

# “CUTTING REMARKS”

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

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Please join us **August 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](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



Our membership is still growing. It's not unusual for me to sign up 2 or 3 new members each week while I'm at the Club on Tuesday mornings.

Most shops at the Training Center are being well used even during our slow summer months. It's gratifying to know the money, time and effort put into expanding and improving our shops is being used and appreciated. Thanks, Pete Peterson, past president, for getting the ball rolling. And thank you to all the volunteers who

helped and continue to help keeping our doors open. Remember, it's OUR Club!

See you August 8 at 8 am for coffee and treats. Don't forget, wear your OPLC name badge and get a free raffle ticket with a purchase. Phil Madsen and Dennis Murphy will have some great prizes!

-John Poole

### Up-coming OPLC Attractions – Speakers

We are very excited about all the programs coming up in 2015 and spring of 2016! Please add them to your calendar and we hope to see all of you at every meeting!!

Helen Serras-Herman, OPLC Program Chair

**August 8, 2015, Chris Osterman**, geologist, will give a presentation on Turquoise from Mongolia

**September 12, 2015 Jim Turner**, Arizona historian, will give a presentation on Arizona Gold

**October 10, 2015, Robert & Elaine Royer**, will share their fabulous trip to Antarctica

**November 14, 2015, Eric Fritz**, gemologist, will give a presentation on Emeralds from North Carolina

December 12, 2015- Holiday Party

**January 9, 2016, Wolfgang Vaatz**, gem & jewelry artist, will give a presentation on his work

February 2016 No Program

**March 12, 2016, Mike Conway**, geologist from AZ Geological Survey will give a presentation

**Front Cover Pictures:** *Gorgeous rough crystals of Peridot, August's birthstone, on matrix, from Pakistan. This nice slab of Russian Seraphinite will surely cut wonderful cabochons.*

*Cutting Remarks*, Volume 2015, Issue 8, August 2015. Published monthly by the Old Pueblo Lapidary Club, 3118 N. Dale, Tucson, AZ 85712. Telephone: (520) 323-9154, a non-profit organization.



## OPLC MEETING JULY 11, 2015

The meeting was brought to order by President John Poole as a quorum was present.

John thanked our speaker Sindi Schloss who gave a very interesting and colorful talk and slide show on the history of beads and what they mean to people from ancient times until the present.

John and Melinda Thompson were thanked for bringing treats for the meeting.

Eight new members and guests were introduced. We have over 425 members in the club.

A motion passed to approve the minutes for the June meeting as published in Cutting Remarks.

Mark Gibson gave his treasurer's report which will be filed for audit.

Mark remarked that Kim Filips continues to sell lots of raffle tickets each meeting which really adds to our income.

Mike DeMeritt continues to produce fabulous newsletters each month and we all thank him.

Silent Auction: Phil Madsen is back in town and will be available on Thursday mornings to accept any donations.

John Poole thanked a whole group of members who helped work on the silversmithing room: Dennis Murphy, Bob Powell, David Rid, Tim Rose, Pete Peterson, Bill Cascio, Mark Gibson, Mike Tucker and David Schulte. The room is now ready for increased use.

Door prize: it was won by Lillian Gowell.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:35 AM.

Twink Monrad, Secretary

And thank you to Marla Pesqueira for taking minutes when needed.

## AUGUST GEMSTONE: PERIDOT

**Peridot** is the gemstone for August, and the name of gem-grade **Olivine**. Olivine is a nesosilicate that occurs as orthorhombic crystals (typically combinations of pinacoids, prisms, and bipyramids), and is mostly granular. It shows no distinct cleavage, and has a conchoidal fracture. Hardness varies from 6.5 - 7.0 on the Moh's scale. It has vitreous luster and is transparent to translucent. Color is from yellowish-green, olive-green, and brown to black with increasing Fe content. There is a complete solid-solution series from *forsterite*

( $\text{MgSiO}_4$ ) to *fayalite* ( $\text{FeSiO}_4$ ). Fe is present as  $\text{Fe}^{2+}$

and substitutes directly for  $\text{Mg}^{2+}$ . Common olivine has more Mg than Fe. In the crystal structure of olivine, layers of  $[(\text{Mg},\text{Fe})\text{O}_6]$  octahedral are linked by isolated  $[\text{SiO}_4]$  tetrahedral. Mg and Fe are randomly distributed in the octahedral positions. Olivine is an important rock-forming mineral, and typically occurs in melanocratic (dark-colored) basic or ultrabasic igneous rocks such as basalt, peridotite, and dunite. In dunite, olivine is by far predominant. It alters to antigorite or other serpentine minerals. Forsterite is also found in metamorphosed dolomitic limestones. Olivine is a common mineral in stony meteorites and constitutes a substantial part of the upper mantle of the Earth.



*Apple-green Pakistani Peridot crystal.*

Peridot, the gem-quality version of Olivine, isn't hard to find. We have the world's most prolific and reliable source here in San Carlos, Arizona. Larger gem crystals from San Carlos have always been hard to find, but a newer source is Pakistan, where the crystals are not only much larger, but typically sport more magnesium (and therefore better apple-green color!) Other new sources include Tanzania, North Korea, China, Vietnam, and a few other south-Asian countries. Peridot can be (very occasionally) pesky to polish, but produces beautiful faceted gemstones - give it a try!

*Written/Compiled by Mike DeMeritt, 2012*



*Precision-cut Gem-grade Peridot from Pakistan.*



*Facet-grade rough peridot crystal pieces from San Carlos, Arizona.*

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



**Joseph Ball**  
**Phillip Lasswell**  
**Bill Martz**  
**Ryan Martz**  
**Charles Rogers**  
**Daniel Webster**  
**Robert Williams**  
**Treva Womble**

*By the hammer and hand, all the arts do stand.*

**-Traditional**



**Don Caudle:** Lapidary and Silverworking books, Lapidary Journal magazines

**Thomas Stout:** Four each Galaxy and Nova cutting wheels

**Al Romey:** 4 boxes of slabs, 2 boxes of agates, miscellaneous cutting rough

**John Thompson:** 2 pair snake gaiters, 2 shop aprons, knee pads, findings, miscellaneous rocks

To donate to OPLC, just see or contact Dennis Murphy at 490-9188, or Phil Madsen at 398-5688

## RESULTS OF THE “WHAT IS A BEAD” POLL

Wow! OPLC answers to the “What is a Bead” and “What is your favorite color” questionnaire were some of the most interesting and creative that I have encountered in my many years of presenting this information. The definition categories that I use to analyze the results are: anything pierced (usually the most common answer), anything threaded (not necessarily pierced), something to be worn (for adornment), something with additional purpose (currency, identity, status, decoration, art) and “other”. The prevailing answers from your group fall into the “other” category with the “pierced” category coming in second and the “worn for adornment” category coming in third. “Threaded” and “additional purpose” came in fourth and fifth.



1.) In the “other” category, here are some of your answers:

- Four of you suggested that it was the “brass ball on the end of a gun barrel!”
- Others said “a trinket”, “any rock – a rock or mineral in any shape”, “a decorative marble”,

The more reflective of you said:

- “a human defined object”, “a piece of artwork that can be expressed in several different ways”, “universal symbols of rank & status within all civilizations and also used to indicate affiliation and/or inclination” and “a description visually of a person or place through representation and/or style”!

- One creative answer from a past group was “something that you can put in a slingshot”.

See what I mean? Interesting and creative!

As mentioned and many of you seemed to know, beads do not have to be pierced. Early beads found in archaeological digs dating from prehistory, have well worn grooves or notches, rather than a hole, suggesting that they had been wrapped or bound so that they could be worn or suspended for another use.

Archaeology has also shown that the bead is associated with many “firsts”. They represent some of the first evidence of symbolic thought or abstract thinking, which anthropologists believe defines when we became “modern man”. They were the first jewelry, the first art form, one of the first trade objects, some of the first evidence of social hierarchy, indicators of technological advancements such as the bow drill and glass, as well as one of the first art forms.

1.) Most groups say that a bead must be round or spherical – not you ‘all! You were right: a bead can be any shape. I presume your “savvy” comes from your creative minds and lapidary skills. It is interesting that the most common shape for beads is the oblate, which is somewhat spherical but with the ends flattened. The next most common shape is the barrel shape. The round shape occurred once glass was invented (remember that the first use of glass was for beads with glass vessels beginning 1500 to 2000 years later!) Round shaped stone beads are more modern, produced predominantly after machines were invented. I saw some remarkable mineral examples of round beads while I was there! Remember that the pendant and the seal (cylinder and stamp) are both considered a subclass of the bead. Seals predate writing and were probably used for an administrative function as well as personal identification.

As expected, the overwhelmingly favorite color of this audience was blue or shades thereof, such as teal (one specifically indicating “sea teal”)! Red, yellow and green tied for second. Again creative and very specific answers were offered, such as: fluorescent, coral/turquoise, maroon, indigo, Viking amber gold, peachy/rose, dark red garnet

Thank you all for being such a wonderful audience; I hope you enjoyed it as much as I did and no longer regard the bead as only “something with a hole in it, worn for adornment”!

Sindi Schloss

## August 2015 OPLC speaker

### Chris Osterman talking on Mongolian Turquoise



We are in for another very unique treat for our August 8, 2015 OPLC monthly meeting, the very-much anticipated talk on Mongolian turquoise by our very own distinguished member, Dr. Chris Osterman.

Chris Osterman has been involved with gold, silver and copper mining for the last 35 years. After earning a Ph.D. in Geology at the Colorado School of Mines, Chris has lived and worked in southern Africa, North and South America, and Central Asia. Currently he serves as the Chief Executive Officer of First Mining Finance Corporation, a company dedicated to the exploration of gold and silver deposits throughout the Americas.

In 2003, while exploring for copper in Mongolia, a central Asian country located between China and Russia, Chris visited the Erdenet copper mine. The floor of the open pit was covered in turquoise breccias and the miners were encouraged to collect the stone before it was sent to the crushers. Chris and his Mongolian partner then sent three tons of turquoise to the USA.

Mongolian turquoise has a wide variety of colors from white to green, to gray blue, to deep blue, with a greenish blue being the most common. About 5% of the turquoise is deep blue, the color most favored by US jewelry fashion. The variation probably relates to the copper content of the turquoise or maybe the copper to iron ratio in the stone.

The most interesting natural patterns occur in the green turquoise with tightly coiled turquoise bands in a light colored matrix. These thin bands appear to be folded back upon themselves. The greenish blue turquoise tends to have large 1 cm circular patterns, like connecting circles with white borders, while the true blue turquoise has a fine network pattern. Pieces of turquoise up to 120 lbs have been collected however this is a rarity, generally the turquoise is gravel to baseball sized and mixed with the granitic host rock. A broad observation is that the true blue turquoise and green turquoise tends to be found in smaller pieces where as

(...Continued from page 7)

the lighter chalkier pieces tend to be larger in size, although colors in any large piece over 10 lbs are very variable.

One may speculate that the turquoise formed as the porphyry copper deposit was uplifted, fractured and began to erode, the chalcopyrite and bornite – the copper iron sulfide minerals - weathered and dissolved, releasing the copper into the groundwater.

The phosphate in the turquoise was also derived from grains of apatite in the granitic rock.

Eventually the copper and phosphorus bearing ground waters combined and formed a gel or colloid which hardened into turquoise. All this probably took place very recently geologically within the last 10,000 to 20,000 years and is part of the erosional and enrichment cycle.

Looking forward to seeing you all,

Helen Serras-Herman, OPLC Program Chair



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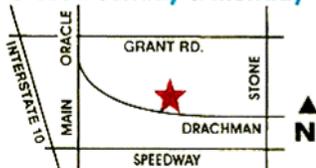
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Please don't forget to continue to bring in **YOUR** (or anyone else's for that matter) aluminum cans to the Club for recycling. Your contribution would be greatly appreciated to help add \$'s to the Club's treasury. **Thanks!**

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9AM - 12PM **Cabbing**

Monitor - Gloria Jean Dana

1PM - 4PM **Faceting Guild**

Monitor - Billy Bob Riley 225-9060

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 - Noon **Cabbing\***

Monitor - Mike DeMeritt 203-8430

9AM - Noon **Silversmithing Lab**

Monitor - John Poole 777-5588

9AM - Noon **Rock Sawing**

Monitor - Tim Rose

1PM - 4PM **Beginning Faceting**

Monitor - Mike DeMeritt 203-8430

**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 544-7517

6 PM - 9PM **Faceting**

Monitor - Billy Bob Riley 225-9060

**Thursdays**

9AM - 12PM **Cabbing**

Monitor - Bob Powell 403-8980

9AM - 12PM **Rock Sawing**

Monitor - Pete Peterson 886-9021

1PM - 4PM **Silversmithing**

Monitor - Giac D'Aquisto 207-6219

6PM - 9PM **Silversmithing**

Monitor - Bill Cascio 638-8144

**Fridays**

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

Monitor - Mike DeMeritt 203-8430

1PM - 4PM **Silversmithing**

Monitor - Terry Cox 296-4949

**Saturdays**

10AM - 3PM **Silversmithing**

Monitor - Terry Cox 296-4949

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

Monitor - Ron Davidson 400-2125

**Sundays**

10AM - 3PM **Cabbing**

Monitor - Dennis Murphy 490-9188

10AM - 3PM **Silversmithing Lab**

Monitor - Giac D'Aquisto 207-6219

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

Old Pueblo Lapidary Club  
 (Cutting Remarks - August 2015)  
 3118 N. Dale  
 Tucson, AZ 85712  
 (520) 323-9154

OPLC Membership Application - Please Print

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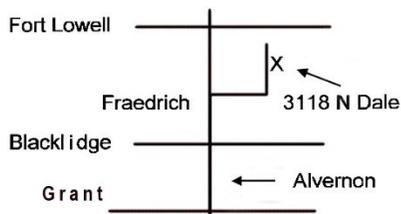
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Couple (same address)	\$35.00	\$27.00	\$22.00	\$15.00	\$25.00
Junior	\$12.50	\$10.00	\$7.50	\$5.00	\$10.00

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.