

“CUTTING REMARKS”

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

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Vice President - Victoria Fila

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Wayne Klement 954-6298

Please join us **May 12th** at **9AM** for the monthly meeting. There is an optional social hour that begins at **8AM**. 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



05/01/18

April in Tucson was as fantastic as ever. The ice on the rivers in Tucson did melt this month (we reached 100 degrees) on 4/16/18. Hopefully this does not portend of a scalding summer. Our business board meeting for April was held on Friday, April 6th, 2018. Our next business board meeting will be held on Friday, May 4th in the main building at the club at 10 AM. Members are encouraged to attend if you're interested in seeing what your board is doing, volunteering with the club or you have suggested changes or improvements to the club.

My thanks go out to Bob Powell, Pat Droll and Dennis Murphy for all their work in setting up, organizing, running and tearing down the OPLC booth at the State Fair this year. I hope everyone had a chance to get out and visit at the fair.

Thanks to all the members that loaned pieces of their fine work for our display case at the fair. Finally, thanks to all the volunteers that sat at the booth, did demonstrations and answered questions about all the things our club does: Ron and Carolyn Graichen, Sharon Wilcox, Norm and Shirley Dewey, Al Brown, Pam Frankel, Victoria Fila, John Poole, Bob and Elaine Royer, Phil Lasswell, Skip and Jean Barkley, Jan Keisler, Billy Bob Riley and Deanna Skinner.

Victoria Fila and a bunch of folks from the club went up to Wickenburg this month to hunt for aquamarine and other cool rocks. I think everyone had a great time and hopefully brought home some "precious" stuff. Victoria has agreed to take over for Janelle as the official field trip coordinator this year. Janelle will still be participating and is in fact leading a trip again in September. My thanks to Janelle for all the years of great work in helping our members collect some marvelous material(s). Welcome to Victoria in her new role, dual hated as

the VP of the club as well.

The update to the clubs web site is, unfortunately, still in work. Our web site administrator was out of town for a few weeks and I hope to have it updated in May with current information.

The Las Vegas (SNGMS) Club is hosting their annual gem and mineral show at the Spring Jamboree in Boulder City on the first weekend of May if anyone is interested in attending.

The club is also looking for a volunteer to take over the silent auction efforts in 2019 or at least be the number two person along with Tom. We are also looking for someone to take over as president of the club. If anyone is interested in becoming more active in the club and helping to shape its future, please contact David Schulte or any of the other board members.

Our speaker this month is going to be Denise Nelson who will be talking about "Poland's Treasures: Amber and Salt". This is a change from what was planned but should be really interesting given Denise's diverse background as a jeweler and appraiser of private collections around the world. Our originally planned speaker for May, jewelry artist Kevin Lane Smith, will be giving his presentation in January, 2019.

There are still a few hold out members that have not signed the liability disclaimer form and you need to do so before you will be allowed to use the equipment at the club. Wayne continues to maintain a listing of all those members that have paid their dues and signed the liability disclaimer form and this is being checked by the monitors in each of the labs as folks come in to use the equipment.

David

Front Cover Pictures: *Breathtaking pile of facet-grade Emerald rough from Panjshir, Afghanistan. "Transvaal Jade" is actually the massive version of Grossular Garnet, and cuts gorgeous cabs.*

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PRIOR MONTH'S MEETING MINUTES... Patrick Droll, Secretary

Minutes of OPLC Club Meeting

04/14/18 – 9:00 AM at OPLC Clubhouse

The meeting opened with a presentation by Helen Serras-Herman on “Marble and Emery from the Greek Island of Naxos”. The originally scheduled talk by Patti Polk has been postponed until July. Thanks to Gwen Folsom for supplying the treats for breakfast this morning.

Last month's club meeting minutes were approved by vote of the membership.

New members and visitors were introduced to the membership.

Bob Powell reported on the club's financial status, which is healthy.

Wayne Klement reported that we now have 357 members in good standing plus 19 who have paid their 2018 dues but have not signed the liability waiver (summarized as “you break it, you buy it”). The latter group must sign the waiver in order to use the club's shops.

The list of speakers for general meetings for 2018 is complete, as reported by Helen Serras-Herman.

Field trips: We are looking for a volunteer to help with coordinating field trips. Contact David Schule or Victoria Fila.

Victoria Fila is organizing a trip to the Wickenburg area on April 21 to collect aquamarine. Members will meet by 9 am at the McDonald's on Route 60. Any vehicle is capable. Janelle Cortwright is planning a three day trip in September to Alpine, for peridot and blue agate.

Silent auction: A volunteer is needed to take over the running of the silent auction in November. See David Schulte, Tom McDevitt, or Victoria Fila if interested. Many donations have been received in the past month and have to be inspected and inventoried.

Library status: Bill Cascio has mounted a bulletin board in the corridor of the lab building. A book dropoff has also been provided for members on days when the meeting hall is locked.

Victoria Fila reported that we cannot get XXL size tee shirts without a minimum purchase, so ordering of this size has been deferred.

A formal class in cabbing has been reinstated, on the first two Fridays of the month (9-12 am), and the first two Mondays of the month (6 – 9 pm). The cost is \$45. New member must take this class before working in the cab lab, or demonstrate their prior experience to Mike DeMeritt, Donovan Wagner, or Dave Schulte. The cab lab will be closed to other members during class time (unless only one or two people are taking a class).

Lab status: Cab lab – everything is up and running, with new wheels, blades, and saw controls. All other labs are fully operational.

Comments from board members have been gathered and will be used to update the web site. The site manager will be back in town after April 18 and will be tasked to make the updates.

The gas water heater will be replaced with an on-demand electric water heater. We will be able to sever any connection with the gas company. A 220 V drop needs to be installed to power the new heater. The gas water heater is for sale to any member.

Aluminum cans are requested. The club earned several hundred dollars last year by cashing them in. They are worth more if they are crushed before donating. The receptacle is in the lab building.

An up to date list of labs is posted on the new bulletin board in the lab building.

(Minutes Continued on Page 4)

2018-2019 OPLC Speakers

- Denise Nelson, “Poland’s Treasures: Amber and Salt”
- Jim Turner, “Turquoise Mining around Jerome” (June 9, 2018)
- Scott Sucher “Faceting- Considerations for Cutting Sensitive Materials (September 8, 2018)
- Nick Sacketti, “Fluorescent Minerals” (October 13, 2018)
- Kevin Lane Smith, lapidary and jewelry artist (January 8, 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

(Minutes Continued from Page 3)

The liability statement to be signed by all members has been officially incorporated into the club Bylaws. A copy of the new bylaws will be sent by email to all members.

Current needs for volunteers:

A silent auction coordinator and organizer. See Tom McDevitt.

Monitors and standby monitors for each of the labs. Standby monitors take over for regular monitors if they are unavailable for a given session, eg, vacation, illness, etc. Some members travel great distances to attend the shops and are gravely disappointed when a shop is unexpectedly closed.

Tending the OPLC booth at the County Fair.

A field trip coordinator and organizer. It is not necessary to attend every field trip, but to supply publicity and collect responsibility waivers, and to report on field trips before and after.

The meeting was adjourned.

May 2018 OPLC speaker: Denise Nelson

“Poland’s Treasures: Amber and Salt”



Denise Nelson at the Smithsonian, Photo ©Denise Nelson

We are very fortunate to have Denise Nelson come speak to our group. Denise is a jewelry appraiser, and graduate gemologist from the GIA (Gemological Institute of America). At her jewelry business, the Inner Circle, which she started over 25 years ago, she designs custom jewelry, and sells fine gems, diamonds and pearls. Denise has travelled the world over, and visited museum collections behind the scenes, and appraised exclusive private collections. Her immense experience and accumulated knowledge comes through her detailed presentations with great photos.

Denise Nelson is a member of the National Association of Jewelry Appraisers (NAJA), the Pearl Association of America, and the Gemmological Association of Great Britain (Gem-A).

At our May 12, 2018 meeting, Denise will be talking to us about **amber** and the **salt** mines from Poland that she recently visited. She said “During my two week journey, through a beautiful country and north to the Baltic Sea, I wanted to shed a bit of light on what in Asia is called the "Sunstone"! Amber is an organic substance which often is enhanced, dyed, crushed, reconstituted or blatantly copied and misrepresented. Easily substituted, one could safely assume that it would become disliked by sellers and buyers alike. Instead amber has survived and its popularity has actually increased. Modern designers flock to it, and its historical importance and uses are quite surprising. Another of Poland's natural treasures is the Wieliczka salt mine, 900 steps below a beautiful green landscape. In operation since the 13th century, producing “white gold”, this salt mine is the largest tourist site in Poland.”

Denise and her husband normally live in Maryland, and spend their time between Maryland and San Diego, but they also have a daughter living here in Tucson. With a very-short notice about their upcoming visit, and some speaker rearranging magic, I was able to arrange for her to speak this month. Our friendship with her goes back a couple of decades, and I am thrilled to have her as our speaker.

Our previously scheduled speaker, lapidary and jewelry artist Kevin Lane Smith will be coming on January 9, 2019, to open our new year.

Please make sure you come to the May meeting for this special presentation.

Looking forward to seeing all of you,
Helen Serras-Herman, OPLC Program chair

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



Emma Bowers

John Cuneo

Adam Cuneo

Terry Glover

Jim Grace

Carey Ann Kanuho

Joel Kramer

Tonia Rockwell

Aaron Wesley

Willa Wirth

Edward Knowlton

Farrah Levesque

Doug Martin

Kevin Sack

Roberta Villareal

Terry Glover

*What looks good can change,
but what works, works.*

- Ray Eames



Don Heitmann: Two 10-inch Rock Saws, Double
Spindle

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

OPLC CALENDAR May through July 2018 including field trips

Send additions to Janelle at bum140@aol.com, or 520-223-1675

May 4 – Board meeting at OPLC Clubhouse 10 AM. Members welcome to attend to observe.

May 12 – Monthly OPLC member meeting. Doors open 8am, meeting at 9am. OPLC Clubhouse.

June 1 – Board meeting at OPLC Clubhouse 10 AM. Members welcome to attend to observe.

June 9 – Monthly OPLC member meeting. Doors open 8am, meeting at 9am OPLC Clubhouse.

July 6 – Board meeting at OPLC Clubhouse 10 AM. Members welcome to attend to observe.

July 14 – Monthly OPLC member meeting. Doors open 8am, meeting at 9am OPLC Clubhouse.

July 20-22 - Rocky Mountain Federation Mineral Society Convention and Show, Rapid City, South Dakota. Field trips 2 days prior and 2 days after. See RMFMS website for further info. Hotels and camping sites in and around Rapid City. OPLC is a member of the Rocky Mountain Federation, and thus we receive info and are able to participate in their activities. For questions, Janelle Cortright, 520-223-1675 or bum140@aol.com. I've been on the field trips in 3 different years and they have been great.

There will be a field trip to Alpine, AZ for September 5 and 6, travel days 4th and 7th. We are staying at the Tal-Wi-Wi Lodge and one of our members has volunteered his property in nearby Nutrioso for camping.



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3401 Dodge Blvd, Tucson
- **Colorwright** - 520- 297-9454 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
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- **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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- **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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FIELD TRIPS (COMMITTEE)

Janelle Cortwright 761-1924

HISTORIAN

Bill Cascio 638-8144

JUNIOR EDUCATION

Ron Graichen 529-2661

KITCHEN

General Membership

LIBRARIAN

Bill Cascio 638-8144

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 - Noon **Cabbing**

Monitor - Mike Wendler 817-751-0622

1PM - 4PM **Silversmith Lab**

Monitor - Pat Droll 345-2792

3:30PM - 6PM **Cabbing**

Monitor - Margarette Harris 561-2315

6PM - 9PM **Faceting Open Lab**

Monitor - Earl Zoeller

6PM - 9PM **Cabbing****

Monitor - Donovan Wagner 869-2050

Tuesdays

9AM - 1PM **Cabbing***

Monitor - Mike DeMeritt 240-5133

9AM - Noon **Silversmithing Lab**

Monitor - John Poole 777-5588

1PM - 4PM **Faceting Open Lab**

Monitor - Billy Bob Riley 225-9060

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

1PM - 4PM **Silversmithing**

Monitor - Lou Ackerman

Saturdays

9:00AM - 2:00PM **Silversmithing**

Monitor - Pat Droll 345-2792

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

Monitor - Ron Bryan 619-495-7967

10AM - 1PM **Casting Lab**

3PM - 6PM **Casting Class**

Monitor - Ron Brooks 520-378-2592

(Casting Changes Temporary)

Sundays

9AM - Noon **Rock Sawing**

Monitor - Mark Gibson

10AM - 3PM **Silversmithing Lab**

Monitor - Giac D'Aquisto 207-6219

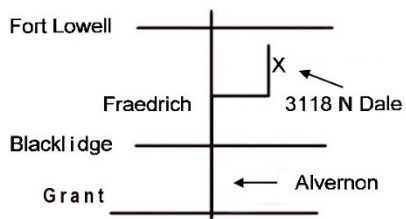
10AM - 2PM **Cabbing**

Monitor - Donovan Wagner 869-2050

• **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 - May 2018)
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.