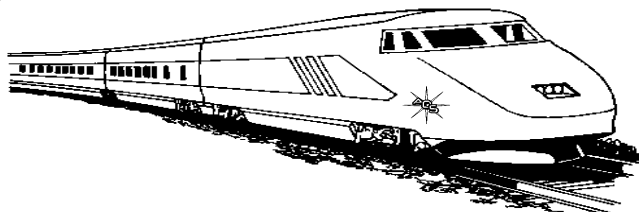


The Opal Express

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President's Message

By Pete Goetz

Hey there fellow OPAL-people, last month's General Meeting was really enjoyable, for me.



Pete Goetz

I enjoy sitting around a pixie and talking with people about OPAL in general and OPAL cutting in particular. It always amazes me what knowledge I come away with. Sometimes 'door opening' sometimes not so 'door opening', but is always enjoyable.

Which brings me to this month's General Meeting. A lot of folks out of town, both members and vendors (Hey, that rhymes - I am a poet). The August meeting will be a "**Show and Tell**", if you have an unusual sample of OPAL and not sure what type it is, someone present might know what it is, bring pictures of an OPAL dig you may participated in and share the experience, or bring a question about OPAL-let's talk OPAL, coupled this with some Society fellowship and we will have done meeting.

OK, fun time over (not really), remember the OPAL & GEM SHOW is coming-up fast. It will be the first weekend in November. We could use some of for set-up on that Friday. More to come...

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Members Only Website Password

To log onto the website's members only area at:
http://opalsociety.org/aos_members_only_area.htm type: Name:
"member" and Password: "matrixopal".

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American Opal Society Calendar

Date	General Meeting Topic / Speaker
12-Jan-12	Fred & Charlotte Ward on Opals
09-Feb-12	Gretchen Krutz on Jewelry Design and Wax Carving.
08-Mar-12	Jim Pisani on the World of Jade, with an emphasis on California Jade
12-Apr-12	Mike Woodard Photography – Gem micro-photography
10-May-12	Pete Goetz on Cooking Andamooka Matrix
14-Jun-12	Live Opal Auction
12-Jul-12	Opal Cutting Seminar
09-Aug-12	<u>Member Show & Tell</u>
13-Sep-12	Connie Grundke on Intarsia
11-Oct-12	Opal & Gem Show Work Session
03-Nov-12	45th Annual Opal & Gem Show
04-Nov-12	45th Annual Opal & Gem Show
08-Nov-12	Opal & Gem Show Recap
13-Dec-12	AOS Christmas Party Potluck



Randy's Dirt Bike used for Prospecting

Kicked off Blackdome Mountain

By Randy Lord

Mention the name Blackdome Mountain to most rockhounds in western Canada and they may get starry eyed then almost go religious. As the fabled original location of BC's only thunderegg beds and a mothballed gold mine, it has become famous in these parts. Here is the story of a recent (June 2012) visit.

My interest in Blackdome Mountain was sparked over 10 years ago at the annual Cordilleran Round-Up Exploration Convention held in Vancouver, BC. My prospecting partner and I had been invited to display Whitesail precious matrix opal and we had many nice specimens and maps set up. An old timer came along and looking closely at our table, stated he had seen very similar material on Blackdome Mountain. It was a busy day and I neglected to get more information but the seed had been planted.

Blackdome Mountain is an extinct volcano on the southwest edge of the vast Cariboo Plateau. Rising to 7,000 feet on the west side of the Fraser River it is a prominent, well-named feature. Many years earlier I had explored Red mountain and China Head Mountain in the Camelsfoot Range and had noticed this prominent black pimple rising above the flat plateau to the north.

Since the 60's people have visited this remote area seeking agate, jasper, thundereggs and precious metals. Blackdome Mine operated there from 1986 to 1991 and produced over 6300 kilos of gold and 19000 kilos of silver from an epithermal deposit located near the top. Mineralized quartz veins carried native gold, electrum, native silver and silver sulphosalts as well as the usual sulphide minerals. Other claims covering perlite beds (for kitty litter production) and siliceous sinter from another claim group (the Bubble Hot Spring deposit) attested to a wealth of minerals.

With such possibilities, it was an easy decision to load up the van with dog, motorcycle, camping gear and head north. Exploring by oneself is never wise, so I picked up my brother then drove to the town of Clinton for fuel and a chat with some local rockhounds. We met several people, including one fellow who had run a bulldozer on the Blackdome Mine road so out came the maps and sites were plotted. I asked about a good campsite and that as marked as well.

Driving 17km north of Clinton on Highway 97, we then drove west on Meadow Lake Road. We followed this wide, well graded gravel road approximately 100km past many lakes, ponds, and beautiful meadows. Meadow Lake Road had no large trucks and only minor local traffic. After driving through a small native village, Canoe Creek, the road winds down through sage and grasslands to the Fraser River. Please note that there are no road signs driving

through Canoe Creek IR but follow the main travel road downhill and you will be fine.

The spectacular sage grasslands along the benches above the Fraser River were lush and green this June. This is very uncharacteristic as it is a dry belt with rattlesnakes and cacti. Crossing a one-lane bridge, the road forks with the Gang Ranch (once the largest cattle ranch in BC) to the right and Empire Valley to the left. This area is called the Churn Creek Protected Zone and no hunting or disturbance of the grasslands is allowed in order to protect a population of California Bighorn Sheep. Most areas outside of the Churn Creek Protected Zone are open for free range cattle. Driving south, approximately 20km, Blackdome Mine road announces itself with a big "No Trespassing" sign. Also described is a security gate at 30km. Ignore this.

Historically, resource roads are open to the public unless industrial trucks or machinery are in active use. Most active logging or mining operations post a radio frequency so traffic can pass safely. No such frequency was noted so we started driving up a well-kept road. We left the grasslands and entered mature forest where recent blow-down had been cut and the road cleared. Several large campsites were noted and after 3 hours of driving from Clinton, we stopped at a beautiful, grassy campsite near Grinder Creek, 11 km up Blackdome Mine road.

While unloading gear and setting up camp, a mature black bear wandered in and was promptly chased away by camp dog. A while later, camp dog found fresh deer bones, so we had set up camp in the bear's grocery store! A hanging bar nearby and many other hunting camps spoke of an abundance of game here. In BC, natives are permitted to hunt year round without a license or tags. The area was beautiful, with lots of firewood, fresh water, and few bugs. Next morning, with clear skies, I fuelled up a Honda dirt bike, loaded the saddle bags and pack and headed up the road.

Prospecting with a dirt bike means stopping often and examining much outcrop and float. Many types of volcanic rock were noted including basalt, andesite, rhyolite, tuff as well as perlite, green and white common opal and obsidian. The occasional cloud hindered spotting any flash of precious fire but by early afternoon I had covered about 10km of road so I decided to inspect a perlite claim lower down the mountain.

The perlite had been excavated and blasted over an area of about 100m by 200m. Numerous silicified boulders had been discarded by the operators and many proved to be an opal/agate mixture. The colours of the common opal ranged from tan, cream, yellow, orange, mauve, and white while the agate was mostly clear or banded. From the hammer erosion it was obviously a popular spot. Other perlite beds were noted and a beautiful, chocolate brown sow (female black bear) with two small chocolate brown cubs scampered off the road on my way back to camp.

A lost duckling came through camp that evening. Camp dog spotted it and gave chase but later, the duckling came back and went downstream, hopefully to his or her clan. Ravens complained about our presence every morning, no doubt we had camped in their market too. In my spare time, I tried panning Grinder Creek but with very high water all I found was black sand (magnetite) and an as yet unidentified small black crystal.

The next day I rode the dirt bike up the mine road again, past snow banks to the security gate, then parked the bike and hiked about 2km to a gated portal. With snow covering both sides of the road, I hiked past the portal and noted the sky darkening. Soon it started to snow. I hid in the trees, had lunch, and when I got back to the bike, brushed the snow off. As I started to ride, it began to hail furiously.

In the mountains of BC, it can snow any month and while my rain jacket, helmet and gloves helped, when the road turned white I realized I had better bail out. For the next three hours it was ride, then hide as the hailstorm stopped and started. Most of the road surface was clay, so it became greasy very fast. Gumbo sticks to tires and boots, so riding the grass on the shoulder of the road was

necessary. I did not make it to the thunderegg beds but during a break in the weather got back to camp at 4:00 pm for a change of clothes.

My brother said it had been raining since noon, but we had a good fire going and the rain had stopped. Around 5pm the skies opened up again and it rained most of the night. In the morning we watched for patches of blue sky that never came. Just then, the first vehicle we had seen, a 4x4 diesel pickup, came flying up Blackdome



Common Opal on Blackdome Mountain

Mine road past our camp. We all waved but the driver could not stop as he was digging trenches in the gumbo with all four wheels spinning.

We quickly broke camp and started driving slowly down the road. Brakes were seldom used and steering was more like snow skiing. The accelerator was useful to keep the back end following the direction of the front wheels and we hoped not to meet any oncoming vehicles. It was slippery and dangerous but if we had not left then, it would have been over a week until the road dried out. Rainstorms continued all that day and the next week.

Since then I have washed 100kg of hard gumbo from my wheel wells and slabbed some of the opal/agate pieces. They show good colour and patterns. No precious opal was found during this short visit but changes are coming soon to Blackdome Mountain. Large areas of timber have been surveyed, flagged, and are ready for harvest. The cut blocks are huge and this means many logging trucks and much traffic for a while. As well, a new road has been surveyed from the dormant Blackdome mine mill site to a gold deposit 35 km south. Sona Resources intends to mine ore at the Elizabeth property then truck and process it at the mill. In the near future this quiet volcano will once again be active.

Here's a classic article from Desert Magazine written in the 1970's on the Tecopa area near Death Valley. It describes the area fairly well; it has a wealth of rockhounding sites and has a great history. Some of the details, of course, are dated. But the description of the mineralogy and history are accurate. There are later AOS articles on the Tecopa Opal Deposit (do a search on the website online newsletters), but this one you will enjoy!
The Editor

Tecopa Country ***A California Field Trip***

By Mary Frances Strong

LOOKING DOWN from Ibex Pass, the first glimpse of Tecopa Country does little to confirm it as a "land of little rain and plenty

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water." This may seem an incongruous description of an area separated only by a mountain range from one of our country's most arid regions—Death Valley, California.

In the basin far below, crowded on all sides by bleak desert ranges, lies exposed the skeletal remains of Ancient Lake Tecopa. Small buttes, low hills and pinnacles rise from the elongated playa like ships on a shimmering sea of mud. Their muted tones of grey, white and beige add to the awesome starkness of this seemingly lonely land. Off to the east, a dark blotch of color denotes the "hub" of the area - Tecopa, a place for healing man's body, as well as his soul.

Though rain is a seldom visitor, springs bubble forth in unexpected places throughout Tecopa Country. Long in use as a "resting place" by the early Indians, John C. Fremont was one of the first white men to travel through the area in 1844. He made note in his diary of "a large spring of good water." Later, the site became known as Resting Springs—a welcome respite for wagon trains traveling the Old Spanish Trail from Salt Lake, Utah to San Bernardino, California.

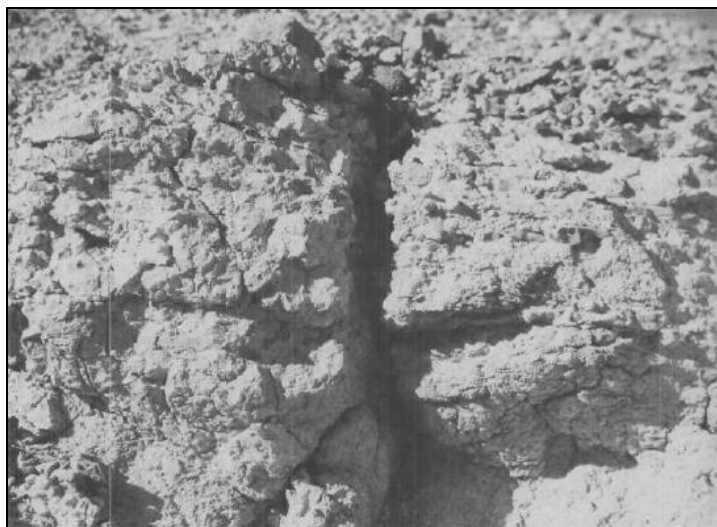
However, it is the hot springs several miles northwest of Resting Springs that have brought fame to the locale in more recent years. The merits of their curative powers have widely circulated; and people have come from many parts of the country to seek relief from pain in the warm (108 degrees), mineral-laden waters.

Tecopa Hot Springs has been developed for public use by Inyo County Department of Parks and Recreation. Two bathhouses are open 24 hours a day. Use of the facilities are free. An undeveloped campground offers water and sanitary facilities at \$1.00 per night. Weekly and monthly rates are available. Lloyd and Winnie Miller were Park Supervisors when we stayed in the area. They seemed to find their work a "labor of love" and made every effort to make sure all visitors enjoyed a pleasant stay at the springs.

Its close proximity to Death Valley makes Tecopa Country an ideal location for a winter vacation. Hot mineral baths, rock collecting and exploring historical sites keep visitors busy. Four-wheelers and trail bike enthusiasts find plenty of room to roam in the wide open spaces.

When California's gold rush was over, thousands of men who had not found their "pot of gold" began to fan out into the Nevada and California deserts in search of golden treasure. Lead and silver, not gold, lay waiting in Tecopa Country. Discovery was made in 1865 and the Gunsight Mine developed. A 10-stamp mill and three furnaces handled the ores.

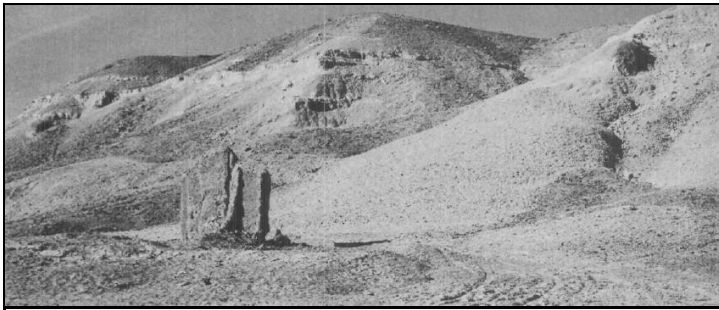
Mining became intermittent late in the century but, by 1907, new machinery was installed at the Gunsight and Noonday mines. The



1. Fire opals occur in warty, irregular concretionary masses both in situ and in the talus. Small, but colorful, the opals are extremely difficult to remove from the matrix.

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2 Just west of Highway 127, the ruins of the Amargosa Borax Works are gradually "melting" back into the earth. It serves as a marker for the opal deposit in the Silica Hills

arrival of the Tonopah Tidewater Railroad at this time brought a resurgence of mining to the district.

Wagons were used to haul the ores over a six-mile route to Tecopa Station (four and one-half miles southwest of Resting Springs). The mine owners pressed for a spur track and after much confusion and delay, their hopes were realized in 1910 when the nine and one-half mile Tecopa Railroad was completed.

Equipped with a steam engine and several ore cars, the little line began operations. Ore was delivered twice daily to the concentration mill at Tecopa while "high value" ore was shipped on to the smelter at Murray, Utah. Though short in length, the Tecopa Railroad was

long on excitement. Grades were steep and the loaded train literally "roared down the track" to Tecopa. There were a number of runaway trains and several men killed.

The great depression of the 1930s brought mining to a standstill



3 The Tecopa Railroad was built in 1910 to haul the ores of the Gunsight and Noonday Mines. Dismantled in the 40s, rotting ties and rusty spikes denote the former railroad grade.

throughout the United States. Tecopa was not an exception and many properties were sold at tax sales. The Tecopa Railroad also met this fate and the rails were taken up for scrap.

In 1947, the Anaconda Copper Mining Company purchased the Gunsight and Noonday Mines along with nearly a dozen other properties. A flotation mill was built and handled 75 to 85 tons of ore daily. Mill concentrates and ore of shipping grade were hauled to Dunn Siding on the Union Pacific Railroad for shipment to a smelter at Toole, Utah. The mines are presently idle and the camp of "Noonday City" stands patiently waiting for a new era in mining. With the current rise in the price of silver, it may not wait much longer.

A mile south on Tule Wash are the remnants of a mill and camp from the earlier era. The site is partially occupied —possibly by employees of the nearby Western Talc Mine.

Gem collectors will find a fine area for amethyst crystals in the



4 Noonday City now slumbers peacefully at the southern end of the Nopah Range. It was once a bustling camp when rich silver-lead ores were, mined from the Gunsight, Noonday and War Eagle properties

Kingston Range, 11 miles southeast of Tule Wash. There is no surface material and hard digging is required. The beautiful crystals to be found—groups and singles—are well worth the effort required to obtain them. It is an easy-to-reach locale. Just follow the road log below as I haven't shown this area on the map.

Kingston Amethyst Road Log

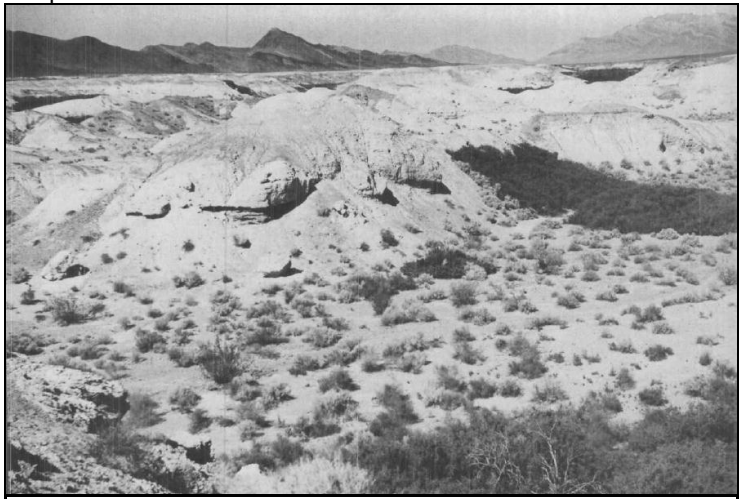
Miles

- 0.0 Tecopa Post Office. Take the Tecopa Road east.
- 0.6 Keep ahead. Road on right to Western Talc Mine. 4.7 Pavement ends as road starts up pass in the Kingston Range.
- 6.3 Summit 5200 feet.
- 1.0 Turn right onto two-track road. (Often hard to see after storms or when the road grades goes through). Follow tracks over hill. Not for trailers.
- 1.1 Fair camping area. Amethyst veins about 1/4 mile south of camp via trail.

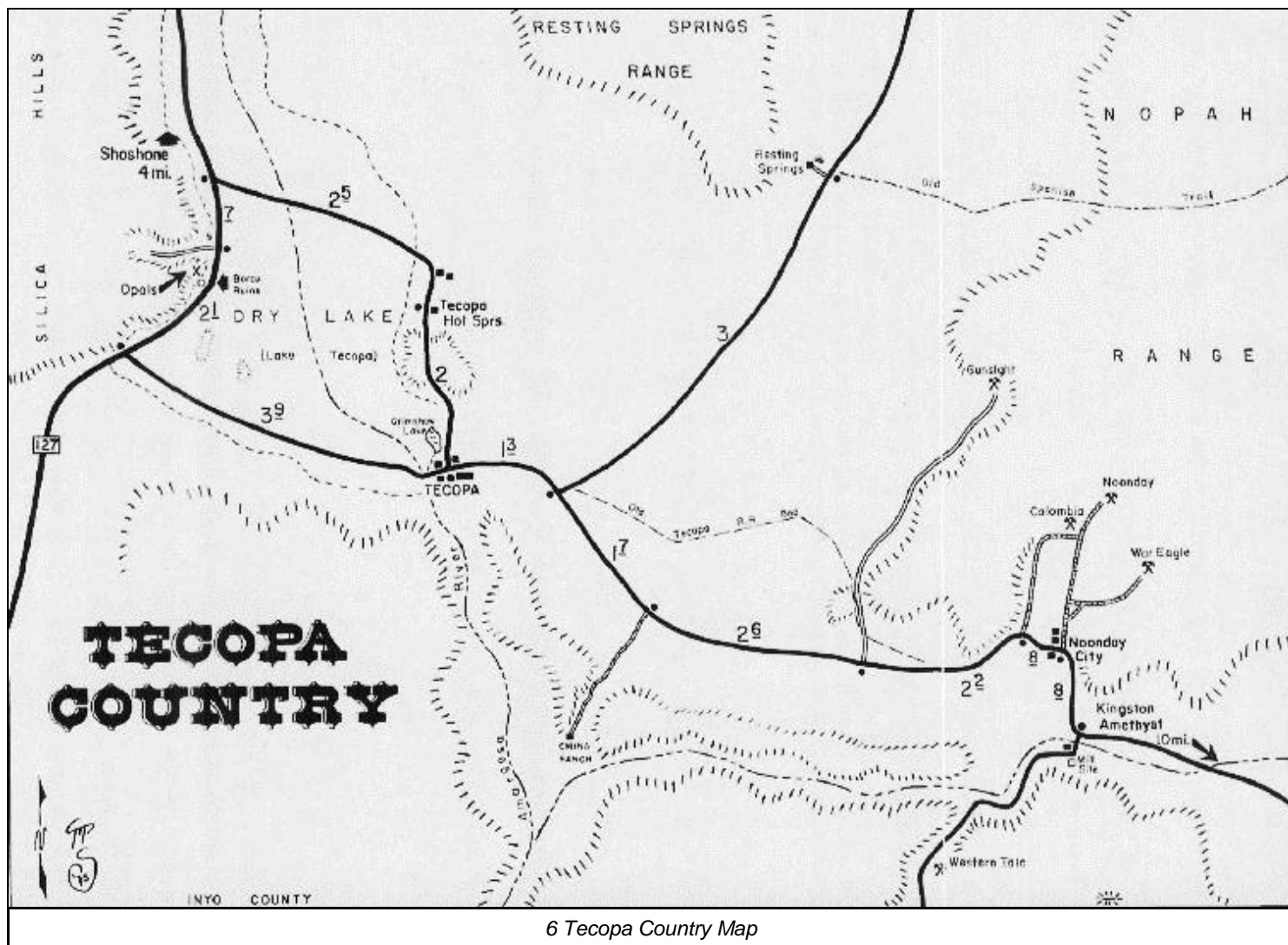
Car mileages will vary over long distances. Take mileage at the summit and go one mile. If you pass through a cattle guard you have gone too far. Though the road through the Kingston's is graded, it is narrow in places. The last five miles is a steep pull for trailers.

Along the western shore of Pleistocene Lake Tecopa, just west of Highway 127, are the ruins of another early-day mining venture — the Amargosa Borax Works. This was the "summer home" of the Harmony Borax Works of Death Valley.

During the summer months, when heat made mining in the Valley unbearable, operations were moved to Tecopa Country. A plant was built and borax mining continued in the cooler, 110 degree temperatures from 1882 to 1890.



5 Resting Springs, an important stop along the Old Spanish Trail to Southern California, surfaces in a "badlands" topography.



The ruins are quite photogenic. Built of "desert adobe," they are melting back into the earth from which they came. Several wells were drilled and one now forms a small pool. It seems to be a popular car washing location. "Gives them real silicone polish," one man told us.

Immediately west of the borax ruins rise the Silica Hills - a barren, desolate region of badlands topography. Within their confines, only a short distance from the highway, will be found precious opal resembling the beautiful Australian material.

The hills consist of silicified tuff with various horizons honey-combed with pipes and tubules (concretionary masses) filled with opal. Unfortunately, there are two drawbacks to this material. The opals are usually small—toothpick to pencil size—and they are extremely hard to remove from the matrix. Some larger stones (I have seen several the size of a quarter) do occur here and they are beauties!

Many methods of removing the opals from matrix have been tried with varying degrees of success. Attempting to pry them loose only results in breakage. The method which seems to work best is to saw away as much matrix as possible, then carefully grind down to the opal.

Good campsites will be found in a canyon near the opal deposits. Supplies and gasoline (hopefully) are available at Tecopa.

Tecopa Country is rich in sweet desert air, scenic beauty, warm mineral springs, gems for collectors, plus exciting trails and historical sites for back-country exploring. During the winter months a warm sun reflects from the barren hills. It is good to bask in its warm caress while storms battle the land you have left behind.

Yes, Tecopa Country seems to have a healing effect. Once again, Old Mother Nature has provided a unique resting place to revitalize Man's body and soul.

From Desert Magazine, 11/1973

From Rags to Riches

By Peter Greisl

Chapter 25 – The Party Finale

It was Sunday morning, and we all had a sleep in, Chris was keeping Beatrix quiet so I could sleep. I finally crawled out of Bed at 11 am. I put on my jeans and went outside, it was a brisk morning and I noticed that the Ute was gone, I walked around to Johnny's room and it was empty. I went back and asked Chris "where is Johnny? I did not hear him driving off." She said "he went to the mine," I asked what for she said he wanted to put in a charge so he got something to work with on Monday morning instead of blasting then, I ask him if I shall wake you up he said no let him sleep."

Well he is keen I replied. We sat and had coffee and I Said to Chris, "the more I think of Anne's place the more I want to move straight away." Chris replied, Yes I do too, it will be nice and I don't think we will have problems in meeting this commitment." Yes, while I have this job it is definitely possible, and if we keep finding bits and pieces, we sure can, and I can make these improvements I was talking about." I told Chris I am going down to Laszlo to get these Batteries and bits and pieces I need to complete this job, I pick up the rectifiers from the co-op at the same time. She acknowledged. I

ask where is Beatrix, Chris said," she has a new hobby she is making a garden behind the Shed, she wants to grow some flowers." How cute I replied put on a shirt and jumper and went down to the co-op and to Laszlo, I got the rectifier and bought the two Batteries bit of wire, battery connectors and screw terminals and an old car voltage gauge, Laszlo helped me put the batteries in to the car and I went home.

I took the batteries to the generator shed and got some tools and started to make the necessary connections when I was finished I checked that everything was correct particular the rectifier connection to make sure the generator AC current got converted to DC current and charge the Batteries.

I was satisfied with the connections and started up the generator I threw the knife switch from the house supply to the rectifier which supplies DC current to the batteries, the Voltage gauge was reading the output voltage from the rectifier which was 32 Volt DC, I had the battery tops off and watched to see if there were these familiar tiny little bubbles appearing which tells me the Battery is receiving the charge.

I was very pleased with the result, as we are able to run all the lights without the Generator operating, and we even can run the Cutting Gear on fully charged batteries about 8 hours continuous. So this was a great investment as we can use this equipment at the house as well when we move.

I went in the shack and told Chris about it, to which she replied smilingly, "Who is a clever duck then." It was lunch and we had the cold pork roast which Lottie gave me last night on Toast, which was very nice, Chris prepared some for Johnny, so he had food when he got home.

I said, "I hope Johnny remembers that we go to Gus's place again tonight."

I am sure Chris replied," and just as she finished saying this, the sound of the Dodge appeared and Johnny pulled up. He came in greeted us, Chris said "you just in time to have Lunch," "Great" Johnny replied I am starving."

"Well you better wash up and sit down with us," was Chris's reply. He did and we all had Lunch I asked Johnny what are the latest developments at the claim he told me that he blasted another 3 feet of drive he got up and went to the car and brought in the linen bag, which was halve full with dirt etc., "I nearly forgot," he said "There is nice material in here, I picked up traces again on the other side, and decided to start driving in this direction, on Monday I will do another charge and the we shall see, I got a good feeling about this direction, I lost the level so I don't know if there is a slip or what, I must gauge out for while so I don't destroy anything if there is a slip and then I will only use 2 sticks not three and do a bit of hand gouging."

"Well the man of many surprises, that gives you something to do while we are out, and you can surprise us with some nice Opal." I briefly rummaged through the bag and pulled some pieces out and looked and licked them, and I was pleasantly surprised with these great coloured chips. "Very nice" I said. Johnny replied "yes there are quite some good pieces amongst it which make nice stones, but when I wash and clean them we will see what the result is."

Chris said she is going to change and get ready, I told Johnny about the Generator and showed him everything and he ask for instructions etc. I told him that there is nothing to it all he has to do to throw the knife switch if he wants to use battery power.

Chris was ready to go she did not wear anything to provocative, Just nice tight fitting Jeans and a vermilion red blouse with a white bandana around her neck, she looked great as usual. I said to her, well my dear," I think from now on you are going to wear these outfits whenever I come home, you paraded the last three days, you will amazed hat that does to a tired person, and smiled." She replied with a cheeky smile , "I can handle that," and pinched me on the Bum, Lets Go I said, we kissed Beatrix good bye and said to Johnny "you know the drill," He saluted and told us to get going.

We arrived at Gus's and there was very little activity, greeted Gus and Lottie which made a comment to Chris How nice she looks again.

I looked around and there was Pancho at the instruments and he greeted me and commented that this was the last day and tomorrow they heading for Coober Pedy, by invitation of Bill Petrohelos, apparently he flew to Coober Pedy this morning to drop one of his Guest back and came back with someone else and at the same time he arranged with the Coober Pedy Restaurant for Pancho and his band to play there a few weekends.

I said "that's great," Pancho replied, "I wish you could come with us,"

"Well my friend as much as I like to play music, but my main reason for coming to the fields was searching for my Opal Bonanza." He said "I can understand that you must follow your dream."

It was getting on to six o'clock and guest starting to fill the restaurant.

Chris was still busy with setting the tables for dinner and organizes seating.

Bill and his Guest arrived and sat at their usual tables; he gave me a wave and blew a kiss to Chris, which she returned with a smile.

Anyhow without going further in to details as nothing outstanding happened.

We finished the night at 10pm. I said good night and good luck to Pancho, and he handed me 5 twenty dollar notes and a piece of paper with his Adelaide phone number, and said," I am very grateful, without you it would have been a disaster, I know you worth more than that but this is just a token of my appreciation, you are a great drummer, if you ever in Adelaide and need a job, Just call on me, we have gigs all year long." I am all choked up, and replied," I cannot accept his money, I did it out of pure indulgence as I do like playing the drums and it gave me an opportunity to play again after several years, but I will take your number and definitely will call on you not only for a job also as a friend." Pancho replied," Peter I insist you take this money, please." I shook my head in agreement and we hugged. I walked over to Gus and Lottie and thanked them and Lottie said," I was great having Chris working with us, we ask her if we need her again will she help us out to which Chris agreed." I told them that I could see no problem with that, I knew Chris enjoyed the work and it broke the monotony of sitting at home seven days per week and of course it was a financially very rewarding Job. Chris came and hugged Bill good bye and he gave her a kiss on the cheek and placed something in her hand. Chris waved everyone good bye and we left. In the car she said to me, "It was nice and very rewarding but I am glad it is over," She had a bag with her which she did not have when we left home, so I ask what's in the bag, She told me it is a bottle Champagne which Gus gave her and told her to go home and enjoy it with your husband." That's very nice, well what a combination, a sexy looking woman, nice bottle champagne, plenty time left in the evening, I wonder where this is leading to." She leaned her head across onto my shoulder and replied it will lead to where ever you want it to lead to." I smiled and kissed her on the cheek and we drove home.

We got home and Johnny was still up sitting at the table with proper electricity and drunk a cup of coffee. He said "you early." I replied by saying "yes we are going to have an early night." I sat down while Chris is checking on Beatrix, who is sound asleep and cuddling her favorite stuffed Koala which she had now for two years. Johnny in the meantime pushed across the table two Epsom salt jars with a magnificent array of Opal chips and stones.

I could not help in gasping a loud "Wow that is great stuff, Chris come here look at that" I shouted. She came from Beatrix room and sat down and spun the bottles and she could not belief what she saw. She asked Johnny if he did weigh it he said "I sure did, there are 3 ounces of chips, and about 12 grams of stones, small solids and doublets." I said, I think we better go to Peter Vlack tomorrow with the lot and let him give as a price, what do you think?" Johnny

said that's up to you," We have now a total of 15 ounces of chips 27 grams of doublet material, a couple painted ladies, plus the stone I kept from Steve, now if reckon we get about \$80 for the per ounce for the chips, and about 135 carats of doublets etc., surely we should get about \$20 per gram for this nice stuff, what do you think Johnny?" He replied "I think so could be even more there is not a milky piece amongst that lot it is all Crystal Opal." Well if we get that then we should get \$540 for the doublets etc., and about \$1200 for the chips." I think we should sell." "That's ok with me," Johnny replied. Well let's call it an night, I said and Johnny disappeared to his room. "Darling cut up a bit of cheese and some of the salami I brought home on Friday, I open the bottle of champagne."

Before I do that I better get into something more comfortable the Jeans are a bit tight," Chris said. She did and we had some champagne and a few munchies, and we let the situation take its course.

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How to Solder Metal Eyeglass Frame Hinges

By Richard Asmus, eHow Contributor

The possibility of soldering eyeglass frame hinges onto metal frames depends entirely on the metals of which the frames and hinges are made. A solder made of roughly 95 percent tin and 5 percent silver will bond copper, silver, gold, brass, and steel. However with other materials such as titanium and [stainless steel](#) you may need to braze or weld the hinges on. Remove the lenses and any part of the frame that could be damaged by the heat. The solder joint must not move while you are soldering or while the solder hardens.

Instructions

1. Clean any corrosion off of the surface to be soldered with fine emery cloth. Be careful not to mar the finish in other areas that may spoil the appearance of the frame.
2. Clean the areas of the frames and hinges where the [solder](#) will attach them together. Use solvent and a rag to clean away any oil, grease, or fingerprints.
3. Apply soldering flux to the areas on the frame and hinges where you will solder.
4. Place the frame in a vise and use clamps to hold the hinge in place. The hinge must fit flush because the solder will not fill gaps. And it must remain steady throughout the soldering process. If the joint moves even slightly while the solder cools, the joint will fall apart with the slightest pressure. It must remain perfectly still.
5. Heat the joint with the torch for a few seconds, and then touch the solder to the joint. The solder should melt and flow into the joint by capillary action. If the solder doesn't melt instantly when touched, the joint isn't hot enough yet.
6. Wait for the solder to cool before moving the [frames](#). The solder should harden within 10 seconds, but the frames may remain too hot to touch for a longer time, depending on the size and thickness of the frame and hinges.
7. Hold the frames gently in a rag while loosening the vice and clamps. When you are sure the frames are cool enough to touch, clean the soldered joint with the solvent and rag to remove any residue from the soldering flux.

Tips & Warnings

Look in jewelry maker's supply shops to find your torch, vise, and clamps.

For a stronger solder joint, use a solder made with a higher silver content; you will have to heat this more to get it to melt.

Solders containing lead or cadmium raise environmental concerns. If you decide to use them, work in a well-ventilated area, don't breathe the fumes, and wear protective goggles.

From <http://www.ehow.com>

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August 2012 Gem & Mineral Shows

More shows can be found at <http://www.rockngem.com/show-dates-display/?ShowState=ALL>

3-5—HILLSBORO, OR: Wholesale and retail show; Gem Faire Inc.; WA County Fairgrounds; 873 N.E. 34th Ave.; Fri. 12-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-6; adults \$7 (weekend pass), children (11 and under) free; jewelry, gems, beads, crystals, silver, rocks, minerals, exhibitors, on-site jewelry repair; contact Yooy Nelson, (503) 252-8300; e-mail: info@gemfaire.com; Web site: www.gemfaire.com

3-5—NIPOMO, CA: Annual show; Orcutt Mineral Society; Nipomo High School; 525 N. Thompson Ave.; Fri. 10-5, Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; free admission; dealers, tailgaters; contact Wes Lingerfelt, PO Box 176, Nipomo, CA 93444, (805) 929-3788; e-mail: Rocks4u@prodigy.net; Web site: www.omsinc.org

3-5—NORTH BEND, OR: Annual show; Far West Lapidary & Gem Society; North Bend Community Center; 2222 N. Broadway; Fri. 10-5, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-4; adults \$1, students 75 cents, children (under 14) free; contact Don Innes, 54416 Arago-Fishtrap Rd., Myrtle Point, OR 97458, (541) 396-5722; e-mail: doninnes.innes20@gmail.com

3-5—PRESCOTT, AZ: Annual show; Prescott Gem & Mineral Club; Embry Riddle Aeronautical University Activity Center; 3700 Willow Creek Rd.; Fri. 9-5, Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-4; adults \$2, children (12 and under) free; rocks, gems, jewelry, fossils, beads, slabs, cabochons, lapidary tools, raffle, kids' Mineral Mine and spinning wheel, displays, dealers, special "Pebble Pups" display; contact Judy Sullins, PO Box 3923, Chino Valley, AZ 86323, (928) 445-1117; e-mail: sullinsjs@cableone.net; Web site: www.prescottgemmineral.org

4-5—SAN DIEGO, CA: 13th Annual Bead Bazaar; San Diego Bead Society; Scottish Rite Center; 1895 Camino Del Rio S.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; admission \$3 (discount coupon on Web site); demonstrations, semiprecious gems, crystals, lampwork, vintage, European glass and ethnic beads, buttons, kits, art clay silver, finished jewelry, Steampunk, charms, polymer clay, chain; contact Donna Palmer, (858) 578-2273 or (858) 414-1797; Web site: www.sdbeadsociety.org/specialevents/beadbazaar.htm

9-10-12—PORT TOWNSEND, WA: Annual show; Port Townsend Rock Club; Jefferson County Fairgrounds; 4907 Landus St.; Fri. 10-9, Sat. 10-9, Sun. 10-6; fair admission \$6; contact Cathy Sahli, PO Box 1383, Port Townsend, WA 98368, (360) 301-4538

10-12—SAN DIEGO, CA: Wholesale and retail show; Gem Faire Inc.; Scottish Rite Center; 1895 Camino del Rio S.; Fri. 12-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$7 (weekend pass), children (11 and under) free; jewelry, gems, beads, crystals, silver, rocks, minerals, exhibitors, on-site jewelry repair; contact Yooy Nelson, (503) 252-8300; e-mail: info@gemfaire.com; Web site: www.gemfaire.com

11-12—LAKVIEW, OR: Annual show; Tallman Rock Chippers; Lake County Fairgrounds; 1900 N. 4th; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4; free admission; dealers, demonstrations, kids' activities, silent auction, field trips; contact LeRoy Johnson, (541) 947-4267; e-mail: lostmymarbles@yahoo.com

11-12—WALNUT CREEK, CA: Show, "Contra Costa Crystal Fair"; Pacific Crystal Guild; Civic Park Community Center; 1375 Civic Dr.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-4; adults \$6, children (12 and under) free; 30 dealers, minerals, gems, crystals, beads, metaphysical healing tools; contact Jerry Tomlinson, PO Box 1371, Sausalito, CA 94966, (415) 383-7837; e-mail: jerry@crystalfair.com; Web site: www.crystalfair.com

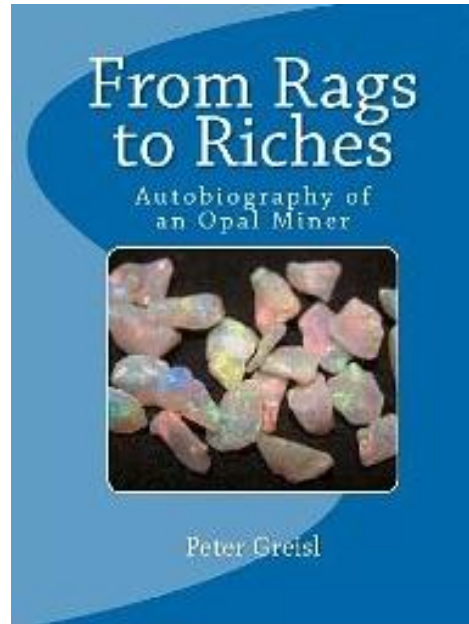
17-19—SACRAMENTO, CA: Wholesale and retail show; Gem Faire Inc.; Scottish Rite Center; 6151 H St.; Fri. 12-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$7 (weekend pass), children (11 and under) free; jewelry, gems, beads, crystals, silver, rocks, minerals, exhibitors, on-site jewelry repair; contact Yooy Nelson, (503) 252-8300; e-mail: info@gemfaire.com; Web site: www.gemfaire.com

24-26—COSTA MESA, CA: Wholesale and retail show; Gem Faire Inc.; OC Fair & Event Center; 88 Fair Dr.; Fri. 12-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$7 (weekend pass), children (11 and under) free; jewelry, gems, beads, crystals, silver, rocks, minerals, exhibitors, on-site jewelry repair; contact Yooy Nelson, (503) 252-8300; e-mail: info@gemfaire.com; Web site: www.gemfaire.com

31-2—SANTA BARBARA, CA: Wholesale and retail show; Gem Faire Inc.; Earl Warren Showgrounds; 3400 Calle Real; Fri. 12-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$7 (weekend pass), children (11 and under) free; jewelry, gems, beads, crystals, silver, rocks, minerals, exhibitors, on-site jewelry repair; contact Yooy Nelson, (503) 252-8300; e-mail: info@gemfaire.com; Web site: www.gemfaire.com

"FROM RAGS TO RICHES"

The book, **From Rags to Riches** by Peter Greisl, that has been printed a chapter at a time in this newsletter is finally in print. **From Rags to Riches** is the autobiography of a real opal miner in the Australian Outback town of Andamooka.



To purchase the book, please visit the website, <http://opallover.com> and follow the online purchasing instructions.

You can also contact Peter Greisl personally and place an order. You can contact Peter at +61 417 555923 or e-mail him at gem@opallover.com. Peter will accept MasterCard, Visa, or PayPal.

Peter will return your call, you can send a text with your Card details including CVV and complete Shipping address, He will text you back with the shipping or postage cost prior to processing your card.

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American Opal Society Membership Application

FILL IN APPLICABLE INFORMATION		DUES / FEES)	AMOUNT PAID
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	NEW MEMBERS	\$40	
INTERNATIONAL MEMBERSHIP FEE (All addresses <u>outside</u> of USA)		\$10	
PRINTED NEWSLETTER FEE (Paper copy postal mailed instead of PDF file by e-mail)		\$5	
ADDITIONAL BADGES (Your First Badge is <u>free</u> when joining)		\$10	
TOTAL PAID DUES plus International, Print or Badge Fees if Applicable:			

Please make check or money order payable to "American Opal Society". Mail payment and application to:

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An optional, quicker method of payment is via the Internet. To pay, just visit the membership page on our website at http://opalsociety.org/aos_application_by_web.htm and complete the form. You may pay with a Credit Card or via PayPal account. The transaction is completely secure and the AOS never sees your credit card number. The AOS PayPal account is membership@opalsociety.org.

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Are Your Dues Due Now?

PLEASE CHECK YOUR ADDRESS LABEL or NEWSLETTER E-MAIL. There should be a date that shows the current month/year of your membership. If the date is older than the current date, your dues are overdue. A warning will be stated if you are overdue.

A Renewal Grace Period of two months will be provided. Please note, however, that as the system is now set up, if your renewal is not received you will be **AUTOMATICALLY** dropped from membership thereafter. It is your responsibility to assure your dues are current.

Thank you,

The Editor

The Opal Express

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**Volume #45 Issue #8
August 2012**

Some Topics In This Issue:

- Kicked off Blackdome Mountain
- Tecopa Country
- From Rags to Riches Ch. 25 – The Party Finale
- How to Solder Metal Eyeglass Hinges

Important Dates:

August 7 - Board Meeting

August 9 - General Meeting:

Members are to bring in their best "Braggin" gem, opal, rock, etc. and tell us a story about it.

— GENERAL MEETINGS —

2nd Thurs. of the Month
7:00 pm - 9:00 PM

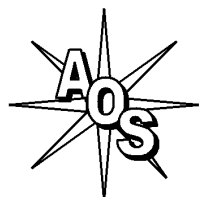
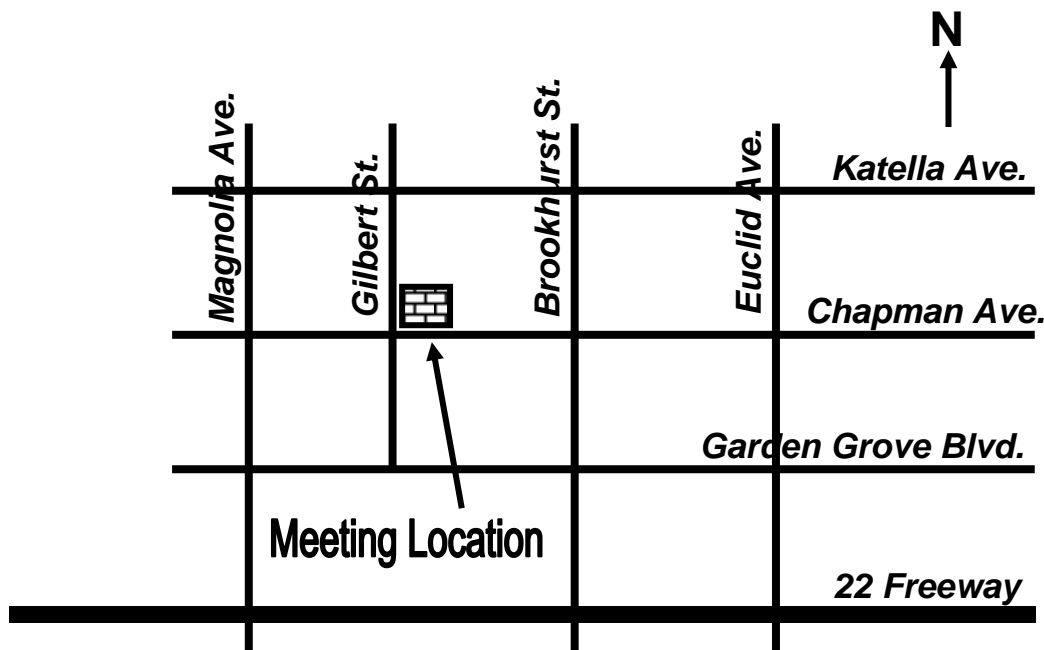
Garden Grove Civic Women's Club
9501 Chapman Ave.
Garden Grove, CA 92841
(NE corner of Gilbert & Chapman)

MEETING ACTIVITIES

Opal Cutting, Advice, Guest Speakers,
Slide Shows, Videos, Other Activities

TO:

August 9th General Meeting Member Show & Tell



The American Opal Society <http://OpalSociety.org>

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