

“CUTTING REMARKS”

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

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Please join us **June 10th** 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!

THE PREZ SEZ by David Schulte



The lovely month of June has arrived in Tucson and things are drying up a bit while we all anticipate the monsoons arrival sometime around July 4th. Improvements continue at the club thanks to some hard work from some of our member volunteers. Our business meeting for June will be held on Friday, 5/2/17. Our next business meeting after that will be held on Friday, July 7th, 2017.

We have modified, painted and installed the table for the two new Genies at a height compatible with wheel chair access in the cab lab. The new door to the water heater in the main building is in place and Wayne continues to work on filling in the holes in our parking area – thanks! All the machines have new wheels installed in the cab lab and all the pumps and spitters are up and running thanks to Mike DeMeritt and a few of other members. Ted Rupp has given the club his great pricing on all this equipment so that all of us can enjoy working with the best equipment possible.

TEP has sent us the rebate check for the installation of the mini splits at the club. We have a the bid from TEP and the electrician to have a new power panel installed in the training building to allow the vent installation and new power drops in that building and this will be presented at the next open club meeting. Our annual club work day will be Sunday, June 11th. All labs will be closed this day as we work on fixing up and cleaning various things around our facility and inside the buildings. We need EVERYONE that is able to come and help out so we can get stuff done quickly. We'll start at 9 AM in the morning and we'll have coffee, donuts and soda's for all volunteers after the work is done. We have

folks that have volunteered to help paint the vent seal covers once the ceiling texture is repaired from the drop ceiling repair, install the slab in front of the cab lab/ silver lab door and do some other repairs and improvements around the club (we are ALWAYS looking for more help so contact David Schulte if you are interested in helping out at the club!).

The club is looking for qualified members to step up and become monitors in the cab lab on Sunday's and Monday's due to some summer travel and vacations from old monitors. We will gladly train folks in the responsibilities of being a monitor and remember your time in that lab is free if you monitor in it! We are also still looking monitors and teachers in the faceting lab. The casting lab and its classes will resume again in June under the tutelage of Ron Brooks. We'll send out a notice to all members once we have specific times and dates for the next class start up.

Our speaker this month will be Arthur Vokes, Curator Arizona State Museum and he will present "Pre-Contact Ornaments: Variety, Materials, Roles".

I'll see you all at 8 am, June 9th, 2017 for treats and coffee followed by the club meeting starting at 9:00 AM. Remember to wear you OPLC badge to the meeting to get a free raffle ticket with the purchase of some more of them.

David

Front Cover Pictures: Breathtaking "sixling" of color-changing *Chrysoberyl* "Alexandrite", June's lucky birthstone. Gorgeous slab of "Ruby In Zoisite" from Madagascar shows off hexagonal ruby!

Cutting Remarks, Volume 2017, Issue 5, May 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 MAY 12, 2017

The meeting was brought to order by President David Schulte.

He thanked Gregory McNamee who gave a most interesting and entertaining program on his book "Arizona Place Names: Stories of the Land".

Margaret Reynolds was thanked for bringing the snacks. Norma Lackow needs volunteers for July, September and October. Please call her at 742-7561. The Club will reimburse up to \$40 for expenses.

A motion passed to approve the minutes of the last two meetings as they appeared in Cutting Remarks.

Bob Powell gave a treasury report which will be on file. He thanked all of the volunteers who helped with the OPLC booth at the Pima County Fair.

Membership: We now have 420 members. Eleven new members/guests were introduced.

Shirt and hat purchase: We still have some left for sale and new shirts will be ordered in the future.

Field trips: Nothing is planned yet.

Silent Auction: Tom McDevitt said that a faceting machine has been donated.

The Club has purchased from Charlie Reece

his sphere machine. It is always a big hit at the Pima County Fair.

OPLC insurance: Our insurance does not cover members, only visitors. The board is looking into costs for additional club insurance and will report to the members at a later date. The board is recommending that the club purchase this additional insurance.

The old county courthouse in downtown Tucson is being remodeled and will become a Gem and Mineral Museum. The Tucson Visitors' Bureau and the Western Parks Association will be moving there as well as some other groups. Perhaps of our members will be able to donate time there to help identify specimen's that are brought in. Hopefully the museum will give training to our members to allow us to use the equipment that they will have in their lab and the photography equipment that they are planning on.

David thanked many club volunteers: monitors, board members, maintenance folks and donators. A special thanks went out to Chuck Lindstrom, our long time casting instructor, who has received a job offer in LA and will be moving at the end of May. Chuck has been a mainstay for this Club and will be sorely missed. He is keeping his house here in Tucson so hopefully he'll be back at some time in the future.

A new grab bar has been installed in the ladies' bathroom thanks to Jonathan Ziegler.

We are looking for some monitors to help out in all of the labs so if you are interested in volunteering please see David or call him (520-

954-8554). Remember, your time in that lab is free if you are a monitor. We are specifically looking for monitors to fill time slots that have been vacated by other monitors: Sundays 10AM – 3PM and Mondays 5PM – 9PM. If these are not convenient times we welcome anyone that is willing and capable to come and help the club by becoming a monitor in any of the labs.

Thanks to Wayne Klement and Tom McDevitt for filling the pot holes and leveling off the north parking lot.

Thank you to all of the monitors who set up the new cab machine and replaced all of the cab machine wheels and pumps.

John Poole has replaced the cutting blades in the silversmith lab and thanks also to Mike D.

Thanks to Al for replacing the door to the water heater in the back of the meeting room.

An additional electric panel for the training building bid is in progress for a new 200-amp service. Members will need to vote on this as its not in the current budget. We have outgrown the existing power capability in the training building and need to upgrade.

The new table for the two new Genies has been installed and is the correct height for wheelchair use.

We received a \$2,240 rebate from TEP for the installation of the mini split AC system due to increased efficiency. The money has been put in our club bank account.

Board decisions and recommendation:

Casting lab classes will resume in June and will be Tuesday nights by Ron Brooks. Thank you to Ron for taking over this effort.

The rates for the casting lab classes have been doubled as has the material cost for casting items in the lab to help defray costs for these items and refill the club's coffers.

A new sign-up sheet for financial responsibility involving equipment usage in all the labs is in place and thanks to Wayne for his efforts in documenting who is eligible to use the labs.

Pete Peterson has made a list of club improvements which will require club volunteers. We will hold a bi-annual clean up and work day to get some of this accomplished. Everyone is invited to participate. The first clean up weekend will be held in June date to be announced. This is your club so please help maintain it. Some volunteers have been found but we can always use more help such as floor stripping and sealing in main building, painting of duct covers, finishing off repairs and texture to ceiling, and pouring a new concrete slab in front of the cab lab/silversmith lab door.

Future potential projects for club improvements that are being considered: Increase budget for cab lab due to higher use, new water trim saw for cab lab, clean out septic tank, installer blower/filters and vents in all labs, install an oil reclamation/cleaning system for the cab lab and saw room, new additional electric drops to all of the labs, painting buildings inside and out, arc/laser welder/solder tool for jewelry repair with stones in place for silver lab, and purchase another larger kiln for casting lab and venting for kilns already in place in the casting lab.

Door Prize was won by Ben Reynolds.

We adjourned the business meeting at 10:45.

Twink Monrad, Secretary

2017 OPLC speakers- A Forecast Look

We already had a terrific presentation by gemologist Eric Fritz, from Gem-A, who brought his Raman Spectrometer (January) and gave us a great understanding into spectroscopy, and Brian Cook who gave us a terrific talk on Paraiba Tourmalines and Rutilated Quartz from Brazil (March).

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

Arthur Vokes, Curator Arizona State Museum, will present "Pre-Contact Ornaments: Variety, Materials, Roles" (June 10, 2017)

Sindi & Jerry Schloss, appraisers & gemologists, "Four Peaks Amethyst" (July 8)

Anna Domitrovic, rockhounding & mining (August 12, 2017)

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



John Duane Goes: Fire agates, Fairburn and Dryhead agates.

Dorothy Beam: Faceting Machine(laps,dops, books, and tools), alcohol lamp and compounds,
four inch saw blade.

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

June 2017 OPLC Speaker

ASM Curator Arthur Vokes presenting:

“Pre-Contact Ornaments: Variety, Materials, Roles”



We are in for another very special treat for our June 10, 2017 OPLC monthly meeting.

Dr. Arthur Vokes, Curator of the Arizona State Museum in Tucson will be sharing with us his presentation “Pre-Contact Ornaments: Variety, Materials, Roles”. He will talk about fashioning of ornaments for personal decoration and the ritual roles that date back to the Paleolithic times. He will also talk about examples of ornaments in the US and northwest Mexico, that have been found in archaeological contexts dating back to the first established village communities.

Arthur Vokes will use examples from the rich collections at ASM that characterized the pre-contact cultures of the southwestern region, and explore the wider social and ritual roles the objects may have served

Dr. Arthur Vokes is the current Archaeological Repository Curator at the Arizona State Museum, a research unit of the University of Arizona, a position he is holding since 1990. He is a very busy person, and we are extremely honored that he is making time to come to speak to us. I met him a few years back, during the Set in Stone Exhibit, when he gave a great tour of the exhibit.

For more information about this terrific museum, please visit <http://www.statemuseum.arizona.edu/home>

Looking forward to seeing you all in our June meeting!

Helen Serras-Herman, OPLC Program chair

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 BeAl_2O_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.



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

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.

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

AUGUST CUTTING TIPS

Easy Electrolysis At Home...

This is a great tip both for the jewelry owner or those of you who perform jewelry repair, especially in situations where the stone must be left in the mounting, allowing limited cleaning. Professional jewelers often use an electrolysis unit to clean or flash-plate jewelry. These devices are amazing in their ability to perform these tasks. What most don't realize is that they are far less sophisticated than they seem, and a simple "at-home" version can be constructed both easily and affordably!

All you need are the following: a 6- or 9-volt dry-cell battery, Electro-Cleaner salt bath solution (available at most jewelry/lapidary supply stores), a glass bowl, some ordinary copper wire, and a small strip of stainless steel (2.0x0.5x0.125 inches is plenty...)

Attach a length of copper wire to each of the battery leads. Fill the glass bowl with Electro-Cleaner solution, and attach the stainless steel strip to the negative lead coming from the battery (the negative lead is hereafter referred to as the "cathode", and the positive lead referred to as the "anode".) To clean silver or gold, attach the piece in question to your anode, and drop both the anode (with jewelry piece) and the cathode (with stainless steel strip) into the electrolysis bath. The solution will rapidly bubble (it's not a bad idea to put newspaper under your bowl!), and after ten seconds or so, the jewelry piece will sport a thorough cleaning! Over time, as your "machine" works less effectively, it may be necessary to replace the stainless steel strip with a new, clean version.

The machine works by electrically attracting anything other than gold or silver through the salt bath to the stainless cathode. Basically *anything* that isn't silver or gold will end up at the cathode, leaving the anode (the jewelry piece) spotlessly clean! You can use more than one cathode/stainless steel strip (always attached to the negative lead!) to increase the volume of cleaning and decrease the time needed... You may also attach either a volt-meter (across the battery terminals in parallel) or an ammeter (in series on the positive side of the battery), to monitor your setup.

This simple machine may also be used for flash-plating with gold. Many jewelers do this as a simple, economical way of cleaning and polishing a finished piece of jewelry (it is far easier than polishing on wheels/buffs, and gets in every crevice...) For this operation you will need gold-plating solution (the non-cyanide version), a new glass bowl, and new stainless steel strip (***do not use the bowl/steel strip from your electro-cleaner!*** Non-cyanide gold-plating solution is available from a company called Delmar Manufacturing out of Chicago, Ill.) Plating is basically the opposite of cleaning - the jewelry piece will be connected to the cathode, and the stainless steel piece is connected to the anode. Now the electrical current will carry the gold particles in the solution to the negative cathode (the jewelry metal), and deposit them there. Presto! In ten-fifteen seconds you'll have a piece of jewelry that looks like it just came off a set of polishing wheels!

Written/Compiled by Mike DeMeritt, 2012

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



Susie	Vaughn	Louis	Palos
Bruce	Davenport	Victoria	Lee
Peter	Demonsky	Dawn	Atkinson
Ginny	Huffman	Rick	Shook
Terry	Huffman	Aviel	Rodriguez
Arria	Palos	Catherine	Gerl

Speak to the earth and let it teach you.

Job 12:8

*One repays a teacher badly if
one always remains a pupil.*

Friedrich Nietzsche



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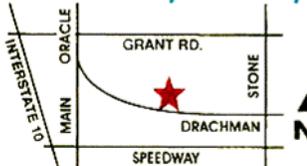
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- **Jay's of Tucson** - 30% discount excluding orange tag items, sterling silver sheet and wire. 520-323-1123 (**4813 E Speedway in Pinecrest Center**)
4627 E Speedway, Tucson
- **Jed's Rock Shop** - 20% on all items. 520-882-6044 - **6275 N Sandario Rd, Tucson**
- **Copper City Rock Shop** - See ad in this issue. 10% discount with ad. 928-425-7885
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- **Kent's Tools** - 10% discount. 520-624-8098 - **2745 N 1st Avenue, Tucson**
- **Tucson Mineral & Gem World** - 10% 520-883-0682 Web address: www.tucsonmineral.com **2801 South Kinney Road, Tucson**
- **Arizona Lapidary** - Arizona Lapidary & Gem Rough - 10% Discount off rough rock 520-399-6641
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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WEEKLY WORKSHOP SCHEDULE Phone 323-9154

Mondays

9AM - 12PM **Cabbing**

Monitor - Gloria Jean Dana 369-7225

1PM - 4PM **Silversmith Lab**

Monitor - Terry Cox 296-4949

5PM - 9PM **Cabbing**

Monitor - Tom Tuten

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 - Sharon Wilcox

Noon - 3PM **Casting Open Lab**

Monitor - Ron Brooks 520-378-2592

1PM - 4PM **Cabbing**

Monitor - Jerry Glazman 860-689-3432

Wednesdays

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 - Ron Bryan 619-495-7967

Sundays

10AM - 3PM **Silversmithing Lab**

Monitor - Giac D'Aquisto 207-6219

**** INSTRUCTION AS AVAILABLE***

Old Pueblo Lapidary Club
 (Cutting Remarks - June 2017)
 3118 N. Dale
 Tucson, AZ 85712
 (520) 323-9154

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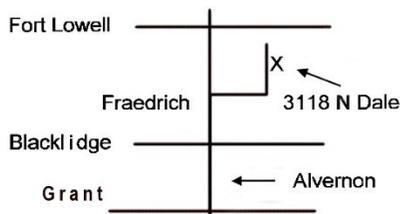
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Couple (same address)	\$35.00	\$27.00	\$22.00	\$15.00	\$25.00
Junior	\$12.50	\$10.00	\$7.50	\$5.00	\$10.00

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.