

# “CUTTING REMARKS”

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

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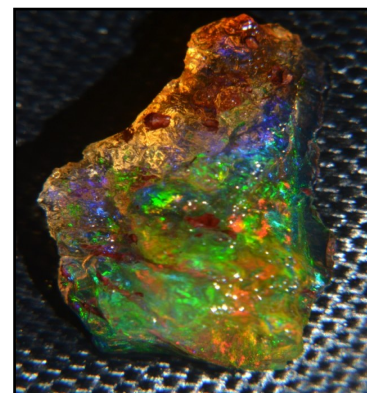
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## Membership Chairperson

Wayne Klement 954-6298

Please join us **July 8th** 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](mailto:silverlininggemstones@gmail.com)), or feel free to call him at 520-203-8430 or (520) 240-5133. Submission deadline is the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month. Thanks!

## THE PREZ SEZ ..... by David Schulte



The hopefully wet month of July is just around the corner and we really need a break from the Tucson furnace. Improvements and clean up continues at the club thanks to some hard work from some of our member volunteers. Our business meeting for June was held on Friday, 6/2/17. Our next business meeting after that will be held on Friday, July 7th, 2017.

A special thanks goes out to Brian Huff and his wife Lauri for the hard two days of work they did in patching up the ceiling and matching the texture in the main building where we did the repairs last year. It looks fantastic and gave us an opportunity to clean up the floor and prepare the duct covers for painting. Speaking of cleaning up, I want to thank all of the club members that volunteered their time and efforts to help clean up inside and around the club facility: Skip Barkley, Diane Brasswell, Donovan Wagner, Margarette Harris, John Poole, Don Morin, Rodney Casebier, Rex Ruddick, Twink Monrad, Bill Cascio, Paul Gonzalez and Liz Williams. These folks did an outstanding job on Sunday, 6/11 in getting the club looking sparkling clean. It's members like these that make our club what it is and they did this work for all of us. Please join me in thanking them all the next time you see them.

The new six inch water trim saw has arrived and is up and running in the cab lab thanks to our lab helper. Please note that this saw **MUST** be emptied at each open lab time period such that the blade does not rust in the water bath. The monitor can show everyone how to do this if you don't already know. **(Editor's Note: The saw blade for this saw has been changed to a stainless-steel blade and DOES NOT need to be out-of-water...)** The lab times and saw room open hours are posted in the news letter that everyone gets. We will now post this same listing in front of each of the labs every month. We are looking into a method to inform folks if a lab will not be opened on a scheduled time slot besides just posting a note in front of the labs.

The club is still looking for qualified members to

step up and become monitors in the cab, silver and faceting labs on various days so that we can increase the time that the labs are open for all our members. If you are interested please come and talk to me. We will gladly train folks in the responsibilities of being a monitor and remember your time in that lab is free if you monitor in it! The casting lab and its classes has resumed under the tutelage of Ron Brooks. He has re-organized the lab to make it easier to work in and it looks great!

Wayne Klement has agreed to take down the center tree, with the help of another member, over by the west side of the training building to give TEP access for the new approved power drop. He is saving the club \$300 by doing this work himself. He hopes to get this done this week despite the heat. This will clear the way for the new power drop and 200 amp power panel to be installed outside the building and the new power panels and drops to be installed inside the building as well. Things are moving right along.

We are looking for a new librarian for the club and anyone interested should contact either me or Twink. We really need folks to stand up and help run the club! Twink will also be giving up her position as secretary in fall and we are looking for a replacement that she can bring on board this year while she is still doing it.

Our speaker this month will be Sindi & Jerry Schloss, appraisers & gemologists, and they will be discussing "Four Peaks Amethyst". I'm looking forward to this one.

I'll see you all at 8 am, July 8th, 2017 for treats and coffee followed by the club meeting starting at 9:00 AM. Remember to wear your OPLC badge to the meeting to get a free raffle ticket with the purchase of some more of them.

-David

**Front Cover Pictures: Paradigm faceted Corundum variety Ruby from Burma, July's birthstone. Fire Opal from Mexico will cut an great cabochon. And is less expensive than Australian material.**

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The meeting was brought to order by President David Schulte.

David thanked our speaker, Arthur Vokes, Curator of the Arizona State Museum who spoke on Pre-Contact Ornaments. He brought artifacts for us to see as well as great pictures during his power point.

Sharon Wilcox was thanked for bringing our refreshments. Norma Lackow needs a volunteer for October. Please call her at 742-7561. You can be reimbursed for up to \$40 for expenses.

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

The treasurer's report will be filed for audit.

Membership: 434 members. Lists are posted in all of the labs with names of members current and qualified to use the labs. Two new members/guests were introduced.

A suggestion by a member would be to update the website regularly to say when labs may be closed to save an unnecessary drive to the Club. This could also be done on Facebook.

Casting class: July 11 will be starting up again with Ron Brooks. Anyone who had signed up earlier must sign up again.

Members' insurance is being researched by David Schulte.

Field trips: It is possible that we will have a field trip to the White Mountain area to search for petrified wood, carnelian and blue agate. It will be announced in the newsletter if it happens.

David thanked Al for helping with the replacement door to the water heater. Brian and Lauri Huff were thanked for

patching up the ceiling in the clubhouse and spraying on new popcorn texture.

Cab Lab: the last of the new Genies has been installed and all up and running with new wheels.

Thanks to Wayne Klement for continuing to work on pot holes in the parking lot.

**MOTION PASSED:** A new electric panel in the training building and new power drops is needed for safety reasons and future growth. \$1500 for Precision Power to install a 200 amp box. \$1750 to run new drops in the building and replace power panels with new ones. 4 new outlets will be added in each lab. Total amount of \$3250 was approved by the members present.

**MOTION PASSED:** To buy a new water trim saw for the cab lab for a cost of \$450. The motion passed as we only have oil saws at present.

**OTHER CLUB UPGRADES WERE DECIDED TO BE PUT ON HOLD FOR NOW BY A BOARD VOTE.**

Two faceting machines and flat lap: Mike DeMeritt is handling these.

Sphere machine which was purchased from member Charlie Reece: The machine will be stored at the Club and brought out for the Pima County Fair.

**SEMI-ANNUAL WORK DAY AT CLUB:** This will be held on June 11<sup>th</sup>. All members are invited to help at 7 AM.

A list has been compiled of maintenance items around the Club.

**DOOR PRIZE:** Won by Victoria Lee.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 AM.

Twink Monrad, Secretary

July 2017 OPLC speaker

## The Four Peaks Amethyst Mine: Arizona's Purple Mountain Majesty



We are in for another very special treat for our July 8, 2017 OPLC monthly meeting.

Sindi Schloss, who has given us another excellent presentation in the past- and her husband Jerry Romanella, will take us to a visual tour of the Four Peaks Amethyst Mine, our nation's highest gemstone mine!

Jerry and Sindi will recant stories and show the product of the famous Arizona Four Peaks amethyst mine. They will make us aware that “we stare everyday at the Arizona license plates on the car in front of us and maybe notice the small, purple Four Peaks Mountains on the bottom left corner. Next time you look, look closer, because nestled high, between the third and fourth peaks, lays the real purple treasure: the fabled **Four Peaks Amethyst Mine.**”

As one of the few gemstones mined commercially in the U.S., Four Peaks produces some the highest quality amethyst in the world, often compared to the historic best from Siberia, Russia. They will share with us the history, allure and challenges of this mine that has received a great deal of attention, from articles in trade magazines including Rock & Gems and GIA's Gems & Gemology, to several notable donations to The Smithsonian Museum's Mineral Gallery.

Jerry Romanella is the president of Commercial Mineral Co., a full service colored gemstone supply house, and partner in both the Four Peaks amethyst mine and the new Four Peaks Mining Co. in Scottsdale, and Sindi Schloss, is a nationally renowned gemologist, appraiser and gemological school operator. Sindi and Jerry will be driving down from Phoenix, and promise us to leave this presentation brimming with purple passion!

Looking forward to seeing you all in our July meeting!

Helen Serras-Herman, OPLC Program chair



## OPLC SUMMER CLEAN-UP

Our yearly summer clean-up was fantastic this year with a bunch of volunteers showing up and chipping in! A big "THANK YOU!" to those who came down and did such an amazing job - Skip Barkley, Diane Brasswell, Donovan Wagner, Margarett Harris, John Poole, Don Morin, Rodney Casebier, Rex Ruddick, Twink Monrad, Bill Cascio, Paul Gonzalez and Liz Williams.



### DONATIONS



.John Thompson: UV short and long wave length light with charger, compass, and low volt lite

**Ted Rupp:** Rocks & Slabs

**Dorothy Head:** Dops, Foredom drill bits, clamps, waxes, buffing compounds, 2 lamps, tools, Kodak remote sensing tool

**To donate to OPLC, just contact Tom McDevitt at (520) 575-0517**

## 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*

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



**Damien Chacon**  
**Erzhena Chambers**  
**Shawn Chambers**

**Ed Jacoby**  
**Carol Russo**

### 2017 OPLC Speakers- A Forecast Look

Presentations upcoming this year:

Sindi & Jerry Schloss, appraisers & gemologists, “Four Peaks Amethyst” (July 8)

Anna Domitrovic, rockhounding & mining (August 12, 2017)

Bob & Elaine Royer, travelers extraordinaire, will present “Easter Island” (September 9, 2017)

Wax Carving, Chuck Lundstrom, monitor of our wax carving workshop, will talk about the methods, tools, etc (October 14, 2017)

Jan Cleere, Tucson based historian and author, will present “Petticoat Prospectors”- Early Women Miners of the Western Frontier”

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



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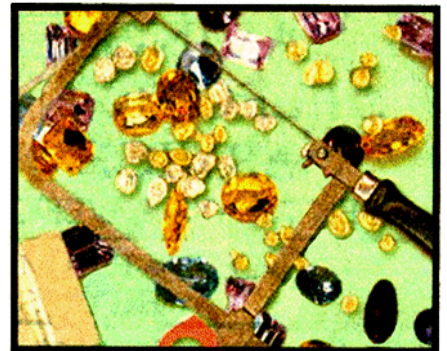
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**3401 Dodge Blvd, Tucson**
- **Colorwright** - 520-623-3874 Web address: <http://www.color-wright.com/>, **MAILING ADDRESS:** 1520 S Desert Crest Dr., Tucson, AZ 85713. Amount of discount depends on item(s) being purchased.
- **Jay's of Tucson** - 30% discount excluding orange tag items, sterling silver sheet and wire. 520-323-1123 (**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](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**)
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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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### CLASSES

Gloria Jean Dana 369-7225

### FIELD TRIPS (COMMITTEE)

Wolfgang Mueller 896-3197

Janelle Cortwright 761-1924

### HISTORIAN

Bill Cascio 638-8144

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### MEMBERSHIP

Wayne Klement 954-6298

### SECURITY

John Poole 777-5588

### SILENT AUCTION

Tom McDevitt 575-0517

### BUSINESS MEETING REFRESHMENTS

Norma Lackow 742-7561

**WEEKLY WORKSHOP SCHEDULE Phone 323-9154**

**Mondays**

9AM - 12PM **Cabbing**

Monitor - Gloria Jean Dana 369-7225

1PM - 4PM **Silversmith Lab**

Monitor - Terry Cox 296-4949

6PM - 9PM **Cabbing**

Monitor - Tom Tuten 803-260-5423

6PM - 9PM **Beginning Faceting**

Monitor - Earl Zoeller 886-3518

**Tuesdays**

9AM - 1PM **Cabbing\***

Monitor - Mike DeMeritt 240-5133

9AM - Noon **Silversmithing Lab**

Monitor - John Poole 777-5588

9AM - Noon **Rock Sawing**

Monitor - Sharon Wilcox 878-8685

Noon - 3PM **Casting Open Lab**

Monitor - Ron Brooks 520-378-2592

1PM - 4PM **Cabbing**

Monitor - Jerry Glazman 860-689-3432

**Wednesdays**

6PM - 9PM **Cabbing**

Monitor - Keith Haubert 784-8283

6PM - 9PM **Silversmithing Lab**

Monitor - Bill Penrose 780-1143

**Thursdays**

9AM - 12PM **Rock Sawing**

Monitor - Pete Petersen 886-9021

9AM - 12PM **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 **Rock Sawing**

Monitor - Tim Rose 360-480-1817

**Fridays**

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

Monitor - David Schulte 954-8554

1PM - 4PM **Silversmithing**

Monitor - Terry Cox 296-4949

**Saturdays**

9AM - 2PM **Silversmithing**

Monitor - Terry Cox 296-4949

9:30AM - 2:30PM **Cabbing\***

Monitor - Ron Bryan 619-495-7967

**Sundays**

10AM - 3PM **Silversmithing Lab**

Monitor - Giac D'Aquisto 207-6219

10AM - 2PM **Cabbing**

Monitor - Donovan Wagner 869-2050

***\* INSTRUCTION AS AVAILABLE***



Old Pueblo Lapidary Club  
 (Cutting Remarks - July 2017)  
 3118 N. Dale  
 Tucson, AZ 85712  
 (520) 323-9154

OPLC Membership Application - Please Print

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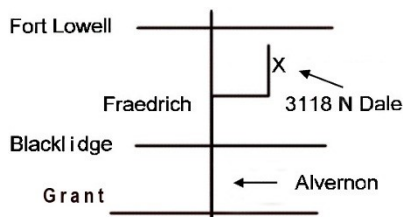
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Single Member	\$25.00	\$20.00	\$15.00	\$10.00	\$20.00
Couple (same address)	\$35.00	\$27.00	\$22.00	\$15.00	\$25.00
Junior	\$12.50	\$10.00	\$7.50	\$5.00	\$10.00

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



The Business Meetings are held on the 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.