

“CUTTING REMARKS”

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

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Please join us **April 8th** 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



April has arrived, the roses and the rest of the flowers are in bloom and the weather couldn't be nicer! This is why we all live here in Tucson! Sadly our Wilcats are out of the running in basketball but there is always another season. Our business meeting for April was held on Wednesday, 3/29/17. Our next business meeting will be held on Friday, May 5th, 2017.

We are making great progress on the upgrades to club equipment and facilities that the members have agreed to make. The first of the 12 inch Highland Park slab saws is up and running in the cab lab and the rest of the equipment is on order from the various manufacturers. Spare parts have also been ordered for the big saw room saws to keep these up and running. Mike DeMeritt has ordered the new wheels, belts and pumps for the cab lab. There are some new rules in place in the cab lab since some of the equipment is new and unfamiliar to our members. Everyone MUST be retrained on the saws and signed off by a monitor before using the equipment. In addition, the stability of rocks installed in the saws must be verified by the monitor on duty prior to EACH slab being cut. This will hopefully prevent damage to the equipment and keep it working for all of us to enjoy for a long time. These rules are posted on the saws and on the walls in the cab lab. Thanks to Mike T. for all his work in getting this equipment up and running!

The new display case stands are installed in the main meeting building and we are going to add a light switch to the lights to allow us all to enjoy the arrow heads and the other rock inlay work done by previous members. The hole in the roof is repaired. The electric sub panel for the mini-splits and the quick release breakers

are all installed and work is progressing nicely for the installation for the mini-split heaters and coolers and sealing off the old evaporative cooler ducts. Hopefully this will all be completed prior to our next club meeting on 4/8/17. Thanks to John, Pete and all the other folks that helped making this happen. We will have a discussion about upgrades to the training building electric service at the club meeting this month.

Our speaker this month will be Dwight Thibodeaux, a Rio Rico historian, and his talk will be on "Prehistoric Rio Rico". This should be a really interesting presentation for us all to learn more about some of the formation of material's that come out of Rio Rico! We will also have a discussion of junior members in our club during this months club meeting. I encourage everyone to sign up for the Cottonwood agate field trip in April which should be really interesting and give everyone a chance to see an amazing collection of various agates and possibly even pick up some nice pieces at a great price!

I'll see you all at 8 am, April 8th, 2017 for treats and coffee followed by the club meeting starting at 9:00 AM. Remember to wear you OPLC badge to the meeting to get a free raffle ticket with the purchase of some more of them. We will have an update on the facility upgrades for everyone and some information about lab fee rates in the future to present. We will also be discussing the "retraining" of all members using the lab equipment and the consequences of misuse of club equipment in the future.

David

Front Cover Pictures: *The Hope Diamond not only represents April's birthstone, but is the rarest of its kind; the organic material Amber is a nice unusual cabochon material of differing colors.*

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



OPLC MONTHLY MEETING March 11, 2017

The meeting was brought to order by President David Schulte. A quorum was present.

The speaker was Brian Cook, who spoke on Paraiba Tourmaline-a Brazilian legend, and Bahia Golden rutilated quartz.

David thanked Jonathan Ziegler and Kerrie Gimmler who brought the refreshments.

David thanked club members who contributed time and effort to improve our Club: John Poole for re-securing the door into the labs which was damaged by the wind. Mike Tucker for working on getting all of the saws back up in the large saw room. Mike DeMeritt for repairing the two faceting machines which will be up and running soon. Wayne Klement and the local Detectors Unlimited Club for sweeping the parking lot to get rid of screws, nails and other stuff which could cause flat tires. Display cabinet stands for unstable cabinets in meeting room will be installed this month.

Board of Directors Items and Decisions: Speakers' fees will be raised from \$100 to \$130 for in town speakers, and \$150 to \$200 for out of town speakers.

Monitors will have free access to the same lab when they are not on duty.

A biennial work day will be instituted under the direction of Pete Peterson. Date to be decided and labs will be closed those days.

Membership: We have 385 current members. Three new members were introduced.

Field trips: In April we will visit a property in Cottonwood to view a fabulous agate collection, some of which will be for sale. It will be limited to 60 members. Plans to be announced.

Silent Auction: Tom McDevitt said preparations are proceeding well.

Speakers: Helen Serras-Herman has a presentation scheduled for every month except August.

Treasurer's report: We are 21% into our budget and the report will be filed for audit.

Equipment purchases: The following were approved by the Board and according to our By Laws, were presented to the membership for approval: Two cab lab trim saws to be replaced at a cost of \$526. Two cab lab slab saws to be replaced at a cost of \$3038. Two new Genies for the cab lab at a cost of \$3603 plus \$230 shipping. Motion by Jerry Glazman and was approved for a total of \$7977.

AC system: A new system will provide heat in winter as well as cooling in summer. They will also protect members from mold allergies and make the building useful to rent out to other organizations. The bid from Old Pueblo Mechanical was recommended by the Board. This includes installation of five "mini-split" units, four in the meeting room and one in the

kitchen or classroom area. Work includes installation, ductwork changes and protective posts around the outside units. The bid was \$22,500 plus \$700 for necessary electrical upgrades. The membership approved the expense 74 to 9 as presented. Motion carried.

Norma Lackow said we are okay for snacks except for June and August. Please call here at 742-7561 if you can help. You can be reimbursed for up to \$40.

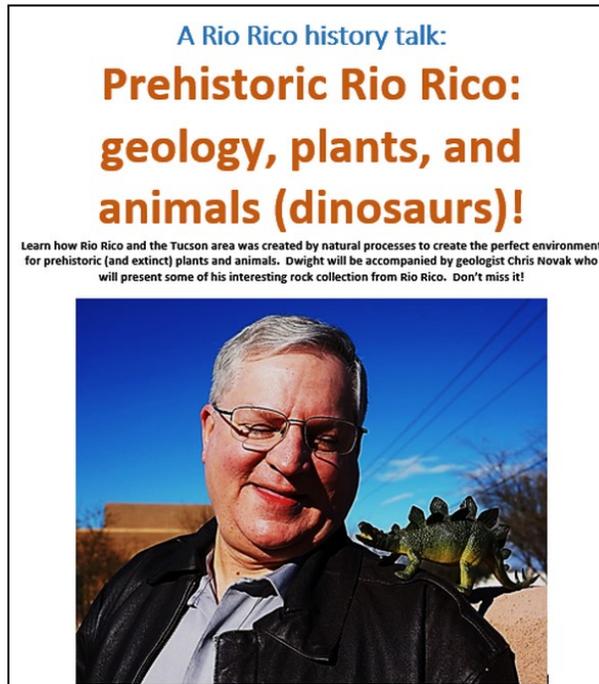
Door prize won by Deborah Alderman. Raffle sales close to \$250.

The meeting was adjourned and members went to the parking lot for the trunk sale.

Minutes by Bill Penrose for Twink Monrad

April 2017 OPLC Speaker

Dwight Thibodeaux, Rio Rico Historian Presents:



We are in for another very special treat for our April 8, 2017 OPLC monthly meeting.

Dwight Thibodeaux, a former Air Force major, is a retired engineer with a lifelong passion for aviation and 13 years of flight test leadership experience on the F-16, C-130, B-1, B-52 and unmanned aerial vehicles.

Like many of us, in 2013 he made Rio Rico his new home, and became passionate about the area's past. He has been researching the local history, conducting interviews with locals, and preparing a book on the history of Rio Rico. He is the founder and President of the Rio Rico Historical Society, which thanks to his initiative was established in 2015.

In this special presentation "Prehistoric Rio Rico: geology, plants & animals (dinosaurs!)", that Dwight prepared for our club, we will learn how Rio Rico and the Tucson area was created by natural processes to create the perfect environment for prehistoric (and extinct) plants and animals. He will talk about the geology of the area and how it changed over the millennia.

Dwight will be accompanied by geologist Chris Novak, another new resident of Rio Rico, who will bring some of his rocks that he recently collected in Rio Rico.

Looking forward to seeing you all in the April meeting!

Helen Serras-Herman, OPLC Program chair

2017 OPLC speakers- A Forecast Look

We already had a terrific presentation by gemologist Eric Fritz, from Gem-A, who brought his Raman Spectrometer (January) and gave us a great understanding into spectroscopy, and Brian Cook who gave us a terrific talk on Paraiba Tourmalines and Rutilated Quartz from Brazil (March).

So, let's take a forecast look to the rest of the year:

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)

Sindi & Jerry Schloss, appraisers & gemologists, "Four Peaks Amethyst" (July 8)

Anna Domitrovic, rockhounding & mining (August 12, 2017)

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



Norm Dewey: Slabs

Ruby Munson: Tools and Agate rough

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

APRIL BIRTHSTONE: 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.



Exceptional natural-colored diamond group

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 saw-blades (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.

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.

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.



Unsorted rough diamond crystals

- Written/Compiled by Mike DeMeritt, April 2013

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



Kristin	Bailey	Paul	Miller
Harley	Butterfield	Glen	Perillo
Joe	Caldwell	Melissa	Perillo
Chris	Cartwright	Gloria	Quigg
Robert	Curran	Everetty	Ray, Jr.
John	De Journett	Amanda	Smith
Belinda	De Journett	Ondrej	Smrcina
Minnie	De Journett	Kent	Solberg
Susan	Drew	Richard	Vaughn
Jamie	Ferensic	Dreama	Vaughn
Mike	Goodwin	David	Weaver
Gary	Howell	Sharon	Wilcox
Melinda	Howell		
Salle	Hunter		
Zoey	Meyers		



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Old Pueblo Lapidary Club

Field Trip Release

Please Read The Following Information

I understand that the Old Pueblo Lapidary Club is a non-profit organization for the education of its members and the general public about gems and minerals. I understand the planned field trip will have possible risks and dangers related but not limited to travel to the site, walks, hikes, mining operations, accidents, illness, acts of nature. I understand the trip may entail strenuous physical exertion and I may drive my own vehicle or car pool with others.

The Old Pueblo Lapidary Club may employ or utilize third parties to assist in the field trip, as well as utilize volunteers from general membership of the club to provide goods or services. I do hereby release the Old Pueblo Lapidary Club as well as its members, officers, agents, employees, individually and collectively, from all responsibility pertaining to the provision of goods and/or services by said third party or parties.

In consideration of the right to participate in this program, I hereby release the Old Pueblo Lapidary Club and its officers, agents and employees, individually and collectively, from all responsibility from damages, injuries, death, loss or delays due to any reason whatsoever, and hereby assume all risks and dangers in connection with the program except for claims against the Old Pueblo Lapidary Club and its officers, agents and employees, individually and collectively arising out of gross negligence or intentional tortuous activities of such officers, agents or employees as may be required by law.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Printed Name: _____

In Case of Emergency Notify: _____ Phone # : _____

Relationship: _____

Field Trip to view agate collection at collector Pat McMahon's home – 15 April 2017, Saturday – signup will be after speaker on 8 April 2017. All must sign a liability release. Leaders Janelle Cortright and Jerry Behn. 520-223-1675 or email:bum140@aol.com or text.

Meet at exit 287 off I-17 North at noon. This is the Highway 260 turnoff. We will be heading west on Hwy 260 toward AZ89A from there. There are several fast food restaurants in which to buy your lunch before proceeding to Mr. McMahon's home. We will meet either at or close to McDonald's. Make your pit stop also.

Check Mapquest for how long it will take you to drive there from wherever you live in the Tucson area. We have an appointment time to arrive at his house NOT before 12:30 noon. Hopefully we can leave about 12:15 for our drive of about 12 miles.

We will only be on paved roads. Carpool if you can. Mr. McMahon is allowing me to bring 60 members. And you have to be a dues paid member. Please wear your membership badges if you can find them.

Mr. McMahon's collection is in his private museum and has some 8,000 specimens. There will also be rough and sawn pieces for sale, so bring cash or your checkbook. He will also have copies of his agate book for sale. He will do guided tours of about 15 each through the museum. You can take photographs.

*The inner life of a human being
Is a vast and varied realm and
Does not concern itself alone
With stimulating arrangements
Of color, form, and design...*

-Edward Hopper

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)

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Email: info@ArizonaChinaTravel.com

Phone: (602) 908-7306

Website: www.ArizonaChinaTravel.com

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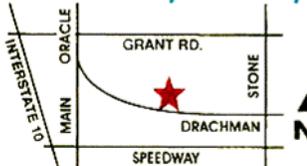
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- **Jay's of Tucson** - 30% discount excluding orange tag items, sterling silver sheet and wire. 520-323-1123 (corner of Speedway & Swan)
4627 E Speedway, Tucson
- **Jed's Rock Shop** - 20% on all items. 520-882-6044 - **6275 N Sandario Rd, Tucson**
- **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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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 - April 2017)
 3118 N. Dale
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 (520) 323-9154

OPLC Membership Application - Please Print

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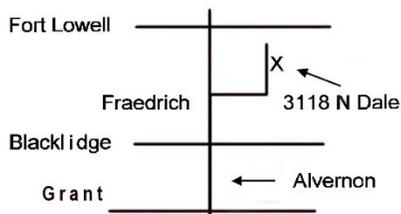
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Type of membership:	<u>1st Quarter</u>	<u>2nd Quarter</u>	<u>3rd Quarter</u>	<u>4th Quarter</u>	<u>Annual Renewals</u>
Single Member	\$25.00	\$20.00	\$15.00	\$10.00	\$20.00
Couple (same address)	\$35.00	\$27.00	\$22.00	\$15.00	\$25.00
Junior	\$12.50	\$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.