

“CUTTING REMARKS”

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

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- President Dave Richardson 520-245-2172
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- 2026 - 2027 Ray Darragh 480-652-0648
- 2026 Ken Briggs 520-780-0640

- Advisor - Jack McCabe 520-297- 3029 (Past President)
- Membership Chairperson - Jan Keisler 520-333-3398

**June 13th at 9:00am
for the next monthly
meeting. There is an
optional social hour
that begins at 8:00am
followed by the
monthly business
meeting. Visitors are
always welcome.**



Articles or news to be included in the *Cutting Remarks* should be emailed to your Editor, Wayne Klement (wayneklem@aol.com) or call him at 520-954-6298. Submission deadline is the 25th of each month. Thanks!

Club mailing address: Old Pueblo Lapidary Club, 3118 N Dale, Tucson, AZ 85712

See us online at: www.lapidaryclub.org

Club email address: oplc3118@yahoo.com

THE PREZ SEZ by Dave Richardson, President

May has been a quiet month in the labs due, I'm sure, to the summer heat. The fields trips are a success with several planned being indoors. There is more about them later in the newsletter. We are looking into limited credit card capability but, as of now, are not ready to implement anything.

It is mid-year and time to start looking for 2027 officers and Board members. If you are interested, please let a Board member know. We will be setting up the nominating committee soon.

I am looking for suggestions on how to improve the Club. Please let me know your opinions. This is your club!



MALACHITE

With the increasing costs of precious metals, malachite offers the jewelry and lapidary enthusiast a stone that is both affordable and attractive. Its Greek name is *Malache* for "mallow", a green herb. Its light and dark green bands form designs that are one-of-a-kind, and give it a unique ornamental quality unlike that of any other stone. The bands are so distinctive that malachite may be one of the most easily-recognized minerals by the general public. Its banding forms from subtle changes in the oxidation states of the surrounding pore waters, but the exact mechanism still is not well understood. Malachite often results from weathering of copper ores and is often found together with azurite, goethite, and calcite. Except for its vibrant green color, the properties of malachite are similar to those of azurite and aggregates of the two minerals occur frequently - even banded together and called "azure-malachite". Malachite is more common than azurite and is typically associated with copper deposits around limestone - the source of the carbonate.

Having a Moh's hardness of 3.5 - 4.0, tumbled stones of malachite are possibly the most popular tumbled stones ever and are sold in literally every rock shop around the world. Carved boxes and figurines of malachite are almost as common. Although malachite art is not as precious as jade, it is hard to argue that it is less beautiful. Malachite is also popular in jewelry, and we see quite a bit of it in Native American wares. The stones inlaid in silver make a nice variance from the traditional turquoise jewelry.

Mining malachite began as early as 4000 BC by ancient Egyptians. In Israel, malachite is extensively mined at Timna Valley, often called King Solomon's Mines. Archeological evidence indicates that the mineral has been mined and smelted at that site for over 3,000 years. It is found worldwide, including in Zaire (*editor's note*: now the Democratic Republic of Congo), Namibia, Russia, Australia, and England. In the U.S. it's found in Arizona, California, Nevada, Utah, Pennsylvania, and Tennessee. The ancient Egyptians, Greeks, and Romans used malachite for jewelry and ground it to use as eye shadow. It is used in amulets to protect against the evil eye. In the Middle Ages it was used to protect children from witches and other dangers. It is the guardian stone of travelers.

Reprinted from Rockhound Ramblings, May 2011

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June 13, 2026, OPLC speaker – Helen Serras-Herman

**Red, White & Blue Gems & Jewelry –
A celebratory & Patriotic Feast**



Photos courtesy Helen Serras-Herman

We are in for a special treat for our June 13, 2026 OPLC monthly meeting. Our very own member and Program Chair, Helen Serras-Herman, is coming back to share with us her new presentation **Red, White & Blue Gems & Jewelry – A celebratory & Patriotic Feast**.

The talk expands on Helen's recent articles: **Red, White & Blue – A celebratory & Patriotic Feast** published in the 2026 Tucson Show EZ Guide and the **Cloud Dancer – Pantone Color of the Year 2026** published in the March 2026 issue of Rock & Gem magazine, and her Guest Exhibit case at the 2026 TGMS show.

The theme wants to get viewers into a celebratory and patriotic mood, as in July 2026 we'll be celebrating the 250th Anniversary of the United States Declaration of Independence, known as the United States Semi quinentennial.

Helen will also share her recent experience and trip to the EFMLS Wildacres Workshop held up in the mountains of North Carolina.

Helen Serras-Herman, a National Lapidary Hall of Fame 2003 Inductee, has over 40 years of experience in unique gem sculpture and jewelry art. Her award-winning, one-of-a-kind, distinctive artwork has been exhibited world-wide and published in over 400 trade magazines and books. Her remarkable carved gems and vibrant contemporary jewelry are recognized for the selection of unusual gem materials, modern organic compositions, masterful workmanship, and the ability to blend the mineral world with the art world. Helen will bring copies of her book **Carved Gems – Inspiration & Expertise** for sale at the meeting.

Looking forward to seeing you all,

Helen

MINUTES OF OPLC MEMBERSHIP MEETING

May 9th, at 9:00 am at OPLC

William Penrose, Secretary, wrp0143@comcast.net

The presentation was given by well-known speaker and historian Jim Turner, "Arizona's Famous Prospectors".

Announcements –

Thank you to Wayne Klement for bringing the donuts today.

Minutes of the April 11 meeting were accepted by voice vote.

Treasurer Report – About 25% of the approved budget for 2026 has been spent. The Board authorized the purchase of an appropriate first aid kit to be taken on field trips, at Mo Garrett's suggestion.

Membership Report – Janet Keisler – The membership stands at 382 plus about ten renewals and memberships not yet processed.

New members were introduced.

Lab Facilities – All are open for members and functioning smoothly.

County Fair – Dave Richardson – The fair was successful, with the booth fully crewed for the entire ten days.

Field Trips – Mo Garrett –

The field trip to the Dragoon marble quarries was successful, with much good material harvested.

The next four field trips will be indoor, to museums around the state, beginning with the Alfie Norville Gem and Mineral Museum in Tucson on May 30.

Mo Garrett will be conducting a mineral identification class on May 16. Signup sheet for all events were made available.

Show and Tell - Bill Penrose described a method for hiding the solder in copper smithing by over plating with copper using common chemicals.

Door Prizes – Were won by Brianne McNally, Peter Mike, and Ampero Gross.

Raffle Receipts – were about \$196.

Adjourned – 10:40 am.

OPLC SPEAKERS FORECAST 2026

I would like to thank all of our speakers who give us some terrific and diverse presentations that our members have truly enjoyed. They come near and far and we are definitely enriched by their shared knowledge and expertise. And huge thanks to all of our members who come and are great audiences for our speakers.

Here is the latest list for our upcoming speakers:

June 13, 2026, Helen Serras-Herman **Red, White & Blue Gems & Jewelry – A celebratory & Patriotic Feast**

July 11, Dr. Jeffrey Martz, paleontologist, talk on fossils

August 8, 2026.....

September 12, 2026, Mo Garrett, **Cataloging Your Collection**

October 10, 2026, Bill Gardner, **The Purple Passion Mine & Fluorescent lights**

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



Linda Bayne
Dawne Estrada-Bowlby
Daniel Febrer
Ron Gibbs

John Lindquest
Jennifer Lindquest
Monika Martin
Reuben Martin
Bart Peterson

Rae Pilarski
Mike Salz
Philip Starieski
Carrie Van Devan

OPLC MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

An application form can be downloaded from the Club website at: www.lapidaryclub.org

MEMBERSHIP RATES FOR NEW MEMBERS

	Jan - Jun	Jul - Dec
Single	\$35.00	\$20.00
Couple	\$50.00	\$35.00
Juniors	\$15.00	\$10.00

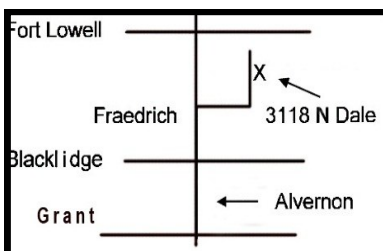
MEMBERS RENEWING

\$30.00
\$45.00
\$10.00

Note: Renewal fees will apply for members returning to rejoin regardless of the time of year.

Make check out to OPLC and mail to:

Old Pueblo Lapidary Club
Attn: Membership Chairperson
3118 N. Dale Avenue
Tucson, AZ 85712



The Business Meetings are held on the 2nd Saturday of each month except for December. A pre-meeting social hour is at 8:00 am, followed by an educational program, and ends with the monthly meeting. Visitors are most welcome.

Our email address is: oplc3118@gmail.com

MONEY SAVING DISCOUNTS

- **Allen's Treasure House** -10% off of finished jewelry (except custom made), decorator items, and novelties (excludes unformed minerals and specimen sets). 5% off of all other merchandise not having its own discount schedule, including unformed minerals and specimen sets. No discounts on services except per applicable schedule if any. See ad below.
- **DAH Rock Shop** - 10% on most items, \$10 minimum purchase.
520-323-0781 **3401 Dodge Blvd, Tucson. See ad.**
- **Kent's Tools** - 10% discount except for net priced merchandise.
520-461-1350 - **2745 N 1st Avenue, Tucson 85719. See ad.**
- **Raining Rocks** - 6756 S Nogales Hwy, Tucson, AZ 85756. OPLC members 10% discount. Call for appointment.

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1/4 of a vertical page -
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\$24.00 per half year
\$4.00 per month

1/4 of horizontal page -
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\$48.00 per year
\$24.00 per half year
\$4.00 per month

1/2 page - 4 1/2" H by 7 1/4" W
\$96.00 per year
\$8.00 per month

Full page - 9 1/2" H by 7 1/4" W
\$168.00 per year
\$14.00 per month

DONATIONS

Thanks to those that have made donations in the past to help keep this Club running! We welcome donations so if you have lapidary related items, please call Chuck Lundstrom, 520-241-9262 or Wayne Klement, 520-954-6298 and leave a message to make arrangements to have the donation picked up if you need help, or to drop off at the Club.

FACE TING FASCINATION?

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OPEN 11AM - 4PM DAILY

HOW TO PLATE COPPER OVER SOLDER FLOWS ON COPPER WORK

Bill Penrose, OPLC

Solder flows are one of the biggest objections to using copper. The solder shows up silvery against the copper. Even most 'copper' solders don't always match the color of polished copper. Most people solve the problem by plating another metal on the finished piece. I'm aware of three basic plates, copper, tin, and silver. Some people like nickel, too, but I have a nickel allergy; you might develop one, too, if you work with nickel too much.

Plating with copper is easy, and enhances the natural copper finish. There is a demo in a short Youtube video. Search on "How to Hide Silver Solder On Copper".

<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/KN77mB5Yc0o> No electricity is needed.

You need:

Copper sulfate (sold on Amazon or at the hardware store on the herbicides shelf), plain white vinegar, salt, steel wool (not stainless steel), and string or iron wire.

1. Wear gloves. Fill a clean quart jar half-full of vinegar. Add a round tablespoon of copper sulfate, and a round tablespoon of salt. Stir until dissolved.
2. Clean your copper piece with soap and water. Wipe with acetone if you have any.
3. Wrap the piece in a layer of steel wool and hold it together with string or iron wire.
4. Dunk the wrapped piece in the plating solution for about 15 minutes. The blue color will fade somewhat.
5. Pour off the liquid. Do not throw it on plants; it's a herbicide. You can soak it up in kitty litter, let it dry, and toss it. Rinse the wrapped piece a couple of times with water.
6. Cut or tear away the steel wool. It will be messy. Wash and dry the copper piece.

The copper coating is soft, so polish with rouge rather than white diamond or bobbing compound. It should brighten up nicely. Wear a dust mask; copper dust is more toxic than silver dust.

I am having success with tin plating, too. I'll describe that in a later writeup.

Photos: Before and after (but before polishing.)



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Revised Minutes of OPLC Board Meeting

Tuesday, June 2, 2026 5:00 pm

W Penrose, wrp0143@comcast.net

Present: Dave Richardson presiding, Chuck Lundstrom, Bruce Noble, Bill Penrose, Mark Marikos, Mark Dragoslovich, Wayne Klement, Janet Keisler, Wendy Huber, Giac d'Acquisto, Ray Darragh, Mo Garrett. A quorum was present.

Treasurer Report – Bruce Noble – There is net positive cash balance for the year to date. Bruce will begin tracking income, costs, and lab activity on a month by month basis across years, since we have very active and very slow periods each year.

There was a discussion on which type of service would be most appropriate for members paying dues. MOTION The Club will implement the Square payment service for certain payments like annual dues. PASSED

An announcement will be made when the system is in place.

Membership – Jan Keisler – currently 398 members in good standing.

Lab Reports –

Cabbing lab – Ken Briggs – (Report by email) .Some wheels have been replaced, but there is a stock of new and lightly-used wheels that should last through 2026. Air pumps will likely be needed. Ken had special mention of Mike Wendler (for help with lab construction and maintenance), Mike Tucker (for helping with repairs), Betty Mehlhoff and Wendy Huber (cleaning saws), and Donovan and Brian (for teaching classes).

Silver lab – Two classes will be starting within the week: Jane Morris on Monday, Sloane Padilla on Thursday.

Saw room – Ray Darragh – Slow but steady.

Casting – Chuck Lundstrom – All okay.

Faceting – Dave Richardson – The Sunday invitational class did not work out, as members dropped out. One Ultratech should be overhauled to bring it to the standard of the other machines. The cost will be about \$2K.

RMFMS Convention – No one will be attending this year.

Security – Dave Richardson, Mark Marikos – There was discussion of the various systems, including a card key system and a Bluetooth system operated from cell phones. The majority of opinions leaned towards a card key system.

Field Trips – Mo Garrett – The first field trip to the Alfie Norville Museum attracted 22 members. The museum is well organized and staffed and a pleasure to behold. A good time was had by all.

The next trip will be June 27, to the Arizona Museum of Natural History in Mesa.

In August, the trip will be to the Museum of Northern Arizona in Flagstaff.

Pinal County trip will be in July and the Museum of Northern Arizona (Flagstaff) in August.

A potential location called 'Mineral Mountain', north of Florence, is being investigated for a September trip.

New Business –

Mo Garrett wants to teach a wire wrap class in September.

Mo Garrett also suggested a calendar stretching out at least a year, with events and dates added as they are scheduled.

There was a discussion of opening the meeting with a list of bulletins before the speaker begins, since many members leave after the talk. We will consult with Helen Serras-Hermann before implementing this.

Mark Dragoslovich brought up the deteriorated condition of our outdoor sign. He has volunteered to rebuild it in the autumn.

There are no shop cards available while David Schulte is in Europe. Wayne will make up a set of 50, numbered in sequence, for a short-term solution. Mark Dragoslovich suggested a web page service that might work for the club. They will be invited to the next Board meeting to discuss what needs to be done.

Adjourned 6:30 pm.



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COMMITTEES

ADVERTISING

Twink Monrad (520) 297-9454

BUILDINGS, GROUNDS & EQUIPMENT

Wayne Klement (520) 954-6298

Mike Tucker (520) 400-9656

PROGRAMS

Helen Serras-Herman (520) 761-9907

CLASSES

See class signup sheets outside of each lab

FIELD TRIPS (COMMITTEE)

"Mo" Maureen Garrett (928) 446-9947

HISTORIAN

Twink Monrad (520) 297-9454

JUNIOR EDUCATION

Teresa McCabe (520) 490-7850

RAFFLE/DOORPRIZE

Kim Filips (520) 743-8070

KITCHEN

General Membership

LIBRARIAN

Bill Cascio (520) 638-8144

MEMBERSHIP

Janet Keisler (520) 333-3398

BUSINESS MEETING REFRESHMENTS

Twink Monrad (520) 297-9454

Wayne Klement (520) 954-6298

SILENT AUCTION

Chuck Lundstrom (520) 241-9262

NEWSLETTER

Wayne Klement (520) 954-6298

WEBSITE

Brian Peterson (520) 449-2660

This is the lab schedule which is current as of 06-07-26. Please CALL or TEXT (see below) the Monitor that is running the lab to make sure that they have space for you.

Cabbing

Monday	9am-12pm Mark Dragovich (520) 906-4657	Text
	2pm-5:30pm Dennis Stock (602) 421-2707	Text
	6pm-9pm Donovan Wagner (520) 869-2050	Text
Tuesday	9am-12pm 1st and 3rd Tuesday Dan Lilly (801) 995-9692	Text
	6pm-9pm Brian Peterson (520) 449-2660	Text
Wednesday	5pm-8pm Keith Haubert (520) 784-8283	Text
Thursday	8am-11am Ken Briggs (520) 780-0640	Text
	1pm-4pm Wendy Huber (520)-445-0289	Text
Friday	10am-1pm David Weaver (520) 548-4414	Text
	1pm-4pm Brianne McNally (520) 589-4791	Text
Saturday	2pm-5pm Wendy Huber (520) 445-0289 (Please Call First)	
Sundays	12pm-2pm Paul Fickle (520) 883-6061	Call

Silversmithing

Monday	10am-1pm Jane Morris (727) 743-0883
Tuesday	9am- 12pm Bill Cascio (520) 343-9927
Wednesday	10am-2pm Sloane Padilla (520) 808-8699 (Text Only)
Thursday	10am-4pm Sloane Padilla (520) 808-8699 (Text Only)
Friday	10am-2pm Giac D'Acquisto (520) 444-4143
Saturday	9am-12pm David Schulte (520) 954-8554
Sunday	10am-2pm Giac D'Acquisto (520) 444-4143

Faceting

Monday	9am-12pm Dave Richardson (520) 245-2172 Class & Open Lab
Wednesday	5:30pm-8:30pm David Schulte (520) 954-8554 Open Lab
Thursday	4pm-7pm Chuck Lundstrom (520) 241-9262 Class
Sunday	12:30pm-3:30pm Dave Richardson (520) 245-2172 Class & Open Lab

Casting

Upcoming winter/Spring Casting classes sign up outside the Casting Department clip board outside the lab door. Chuck will teach Lost Wax casting classes every other month starting in January.

Monday	Noon-3pm 1st Monday of the Month Investing Liz Williams (818) 300-5262
	Noon-3pm 2nd Monday of the month Burn Out Liz Williams (818) 300-5262
Tuesday	9am-12pm Steve Weeks, (978) 807-0075
Wednesday	4pm-7pm Chuck Lundstrom (520) 241-9262
Thursday	9am-12pm Mark Dragoslovich (520) 906-4657
Friday	9am-12pm 3rd and 4th Friday of the month Trevor Mock (520) 461-5902
	1pm-4pm 1st, 2nd & 3rd Fridays Travis Austin (540) 420-3866
Saturday	10am-1pm Shiwen Meyers, (520) 609-5130
Sunday	12pm-3pm Steve Weeks (978) 807-0075

Saw Room

Monday	7am-11am Ray Darragh (480) 652-0648
Wednesday	7am-11am Ray Darragh (480) 652-0648
Sunday	8am-11am Betty Mehlhoff (253) 208-7460