

# “CUTTING REMARKS”

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

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Please join us **April 12th** 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. Submission deadline is the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month. Thanks!

**THE PREZ SEZ** ..... by John Poole



Spring is here! Some of our members from the cold country are beginning to head north. It's going to be a big change!

The Pima County Fair starts April 17th and runs until the 27th. Bob Powell and Dennis Murphy will be at the April 12 meeting to take any items that you may want to have displayed at the Fair. It would be great to have a large cross-section of work to show the general public the many skills that can be learned and executed here at OPLC workshops.

On March 22nd we had our Spring Clean-Up. The three coolers for the meeting hall and kitchen were serviced and ready to go. The parking lots and perimeter of the fence were raked and trash removed. Trees were trimmed, and the hall in the Training Center was cleaned. The volunteers who worked all morning are as follows: Jean & Skip Barkley, Twink Monrad, Don Morin,

Janelle Cortright, Jerry Behn, Louis Pill, Bob Powell, Mark Gibson, Ginny & Pete Peterson, Bill Penrose, Beatriz & Van Rach, and Ron Davidson.

By the time you read this, a trip to the Mission Mine April 11th will be planned and set. Hopefully Wolfgang Mueller will have a report. I know a couple of other trips are in the works. More information should be available at the April meeting.

The speaker for the April meeting is OPLC member Jerry Glazman. His presentation will be about Kartchner Cavern, called "Off the Beaten Path".

See you at the April 12th meeting for coffee and some goodies. Don't forget, wear your OPLC badge and get a free raffle ticket with a purchase!

-John Poole

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**



**Martha Erdem  
Patti Gibson  
David Hughes  
Erika Juzwiak  
Jennifer King**

**Kenneth Miller  
Kathleen Miller  
Jennifer Shelton  
Angie Tatro  
Aaron Weston**

*Front Cover Pictures: Diamond is April's Birthstone. Larimar is the trade name for a beautiful variety of Pectolite found in the Dominican Republic. This is near-top-grade material.*

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**OPLC MONTHLY MEETING**

March 8, 2014

President John Poole brought the meeting to order at 10:20 A.M. and a quorum was present.

He thanked presenter Shaunna Morrison, a U of A graduate student in geosciences and rare earth mineralogy who is working on the Mars Curiosity Mission. Her talk was very interesting and she answered many questions after her program.

Five new members/visitors were present and introduced.

The minutes of the February meeting published in the newsletter were approved by the membership.

Natalie and Harold Hutton were thanked for furnishing the refreshments before the meeting.

Norma Lackow, refreshment chairman, said that she has volunteers for April and May but needs others after that. Please call her at 742-7561 if you can help. The Club pays up to \$30 for cost of food purchased.

Our treasury report was read and will be filed for audit. It was reported that renewal dues are slowly trickling in. We have approximately 265 paid members.

**HOB NOB:** Diana Hara who organized the Hob Nob evening said that it was very successful with around 60 attending the Saturday night event featuring expert faceters from all over the world. The President of USFG wants to continue the tradition and add even more events next year. One of our OPLC members who also

belongs to USFG praised all who worked on the Hob Nob this year and in the past.

**TGMS BOOTH:** Our OPLC booth at the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show resulted in several new members. Some of our OPLC newer members said they thoroughly enjoyed volunteering at the booth and were grateful for the help given them by OPLC members.

**PIMA COUNTY FAIR:** It is almost April and time to find volunteers to man the OPLC booth at the fair. Bob Powell and Dennis Murphy, aided by Murray Hiller, are in charge of the volunteers for the booth and have sign up sheets hanging at OPLC. Members are also asked to loan to the booth different varieties of items made to show the public the different classes that are offered. April 12<sup>th</sup> is the last day to bring these items to OPLC. April 16 will be set up day at the Fair.

John Poole reported on some improvements in the labs: emergency shut off valves and new lights installed in the silversmithing room and in the faceting room a water valve was installed.

**CLEAN UP DAY:** Saturday March 22<sup>nd</sup> 9:00 AM will be clean up day at the Club, members are asked to help.

**T-SHIRTS AND HATS:** The order for the new T shirts and hats has been placed. Today we offered the old inventory of T-shirts at a sale price and all were sold.

**EDUCATION:** Sheila Powell said that at the booth at TGMS during the show 28 kits

were promised to schools all over the country. Sheila would like mineral donations from members. Sheila made two presentations at Rincon Ridge Middle school, both seventh grade classes.

**OPLC ROOF:** The project is completed and consisted of new wood, the roof was treated and washed and roof coating was applied.

A question was asked about having new lines painted in our parking lots. It seems that the existing lines are working fine and that new lines are difficult and expensive for the Club.

**FIELD TRIPS:** Janelle Cortwright and Melinda Thompson are trying to arrange some outings for members. These might include: an April overnight petrified wood

trip to Show Low area, a day trip to Duquesne, an October trip to Moab for azurite, a January trip to Quartzsite and a possible peridot hunting trip to San Carlos Apache reservation.

John Poole thanked Mike DeMeritt once again for the great newsletters he produces.

**APRIL SPEAKER:** Member Jerry Glazman will give a presentation about Kartchner Caverns called "Off the Paved Path."

President Poole as asked that all suggestions placed in the box please be signed so they can be considered.

Before the raffle, the meeting was adjourned at 10:45.

Minutes by Twink Monrad, Secretary

## **EDUCATION UPDATE**

**By Shiela Ronspees**

On March 4th I went to Rincon Vista Middle School. The Art Teacher, Carla Dominice Newton, wanted to have me show some minerals and what they are and what minerals are used for in our daily lives . We discussed what and how minerals were formed and then I had the student pick out samples of Pyrite, Selenite, Petrified Wood, and Chalcedony. Carla then gave each student a stand of colored wire and told them to wire wrap one of their minerals. It was very interesting seeing the different ways they came up with. A GREAT time was had by all.

We have a list of 28 schools to send or deliver "Hands on Minerals" as well, so donations of minerals will be appreciated.

Merritt and Doris Simmons have donated a flat of Barite from Moracco, 2 flats of Chalcedony, and a flat of minerals from the Daisy Mine in Pima County, Arizona.

Scott and Paula Simmons of TXI Quarry in Texas have generously donated another 30 Pound box of Pyrite. A big "THANK YOU" to all the Simmons ( they are unrelated.)

*April Program*  
*Presented by OPLC member Jerry Glazman*

**Off the Beaten Path - Exploring Kartchner Caverns Beyond the Pavement**

This presentation will show areas of Kartchner Caverns that cannot be seen on the organized tours. The tours stay on paved trails inside the Rotunda Room/Throne Room complex and the Big Room. Visitors to Kartchner Caverns see less than half of the existing cave from the paved trails. The photos seen in this presentation include a trip into the "Sink Hole" and through the passage that the original discoverers used to first gain access to the cave. Also seen are locations and formations "in the back of the cave" where there is no access for visitors. Additionally, if there is interest, a 20 minute video entitled "First Days Journey" can be shown following the meeting. This video takes a "helmet cam" trip through the discoverer's original passage from the Sink Hole to the Big Room.

***If you're new to Tucson and have never heard of Kartchner Caverns, here's some information:***

Kartchner Caverns State Park is approximately 55 miles southeast of Tucson, near Benson. Discovered in 1974, Kartchner Caverns is home to many outstanding features, including remarkable minerals and formations in this massive limestone cave. It became an Arizona State Park in 1988, and, to this day, the park works to conserve its living cave as the limestone caverns are still developing. Boasting the world's longest stalactite formation, Kartchner Caverns State Park lets you see Arizona's tallest natural column formation below ground level, making this state park one of Arizona's most popular outdoor activities. It is rated one of the World's Top 10 Caves by experts for its vast and incredibly unique mineral formations. It's the only one of the ten open for public viewing in the United States.



## APRIL GEMSTONE: DIAMOND

April's birthstone is nothing short of nature's most spectacular gemstone - the ever-loved and revered *diamond*. Diamond is among the so-called "native elements" - it is composed entirely of pure Carbon, and is thus a polymorph of graphite. Graphite is the stable form under low pressure-temperature conditions, diamond under high pressure-temperature conditions. This pair of polymorphs represents the largest contrast in mineralogy with respect to crystal structures and physical properties. In diamond, every C atom is tetrahedrally bonded to four other atoms with a covalent bond. In consequence, all of the atoms have their outermost electron shells completed, and this provides the structural explanation for the extreme hardness of diamond. Crystals are common, and often occur with curved faces. Twinned crystals on {111} (any of the four tetrahedral planes) can occur. It has perfect cleavage on these same planes - despite the extreme hardness, it is easily cleaved along any of the {111} planes. Diamond is brittle. It has a Moh's hardness of 10.0 (the hardest on the scale), and a density of typically 3.50. Diamonds are colorless to yellowish, also brownish or grayish, and more rarely pink, red, green, or blue; and can be black owing to inclusions (typically graphite). It has adamantine luster, and is transparent to translucent. Very high refractive index and remarkably strong dispersion are the optical properties that cause the famous "fire" (sparkle), often enhanced by various faceted cuts in gem diamonds. *Bort* is industrial-grade diamond used for abrasives and sawblades (such as we cutters appreciate!); *carbonado* is a cryptocrystalline (very fine-grained) variety of diamond. Bort and carbonado are usually black or grey (though bort may be of other colors), and neither is used for gemstones.



*Exceptional natural-colored diamond group*

Diamond occurs as scattered crystals in kimberlites, which are ultrabasic rocks having their origin in the upper parts of the Earth's mantle. At this depth, the pressures and temperatures are suitable for the crystallization of diamonds. It is also found in secondary deposits in sediments formed by the erosion of primary diamond-bearing rocks. In these deposits diamonds have survived the processes of weathering and transport owing to their great hardness and chemical resistance. The diamonds are usually concentrated in certain beds because of their relatively high density. Most natural diamonds come from such occurrences.



*Unsorted rough diamond crystals*

Diamonds are found all across the globe, and important deposits occur in Australia; Canada; Brazil; India (including the famous water-clear Golconda stones); Russia; and even in the USA - Crater of Diamonds National Park in Arkansas gives up many diamonds every year to those willing to go dig for them! African deposits are too numerous to list, but include Sierra Leone (known for the infamous "blood diamonds"), the diamond beach sands of Namibia, and perhaps the most famous find of all - South Africa's Kimberley Hole, the diamond mine which Cecil Rhodes took control of, and started the

diamond-monopolizing and marketing behemoth known today as DeBeer's. It may surprise you to discover that diamonds aren't typically as rare as most of the gem materials we facet today, but are worth far more, thanks mostly to DeBeer's ruthless production, stockpiling, and marketing of these fairly common stones.

## MAKE YOUR OWN STONE CLOTH

Ever notice how quickly a polished stone starts to lose its luster when passed around and shown off? Many things contribute to this phenomenon, but two common elements are skin oils and microscopic abrasive particles. Professional gem dealers carry a “stone cloth” like the type available from the Gemological Institute of America. But unless you are GIA alumni, you probably don’t know where to start looking - and when you find cloths available, the asking price is often a little hard to swallow! The good news is that you can make your own! Buy some felt (tight-grained is better) at any fabric or craft store (think of the fabric on the outside of a Sterling Silver polishing cloth...) Simply cut to the size and shape you desire, then mist one side with 100,000-grit diamond spray (available at lapidary or rock shops, or occasionally available from faceter friends - good ones, anyway!) Let dry overnight. Use the side without diamonds first, to remove oils, then rub the stone well with the diamond-impregnated side. You (and all onlookers!) will be pleasantly impressed! You can use diamond spray of larger grit size (50,000 works well), but be certain not to use a grit size larger than your final polishing stage, or you’ll “erase” your beautiful original finish! If you polish with an oxide compound (cerium, alumina, etc.), don’t use any grit size larger than 50,000 (note that “larger” translates to a smaller number in this regard...) This works well for almost any material, though works particularly well for agates and jaspers - and their “evil” habit of losing luster over time!



## CAB POLISHING PROBLEMS

Polishing problems tend to be the norm for beginners, and can often lead to much frustration - even the decision to abandon the hobby altogether! When cabbing, many neophytes don’t spend enough time in the sanding and pre-polishing stages, leaving scratches that refuse to go away. I recommend paying close attention to material in its *dry* state (when wet, scratches are nearly impossible to see...) Dry your material after each stage, and observe in reflected light (light behind you). Observe the texture and color changes of your material as you move from one wheel to the next - the texture should progressively get smoother (scratches will be smaller and homogenous), and the color will improve (deepen) with each stage. A good way to observe this is to start with a cab that you are certain is finished in a given stage (ask a good cab-cutter if you are uncertain - there are many in our club!) Take your cab to the next stage, *but only finish half of it on that stage - don’t work the other half*. Dry your cab and carefully observe the difference between the two sides. It is best to do this both with and without a loupe, so you will be familiar with both eye- and magnified-observation. Do this for every stage, and you will be more familiar with the “look” of each given stage, and therefore much more likely to notice when you are leaving scratches before you get much farther. Bear in mind that materials of different hardness may look different for the same stage, so don’t be unwilling to go through this process again for a different material. You will spend some extra time here, but the knowledge you gain will be well worthwhile as you progress! It won’t be long before you know the “look” of any given material at any given stage - and therefore be able to quickly resolve any polishing problems! (Tips provided by Mike DeMeritt, 2012)

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- **Silver Lining Gemstones** - 20-35% discount on most items. 520-203-8430, or see Mike De-Meritt at any of his labs. Includes eBay Store at [www.stores.ebay.com/high-lonesome-turquoise](http://www.stores.ebay.com/high-lonesome-turquoise).

### 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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**WEEKLY WORKSHOP SCHEDULE Phone 323-9154**

**Mondays**

9AM - 12PM **Cabbing**

Monitor - Gloria Jean Dana

1PM - 4PM **Faceting Guild** (Exp. Facetors Only)

Monitor - Billy Bob Riley 225-9060

1PM - 4PM **Silversmith Lab**

Monitor - Lou Akerman 290-6968

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

1PM - 4PM **Beginning Faceting**

Monitor - Mike DeMeritt 203-8430

**Wednesdays**

6PM - 9PM **Beginning Casting**

Monitor - Chuck Lundstrom 577-6446

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**

10AM - 1PM **Rock Sawing**

Monitor - Pete Peterson 886-9021

**Fridays**

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

Monitor - Mike DeMeritt 203-8430

**Saturdays**

8AM - 12PM **Rock Sawing**

Monitor - Jim Griffin

10AM - 3PM **Silversmithing**

Monitor - Terry Cox 296-4949

10AM - 3PM **Cabbing\***

Monitor - Ron Davidson 400-2125

**\*INSTRUCTION PROVIDED AS AVAILABLE,  
MAY REQUIRE DOUBLE-PUNCHED HOURS**



**Pete Petersen: Magazines**

To donate to OPLC, just see or contact Dan Harmsen. at 721-8452.

Old Pueblo Lapidary Club  
 (Cutting Remarks - April 2014)  
 3118 N. Dale  
 Tucson, AZ 85712  
 (520) 323-9154

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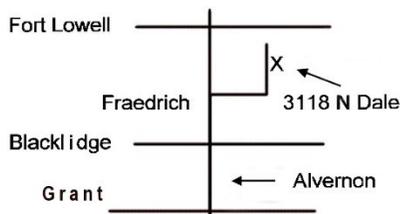
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Couple (same address)	\$35.00	\$27.00	\$22.00	\$15.00	\$25.00
Junior	\$12.50	\$10.00	\$7.50	\$5.00	\$10.00

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.