

“CUTTING REMARKS”

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

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Wayne Klement 954-6298

Please join us **March 11th** 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 or (520) 240-5133. Submission deadline is the 20th of each month. Thanks!

THE PREZ SEZ by David Schulte



March is here so let the country's basketball "madness" begin and good luck to our home town Wildcats (I had to say it being an Alumni)! Our business meeting in March will be held on Wednesday, 3/1/17.

The Gem show this year was great and the weather cooperated keeping everyone dry, happy and spending money. The OPLC show events: the Hob Nob, the TGMS OPLC capabilities booth and the TGMS OPLC display booth, went off without a hitch this year thanks to all the volunteers that participated in "making it" happen for the club.

Our speaker this month will be Brian Cook who is a gem artist and he will be informing us about Paraíba Tourmalines and Rutilated Quartz from Brazil. This should be a really interesting presentation for us all to learn more about some of the wondrous materials that come out of Brazil!

After our meeting we have our annual March Tailgate sale in the parking lot. If you didn't find what

you wanted at the Gem Show, you might find at the club sale. There are always lots of rocks, slabs, jewelry and tools for sale by other club members. The details for the sale are in the news-letter and are posted on the bulletin board in the training center. Hope you find some nice stuff!

I'll see you all at 8 am, March 11th, 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. We have some important financial issues to vote on for the club building improvements (air conditioning/heating replacements and electric wiring additions) and potentially some more new equipment for our labs so I hope we have a good turnout for the meeting.

David

DUES RENEWAL FOR 2017



Notice: If you show up for a lab, be prepared to pay your dues. You will be turned away until your dues payment is up to date. You have to be a paid member in order to be covered by the Club insurance and use the equipment. A renewal membership form is on the back of this newsletter for your convenience.

Thank you, Wayne Klement, Membership Chairperson

Front Cover Pictures: Extraordinary sized Aquamarine crystal is March's Birthstone; the gem variety of Pectolite is known by the trade name "Larimar", and this material will cut gorgeous cabs.

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PRIOR MONTH'S MEETING MINUTES... Twink Monrad, Secretary



OPLC MONTHLY MEETING

February 11, 2017

The meeting was brought to order by President David Schulte at 9:00 AM.

We had no speaker so members could get back to the Gem Show after our meeting and raffle.

Ginny and Pete Peterson were thanked for bringing the delicious donuts.

The minutes of the January meeting as appeared in Cutting Remarks were approved.

Membership: as of today we have 298. More will renewing as always happens.

Treasurer's report: Bob Powell said all is well and we are 16% into our budget for the year.

Hob Nob: David thanked Gloria Shenanaquet, Bonnie DeMeritt, Roney Casebier, Beatrice Rach, Martha Erdem, Val Rach, Bob Powell and Jonathan Ziegler for putting it together and having a successful evening for the faceting group. Profit was \$40.

John Poole handed his keys and bank account signature authority over to President Schulte. David again thanked John for his accomplishments over the last four years.

Silent Auction: Danny Harmsen will be working with Tom McDevitt this year. Any equipment which could be donated for the auction is welcome.

TGMS: David encouraged all to go to the TCC this weekend to see the OPLC booth and the display cabinets filled by work of our members. The display was organized by Terry Cox and D'Acquisto. David thanked the crews who volunteered for our booth and display cabinets at TCC.

David reported on the Board discussions regarding a new AC or cooler system which is needed in the

clubhouse building. Separate systems will be in the meeting room and the kitchen area. We are also getting estimates on upgrading our electrical system in the clubhouse. The members will be voting on a proposal in the near future.

Membership: All members who wish to use the labs need to renew as our insurance does not cover anyone working in the labs who are not current members.

Two new Genies were purchased for the cab room. Two more may be added if the Board approves.

Oil and saw parts were purchased during the Show.

The tree which had electrical wires running through it on our property was removed as a safety measure.

Two of our display cabinets need reinforcing and new stands built to hold them, David will take care of having them repaired and has ordered the new stands made.

Building and ground maintenance: We will be repairing pot holes, cleaning up nails, screws, nuts and bolts in the parking areas and a concrete slab is planned in front of the cab lab area.

Field trips: a visit to Cottonwood to visit the speaker who featured the beautiful agate collection is planned along with several field trips for hunting rocks. These will appear in the newsletters.

Library: Someone volunteered to start a database of library books, classes etc. so that will be nice to have in the future. We have expanded the shelf area so more books can be accepted.

Anyone with ideas for a speaker is asked to let someone on the Board know.

Pima County Fair April 20-30: The sign up sheets are
(Continued on page 6)

March 2017 OPLC Speaker

Brian Cook will present “Paraiba Tourmaline- a Brazilian legend, past, present & future, and Bahia Golden Rutilated Quartz”



We are in for a very special treat for our March 11, 2017 OPLC monthly meeting.

Brian Cook, an amazing gem carver and geologist, who lives in Tucson but travels the world, will talk about two exotic materials that hail from Brazil: Paraiba Tourmaline and Rutilated Quartz, and he has been directly associated with their mining and cutting.

Brian Cook will give us the history of the Batalha Mine in Brazil, which is famous for the neon blue cuprian elbaite tourmaline, known as “Paraiba Tourmaile”, which was introduced to the gemstone trade at the 1990 Tucson gem shows. He will talk about the name “Paraiba” and whether it applies only to the Brazilian material, to a place, a color or quality. Then, Brian will take us on a journey to the state of Bahia in Brazil, 800 km away from Paraiba, and show us the exotic rutilated quartz, and discuss the mine production.

For more information about Brian Cook and his company, Nature’s Geometry, please visit his website at www.naturesgeometry.com.

We are truly very fortunate to have Brian Cook give this special presentation, as he is so often on the road and hard to find. This is a very rare opportunity, so please do not miss this meeting.

Looking forward to seeing you all in the March meeting!

Helen Serras-Herman, OPLC Program chair

MARCH TAILGATE SALE

- Tailgate Sale - WILL NOT START UNTIL AFTER THE MEETING!
 - OPLC Members Only!
- Items for sale - MUST be related to the lapidary or metalsmithing arts, or OPLC activities!
- Parking for Participants - North Lot, FROM 8:00 AM - 8:30 AM ONLY!
- The North Parking Lot WILL be open to monitors working that day!
 - After 8:30 am, the North Parking Lot will then be open to the General Membership

Again, the Tailgate Sale WILL NOT START until after the meeting is over!

It takes a long time to become young.

-Pablo Picasso



Ruby Munson: Misc slabs, cabs, and rough rock. Silver tools, paper cutter, crock pots, top pot, shells, copper, faceting stuff, findings, Dremel and bits, slab pic frame and Fire bricks.

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

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



Joe	Catalano	Emily	Hall
Alexander	Wolkonsky	Ron	Gildea
Jim	Thomas	Jody	Disney
Devon	Johnson	Rodney	Allen
Hannah	Johnson	John	Catalano
Danny	Martinez	Janet	Peters
Peter	Bondy	Mike	Shaul
Taylor	Handschuh	Patsy	Shaul
Josh	Johnson	Everett	Ray
Joel	Valasek	Don	Nelson
Zachery	Foreman	Darwin	Seamans
Brandon	Hanson	Adam	Deines
Kendra	Sudano	Yolanda	Kruger
Marcelene	Silver	Malcolm	Gray
Jerry	Thomas		

(Minutes Continued from page 3)

on the wall in the kitchen to staff our booth there.

A suggestion was made by a member to order new t shirts, the Board will do so. We still have long sleeved shirts, hats and patches for sale.

A suggestion to put a grab bar in women's restroom was made.

SPEAKING OF RESTROOMS, one of our members has been doing the cleaning for many years. She would like a break. A perk is that the person receives lab time and free classes. Please call any Board member to volunteer.

Don Morin won the door prize.

We adjourned at 9:30

Twink Monrad, Secretary

2017 OPLC Speakers- A Forecast Look

Brian Cook, gem artist, will talk on Paraiba Tourmalines and Rutilated Quartz from Brazil (March 11, 2017)

Dwight Thibodeaux, Rio Rico historian, will talk on “Prehistoric Rio Rico” (April 8, 2017)

Gregory McNamee, Tucson-based historian and author, will present “ Arizona Place Names: Stories of the Land” (May 13, 2017)

Arthur Vokes, Curator Arizona State Museum, will present “Pre-Contact Ornaments: Variety, Materials, Roles” (June 10, 2017)

July and August are still open at this time

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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MARCH BIRTHSTONE: AQUAMARINE

People born in March are proud to show off their birthstone: the beautiful and subtle birthstone **Aquamarine**, a greenish-blue variety of the cyclosilicate *Beryl*. In cyclosilicates the $[SiO_4]$ tetrahedral are linked together to form rings. The Si:O ratio in the silicate part of the formula is always 1:3, e.g. Si_3O_9 , or Si_6O_{18} . The symmetry of the rings is normally reflected in the crystal symmetry, as in the case of beryl, which has $[Si_6O_{18}]$ rings and therefore hexagonal. Crystals are commonly found in the simple prismatic form, and less commonly with several crystal forms. Prism faces are often vertically striated or grooved. They can be larger than 200 metric tons, and sometimes form as columnar aggregates. Cleavage is indistinct on the basal plane $[0001]$, and fracture is conchoidal or uneven. Hardness varies from 7.45—8.0 on the Moh's scale, and density is about 2.7. It has a vitreous luster, is transparent to translucent, and large crystals can vary in transparency. As noted previously, the crystal structure of beryl is characterized by sixfold rings of $[SiO_4]$ tetrahedral, linked by Beryllium $[BeO_4]$ tetrahedral and Aluminum $[AlO_6]$ octahedral; the $[Si_6O_{18}]$ rings lie on top of each other, and thus form endless channels along the *c* axis of the crystal. Minor amounts of Li, Na, or other alkali metals can be present, which like H₂O and CO₂ can be accommodated in the channels. Small amounts of Cr³⁺, Mn²⁺, or other transition elements give rise to color caused by these impurities. In aquamarine, ferric $[Fe^{3+}]$ and ferrous iron $[Fe^{2+}]$ are the impurities which impart the lovely color: Fe²⁺ causes blue, and Fe³⁺ imbues a yellow hue. The mixture of the two causes the seawater color. Most aquamarine stones are heated in the rough to drive off the Fe³⁺ (the yellow component), so that the stones maintain as saturated a blue hue as possible. This is done to probably more than 95% of all aquamarines, which puts this stone in the same category as Tanzanite in a fashion - most of the "natural" stones out there actually aren't natural! Aquamarine is a common mineral, primarily occurring in granites and granitic pegmatites. Other forms of beryl can be found in mica-schists and in veins in bituminous limestone.

Aquamarine is found all over the world, and important gem deposits include Minas Gerais, Brazil; Mozambique; Nigeria, Zambia; Pakistan; and a few other African deposits. Aquamarine rough is among the easiest of all facet rough to procure, though prices have been steadily escalating since the 1990's. Top-clarity, top-color, and larger-sized pieces are out there, but substantially more difficult to locate

than more typical pieces. Most aqua is very lightly-toned, and darker pieces tend to have fairly grey masking. If you can find it, rough from Santa Maria, Brazil, is very dark for aqua (40% tone or better), and rarely displays the grey mask that makes faceters cringe. Aquamarine tends to have good "crystal" in switching from outdoor to incandescent lighting, though it is definitely a "nightstone" (prefers incandescent). Aquamarine is incredibly easy to facet, and presents few problems for the novice. In smaller pieces of lighter-toned material, it is very inexpensive (compared to other facet rough, anyway!) Don't scrimp on clarity - most aqua rough is very clean, and inclusions lower the price.

Written/Compiled by Mike DeMeritt, March 2013



Trilliant-cut Mozambique Aquamarine



Top Aqua rough from Santa Maria, Brazil



Aquamarine Crystal Group

OPLC SHIRTS

Don't forget that there are OPLC T-shirts for sale in both long- and short-sleeved versions! Long-sleeved shirts are \$15, and short-sleeved shirts are \$12. What a bargain! And all proceeds benefit the club. Be sure to show your appreciation and pick one (or two!) up! Thanks, everybody!



Creativeness often consists of merely turning up what is already there. Did you know that right and left shoes were thought up only little more than a century ago?

- Bernice Fitz-Gibbon

Hunan Tour (May 16-25, 2017)



This special May 2017 tour will take you to **Hunan Mineral & Gem Show**, and to **Phoenix** ("Fenghuang") **Ancient Town**, a historical town in Western Hunan with a high concentration of ethnic Miao and Tujia Minorities. The Intangible Cultural Heritage of Miao is **silversmithing**. Miao women are known for their exquisite silver ornaments, which are hand-made by men in family workshops.

\$2,250 per person, land only (double occupancy)

Contact: Wei Chen @ Arizona China Travel & Tours

Email: info@ArizonaChinaTravel.com

Phone: (602) 908-7306

Website: www.ArizonaChinaTravel.com

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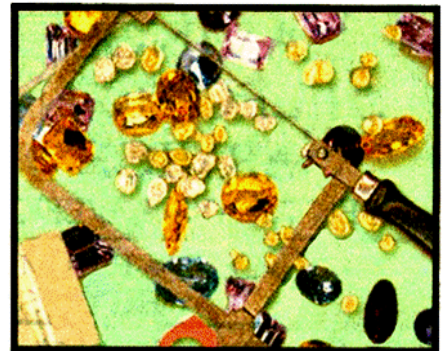
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- **Colorwright** - 520-623-3874 Web address: <http://www.color-wright.com/>, **MAILING ADDRESS:** 1520 S Desert Crest Dr., Tucson, AZ 85713. Amount of discount depends on item(s) being purchased.
- **Jay's of Tucson** - 30% discount excluding orange 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
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** - 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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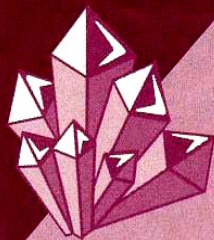
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John Poole 777-5588

SILENT AUCTION

Tom McDevitt 575-0517

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Norma Lackow 742-7561

WEEKLY WORKSHOP SCHEDULE Phone 323-9154

Mondays

9AM - 12PM **Cabbing**

Monitor - Gloria Jean Dana

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 240-5133

9AM - Noon **Silversmithing Lab**

Monitor - John Poole 777-5588

9AM - Noon **Rock Sawing**

Monitor - Stacy Brown 334-5930

Noon - 3PM **Casting Open Lab**

Monitor - Ron Brooks 520-378-2592

1PM - 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 780-1143

Thursdays

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

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 - Dennis Murphy 490-9188

Sundays

10AM - 3PM **Cabbing**

Monitor - Dennis Murphy 490-9188

10AM - 3PM **Silversmithing Lab**

Monitor - Giac D'Aquisto 207-6219

*** INSTRUCTION AS AVAILABLE**

Old Pueblo Lapidary Club
 (Cutting Remarks - March 2017)
 3118 N. Dale
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OPLC Membership Application - Please Print

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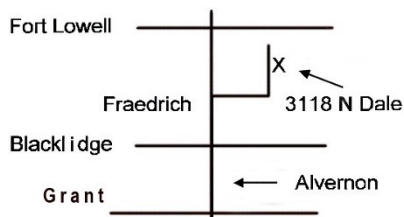
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Junior	\$12.50	\$10.00	\$7.50	\$5.00	\$10.00

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.