

# “CUTTING REMARKS”

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

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Please join us **July 12th** at **9:00am** for the monthly meeting. There is an optional social hour that begins at 8:00am. There is **NO educational speaker** this month. 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](mailto:silverlininggemstones@gmail.com)), or feel free to call him at 520-203-8430. Submission deadline is the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month. Thanks!

## THE PREZ SEZ ..... by John Poole



July is here! All is going great at OPLC. We have some new monitors in place and for the first time we have a club shop open every day of the week! So, take a look at the Workshop Schedule, usually the second from the last page of Cutting Remarks. I suggest that members who are free to use the shops on weekdays, please do so. Leave the weekends for those unlucky folks that are still working. Let them have some down time doing what most of us enjoy.

We will not have a program at our July 12th meeting. Come and have some morning treats and refreshments, 8a - 9a

and get together with club friends. If you are new to OPLC, it's a great time to get acquainted with older members. Danny will have some great prizes on the raffle table. Wear your OPLC name badge and get a free raffle ticket with purchase. After the meeting our library will be open and I will give a workshop tour and hopefully answer any of your questions.

Have a happy and safe fourth!

-John

### CYANOACRYLATE DOPPING

Dop wax is an excellent way to dop your stones both for cabling and faceting - although it might be better to substitute "was" for "is" in this sentence. Although it still remains a valuable tool for stones that are uncooperative with newer dopping fashions, the fact is that dealing with wax's inherent flaws - the need to preheat waxes, dops, and stones; the unfortunate truism that the shellac burns out of the wax after a re-heating or two; and (oh yes!) the MESS! Check and be sure that you didn't leave that dop pot plugged in! All right, enough said - there *has* to be a simpler way!

The good news is that there *is* a much simpler way to dop your stones. The answer is cyanoacrylate, better known to most of the world as "superglue". However, don't hit the nearest Walmart or Circle-K and buy one of those tiny tubes of Super Glue, as they are watered-down versions of the glue I'm recommending. Proceed to your nearest hobby store (the ones that sell radio-controlled aircraft, anyway), and purchase a good name brand (I suggest Pacer "Zap" brand, though usually the store you are in will have their own local variant...). The better types will typically come in various viscosities, usually in an instant cure (1-5 seconds, known as "thin"), "gap-filling" (5-15 seconds), and "thick" (15-60 seconds or so). I recommend the middle version for dopping. The thicker stuff can be used, but takes longer to cure. They also make an "accelerator" to instantly cure any of the viscosities, and a debonder if you are prone to gluing fingers together.

Use a metal dopstick (I recommend a large nail with the point ground flat), and put the smallest drop of cyanoacrylate on the head that you can. Immediately hold your stone to the dop for a few seconds. That's it! To remove, heat the dopstick with a torch or lighter (hold with pliers!), and use a damp cloth or paper towel to twist and pull the stone off the dop. Problem children can go in an alcohol or acetone bath for 24 hours before attempting removal a second time.

-Mike DeMeritt, July 2014

**Front Cover Pictures:** A stunning example of natural Star **Ruby**, this month's birthstone. Highgrade stalactitic **Rhodochrosite** from Argentina will cut outstanding cabs or display well just as it is.

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Our speaker was Katherine Rambo, author of THE WORLD CAME TO TUCSON. Katherine donated a copy of her book to the OPLC library.

At 10:00 AM President John Poole brought the business meeting to order. He thanked Mike DeMeritt for bringing the refreshments. Anyone who would like to sign up to bring meeting refreshments should please call Norma Lackow 742-7561 to volunteer. \$30 will be reimbursed toward the cost.

Two guests and one new member were introduced.

A motion passed to approve the May meeting minutes as published in Cutting Remarks.

Treasurer's report: Mark Gibson said all is well and that we are 33% into the budget in mid-June. He informed us that a very noisy cooler may require some repair in the near future. Dues, class fees and shop passes add to our income on a regular basis. Mark is keeping track of the hours used in the shops.

SHOPS OPEN: Thanks to Mike DeMerrit we have several new monitors and for the very first time OPLC will be available 7 days a week. Since we are all volunteers, it would be a good idea to call OPLC or the monitor and make sure the shop will be open as planned.  
NOTE: Mike DeMeritt said there will

be no monitor in the cab room only on Friday June 27<sup>th</sup> and Sunday June 29<sup>th</sup>.

He will put up signs. John suggested that if possible retirees could use the shops during the work week which would leave more room on Saturdays and Sundays for the folks who have only the weekends off.

New board member Janelle Cortright was introduced.

FIELD TRIPS: Janelle reported on her recent field trip for petrified wood in the Show Low area. There were six new members and a very nice group and lots of wood was found. Janelle is trying to put together a trip to Moab in October, watch for the next newsletter.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Dennis Murphy and Mike DeMerrit can be contacted if you are interested in running for an office or the Board. Openings are for Vice President, Treasurer and three board positions.

SILENT AUCTION: Since this is Danny Harmsen's last year to run the November 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday Silent Auction fundraiser for the Club, Dennis Murphy, Al Romey and Phil Madsen have stepped up to take over the duties after this year.

JULY MEETING: There will be no speaker in July. In August historian

Jim Turner will return.

**PARKING LOT:** Some firehoses have been donated to the Club and will be used to mark lines in the parking lot instead of painting.

**SUGGESTION BOX:** John Poole asks that when members have suggestions for the box, please sign them.

FAQ information sheets regarding the Club will be emailed out to club

members and especially for new members.

Thank you letters have been coming in to Education chairman Sheila Powell as she sent out at least 20 rock kits to schools locally and in other states.

The door prize was won by Rim Tallat-Kelpsa. The meeting adjourned at 10:20 AM.

Twink Monrad, Secretary

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



**Cathleen Becskehazy**  
**Paul Carlson**  
**Larry McGee**  
**Michael McGowan**

**Sarah Moore**  
**Ben Moses**  
**Virginia Updegrove**  
**Robert Walleck, Jr.**



**Shirley Engelstad:** Apache tears, Wonderstone, Selenite, Crystals, P/W, agates, geodes, Fossils, Pyrite, Display Stands, Bookends, Stalactites, Natural Copper, miscellaneous.

**Audrey Wann:** Apache tears, Slabs, Tumbling equipment.

**Sue Blakeslee:** Diamond drills, scale, Opticon, epoxy, inlay granules, books.

**Cindy Markus:** Chrysoprase, Carnelian, P/W, Assorted agates, Assorted jaspers, Rose & Amethyst Quartz, Rainbow Obsidian, Beryl, Stramatolites.

**Dawn Nuemann:** Jewelry boxes.

To donate to OPLC, just see or contact Dan Harmsen. at 721-8452.

## JULY GEMSTONE: RUBY



*Faceted gem-grade ruby from  
Thailand*

Not only are they born in the same month as our country, but those born in July have the distinction of having the gem corundum **Ruby** as their birthstone. Ruby is simply the red-colored version of corundum, typically colored by Chromium ions.

Corundum (chemical formula  $Al_2O_3$ ) forms in the trigonal crystal class, often barrel-shaped, with several steep hexagonal bipyramids and  $\{0001\}$ , perhaps also  $\{1120\}$ ; also tabular parallel to  $\{0001\}$ . Crystals are commonly rough with uneven faces; prism and pyramid faces sometimes striated to  $\{0001\}$ ; striation also on  $\{0001\}$  parallel with prism faces. Twinning is common on  $\{1011\}$  and  $\{0001\}$ . They are usually lamellar, though may be granular. They possess no cleavage, and have a Moh's hardness of 9.0 (second only to diamond), and a density typically around 4.0. They have a vitreous luster, and are transparent to translucent. Corundum is 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 a few parts per million. The crystal structure can be best 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 is empty.

Corundum occurs in Si-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.

The finest rubies come from the Mogok region in Myanmar (formerly Burma), where they are found in metamorphosed limestones, as well as in the overlying weathered zones. Most precious rubies derive from gravel deposits in Sri Lanka, Cambodia, and Thailand, but there are also deposits in Madagascar, Tanzania, Mozambique, and other African locations.

Ruby is a joy to cut and polish, and behaves much like any other corundum. I have heard many facetors complain of resistance to polishing with corundum, though I haven't experienced this myself. Many of these facetors suggest adding vinegar to your water drip. I do agree that corundum takes longer to polish (it does have a hardness of 9.0, after all...). If you are having problems, I recommend a lap sequence of 260-, 600-, and finally, 3000-grit as a pre-polish. Follow with 100K diamond on your favorite lap (I only use ceramic laps for polishing corundum - another area where I hear other facetors complain that ceramics are "difficult to use". My suggestion is, if it's difficult, start learning early!) Cabbers will want to use full-diamond wheels, final-polishing at 50K or 100K. In my experience, final polish works best on harder surfaces, such as leather, phenol, or wood, though will come up eventually on softer materials.



*Outstanding Ruby specimen, unknown locale*

*Written/Compiled by Mike DeMeritt, June 2013*

## NEW WORKSHOPS

Be sure to look well at the new schedule of workshops and labs that are open. We have added Jerry Glazman to the list of new monitors, and he will have an open cabbing lab beginning July 15th from 1pm - 4pm on Tuesdays. For those of you who enjoyed staying late on Mike's Tuesday morning lab, this works out very well! This new lab is in addition to the three we added last month. Thanks again to all of the folks who volunteer their time as monitors! If you are interested in becoming a monitor, be sure to see, call, or email Mike DeMeritt (contact info on the front cover of this newsletter...)



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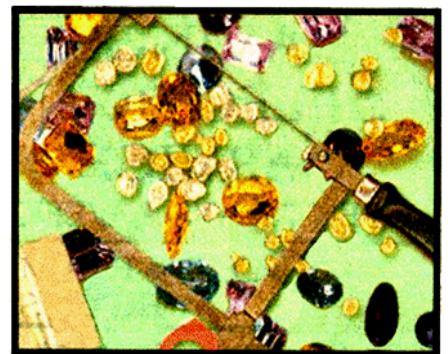
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 -Frank Lloyd Wright*

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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)  
**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 - **133 E Grant Road, 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** - 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 De-Meritt at any of his labs. Includes eBay Store at [www.stores.ebay.com/high-lonesome-turquoise](http://www.stores.ebay.com/high-lonesome-turquoise).

### 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!**

### Rate Schedule for Advertisements - - - Ad Sizes & Prices

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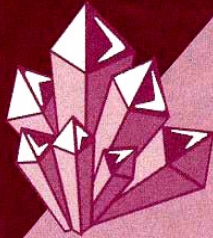
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Jean Barkley 546-1651

### FIELD TRIPS (COMMITTEE)

Wolfgang Mueller 896-3197

Shiela Powell 578-1976

Janelle Cortwright 761-1924

### HISTORIAN

Twink Monrad 297-9454

### JUNIOR EDUCATION

Sheila Powell 578-1976

### KITCHEN

General Membership

### LIBRARIAN

Twink Monrad 297-9454

### MEMBERSHIP

Wayne Klement 954-6298

### SECURITY

John Poole 777-5588

### SILENT AUCTION

Dan Harmsen 721-8452



**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 - Lou Akerman 290-6968

5PM - 9PM **Cabbing**

Monitor - Joseph Blackcoyote 891-6822

6PM - 9PM **Beginning Faceting**

Monitor - Earl Zoeller 886-3518

**Tuesdays**

9AM - Noon **Cabbing\***

Monitor - Mike DeMeritt 203-8430

9AM - Noon **Silversmithing Lab**

Monitor - John Poole 777-5588

1PM - 4PM **Beginning Faceting**

Monitor - Mike DeMeritt 203-8430

1 PM - 4PM **Cabbing**

Monitor - Jerry Glazman 860-689-3432

**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

10AM - 1PM **Rock Sawing**

Monitor - Pete Peterson 886-9021

**Fridays**

9AM - 12PM **Cabbing\***

Monitor - Mike DeMeritt 203-8430

**REPLACEMENT MONITOR FOR SUMMER  
IS PHIL MADSEN, 398-5688**

**Saturdays**

8AM - 12PM **Rock Sawing**

Monitor - Jim Griffin

10AM - 3PM **Silversmithing**

Monitor - Terry Cox 296-4949

10AM - 3PM **Cabbing\***

Monitor - Ron Davidson 400-2125

**Sundays**

10AM - 3PM **Cabbing**

Monitor - Dennis Murphy 490-9188

**\*INSTRUCTION PROVIDED AS AVAILA-  
BLE, MAY REQUIRE DOUBLE-PUNCHED  
HOURS**

Old Pueblo Lapidary Club  
 (Cutting Remarks - July 2014)  
 3118 N. Dale  
 Tucson, AZ 85712  
 (520) 323-9154

OPLC Membership Application - Please Print

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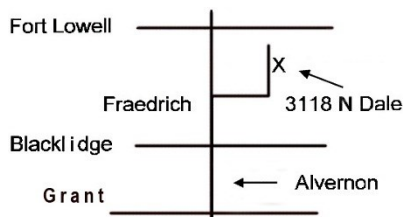
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Type of membership:	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	Annual Renewals
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Couple (same address)	\$35.00	\$27.00	\$22.00	\$15.00	\$25.00
Junior	\$12.50	\$10.00	\$7.50	\$5.00	\$10.00

Mail to: Membership Chairperson, Old Pueblo Lapidary Club, 3118 N. Dale, Tucson, AZ 85712



The Business Meetings are held on the 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.