

# “CUTTING REMARKS”

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

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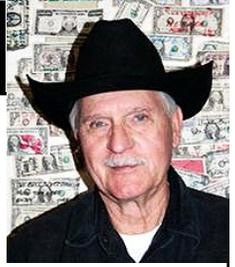
Wayne Klement 954-6298

Please join us on  
**September 10th** for the next  
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, Wayne Klement ([wayneklem@aol.com](mailto:wayneklem@aol.com)), or feel free to call him at 520-954-6298. Submission deadline is the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month. Thanks!

## THE PREZ SEZ ..... by Pete Peterson



The Prez says August has been one hot record breaking month. I was working in my back yard today fixing some water damage on my porch siding. I have an IR Temperature gauge and measured the heat on the siding at 155°. Nearby a stainless steel pot (full of rocks, of course) was also 155°. I wondered what the temperature of some yard rocks laying around in the sun would be so I check them, too. Some dark blue chrysocolla registered at 135°. Brown jasper was 115° and white quartz crystal was 109°. The moral of this story is: if you are going to hunt rocks in this hot, humid, sunny weather you must be nuts! Since most of us rockhounds are a little bit touched, be sure to wear gloves to pick up anything you find.

I talked to John Poole last Tuesday and he said things in the silver room are slow. This was also true in the cabbing room. Ron Davidson was sitting all by himself and only one person came to have a rock sawed. This hot weather must be keeping members close to home. On the other hand the labs are air-conditioned and if you have a project to work on, you will have plenty of room and your choice of equipment during this time.

Keep bringing in your aluminum cans and start preparing your campaign speeches for

President, Vice-President, and Board members. Seriously, think about running for office.

Being President of OPLC lets you see how the club really works. Volunteers make sure we have soda in the club house and shop. Likewise, people stock the paper products for the bathrooms. No one asked them to do it, they just do. People mop the floor when needed, clean restrooms, gather recycle items, and crush soda cans. They clean and fix equipment and take care of the buildings and parking lot. The list goes on and on. Besides all of this there are the shop monitors, people who teach classes and those who willing take care of all the duties in various committees. It is amazing. Our members see something that needs doing and they do it. This is what inspires me to keep coming to OPLC.

We have a new position of treat coordinator Norma Lackow volunteered to take it over. Give her a call and let her know if you are willing to bring treats for our monthly meeting.

Thank you, Norma and all you other behind the scenes volunteers.

Pete

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

**Catherine Carpenter**  
**Isabella King**

**Richard Gallimore**  
**Katherine South**

**Mark Gibson**



*Cutting Remarks*, Volume 2011, Issue 9, September 2011. Published monthly by the Old Pueblo Lapidary Club, 3118 N. Dale, Tucson, AZ 85712. Telephone: (520) 323-9154, a non-profit organization.

## AUGUST MEETING MINUTES... by Skip Barkley, Acting Secretary



President Pete Peterson called the meeting to order at 10:02a.m. He commended OPLC member Helen Serras-Herman on her outstanding presentation on historic gold mining in central Arizona. **For those of you**



*Helen Serras-Herman*

**who were not able to attend the meeting, a copy of her handout is on the next page.**

It was noted that a quorum was present and, as the first order of business, the minutes of the July meeting were approved as written.

New members Bill Penrose and Mark Gibson were welcomed into the Club. Regarding his reason for joining OPLC, Bill noted he had a side

yard full of collected rocks and his wife is insisting that he do something with them. Mark seconded Bill's remarks and further indicated he was specifically interested in (gemstone) carving.

Mr. and Mrs. Heins were welcomed as guests.

Club Treasurer Diana Hara reported that to date OPLC has a total income of \$8.27 for the year. In fact, this is testimony to timely and accurate control of our budget for which Diana has oversight responsibility. Diana noted that our biggest source of income to date is our membership dues followed by our shop passes and then class fees. Our biggest expenditures were lapidary wheels followed by repairs/new storage facility, and much needed tools for our silver shop.

President Peterson indicated that entirely too much trash is being left behind in classrooms, reminding members that cleanup is an individual responsibility, ***not*** a classroom monitor responsibility. Pete made specific note of the trim saw sitting in the classroom hallway outside the lapidary

room – each and every user is responsible for cleanup.

Members were reminded of the forthcoming proposed remodel of the east end of our classroom building which turn that portion of the building into a greatly expanded lapidary classroom. The remodel will involve reframing, sheetrock walls, new ceiling, new electrical, and new heatpump cooling. The Club has excess lapidary equipment stored awaiting the expanded lab. A tentative start date of mid-September is planned and next month's meeting will have further details.

Members have not been signing up to bring refreshments to our meetings. After some discussion, Norma Lackow volunteered to oversee our efforts to get volunteers. It was noted that in lieu of signed volunteers, the same few individuals have been donating refreshments month after month. This simply is not in the spirit of an organization such as OPLC which works only based on volunteerism.

*MAXINE TRUISM: As you slide down the banister of life, may The splinters never point the wrong way... Be who you are and say what you feel... because those that matter... don't mind...and those that mind...don't matter!*

## THE HOT DOG

This is a true story from seven or eight years ago, although my memory is not what it used to be. Anyway about 20 or 25 of us rock hounders were up in the Winslow Arizona area looking for petrified wood and Indian shards. We were driving through Winslow and Bill Carmody ran a stop sign. A cop pulled him over and it held up our line of eight or nine vehicles, of course we were all hiding out watching from a distance until I think Bill talked his way out of a ticket. When we all stopped and got together again it was around noon and with my aggressive mouth I stated that I was really hungry for a hot dog. Danny Harmsen came forward and said I know just the place in a little town close from here. So off our entourage went with Danny leading the way, When he

pulled into the parking lot with us following I though the place was abandoned there were weeds growing all over the place and it looked like we were the only ones there since 1957. It was an old DQ but I don't think you could see through the windows, we were ready to leave when some one yelled out EUREKA! They are open. I think the guy lived next door and when he seen more than two cars in the lot it was his only chance to make a couple dollars. Most folks did not order but I know for sure I ordered a hot dog and Bill ordered a Hamburger and he later got sick. Anyway when I ordered the hot dog he went into the freezer and threw a hot dog on the grill that was frozen solid and I swore it had 1943 on it I don't know if that was the year it was made or that was how many people they had killed. The dog was as hard as Quartz and didn't soften up much after he said it was

cooked. It tasted like something on a shingle but I ate it anyway as by now I am starved. I don't ask for hot dogs anymore. You would think that is the end of the story but not true on this trip. I can't remember if we stayed the night in Holbrook or where it was but it was Ron Davidson's birthday and we all got in his motel room and started raising heck when the management came over and said they were going to kick us out. The next morning we all walked over to a nice restaurant and had breakfast. Bill Carmody skipped out and didn't pay his bill He swore he forgot but I threatened to call the cop in Winslow and tell him that Bill is not just a traffic violator but also a thief, Bill went over and paid his bill. What a trip that was, we had many, many trips like that and created a lot of great memories.

Art Kavan

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# Central Arizona Gold- Mines & Museums

Visit them for History & Inspiration © 2011

By **Helen Serras-Herman**, Sculptor, MFA, Gemologist, FGA, [www.gemartcenter.com](http://www.gemartcenter.com)

For all lapidaries, rockhounds and gem enthusiasts, a trip to an old mine holds many different emotions. The allure of what is hidden in '*them hills*', the fascination with the stories behind how the mines were found and explored, and the attraction of what can be created from the beautiful gems and minerals, are all emotions that will inspire us to visit these old mines.

## **The Goldfield Mine and the legend of the *Lost Dutchman Mine***

In the shadow of the legendary Superstition Mountains, 40 minutes east of Phoenix, there is a region where the line between legends and truth is blurred. Take Rt.60 East from Phoenix to Apache Junction. Make a left turn at Idaho Road, and then a right on Hwy 88, the *Historic Apache Trail*, and follow the signs to *Goldfield Ghost Town*. The *Historic Apache Trail* is a loop road that covers some of the most rugged terrain in Arizona. Your first stop on the *Apache Trail* should be the wonderful ***Superstition Mountain & Lost Dutchman Museum***. Just 3 ½ miles from Apache Junction, the Museum has a variety of exhibits that allow you to see what the old west was really like, and a wealth of information about the old gold mines of the area. The museum is open daily 9:00am to 4:00pm. [www.superstitionmountainmuseum.org](http://www.superstitionmountainmuseum.org) Admission is \$5 for adults and \$4 for seniors. The mine that bore the legend is called the *Lost Dutchman Mine*, named after Jacob Waltz, a German known as the '*Dutchman*'. It is believed that he had found the richest gold mine in the world, possibly an old spanish or Apache mine, but took the secret to his grave in 1891. Please remember that you are not allowed to dig in the Lost Dutchman State Park, on Arizona State Trust Land, or on private property without permission.

## **Goldfield Ghost Town**

The Goldfield Ghost Town is a true 1890's boomtown which had 50 working mines in the district. After the the grade of the ore dropped by November 1897 the Post Office closed and a mass exodus left the town dead. Now it is revived with around 20 businesses-museums, shops, restaurants, saloon and a mine. Ride a narrow gauge railroad that circles the town offering a narrated scenic ride and views of the historic buildings and the famous Black Queen, Bulldog and Mammoth Mines. Visit the *Goldfield Historic Museum*, in the heart of the ghost town, and learn more about the first very rich goldstrike in 1892 and the 4,000 miners that lived there for five rich years. Admission is \$4 for adults, \$3 for seniors. Tel. (480) 677.6463. Visit the *Goldfield Mine Tours*. The guided tour takes you underground for 25 minutes to a re-constructed mine very close to the original, now flooded, mine. Admission fee is \$7 for adults, \$6 for seniors. For more details or schedule call (480) 983-0333. Goldfield town is open 7 days a week 10am- 5pm and you can visit their website at [www.goldfieldghosttown.com](http://www.goldfieldghosttown.com)



*Goldfield Mine*

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### **The Vulture Gold Mine**

Driving northwest from Phoenix on Hwy 60 you come into the old historic town of Wickenburg, famous for its western flair. Just twelve miles southwest of Wickenburg is the *Vulture Gold Mine*, discovered in 1863 by Austrian Henry Wickenburg, the town's founder. The mine produced gold worth more than 200 million dollars. President Franklin Roosevelt closed the mine in 1942, during WWII, and the miners left, believing they would return in 6 months. However, the mine never re-opened. Today, the mine is opened almost daily for self-guided tours. Stop by the office first to pay a cash donation of \$10 per person and to get a brochure and map of the trail. Allow a couple of hours to walk the trails, that take you by the 'Glory Hole', the *Blacksmith's Shop* and the *Main Shaft*, the *Assay Office*, the *80-Stamp Mill*, and the *Power Plant* which served as the *Machine Shop*. Here is where time almost stood still. All the equipment is still there, just a bit dusty and rusty, waiting for the miners. This is a rarely seen sight, eerie and awe-inspiring. All the tools are left there in place, as if the workers are just out for lunch.



*Inside the power plant, which also served as a machine shop. All tools and machinery still in place.*

If you want to learn more, a great DVD titled "*The Vulture Mine*" is available for sale and tells the story of the mine, as well as a book "*The Vulture- Gold Mine of the Century*" by Gene Botts and John & Marge Osborne. The mine is open in the Fall/Winter Thursday through Monday 8am-4pm, and in the Spring/Summer daily 8am-2pm. Contact the *Vulture Gold Mine* at (602) 469.7770 or (602) 469.7662, e-mail at: [vulturegoldmine@yahoo.com](mailto:vulturegoldmine@yahoo.com), visit their website <http://www.jpc-training.com/vulture.htm>

### **Turquoise Mines Closing in China**



By Jake Woolley, Marketing Content Development Group, Exclusively for Fire Mountain Gems and Beads®

Fire Mountain Gems and Beads has always had a passion for turquoise. You could say it's in our blood; after all, it is the favorite stone of owner Stuart Freedman. In the early '70s Stuart was a gemstone hobbyist, cutting rough turquoise into beautiful cabochons, which later resulted in sales and a small storefront. Essentially, that's how it all began in 1973, a love of turquoise resulting in a successful wholesale jewelry-making business.

Turquoise is produced from a number of locations worldwide, notably in the southwest US, Egypt,  
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Iran and Tibet with the largest supplier of the stone being China. With over 75% of the turquoise market coming out of China, jewelry makers stop and pay attention when they hear that the Chinese government has closed quite a few major mines and will be strictly supervising the production of several others. This mining moratorium has placed a halt on production in the Chinese provinces for a minimum of 3 years and quite possibly longer.

There are several reasons why the mines are closing and questions have been raised as to how it will affect the prices and availability of turquoise. Regardless of the mining closures, it is reassuring to know that since turquoise is a primary product of Fire Mountain Gems, it will continue to be readily available for our customers at sensible prices.

### **Environmental Impact**

Improper mining methods have caused major destruction to the nearby natural resources of the Chinese mines. Over the past several years, strip-mining has resulted in vegetation deterioration, ecological contamination, soil erosion and ultimately turning many hillsides into wastelands. The Chinese government is very displeased with the low benefit-cost ratio of their turquoise output, especially when it has had such a dominant impact on the environment. Without the proper equipment, techniques and management of the mines, the overall mining operations could only result in further damage of the surrounding ecosystem.

### **Taxes and Permits**

Many of the Chinese turquoise deposits are on public land. Unfortunately, local developers have been mining the gemstone without permission as well as not paying taxes on their excavations. Provincial and government officials stepped in to stop the free-for-all mining on public land.

### **Risk Factor**

Similar to the environmental issues, when mining methods are not properly organized or managed, accidental injury or death is bound to happen. The Chinese government needed to ensure that mining operations were safer, in an effort to avoid any major worker catastrophes. Government officials are taking control to resolve any new situations that involve serious mining accidents which reflects very poorly on the country and geological operations.

### **Pricing and Availability**

When the mining of precious gemstones is discontinued and quantities become limited, it's always likely that prices will go up. This concept isn't new; prices of turquoise have fluctuated before. Let's take a step back a few decades to when turquoise reached very high prices in the 1960s and 1970s. The higher prices caused many mines to open giving way to large amounts of turquoise pouring throughout the market. The mining industry was doing well, but as the demand for turquoise began to fall, large surpluses of rough turquoise remained unsold and stockpiled. Many of the miners preferred to hold onto their collections of turquoise rather than selling it in an undervalued market.

As time passed, the inheritors of these stockpiles began selling again once interest and suitable value returned to the market. Today, most of these former successful mines are no longer producing abundant quantities of high-quality turquoise and the hoards of turquoise have since been sold and depleted. With the dwindling of previously accumulated turquoise and the closing of

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current mines, turquoise pricing will most likely go up. As always, Fire Mountain Gems is determined to keep offering the best prices possible.

With the news of China closing its turquoise mines, enthusiasts may find the need to buy the quality and style that best suits their budget. Since now is a good time to buy, buyers shouldn't fear an overall scarcity of the gemstone. Luckily, Fire Mountain Gems has always realized that turquoise is a finite resource and a must-have gemstone for jewelry designers. This beautiful blue-green stone is part of the company's heritage and with a long-term supply in stock, turquoise will continue to be available. Fire Mountain Gems has a strong and standing relationship of over 20 years with its turquoise vendors and is confident they will continue to deliver quality turquoise beads and components at affordable prices.

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*"To read the original article, please go to the following web-address:*

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*docid=B7G0&WT.fmg\_linksection=1QR67T7JX99GP&\_rid=219260.202.65&WT.mc\_id=NL110802\_House "*

### LULU'S 90TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

August 27th, Lulu's daughters threw a birthday party to end all parties. Lulu Nicolozzi, and lifetime member of OPLC and faceter, asked his friends to help celebrate his birthday, and they did. Turns out Lulu is a member of two bands, Arizona Balalaika Orchestra and the Arizona Banjo Blasters, who entertained the guests all afternoon. Great performances!



← Shown here with his daughter, wearing his outfit from the Balalaika Orchestra. Pretty snappy outfit, eh?

And, in his Banjo Blaster's outfit. →



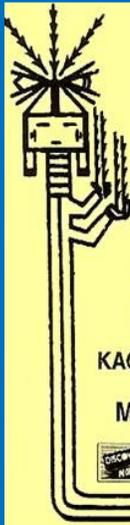
And an appropriate birthday cake.

Pictures by Donna Pugh

### DONATIONS

**Mark Gibson:** ring clamp, ring enlarger, Dremel drilling stand and horizontal holder, bench anvil, ring mandrel holder, crystal pads(5) and a third hand.

**Martha Down:** A numerous assortment of gold and silver chains with display stand.



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### 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!**

# JEWELERS SUPPLIES

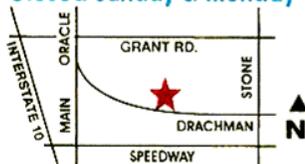
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- **Kent's Tools** - 10% 520-624-8098 - 133 E Grant Road, Tucson
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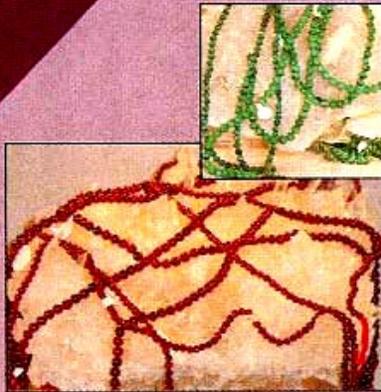
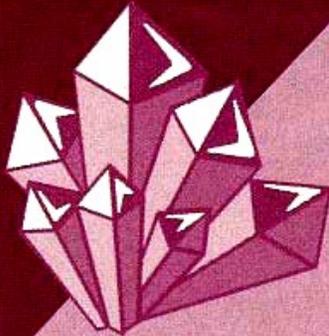
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### Mondays

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

1PM - 4PM **Silversmith Lab**  
Monitor - Terry Cox 296-4949

**(Note: Lou's last day was June 7th. He'll be back September 7th)**

6PM - 9PM **Beginning Faceting**  
Monitor - Earl Zoeller 886-3518

### Tuesdays

9AM - Noon **Cabbing**  
Monitor - Ron Davidson 749-3157

9AM - Noon **Silversmithing Lab**  
Monitor - John Poole 777-5588

10AM - 1PM **Rock Sawing**  
Monitor - Jim Baker 886-2126  
(Call before showing up at the Club)

6PM - 9PM **Silversmithing**  
Contact Ray Brown 390-5667

### Wednesdays

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

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

### Thursdays

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

### Fridays

~~9AM - Noon Cabbing~~  
~~— Monitor — Dan Harmsen 721-8452~~

**NOTE: Last lab for the winter was May 20th. Lab will resume October 7th !!!!!**

### Saturdays

9AM - 2PM **Rock Sawing**  
Monitor - Jim Griffin 578-3765

10AM - 3PM **Silversmithing**  
Monitor - Ray Brown 390-5667

10AM - 3PM **Cabbing**  
Monitor - Ron Davidson 749-3157

## COMMITTEES

### ADVERTISING

Jean Barkley 546-1651

### BUILDINGS, GROUNDS & EQUIPMENT

Ron Davidson 749-3157

Dave Arens 749-2413

### CLASSES & PROGRAMS

Bill Carmody 760-8598

### FIELD TRIPS (COMMITTEE)

Jerry Behn 761-1924

Bob O'Donnell 886-0384 (Chairperson)

Shiela Powell 578-1976

Al Romey 325-7263

### HISTORIAN

Twink Monrad 297-9454

### JUNIOR EDUCATION

Gretchen Arnaiz 747-1511

Sheila Powell 578-1976

### KITCHEN

General Membership

### LIBRARIAN

Twink Monrad 297-9454

### MEMBERSHIP

Wayne Klement 954-6298

### SECURITY

Ron Davidson 749-3157

### SILENT AUCTION

Dan Harmsen 721-8452

Old Pueblo Lapidary Club  
 (Cutting Remarks - Sep 2011)  
 3118 N. Dale  
 Tucson, AZ 85712  
 (520) 323-9154

OPLC Membership Application - Please Print

Name1 \_\_\_\_\_ Name 2 \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Local Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

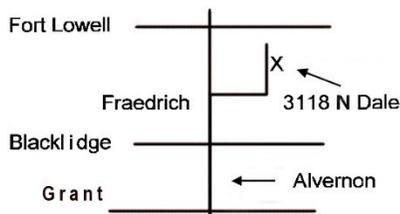
Email address \_\_\_\_\_ Summer Dates: From \_\_\_\_\_ To \_\_\_\_\_

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 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.