

The Opal Express
 American Opal Society
 P.O. Box 382
 Anaheim, CA 92815-0382



Member

Member



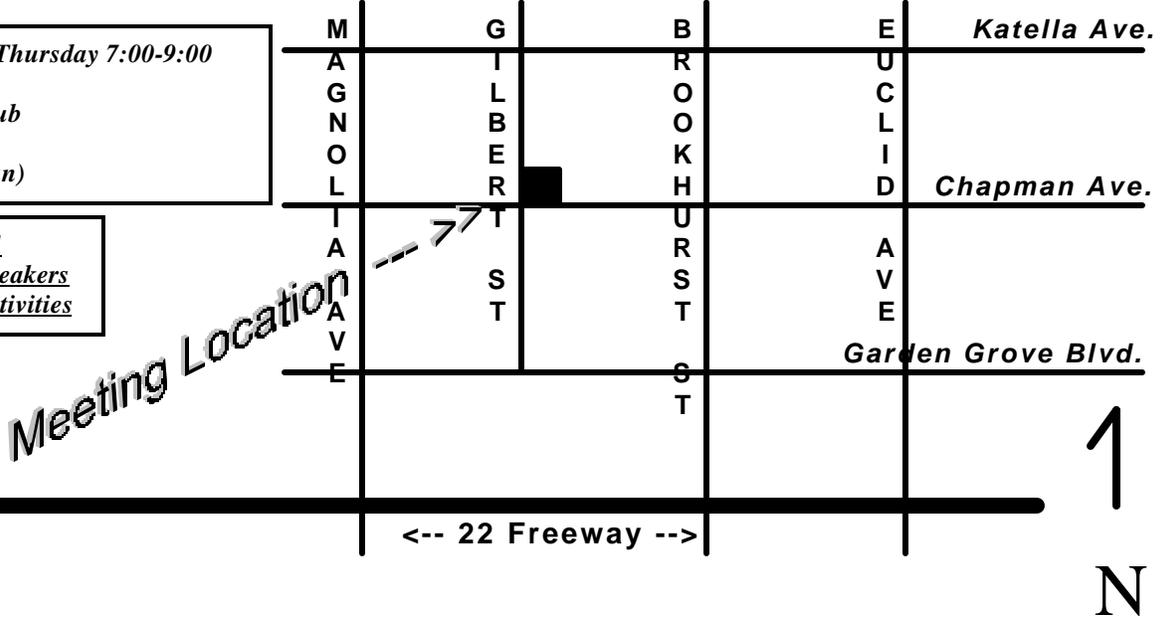
Volume #30 Issue #1 January 1998

**GENERAL MEETING THURSDAY
 JANUARY 8TH 7 PM**

TO:

GENERAL MEETINGS — 2nd Thursday 7:00-9:00 PM
 Garden Grove Civic Women's Club
 9501 Chapman Ave.
 (NE corner of Gilbert & Chapman)

MEETING ACTIVITIES
Opal Cutting Advice Guest Speakers
Slide Shows Videos Other Activities



HAPPY NEW YEAR



American Opal Society Officers

Wes Roth	President	(714) 897-2984	email wesroth@earthlink.net
Carol Bova	Vice Pres.	(818) 845-8610	email bova@gekoplex.com
Mike Kowalsky	Treasurer	(714) 761-4876	email mykowalsky@aol.com
Pete Goetz	Secretary	(714) 666-2084	

Welcome to 1998 Opalholics!!

DUES POLICY REVISED - effective 1/1/98

JANUARY MEETING: We're going to start the year off with David Burton speaking on Yowah opal. Let's have a big turnout and start the year off with a Bang!!

THE HAYRICKS boulder opal mine has reopened!! Barbara Thomas (House of Tibara) shares the exciting news, story pg 2.

WORKSHOP NEWS: See report from Shop Foreman Stan McCall on pg 5.

1997 OPAL SYMPOSIUM REPORTS CONTINUE:

First installment: Joan Skinner on Opal Identification pg 4.
Second installment: Tim Thomas on Opal Cutting Strategies pg 3.

COMING IN FEBRUARY: More Opal Symposium reports. Opal Doublet and Opal Triplet article from Lapidary Digest.

THE OPAL EXPRESS needs your input. Anyone who has an article or item to share, please send them

Henceforth, memberships will begin in the month a person joins the Opal Society. This will greatly simplify the fee structure and (it is hoped) reduce questions and errors in dues payments.

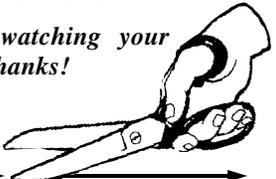
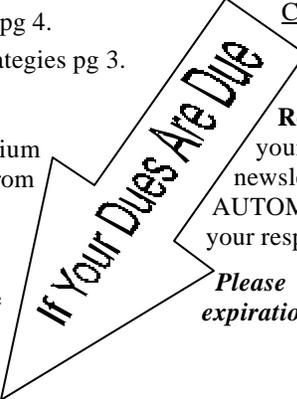
Three (3) Dues Rates are for families and are now based on your county of residence. **Local area** = Rate #1 (\$26); members reside in Los Angeles, Orange, or Riverside counties. **California & USA** = Rate #2 (\$20); addresses other than local counties. **Foreign** = Rate #3 (\$30); all memberships outside USA.

Label Changes: Your address label now displays your dues expiration date as MM-YY where MM is the month and YY is the year your dues expire. Expiration dates also appear in the membership roster.

Are Your Dues Due Now? Presently, everyone is either due now (01-98), or paid up for the coming year (01-99)... again **PLEASE CHECK YOUR ADDRESS LABEL** or the membership roster if you are listed there. **If you see 01-98 your dues are DUE NOW.**

Renewal Grace Period of two months will be provided. If your dues are due now you will receive the Feb and March newsletters but if your renewal is not received you will be **AUTOMATICALLY** dropped from membership thereafter. It is your responsibility to make sure your dues are current.

Please help us make this work by watching your expiration date and renewing promptly. Thanks!



DUES RENEWAL FORM

(membership renewal form rev. 1/1/98)



**American Opal Society,
Inc.
P.O. Box 382**

**Thank you for continuing to support
your American Opal Society!!**

**Make check or money order payable to:
American Opal Society, Inc.**

**Please mail payment and renewal form
to the club address at left.**

DUES RENEWAL RATES (select one)	
**	
1) LOCAL AREA member	\$26.00
(addresses in Los Angeles, Orange, & Riverside counties)	
2) CALIFORNIA & USA	\$20.00
(all addresses outside local area counties)	
3) FOREIGN	\$30.00
(all addresses outside USA)	
** \$5 SENIOR DISCOUNT = Age 65 or	

DEALER LIST: Yes, include my name/address on a list provided to Opal Dealers selling at the most recent Opal Show.

(if yes, please sign or initial here) _____ date _____

← without your signature here you will

MEMBERSHIP ROSTER: Yes, include my name and/or address and/or phone information in a published AOS membership directory...

[Please circle any of these → NAME / ADDRESS / PHONE if you prefer a partial listing.]

(if yes please sign or initial here) _____ date _____

← without your signature here you will

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____ APT #: or PO BOX: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

COUNTRY (IF OUTSIDE U.S.) _____

TELEPHONE: Home (____) _____ : Business (____) _____

FAX (____) _____

**NAME BADGE ORDER FORM:
(OPTIONAL)**

Number of badges ordered _____
(\$5.00 EACH - includes engraving)

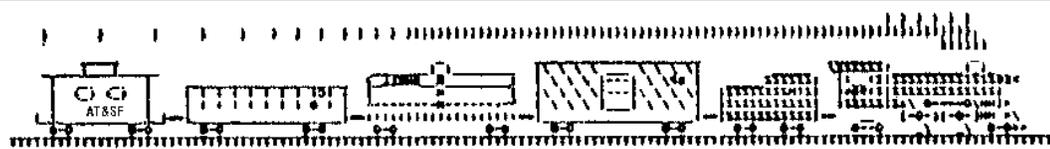
**PLEASE PRINT NAME AS YOU
WISH IT TO APPEAR ON YOUR
BADGE using up to two (2) lines
of text for your name, nickname or
name of your opal related**

Indicate above any name or mailing address changes

The OPAL EXPRESS

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Issue 1

President's Message

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL **from Wes Roth**

Hope the holidays were glorious to everyone.

We're starting the year off with a lecture on opal (surprise).

David Burton, of Lapidary International, will be presenting us with a lecture on Yowah Opal, using his vast knowledge and experience. This should prove to be interesting and informative.

On behalf of our Treasurer, Mike Kowalsky, a reminder that 1998 Membership Dues are now due.

Hope to see you all for the start of a really great year.

Wes Roth
President

For the computer challenged:
Hard Drive: Trying to climb a steep muddy hill with three flat tires, pulling a trailer filled with "gotta have" gemstone rough materials.

OPAL EXPRESS GETS NEW LOOK

Is it time to move into the 1990's? (ulp)

Yes Martha, believe it or not, I *can* use 'real' publication software. Beginning with this issue the Opal Express will be prepared using Microsoft Publisher 97. Took me long enough but I finally found a "frame based" publishing product that's intuitive, full featured, but simple to use. I installed this application 4 days ago and with a few hours practice was up and running. Taa daa... -rgm

The Hayricks re-opens

by Barbara

NEW!! BOULDER OPAL

LEN CRAM SAYS, "HAYRICKS--THE GREATEST BOULDER OPAL MINE OF ALL TIME"

THE HAYRICKS MINE RETURNS TO PRODUCTION

The magnificent Mt. Canaway area is in the Mesa Chain that reaches northward from the Queensland border for about 500 miles. This region is known as the Queensland Opal Belt. It is hot, arid land. Mt. Canaway is located in open terrain along with two smaller hills that look like haystacks (hayricks), therefore the name HAYRICKS for the mine.

In 1929, Joe Knehr and his mate Bill Colman were prospecting around Mt. Canaway. Most prospectors of that era stayed in the flat lands and did not believe opal could be found on a mountain such as Mt. Canaway. Knehr

(Continued on Page 3)



AOS INFORMATION & VOICE MAIL (714) 502-1333

DATES TO REMEMBER

General Meeting
Thurs Jan 8th 7PM
—David Burton on
Yowah Opal—

Director's Meeting
Mon Jan 4th 7PM

1998 Opal & Gem
Show
Nov. 7 - 8

WorkShop Information...

The Opal Society workshop is located in a light industrial complex in Fullerton. The address is Unit #9, 651 N. State College Blvd.

Directions: exit the 91 Fwy onto State College Blvd. and go north. Proceed through the intersection of Orangethorpe continuing a short distance further on State College. Go over the railroad tracks and turn left into the complex on the west side of the street. If you go over the second RR crossing turn around. Proceed behind the front row of businesses and make your first right. Then follow the road around to the left. The workshop has a large "9" over the door.

Only AOS members may use the equipment and workshop. You will be required to sign a release form as well.

Workshop Schedule Page 5

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The Hayricks re-opens

(Continued from page 2)

took a different view. He was determined to trace the float opal back to the source on the mountain. Len Cram tells the story how Knehr got Coleman to agree to one more hole on the side of the mountain after having no luck. Joe chose the place, they both dug in the hottest most primitive and difficult conditions one can imagine. Bill tried to get Knehr to give up but Joe persisted. After working hard one day Joe climbed from the shaft feeling defeated. He walked away from the shaft, randomly striking rocks and protrusions. Thirty plus yards away he struck an outcropping of sandstone and it fell away with beautiful color. In telling Len Cram about this in 1954, "Joe could not find words to describe the brilliance of the opal that lay in his trembling hands, being of a quality he never dreamt existed. He was so shaken by the sudden change in his fortune that he couldn't even dig into the soft sandstone to retrieve the boulder, but spent the rest of the afternoon on his bunk relaxing in the shade of the bower shed, unable to put the beautiful specimen down." (1)

This discovery resulted in the working of the world's richest boulder opal mine.

Just before the great depression was not a time to make such a fantastic discovery. Instead of making the miners rich beyond their dreams they scrambled to find buyers for their magnificent black opal radiant with brilliant colors of the spectrum.

The mine has had an interesting history that swung fortunes high and low. A Brisbane dealer paid \$18 for the first parcel of thirteen stones. Money in the depression years was spent on food and shelter with little discretionary money available for beautiful opals. A Sydney jeweler offered \$50 for a kerosene case full of opal to be delivered from the mine, a distance of over 800 miles.

After Bill Colman's death, Knehr left the mine in 1936. He worked in Sydney and when the war broke out spent six years in the army. In 1948 he returned to the mine at a time when opal was booming. The mine ceased production around 1964-65. Knehr died in the late 1960's. When the production ceased there was about a mile of tunnels and related diggings, testifying to the scope of the mine.

Tibara's associate and miner/owner has purchased the HAYRICKS mine and production is in progress. Opal by Tibara has entered into an agreement where Tibara will exclusively handle HAYRICKS MINE BOULDER OPAL. The rough material consists of specimens priced \$9.00 to \$500.00, faced pieces for jewelry \$4.50 to \$1,500.00, sculpted pieces \$30.00 to \$1,000.

Boulder opal rough is also available by the pound and by the barrel.

See large quantities of boulder and a very large cutter/specimen at both locations listed below.

OPAL by TIBARA are exclusive distributors for the Hayricks boulder opal mine.

See us at Tucson, GL & W

HOLIDAY INN HOLIDOME SPACE #138

CONGRESS STREET EXPO SPACE #61.

Or contact us: P. O. Box 1717 - GL98 Clovis CA 93613-1717

voice 209 299 5123 email opalinfo@opal-tibara.com

fax 209 299 9456 web www.opal-tibara.com

Tim and Barbara Thomas still have an extensive stock of all grades of non-boulder opal from throughout Australia.

1. Cram, Len: Beautiful Queensland Opal, Robert Brown and Associates (Qld) Pty Ltd.,1991.

2. HAYRICKS MINE, Owner/Mines/excerpt

Name Badges...

Price per badge is \$5 which includes the badge itself and engraving of up to two lines of text: one line for your first and last name and, if you wish, a second line for nickname or if applicable, your opal related business name. These engraving options give members flexibility to include many types of identification. Please allow 3 to 4 weeks for completion of engraving.

Cutting Challenges (part 2)... by Russ Madsen (A 1997 Opal Symposium Presentation by Tim Thomas of House of Tibara)

In Part 1 we learned that opal cutting decisions begin with buying decisions. Here we continue this concept as Tim Thomas, through his presentation, explained his notions of pricing and provided a number of additional reasons, hints, and tips about why smart cutting begins with smart buying.

Tim noted that he buys from opal miners. This directly affects the "sell" price he reaches as there are no middle men. More importantly, he noted that the word "retail" has no meaning for him as an opal dealer. He stressed to the listeners that "nothing is EVER worth one penny more than what somebody is willing to pay for it." Therefore, opal valuation at most is a yardstick serving mainly to help a buyer decide/judge if he or she is getting opal for a reasonable and fair price. We then heard what has been frequently emphasized by many others, that all discussions about buying/selling and valuation of opal presume a relationship of trust between the parties.

As an example Tim cautioned the group to be SURE they avoid all opal from the Mehi Mine in Lightning Ridge. With a wry smile he asked, "Does Me-Hi...Me-HIGH tell you something!?" This is very cracky, very beautiful opal. Continuing, he noted that the Mile 19 area in Coober Pedy is OK but that Mile 14 is a little suspect.

In an odd circumstance the upper level of the Emu Mine produces very cracky material but opal from 60 to 80 feet deep is very solid and stable. This is quite contrary to typical opal occurrence. Usually opal from less than 50 feet deep is more stable because it is not too "wet" while opal mined from depths greater than 50 feet typically carries a greater risk of cracking. Tim noted that his comments about the depth of a mine refer only to Australian opal. He then also pointed out that a lot of black powder was used in Mintabie. Cautioning that any shock



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Editor---Russ Madsen

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AOS Information Line & Voice Mail (714) 502-1333

E-mail 76550.1366@compuserve.com

(Deadline for items: 15th of the month prior to each issue)

OPAL IDENTIFICATION...

how to tell where it came from

by Russ Madsen

(A 1997 Opal Symposium Presentation

by Joan Skinner of Opal Traders International)

Joan Skinner began by assuring the Symposium guests that no trick photography or special filters/techniques had been employed in preparing the slides for this presentation. This is important because the subject at hand is Opal Identification: How To Tell Where It Came From. The slides thus prepared demonstrate a number of features and characteristics that an inquirer will look for. This aids in discerning a particular opal's origin.

At the outset the group was cautioned there are caveats to this endeavor. First, any color of opal can form anywhere that opal forms. Second, precious opal can form anywhere that common opal forms. Third, there are descriptive tendencies but no absolutes. For example, black opal comes from Lightning Ridge but is also found in Mintabie and Andamooka.

Three factors help distinguish opal's origin. First, the base color of the material; second, the color and texture of the host rock; third, how the opal formed—what was its shape when it came out of the ground, what size are the pieces.

Here Joan noted that it is frequently difficult to ascertain the shape of pieces in a rough parcel once it has passed through a number of hands.

CHARACTERISTICS OF OPAL BEARING REGIONS

Coober Pedy Joan began here because Coober Pedy opal is frequently the first type of opal any of us ever saw. It is also typically the first type any of us saw in jewelry. Furthermore, over the years most of the world's opal has come from Coober Pedy.

While there is crystal (meaning colorless/transparent body), milky white is the dominant base color of Coober Pedy opal. The exterior of CP material displays rust staining. These stains may penetrate natural cracks in the opal leaving detectable internal traces. The base color and size of pieces is often homogenous in a parcel. (It may bear noting here that a parcel is typically understood to be rough opal mined from one location.)

Coober Pedy base color can range into gray or display a yellowish tinge but viewed without comparison to other material one's overall impression will be to say it is white. The precious opal most often occurs banded with patch layers. These are frequently cut by sawing apart the bands of color.

White Cliffs White Cliffs is located in New South Wales, southeast of Coober Pedy. It was the first commercially mined region of Australia. Production has slowed and the area is now mostly hobby-mined by visitors from Sydney. While White Cliffs opal is similar to Coober Pedy, it is usually more transparent. The region is not as iron-rich as other opal bearing regions, and exterior staining is thus not as red. This opal often forms in very thin bands.

(We will continue with Andamooka opal next issue)

The McCondra Report

The Prima Donna of Yowah

by Barbara McCondra

The top gem nut prized by the old time miners in the late 1800's and early 1900's is a thin skinned ironstone nut with a large crystal opal core. If the nut is, and this is still point of argument, lined with manganese or so iron rich it is nearly hematite; the nut is a black opal nut. If the core is not solid opal but instead the opal has permeated the ironstone as rivulets of opal fire, in a "distinctively Yowah" pattern, the nut is a **matrix** ironstone nut. When the ironstone is black,

If you are looking for one of the finest in exotic opals cast your eyes over your jeweler's opals and have him show you a black Yowah stone.

the matrix nut is a Yowah black opal. These black beauties are elegant yet affordable and a pleasure to give or own. Each stone's personality is so varied and unique that both men and women are enamored of it. The bright sharp light in the twinkle of opal fire in a Yowah is nearly duplicated, and the stone enhanced, by using colored melee diamonds as accent. These opals

remain forever intriguing and a pleasure to wear whether set traditionally or in a contemporary classic piece of jewelry. The Yowah is a designer's dream giving the owner much delight. A black Yowah makes a more distinctive piece of jewelry in a world of jewelry that reflects certain sameness these days. So manifest your uniqueness and acquire the exotic and rare **Black Yowah** opal Stone.

reprinted from Outback Report 11/97

Cutting Challenges (part 2)...

(Continued from page 3)

is harsh to opal he explained that a powder impact may cause cracks or set the material up to crack later.

Likewise, any opal rough showing concoidal fracture has been handled somewhat harshly. Either it was hit with a hammer when mined, otherwise broken when mined, or it may have been clobbered. Cobbing is a term for nipping off a portion of rough opal's exterior "rind" to create a window. A more conservative approach would be to sand off a small area and Tim noted that they have equipment on hand at their booth to perform this service if a buyer asks.

On the subject of stabilization of cracky opal Tim commented that to date no one has developed a reliable method. Many suggestions and efforts have been put forth but none has withstood the test of years.

Another disservice one must avoid is storing opal in bank vaults. A bank vault is typically dehumidified to .5% moisture (to protect valuable documents stored by bank customers). Air this dry will literally PULL water molecules out of stable opal, disturbing the bonding of silicon dioxide spheres/layers, and it may then crack. A question was asked about air conditioned air (the conditioning/cooling process dehumidifies as well). Tim pointed out that bank vault air at .5% humidity is much drier than even air conditioned desert air. Tim noted this does NOT say all opal will crack in dry air but that some opal might.

(to be continued next issue)

WORKSHOP REPORT by Stan McCall

I would like to welcome all AOS members to visit our workshop. That's right folks **OUR WORKSHOP!** The only way to keep it going is to use it.

Current equipment available for use is as follows: 2 Pixie cabbing machines, and a 6 inch trim saw on loan from Carol Bova (thank you Carol).

We have purchased some used equipment that will greatly expand our capabilities. Items purchased are an acetylene torch from AOS member Dave Jones, and a small burnout oven from Lapidary International (thank you David Burton); Bob Dixon also found a 4 inch trim saw and that was purchased. With the burnout oven, torch, and the centrifugal casting machine we already own we are now set up for jewelry casting and fabrication.

My on-going effort to try and establish a more flexible workshop schedule is improving. Right now I am only available on Wed nights. but I have had some members be available to open the workshop for our usage at other times.

♦ **NOTE:** Please call me at least 24 hours in advance

<i>The current workshop schedule is:</i>	
<i>MON. (days)</i>	<i>Russ Madsen</i>
<i>MON. (evenings)</i>	<i>Carol Bova</i>
<i>WED. (days)</i>	<i>Russ Madsen</i>
<i>WED. (evenings)</i>	<i>Stan McCall</i>
	<i>Carol Bova</i>
	<i>Mike Kowalsky</i>
<i>SAT. (afternoons)</i>	<i>Pete Goetz</i>

at (714) 827-5680 to schedule a session.

We are still on the lookout for any used equipment for the workshop. If you find anything, please call me with the info.

Hope to see all at our workshop... -Stan

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workshop schedule

Be sure to check here for workshop schedule updates. The dates listed below are those available to the AOS in our time share agreement with the Searchers. The shop is presently being opened to members on Wednesday nights but...Please continue to contact Stan McCall by calling him at Lapidary Intl. (714) 827-5680 if you plan to attend a shop session. Also, please check the AOS voice mail for information about expanded and/or modified shop schedules.

JANUARY 1998
 WORKSHOP CALENDAR

MONDAY: 6th - 13th - 20th - 27th

WEDNESDAY: 8th - 15th - 22nd - 29th

SATURDAY: 5th - 19th

SUNDAY: 11th - 25th

workshop rules

These rules are effective October 1, 1997. Please see newsletter for monthly shop schedule.

- 1) Shop may only be used by AOS members.
- 2) Shop users must sign liability waiver.
- 3) Shop users must sign in. Shop supervisor will maintain sign-in list and collect usage fees.
- 4) Shop usage will be in sessions on scheduled days as noted below:
 - Session #1 10AM - 2PM
 - Session #2 2PM - 6PM
 - Session #3 6PM - 9PM
- 5) Shop usage fees: effective immediately...
SHOP USAGE FEE IS \$3 PER SESSION.
- 6) To assist us in scheduling, shop sessions need to be reserved in advance. Please contact Stan McCall or any member of the board of directors to reserve shop time.

AOS Annual Membership Directory 1998



This is a one time printing of the current membership directory. Please save this page for future use. Please also note that some of the area codes will have changed during 1997. These are updated as renewals are received.

This list is a courtesy and is prepared with a concern for individual wants and privacy. Only those members who initialed "yes" to the membership listing are shown. Some members elect not to be listed. If you are not listed now but wish to be in the future, please be sure to mark the appropriate question on your renewal of dues, or you may call any officer or let us know at a general meeting. Information shown is believed to be correct and current but no assurance of accuracy is made. If there are corrections or changes needed please let us know.

(no mark) = Home phone; (W) = Work phone; (F) = Facsimile

(DUES EXPIRATION DATE IS SHOWN AFTER LAST NAME)

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>PHONE</u>
Andersen 01-98, Harold		(213) 387-2460
Ayala 01-98, Gabriel	708 E. Arbolado Dr. Fullerton, CA 92835	(714) 446-8807
	(F) (714) 772-2335	(W) (714) 324-0661
Barrett 01-98, Harry A.	1250 Lower Wolf Crk.Rd. Wolf Creek, OR 97497-9573	(503) 866-2556
Barrett 01-98, Warren	8239 E. Keim Dr. Scottsdale, AZ 85250	(602) 948-8406
Bova 01-98, Carol J.	P.O. Box 5388 Glendale, CA 91221-5388	(818) 845-8610
		(W) (213) 261-6135
Breitman 01-98, Harriette	5100 Overland Ave. #223 Culver City, CA 90230-4974	(310) 204-3513
Brouse 01-98, Phyllis	6481-A Rocky Lane Paradise, CA 95969-2650	(916) 877-9266
Brown 01-98, Phil W.	The Opal News P.O. Box 1022 Lutz, FL 34610	(352) 796-3753
		(F) (813) 930-7567
Bruder 01-99, Howard	212-09 67th Ave. Bayside, NY 11364	(718) 224-1390
		(F) (718) 281-1608
Burton 01-98, David	Lapidary Int'l 1228 S. Beach Blvd. Anaheim, CA 92804	(714) 827-5680
		(F) (714) 827-2248
Butz 01-98, Joe	151 East 7615 South Midvale, UT 84047	(801) 566-2601
Cantou 01-98, Pierre	408 West Earll Drive #5 Phoenix, AZ 85013	(602) 379-3351 Ext.259
		(F) (602) 379-6754
Carey 01-98, Gerald D.	Jay's Jewelry P.O. Box 382 Anaheim, CA 92815	(714) 525-7635
Carroll 01-98, Elizabeth	1964 Bard Court Claremont, CA 91711	(909) 621-4123
	(F) (909) 482-1494	(W) (909) 482-1490
Clardy, Jr. 01-98, Art L.	701 Woodvale Ave. Lafayette, LA 70503	(318) 984-7528
Cohen 01-99, Ellen L.	P.O. Box 2645 Malibu, CA 90265	(310) 457-5783
Crisler 01-98, Geraldine A.	3288 Arizona Lane Costa Mesa, CA 92626	
Devaris 01-98, Dion P.	13521 Grenoble Dr. Rockville, MD 20853	(301) 871-5248
Diment 01-99, Paul	P.O. Box 158 Battle Ground, WA 98604	
Dixon 01-98, Robert E.	12641 Woodland Lane Garden Grove, CA 92640	(714) 534-5063
Doty 01-99, Barr L.	16887 Blue Water Lane Huntington Beach, CA 92649	
Eiblum 01-98, David	1720 Mark Lane Rockville, MD 20852	(301) 468-9310
		(F) (301) 881-2240
Foltz 01-98, Robert	718 Wildrose Ridgecrest, CA 93555	(619) 371-1555
Gaber 01-98, Catherine J.	5707 Northfield Rd. Bethesda, MD 20817-6737	(301) 654-7479
Gasper 01-98, Barbara W.	9721 Azalea Circle Fountain Valley, CA 92708	(714) 531-4439
Genzmer 01-98, Geoffrey S.	Australian Opal Imports 468 San Marcos Pass Rd. Santa Barbara, CA 93105	
	(805) 967-5041	(W) (800) 417-3841
Göetz 01-98, Pete	P.O. Box 3927 Fullerton, CA 92834-3927	(714) 666-2084
Green 01-98, Len	Len Green Gems 1007 Barclay Dr. Cocoa, FL 32927	(407) 632-4437
Hagedorn 01-99, Alfred A.	15478 W. Hwy 24 Woodland Park, CO 80863	(719) 687-5312
	(F) (719) 687-5103	(W) (719) 687-5312
Hall 01-98, John	P.O. Box 1445 Ruidoso, NM 88345-1445	(505) 258-3343
Hays 01-99, Tom	1629 Leisure World Mesa, AZ 85206	(602) 807-3317
Howell 01-98, Greg	Greg Howell's Quality Gems P.O. Box 221 San Clemente, CA 92674-0221	
		(W) (714) 366-0864
Jones 01-98, Dave	Custom Designed Jewelry 9122 Columbine Fountain Valley, CA 92708	
		(714) 847-5712

(Continued on page 7)



AOS Annual Membership Directory 1998 (cont.)

(Continued from page 6)

Kaliher 01-98, Bill	372 Park Ave. Long Beach, CA 90814	(310) 438-3111
Kalin 01-99, Al	P.O. Box 1234 Brawley, CA 92227	(760) 344-4335
	(F) (760) 344-7654	(W) (760) 344-2550
Kennedy 01-98, Philip T.	10237 Mattock Ave. Downey, CA 90241	(310) 923-5966
Klein 01-99, Lois & Bernard	5288 Ridgebury Blvd. Lyndhurst, OH 44124	(440) 442-7251
Kopman 01-98, Ray G.	Desert Treasures P.O. Box 54322 Phoenix, AZ 85078	(602) 971-8353
Kowalsky 01-98, Michael	4792 Cathy Ave. Cypress, CA 90630	(714) 761-4876
Kramer 01-98, David J.	P.O. Box 3946 Huntington Beach, CA 92605-3946	(714) 952-8478
Kuepper 01-98, Corey L.		(714) 736-0581
Lippmann 01-98, David Z.	2308 Tower Drive Austin, TX 78703	(512) 476-2220
	(F) (512) 245-2374	(W) (512) 245-3119
Madsen 01-98, Russ		(562) 425-9788
Maxson 01-99, Brian & Allison Atkinson	10993 Campbell Ave. Riverside, CA 92505	(909) 351-9770
		(W) (714) 445-3156
McCague 01-98, Gary	3300 So. Tamarac Dr. #I-211 Denver, CO 80231	
McCall 01-98, Stan	4881 Sandy Cir. La Palma, CA 90623	(562) 860-5021
	(W) (714) 827-5680	(F) (714) 827-2248
Miller 01-98, Elmer	11124 Nebraska Youngstown, AZ 85363	(602) 977-2719
Mitzel 01-98, William L.	P.O. Box 1974 Battle Ground, WA 98604	(360) 687-1373
Oso Famoso 01-98	Lawrence Cohen P.O. Box 654 Ben Lomond, CA 95005	
Pattee 01-98, Dorthea	3303 Charlemagne Long Beach, CA 90808	(310) 425-2426
Quiring 01-99, Barbara	Flashes of Brilliance 10056 East Ave R-4 Littlerock, CA 93543	
		(805) 944-1250
Reeve 01-98, Paul H.	1505 Clark Ave. Cottage Grove, OR 97424	(541) 942-2138
Rening 01-98, Bradley L.	926 Meadowlark Dr. Laguna Beach, CA 92651	(714) 494-2256
		(W) (714) 497-4610
Roth 01-98, Wesley		(714) 897-2843
Salazar 01-98, Mike	447 Robinwood Drive NE Bainbridge Island, WA 98110	(206) 780-6944
Sargent 01-99, Melinda	Melinda's Fine Gems 5251 Berkeley Ave. Westminster, CA 92683	(714) 893-7755
		(W) (714) 893-7755
Scheier 01-98, Robert E.	710 Eucalyptus Court Ontario, CA 91762	(909) 988-5171
		(W) (213) 669-5700
Schneider 01-98, Bob	4188 N. Santa Anita St. Orange, CA 92865	(714) 998-4302
Scott 01-98, Eric	Land of Wonder P.O. Box 261142 Encino, CA 91426-1142	(818) 989-1686
Smallwood 01-98, Evelyn L.	10718 Clancey Ave. Downey, CA 90241	(310) 923-1851
Smith 01-99, Brad	11939 Sunset Blvd. #D Los Angeles, CA 90049	(310) 472-6490
Stephens 01-98, Delmont W.	8263 Mentor Ave. Mentor, OH 44060	(602) 380-1031
Strong 01-98, Adele G.	4912 Hilo Circle Huntington Beach, CA 92649	(714) 840-1885
Thompson 01-98, Susan	Idaho Opal Mines P.O. Box 3848 San Clemente, CA 92674 (208) 374-5360 Idaho	
	(W) (714) 496-4589	(F) (714) 496-6589
Umberson 01-98, Harold		(310) 693-8125
Vogel 01-98, Herbert W.	RR 2 Box 440 Hiles, WI 54511	(715) 649-3597
Williams 01-99, Larissa A.	867 Hydrangea Ct. Sunnyvale, CA 94086-8141	(408) 245-5820
		(W) (650) 604-0442
Winder M.D. 01-98, Cheryl	3800 Cashill Blvd. Reno, NV 89509	(702) 348-8482
		(F) (702) 348-9383
Wixom 01-98, Stanley W.	Fantasy Gems 165 Woodland Dr. Laguna Beach, CA 92651	(909) 658-1998
	(F) (909) 658-9482	(W) (909) 658-9382

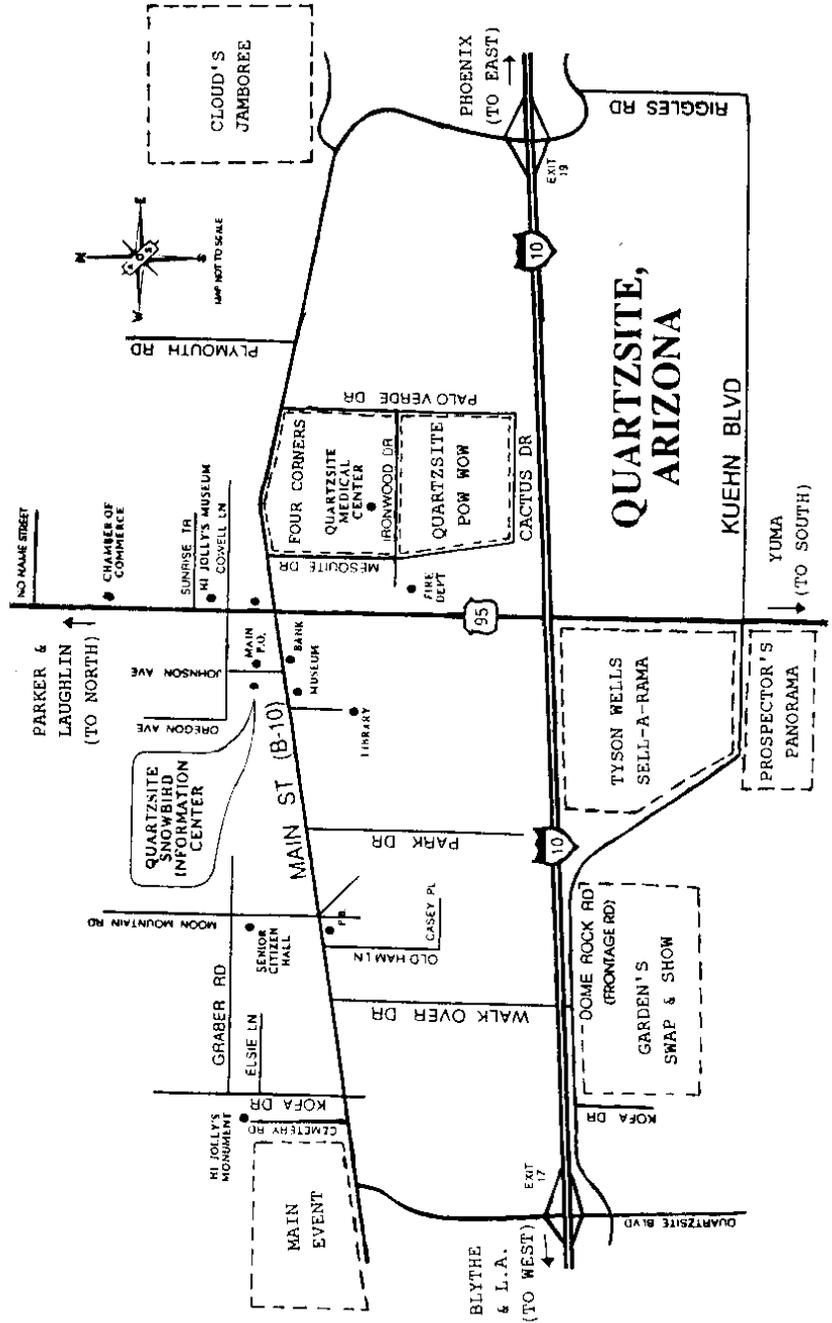
WELCOME NEW MEMBERS !! Paul E Diment #1159 and Barr L. Doty #1160

QUARTZITE NEWS

Quartzite Calendar

Events - Dates and Locations
Please Refer to Locator Map on

- *Jan 15 - Feb 15 **Cloud's Jamboree**
North of I-10 on east side (Exit 19)
- *Jan 17 - Feb 1 **The Main Event**
North of I-10 on west side (Exit 17)
- *Jan 21 - Feb 15 **Four Corners Swap Meet**
North of I-10 on Hwy 95
- *Jan 24 - Feb 8 **Prospectors' Panorama:**
Gem & Mineral Show
South of I-10 on Hwy 95
- *Jan 30 - Feb 8 **Tyson Wells Sell-A-Rama**
South of I-10 on Hwy 95
- *Feb 4 - Feb 8 **Quartzite Pow - Wow** (500 spaces)
North of I-10 on Hwy 95
Parking: Cars ~\$2 ; R.V.'s/trailers ~\$3
- *Feb 7 **S.C.R.I.B.E. Symposium**
Senior Citizen's Community Center
Time: 8:30AM (Mountain Time)
Moon Mountain Road, Quartzite AZ



Blythe, CA motels...

Travelodge --- 850 W. Hobson Way
(2 blocks northwest of I-10, exit Lovekin Blvd)
Phone (619) 922-5145 or (800) 367-2250

Best Western Sahara Motel --- 825 W. Hobson Way
(2 blocks north of I-10, exit Lovekin Blvd)
Phone (619) 922-7105 or (800) 528-1234

Comfort Inn --- 903 W. Hobson Way
(1 1/2 blocks northwest of I-10, exit Lovekin Blvd)
Phone (619) 922-4146

Comfort Suites --- 545 E. Hobson Way
(1/2 mile northwest of I-10, exit 7th St.)
Phone (619) 922-9209

Motel 6 --- 500 W. Donlon St.
(I-10 at Lovekin Blvd exit)
Phone (619) 922-6666

Show Biz...

More show dealers

Our appreciation to a few more Opal Show dealers for whom new or corrected information has become available since the December newsletter.

Please remember - if you are an opal dealer, we are receiving sales booth/table reservations now. Get yours in as soon as possible as space is limited.

Thank you again, dealers for being with us in 1997!!!

Ellen Cohen

**P.O. Box 2645 Malibu, CA 90265
(310) 457-5783**

Custom Designed Jewelry (Dave Jones)

**P.O. Box 3424 Fountain Valley, CA 92708
(714) 847-5712**

Hap's Custom Jewelry (Clay Thompson)

**Lakewood, CA
(562) 804-4445**

Linnebach's Lapidary (Peter Linnebach)

**121 So. Hope St. #516 Los Angeles, CA 90012
(213) 617-7112**

Opal and Gemstones Trading Co. (Fulvio Beltrami)

8111 Beverly Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90048

Swordfish Mining (John Church)

P.O. Box 7761 Klamath Falls, OR 97602

Opal Show attendance demograph-

Here are the various ways folks learned of the Opal Show and percentages for each. Special thanks to Bob Dixon for preparing this tally from the Door Prize coupons.

Letter/card AOS mailing	19%
Show fliers at other shows	14%
Word of mouth	15%
Lapidary Journal listing	16%
Rock & Gem listing	14%
Other magazines	3%
Dealer mailing/info	6%
newspaper ad	4%
Other club newsletters	6%
School class info	3%
(eg Rancho Santiago & Walt Johnson)	

This tally represents responses from a fraction of total show attendees. A fair portion did not answer the demographic questions and a considerable number (~50%) noted more than one info source. While most visitors were from southern California, guests arrived from all over the world, including several from other states in the US, and a few from abroad. It was especially gratifying to have several old time AOS members with us at this year's show!

Letters To The Editor

To: The American Opal Society (9/21/97):

While at the Scarborough Mineral & Gem Show this past weekend I decided that after the show was over and I arrived home I would take pen in hand and write to you just to say "hello" and mention the fact that I love opal too. I do not cut some or anything like that mind you. I would very much like to learn this art someday. Just to be able to find a nice piece of rough opal and turn it into a nice sparkling gem it must be a nice feeling indeed! I myself love all kinds of opal be they from Australia, Mexico, US, Canada and so on. However if someone gave me a choice I think I would pick the beautiful 'black opal' from Australia with its dark base and "flashing" colors on top. A person lucky enough to own such a beautiful stone is indeed fortunate. I remember a few years ago at one of the local mineral & gem shows I was shown a most beautiful 'black opal' - oval and gem quality! - which made my mouth water, unfortunately in terms of money it was just too much for me. But I'm pleased with my little collection of boulder opal. As a matter of fact I received some weeks ago in the mail a small piece of boulder opal from my friends out in B.C. who run the Okanogan Mine. The piece is 2" wide and has a fair amount of orange and green fire in it. By the way, you should have seen the lovely specimen they had on display at the Scarborough Show from the above mine mentioned. It was indeed a real beauty with lots of red fire etc. Say, talking about red fire, boy-o-boy I would certainly love to have a piece of Nevada opal in my collection someday. I've seen color photos of the above and I must tell you the red fire is breathtaking indeed but I hear that it is not stable, when taken out of water it tends to craze. But then I've heard that there is a portion of the opal from Nevada that is stable. Just the same it's beautiful opal from that area of the US.

Well I guess that about does it for now. I wanted to let you know how I feel about this beautiful gem called opal. One last word, it is unfortunate that we Canadians up here do not have such a Society as yours dealing specifically with opals. I'm hoping that perhaps one day you folks might hold a show up here in Toronto. I would be the first person at the door! So with that, thank you for taking time out to read my letter and please do not hesitate to write; and do enjoy that nice warm California sunshine down there.

Sincerely

Mervyn Degeer
1339 Dupont St.
Toronto, Ontario
M6H2A8
Canada

(thanks for the kind letter Mervyn, perhaps a member will take up your invitation and begin a correspondence... folks? -rgm)

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