

“CUTTING REMARKS”

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

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Please join us **June 13th** 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!



Hard to believe this year is almost half gone!! Time flies when you're having fun, and OPLC is the place; shops are open and the new A/C is working great. At our May business meeting, Mark Gibson, Treasurer, stated that our treasury has been replenished after our heating and A/C installation in the Training Center.

Janelle Cortright is our nominating committee Chairperson and will be assisted by Diana Hara and Pete Peterson. Thanks folks for stepping up to this important task. Volunteering is what makes this club as successful as it is. The task can be as simple as picking up a piece of trash in the parking lot. We can't all be officers or board

members, but there are many jobs that need to be done. Sharing that load would make it easier for some and make you feel like an active participant in OPLC, not just a card holder. So pitch in if you're able and have the time. A big Thank You to those who have and those who will.

I'll see you June 13th for coffee and treats at 8 am. The program starts at 9 am. Don't forget the raffle after the business meeting. Dennis and Phil will have some great stuff out. Wear your OPLC badge and get a free raffle ticket with a purchase!

-John

June 2015 OPLC Program

We will watch a beautiful DVD about the White Sands National Monument in New Mexico. I will also share some photos from our recent trip there.

Hope to see all of you at this and all future the meetings,

Helen Serras-Herman, OPLC Program chair

Front Cover Pictures: *Rough crystals of June's birthstone, Alexandrite, ready for faceting. Gem-quality "Gem Silica" Chrysocolla rough from Arizona will produce some fine cabochons!*

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OPLC MONTHLY MEETING
5/9/2015

The meeting was brought to order by President John Poole at 10:10 AM

He thanked our excellent speaker Carson Richardson, a geologist and outreach coordinator with U of A geosciences department.

Maureen Byrne was thanked for bringing refreshments. Norma Lackow is in charge of volunteers to provide these for each meeting and we now reimburse \$40 to help with costs. Please call Norma at 742-7561 to choose a date to help out.

Thirteen new members and guests were introduced.

Treasury: Mark Gibson said that all is well, and let us know that we have already replenished our account with more than was spent for the new air conditioning units in the classrooms this past year.

Minutes of the April meeting were accepted as published in Cutting Remarks.

Pima County Fair: Booth coordinator Bob Powell received a very nice letter from officials at the Pima County Fair praising us for our booth, cooperation and dependability. A member stated that she worked at the booth and loved seeing the children pick out rocks and

also gaining some new members by handing out brochures and speaking with guests at the booth. John Poole thanked Charlie Reece for once again bringing his sphere-making machine which always attracts adults and children.

Field Trips: Janelle Cortright reported that her field trip to Snowflake area for petrified wood and for picture sandstone went very well. Melinda Thompson's outing to find peridot at San Carlos was successful.

John announced that the Silversmithing room will soon have four more stations which will be done in stages and will not disrupt any classes.

NEW ITEM: In the training center there will now be an exchange list where people can list things such as certain kinds of rocks, tools, supplies or equipment.

We were reminded that the Club is happy to accept donations of minerals, tools, equipment or money.

DOOR PRIZE: was won by Mary Roberts.

We adjourned at 10:40 AM.

Twink Monrad, Secretary

JUNE GEMSTONE: ALEXANDRITE

June's birthstone could easily be derived from Gemini's twins: it sports a birthstone possessed of not simply one color, but two! Meet **Alexandrite**, the color-changing version of the gemstone **Chrysoberyl**. Depending on the wavelength of the light entering it, this stone displays as either red or green, two colors at polar opposites on the color wheel!

Chrysoberyl, chemical formula BeAl_2O_4 , commonly occurs as orthorhombic crystals, typically tabular parallel to the {001} plane (the basal plane), with striations parallel to the *a* axis. Twinning on the {130} (rhombic plane) is quite common, and often repeated to form pseudo-hexagonal trillings (often referred to in Chrysoberyl as "sixlings" - the picture of rough crystals below very well demonstrates this behavior, with an easily-seen "sixling" noticeable near the upper-right of the group...) Cleavage is distinct on the {110} plane, and indistinct on {010}. Hardness is an impressive 8.5 on the Moh's scale, making this stone rate third in hardness only after diamond and corundum for typical gems. It is transparent and has a vitreous luster. Color is green to yellowish-green or brownish, and can alternate between green and red, in the case of Alexandrite.



Fine-gem quality faceted Alexandrite showing both indoor (incandescent) and outdoor (full-spectrum) colors.

Chrysoberyl has a crystal structure very similar to olivine, in which Be replaces the tetrahedrally-coordinated Si, and Al replaces the octahedrally-coordinated Mg. O ions form an almost-hexagonal closest packing of spheres, which explains the pseudo-hexagonal character of Chrysoberyl. Chromium replacing Mg is the chromophore responsible for the ability to change color. In truth, most Chrysoberyl only displays a mild color-shift (perhaps greenish-yellow to brownish-yellow or orangish). Very occasionally, however, the effect is dramatic, with the stone displaying a green or teal color daylight, and a red or purplish-red color in tungsten or incandescent light. These are the only stones that should be truly labeled as Alexandrite. Many chrysoberyl crystals display excellent chatoyance, and are cut by lapidaries as "cat's-eye" stones. This habit is so common and well-presented by chrysoberyl, that most gemologists refer to cat's-eye-Chrysoberyl stones simply as "Cat's-eye".



Natural "sixling" Chrysoberyl crystal group with Alexandrite coloration.

Chrysoberyl occurs in granites and granitic pegmatites, in mica-schists, and in sands and gravels in association with other resistant minerals like diamond and corundum. The largest gravel deposits with Chrysoberyl are found in Brazil, Tanzania, and Sri Lanka, whereas the most-prized Alexandrite gems come from a mica-schist near the Takowaja River in the Ural Mountains of Russia.

Pearls and moonstone are also gemstones for June, though neither holds the provenance of the "King of Gems", Alexandrite.

Written/Compiled by Mike DeMeritt, June 2013

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



Ron Bryan

Olgardo Campos

Eric Fritz

Gary Frough

Michael Gast

Deborah Hall

Joe Hall

Allen (Max) Maxwell

Pat McKowen

Jeff Paul

Mickey Perry

Barbara Perry

Ray Pohlkotte

David Stitt

Angel Tamayo

Terrie Wilder

I exist as I am, and that is enough.

-Walt Whitman



Eric Olsen: Box of slabs

Jim Griffin: Jewelers drill press

Misha Farinech: Combination cab and saw unit, 18" Slab Saw

Jeff Hanson: Agate and jasper slabs

"Agate Andy" and Helen Anderson: Gem-maker Flat Lap

Sid Wilson: 3 Jewelry-making books, Oxy-Acetylene Torch set, Dremel Vice

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

PETRIFIED WOOD FIELD TRIP PICTURES



Large pieces made loading the truck into work...

Lots of good collectible Petrified Wood was to be had on this field trip!



OPLC members enjoying the cool weather. Clockwise from top left are Jean Barkley, Roger Hara, Tim Rose, and Judy Gilmartin.



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“THE TREZ SEZ...”

Don't forget to renew your membership, so you'll enjoy uninterrupted use of the facilities here at our fine club!

Renewal forms are available at the club (try asking a monitor) or on the back of this newsletter. Bring your completed forms to Wayne Klement, Mark Gibson, or any monitor or Board Member. Thanks!



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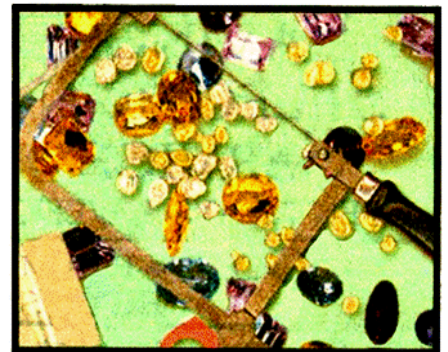
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3401 Dodge Blvd, Tucson
- **Colorwright** - 520-623-3874 Web address: <http://www.color-wright.com/>, **MAILING ADDRESS:** 1520 S Desert Crest Dr., Tucson, AZ 85713. Amount of discount depends on item(s) being purchased.
- **Jay's of Tucson** - 30% discount excluding orange tag items, sterling silver sheet and wire. 520-323-1123 (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
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.
- **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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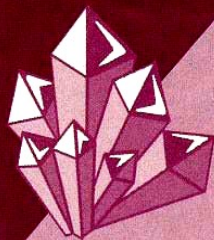
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Wayne Klement 954-6298

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John Poole 777-5588

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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 - Noon **Cabbing***

Monitor - Mike DeMeritt 203-8430

9AM - Noon **Silversmithing Lab**

Monitor - John Poole 777-5588

9AM - Noon **Rock Sawing**

Monitor - Tim Rose

1PM - 4PM **Beginning Faceting**

Monitor - Mike DeMeritt 203-8430

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

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

Giac D'Aquisto 207-6219

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 - June 2015)
 3118 N. Dale
 Tucson, AZ 85712
 (520) 323-9154

OPLC Membership Application - Please Print

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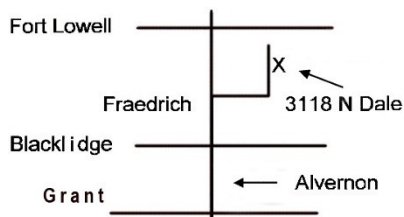
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Single Member	\$25.00	\$20.00	\$15.00	\$10.00	\$20.00
Couple (same address)	\$35.00	\$27.00	\$22.00	\$15.00	\$25.00
Junior	\$12.50	\$10.00	\$7.50	\$5.00	\$10.00

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



The Business Meetings are held on the 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.