

# “CUTTING REMARKS”

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

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Please join us **June 14th** 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



Hi Folks!

Well, summer is here! Our shops are still busy, the Cabbing shop more so. Mike and his crew have been busy changing wheels on the machines. Thanks for keeping the Cabbing room up and running smoothly.

I have heard good things about the past two field trips. I'm sure the trip leaders will give us a detailed report at our upcoming meeting, June 14th, 2014.

Bill Parsons, an OPLC member of a year or so, passed away the first part of May. He took a silversmithing class from me and was a frequent visitor in the Cabbing, Silversmithing, and Casting shops. His presence will be missed, as he always had a kind word.

Shiela Powell, Junior Education Volunteer, did a great job getting all of the

rock kits delivered. We had over twenty teachers who signed up for the free educational rock kits. OPLC is now receiving many thank-you notes from teachers and children. A big hand to Shiela and the folks that donated rocks.

Raffle tickets hit an all-time high last month at \$205.00! Thank you all but especially to our top sales team, Kim Filips and Marla Pesquiera. So remember, wear your OPLC name badge and get a free ticket with your regular purchase of raffle tickets. Danny has some real neat stuff for the June meeting.

See you there,

John

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



Bruce Eckhart  
Xavier Fideli  
Bob Golay  
Tony McGrath  
Chris Osterman  
Richard Pawlicki  
Janet Pawlicki  
Alix Perry

Michelle Pue  
David Schulte  
Judy Shivack  
Nadia Shivack  
David Wesley  
Barbara Wesley  
Alice Wilsey

**Front Cover Pictures:** A breathtaking crystal of color-changing **Alexandrite** from Brazil, June's birthstone. This highgrade **Ruby in Zoisite** rough is from Madagascar, and will cut fine cabs.

Cutting Remarks, Volume 2014, Issue 6, June 2014. Published monthly by the Old Pueblo Lapidary Club, 3118 N. Dale, Tucson, AZ 85712. Telephone: (520) 323-9154, a non-profit organization.



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

John thanked our speaker, Dr. Spencer Titley, U of A Professor of Geosciences Emeritus for a most interesting and entertaining talk on the colors of minerals which occur all over the world in Earth formations.

Bette and Bob Powell were thanked for bringing the morning refreshments.

Three new members and guests were introduced.

A motion passed to approve the minutes of the April meeting.

The treasury is doing well, as of May we have so far used 30% of our budget. New wheels for the cab room will be ordered.

Membership: a few more members have renewed or joined.

Refreshments: Please call Norma Lackow (742-7561) and volunteer to bring treats to one of our monthly meetings. You will be reimbursed up to \$30 toward whatever is purchased.

**PIMA COUNTY FAIR OPLC BOOTH:** Bob Powell was thanked for a very successful booth at the Fair. Volunteers said they enjoyed the interaction with the public, and John Poole stated that he thought the items made by members and displayed at our booth were the best assortment he has ever seen.

John Poole took a huge load of aluminum cans to the recycling center and the Club gained \$111.25. Please keep the aluminum cans coming in!

**FIELD TRIP:** Mike DeMeritt reported that he has the maximum 40 signed up for the Peridot trip to be held on May 15<sup>th</sup>. As agreed the Club will pay \$10 for each carload (carpooling will be used) but the members will each pay their own \$30 per person.

**MORE MONITORS ARE NEEDED:** Mike DeMeritt and John Poole have run some numbers and our classrooms are being severely underused. Out of 216 possible hours available in our rooms, only 46 are being used. We do not need more rooms, we just need more monitors. Mike would love to have members talk to him about becoming monitors. Even if you think you are not qualified, Mike will work with you and help you become at ease with the monitoring. Please consider contacting Mike or John Poole.

**NOTICE THE NEW FRAMED PHOTOS OF MINERALS ON OUR WALLS!** Mike Tucker was thanked for obtaining and hanging the photos.

New safety bar in classroom building restroom: Pete Peterson and Mike Tucker were thanked for that.

New T-shirt and hat sales are going very well. Thanks to Jean Barkley for choosing a vendor which does outstanding work on the printing on the fabric.

**RAFFLE SALES:** Thanks to Kim Filips and Marla Pesqueira, this month's raffle broke last month's record, \$205 was collected.

**JUNE SPEAKER:** Katherine Rambo will talk about her book called *The World Came to Tucson: A Personal*

*Journey Through the Greatest Gem and Mineral Show on Earth.* For long time TGMS members or Show attendees you may see some familiar names, such as the father of our OPLC treasurer, Mark Gibson.

**DOORPRIZE:** Won by Phil Madsen  
There being no further business, we adjourned at 11:55 AM.

Twink Monrad, Secretary

### **NEW MONITORS AND SHOP HOURS**

We have added new shop hours and monitors to our schedule - be sure to check out the extended schedule at the back of this bulletin! We have added three new Cabbing labs, all replete with new monitors - Dennis Murphy, Joseph Blackcoyote, and Bob Powell have all joined the "Old Guard", as it were, of monitors with open labs. We expect to add a few more over the next few months, and we'll try to email the membership as new labs open up, unless the start dates begin around the time the newsletter comes out (like this month). Be sure to call and be certain the new lab that you want to attend has started; the shop phone number is (520) 323-9154, and individual monitors' numbers are listed after their respective name in the schedule. Anyone wishing to become a monitor, whether for Cabbing, Faceting, Casting, or Metalsmithing, please contact Lead Monitor Mike DeMeritt at (520) 203-8430, or email me at [silverlininggemstones@gmail.com](mailto:silverlininggemstones@gmail.com). Experience is helpful but not always necessary, so don't let it be a deterrent when it comes to volunteering!

*Dear Old Pueblo Lapidary Club,*

*Thank You for giving us rocks at vesey Elementary.*

*I will add the pyrite to my rock collection at home.*

*Best Wishes,*

*Love,*

*Vanessa Knotts*

# OPLC JUNE PROGRAM

## **Katherine Rambo**

**Author of "The World Came to Tucson: A Personal Journey Through the Greatest Gem and Mineral Show on Earth."**

Katherine Rambo is a 4th-generation Californian, born and raised in the San Francisco Bay Area. She graduated from Whittier College, and began her working life as a news reporter and photographer. She attended her first Tucson Gem and Mineral Show in 2000. After retiring from her job as a real estate photographer, she moved to Tucson in January of 2005.

"The World Came to Tucson" is her first completed book in a non-fiction trilogy, "The Tucson Chronicles." The second book, "Dark Flight," will involve the hunt for the Tucson Ring Meteorite. The third book, "Dancing with the Dead," will be about Tucson, itself."

For her program at OPLC, Miss Rambo will be discussing her book: Reading brief excerpts; the process of writing the book, and stories that, primarily for legal reasons, could not be included in the published text.

Quoting the blurb on the back cover: "Every year, for three weeks between late January and mid-February, all roads lead to that combined fandango and museum tour, Grand Bazaar, flea market, art studio and trading post; worldwide family reunion, food fest and scavenger hunt called The Tucson Show, the largest gem and mineral event on earth.

In the tradition of those racy and opinionated medieval guidebooks to shrines and holy places, 'The World Came to Tucson' combines the history of The Show and the history of this strange, old, dusty city with a personal day-by-day journal spiced with gossip, rumors and legends. In addition, there is plenty of sensible no-nonsense earthy advice on everything pilgrims need to know about local customs, accommodations, transportation, food, shopping and even survival."

***For new residents of Tucson who have not been to the annual gem and mineral show, this program will be a great introduction to it; and for those of us who have been often, be ready to learn some new insights about the show.***

## JUNE GEMSTONE: ALEXANDRITE

June's birthstone could easily be derived from Gemini's twins: it sports a birthstone possessed of not simply one color, but two! Meet **Alexandrite**, the color-changing version of the gemstone **Chrysoberyl**. Depending on the wavelength of the light entering it, this stone displays as either red or green, two colors at polar opposites on the color wheel!

Chrysoberyl, chemical formula  $\text{BeAl}_2\text{O}_4$ , commonly occurs as orthorhombic crystals, typically tabular parallel to the {001} plane (the basal plane), with striations parallel to the *a* axis. Twinning on the {130} (rhombic plane) is quite common, and often repeated to form pseudo-hexagonal trillings (often referred to in Chrysoberyl as "sixlings" - the picture of rough crystals below very well demonstrates this behavior, with an easily-seen "sixling" noticeable near the upper-right of the group...) Cleavage is distinct on the {110} plane, and indistinct on {010}. Hardness is an impressive 8.5 on the Moh's scale, making this stone rate third in hardness only after diamond and corundum for typical gems. It is transparent and has a vitreous luster. Color is green to yellowish-green or brownish, and can alternate between green and red, in the case of Alexandrite.

Chrysoberyl has a crystal structure very similar to olivine, in which Be replaces the tetrahedrally-coordinated Si, and Al replaces the octahedrally-coordinated Mg. O ions form an almost-hexagonal closest packing of spheres, which explains the pseudo-hexagonal character of Chrysoberyl. Chromium replacing Mg is the chromophore responsible for the ability to change color. In truth, most Chrysoberyl only displays a mild color-shift (perhaps greenish-yellow to brownish-yellow or orangish). Very occasionally, however, the effect is dramatic, with the stone displaying a green or teal color daylight, and a red or purplish-red color in tungsten or incandescent light. These are the only stones that should be truly labeled as Alexandrite. Many chrysoberyl crystals display excellent chatoyance, and are cut by lapidaries as "cat's-eye" stones. This habit is so common and well-presented by chrysoberyl, that most gemologists refer to cat's-eye-Chrysoberyl stones simply as "Cat's-eye".



Natural "sixling" Chrysoberyl crystal group with Alexandrite coloration.



Fine-gem quality faceted Alexandrite showing both indoor (incandescent) and outdoor (full-spectrum) colors.

Chrysoberyl occurs in granites and granitic pegmatites, in mica-schists, and in sands and gravels in association with other resistant minerals like diamond and corundum. The largest gravel deposits with Chrysoberyl are found in Brazil, Tanzania, and Sri Lanka, whereas the most-prized Alexandrite gems come from a mica-schist near the Takowaja River in the Ural Mountains of Russia.

Pearls and moonstone are also gemstones for June, though neither holds the provenance of the "King of Gems", Alexandrite.

*Written/Compiled by Mike DeMeritt, June 2013*

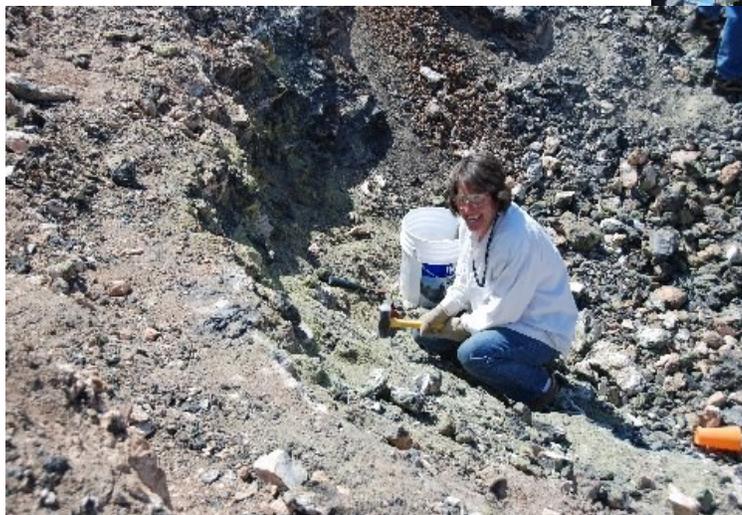
## PERIDOT MINE TRIP TO SAN CARLOS, AZ.

The field trip to Steven Joey's mine in San Carlos went very well - everybody got to collect a few stones, and nobody died of heat exhaustion! The weather was nearly as cooperative as the mine owner, and all 35 of us (whew!) had a fantastic time with very little sunburn. Thanks again to Steven for the wonderful opportunity and all of the gifts and inexpensive rough he sold us!



Rockhounds everywhere! A great shot of many OPLC members doing what they do best - looking down! It is difficult to see in the pictures, but all of the grey-colored rock in the mine cut here was peridot "sand" - minute grains of peridot mixed in with the black basalt that forms its matrix. Those that missed the larger lapidary-quality pieces were still able to get beautiful specimens to take home, and Steven was most generous in checking our buckets!

This is either Jerry Foley or Al Romey taking a well-deserved break in the hot San Carlos sun. Whichever one of you it *isn't* is welcome to give your editor a hard time at the meeting! (I'm pretty sure it's Jerry...)



There's no mistaking this member! Kim Filips is always enthusiastic about club events, even when she's working the peridot seam with a mini-sledge. Even when it's 95 degrees out. Even when photographers interrupt her. Even when - OK, we get it!

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 We see miracles everywhere...  
 -Thich Nhat Hann*

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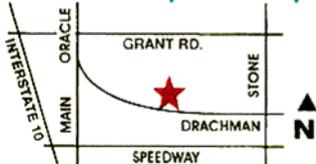
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**3401 Dodge Blvd, Tucson**
- **Colorwright** - 520-623-3874 Web address: <http://www.color-wright.com/>, **MAILING ADDRESS:** 1520 S Desert Crest Dr., Tucson, AZ 85713. Amount of discount depends on item(s) being purchased.
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- **Silver Lining Gemstones** - 20-35% discount on most items. 520-203-8430, or see Mike De-Meritt at any of his labs. Includes eBay Store at [www.stores.ebay.com/high-lonesome-turquoise](http://www.stores.ebay.com/high-lonesome-turquoise).

### 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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Shiela Powell 578-1976

Janelle Cortwright 761-1924

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### JUNIOR EDUCATION

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### LIBRARIAN

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### MEMBERSHIP

Wayne Klement 954-6298

### SECURITY

John Poole 777-5588

### SILENT AUCTION

Dan Harmsen 721-8452

**WEEKLY WORKSHOP SCHEDULE Phone 323-9154**

**Mondays**

9AM - 12PM **Cabbing**

Monitor - Gloria Jean Dana

1PM - 4PM **Faceting Guild** (Exp. Facetors Only)

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

**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

10AM - 1PM **Rock Sawing**

Monitor - Pete Peterson 886-9021

**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 400-2125

**Sundays**

10AM - 3PM **Cabbing**

Monitor - Dennis Murphy 490-9188

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



**Ken Ledbetter:** Rock Books; **Ron Johnson:** Crystals; **Mark McIlven:** chrysocolla

**Janelle Cortright:** Findings and beads; **Phil Babcock:** Magazines and tumbling rocks;

**Bill Parsons:** books, polishing compounds, earmuffs, carving wax, templates, belt sander, + miscellaneous.

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

Old Pueblo Lapidary Club  
 (Cutting Remarks - June 2014)  
 3118 N. Dale  
 Tucson, AZ 85712  
 (520) 323-9154

OPLC Membership Application - Please Print

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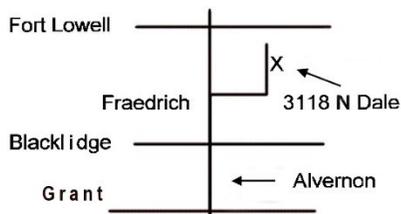
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Type of membership:	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	Annual Renewals
Single Member	\$25.00	\$20.00	\$15.00	\$10.00	\$20.00
Couple (same address)	\$35.00	\$27.00	\$22.00	\$15.00	\$25.00
Junior	\$12.50	\$10.00	\$7.50	\$5.00	\$10.00

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.