

“CUTTING REMARKS”

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

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Please join us **March 12th** 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

March is here, our business meeting will be March 12, 2016.

The weather in February was great, even during the Gem Show. All of OPLC's events; Tucson Frolic, Hob Nob, booth at the TCC were well organized and represented OPLC in an outstanding manner. Thanks to all the volunteers!

After our business meeting we will have our March Tailgate Sale. So, if you are not going to the Deming Rockhound

Roundup and still want to shop after the big Tucson Gem Show, come on down!

You'll have another opportunity to purchase tools, rocks, slabs and cabs. Information regarding the sale is in the newsletter and posted on the bulletin board in the Training Center.



I'll see you March 12th at 8 am for coffee and treats, and 9 am for a very interesting program followed by the business meeting and then the sale. Wear your OPLC badge and get a free raffle ticket with a purchase.

-John

ELECTROLYTIC CLEANING OF SILVER

The term "electrostripping" refers to cleaning silver (or other metal) by either electrical or chemical means whereby the oxides are freed from the silver, leaving a bright and beautiful result. This is another "simple kitchen version" of electrostripping that is easy to do, works well, and makes little mess (I have published an actual electrical version in another newsletter, probably two or three years ago...) This one is a chemical version using common household chemicals, and works very well for larger items, especially flatware and hollowware.

Line a large spaghetti pot with aluminum foil - it doesn't have to be perfect, just good enough to catch the oxide transfer from the silver you are cleaning. Mix a dilute solution of equal parts baking soda, liquid soap (such as Dawn, etc.), and salt. A good mixture is 1/4 cup of each per gallon of water. Set the silver inside the pot, and bring the mixture to a simmer on your stovetop. Allow the mixture to stand for 15 to 30 minutes. During this time the oxides from the tarnished silver will transfer to the aluminum foil lining your pot, and the foil will become quite darkened. Carefully "fish out" your silver, discarding the aluminum foil. Wash the silver well, and rinse with warm water before drying. Your silver flatware and hollowware should look like they've been on a jeweler's buff!

-Written/Compiled by Mike DeMeritt, March 2016

Front Cover Pictures: Luscious gem-quality crystals of the beryl variety known as **Aquamarine**, March's birthstone. Stunning botryoidal "**Gem Silica**" **Chrysocolla** from our own state of Arizona.

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OPLC MONTHLY MEETING

February 13, 2016

The meeting was brought to order at 9:00 AM by President John Poole.

He thanked Victoria Fila for bringing refreshments, and eight new members and guests were introduced.

The minutes of the January meeting were approved as they were published in Cutting Remarks.

Treasurer's report: Bob Powell gave a brief report which will be filed for audit.

Frolic and Hob Nob: Gloria Jean Shenanaquet was in charge this year and thanked Ruby Munson for showing up during the event. She said all went well. Carol Brown helped out during the Hob Nob evening and urged the OPLC membership to attend next year to enjoy all of the fabulous faceted stones as is a very fun evening. OPLC member Mike DeMeritt won first place in the natural stone contest.

TGMS: This year OPLC had a display cabinet in the main show at TCC and that effort was headed up by Giac D'Acquisto. He thanked Terry Cox and Kerrie Gimmler for helping select the items to be displayed. Giac was very happy with the entries and said they tried to be very fair in selecting from members' items and the way they were displayed. It was mentioned that at least three of our members have booths at TGMS main event.

Clubhouse ceiling repair: A portion of our ceiling needed a fast and thorough repair and

John Poole thanked Dave Schulte and Stacey Brown for doing an excellent repair job.

Clubhouse clean-up: Dave Schulte and crew did an excellent job cleaning the meeting room and kitchen prior to the Frolic/Hob Nob events. John thanked them for a job well done.

TAILGATE SALE: In March we will hold another parking lot tailgate sale. Vendors must be members only and the items for sale must relate to Lapidary. This will be held AFTER the March business meeting. At 8:00 AM the north lot will be open for vendors to park.

PIMA COUNTY FAIR BOOTH: Bob Powell says all is well with our booth, volunteers are lined up.

FIELD TRIPS: Janelle Cortright said that her January 23rd rock hunting trip had 24 in attendance and they all left happy.

Wolfgang Mueller is having a trip to Mission Mine on February 27th.

OPLC hats and patches: We still have a few hats for sale and we are also have for sale quite a few old patches for \$1.00 each, they are not the current logo on our new hats and t-shirts.

Kim Filips gave her personal overview of the Tucson Show this year and several members chimed in.

Door prize won by Don Truitt.

The meeting adjourned at 9:55. Twink Monrad, Secretary

MARCH TAILGATE SALE

- Tailgate Sale - WILL NOT START UNTIL AFTER THE MEETING!
 - OPLC Members Only!
- Items for sale - MUST be related to the lapidary or metalsmithing arts, or OPLC activities!
- Parking for Participants - North Lot, FROM 8:00 AM - 8:30 AM ONLY!
- The North Parking Lot WILL be open to monitors working that day!
 - After 8:30 am, the North Parking Lot will then be open to the General Membership

Again, the Tailgate Sale WILL NOT START until after the meeting is over!

I am trying to check my habits of seeing,
To counter them for the sake of greater freshness.

I am trying to be unfamiliar
With what I am doing...

- John Cage



TUCSON'S YEAR ROUND SHOW

-CRYSTALS-MINERALS-CABOCHONS-

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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



| | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| Jonathan Alkema | Philip Lagas Rivera |
| Richard Bennett | Martha Lyons |
| Connie Beuerlein | Jacinta McMaster |
| Bonnie Bradford | Lorrie McWhinney |
| Anita Cox | Donald Phelan |
| Dena Duarte | Ben Reynolds |
| Chris Edmunds | Margaret Reynolds |
| Chris Fleck | David Richardson |
| Chuck Fyffe | Mariza Richardson |
| Luke Herwarth | Yasmine Sarraf |
| Stephie Hruska | Elgin Thwing |
| Brian Huff | Doug Turner |
| Lauri Huff | Veronica Van |
| Colm Keeney | |

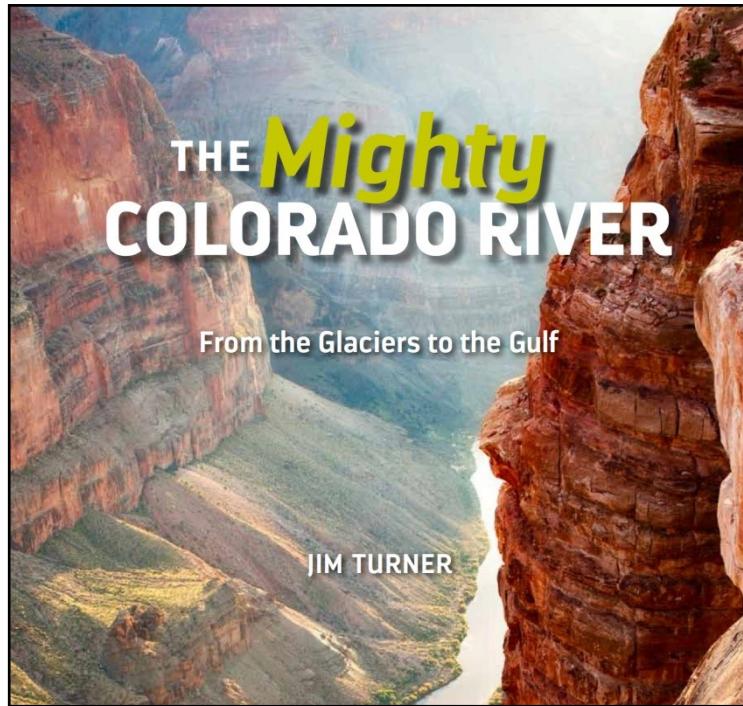


NO DONATIONS THIS MONTH

To donate to OPLC, just see or contact Mike DeMeritt at 240-5133, or Tom McDevitt at 575-0517

March 2016 OPLC speaker

Jim Turner on “The Mighty Colorado: Geology and Mining from the Colorado Rockies to Mexico”



We are in for another very unique treat for our March 12, 2016 OPLC monthly meeting. Noted Arizona historian, retired professor, and author, Jim Turner, is coming back to speak to us, with a sneak preview of his new book, *The Mighty Colorado River: From the Glaciers to the Gulf*, to be released in July.

From Lulu City to the gold and silver rush on the Front Range, the Colorado Plateau and the forming of the Grand Canyon, the formations in Arches National Park, uranium mining in Moab, and on down the river to Mexico, we will see how the earth was formed and how the Colorado River has been a part of it all.

Jim Turner is a very knowledgeable and eloquent speaker, so please mark your calendars and not miss this fascinating talk!!! He was also very kind to step in last minute as our previously scheduled speaker canceled.

Looking forward to seeing you all,

Helen Serras-Herman, OPLC Program chair

MARCH BIRTHSTONE: AQUAMARINE

People born in March are proud to show off their birthstone: the beautiful and subtle birthstone **Aquamarine**, a greenish-blue variety of the cyclosilicate *Beryl*. In cyclosilicates the $[\text{SiO}_4]$ tetrahedral are linked together to form rings. The Si:O ratio in the silicate part of the formula is always 1:3, e.g. Si_3O_9 , or Si_6O_{18} . The symmetry of the rings is normally reflected in the crystal symmetry, as in the case of beryl, which has $[\text{Si}_6\text{O}_{18}]$ rings and is therefore hexagonal. Crystals are commonly found in the simple prismatic form, and less commonly with several crystal forms. Prism faces are often vertically striated or grooved. They can be larger than 200 metric tons, and sometimes form as columnar aggregates. Cleavage is indistinct on the basal plane [0001], and fracture is conchoidal or uneven. Hardness varies from 7.45—8.0 on the Moh's scale, and density is about 2.7. It has a vitreous luster, is transparent to translucent, and large crystals can vary in transparency. As noted previously, the crystal structure of beryl is characterized by sixfold rings of $[\text{SiO}_4]$ tetrahedral, linked by Beryllium $[\text{BeO}_4]$ tetrahedral and Aluminum $[\text{AlO}_6]$ octahedral; the $[\text{Si}_6\text{O}_{18}]$ rings lie on top of each other, and thus form endless channels along the c axis of the crystal. Minor amounts of Li, Na, or other alkali metals can be present, which like H_2O and CO_2 can be accommodated in the channels. Small amounts of Cr^{3+} , Mn^{2+} , or other transition elements give rise to color caused by these impurities. In aquamarine, ferric $[\text{Fe}^{3+}]$ and ferrous iron $[\text{Fe}^{2+}]$ are the impurities which impart the lovely color: Fe^{2+} causes blue, and Fe^{3+} imbues a yellow hue. The mixture of the two causes the seawater color. Most aquamarine stones are heated in the rough to drive off the Fe^{3+} (the yellow component), so that the stones maintain as saturated a blue hue as possible. This is done to probably more than 95% of all aquamarines, which puts this stone in the same category as Tanzanite in a fashion - most of the "natural" stones out there actually aren't natural! Aquamarine is a common mineral, primarily occurring in granites and granitic pegmatites. Other forms of beryl can be found in mica-schists and in veins in bituminous limestone.

Aquamarine is found all over the world, and important gem deposits include Minas Gerais, Brazil; Mozambique; Nigeria, Zambia; Pakistan; and a few other African deposits. Aquamarine rough is among the easiest of all facet rough to procure, though prices have been steadily escalating since the 1990's. Top-clarity, top-color, and larger-sized pieces are out there, but sub-

stantially more difficult to locate than more typical pieces. Most aqua is very lightly-toned, and darker pieces tend to have fairly grey masking. If you can find it, rough from Santa Maria, Brazil, is very dark for aqua (40% tone or better), and rarely displays the grey mask that makes faceters cringe. Aquamarine tends to have good "crystal" in switching from outdoor to incandescent lighting, though it is definitely a "nightstone" (prefers incandescent). Aquamarine is incredibly easy to facet, and presents few problems for the novice. In smaller pieces of lighter-toned material, it is very inexpensive (compared to other facet rough, anyway!) Don't scrimp on clarity - most aqua rough is very clean, and inclusions lower the price.



Trilliant-cut Mozambique Aquamarine



Top Aqua rough from Santa Maria, Brazil



Aquamarine Crystal Group

Written/Compiled by Mike DeMeritt, March 2013

"THE TREZ SEZ..."

It's that time of year - dues are "due" at OPLC! 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, Bob Powell, or any Monitor or Board Member. Thanks!



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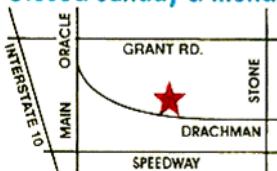
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MONEY SAVING DISCOUNTS

- **DAH Rock Shop** - 10% on most items, \$10 minimum purchase. 520-323-0781
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** - Arizona Lapidary & Gem Rough - 10% Discount *Excluding Finished Jewelry
520-399-6641 - 4699 E Pima St, Suite 101, 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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Shiela Powell 578-1976

Janelle Cortwright 761-1924

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Ron Graichen 529-2661

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Wayne Klement 954-6298

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Tom McDevitt 575-0517

BUSINESS MEETING REFRESHMENTS

Norma Lackow 742-7561

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 - 1PM Cabbing*

Monitor - Mike DeMeritt 203-8430

9AM - 1PM Beginning/OpenLab Faceting*

Monitor - Mike DeMeritt 203-8430

9AM - Noon Silversmithing Lab

Monitor - John Poole 777-5588

9AM - Noon Rock Sawing

Monitor - Tim Rose

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 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

5:30PM - 8:30PM Cabbing

Monitor - David Schulte 954-8554

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

Old Pueblo Lapidary Club
(Cutting Remarks - March 2016)
3118 N. Dale
Tucson, AZ 85712
(520) 323-9154

OPLC Membership Application - Please Print

Name 1 _____ Name 2 _____ Date _____

Local Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____ Phone number (_____) _____

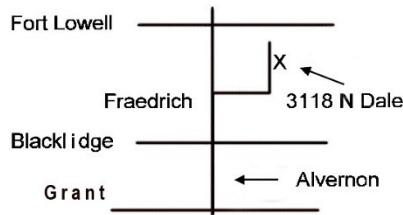
Email address _____ Summer Dates: From _____ To _____

Summer Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

| 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.