

“CUTTING REMARKS”

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

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Please join us on August 14th
for the next monthly
meeting. Optional social hour
begins at 8:00am
followed by the 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, Wayne Klement (wayneklem@aol.com), or feel free to call him at 520-954-6298. Submission deadline is the 25th of each month. Thanks!

THE PREZ SEZ by Pete Peterson



The July meeting attendance was typical for a summer month with 46 people attending. It was a hot and humid day. The coolers were working, but with temperatures near 100° and humidity around 30%, swamp coolers were not very effective. Murray Hiller checked the coolers again the Tuesday after the meeting and they are all working properly. Thanks, Murray. We also want to thank Jenny Coniglio for covering as secretary for Diana at the July meeting.

The Show and Tell portion of our meeting went well at the last meeting. Terri and Dick Bibbens brought some samples of petrified wood found on the Blue Forest National Federation field trip in Wyoming last month. There was lots of interest and I think everyone enjoyed seeing it. I know I did.

Calling all OPLC members!

We need your help. We are looking for two members who are willing to serve on the nominating committee for our election in December. Skip Barkley has agreed to be chairman, but we need two more people to help him. According to the by-laws the committee should consist of one board member and two other club members (the president is not allowed to serve on this committee). If you are willing to help, contact any board member. We also need suggestions for people you would like to see serve as board members and/or officers. Submit any suggestions to Skip and the committee will take it from there.

Wayne has indicated that he would like to be relieved of his long held position as Membership Chair. I think you will all agree he has done a splendid job. If anyone might be

interested in volunteering, please see me. We can make arrangements to show how and where the records are kept. I am sure Wayne would be willing to explain the duties this important task entails. We also need a Historian. Anyone want to volunteer?

The sick call hasn't changed much since the last newsletter. Harrison Yokum and Pat McMullen are still recovering. Sylvia Czayo is reported to be doing well and back to normal. If you know of other members who should be included, let me know.

That is all for now. Enjoy the hot weather and the monsoons. Watch out for critters when collecting. Be safe and have fun.

Pete

JUNE MEETING MINUTES By Jenny Coniglio, Acting Secretary



President Pete Peterson called the meeting to order. There was a quorum present.

Two guests were present who were interested in jewelry design. All the lab monitors and instructors present were introduced. There will be a tour

of our shop building after the meeting.

The June minutes were approved as published in the Newsletter.

A motion was made to approve the increase in dues as mentioned in the June minutes:

New single \$25/ renewal \$20; new couple \$35/ renewal \$25; new junior \$12.50/ renewal \$10. The motion passed. The dues increase will take effect January 1, 2011.

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Cutting Remarks, Volume 2010, Issue 8, August 2010. Published monthly by the Old Pueblo Lapidary Club, 3118 N. Dale, Tucson, AZ 85712. Telephone: (520) 323-9154, a non-profit organization.

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Sick List: Harrison Yocum is recuperating at the home of Sue and David Bennet for about a month. He is walking with the aid of a walker and is still trying to organize his rockhounding course through Pima College. He is interested in receiving calls and visitors.

Jeanne Barkley is still recovering from her jaundice.

Pat McMullen is recovering up North in a cooler place.

Sylvia Czyao is doing well enough to drive and attend faceting class.

Reports: There will be no presentation next month.

We need a Club Historian. Field trips are on hold until the heat subsides. Bryan Busse is willing to organize a group to rockhound at his Colorado aquamarine mine. He will mention this to our Field Trip Chairman, Wolfgang Mueller.

The Kitchen Chairman and Librarian Chairman have nothing new to report.

Wayne Klement, the Membership Chairman, reports that our current membership is at the highest membership since he's taken over the position.

The Nominating Committee Chairman, Skip Barkley needs 2

more volunteers for his committee.

The Silent Auction Chairman reports that all is going well collecting and organizing donations for our early November event.

Show and Tell (replacing our monthly jewelry contest) had a volunteer who spoke briefly about the trip to Wyoming to discover Blue Forest Petrified Wood which she had collected on a recent trip through the AFMS organization.

Jerry Foley won the door prize of a geode donated by Jim Griffin.

The meeting was adjourned.

JR. EDUCATION AT WORK

Shiela Powell, in her role as a member of the Old Pueblo Lapidary Club Junior Education Committee, logged onto a website called "Donors Choose.org" to locate schools in need that were looking for rocks and minerals to be used in their curriculum. This is a website that allows public school teachers from every corner of America to post classroom project requests. Requests range from pencils for a poetry writing unit, to violins for a school recital, to microscope slides for a biology class. Shiela looked for schools that requested rocks & minerals.

She then put together numerous boxes containing a variety of minerals for use in classrooms by elementary schools. These boxes contained mineral samples of: Quartz, Feldspar & Mica, Chrysocolla from the Ray mine, Bornite, Malachite & Azurite from the Mission Mine, Chalcedony from Round Mountain and Deer Creek, Hematite from the Buckskin Mountains and Petrified Wood from the Apache Forest.

The recipients of these boxes of minerals were:

Alderman Road Elem.School
2860 Alderman Road
Fayetteville, NC 28306-7687

Highland Elem. School
252 Myers Moon Road
Monterey, VA 24465

Sugar Creek Elem.
1599 Farmhouse Road
Fort Mills, SC 29715-8308

Cornell Elem. School
300 7th Street
Cornell, IL 61319-9282

J.H. Gunn Elem.
7400 Harrisburg Road
Charlotte, NC 28215

Summerville Middle School
200 Middle school Drive
Summerville, GA 30747-5131

JULY SPEAKER - A WORTH WHILE ENDEAVOR

Joe Romero, the marketing and fund raising Director of the TPOA, spoke to the members about their organization's efforts in working with kids in the community. Some of the programs involving kids include: "Cops 4 Kids Programs" which assists local underprivileged children and they also sponsor the "Kid Care ID" event, "Back to School" and the "Kids, Cops, and Christmas" programs, and other programs. The funding that supports their efforts is largely received from corporate sponsors and from the selling of raffle tickets. This year's raffle item is a 2010 Arctic Cat 1000 ATV, shown below.



Bill Carmody,
Joe Romero, and
Dick Bibbens.

Bill and Dick are
purchasing raffle
tickets from Joe.



You may contact Joe (jromero@tpoa.org) or his organization at:

Tucson Police Officers Association
333 W Ft Lowell Rd, Suite 211
Tucson, AZ 85705

Their website:
www.tpoa-charitablefoundation.org

The 2010 Arctic Cat 1000 ATV

A FEW MORE USES FOR COFFEE FILTERS:

- Use them as a spoon rest while cooking and clean up small counter spills .
- Use to hold dry ingredients when baking or when cutting a piece of fruit or veggies.. Saves on having extra bowls to wash.

SUMMERTIME FUN

H C D N O I T A C A V B S M R	Picnic
F F G Z I B I Q F I J W A S G	Ice
P N V N C X W E I G I R U G S	Cream
Q A C U I P S C N M S S O O F	Suntan
X O L Z T P W I S H O O E D Y	Swimsuit
C I N C I P M U M L W X E T J	Hotdogs
W L Y K O X I A U H A P U O F	Vacation
M P D O E T L K C U G D Z H U	Sandals
H W L M F L U A S R H L N W U	Beach
U G M I O D E B C R E A M A Y	Ocean
X U M W K B V S I I N T G U S	Pool
E Z D N R T W J D A S U A M N	Water
R Z N A T N U S F Z O M E W Z	Ski
N F U H W E Q P L B D K C B Z	Camping
L U R K H N A E C O E T U C I	Marshmallow

SHOP HINTS

- One way to remove carbonates such as calcite from quartz and amethyst is to cover the specimen with fresh vinegar and allow to stand overnight. Repeat if necessary. Wash and then place crystals in washing type ammonia for 8½ hours. Repeat if necessary. Remove, rinse thoroughly, wipe and air dry.
- For the gloss finish on tiger-eye, polish once, dry the stone, then put a drop on vinegar on it. Let stand for a few minutes, then give it a second polish.
- Mother-of-Pearl kit inlay work can be softened by a soaking in white vinegar. It then can be easily cut.
- If you have sore hands from hard rock mining, soak your hands in warm vinegar water and the swelling and soreness will disappear.
- Dark household vinegar will dissolve epoxy glue by soaking overnight.
- Heard around the faceting table: spray vinegar on lap while polishing with water or mix 50/50 water and vinegar in your water cup. This lowers the ph, giving a faster and better shine.

*From Rocket City Rocks & Gems, 6/99, Stone Age News, 9/00,
Rockhound Rumbblings, 11/00, Gems of the Rogue 2/08,
Gems from the Redwoods 4/10, via Yellowstone Deposit, May 2010*

The Herby Woolbifferous Taste Test

Plagiarized by Emil Yatsko and David Johnson *from an article provided for the Mineral Information Institute by Andrew A Sicree, Ph.D. entitled Mineral Taste Test. Via Gneiss Gnuss 6/10, Mid-Summer Madness Edition via Quarry Quips July 2010*

No one really knows for certain when exactly the first human tasted rock. It might have been Neanderthals or Cro-Magnon sapiens that first put tongue to rock. So far no fossil evidence has emerged to indicate saliva on rock. Animals are attracted to salt deposits, and observation of this activity may have encouraged man to try his tongue. We do know that Indians in the North American Continent placed high esteem on salt as a food additive to improve taste. Today in most academic curricula the “taste test” is included along with the streak, hardness, and simple chemical reactions as a field test to identify rocks and minerals.

Incidentally, the palette was also highly prized by Indians as a field tracker. Trackers were known to identify where someone has been by the taste of the soil left on boots or moccasins. Time of travel could be determined by feeling or tasting the heat (or lack there-of) from horse, mule or buffalo dung. This is perhaps the origin of the universal Indian word “Ugh” which is translatable into English as the term “Aw Shucks”.

The taste test is usually ascribed to as the “Herby Woolbifferous Taste Test” named after the legitimate son of the illegitimate Norman/Saxon/Viking Earl of Woolcestshire. Sir Herby had outlined tasting methods from years of experience of placing his tongue in strange places. He described the tongue as “a unique and delicate tool capable of discerning minute differences unavailable to the other senses”. Cleaning the palette after each lick of a rock/mineral is paramount! Sir Herby’s personal method involved ¼-cup of white wine, immediately followed by a ¼-cup red wine, finally gargling with ½-cup of Bombay Gin.

Plain water was disdained as “unable to excite the tingling taste buds at the base of the tongue so necessary for mineral identification”. This method is most successful for sampling up to ten rocks. After ten rocks the identification accuracy seems to fall off. Sir Herby also encouraged “a full and hearty lick of each specimen”. This may help explain his early demise when an autopsy revealed high contents of alcohol and arsenic.

Today’s taste methods are far more scientific. When tasting a mineral, do not lick the specimen. There are minerals that are poisonous and a lick can cause a considerable amount of unnecessary ingestion of the substance. It is recommended that the testing person first wet their finger (not with saliva but with water), then place the wet finger on the specimen and finally taste the finger. This should provide enough of a taste without getting a tongue full of perhaps a badly tasting or worse yet poisonous mineral. Another technique is to just place the tip of the tongue to the mineral for a brief moment.

Some minerals have a unique taste that cannot be described except in general terms, but with



Health Warning!
Do not place against
Inappropriate objects!

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practice can be identified readily. The list below is composed of **sulfates**, **halides** and **borates** because these minerals can be more **soluble** in water than other minerals in general and some solubility in water is required in order to have a taste in the first place. Borax (sweet alkaline), Chalcantite (sweet metallic & slightly poisonous), Epsomite (bitter), Glauberite (bitter salty), Halite (salty), Hanksite (salty), Melanterite (sweet, astringent and metallic), Sylvite (bitter), Ulexite (alkaline).

Texture and “the feel of the tongue” can also be an important indicator. Some specimens have a characteristic texture. Most rocks or minerals will be gritty when crushed up and tasted. Bentonite is a clay, generated from alteration of volcanic ash. It is composed of Smectite clay minerals, mainly Montmorillonite. It has the interesting property of having a smooth or creamy texture (rather than being gritty) when placed in the mouth. We take advantage of this creamy texture when we use it in non-dairy coffee creamers. (Yes, you really are putting a rock in your coffee!). Other minerals have a characteristic tendency to stick to your tongue when tasted. Magnesite, Kaolinite, Montmorillonite, and Chrysocolla fall in this group. When dry, these minerals absorb water and stick to your moist tongue.

Sometimes the tongue can be fooled. Pyrite, for example, has a “sulfurous” taste – this is really a smell. Much of what we call a taste can really be a smell or a psychological perception. Talc, for instance, “feels soapy” and has been described as having a soapy taste. Yet there is no soap in talc. Of course there is also the “idea “of what the mind perceives when we taste coprolite (fossilized animal dung).

For eons man has used his tongue for tasting, talking, and other various T's. But we do owe a debt of gratitude to Sir Herby for initiating the rudiments of an identification process that has proven so valuable to rockhounds, wine merchants, and manufacturer's of Bombay Gin.

Uncle Josh Rockhound Adventures: Arkansas Quartz

By Gregory Weisbrod via Quarry Quips July 2010

Uncle Josh Ribeaux is a great rockhound and a fine story teller. The last time we went over to Uncle Josh's he told us about collecting quartz in Arkansas . It was the month before Beryl won the prize for the best May basket, which wasn't fair because she'd borrowed some phlox from Mrs. Flanders' which she shouldn't ought to have done. So anyway, it was around the first of April when our Moms left us with Uncle Josh for the afternoon. Tourmaline saw the big golden jar of sun tea in the sunny bay window and asked why he didn't keep some of his collection there in the light. So Uncle Josh asked us, "Who can guess why?" This is what we figured out: 1) The color of rhodochrosite, cinnabar and amethyst would fade in the bright sunlight. 2) There wouldn't be room for the sun tea. 3) The fortune teller's crystal ball might start a fire. 4) You couldn't see backlit color or form very well 5) Bad boys down the street might steal stuff.

Then little 'maline asked what was the most valuable jewel he had. He had me bring him a double terminated scepter amethyst, 2 inches long and thick as a pencil. I wanted to know what was

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so special about a quartz crystal that looked like a blue dumbbell. Uncle Josh said, "I've never seen another one like this. Looks like it might be from Utah, but I got it in Arkansas. I didn't pay a thing for it ,but it was an expensive find and it's a reminder of my strangest experience ever." Of course, we all clamored to hear the story.

As soon as we settled around the table with our tea and cookies, Uncle Josh began. "Well it was years ago, I went to Arkansas quartz country one hot July." Ruby interrupted, "I was borned then." "That's right honey," said Uncle Josh, "but this happened before that, when I still had the old Buick." " I wanted to explore the back country and find a good pocket myself. I planned to scout roadside gravel, watch for flocks of crows (they like shiny crystals too) and ask for help from the local folks - the friendliest people in the world. But soon the road all looked the same. The crows were all in the corn patches, there was nobody to be seen, and I was really lost."

Uncle Josh finds his best stuff when he's lost, so we knew that interesting things were about to happen. "So I was happy when the car topped a steep ridge and I could see some kids down the hill by the bridge. I drove down, introduced myself and met a teenage boy named Till, his younger sister Maeve and their brother Puck. They had been picking blackberries, the thorn-less kind that grew around there. I asked them if they knew of any quartz in the area. 'Quarts of what?' Till says. 'It's a kind of rock,' I explain. Then he says 'I knew you were a rockhound,' Maeve says, 'I thought you were a revenuer!' Puck guessed that I was a ginseng hunter. 'So as you are my guest,' Puck says, 'I'll give you the tour, enlighten you, fill you in, and help all I can. I am the expert in these parts. My family has been here four generations. What quartz are you looking for? We have crystal, bull quartz, novaculite, coontail and sand.' He said he would be happy to guide me up the valley a half mile to an old site he was sure would be fascinating. As we walked, he told me his dad's grandpa was one of the first to settle there.

'Of course, Hot Springs was a famous spa, but Fort Smith was like the edge of the wild frontier. A lot of unruly characters were hung there.' Maeve said, 'The presence of refined young ladies has a great civilizing influence on un-tempered spirits.' Till choked a little and continued his history. 'Grandpa was hunting up here when he found a stunned bear. He thought it was dead and was going to dress it out, but it came back to life! It startled him so much his rifle went off and the bullets banged into a grey cliff face which lit up like it was hit by lightening. The bear ran off, but granddad was a practical man. He examined the cliff and found the quartz to flash when struck. Then he though of the strange stories of lights and bad spirits here in Haunted Hallow. He concluded that there was a large mass of quartz under pressure that occasionally generated "animal magnetism" – stunning creatures in the area. He decided it would be to his benefit to harvest some of the animals so stricken, as long as he himself did not succumb. Being a good Presbyterian he knew he was stronger minded than the common beasts, but being a more evolved creature he might prove more susceptible to this strange, benumbing crystal power.'

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Till continued the tale, 'We claimed the valley, farmed, raised livestock and sold furs until grandpa went away for 2 days. He came home claiming that a light floated down upon him, but would say no more of where he'd been. We didn't take any more animals from up there. Down in Hot Springs the tourists were taking the cure. They'd lounge in the springs and wade and swim in the Ouachita (wash uh tau) river. There they would often find rounded frosty looking quartz crystals which made nice souvenirs. Big, perfect-faced, clear ones like we have here they weren't interested in; they wanted the white faced ones. So grandpa contrived to sell them our quartz. He'd load up the gas powered Maytag washing machine with a batch of crystal and run it awhile.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Adelaide Anderson

Jenny Franke

Carole Romans

Scott Blodgett

Mike Herrington

Resa Wilkinson

Craig Bowlby

Susan Loscher

William Wilkinson

Vera Bowlby

Daniel Mohler

Lauri Yablick

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Photo of clubhouse

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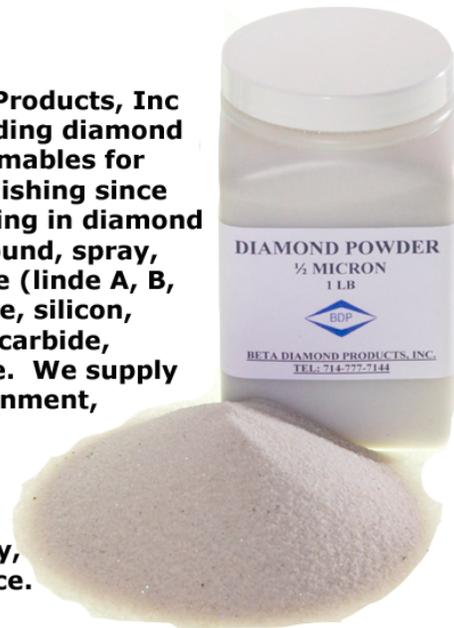
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Ad Expires June 2011

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!**

JEWELERS SUPPLIES

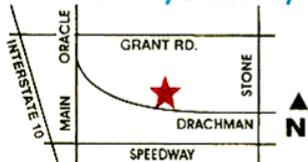
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1201 North Main Avenue, Tucson 85705
- **Jay's of Tucson** - 10% discount. 520-323-1123 (corner of Speedway & Swan)
4627 E Speedway, Tucson
- **Jed's Rock Shop** - 20% on all items. 520-882-6044
6275 N Sandario Rd, Tucson
- **Copper City Rock Shop** - See ad in this issue. 10% discount with ad. 928-425-7885
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- **Kent's Tools** - 10% 520-624-8098
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Ad Expires February 2011

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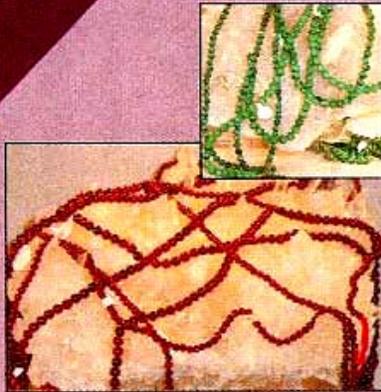
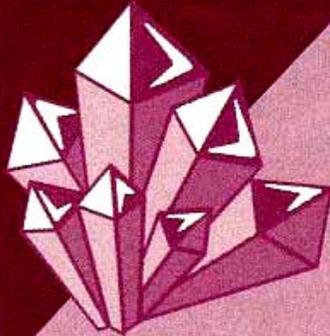
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DONATIONS

If you are interested in making a donation (rocks, equipment, etc.) to the Old Pueblo Lapidary Club. Please call: Bill Carmody at 760-8598 or Dan Harmsen at 721-8452.

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

Monitor - Paul Head 296-0331

1PM - 4PM **Silversmith Lab**

Monitor - Terry Cox 296-4949

(Lou will return September 7th)

6PM - 9PM **Beginning Faceting**

Monitor - Earl Zoeller 886-3518

Tuesdays

9AM - Noon **Cabbing**

Monitor - John Poole 777-5588

9AM - Noon **Silversmithing Lab**

Contact John Poole 777-5588

10AM - 1PM **Rock Sawing**

Monitor - Jim Baker 886-2126

6PM - 9PM **Silversmithing**

Contact Ray Brown 390-5667

Wednesdays

6PM - 9PM **Beginning Casting**

Monitor - Chuck Lundstrom 577-6446

6PM - 9PM **Cabbing**

Monitor - Keith Haubert 888-8719

Thursdays

10AM - 1PM **Rock Sawing**

Monitor - Jim Baker 886-2126

~~1PM - 4PM **Beginning Cabbing**~~

~~Monitor - Frank Beaven 1-810-919-5545~~

(Will reopen in the Fall)

6PM - 9PM **Silversmithing**

Monitor - Ron Davidson 749-3157

Fridays

~~9AM - Noon **Cabbing**~~

~~Monitor - Dan Harmsen 721-8452~~

(Will reopen October 1, 2010)

Saturdays

9AM - 2PM **Rock Sawing**

Monitor - Jim Griffin 578-3765

10AM - 3PM **Silversmithing**

Monitor - Ray Brown 390-5667

10AM - 3PM **Cabbing**

Monitor - Ron Davidson 749-3157

COMMITTEES

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Jean Barkley 546-1651

BUILDINGS, GROUNDS & EQUIPMENT

Ron Davidson 749-3157

Dave Arens 749-2413

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Gretchen Arnaiz 747-1511

Sheila Powell 578-1976

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MEMBERSHIP

Wayne Klement 954-6298

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Ron Davidson 749-3157

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Old Pueblo Lapidary Club
 (Cutting Remarks - Aug 2010)
 3118 N. Dale
 Tucson, AZ 85712
 (520) 323-9154

OPLC Membership Application - Please Print

Name1 _____ Name 2 _____ Date _____

Local Address _____

City _____ State ____ Zip Code _____ Phone number (____) _____

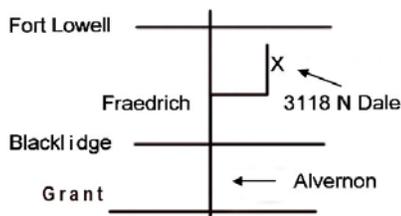
Email address _____ Summer Dates: From _____ To _____

Summer Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

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	\$20.00	\$15.00	\$11.00	\$9.00	\$15.00
Couple (same address)	\$30.00	\$20.00	\$15.00	\$10.00	\$20.00
Junior	\$7.50	\$7.50	\$7.50	\$7.50	\$7.50

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.