

The Opal Express

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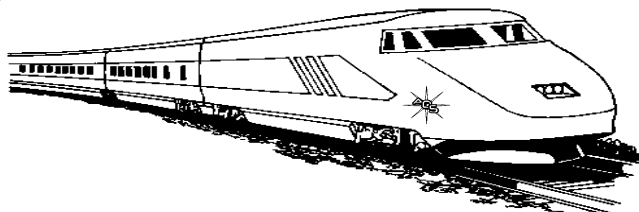


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President's Message

The Prez Sez...

!!! SHOW TIME !!! SHOW TIME !!! SHOW TIME !!!

SEPTEMBER MEETING TOPIC:

OPAL SHOW PREPARATION MEETING

Our meeting this month is Wednesday September 27th. This is our annual Opal Gem & Jewelry Show meeting. Please we need all hands on deck to help apply labels and postage stamps to 2,400 show postcards. This is our best source of show attendance and it takes a village (or a shop full of elves) (or a room full of opalholics) to make it happen. Please be part of the success of the show at this meeting. We have a great time visiting and putting together this very important feature of the show! See you there !!!

ANNUAL OPAL SHOW SUPPORT DRIVE

We are continuing our annual show support drive. Like last year, we are asking members to pitch in with donations toward making the 2017 Opal Show (our 50th annual Opal Show) a successful event! We need more help here. To date the fund is \$222.00. Our goal is \$1,350.00. Please dig deep.

Miss Anaheim Fall Festival and her court will be on hand to help us with the Opal Show again this year. These beautiful young ladies are a very charming and poised addition to the Opal Show. Our special thanks to Debbie Herman who is responsible for the Miss Anaheim Fall Festival program. It is Debbie's guidance and coaching which transforms these girls into the beautiful young ladies they are. We are developing plans for the girls to feature jewelry from show dealers. They also help with selling tickets at the front desk and with the show drawing on Sunday.

AUGUST MEETING REVIEW

We had opal lapidary units running and several people got to try their hand at addressing opal rough to the wheels with help and guidance from some of our experienced opal cutters. It's always gratifying when someone new to opal cutting gets that special sparkle in their eye as the color play emerges through the finer stages of sanding! See you at the September 27th meeting.

Cheers!

Pete Goetz President

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Upcoming November Opal and Gem Show

The American Opal Society's Annual Opal, Gem and Jewelry is quickly approaching.

We are once again having the show at the Business Expo Center during the first weekend of November (Nov 4th and 5th).

As of now, we are nearly full with dealers for the show, we have our food truck (Piaggio's Argentinian Cuisine). Along with amazing dealers in opals, gems, minerals jewelry we also have a variety of demonstrators, the Route 66 gold prospectors, North OC Gem and Mineral Society's geode cutters, SCC Gemology program and now J.I.M.A. (Jewelry Importers and Manufacturers Association).

The Miss Anaheim Fall Festival girls will be there as well to display many of vendor's fabulous jewelry, sell raffle tickets and welcome guests with their incredible smiles.



Russ, Veronica, and Pete with the Miss Anaheim Fall Festival Girls at the Anaheim Art Crawl.

Opal Society Assists Arts Council at Art Crawl

Pete Goetz, Russ Madsen, Stan McCall and Veronica Purpura along with Miss Anaheim Fall Festival girls worked the Arts Council booth at Anaheim Art Crawl Experience, Saturday August 19. Lots of families visited the booth with children digging for treasure in the treasure hunt bowl. They found dinosaurs, ancient Chinese coins, tumble-polished agates, dichroic glass marbles and many other surprises. Special thanks to Kathy James for her support obtaining the prizes, and for designing and making the treasure hunt bowl. Kathy had her own booth right next door to us.

Veronica shared about the Opal Show with booth visitors. Stan had a great display of cabs and finished jewelry that always wows the crowd. Russ chiseled and broke up opal-bearing rocks demonstrating 'opal mining' first hand. One person took pictures and made a cell phone video then asked Russ, "What do you call this activity you are doing?" Russ blurted out his own term for it, "It's called PONKING!" The person quizzically keyed her cell and asked how to spell it. At that point Russ realized she might be writing an article for media and corrected his description. "Call it 'extracting opal from host rock'." Oh, that was much better. Ponking? Really?

We had quite a few people express strong interest in our club and the Opal Show. And we handed out about 100 bags of "treasure" to the kids!

Evening musical entertainment was a Glenn Miller big band which played several sets throughout the event.

Pete did a great job of hawking the crowd and handing out information fliers for the Arts Council and the Opal Show.

Finally, the Miss Anaheim Fall Festival girls also displayed a very nice quilt created by Reon Boydston-Howard of the Arts Council and they sold quite a few tickets for their fund raiser.

Opal Ponking

By Russ Madsen

Ponking: (def) the act of breaking open an opal bearing host rock with hammer and chisel or snips to extract the opal.

The subject of ponking an opal rock came up last weekend at the Art Crawl. Here's a great example of good ponking results!

Yesterday (Sunday afternoon), I got out one of the rocks in the box that did not get ponked at the Saturday event. (I dug these rocks in the 1990's and saved them for breaking open later.)

A good look at this particular chunk of basalt revealed two opals showing a little play of color and another small reddish one. One chisel effort and the rock split in half through the middle right next to the small reddish one.

When the two halves were separated the first thing I saw was the size of the empty half of the vug. I looked at the other half and voila, a very good size opal appeared!!

Sweet!!!



1. Opal bearing volcanic basalt host rock - from northern Nevada - digging at the Royal Rainbow opal mine north of the Black Rock Desert.



2. Close up showing opal on surface of rock. Crack is visible where rock was ponked (chiseled) in half.



3. Here the host rock is ponked open. Take a look at the size of the hollow half of the opal vug beneath the surface on one side of the chiseled host rock!!



4. This is the other side of the same host rock showing the entire vug was filled (yeah!) with a large opal beneath the surface.



5. Opal is still in the host rock. See any color play there? Not yet . . . to be continued.

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Tiffany Opal Necklace



Photo by Chip Clark

Catalog Number NMNH G5120-00

Locality New South Wales, Australia

Gift of Mrs F. R. Downs Jr. and Mrs R. O. Abbott Jr. in 1974 in memory of . This object was designed by Louis C. Tiffany.

This necklace was designed by Louis Comfort Tiffany and features black opals accented with brilliant green demantoid garnets. The black opals are from Lightning Ridge, Australia and have a beautiful blue-green play-of-color. The rare demantoid garnets are from Russia. The 18k yellow gold necklace is 30" in length and has a grape leaf motif echoing the design of the pendant. This naturalistic design of leaves and vines and the decorative style of the pendant is a wonderful example of Art Nouveau and Arts and Crafts jewelry that was being made in the early 20th century. Louis Comfort Tiffany was considered one of the most important decorative artists working during this time; he was known for his innovative glass, enamels and decorative materials and created windows, glassware, lamps, metalwork, furniture, ceramics and textiles. He did not design and make jewelry until 1902 at the age of 54, after the death of his father Charles Lewis Tiffany, founder of one of this country's most successful jewelry, silver and luxury goods stores. In 1907 he became artistic director and his distinctive "Tiffany Art Jewelry" being manufactured at Tiffany Furnaces was transferred to Tiffany & Co. and produced there until the department closed in 1933. Tiffany used

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opals extensively in his jewelry and was influenced and assisted by George Frederick Kunz, the gem expert at Tiffany & Company who traveled the world in search of unusual gems and semi-precious stones for the company's designers. This pendant necklace was donated to the Smithsonian in 1974 along with a sales receipt from Tiffany's, dated Dec. 31, 1929.

From <http://geogallery.si.edu/index.php/10002702/tiffany-opal-necklace>

Opal Mining: A Damn Good Way to Get Yourself Killed

By Keith Veronese



Opal-mining is one of the world's most harrowing pursuits, but potentially one of the most rewarding as well. To find opals, a modern treasure hunter must dig random holes in areas of known deposits, and then lowering him- or herself down a 20 meter shaft. Besides the obvious problem of claustrophobia, and the danger of plummeting down a deep, narrow hole, opal mining holds some other horrors. But for some adventure seekers, the danger and terror are still worth it.

Opal and the Australian Outback

Opal is often found in a raw, white form. A small, valuable percentage of opal, however, contains segments with refractive properties, allowing the surface of the stone to alter the angle of observed light and give off a red, blue, yellow or green hue.

Refraction adds tremendous eye appeal, and increases the value of this silica-based rock on the secondary market as jewelry, leading to a burgeoning opal mining industry.

The earth beneath Australia provides nearly 100% of the world's opal supply. Most of the Australian supply is found around the town of Coober Pedy, home to just roughly 1700 people, most of whom make their living and risk their lives conducting opal mining activities. Miners found the multimillion dollar Olympic Australis Opal, a three and a half kilogram opal with refractive properties, at Coober Pedy six decades ago in a shaft ten meters below the surface.

Over 200,000 of these mine shafts litter the area around the town of Coober Pedy, with additional shafts waiting to catch passerby across the Australian Outback. These evils of the Australian Outback, ideally, are supposed to be filled in or covered with sheet metal after mining operations cease — but many remain open to the air, endangering people and animals as they pass over the terrain.

Digging for treasure

Opal mining is conducted blindly — a miner may know the general location of an opal deposit (like the area around Coober Pedy), but there are no advanced techniques for narrowing down the location, since the opals are hidden within similarly structured but worthless rock.

A simple, hand-held black light will help point out opals with refractive properties, but these surfaces still need to be exposed by digging.

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The majority of opal miners are self-employed, operating as a small business and renting or purchasing equipment as needed. Miners often prepare and sell the opal they find, eliminating a middle man in the jewelry trade and allowing the miners to maximize the amount of money of they can make.

The good news? You don't need much start-up money, thanks to the prevalence of previously dug shafts in the Outback. These existing shafts are left over from industrial mining operations, and opal hunters use them as a starting point, with these independent miners burrowing tunnels through the bottom of the existing shaft. Entering an old shaft is dangerous even with protective equipment, since these shafts can be flooded or have an insufficient oxygen supply.

Creating tunnels using homemade explosives

Once you're down an existing mining shaft, how do you create tunnels to get around? Using explosives (often homemade or mixed by the miners), plus equipment that vacuums dirt and debris up as the miners bore the tunnel. Opals can be found at any time in the process, but most opal is retrieved by sifting through the rock and debris created while making the tunnels.

Combining homemade explosives with 20 meter deep shafts sounds is a crazy idea, but we are talking about some pretty tough men and women here. As tunnels are extended, miners further expose themselves to dangers from sudden cave-ins.

Opal seekers often work on their own, leaving them without a safety or communication fail-safe if a life-threatening accident does occur. The financial reward and thrill-seeking nature of opal mining is enough to bring people back down the holes, with poor and new miners often using a series of ladders or winches precariously attached to the front of their trucks to lower them down to the hunting grounds.

Searching for opal is not just carried out for profit, but it is also a recreational activity in some parts of the Outback. Vacationers often "fossick" through small holes or leftover mounds of extracted dirt already sifted through by experienced miners.

But what happens when the Outback runs out of opals, or is closed off to mining in the future? In that case, civilization could turn to Mars to feed all its opal gemstone needs.

From <http://io9.gizmodo.com/5976051/opal-mining-a-damn-good-way-to-get-yourself-killed>

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Our President of the AOS just came back from the Slovakian Opal Mines – we can't wait to hear about and see his photos – The Editor.

Slovakian Opal Information

A lot of the largest and oldest of the opal deposits that have come from Europe during the Roman era were actually from Slovakia. If you are not familiar with the Slovakian opals, you will be interested to know that these gems are actually known by a more popular name: Hungarian opals. This is because at one time, Slovakia was a part of the Hungarian empire. These opals are easily distinguishable by their white color with flashes of blue and orange within the gemstone. Up until mining of opals began in Australia, Slovakian opals were the most common type of opal on the market. One of the most famous of these stones is an opal known as the "Trojan Fire", which is an [opal that Napoleon gave his Empress Josephine](#). This specific gem had a big and brilliant red flash of red fire across the face of it and it was also the first opal to have received its own unique name. His family was quite fond of this specific type of opal.

Famous Slovakian Opal Mines

The Dubnik opal mine is easily the most famous of the opal mines. Today, you can actually scuba dive into this very famous mine. While the main cave portion of this mine is not underwater, there are some locations within this mine that have a maximum depth of around 67

meters though this does depend on the water level at the time you go on this adventure. This is a very popular tourist attraction to those who decide to visit this country, especially in the eastern region of this country.



These mines were particularly notable mines between the years 1845 and 1880. During this peak time, the mines were taken over by the Goldschmidt family. These mines ended up getting closed down not long after the discovery of the more famous Australian opals. The largest of these gems is the Harlequin opal. This specific gem was discovered in 1775 and was 2,970 carats and 13 cm long. You can currently see this gem on display at the Museum of Natural History in Vienna. This gem is estimated to be worth around \$500,000 USD.

Opals In The Roman Empire

There is not a whole lot of information on the Slovakian opal during the period of the Roman Empire though there is a lot of evidence that they did know about this gorgeous gemstone. More likely than not, these opals that were popular during the Roman Empire came from Slovakia as these are countries that are within close proximity of each other at the peak of the Empire.



If you take one look at these Slovakian opals, you will immediately notice just how striking these gemstones are. These are truly remarkable looking stones that make some stunning jewelry that you or your loved one will instantly adore. Any piece with the Slovakian opal is going to look unique and stunning, unlike anything you have ever seen before. In fact if you want a truly unique idea for jewelry, this opal is the gemstone you need to turn to.

From <https://www.opalauctions.com/learn/a-z-of-opals/slovakian-opal-information>

The Largest and Most Significant Black Crystal Ever Found



A mammoth 568 carats "The Eternal Flame" is the largest and most significant black crystal ever found. What makes it even rarer is its origin. The volcanic soils of coastal New South Wales, Australia are replete with bands of obsidian and quartz but only small finds of volcanic opal – nothing like the great inland fields of Lightning Ridge, Coober Pedy and Queensland.

Full of fire and wonder it glows like a prehistoric magic flame and harks back to a time when the earth was undergoing massive geological upheaval. The colour is unflinching and majestic, daring you to find an inferior angle. It holds a power that is bewitching.

The volcanic region of eastern Australia created the most unusual of all Australian opals. Tintenbar crystal is volcanic and ethereal. The opal fire is soft and gem edges are water worn, indicating an alluvial nature. The pieces found are usually small under 10 carats. They are collector's oddities for the most part.

By contrast "The Eternal Flame" is so named for the fire which burns bright within. A large piece of black crystal opal it rivals the best of any found on the fields of Lightning Ridge. Stored dry in a vault, forgotten for over 40 years, the opal remains in pristine condition with no water wear. Opal experts including us have never seen anything like it and could not conceive of such an opal existing.

The above story is based on materials provided by Black Opal Direct.

Read more at <http://www.geologyin.com/2017/08/the-largest-and-most-significant-black.html#IX0V3UoZASiejUyi.99>

California Woman Went Looking for Gold, She Found Diamond Instead

A California woman says she found a 1½ carat diamond while mining gold near the Sierra Nevada foothills town of Foresthill.

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The American Opal Society

"I was like 'Oh, my god, I found a diamond,' " said Jillian Kelly.

Kelly, 49, left her Silicon Valley career to take up mining 10 years ago and wrote 'The Miracle Miner: My Life as a Female Gold Miner.' The uncut semi-clear pebble-sized stone is about width of a dainty pinky finger.

While relatively rare, "as many as 600" diamonds have been found in California since the 1849 discovery of gold triggered the California Gold Rush, according to the California Geological Survey. Few are of gemstone quality.

Fearing their dig site will be overrun with unwanted guests, Kelly and her mining partner asked The Bee not to disclose the exact location of the find. Kelly has yet to have the stone officially tested or appraised since finding it earlier in August. A commercially available tester – which are generally deemed reliable – indicated the rock was in fact a diamond. The value of any raw diamond is hard to determine before it's cut.



"It does happen around here," said Heather Willis, manager of Pioneer Mining in Auburn. "You can find them. Most of them around here are not jewelry quality."

Because found diamonds don't closely resemble the shiny rock on wedding bands, many could be tossed by casual miners, said Don Drysdale, a spokesman for the California Department of Conservation.

"Diamonds found in nature aren't necessarily recognizable as diamonds to most folks, so who knows how many have been tossed aside by recreational gold-seekers over the years?" Drysdale said.

Historically, most diamonds found in California are small. The 1983 printing of "Minerals of California" put the largest diamonds found in the Golden State at 2 carats, but there have been some massive diamonds found in Trinity County. During the 1980s, a retired geologist and miner found three diamonds of record-breaking size, the largest a whopping 33 carats. It was however, industrial grade quality and greenish-brown in color.

The Minerals of California book, still an authority on the subject, noted that 40 to 50 diamonds were recovered from the gravels around Forest Hill, in 1867. Oroville and Placerville are two better areas in Northern California to find diamonds, said California Geological Survey officials. But, they added, "it wouldn't be out of the question to find one in Foresthill."

Kelly and her mining partner have been working their federally approved mine for about seven years. Several miles outside of Forest Hill, the site once had been mined with hydraulic dredging, before the practice was made illegal in 1884 because of environment damage. Since then, the site has been picked over by various mining outfits. Here an ancient river flowed south to north millions of years ago, before tectonic forces created the Sierra Nevada range.

Their mining process involved digging out and processing the cement-like block of rocks at the bottom of this ancient river. Power tools help her free the rocks, which are then put in a cement mixer for several

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hours to break the material into small bits. Those bits travel down a sluice box.

"I saw this clear stone shining back at me, and I looked and I held it in the light, and it was glowing at me, and I was like 'Wow, I think I just found a diamond,'" Kelly said. The run also produced two-thirds of an ounce of gold. Gold is trading at \$1,281 an ounce.



Read more at <http://www.geologyin.com/2017/08/california-women-went-looking-for-gold.html#OloaHGhHdKr8HFvE.99>

Exceptional Opal Found at Bonanza Mine

By Gary McCutchen, August 2017

From the Shareholder Update

BONANZA OPAL MINES, INC.®

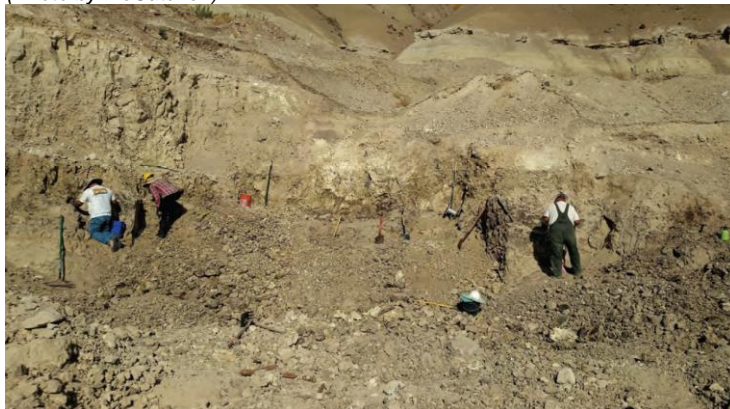
August has been quite a month at the Bonanza. Dan Norstrud had to leave August 7, but left the mine and its equipment in better shape than it has been in quite some time. We have one of the D-8s, the excavator, and the Michigan loader working and being used. At this time, bank is available for digging on part of NW1 and NW2 and several areas of NW4. The road to the Alligator is completed and even 2-wheel drive vehicles can navigate it; bank is available for digging at the MiniAlligator. There are also some places open in the valley and at the Point (across the road from NW1). The big news, however, is from NW4: on August 19, Lana Sargenti exposed what looked like just another piece of powdery dry wood. As more clay was chipped away, the wood grew in size and got harder. Then, a layer of opal on the bottom was exposed, in places over an inch thick. The piece began to resemble a piece of wood sitting in a dish (shaped a bit like a tortoise shell) of opal. Lana finished uncovering the piece on August 20 as several of us (Bill Wilson, Kadek Mangold, and Gary McCutchen) gathered around. When she slid the specimen out, there were a few pieces of opal left in the bank. Two of the black opal pieces, from the bottom, showed beautiful multi-fire! The specimen was wrapped in a blanket and carefully carried down to the vehicles by Bill, Kadek and Gary. Later, Andy Mangold weighed the specimen in at 112 pounds. The length is 36 inches and the circumference is 41 inches. Approximately 20% is conk and approximately 50% is opal glass with the underbelly having fire.

On August 26, the specimen was evaluated. In accordance with the rules, two Board members agreed that the specimen was exceptional, requiring three qualified shareholders to arrive at a consensus on the value, a process that took two hours. Lana purchased the mine's half and named the opal "Miocene Mother Ship". We are aware of only four other opals from the Bonanza that have been declared exceptional: the Bonanza opal, discovered by Keith Hodson, and three discovered by shareholders (Irene's Delight, Mike's Mossback, and Bonnie's Beacon). If you are aware of any others and/or have photos or descriptions of any of Bonanza's exceptional opals, please share that information with the editor for a future article on these treasures. According to the evaluators, the Mother Ship has about a

6 inch section of conk with fire and the fire opal near the end extends some unknown distance into the opal "shell". Even better, NW4 continues to produce good specimens of opal and wood with opal. Only two days after Lana's find, Gary exposed a log (dubbed the telephone pole) that went straight into the bank. The first 3 feet were exposed and at a break were pulled out: just wood except on the very end. That, however, justified continuing to expose the log, which went in another 2 feet. The end of this piece was a massive layer of opal, some of which shows fire. The log was only a few feet from Lana's find. Since then, other diggers have found nice pieces all along that part of NW4. Ray Wood, our President, had predicted last year that NW4 would get better as we dug further into the bank; it appears that his prediction was accurate.



Lana Sargenti and the Mother Ship just as it was fully exposed in the bank. (Photo by McCutchen)



Ray Wood, Lana Sargenti, and Bill Wilson digging on NW4. Lana is to the left of where the Mother Ship was found; Gary's log was found about 4 feet to her right.



Close-up of two black fire opal pieces from the Mother Ship. Photo by Mikayla Sargenti.



Bill Wilson holds 112 pound Mother Ship.



Gary McCutchen with log.

Gem & Mineral Shows

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

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23-24—MONTEREY, CALIFORNIA: Annual show; Carmel Valley Gem & Mineral Society, Monterey County Fairgrounds; 2004 Fairgrounds Road; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; Admission \$4, Children free with adult; This is a family event with plenty of great activities for the kids. ; contact Janis Rovetti, 1047 Roosevelt Street, Monterey, CA 93940, (831)-372-1311; e-mail: janis12@sbcglobal.net; Web site: www.cvgms.rocks

29-1—SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA: Wholesale and retail show; Gem Faire Inc, Scottish Rite Center; 1895 Camino del Rio S; Fri. 12-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; Admission \$7, Children free (ages 0-11); Exhibitors from all over the world will be on site. Jewelry repair & ring sizing while you shop; contact Allen Van, (503)-252-8300; e-mail: info@gemfaire.com; Web site: http://www.gemfaire.com

4-8—JOSHUA TREE, CALIFORNIA: Annual show; Sportsman's Club of Joshua Tree, Sportsman's Club; 6225 Sunburst Street; Wed. 12-6, Thu. 9-6, Fri. 9-6, Sat. 9-6; Free Admission; Our location is only 30 miles North of Palm Springs and right next to the world famous Joshua Tree National Park.; contact Wayne Hamilton, 6225 Sunburst Street, Joshua Tree, CA 92252, (760)-366-2915; e-mail: jtsportsmans@gmail.com; Web site: jtsportsmansclub.com

6-8—SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA: Wholesale and retail show; Gem Faire Inc, Scottish Rite Center; 6151 H St; Fri. 12-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; Admission \$7, Children free (ages 0-11); contact Allen Van, (503)-252-8300; e-mail: info@gemfaire.com; Web site: http://www.gemfaire.com

7-8—GRASS VALLEY, CALIFORNIA: Annual show; Nevada County Gem & Mineral Society, Nevada County Fairgrounds; McCourtney Road, 95945-5607; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; Adults/Seniors \$2, Students free with I.D., Children 12 and Under free; contact Anita Wald-Tuttle, 6 Rockwood Drive, Grass Valley, CA 95945-5607, (530)-277-6195; e-mail: anitaw1t3@gmail.com; Web site: http://www.ncgms.org

7-8—WALNUT CREEK, CALIFORNIA: Show and sale; Pacific Crystal Guild, Civic Park Community Center; 1375 Civic Drive; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-4; Admission \$12, Children free; contact Jerry Tomlinson, PO Box 1371, Sausalito, CA 94966, (415)-383-7837; e-mail: jerry@crystalfair.com; Web site: www.crystalfair.com

7-8—VISTA, CALIFORNIA: Annual show; Vista Gem and Mineral Society, Antique Gas & Steam Engine Museum; 2040 N. Santa Fe; Sat. 10-4, Sun. 10-4; Free Admission; Rocks, gems, minerals, slabs and jewelry items! Great place to shop for gifts for the Holidays!; contact Kelly Hickman, 2040 N. Santa Fe, Vista, CA 92083; e-mail: vistarocksgms@gmail.com; Web site: VistaRocks.org

13-15—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, crystals, gems, beads, gold & silver, minerals & much more at manufacturer's prices. Exhibitors from all over the world will be on site. Jewelry repair & ring sizing while you shop; contact Allen Van, (503)-252-8300; e-mail: info@gemfaire.com; Web site: http://www.gemfaire.com

14-15—ANDERSON, CALIFORNIA: Annual show; Shasta Gem & Mineral Society, Shasta District Fairgrounds; Briggs Street; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4; Free Admission; contact Steve Puderbaugh, (530)-604-2951; Web site: shastagemandmineral.com

AOS Calendar - 2017

Date	Day	Event	Meeting Location	Meeting Topic / Speaker
09/18/17	Monday	AOS Board Meeting	Garden Grove Masons Lodge	
09/27/17	Wednesday	AOS General Meeting	Garden Grove Masons Lodge	Opal & Gem Show Work Session
10/16/17	Monday	AOS Board Meeting	Garden Grove Masons Lodge	
10/25/17	Wednesday	AOS General Meeting	Garden Grove Masons Lodge	Leslie Neff & Larry Hoskinson on Australian Opal Adventures
11/04/17	Saturday	50th Annual Opal & Gem Show	Business Expo Center	50th Annual Opal & Gem Show
11/05/17	Sunday	50th Annual Opal & Gem Show	Business Expo Center	50th Annual Opal & Gem Show
11/20/17	Monday	AOS Board Meeting	Garden Grove Masons Lodge	
11/22/17	Saturday	AOS General Meeting	Garden Grove Masons Lodge	Opal & Gem Show Recap / Possible Speaker
12/27/17	Wednesday	AOS General Meeting	Garden Grove Masons Lodge	AOS Christmas Party Potluck



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Custom Creative Gem Cutting

Stan M. McCall

Lapidary and Jewelry Artist

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Gemstone Cutting & Repolishing

Diamonds, Opals, Colored Stones

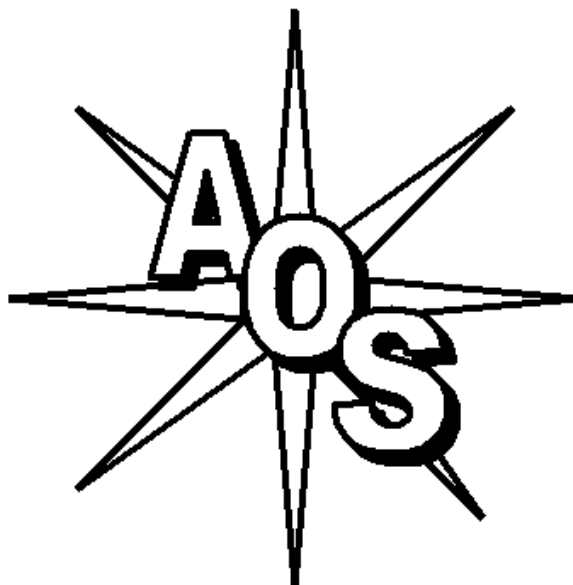
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custom-creative@earthlink.net

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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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 #50 Issue #9

September 2017

TO:

September 27th Meeting

Opal Show Working Meeting
September's meeting will be an Opal, Gem & Jewelry Show working meeting.



Some Topics In This Issue:

- AOS Assists Arts Council at Art Crawl
- Opal Ponking
- Tiffany Opal Necklace
- Opal Mining: A Good Way to Get Killed
- Slovakian Opal Information
- The Largest and Black Crystal Ever Found
- Californian Went for Gold, Found Diamond
- Exceptional Opal Found at Bonanza Mine

The American Opal Society

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