

# “CUTTING REMARKS”

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

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President - John Poole 777-5588

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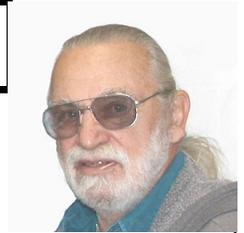
Wayne Klement 954-6298

Please join us **February 14th** at 9:00am for the monthly meeting. There is an optional social hour that begins at 8:00am 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



By the time you read this, I'll have visited many of the over forty venues of the 2015 Tucson Gem Show. You'll never see it all, but it's fun to try. My favorite place is Kino Sports Complex - they have cabbing and faceting rough by the truckload - if you have deep pockets! And tools, all kinds, from small jewelry-making tools to large slab saws and grinders. Tools you didn't know existed, let alone needed! Hope you all have fun and bring some of your special finds to the meeting February 14th for an informal show-and-tell.

The Hob Nob is February 7th, 6p - 9p. This is an OPLC event for world-class faceters to beginners or just for folks who are thinking about it and want to learn from the best! We have been doing this event for over ten years and it's getting bigger and better every year. Diana Hara, Board Member and Chair of this event in conjunction with the USFG (United States Faceters Guild), are planning the Tucson Frolic starting Thursday, February 5th, 9a - TBD, and Friday 6th, 9a - TBD, and Saturday 7th, 9a - 3p. The Frolic consists of presentations, classes, and demos.

I would like to thank all of the volunteers who are making these two events possible. Without your help, these club activities would never have a chance of success. Thanks again!

I think the kitchen looks great! I would like to thank Wayne Klement, Mark Gibson, David Reid, Dennis Murphy, Mike Tucker, Pete Petersen, and Jerry Pulley for their assistance making our meeting hall a better-looking and more efficient facility.

Our February 14th meeting will start at 9am. There will not be a program, so you'll have plenty of time to get in some last minute gem-show shopping! If you join us, wear your OPLC badge and get a free raffle ticket with purchase. Some great raffle items will be on the table. Last month the ladies took in over \$260! An all-time high, maybe it was due to the largest attendance we have ever had, with 100 members signed in!

Happy Gem Show, John

*"A moments insight is sometimes worth  
a life's experience"*

**- Oliver Wendell Holmes**

**Front Cover Pictures:** Nice geode chock full of February's Birthstone, **Amethyst**. Magnificent chunk of Russian **Charoite** with a beautiful cross-sectional quartz crystal within.

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**OPLC MEETING            JANUARY 10, 2015**

The meeting was brought to order by President John Poole at 10:15 following the educational program.

He thanked Helen Serras-Herman for the wonderful and interesting talk on opals from around the world. She had fabulous color photos of many different opals.

The donuts furnished by Janelle Cortright were much appreciated. Norma Lackow asked for volunteers to sign up to bring refreshments to future meetings and reminded us that the Club will reimburse up to \$30 for each meeting. Norma Lackow phone: 742-7561

We had a very large turnout and ten new members and guests introduced themselves.

**MOTION PASSED** to approve the minutes of the December meeting as published in Cutting Remarks.

Treasurer's report: Mark Gibson has the report available and will be filed for audit. He stated that due to increased membership many budget items will be increased such as equipment for labs and utilities which is a good thing, but in the end the new budget will have a \$300 decrease due to other adjustments. A member said he is grateful for the improved parking lot lighting. In 2015 estimates will be obtained to improve the ductwork in clubhouse.

**MOTION PASSED** to approve the 2015 budget.

**TUCSON GEM AND MINERAL SHOW**  
February 2015: John asked that members

sign up to volunteer at the OPLC booth and explained the rules by which we are bound as a club at TGMS. We are there to promote OPLC, demonstrate different classes that we teach and to offer membership forms for future members. We cannot sell jewelry made by members but we will have a display case this year. There is no cost to the Club for our booth or display. A member stated that volunteering is a lot of fun as one gets to visit with the public and another member said that she made her first cab while volunteering at the booth and that the other demos gave her the interest to become very active in OPLC. It was pointed out that only twice a year we have an open forum to promote OPLC: the Gem Show and the Pima County Fair.

**HOB NOB 2015:** This will be Diana Hara's last year to head this up and she is hoping someone will shadow her and take on this responsibility for 2016. This year USFG (faceting guild) will use our building on Feb. 5, 6, and 7<sup>th</sup>. Several major faceting folks will be here along with the excellent faceters from all over the world. It is \$5 to enter Saturday Feb. 7<sup>th</sup> and pizza, cookie and drinks are provided. Members are signing up to help Diana all three days.

**FIELD TRIPS:** Janelle Cortright has planned a Patagonia trip and a Quartzsite trip in January. On May 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> there is an overnight trip planned for the Snowflake AZ area to hunt and dig for petrified wood. Janelle Cortright phone: 520-761-1924 or cell 520-223-1675. Mike DeMeritt is looking

at a field trip perhaps for peridot in May.

**OFFICER INSTALLATION:** Mike DeMeritt was installed as new Vice President of OPLC. John thanked our outgoing VP Jean Barkley for her three years of service to the Club and mentioned that her fabulous programs were without a doubt one reason for the increase in Club membership.

**Wrap-up of 2014:** John Poole mentioned some of the Club accomplishments such as: lots of roof work on clubhouse, restroom in training center is now handicap accessible, new air condition system in training center, new parking lot line installation, change on a gate which allows smoother entrance and exit in north parking lot, new wider door in women's restroom in clubhouse and many kitchen improvements with new cabinets which were donated thanks to Wayne Klement who located the cabinets.

John thanked many members for all of the volunteering which keeps this Club so successful:

Helen Serras-Herman and Norma Lackow for arranging our delicious Christmas luncheon party with the super centerpieces: poinsettia plant and geodes to give away. Pat McMullen was a hard act to follow after his many years of running our kitchen meals.

John thanked Mike DeMeritt for producing 12 great newsletters each year. Wayne Klement is appreciated for doing such a good job with his membership duties plus his extra contributions such as spraying weeds, finding the donated cabinets for the kitchen and clubhouse, fire hoses for the parking lot lines, bringing in sodas to sell and other things. Thanks to Pete Peterson

and other helpers who keep the grounds, buildings and equipment in such good shape. Danny Harmsen was thanked for his ten years of running the very successful Silent Auction. All of the monitors were thanked for their many hours of service. The monitors are another reason for our increase in membership.

Bill Cascio has stepped up and offered to be our club historian and the Club is grateful for that.

John thanked the officers and Board of Directors who have assisted him throughout his presidency.

Program assistant Helen Serras-Herman said there will be a February meeting on the second Saturday but no educational program. She does have speakers planned for March and April so far.

#### **SUGGESTIONS FROM MEMBERS:**

Please treat the equipment in the training center as you would treat your equipment at home. Perhaps we all need a training class to remind us how to care for the lapidary wheels and other equipment which seems to have wear earlier than it should. Also each member should ascertain before using that the equipment is in proper working order such as water flow in the saws or on the wheels. Clean up when done is another member responsibility. The monitors should be able to keep tabs on these things along with members.

The door prize was won by Natalie Hutton. We adjourned at 11:10 AM.

Twink Monrad, Secretary

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



**Jim Acton**

**Joyce Acton**

**Lordes Astiazaran**

**Patricia Bennett**

**Mark Bennett**

**Pat Droll**

**Pilar Dumbolton**

**Judy Gilmartin**

**Robert Hernandez**

**Linda Hornback**

**Mark Liebert**

**Ida Liebert**

**John Manning**

**Jann Van Remortel**

**Rick Van Remortel**

**David Wald-Hopkins**

**John Watt**

*"We cannot solve our problems  
with the same thinking we used when  
we created them."*  
**- Albert Einstein**



**Ted & Janet Rupp:** 50# of agates, jaspers, and opal

**Pete Petersen:** Complete set of Rock 'n Gem magazines 2014

**Lou Ackerman:** Cash donation

To donate to OPLC, just see or contact Dennis Murphy at 490-9188.

## FEBRUARY'S BIRTHSTONE: AMETHYST

Unlike January, a month with an entire *species* of gemstone, February goes the opposite direction: it aggrandizes a particular variety of one of the most common minerals on Earth - the tectosilicate quartz, and particularly quartz's beautiful and colorful violet-hued variety **Amethyst**. Quartz occurs in a large number of varieties. They are divided into common macrocrystalline varieties (in which color is the essential criterion), and microcrystalline varieties, consisting of small fibrous or granular crystallites (these microcrystalline varieties include all chalcedonies, agates, and jaspers that we lapidaries are so fond of cutting...) Amethyst is a macrocrystalline variety found in shades of violet owing to the presence of small amounts of iron (as Fe<sup>3+</sup>) as an impurity. Amethyst, like all macrocrystalline quartz, commonly forms as trigonal crystals.



*Fine Gem Amethyst from Uruguay*

These crystals are typically prismatic, consisting of a hexagonal prism, terminated by two rhombohedra, together resembling a hexagonal bipyramid when uniformly developed; to this can be added a trigonal bipyramid, and occasionally the general crystal form, a trigonal trapezohedron. The trapezohedron reveals the true symmetry of quartz and shows whether a crystal is “right-handed” or “left-handed” - when a trapezohedral face is located above and to the right in relation to a prism face viewed from the front, the crystal is right-handed; in the opposite case, the crystal is left-handed. Twinning is very common, and typical twin laws include *Dauphine*, *Brazil*, and *Japan*. It has no cleavage planes and a conchoidal fracture. Hardness is 7.0 (Moh's Scale), and density is 2.65. Amethyst has a vitreous luster and is transparent to translucent. All macrocrystalline quartz is fairly pure chemically; the impurities that cause color are found in incredibly minute amounts. In the crystal structure of quartz, the [SiO<sub>4</sub>] tetrahedra are arranged in helices parallel with the *c* axis of the crystal. The helices are either right- or left-handed and are linked sideways such that every [SiO<sub>4</sub>] tetrahedron shares all four corners with others. Quartz is widespread in many geological environments, and is an essential mineral in many metamorphic rocks such as gneisses, mica-schists, quartzites, and eclogites, and in Si-rich igneous rocks such as granites and grandiorites, including the related pegmatites and veins (these are where our facet-grade amethysts come from!) Owing to its great hardness and chemical resistance, quartz is the principal mineral in many consolidated or unconsolidated sediments, such as sandstones, conglomerates, and the like.

Amethyst is found all over the world, and important gem deposits include Brazil, Russia, Uruguay, Bolivia, Africa, and even the Four Peaks area here in Arizona, among many others. Specimen collectors appreciate these and many more, including Vera Cruz and Guerrero, Mexico. Facetors like myself are always on the hunt for crystals of “Siberian” color - those of deep purple with flashes of blue, violet, and red. Though the term “Siberian” is still used today, most of the famous Russian material was faceted long ago (I have seen true Siberian material, and it was not terribly impressive - the good ones are long gone!) Top-color and clarity amethyst is best in the Uruguayan material, which falls into the “most expensive quartz variety” category! The best and biggest gem-quality crystals can run as much as \$5 per carat in the rough, with finished prices often exceeding the \$100/ct. mark! Though amethyst is common, don't expect to find the “perfect” piece of facet rough without sorting many parcels - I myself am still on the quest after 25 years of searching! Top-grade amethyst *is not* actually rare, but *is* apparently rare, and exceptionally difficult to find in the modern gem marketplace. Amethyst is a joy to cut, and relatively easy for beginners. If you have trouble with pre-polish or polish, try changing your lap direction - often helps with quartz's cyclical grain. If you are a beginner or money's tight, excellent Brazilian material can be had for between \$1 - \$3 per carat. Look for material with top clarity in lighter tones.

*Written/Compiled by Mike DeMeritt, Feb 2013*

# 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: \_\_\_\_\_

# A Grateful Letter of Thanks to the Old Pueblo Lapidary Club - YOU ROCK!

A very heartfelt thank you to Danny Hamsen and Ted and Janet Rupp who spent four days in our rock shop pricing material, setting up tables for the sale and then helping with the sale that was held on February 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>. My friend passed away in late September and we have been sorting through belongings that had been in the family since the historic rock houses were built in the Tucson Mountains in the 1930s. The man who homesteaded the property, Gorm Lofffield, had a huge shop filled with rocks and equipment and we had no idea what to do. During the original estate sale, Ted came by and asked Jon if we had any rocks. Well that started the conversation that resulted in the sale. The remaining rock will be donated to the Old Pueblo Lapidary Club. If you want to honor the collector, his name is Gorm Lofffield.

Again, thank you so very much to Ted, Janet and Danny for all your help and to all of the Old Pueblo Lapidary Club members that came by. One thing that happened, I will never look at rocks the same when I go hiking. The very best part was making some new friends!

Sincerely,

Debbie Hecht [808-989-3222](tel:808-989-3222)

[Hecht.deb@gmail.com](mailto:Hecht.deb@gmail.com)

## Are You Sure It's Jade?

If a chip is knocked off the freshly broken surface, it should not sparkle in the sun. If it does, it's not jade.

If you can scratch it with a knife-point, it isn't jade.

It will be much heavier than a common rock of similar size.

Tap the specimen with a hammer. If a moon shaped fracture appears, it is agate or jasper, but not jade.

If it is jade, it will have a smooth, waxy, almost greasy look.

The only positive test for jade is x-ray analysis and specific gravity tests.

From Rockhound Rumblings 11/00

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## “THE TREZ SEZ...”

It's that time of year - dues are "due" at OPLC! Don't forget to renew your membership, so you'll enjoy uninterrupted use of the facilities here at our fine club!

Renewal forms are available at the club (try asking a monitor) or on the back of this newsletter. Bring your completed forms to Wayne Klement, Mark Gibson, or any monitor or Board Member. Thanks!



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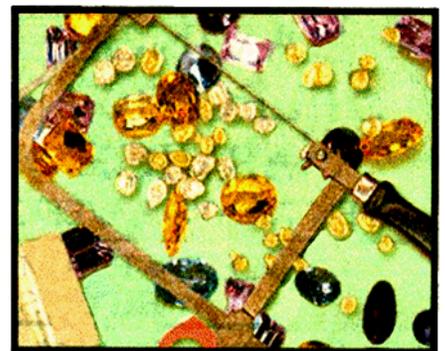
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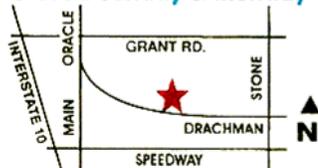
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## MONEY SAVING DISCOUNTS

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**3401 Dodge Blvd, Tucson**
- **Colorwright** - 520-623-3874 Web address: <http://www.color-wright.com/>, **MAILING ADDRESS:**  
1520 S Desert Crest Dr., Tucson, AZ 85713. Amount of discount depends on item(s) being purchased.
- **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](http://www.tucsonmineral.com)  
**2801 South Kinney Road, Tucson**
- **Arizona Lapidary** - 10% discount for OPLC members. See ad in this issue. 520-399-6641 - **4699 E Pima St, Tucson**
- **Silver Lining Gemstones** - 20-35% discount on most items. 520-203-8430, or see Mike DeMeritt at any of his labs. Includes eBay Store at [www.stores.ebay.com/high-lonesome-turquoise](http://www.stores.ebay.com/high-lonesome-turquoise).
- **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!**

### Rate Schedule for Advertisements - - - Ad Sizes & Prices

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Shiela Powell 578-1976

Janelle Cortwright 761-1924

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Twink Monrad 297-9454

### JUNIOR EDUCATION

### KITCHEN

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### MEMBERSHIP

Wayne Klement 954-6298

### SECURITY

John Poole 777-5588

### SILENT AUCTION

Dennis Murphy 490-9188

Phil Madsen

**WEEKLY WORKSHOP SCHEDULE** Phone 323-9154

**Mondays**

9AM - 12PM **Cabbing**

Monitor - Gloria Jean Dana

1PM - 4PM **Faceting Guild**

Monitor - Billy Bob Riley 225-9060

1PM - 4PM **Silversmith Lab**

Monitor - Lou Akerman 290-6968

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

1PM - 4PM **Beginning Faceting**

Monitor - Mike DeMeritt 203-8430

1 PM - 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 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

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

10AM - 3PM **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 - February 2015)  
 3118 N. Dale  
 Tucson, AZ 85712  
 (520) 323-9154

OPLC Membership Application - Please Print

Name1 \_\_\_\_\_ Name 2 \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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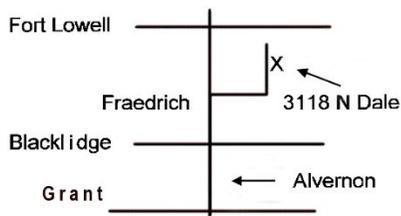
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Type of membership:	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	Annual Renewals
Single Member	\$25.00	\$20.00	\$15.00	\$10.00	\$20.00
Couple (same address)	\$35.00	\$27.00	\$22.00	\$15.00	\$25.00
Junior	\$12.50	\$10.00	\$7.50	\$5.00	\$10.00

Mail to: Membership Chairperson, Old Pueblo Lapidary Club, 3118 N. Dale, Tucson, AZ 85712



The Business Meetings are held on the 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.