

“CUTTING REMARKS”

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

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Wayne Klement 954-6298

Please join us **February 11th** 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!



You have a new author for this section of the news-letter and I have some big shoes to fill now that John Poole has passed on the reins of the presidency to me. I hope to do him justice! The board is working on getting some quotes to add electrical wiring and updates to our breaker box to accommodate the addition of new air conditioning and heating units for the clubs main building. Once cost estimates are received, these will be brought to general membership for a vote before we spend the club's money.

year's gem show, I hope that you bring them to our next meeting and share with the rest of the club members where they might purchase them. I'll see you all at 8 am, February 11th, 2017 for treats and coffee and this will be followed by a chance for everyone to share what deals and special things they've found at the TGMs this year. Remember to wear your OPLC badge to the meeting to get a free raffle ticket with the purchase of some more of them.

For those of you that have had some luck finding some "treasurers" at this David

DUES RENEWAL FOR 2017



Notice: If you show up for a lab, be prepared to pay your dues. You will be turned away until your dues payment is up to date. You have to be a paid member in order to be covered by the Club insurance and use the equipment. A renewal membership form is on the back of this newsletter for your convenience.

Thank you, Wayne Klement, Membership Chairperson

Front Cover Pictures: Stunning faceted Uruguayan Amethyst is February's Birthstone; One of the hot new materials at this year's Gem Show is beautiful Grape Chalcedony from Indonesia.

Cutting Remarks, Volume 2017, Issue 2, February 2017. Published monthly by the Old Pueblo Lapidary Club, 3118 N. Dale, Tucson, AZ 85712. Telephone: (520) 323-9154, a non-profit organization.

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



OPLC MONTHLY MEETING January 14, 2017

The meeting was brought to order at 10:45 by President John Poole. A quorum was present. He thanked our speaker Eric Fritz who gave a very interesting and informative demonstration of Raman Spectroscopy.

A thank you for the refreshments went out to Val and Beatriz Rach. Norma Lackow still needs volunteers for refreshments for future meetings so please call her at 742-7561. Up to \$40 will be reimbursed to cover expenses.

Four new members/guests were introduced. Please remember to pay your dues as they were due January 1st. We are way down from 515 members so please renew!

The treasurer gave a report on our finances and covered a few changes in our 2017 budget. Education, kitchen supplies, Hob Nob if held, shop supplies and utilities need to be increased, and the changes will amount to a 5% increase in our budget. A motion to accept the budget presented by the Board was unanimously approved by the members present. The Club is looking into what type of air conditioning will be needed to improve our clubhouse and an electrical survey is being done. This will be brought to the membership in the future for a vote.

Outgoing President John Poole installed the new officers and board members . David Schulte, new President, was excused due to being out of town.

VP Jon Ziegler ran the rest of the meeting. Mike DeMeritt thanked John Poole for an excellent and very successful four years of being our President and listed dozens of his accomplishments.

The OPLC booth at TGMS in February is being handled by Dennis Murphy and many have volunteered. Items made by OPLC members to be displayed at TCC during the Show are still needed. Terry Cox asked that members bring jewelry or other items as they will all be accepted, this is not a juried show as some may have thought.

The Pima County Fair will be held in April and the sign up sheet is in the kitchen for volunteers to help run the booth.

A new chain making course will be offered to the members by Terry Paulsen.

Hob Nob: Jon Ziegler is asking for help on this event held during the Gem Show.

Another China tour will be offered to members.

Door prize: Won by Ruby Munson

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 AM

Twink Monrad, Secretary

2017 OPLC Speakers- A Forecast Look

We are very excited for 2017. We already had a terrific presentation by gemologist Eric Fritz, from Gem-A, who brought his Raman Spectrometer (January 2017) and gave us a great understanding into spectroscopy.

At our February meeting we will not have a guest speaker, as many of us will be busy with the gem show.

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

Brian Cook, gem artist, will talk on Paraiba Tourmalines and Rutilated Quartz from Brazil (March 11, 2017)

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)

July and August are still open at this time

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



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Teddie	Lavallee	Craig	Weinkauf
Celeste	Mims	Aron	Weinkauf
Daniel	Mims	Claire	Weinkauf
McLane	Moody		

REMINDERS

The annual USFG Hob Nob is on as usual this Saturday, Feb. 4th, from 6pm until 9pm. Admission is \$5 and includes pizza, chips, cookies, and drinks. Vendor tables are \$50. There is a contest for Best Natural Stone and Best Synthetic Stone with an award for the winner, which is voted by the attendees. Show up and have a good time with us!

Bob Powell would like to remind everyone that we still need volunteers to man our booth at the Pima County Fair. Please sign up on the roster in the kitchen or call Bob at (520) 762-1089.



Charlie and Darlene Peters: Rough rock, Slabs, Opals, Turquoise, Chrysocolla, Tools, Lapidary Equipment, Miscellaneous, and much more!

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

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 Fe³⁺) as an impurity. Amethyst, like all macrocrystalline quartz, commonly forms as trigonal crystals. 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 [SiO₄] 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 [SiO₄] 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.



Fine Gem Amethyst from Uruguay

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

OPLC SHIRTS

Don't forget that there are OPLC T-shirts for sale in both long- and short-sleeved versions! Long-sleeved shirts are \$15, and short-sleeved shirts are \$12. What a bargain! And all proceeds benefit the club. Be sure to show your appreciation and pick one (or two!) up! Thanks, everybody!



It is often said , "The public does not appreciate art!" Perhaps the public is dull, but there is just a possibility that we are also dull, and that if there were more motive, wit, human philosophy, or other evidences of interesting personality in our work, the call might be stronger!"

- Robert Henri

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)

Contact: Wei Chen @ Arizona China Travel & Tours

Email: info@ArizonaChinaTravel.com

Phone: (602) 908-7306

Website: www.ArizonaChinaTravel.com

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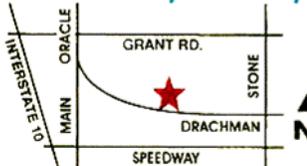
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3401 Dodge Blvd, Tucson
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- **Jay's of Tucson** - 30% discount excluding orange tag items, sterling silver sheet and wire. 520-323-1123 (corner of Speedway & Swan)
4627 E Speedway, Tucson
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- **Tucson Mineral & Gem World** - 10% 520-883-0682 Web address: www.tucsonmineral.com **2801 South Kinney Road, Tucson**
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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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John Poole 777-5588

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Norma Lackow 742-7561

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 - February 2017)
 3118 N. Dale
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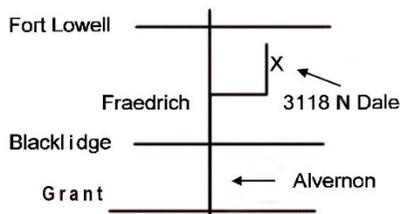
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Junior	\$12.50	\$10.00	\$7.50	\$5.00	\$10.00

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.