

“CUTTING REMARKS”

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

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Please join us **July 13th** at 9 am for the monthly meeting. There is an optional social hour that begins at 8 am followed by an educational program that begins at 9 am, followed by the 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. Submission deadline is the 20th of each month. Thanks!



It's hot, but the workshops are cool! The Lapidary shop is really buzzing! Ron Davidson is monitoring on Saturdays, so stop by and at least say "Hi!"

Our refreshment chairperson for our business meetings, Norma Lackow (phone number 742-7561), has been having some difficulty getting volunteers to provide treats. At the June meeting it was decided to reimburse the volunteers up to \$30.00 per meeting—just save your receipts. Hopefully, this will cure the problem.

Our aluminum can collecting netted the Club \$87.49 the last trip. Keep the cans coming - but please, nothing except aluminum cans, no tin such as coconut water cans, or foil of any type.

These are subjects I hate to address: theft and misuse of equipment. Theft doesn't happen very often, but that is still too often. A drill press vise disappeared - it is not used often, but the volunteers who repair club equipment find it handy and useful, making their job easier. A pair of specialty pliers from the silver shop, and some crystals from the facet shop, used as teaching aids, have also gone AWOL.

Proper use of equipment has become a problem - cutting metal too thick for the shears in the silver shop. Not using the entire wheel surface of the grinding wheels, and failing to clean up rock saws after use in the lapidary shop.

The monitors are there to assist you, take your money, and punch your lab cards. They are not there to clean up your mess or put away the Club's tools, etc. The Club's dues, shop fees, and class fees are low. You, as an OPLC member, can help to keep it that way. Every little bit helps, so please do your part!

We had a great meeting in June. Our program speaker, Wolfgang Mueller, gave an excellent and interesting presentation.

We won't have a program in July, but our raffle is always interesting, thanks to Danny Harmsen. Last month we took in \$173.00. Don't forget to wear your OPLC nametag to get a free ticket with a purchase. Besides, it helps us old folks who remember faces, but sometimes fail in the name department.

Hopefully some of the OPLC members who headed to cooler parts of the old west will let us have a look at some of the treasures I am sure they found. See you on the 13th of July!

John



Vice President Jean Barkley introduced our speakers and members Wolfgang and Diana Mueller. Their talk centered on metal minerals of Arizona. The slides that Wolfgang presented of his beautifully polished specimens were amazing.

President Poole opened the general meeting at 10:10 a.m. A quorum was present.

John thanked Helen Serras-Herman for providing refreshments for the meeting.

It was announced the raffle ticket sales are at \$173.00, which appears to be a record.

A motion to approve the last month's meeting minutes was made, seconded, and approved.

Treasurer Mark Gibson gave a financial update. Overall our finances are in great shape. Our shops are profitable and improving all the time. Savings and checking are healthy. The CD's are doing about what the prevailing market allows, not making much.

Melinda Thompson, our Advertising Chair, was not available for an update.

Jean Barkley mentioned Helen Serras-Herman's profile in the American Gem. Congratulations Helen!

Our August speaker will be Jim Turner.

He is a professional speaker recommended by Helen.

Field Trip Chair, Bob O'Donnell, reported we will not have a field trip until September

Educational Chair, Sheila Powell, had nothing to report at this time.

John announced that Twink Monrad would be celebrating her 50th wedding anniversary. Happy anniversary Twink!

Club security has not been so good as some doors have been left open. Fortunately there were no problems.

Silent Auction Chair, Danny Harmsen, has been getting some donations lately and all is good.

Jenny Coniglio inquired if there was anyone who might assist Chuck Lundstrom in the casting room. Apparently we do, as a new member Jonas De Santos will be starting a class.

Norma Lackow has been having a problem with lining up people to provide refreshments each month. The Board discussed the possibility of reimbursing up to \$30.00 for providing refreshments if necessary.

(Continued on next page...)

..... Meeting minutes cont'd from prior page

The budget for the saw room is nearly depleted and we need a new blade and lubricating oil. Our cost would be about \$2,000.00. A motion was made to increase the budget by \$2,000.00, seconded and approved.

New members introduced were Kodie Cotta, Jim Foley, Gale Thomssen, Shawn Fallin, and Emily Pormann. Chet Peterson was our visitor.

Bookman's is hosting a United Nations metal work exhibition today for those who might be interested.

John Poole will give tours of the facilities for new members and visitors after the meeting.

Jean Barkley might do a jewelry class on using wire if enough people are interested. Please contact Jean if you are interested.

Today Skip Barkley and Terry Paulson won the door prizes that were donated by Wolfgang and Diana Mueller.

John adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by Pat McMullen for Twink Monrad.

*Less is only more where
more is no good.
-Frank Lloyd Wright*

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



**Rachel Apodaca
Phillip Brown
Jim Foley
Heidi Glosser
Richard Graves
Margaret Kendle
Michael Lieber**

**Monica Lundstrom
Felecia Pemberton
Laurie Schock
Dace Schock
George Tanner
Gale Thomssen**

JULY GEMSTONE: RUBY



*Faceted gem-grade ruby from
Thailand*

Not only are they born in the same month as our country, but those born in July have the distinction of having the gem corundum **Ruby** as their birthstone. Ruby is simply the red-colored version of corundum, typically colored by Chromium ions.

Corundum (chemical formula Al_2O_3) forms in the trigonal crystal class, often barrel-shaped, with several steep hexagonal bipyramids and $\{0001\}$, perhaps also $\{1120\}$; also tabular parallel to $\{0001\}$. Crystals are commonly rough with uneven faces; prism and pyramid faces sometimes striated to $\{0001\}$; striation also on $\{0001\}$ parallel with prism faces. Twinning is common on $\{1011\}$ and $\{0001\}$. They are usually lamellar, though may be granular. They possess no cleavage, and have a Moh's hardness of 9.0 (second only to diamond), and a density typically around 4.0. They have a vitreous luster, and are transparent to translucent. Corundum is normally pure Al_2O_3 ; the color-giving ions, such as Cr (Ruby) or Fe and Ti (Sapphire), are present only in very small amounts, typically a few parts per million. The crystal structure can be best described as an almost hexagonal close packing of spheres of O atoms in which two-thirds of the octahedrally-coordinated interstices are occupied by Al and the remaining third is empty.

Corundum occurs in Si-poor igneous rocks such as syenites and nepheline-syenites, and associated pegmatites, in contact zones between peridotites and surrounding rocks, and in metamorphic rocks such as gneisses, mica-schists, and crystalline limestones. Because of its hardness and chemical resistance, it is also widespread in sand and gravel deposits.

The finest rubies come from the Mogok region in Myanmar (formerly Burma), where they are found in metamorphosed limestones, as well as in the overlying weathered zones. Most precious rubies derive from gravel deposits in Sri Lanka, Cambodia, and Thailand, but there are also deposits in Madagascar, Tanzania, Mozambique, and other African locations.

Ruby is a joy to cut and polish, and behaves much like any other corundum. I have heard many facetors complain of resistance to polishing with corundum, though I haven't experienced this myself. Many of these facetors suggest adding vinegar to your water drip. I do agree that corundum takes longer to polish (it does have a hardness of 9.0, after all...). If you are having problems, I recommend a lap sequence of 260-, 600-, and finally, 3000-grit as a pre-polish. Follow with 100K diamond on your favorite lap (I only use ceramic laps for polishing corundum - another area where I hear other facetors complain that ceramics are "difficult to use". My suggestion is, if it's difficult, start learning early!) Cabbers will want to use full-diamond wheels, final-polishing at 50K or 100K. In my experience, final polish works best on harder surfaces, such as leather, phenol, or wood, though will come up eventually on softer materials.



Outstanding Ruby specimen, unknown locale

Written/Compiled by Mike DeMeritt, June 2013

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This old anvil laughs at many a broken hammer.

-Carl Sandberg

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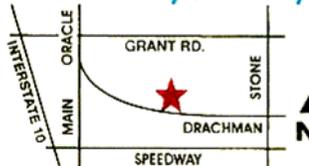
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- **Colorwright** - 520-623-3874 Web address: <http://www.color-wright.com/>, **MAILING ADDRESS:** 1520 S Desert Crest Dr., Tucson, AZ 85713. Amount of discount depends on item(s) being purchased.
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- **Kent's Tools** - 10% 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** - 10% discount for OPLC members. See ad in this issue. 520-399-6641
4699 E Pima St, 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

Al Romey 325-7263

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Gretchen Arnaiz 747-1511

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Twink Monrad 297-9454

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Dan Harmsen 721-8452

WEEKLY WORKSHOP SCHEDULE Phone 323-9154

Mondays

1PM - 4PM **Faceting Guild** (Exp. Facetors Only)
Monitor - Paul Head 296-0331

1PM - 4PM **Silversmith Lab**
Monitor - Lou Akerman 290-6968

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

10AM - 1PM **Rock Sawing**
Monitor - Jim Baker 886-2126

1PM - 4PM **Faceting***
Monitor - Mike DeMeritt 203-8430

6PM - 9PM **Silversmithing**
Monitor - Billy Bob Riley 225-9060

Wednesdays

6PM - 9PM **Beginning Casting**
Monitor - Chuck Lundstrom 577-6446

6PM - 9PM **Cabbing**
Monitor - Keith Haubert 784-8283

6PM - 9PM **Silversmithing Lab**
Monitor - Bill Cascio 638-8144

6PM - 9PM **Faceting***
Monitor—Billy Bob Riley 225-9060

Thursdays

10AM - 1PM **Rock Sawing**
(BY APPOINTMENT ONLY)
Monitor - Jim Baker 886-2126

Fridays

9AM - 12PM **Cabbing***
Monitor - Mike DeMeritt 203-8430

Saturdays

8AM - 12PM **Rock Sawing**
Monitor - Jim Griffin
10AM - 3PM **Silversmithing**
Monitor - Terry Cox 296-4949
10AM - 3PM **Cabbing**
Monitor - Ron Davidson 749-3157

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Bill Carmody: Shop Vac, Air Compressor **Mark Gibson:** Minerals, Apache Tears **Dennis Hess:** Lortone 6" trim saw, grinder, 2 tool boxes, dyed & natural coral, ring sizers, ring mandrel, ring gage, bracelet mandrel, silver tools, dop wax/sticks, apache tears, cabochons, Sleeping Beauty & other turquoise, tumbler base, pickling pot, slabs, malachite, shells, jet, silver scrap and rings **Leslie Lawrence:** Magazines

To donate to OPLC, just see or contact Dan Harmsen. at 721-8452.

Old Pueblo Lapidary Club
 (Cutting Remarks - July 2013)
 3118 N. Dale
 Tucson, AZ 85712
 (520) 323-9154

OPLC Membership Application - Please Print

Name1 _____ Name 2 _____ Date _____

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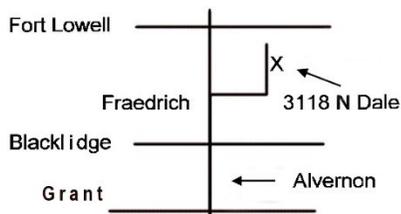
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Type of membership:	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	Annual Renewals
Single Member	\$25.00	\$20.00	\$15.00	\$10.00	\$20.00
Couple (same address)	\$35.00	\$27.00	\$22.00	\$15.00	\$25.00
Junior	\$12.50	\$10.00	\$7.50	\$5.00	\$10.00

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



The Business Meetings are held on the 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.