

“CUTTING REMARKS”

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

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Please join us January 12th at **9AM** 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 520-455-5378 or (520) 240-5133. Submission deadline is the 20th of each month. Thanks!

THE PREZ SEZ by David Schulte



12/29/18

Season's greetings, Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukkah to one and all of our club members! I hope you all enjoyed the Christmas pot luck dinner after our last club meeting in December. Our business board meeting for December was held on Friday, December 7th, 2018. Our next business board meeting will be held on Friday, January 4th in the main building at the club at 10 AM. It's a new year and all members are invited to attend and encouraged to participate in the board meetings and the clubs future discussions.

Thanks to all of those that brought in side dishes and desserts for the pot luck dinner. A special thanks goes out to Wayne Klement for the cooked ham, Skip Barkley and Bill Penrose for the turkeys and Dave Richardson for the brisket. Thanks to Kim for herb plants and Jean Barkley and her helpers in cleaning up the kitchen. To all of those that helped setting up and tearing down and making this another successful pot luck dinner, I thank you one and all!

The new board was elected at the December meeting and will be sworn in at the January board meeting. Welcome to the new board mem-

bers and thanks to all the outgoing board members for their service to the club and members, like Bob, that are remaining on the board but changing hats this next year. These folks, club volunteers, lab monitors and instructors are what makes our club possible.

The final clean-up of tasks for the water main repair have been completed and we are all set. Thanks to John Poole for replacing the men's water cabinet fill valve assembly.

The February club meeting will be held on the Saturday, February 2nd this year to avoid conflict with the Facetors Frolic event. Helen Serra-Herman has lined us up a marvelous alternate speaker, a gem artist from Peru (Luis Alberto Quispe Aparicio), for that meeting.

I hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas and wish everyone all the best in the coming year. Hopefully Santa brought some nice rocks for your stockings instead of coal (unless it was the compressed diamond kind)! I look forward to seeing everyone down at the club this coming year! Remember the Gem show is just around the corner.

David

The afternoon knows
what the morning never expected.

- Swedish Proverb

Front Cover Pictures: January's Gemstone, **Garnet**, includes "**Malaya**" and "**Imperial**" Garnets like these faceted beauties! **Star Garnets** from Idaho can make both 4-rayed and 6-rayed stars!

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(Last month's meeting was the
Christmas Party)

2019 Tucson Faceters Frolic

At

The Old Pueblo Lapidary Club

3118 North Dale Avenue

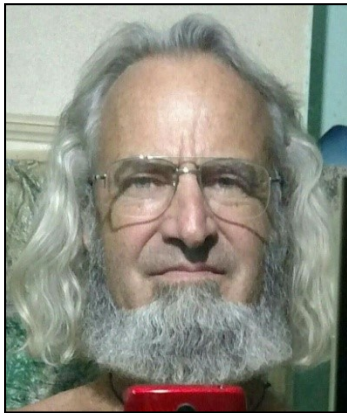
Tucson, AZ 85712

The time is almost upon us for another trip to Tucson. This is the trip that my wife and I look forward to and plan for all year long. The Frolic will again take place at the Old Pueblo Lapidary Club or at least the last three days. This year's Frolic will be another four day event starting with a Gem Rough Buying Tour of the retail shows. It will be followed up by a two day class on Faceting for Beginners, three Gem Cad Classes for beginning, intermediate and advanced applications and three days of exceptional speakers from around the world.

The three days of speakers is free of charge. But the Gem Buying Tour, the Faceting Class and the Gem Cad Classes are available for a fee and they each has a limited number of spaces available.

To sign up and pay for these events you will need to pay in advance by going to <https://usfacetersguild.org/events/> and paying through Pay Pal.

January 12, 2019 OPLC Speaker: Kevin Lane Smith



We are very fortunate to ring in the New Year 2019 with a wonderful artist, who will be our speaker for our January 12, 2019 OPLC monthly meeting.

Kevin Lane Smith is a lapidary and jewelry artist living in Tucson Arizona. He started cutting when he was 15 years old and soon got a job cutting cabs. For 3 summers during high school and college he was a miner and caretaker at the Friday Polka-dot Agate mine in central Oregon. He majored in Geology at the University of Oregon and also learned metalsmithing in the Art department. After moving to Seattle, he continued to study Art at the University of Washington.

In 1987 he began working to develop the Oregon Opal mine at Opal Butte. He moved to Tucson in 1991 and has been involved in several projects, including Rainbow Garnets and Rainbow Obsidian from Mexico and optical innovations in lapidary. His work has been featured in Lapidary Journal, Gems and Gemology and more. He is well known for his beautiful drilled gemstone pendants.

We look forward for Kevin sharing his artwork with us, and any special lapidary tips he may want to give us.

So please do not miss this presentation!

Looking forward to seeing all of you,

Helen Serras-Herman, OPLC Program chair

OPLC 2019 Speakers Forecast

There are some changes and additions since the last announcement. Here is the latest list.

Kevin Lane Smith, lapidary and jewelry artist (January 12, 2019)

Luis Alberto Quispe Aparicio, gem artist, "A Contemporary Take: Behind The Scenes with Lapidary Artists Today" (February 9, 2019)

Wolfgang Mueller, "Arizona Gemstones" (March 9, 2019)

Gregory McNamee, "Monumental Places: National Parks & Monuments in the Grand

Canyon State (May 11, 2019)

Les Presmyk, "U of A Gem & Mineral Museum" (June 8, 2019)

Stan Hart, "Origin, Age & Evolution of Earth" (September 14, 2019)

Larry Fellows, "Pompeii & Vesuvius" (October 12, 2019)

Jim Turner, "Zuni Fetishes & Carvings" (November 9, 2019)

Please do come to the meetings and enjoy these great speakers and their presentations.

Looking forward to seeing you all soon,

Helen Serras-Herman, OPLC Program chair

Overhand the hammers swing,
overhand slow, overhand so sure,
they do not hasten, each man
hits in his place.

- Walt Whitman

JANUARY'S GEMSTONE: GARNET

January has the distinction of owning not a single gem species, but rather a group of inter-related nesosilicates called **Garnets**. Garnets, widespread minerals that are particularly abundant in metamorphic rocks, are easily recognizable, since they are generally found as well-developed crystals with very characteristic crystal forms. Garnets form as 12-sided dodecahedrons, and occasionally as trapezohedrons, 24-sided crystals that can also be called icositetrahedrons.



Faceted Rhodolite Garnet

They can also be found as massives in fine- to coarse-granular. Moh's hardness is approximately 7.0, and density varies from 3.5 - 4.3. It has a vitreous, or occasionally resinous, luster, and is transparent to translucent. Garnets possess no cleavage planes, and have a conchoidal fracture. The general chemical formula for Garnet is $A_3B_2(SiO_4)_3$, in which *A* includes relatively large divalent ions such as Magnesium (Mg^{2+}), Iron (Fe^{2+}), Manganese (Mn^{2+}), or Calcium (Ca^{2+}); and *B* relatively small trivalent ions such as Aluminum (Al^{3+}), Iron (Fe^{3+}), or Chromium (Cr^{3+}), along with a host of others. *A* and *B* refer to positions in the crystal structure in which *A* is surrounded by eight O atoms at the corners of a polyhedron resembling a distorted cube, and *B* is surrounded by six O atoms in octahedral positions. Si is in isolated tetrahedra and is normally not replaced by other elements. The group includes the following end-members: *Pyrope*, $Mg_3Al_2(SiO_4)_3$; *Almandine*, $Fe_3Al_2(SiO_4)_3$; *Spessartine*, $Mn_3Al_2(SiO_4)_3$; *Grossular*, $Ca_3Al_2(SiO_4)_3$; *Andradite*, $Ca_3Fe_2(SiO_4)_3$; *Uvarovite*, $Ca_3Cr_2(SiO_4)_3$; and *Schorlomite*, $Ca_3(Ti,Fe)_2[(Si,Fe)_3O_4]_3$. Garnets are divided into two species, *Pyrospite* (pyrope, almandine, and spessartine), and *Ugrandite* (uvarovite, grossular, and andradite). Considerable solid solution exists within each series, but the miscibility between the two series is very limited (in non-gemologist-speak, this means that many garnets will be combinations of either pyrope, almandine, and spessartite; or uvarovite, grossular, and andradite; and very few will be combinations that jump across the two distinct species). Pyrope occurs in ultrabasic rocks such as peridotites and the serpentinites derived from them; it is also found in high-grade metamorphic rocks rich in Mg. Almandine is common in metamorphic rocks such as gneisses and schists and also in sediments. Spessartine is found in granite pegmatites and in metamorphic Mn-rich rocks. Grossular and Andradite are typically found in contact-metamorphosed or regionally metamorphosed impure limestones, commonly in association with other skarn minerals and sulphides. Schorlomite is found in heavy-alkaline rocks. Uvarovite is uncommon and only occurs in Cr-bearing serpentinites.

Garnets are found the world over, and important deposits include Four Corners, Arizona; Umba River, Tanzania; Teita Hills on the border of Tanzania and Kenya; the Ural Mountains of Russia; and the Stikine River in Alaska. There are far too many others to list here! Unlike quartz, a gem variety known for stones of lesser value, garnets run the gamut, from lowly "Rose Rhodolite" (a gem-almandine garnet), to Demantoid and "Tsavorite" (gem andradite and grossularite varieties). As a person within the industry for many years, I believe the time is coming where Tsavorite garnet will replace emerald as the "King of Green Gemstones" (this is easy to understand - the garnet has a higher refractive index, is more typically found "gem-clean", and doesn't possess emerald's "fussy" nature as a stone that can be brittle and difficult to work with...) With its lack of cleavage and decent hardness, garnets cut and polish very easily for the lapidary of any skill level. The only bad news here for those of you experiencing trouble with garnets is that you shouldn't be! I always recommend garnets to those I teach faceting to, and the broad range of costs makes the less-expensive varieties very affordable for amateurs. So, the next time you reach for a piece of facet rough at the gem show booth, try a garnet! You'll be happy you did!

Compiled & Written by Mike DeMeritt, 2012

JANUARY CUTTING TIPS

Easy Electrolysis At Home...

This is a great tip both for the jewelry owner or those of you who perform jewelry repair, especially in situations where the stone must be left in the mounting, allowing limited cleaning. Professional jewelers often use an electrolysis unit to clean or flash-plate jewelry. These devices are amazing in their ability to perform these tasks. What most don't realize is that they are far less sophisticated than they seem, and a simple "at-home" version can be constructed both easily and affordably!

All you need are the following: a 6- or 9-volt dry-cell battery, Electro-Cleaner salt bath solution (available at most jewelry/lapidary supply stores), a glass bowl, some ordinary copper wire, and a small strip of stainless steel (2.0x0.5x0.125 inches is plenty...)

Attach a length of copper wire to each of the battery leads. Fill the glass bowl with Electro-Cleaner solution, and attach the stainless steel strip to the negative lead coming from the battery (the negative lead is hereafter referred to as the "cathode", and the positive lead referred to as the "anode".) To clean silver or gold, attach the piece in question to your anode, and drop both the anode (with jewelry piece) and the cathode (with stainless steel strip) into the electrolysis bath. The solution will rapidly bubble (it's not a bad idea to put newspaper under your bowl!), and after ten seconds or so, the jewelry piece will sport a thorough cleaning! Over time, as your "machine" works less effectively, it may be necessary to replace the stainless steel strip with a new, clean version.

The machine works by electrically attracting anything other than gold or silver through the salt bath to the stainless cathode. Basically *anything* that isn't silver or gold will end up at the cathode, leaving the anode (the jewelry piece) spotlessly clean! You can use more than one cathode/stainless steel strip (always attached to the negative lead!) to increase the volume of cleaning and decrease the time needed... You may also attach either a volt-meter (across the battery terminals in parallel) or an ammeter (in series on the positive side of the battery), to monitor your setup.

This simple machine may also be used for flash-plating with gold. Many jewelers do this as a simple, economical way of cleaning and polishing a finished piece of jewelry (it is far easier than polishing on wheels/buffs, and gets in every crevice...) For this operation you will need gold-plating solution (the non-cyanide version), a new glass bowl, and new stainless steel strip (**do not use the bowl/steel strip from your electro-cleaner!** Non-cyanide gold-plating solution is available from a company called Delmar Manufacturing out of Chicago, Ill.) Plating is basically the opposite of cleaning - the jewelry piece will be connected to the cathode, and the stainless steel piece is connected to the anode. Now the electrical current will carry the gold particles in the solution to the negative cathode (the jewelry metal), and deposit them there. Presto! In ten-fifteen seconds you'll have a piece of jewelry that looks like it just came off a set of polishing wheels!

Provided by Mike DeMeritt, 2012

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



David McKeon

Kathryn Wilson

Wolf Lovelace

Taylor Bergin

Linda Freedman Katz

James Decarosa

Timothy Yowell

Pam Stern

Dan Waters

Theresa Wunz

David Whetten

Larry Leach

Therese Leach

Bruce Fulton

It takes a long time
to become young.

—
- **Pablo Picasso**



DONATIONS



Caryl Bahnson - Four boxes of slabs and rough rock

Janice Fingado - 5 inch trim saw, misc. tools for silversmithing, wire wrapping, etc. and Misc cabs and rough, File cabinet, Projector, Books and magazines, TMG show posters, and more. (too much to list)

Abe and Norma Lachow - Silversmith bench, Work Table, Polisher with vacuum, silversmith tools, misc. tools, slabs, gemstones, etc.

To donate to OPLC, just contact Dave Richardson at (520) 245-2172.



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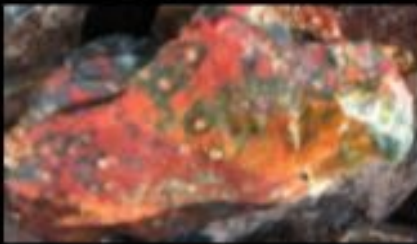
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3401 Dodge Blvd, Tucson
- **Colorwright** - (928) 862-4120, Web address: <http://www.color-wright.com/>, **MAILING ADDRESS:** . 2160 Shelby Road, Suite 101, Sedona AZ 86336. Amount of discount depends on item(s) being purchased.
- **Jay's of Tucson** - 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. 520-624-8098 - **2745 N 1st Avenue, Tucson**
- **Tucson Mineral & Gem World** - 10% 520-883-0682 Web address: www.tucsonmineral.com
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- **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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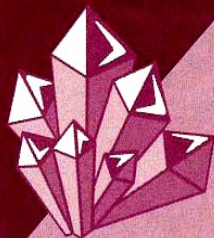
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Dave Richardson 245-2172

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Norma Lackow 742-7561

WEEKLY WORKSHOP SCHEDULE Phone 323-9154

Mondays

9AM - Noon **Faceting Lab**
Monitor - Billy Bob Riley 225-9060

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

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

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

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

Tuesdays

9AM - 1PM **Cabbing***
Monitor - Mike DeMeritt 520-455-5378

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

1PM - 4PM **Faceting Class/Open Lab**
Monitor - Billy Bob Riley 225-9060

1PM - 4PM **Cabbing**
Monitor - Liz Williams (818)300-5262

6PM—9PM **Cabbing**
Monitor - Victoria Fila 664-0302

Wednesdays

9AM - Noon **Cabbing**
Monitor— Sharon Wilcox 878-8685

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

Noon - 3PM **Rock Sawing**
Monitor - Sharon Wilcox 878-8685

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

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

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 - James Germaine, 520-288-0135

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

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

6PM - 9PM **Cabbing**
Monitor - Victoria Fila 664-0302

Saturdays

9AM - 2PM **Silversmithing**
Monitor - Pat Droll 345-2792

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

10AM - 1PM **Casting Lab**

3PM - 6PM **Casting Class**
Monitor - Ron Brooks 520-378-2592

Sundays

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

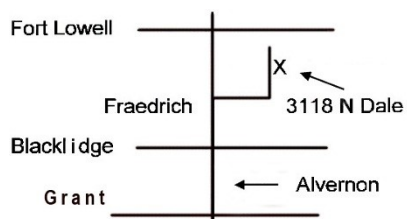
10AM - 3PM **Silversmithing Lab**
Monitor - Giac D'Aquisto 207-6219

10AM - 2PM **Cabbing**
Monitor - Gloria

• **INSTRUCTION AS AVAILABLE**

** **FIRST TWO MON/FRI OF EVERY MONTH IS CABOCHON CLASS, WHILE THE OTHERS ARE OPEN LAB**

Old Pueblo Lapidary Club
(Cutting Remarks - January 2019)
3118 N. Dale
Tucson, AZ 85712
(520) 323-9154



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.