

“CUTTING REMARKS”

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

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Please join us **July 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. Submission deadline is the 20th of each month. Thanks!

THE PREZ SEZ by John Poole



Hi Folks!

It's hot! The club is well over 400 members and everything seems to be moving along smoothly.

So, I'll see you July 11th, 2015, at 8 am, for treats and coffee. Our program will start at 9 am, with the business meeting to follow.

Don't forget our door prize and great raffle. Wear your OPLC name badge and get a free raffle ticket with a ticket purchase.

Have a safe and fun Fourth of July!

-John

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

July 11, 2015, Sindi Schloss, President of the GIA Alumni Metro Phoenix will give a presentation on Collectible Beads

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: *Rough crystals and faceted Ruby, July's birthstone. This one-of-a-kind example of Bloody Basin Agate from Arizona will produce incredible cabochons.*

Cutting Remarks, Volume 2015, Issue 7, July 2015. Published monthly by the Old Pueblo Lapidary Club, 3118 N. Dale, Tucson, AZ 85712. Telephone: (520) 323-9154, a non-profit organization.



OLPC MONTHLY MEETING
MINUTES

June 13, 2015

Bob Powell is temporarily filling in to receive any donations.

The meeting was brought to order by President John Poole at 9:59AM.

If anyone has information or knowledge regarding matching donations for a 501C organization we need information as to how this works and possibly benefit OPLC.

John Poole thanked Helen Serras-Herman for providing the June program.

NEW BUSINESS

Diana Hara was thanked for providing great treats. If you want to volunteer to provide goodies for a meeting see Norma Lackow.

Kim Filips will not be able to attend the August and September meetings. A volunteer or volunteers will be needed for the raffle sales.

Guests and new members introduced themselves and told what brought them to OPLC.

There is a class using copper with two slots left open.

A motion was made and accepted to accept the May meeting minutes as published in the "Cutting Edge" May, 2015 newsletter.

Elegant Bead and Artistic Gallery is holding a sale for dealers today from 10AM to 5 PM.

Treasurer Mark Gibson gave the financial report. We are 32% into the budget.

A Zambia orphanage is in need of bicycles or bicycle parts. This orphanage feeds and educates children. They have started on a bicycle repair project. Zambia is a third world county. In third world countries bicycles are the main transportation. If you have items to donate please do.

Thanks to Mike DeMeritt for another great newsletter.

There are no field trips planned or upcoming as of this time.

The door prize was won by Jan Porter.

The silver shop is still open for business even though all the updates are not completed.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10:14 AM.

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, un-
known locale*

Written/Compiled by Mike DeMeritt, June 2013

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



Ron Brooks

Helen Daniels

Michael Krzysztan

Mira Frenkel

Scott Homan

Leonard Kleider

Elise Mitchell

Rodney Mitchell

Lewis Ochoa

Louann Schendel

Mamie Watt

Matt Wolf

"The afternoon knows what the morning never expected..."

-Swedish Proverb



Kevin Potter of Potter USA: Jumpring Cutter

John Watt: Silversmithing Tools, hammers,

Pliers, and much more

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

July 2015 OPLC Speaker

Sindi Schloss, gemologist and appraiser

“Estate Exotics: Gems of the People- Collectible Beads”



We are in for a very unique treat for our July 11, 2015 OPLC monthly meeting. Our speaker will be Sindi Schloss, a gemologist and appraiser. Sindi, owner of International Gemological Services, based in Phoenix, provides jewelry appraisals, a gemstone testing laboratory and a school of gemology. During her fifteen year stint as past chair of exhibitions of The Bead Museum in Arizona, a museum of global adornment, she has curated and installed many of the exhibitions. She is also the current president of the GIA Alumni Metro Phoenix chapter.

Sindi will present not only a condensed course in the history of human adornment, but factors which help us to identify, categorize and determine value for collectible beads. Ancient and antique beads have been well represented at auctions, with many being very rare, expensive and highly collectible! Not only have beads accompanied humans since we lived in caves, they are considered to be the first form of jewelry and archaeological indicators of when we became “modern man”. So significant are beads that most cultures throughout history have used and continue to use beads to convey meaning and value, making them cherished heirloom items. Historic trade and world travelers have carried treasures from near and far, often ending up in our customers’ estates which then cross our desks.

Join Sindi for a fascinating, fun, and informative look into the world of collectible beads. The presentation should help us better recognize these small, but far from insignificant treasures and become aware of their high value. Helpful resources will be shared.

Sindi is coming all the way from Phoenix down to Tucson just for this event, so please let have a warm welcome for her!

Looking forward to seeing you all,

Helen Serras-Herman, OPLC Program chair

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“THE TREZ SEZ...”

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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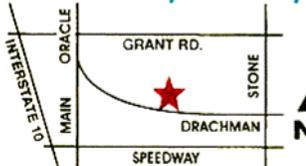


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3401 Dodge Blvd, Tucson
- **Colorwright** - 520-623-3874 Web address: <http://www.color-wright.com/>, **MAILING ADDRESS:** 1520 S Desert Crest Dr., Tucson, AZ 85713. Amount of discount depends on item(s) being purchased.
- **Jay's of Tucson** - 30% 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
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.
- **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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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 - 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 - July 2015)
 3118 N. Dale
 Tucson, AZ 85712
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OPLC Membership Application - Please Print

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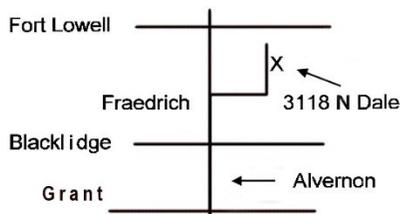
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Couple (same address)	\$35.00	\$27.00	\$22.00	\$15.00	\$25.00
Junior	\$12.50	\$10.00	\$7.50	\$5.00	\$10.00

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



The Business Meetings are held on the 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.