

The Opal Express

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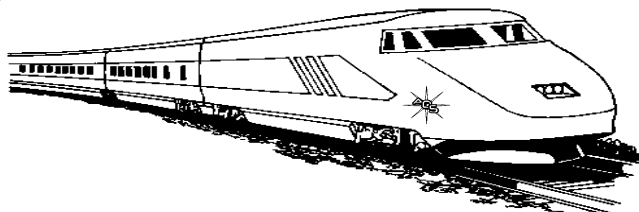


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President's Message

By Pete Goetz

Hey all:

Here we are in the first month of (really?) 2018. Whew. It's been 17 full years since the internet was going to cease to exist. Remember Y2K? How about that!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We had several folks join at the Opal Show. Let's extend a hearty AOS welcome to Renee Gailey, Stephen Tasic, Naomi Higuchi and Sayuri Nomoto. Looking forward to seeing each of you at our general meeting, Wednesday January 24th.

JANUARY MEETING

As this goes to print we are still arranging the January meeting topic or activity. Bring your opal show-and-tell treasures for us to oogle and ahh over!

CHRISTMAS PARTY REDUX

We had a great time and delicious food at our annual Christmas party potluck although we missed a couple of our VIP peeps, Jim Pisani and Veronica Purpura. Many thanks to Lora and Kathy for arriving early and getting the room set up so nicely.

YOUR AOS NEEDS YOU

We are looking for a couple of helpers from club members. For one, we need a meeting program person who can call four or five potential guest speakers and schedule them for meetings.

We also need a show media person to post our 2018 show details at online calendars. If you can help with either of these please volunteer. We have all the necessary information. What we need are two or three members who can give a few hours a month to the Opal Society. Please take this seriously, your club and show need you. Yes, you! And you!! And you!!!

We really need to increase show guest attendance by getting the show information into social media and internet activity calendars. We have great work from Jim Pisani on the website plus Veronica has been working in the background on a site refresh. Kathy James does excellent work on our AOS Facebook page.

The Opal Express

The American Opal Society

We need to have someone doing Instagram and someone to post to a couple other important social media sites. Come help grow the show!

Remember, general meeting is Wednesday January 24th. All club members are also invited to our January Board of Directors meeting which is also at the Masonic Lodge Monday January 15th.

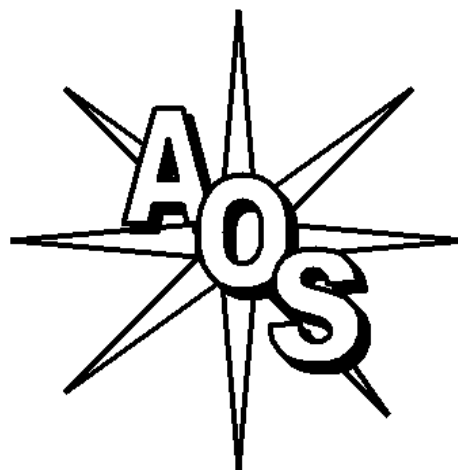
Cheers!

-Pete

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AOS Jan. 24th Meeting: Opal Cutting Seminar

This month we will be having an Opal Cutting Seminar. We will have at least three Diamond Pacific Pixie lapidary sets available. Also, the Opal Society's experienced cutters will be there to demonstrate and help. Bring in your rough opal to cut. The AOS will also provide rough. This is a fun and educational event.



January 2018

Page 1

Where to find Opals in Oregon?

From GeologyIn.com



Rough Opal From Opal Butte, Oregon

While Australia produces over 97% of the world's supply of opal today, recent mining at Opal Butte in northeastern Oregon has produced a wide variety of large flawless opals.

The most common gem-quality varieties are hyalite and rainbow opal, but the less common play-of-color varieties contra luz, hydrophane, and crystal opal are economically more important. Opals are formed in rhyolite, basalt, sandstone, marl and rhyolite. Rhyolite geodes are a common source of opals. They are classified as mineraloids, meaning that they do not have the characteristics of crystals. It is a crystal like product of silicon dioxide which is deposited under somewhat low temperature and forms in fissures and cracks of rocks. One way opals are formed is from water carrying a mineral called silica that seeps into volcanic lava. Lava has air bubbles that, as they cool, become receptacles for the liquid deposits. This is why Oregon is opal territory. From its position at the edge of the North American crustal plate, Oregon has played host to many volcanoes. If the conditions are right, the seeping silica forms opals within the volcanic air bubbles.



The Oregon Opal with the Ocean inside
Credit: Mckenna Praetorius

Oregon's opals

Oregon's Morrow County is the site of a large opal mining operation in an area called Opal Butte. Although these deposits were identified in the 1800s, they were not mined until 1988 when West Coast Gemstones, Inc. began work there. They have located and sold exquisite gems as large as 315 carats.

The Opal Butte opals are found in rhyolite geodes, also called thundereggs. Thundereggs can look like regular rocks on the outside but, broken open, can reveal agates or opals on the inside. Only about 10 percent of the total geodes mined at Opal Butte contain gem-quality opal, and only about 1 percent contain gem-quality opal with play of color. The remaining geodes contain agate, quartz crystals or common opal.

Opal Butte is not the only opal mining area in Oregon. The Last Chance Mine operates near La Pine in the Bend/Fort Rock District of the Deschutes National Forest, and a few others have mining claims in the area.

Fee-dig mining

Miners at Juniper Ridge Opal Mine in southeastern Oregon have found red, orange and golden yellow fire opals there. While for a time Juniper Ridge allowed "fee dig" mining, in which the public could come in and, for a fee, dig for opals, they no longer offer this possibility.



Contra Luz Opal - 2,290 CARATS Opal Butte, Morrow Co., Oregon, USA

It appears that there are no other fee-dig opal mines in Oregon. Those looking for a fee dig mine near Oregon can try to [Dig Your Own Unique Opals From Nevada](#).



Oregon opal with visual effect of being underwater when held to light. Obtained at Opal Butte Mine. Oregon, USA. Photo: Inna Gem

Read more at <http://www.geologyin.com/2017/06/where-to-find-opals-in-oregon.html#mQTrxm0l6jKC5Wg3.99>

‘Precious’ and ‘Semi-Precious’: Are These Classifications for Coloured Stones Now Obsolete?

Perhaps a new vocabulary is needed for classifying coloured stones, as the traditional ‘hierarchy’ has become confusing and misleading

By Lynnette Lee, 2 DEC 2017

Should a top-grade tanzanite that is worth more than a diamond be considered a precious or semi-precious stone? And if a 1ct sapphire is the same price as a 5ct opal, which is a better buy? These questions and more on the preciousness or semi-preciousness of a gem have haunted many a prospective buyer, so much so that the American Gem Trade Association has banned the use of the word “semi-precious” when describing gemstones.

Most professional gemologists no longer classify gems with this term, but it is deeply entrenched in our lingo and still used by trade organizations across the world.



Cartier’s Hope diamond mounted as a pendant and now part of the Smithsonian Institute.

In this age, only diamonds, rubies, sapphires and emeralds are acknowledged as precious stones, with the diamond chief among them and all others classified as semi-precious. The terms “precious” and “semi-precious” first came about in the mid-19th century in the

West, which explains why jade, despite being enormously important and valuable in China, was never considered a precious stone. Before this distinction, practically all gems were considered precious. In fact, the term “semi-precious” was created mainly because of amethyst. The stone was once adored by royals until large deposits were found in South America and its commercial value drastically dropped. A new term was then required to describe its downgraded status. Other gems such as aquamarine, topaz, tiger’s eye and opal have also suffered the same fate.



Glowing Ember necklace from Gubelin.

Tanzanite is famously rare and supplies are expected to run out in 25 years. A good black opal can command US\$8,000 per carat and the large ones fetch millions, such as the Royal One, a stunning 306ct black opal worth US\$3 million. In terms of beauty, spinels were historically indistinguishable from rubies until the 19th century and equally adored. Queen Victoria’s Black Prince’s Ruby, set in the Imperial State Crown of England above the Cullinan II diamond, is in fact a giant spinel.

“Whatever category the stone is, if you want the best or the exceptional, it has a price. You have very expensive aquamarines, peridot, tourmaline, rubellite and spinel, because they are rare,” cautions Pierre Rainero, image and heritage director of Cartier. Traditional definitions of preciousness fail to take into account the question of quality – usually based on a stone’s colour and clarity. Experts such as Melvyn Kirtley, Chief Gemologist at Tiffany & Co, recommend not being influenced by labels like “precious” or “semi-precious”, but instead going for stones that are the best of their kind.

“I DON’T LIKE TO THINK OF A ‘HIERARCHY’ IN GEMSTONES, MOTHER NATURE HAS GIVEN US SOME UNIQUE AND UNUSUAL TREASURES IN ALL THE VARIOUS SPECIES”

“I don’t like to think of a ‘hierarchy’ in gemstones. Mother Nature has given us some unique and unusual treasures in all the various species. It’s finding them that is the most difficult task. I look for beauty, quality and rarity within a species. Those gemstones that exhibit the finest qualities in a species and are extraordinarily rare with an exceptional personality,” he says.



32.22ct cushion cut sapphire and heart-shape diamond ring, total diamonds 6.99ct.

The stones that are considered precious have changed over time, so a semi-precious stone now might be considered precious in the future. When it does, the top-quality ones will be the most sought after. In fact, all top-quality stones have the potential to be recognized as precious.

An alternative system of classification is to focus on the jewellery itself and not just the stones. Fine, semi-fine and fashion jewellery are categorizations that seem to focus on the metals in concert with the stones. Fine jewellery refers to pieces set in gold or platinum with high-grade stones and is expected to last through generations. Semi-fine indicates jewellery that is made with high quality metals like silver and might be gold-plated, and set with genuine stones. Such pieces are durable but might not be expected to last a lifetime. Fashion jewellery is made from bronze, brass or copper and is set with crystals, glass or beads.



Phoenix clip from Van Cleef & Arpel's Noah's Ark exhibition. It is made of diamonds, black spinels, golden mother-of-pearl and Mystery Set rubies.

So will the "precious" and "semi-precious" classifications ever fade away? With evermore sophisticated buyers, it seems like they already are. "We believe that these traditional hierarchies will tend to disappear where collectors and clients become more expert and appreciate many different stones for their own quality," says Van Cleef & Arpels' CEO, Nicholas Bos.

Gubelin Academy's managing director Helen Molesworth disagrees. She says that among coloured gems, "rubies, sapphires, emeralds will always be the 'Big Three' from gemmological but also historical perspectives. They have great physical qualities as well as being known for a very long time, which adds confidence and emotional value."

Stocks of the Big Three are depleting, causing prices to rise. However, as other gems like tanzanite, mandarin garnet and Paraiba tourmaline increase in price, stature and popularity to fill the resulting gap, it seems unsuitable to continue to label them as merely semi-precious. Perhaps what is needed is a greater vocabulary for the preciousness of stones.

From <http://www.scmp.com/magazines/style/watches-jewellery/article/2120839/precious-and-semi-precious-are-these>

Twenty Mule Team Road

By Ken and Connie

Road trip in California



Figure 1

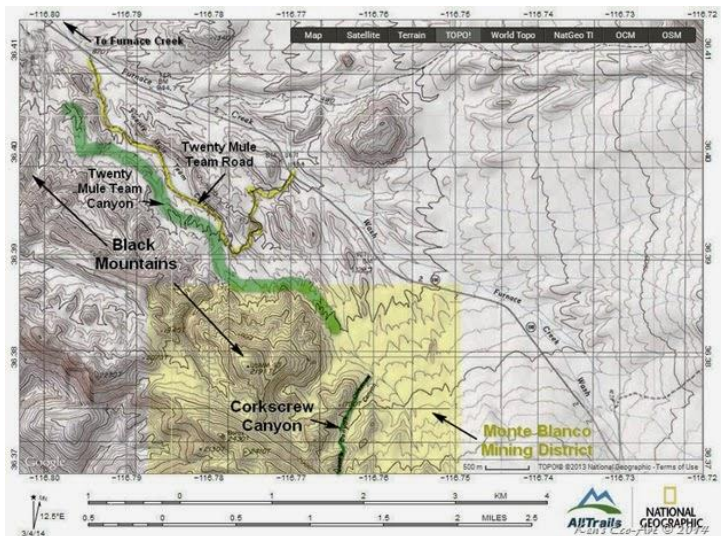


Figure 2

Directions: The shortest route to Death Valley from Las Vegas is only 2 hours or 120 miles. From Interstate 15 South, EXIT on NV Hwy 160

West. Drive 60 miles to Pahrump, Nevada and turn left onto Bell Vista Road (3 miles north of Hwy 372). Drive 30 miles to Death Valley Junction, California and turn right onto CA Hwy 127. Drive about 300 feet and turn left onto CA Hwy 190 and drive about 26 miles towards Furnace Creek. There is a short, unpaved, 2.7 mile one-way driving trail (Fig. 02), just off Highway 190 (Fig. 01), four miles this side (south) of Furnace Creek, called Twenty Mule Team Road. Turn left and reverse direction. This single lane road runs through the northern end of the Black Mountains as it passes through what is referred to as the Death Valley badlands area.

02/28/2014 Trip Notes: On today's visit to Death Valley, we decided to take the short drive onto the Twenty Mule Team Road that takes you into the 'badlands' of the Monte Blanco mining district on the northern end of the Black Mountains. This short diversion, though never actually part of the original 165 mile twenty-mule-team Borax freight route used by **The Twenty Mule Team Wagons⁽¹⁾** to haul borax out of Death Valley, provided some very interesting and unique geology. You can actually see bands of borax running through some of the mountainous areas surrounding the road. We also saw several foot trails leading into the mountain from some of the small turn-offs along the road, but decided not to stop and explore on today's visit due to the impending rains.

Twenty Mule Team Road Description: Created by the remarkable effects of wind, rain and erosion, this scenic drive through multicolored badlands, situated in the old Monte Blanco mining district, provides views of the stunning topography of Twenty Mule Team Canyon in Death Valley. A one-way, single lane road through the northern end of the Black Mountains, it goes through the Death Valley badlands area; an area of quickly eroding, soft mud mountains which were actually once the bottom of a seasonal lake that existed a long, long time ago (before the mountains were uplifted). In the late 1800s, the borax mining industry in the Death Valley area was booming; although though the Monte Blanco area was ever mined to its full potential, possibly due to the difficulty of reaching the site. There are a couple of small turnouts along the road that allow you to park and hike to the top of its tall mudstone hills and several mine adits. These provide wonderful views of Zabriskie Point and the rich mineral deposits visible within the sedimentary ledges of the surrounding buttes. Traces of mining activity can still be seen in the adits and dugouts that dot the surrounding landscape. The old Monte Blanco mining office and bunkhouse was located near the southern end of Twenty Mule Team Road - in 1954 the building was moved to Furnace Creek where it now houses the Borax Museum.

Borax: Borax has a wide variety of uses. It is a component of many detergents, cosmetics, enamel glazes, insecticides, fire retardants, and more. Borax found in nature is an evaporite, meaning it crystallizes after evaporation of the solute it was dissolved in, in this case, after the seasonal lake dried up (multiple times over and over again in the past). Many deposits were created like this on the muddy bottom of the ancient seasonal lake. In modern day, the ancient lake bottom has been pushed up by tectonic processes and forms the soft muddy mountains, some of which have massive borax deposits mixed in the mud. It's really a neat thing to see, because the borax looks like a bunch of bright white streaks, like powdered sugar or something was sprinkled over and within the mountain.

Mining the Borax: The way they did it was kind of interesting. Because a lot of the borax was interspersed with dried mud deposits, the miners had to come up with a process to remove the mud. First, they would dig out a bunch of the borax and mud mix, and together, they then hauled it to a processing facility near present day Furnace Creek. There they dumped it into huge pools or tanks of water where they let the borax dissolve and the dirt settle to the bottom. They did this many times to purify the water, so that only the salts and borax were dissolved in it, and not the unwanted dirt. Then they used the

knowledge that borax crystallizes at a certain temperature, so they put a bunch of rods into the tanks and cooled the water down. When the water hit the correct temperature, the rods would act as surfaces which allowed borax crystals to grow on them, and this is the way they were able to extract pure borax from the water. When the Harmony Borax Works was in full swing, it employed 40 men who produced three tons of borax daily! In the heat of the summer, when the water couldn't be cooled to a low enough temperature, they moved the operation to a cooler location, near Tecopa, CA instead of Furnace Creek. Click here for more information on Borax and Borax mining that took place at Death Valley.



Figure 3

(1) The Twenty Mule Team Wagons: The twenty mule team wagons solved a transportation problem. Between 1883 and 1888 they hauled more than twelve million pounds of borax from remote and inaccessible Death Valley to the railroad at Mojave. When the Harmony Borax Works was built in 1882, teams of eight and ten mules hauled the ore. But with increased production, the first teams of twenty mules were tried. Stretching out more than a hundred feet from the wagons, the great elongated teams immediately proved a dependable means of transportation.

Ten wagons were built by J.W.S. Perry in Mojave at a cost of \$900 each. The wagons' design balanced strength and capacity to carry the heavy loads of borax ore. The rear wheels were 7 feet high, the front wheels 5 feet high (Fig. 03). Each wheel had a steel tire 8 inches wide and an inch thick. The hubs were 18 inches in diameter and 22 inches long. The spokes were of split oak, the axle-trees were solid steel bars. The wagon beds were 16 feet long and 6 feet deep, and could carry 10 tons of borax. Fully loaded (Fig.04), the wagons, including the water tank, weighed 36.5 tons.



Figure 4

These wagons had to grind through sand and gravel and hold together up and down steep mountain grades for the 165 mile long trek to Mojave. Traveling fifteen to eighteen miles a day, it took ten days to make the trip. The 20-day round-trip started 190 feet below sea level and climbed to elevations greater than 2,000 feet before it was over. After leaving the Valley the teams had to cross 100 miles of empty desert, where many of the overnight stops were at dry camps. Water tanks were therefore attached to the wagons, to supply the men and animals between springs. Three men operated these twenty mule teams – in actuality eighteen mules and two horses – the driver who wielded a formidable whip; the teamster, who harnessed and unharnessed the mules, rode one of the horses, and handled the brake of the lead wagon; and the swamper, who rode on the rear wagon, operated its brake on the downgrades, and was chief cook and dishwasher. Between 1883 and 1889, the twenty mule teams hauled more than 20 million pounds of borax out of the Valley. During this time, not a single animal was lost, nor did a single wagon break down — a considerable tribute to the ingenuity of the designers and builders and the stamina of the men and mules.

When borax was discovered in the Calico Mountains early in the 1890's, twenty mule teams hauled the ore from Borate to the railroad at Daggett. Except for the brief interlude when the traction engine "Old Dinah" attempted the job, borax was carried solely by these teams until the Borate & Daggett Railroad was built around 1895. Among those who helped make the teams famous were J.W.S. Perry, PCB superintendent, who organized the first teams and mapped the routes; William Delameter, who constructed the wagons; Ed Stiles, driver of the first team; and teamsters Frank Tilton, Johnny O'Keefe, and "Borax Bill" Parkinson.

From <http://kensphotogallery.blogspot.com/2014/02/daytrip-20-mule-team-road.html>

Gem & Mineral Shows

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

January 2018

12-14—DEL MAR, CALIFORNIA: Wholesale and retail show; Gem Faire Inc, Del Mar Fairgrounds; 2260 Jimmy Durante Blvd; Fri. 12-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; Admission \$7, Children free (ages 0-11); Fine jewelry, precious & semi-precious gemstones, millions of beads, crystals, gold & silver, minerals & much more at manufacturer's prices. Exhibitors from around the world. Jewelry repair, cleaning & ring sizing while you shop. Free hourly door prizes.; contact Yooy Nelson, (503)-252-8300; e-mail: info@gemfaire.com; Web site: <http://www.gemfaire.com>

19-21—SAN RAFAEL, CALIFORNIA: Wholesale and retail show; Gem Faire Inc, Marin Center; 10 Avenue of the Flags; Fri. 12-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; Free Admission; Fine jewelry, precious & semi-precious gemstones, millions of beads, crystals, gold & silver, minerals & much more at manufacturer's prices. Exhibitors from around the world. Jewelry repair, cleaning & ring sizing while you shop. Free hourly door prizes.; contact Yooy Nelson, (503)-252-8300; e-mail: info@gemfaire.com; Web site: <http://www.gemfaire.com>

20-21—EXETER, CALIFORNIA: Annual show; Tule Gem & Mineral Society, Exeter, CA Veteran's Memorial Bldg.; 324 N. Kaweah Ave.; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4; Free Admission; Demonstrations, Free Door Prizes, Free Parking, Gems, Grab Bags, Great Food, Jewelry, Lapidary Supplies, Minerals,

Outstanding Displays, Raffle, Rocks, Silent Auction, Ten Dealers, Wheel of Fortune; contact Margaret Buchmann, 5215 W. Nicholas Ave., Visalia, CA 93291, (559)-799-6034; e-mail: margaretbu03@gmail.com; Web site: tulegem.com

26-28—HILLSBORO, OREGON: Wholesale and retail show; Gem Faire Inc, Washington County Fairgrounds; 873 NE 34th Ave; Fri. 12-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; Admission \$7, Children free (ages 0-11); Fine jewelry, precious & semi-precious gemstones, millions of beads, crystals, gold & silver, minerals & much more at manufacturer's prices. Exhibitors from around the world. Jewelry repair, cleaning & ring sizing while you shop. Free hourly door prizes.; contact Yooy Nelson, (503)-252-8300; e-mail: info@gemfaire.com; Web site: <http://www.gemfaire.com>

January 2018-February 2018

27-10—TUCSON, ARIZONA: Annual show; Martin Zinn Expositions, LLC, Hotel Tucson City Center; 475 N. Granada; Daily 10-6, Sat. 10-5; Free Admission; Dealers from around the world sell minerals, fossils, meteorites, rough and cut gems, lapidary supplies, home decor and so much more. From a single shark's tooth to an entire dinosaur, from micro-minerals to 10-ft high geodes, cutting rough to custom cut gems, the Arizona Mineral & Fossil Show has it all! Don't miss the Artists' Gallery of stone delights, Fossil Hall, and the large dinosaur sculptures playing in the courtyard. Allow plenty of time to see it all.; contact Regina Aumente, PO Box 665, Bernalillo, NM 87004, (505)-867-0425; e-mail: mzexpso@gmail.com; Web site: <http://www.mzexpso.com>

February 2018

2-4—ROSEVILLE, CALIFORNIA: Wholesale and retail show; Gem Faire Inc, Placer County Fairgrounds; 800 All America City Blvd; Fri. 12-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; Admission \$7, Children free (ages 0-11); Fine jewelry, precious & semi-precious gemstones, millions of beads, crystals, gold & silver, minerals & much more at manufacturer's prices. Exhibitors from around the world. Jewelry repair, cleaning & ring sizing while you shop. Free hourly door prizes.; contact Yooy Nelson, (503)-252-8300; e-mail: info@gemfaire.com; Web site: <http://www.gemfaire.com>

16-18—SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA: Wholesale and retail show; Gem Faire Inc, Earl Warren Showgrounds; 3400 Calle Real; Fri. 12-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; Admission \$7, Children free (ages 0-11); Fine jewelry, precious & semi-precious gemstones, millions of beads, crystals, gold & silver, minerals & much more at manufacturer's prices. Exhibitors from around the world. Jewelry repair, cleaning & ring sizing while you shop. Free hourly door prizes.; contact Yooy Nelson, (503)-252-8300; e-mail: info@gemfaire.com; Web site: <http://www.gemfaire.com>

16-25—INDIO, CALIFORNIA: Annual show; San Geronio Mineral & Gem Society, Riverside County Fairgrounds & National Date Festival; 82-503 Hwy 111; Daily 10-10; Adults \$9, Seniors \$8, Students \$7, Children 5 & under free; We have dealers featuring jewelry, beads, crystals, minerals, precious & semi-precious gemstones, geodes & much more. There are 108 display cases featuring gem & mineral and fossil collections of club member & guest collections. There are demonstrations of sphere making, rock grinding & polishing, and cutting of geodes and free polished rocks for the children.; contact Bert Grisham, (951)-849-1674

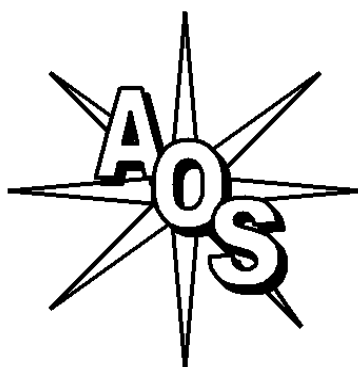
17-18—ANTIOCH, CALIFORNIA: Annual show; Antioch Lapidary Club, Contra Costa County Fairgrounds; 1201 West 10th Street; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; Adults/Seniors \$5, Students/Children under 12 free; Jewelry, Gems, Findings, Supplies, Auction, Grab bags, Exhibits and hands on projects for kids.; contact Brenda Miguel, 425 Fulton Shipyard Rd., Antioch, CA 94509-0009, (925)-301-6957; e-mail: brenda.miguel@yahoo.com; Web site: antiochlapidaryclub.com

23-25—COSTA MESA, CALIFORNIA: Wholesale and retail show; Gem Faire Inc, OC Fair & Event Center; 88 Fair Dr; Fri. 12-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; Admission \$7, Children free (ages 0-11); Fine jewelry, precious & semi-precious gemstones, millions of beads, crystals, gold & silver, minerals & much more at manufacturer's prices. Exhibitors from around the world. Jewelry repair, cleaning & ring sizing while you shop. Free hourly door prizes.; contact Yooy Nelson, (503)-252-8300; e-mail: info@gemfaire.com; Web site: <http://www.gemfaire.com>

24-25—VALLEJO, CALIFORNIA: Annual show; Vallejo Gem & Mineral Society, Solano County Fairgrounds, Mc Cormack Hall; 900 Fairgrounds Drive,, Mc Cormack Hall; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; Adults \$5, Children under 12 free; Vallejo Gem & Mineral Society Proudly Presents it's annual show "Spring Bling.". Artisan gem & mineral dealers from California, Oregon and Utah who sell jewelry, minerals, gems, fossils, crystals, jade, meteorites, turquoise, beads and rough rock and slabs. Demonstrations, free hourly drawings, silent auction, grab bags and wheel of fortune.; contact Dan Wolke, Benicia, CA 94510, (707)-334-2950; e-mail: dncwolke@sbcglobal.net; Web site: vjgems.org

AOS 2018 Calendar

Month	Date	Day of Week	Event	Meeting Location	Meeting Topic / Speaker
Jan	01/15/18	Monday	AOS Board Meeting	Garden Grove Masons Lodge	
Jan	01/24/18	Wednesday	AOS General Meeting	Garden Grove Masons Lodge	Opal Cutting Seminar
Feb	02/28/18	Wednesday	AOS General Meeting	Garden Grove Masons Lodge	<i>To Be Announced</i>
Mar	03/28/18	Wednesday	AOS General Meeting	Garden Grove Masons Lodge	<i>To Be Announced</i>
Apr	04/16/18	Monday	AOS Board Meeting	Garden Grove Masons Lodge	
Apr	04/25/18	Wednesday	AOS General Meeting	Garden Grove Masons Lodge	<i>To Be Announced</i>
May	05/23/18	Wednesday	AOS General Meeting	Garden Grove Masons Lodge	<i>To Be Announced</i>
Jun	06/18/18	Monday	AOS Board Meeting	Garden Grove Masons Lodge	
Jun	06/27/18	Wednesday	AOS General Meeting	Garden Grove Masons Lodge	Live Opal Auction
Jul	07/25/18	Wednesday	AOS General Meeting	Garden Grove Masons Lodge	<i>To Be Announced</i>
Aug	08/20/18	Monday	AOS Board Meeting	Garden Grove Masons Lodge	
Aug	08/22/18	Wednesday	AOS General Meeting	Garden Grove Masons Lodge	Opal Cutting Seminar
Sep	09/17/18	Monday	AOS Board Meeting	Garden Grove Masons Lodge	
Sep	09/26/18	Wednesday	AOS General Meeting	Garden Grove Masons Lodge	Opal & Gem Show Work Session
Oct	10/15/18	Monday	AOS Board Meeting	Garden Grove Masons Lodge	
Oct	10/24/18	Wednesday	AOS General Meeting	Garden Grove Masons Lodge	<i>To Be Announced</i>
Nov	11/03/18	Saturday	51th Annual Opal & Gem Show	Business Expo Center	51th Annual Opal & Gem Show
Nov	11/04/18	Sunday	51th Annual Opal & Gem Show	Business Expo Center	51th Annual Opal & Gem Show
Nov	11/19/18	Monday	AOS Board Meeting	Garden Grove Masons Lodge	
Nov	11/28/18	Wednesday	AOS General Meeting	Garden Grove Masons Lodge	Opal & Gem Show Recap / Possible Speaker
Dec	12/17/18	Monday	AOS General Meeting	Garden Grove Masons Lodge	AOS Christmas Party Potluck





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Jim Pisani

P.O. Box 4875

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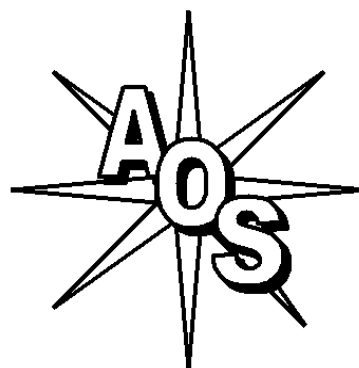
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6029 Orange Ave. Cypress, CA 90630

<http://home.earthlink.net/~custom-creative/>

custom-creative@earthlink.net

Tuesday-Saturday 10am-3pm. Appointments Also Available



American Opal Society Membership Application

FILL IN APPLICABLE INFORMATION		DUES / FEES)	AMOUNT PAID
DUES: SELECT ONE	RENEWING MEMBERS	\$35	
	NEW MEMBERS	\$45	
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)		\$15	
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:
American Opal Society; PO BOX 4875; Garden Grove, CA 92842-4875
 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.

NAME		
BUSINESS NAME		
ADDRESS		APT # or PO BOX
CITY		STATE
ZIP or POSTAL CODE		COUNTRY (IF OUTSIDE USA)
PHONE - Home ()	PHONE - Business ()	FAX ()
E-MAIL		
WEBSITE		
OCCUPATION	HOBBIES AND INTERESTS	

NAME BADGE ORDER FORM:

PLEASE PRINT NAME AS YOU WISH IT TO APPEAR ON YOUR BADGE using up to two (2) lines of text for your name, nickname, or name of your opal related business.

MEMBERSHIP ROSTER: The AOS publishes a membership directory once per year in its Newsletter, the *Opal Express*. Your name will be included. Please check what additional personal information that you want listed for other members. If it is different from the information above, please note that on the application.

☐ Address ☐ Phone ☐ E-mail ☐ Website

Please sign here: _____ Date _____

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 Editor-Jim Pisani
 Please address all inquiries and exchange newsletters to:
 The Opal Express C/O
 Jim Pisani
 P.O. Box 4875
 Garden Grove, CA 92842-4875
 E-mail: editor@opalsociety.org

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

American Opal Society
P.O. Box 4875
Garden Grove, CA 92842-4875

— GENERAL MEETINGS —

4th Wednesday of the Month
7:00 pm - 9:30 PM

Garden Grove Masonic Lodge

11270 Acacia Pkwy
Garden Grove, CA 92840

MEETING ACTIVITIES

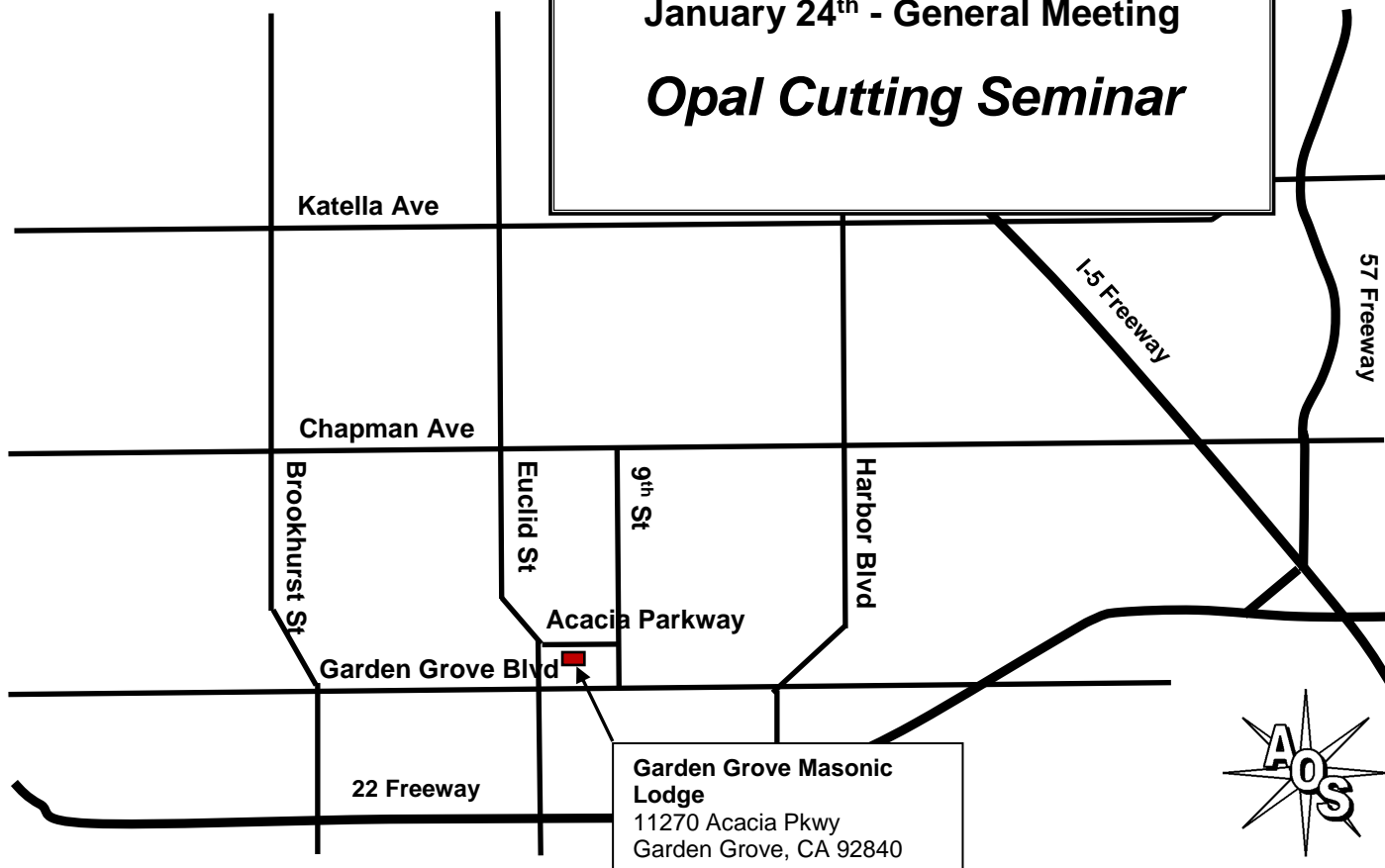
Opal Cutting, Advice, Guest Speakers,
Slide Shows, Videos, Other Activities

Volume #51 Issue #1 January 2018

TO:

January 24th - General Meeting

Opal Cutting Seminar



Garden Grove Masonic Lodge
11270 Acacia Pkwy
Garden Grove, CA 92840

Some Topics In This Issue:

- Jan. 24th - Opal Cutting Seminar
- Where to find Opals in Oregon?
- 'Precious' and 'Semi-Precious' Classifications Obsolete?
- Twenty Mule Team Road

The American Opal Society

Website: <http://OpalSociety.org>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/AmericanOpalSociety>

Pete Goetz
Russ Madsen
Jim Pisani
Veronica Purpura

President
Treasurer
Editor & Webmaster
Show Chairman

(714) 345-1449
(562) 884-2254
(714) 815-4638
(714) 501-9959

email: mpg1022@aol.com
email: chairman2rgm@verizon.net
email: editor@opalsociety.org
email: angeldragonoflight@yahoo.com