates: From _____ To _____

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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 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.