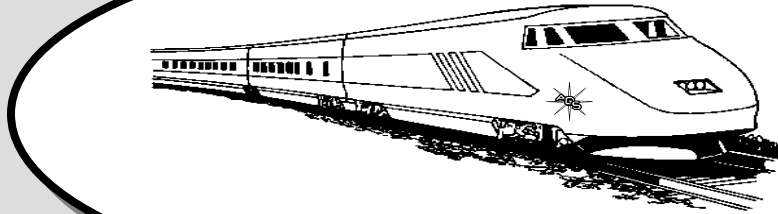


The Opal Express

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President's Message

By Pete Goetz

Well, Ladies and Gents, it coming up on the March General meeting time. It would be nice to see some new faces. Not necessarily 'new' faces, but some of you folks that have not been around for a while. Those of you who come to the meeting on a regular (and the afore mentioned) put the bite on your mother, father, sisters, brothers, aunts, uncles, garbage man, mailman, milkman, whew.. you get the idea, bring 'um on down. I don't want to sound desperate, but there are a lot of people out there that have an interest in OPAL, but may not know how to find us. So get out there and talk OPAL.

I realize this is only March, but we don't want to lose sight of the OPAL Show in November. We still can use some help. Contact myself or any AOS Officer, see OPAL Express for names and phone or email numbers.

As I have mentioned before, the Board of Directors are working on a few administrative changes to that should help our fiscal health. More on this later.

Buyer Beware

By Ken Rogers, CCRMC

Lately, I have visited a number of "Gem Shows" in the Los Angeles area (Gem Faire, International Gem & Jewelry Show, The Los Angeles Gift Show, The Pasadena Bead & Design Show), plus a number of Rock Club shows. All of these shows have a plethora of "Gemstone" bead dealers. I was astonished when I realized that over 50% of the Gemstone beads for sale were either created from Man Made materials, recomposed natural materials, or Dyed stone.

Many of these gemstone beads (& cabs) were blatant fakes - dyed agates, chalcedonies, shell, jasper, etc. - dyed in "Pop designer colors". But, there were many other dyed stone beads (& cabs) that were meant to fool us.

Many of the other gem beads were finely engineered Fakes, using such materials as Man made HYDRO QUARTZ CRYSTAL

(check: <http://www.faceters.com/askjeff/answer30.shtml> and you'll be shocked about your cut stones, & some rough, too), plus glass, plastics, and cemented conglomerates.

Below are a few specific examples of Beads, Cabs, & Pendants: I have checked out: * Turquoise ribbons in a mottled tan "rhyolite" matrix (like material from the Royston Mine) being sold as "Royston" or "Sleeping Beauty" Turquoise. This material is being created in China and can be spotted two ways. - 1) the dividing line between the "turquoise" & the matrix is indistinct; 2) Under 10 power magnification you can see the "rhyolite" matrix is made up of cemented particles. * Varacite that is actually dyed Impression Jasper. * Fake "Rainbow Calcilica" (which is already said to be a fake). This material, created in China is very smooth & homogenized, and doesn't have the texture of the original. Dealers are, also, selling it as "Fordite". * Fake Moldavite. Cast green glass with the Moldavite "fingerprint" texture on it's surface.. It's "fingerprint" textured surface looks too clean and smooth. * "Cripple Creek Turquoise" with gold veins running through it. This material is created in China from a turquoise powder (maybe plastic) and bronze wires. * Lapis with Pyrite chunks AND Malachite with Pyrite chunks. These are both created in Chine from ground Lapis & ground Pyrite (or Malachite & Pyrite) and bound together with resin. * Lapis and other opaque "crystals" that are cut to look like Quartz Crystals (for the metaphysical crowd). * Howlite & Magnesite dyed to resemble Turquoise, Lapis, Rhodonite, etc. * Fossil dinosaur teeth made of painted plaster. * Stabilized and colorshot Chalk Turquoise in different colors. I think everyone is familiar.

I would have to say that many of these dealers (generally Asian) didn't know they were selling fakes (& probably couldn't care less). They just pass on what their suppliers tell them. But, I do know of a couple of dealers who pass themselves off as "experts" and are knowingly misleading customers and selling fakes.

I picked up a wonderful, compact, inexpensive, lighted magnifier from Wendell, at Ameritool,, that I now carry with me, everywhere. It has two lenses - 17X & 50X. It has two LED lamps - daylight and UV. With this simple lighted magnifier I have spotted a number of fakes, that had fooled me. It's paid for itself, many times over. Ken From the Culver City Rock & Mineral Club Yahoo Group at <http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/ccrmc/>.

Members Only Website Password

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



Bob Bradley with his oven

March meeting - Bob Bradley and Stan McCall on Making Dichroic Glass Beads

Our March meeting will feature fused glass artist Bob Bradley demonstrating a process to make a fused dichroic glass bead in less than 10 minutes. The process uses a microwave oven. Bob will be making a fused dichroic triplet. Don't be late, the whole thing is really very quick. I got to see a bead in the making and after 2-1/2 minutes in the microwave it still looks just like three layers of plain old basic glass. At about 4 minutes it was glowing orange and by maybe 7 minutes it was fully melted and the three layers of glass were fused solid. Amazing! The device which makes this possible is a small "oven" used inside the microwave.

Bob will also have a display of beads he has made and several other finished glass projects. Some are multi-color art glass panels



Fused and Dichroic Glass

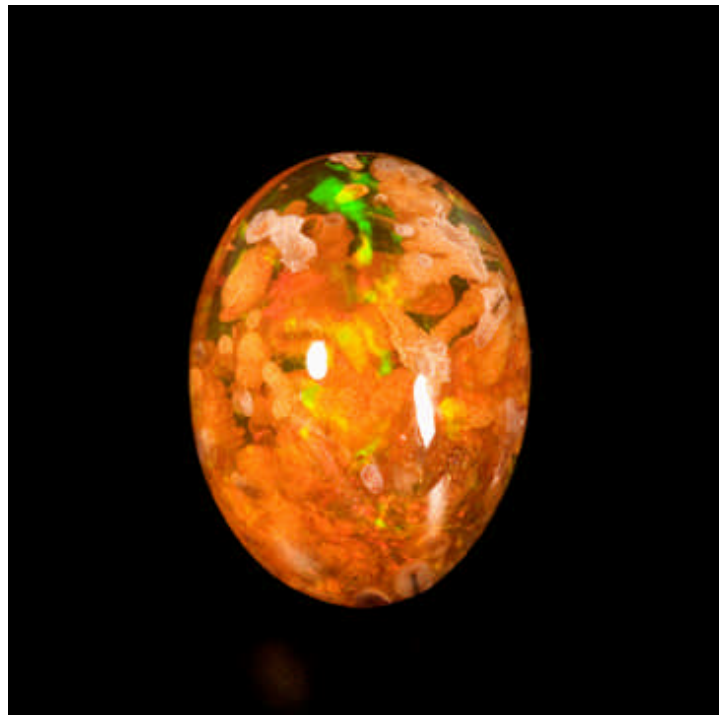
"painted" with fused glass. Some are objects such as dishes and trays - very beautiful, very creative.

In addition, Stan McCall will demonstrate wire wrapping techniques to make a finished jewelry piece from one of Bob's beads. You won't want to miss either of these topics! See you there!!!



Finished product with wire-wrap

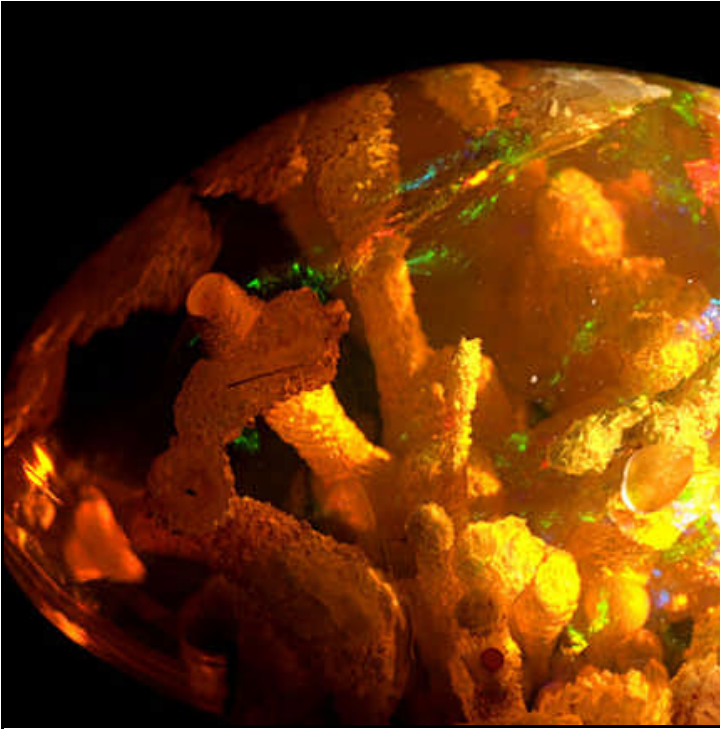
Fire Opal



Mexican fire opal, 23.15 cts., 22.99 x 16.93 x 11.82 mm. This stone has been sold. (Photo: Wimon Manorotkul)

Mexican fire opal comes to us with a variety of characteristics. Yellow to deep orange body color with the very unusual hues moving into the reds. Like opal from other parts of the world, Mexican fire opal can display full-spectrum play of color. This month's phenomenal featured stone has all the components of a top notch collector's gem.

As we look internally, we find another visually stimulating characteristic. Stalagmite and stalactite formations occur within fire opal and are usually composed of goethite rods encrusted in limonite (Gübelin & Koivula: Photoatlas). There also seems to be some hematite crystals inside. See the inclusion photo below for the internal world of this month's featured stone.



Fire and water. Coral-like stalagmite/stalactite formations are clearly seen in this magnification of this month's featured fire opal. (Photo: Wimon Manorotkul)

From http://www.palagems.com/featured_stones_v1.htm

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ISG: Treasures of Tucson



Optical Calcite

wake up from the economic slumber of the past couple of years. And there is one thing that is very clear: The real profits in this business is in colored gemstones. The key element is that you have to be open to any new stream of revenue that you can find. Revenue streams. Those are created by new and unusual items that bring customers to your store. After all, if we don't sell gemstones we might as well all go back to framing houses or driving trucks or something. Sell gemstones! That is what this is all about. To be truly profitable you need to constantly be on the lookout for new and exciting finds in the gemstone world, while at the same time don't overlook the classic bread and butter type material. For both there is no place in the world like going through the Treasures of Tucson. Here are just a few examples of what we found. We will have more next week.

Optical Calcite

For those ISG students who missed seeing the huge optical calcite we found during our tour of the freeway shows, I went back to the dealer and tried to get more of the larger sizes. As we predicted, The Opal Express

18 February 2011

There are excellent revenue streams to be found at the Tucson Gem Shows

It's that time again. Time to look at all of the fun stuff we gathered at the Tucson Gem Shows. This year was outstanding as there was a spark of life in the shows again. The industry is starting to

The American Opal Society

they were gone. But I did manage to talk them out of their last flat of smaller sized crystals. These work great and will be available from the ISG Gemology store next week.

Turquoise Study for TGMS

In honor of the 2012 Tucson Gem and Mineral Show's highlight of Arizona gemstones, the ISG is undertaking a project to acquire as many different types of turquoise as possible from Arizona and around the world. At left you see just a sampling of what we obtained at the Tucson Gem Shows. This material ranges from the natural, untreated turquoise of the Sleeping Beauty mine, to a block of turquoise dust that the Chinese are turning into....well, turquoise sort of. We are going to test all of this material and see if we can find grass roots methods to identify each. But before the Tucson Gem and Mineral Society Show next year we are pledging to complete this study to highlight and showcase the wonderful Arizona turquoise.

Below is that block of turquoise dust that the Chinese dealer turned into a block. \$150.00 per kilo with a one kilo minimum. Now what are we going to do with a kilo of turquoise dust? We will see.

Below, is Arizona Turquoise from the Kingman mining area. Beautiful material that only Arizona can produce.

Candala Chrysoprase

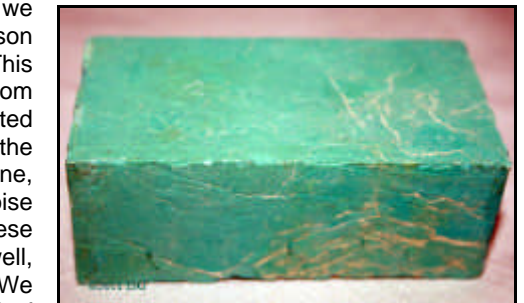
I talked Richard Osmand into selling me one of his favorite specimens right off his desk, now its my favorite specimen on my desk. A fantastic piece of Australian Chrysoprase. We will have more on this beautiful gemstone that is both beautiful and affordable as a great source for gemstone jewelry.



Varieties of Turquoise



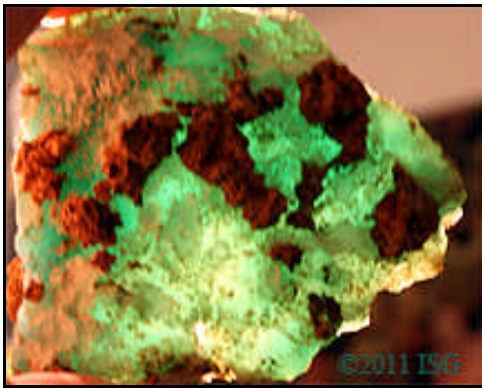
Arizona Turquoise



Block of compressed turquoise dust



Australian Chrysoprase



Candala Chrysoprase

You can see the translucency of this specimen with the excellent quality color. And no...this one is not for sale. Sometimes I get so attached to a piece that it just has to stay on my desk. Contact Richard at info@candalachryso-prase.com.

McDevitt Mining Opal

Boulder Opal

Its difficult to find rough boulder opal at the shows since most is cut overseas before it arrives in the US. But Gene McDevitt at the GJX Show had a wonderful collection, and allowed me to pick up a few of them for an excellent ISG discount price.



Boulder Opal

This material cuts and polishes beautifully and makes for truly unique pieces of jewelry. We have several pieces of his rough and will be providing a closer look at this material in the coming weeks. Outstanding gemstone material that is often overlooked by home town jewelers. An

important and profitable revenue stream. Contact Gene at gene@koroit.com.



Boulder Opal

Ethiopian Opals Michael Nemeth

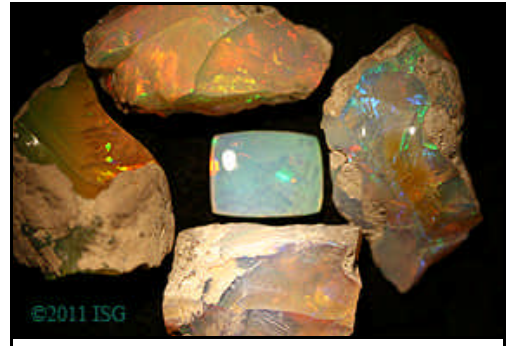
Forget what you may have heard about those brittle, brown Ethiopian opals. New sources have been uncovered and the material is beautiful and comes without the problem of the tenacity of the stones. We actually found some of this Ethiopian opal

material last year but it was fairly young on the market and supplies were rather sparse. This year the new material was available all around the shows and it was both cost effective and beautiful. Here you see a group of rough that we purchased from a wonderful Ethiopian lady with a folding table around the Pueblo Inn swimming pool for about \$1.00 per carat. Yes, I said \$1.00 per carat. In the center is a finished piece from Michael Nemeth and this picture does not really do it justice. We will have more coverage on this gemstone in a coming edition. But opals are becoming very popular and affordable. Contact Michael at michaelnemeth@sbcglobal.net

Oregon Sunstone Outback Mining

I had the honor to meet members of the Andruss family and experience a new Oregon Sunstone that I had not previously seen. As you see at left, the Outback Oregon Sunstone offers a beautiful color that is only found in the Oregon material. These Oregon miners are among the finest people that I have ever met in my 40 The Opal Express

The American Opal Society



Welo Opal

years in this business. And the Oregon Sunstone is going to be the next tanzanite on the market. Right now it is plentiful and very affordable direct from one of the many mine operators who are working this very rare deposit of naturally occurring

copper based labradorite. The Oregon folks have taken this Chinese andesine fraud in total style and grace while we dealt with that problem. But its time that the Oregon Sunstone came into its own.

Steve did not have a card when I went by but I hope they will send me the contact information. Until then, here is the contact information for some of the Oregon Sunstone miners that you can buy from direct. One of the most important streams of revenue for a guarantee natural, untreated gemstone you will find **only** from Oregon, USA..



Oregon Sunstone

To learn more about the Plush Oregon Sunstone and miner contacts please visit our ISG website:

[Plush Oregon Sunstone](#)

And don't miss the excellent folks at the Ponderosa Mine. We have some new specimens from Ponderosa that we will present in our next edition. You can visit John and his crew at:

[Ponderosa Oregon Sunstone](#)

And Steve Andruss and other Oregon Sunstone Miners....please send us your contact information. We have a special coming up and.....we are coming your way again this summer. More on that later.

Robert James

President, International School of Gemology

From

<http://www.yourgemologist.com/ISGForumsBoard/showthread.php?t=6552&highlight=opal>

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Farmers and Opal Miners Locked in a Turf War

Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Broadcast: 30/07/2009

Reporter: Paul Lockyer

Farmers around the opal mining region of Lightning Ridge are fighting a rear guard action to try to keep out prospectors keen to mine the grazing country.

Transcript

KERRY O'BRIEN, PRESENTER: For more than a century the lure of the opal has drawn people from all walks of life in the NSW out bush to try their luck in the diggings around Lightning Ridge. Only there is the famed black opal found and rags-to-riches stories abound.

But the main fields are now largely worked out and miners are casting their eye over neighboring grazing country. Landholders are fighting a rearguard action to try to keep them out. But it seems the prospectors holds all the aces.

Paul Lockyer reports from Lightning Ridge.

PAUL LOCKYER, REPORTER: From above it resembles a giant rabbit warren, and in the burrows below the search continues for an elusive gem.

SABASTIAN DEISENBERGER, OPAL MINER: There's one in there.

PAUL LOCKYER: Sebastian Deisenberger came from Germany 17 years ago, and fell under the spell of the opal.

SABASTIAN DEISENBERGER: When you go underground and I find the gem stone sitting in the wall looking at you, that's the beauty of here.

PAUL LOCKYER: Mining techniques have become much more sophisticated.

CHRIS CHEAL, OPAL MINER: I'm looking for a bit of trace to tantalize me, to go, "Something could many".

FRED MALLOUK, OPAL MINER: It's nearly the best natural high you can have, yeah.

PAUL LOCKYER: But the new generation of miners harbor the same dreams that drew prospectors in their hundreds to Lightning Ridge when news of an opal strike spread in the early 1900s.

And this is what it is all about. Trapped in this piece of clay stone - the lure of the opal. When this gem is cut and polished it could be worth tens of thousands of dollars.

But the world recession has left Opal sales depressed, especially in traditional markets like Japan. Despite that, the miners argue that now is the time to expand.

FRED MALLOUK: We need some new ground, some new opportunities for Opal. Even though there could be Opal anywhere, the most obvious has been found, and the whole industry is a little bit - a little bit stagnate right now.

PAUL LOCKYER: This is the country in their sights. Barfield Station, more than 60 kilometres south-west of Lightning Ridge.

JOHN USHER, GRAZIER: Walk over girls, come on, over you go.

PAUL LOCKYER: John Usher runs 200 cattle on the property.

JOHN USHER: Well, how important is our business, you know. It's our livelihood and as soon as they come on, we have to stop. We bought it to use it - not for the miners.

PAUL LOCKYER: Barfield is part of an exploration area sanctioned by the NSW Government. Prospecting blocks on the property have just been balloted out and there's a whiff of opal fever in the air.

FRED MALLOUK: It could be a whole new rush, it could be outrageous, yeah, it could be very, very good.

JOHN USHER: They've all been waiting on Barfield to open up because it's the biggest thing since Lightning Ridge.

PAUL LOCKYER: Do you reckon the opal is out there?

JOHN USHER: I know there's cattle out here, but I don't know if there's any opal. No, I don't know.

PAUL LOCKYER: This is what John Usher fears will happen to his property.

DOUG LEHMAN, FARMER: Holes like this, they are all over this country here, yeah

PAUL LOCKYER: Mining has been carried out on Doug Lehman's farm since the late 1980s.

DOUG LEHMAN: The policing isn't happening, the rehabilitation is not happening, and if they stretch themselves further, well, it is just going to go berserk.

PAUL LOCKYER: By law old shafts are supposed to be filled in and mining areas rehabilitated.

JON POCKNELL, GRAZIER: This area has just not been cleaned up, sorted out, tidied up. And we are continuously told, "You know, it's not a problem. We'll get it sorted and fixed", and it just doesn't happen.

PAUL LOCKYER: Fred Mallouk and Chris Cheal are both directors of the Lightning Ridge Miners Association.

CHRIS CHEAL: If you want to find the extreme bad that's around, that's human nature, but on the whole miners are very, very aware now and very, very good. And the damage is more aesthetic than anything else. OK, there are some people that don't do the right thing. We've got levies that are taken out every time we register a claim. And we identify areas that need fixing up and we fix them up.

PAUL LOCKYER: But that offers little reassurance to John Usher, as he waits for the rush to arrive.

JOHN USHER: We have to shut it down because of losses, there'd be too many loss, devastated. It becomes a wasteland.

PAUL LOCKYER: The fears are shared by Aboriginal Elders in the region who argue Barfield holds many sites of historical significance.

VIRGINIA ROBINSON, DHARRIWAA ELDERS GROUP: Stone axes, the grinding stones, milling stones, mortars, you know, and little flake pieces - they are everywhere.

LEWIS BEALE, DHARRIWAA ELDERS GROUP: They'll be lost and we'll never see them again, and the Government keep telling us, "Yeah, we're going to save the country for the future generations." What are they doing? Destroying it.

PAUL LOCKYER: The Lightning Ridge Miners Association will talk to Aboriginal leaders about their concerns before submitting an environmental report on Barfield - the last hurdle before the diggers get the go ahead from the NSW Government.

John Usher believes it's inevitable.

Over the last 100 years no graziers have ever stopped mining. And this is what we are up against.

JON POCKNELL, GRAZIER: If someone else gets injured, you are responsible for those injuries.

PAUL LOCKYER: Jon Pocknell, John Usher's neighbour is next in line.

JON POCKNELL: Once it's on, that's it. It's on forever. That's why there's no true rehabilitation, because there's no sunset clause, it's just open-ended. It's just like a cancer spreading right across your property.

PAUL LOCKYER: But miners are quick to point out that some other graziers have not only lived with mining but have joined in to get through tough times.

CHRIS CHEAL: Some of the farmers here have been at the stage where they have got to walk off their properties and opal saved them. So, you know, you can't have your cake and eat it too.

PAUL LOCKYER: Lightning Ridge was a tough town built on hope, dreams and anonymity. Little has changed.

FRED MALLOUK: Doesn't matter who you are, where you've been, where you come from, what you have done.

PAUL LOCKYER: But Lightning Ridge also boasts a thriving tourist industry. All that is at risk, say the miners, unless they can strike out to new fields.

CHRIS CHEAL: If we can get on there and mine for opal, well Lightning Ridge will be sustained, and hundreds of families depend on the country opening up. If we can't open country up and we can't mine, what is the sense of us being here?

PAUL LOCKYER: Opal fever doesn't fade that easily.

FRED MALLOUK: It's sort of an excitement, relief, delight. There's a lot of pressure's off, I can pay a few bills, we can go on holidays, buy a new Toyota. I mean, ultimately it would be good to go buy a mansion on the coast somewhere with a yacht, an airplane and a helicopter.

From <http://www.abc.net.au/7.30/content/2009/s2641530.htm>

American Opal Society 2011 Calendar

Date	Day	Event	Meeting Location	Meeting Topic / Speaker
Mar. 2, 2011	Wed.	AOS Board Meeting	Board Member's Home	
Mar. 10, 2011	Thurs.	AOS General Meeting	Garden Grove Civic Women's Club	fused glass artist Bob Bradley demonstrating a process to make a fused dichroic glass bead in less than 10 minutes. The process uses a microwave oven
April 6, 2011	Wed.	AOS Board Meeting	Board Member's Home	
April 14, 2011	Thurs.	AOS General Meeting	Garden Grove Civic Women's Club	Opal Cutting Seminar
May 4, 2011	Wed.	AOS Board Meeting	Board Member's Home	
May 12, 2011	Thurs.	AOS General Meeting	Garden Grove Civic Women's Club	Meg Berry, master gem cutter, has been called upon to cut some of the world's most precious gems! Come join us in May when Meg will tell us all about how to get the most out of phenomenal stones! See http://www.megagemberry.com/aboutus.html
June 1, 2011	Wed.	AOS Board Meeting	Board Member's Home	
June 9, 2011	Thurs.	AOS General Meeting	Garden Grove Civic Women's Club	Live Opal Auction
July 6, 2011	Wed.	AOS Board Meeting	Board Member's Home	
July 14, 2011	Thurs.	AOS General Meeting	Garden Grove Civic Women's Club	Lothar Vallot, Gemology Program Facilitator at Santiago Community College and proprietor of Otten, Vallot & Co. will present "Simulants, Synthetics, and Treatments"
Aug. 3, 2011	Wed.	AOS Board Meeting	Board Member's Home	
Aug. 11, 2011	Thurs.	AOS General Meeting	Garden Grove Civic Women's Club	Justin Zzyzx will give a talk on Southern California, Mineral Collecting Mecca. Justin is the owner of the Zzyzx Gallery of Natural Science in Los Angeles, CA (http://www.zzyzxgallery.com). He also owns and manages http://www.the-vug.com , the largest mineralogical database online, and founded http://www.fakeminerals.com , and Rockhounding Videos (http://www.rockhoundingvideos.com).
Aug. 31, 2011	Wed.	AOS Board Meeting	Board Member's Home	
Sept. 8, 2011	Thurs.	AOS General Meeting	Garden Grove Civic Women's Club	To Be Announced
Oct. 5, 2011	Wed.	AOS Board Meeting	Board Member's Home	
Oct. 13, 2011	Thurs.	AOS General Meeting	Garden Grove Civic Women's Club	Show Work Session
Nov. 2, 2011	Wed.	AOS Board Meeting	Board Member's Home	
Nov. 5, 2011	Sat.	44th Annual Opal & Gem Show	White House / West Wing Event Center	Dealers, Seminars, etc.
Nov. 6, 2011	Sun.	44th Annual Opal & Gem Show	White House / West Wing Event Center	Dealers, Seminars, etc.
Nov. 10, 2011	Thurs.	AOS General Meeting	Garden Grove Civic Women's Club	Opal Appraisal Seminar
Nov. 30, 2011	Wed.	AOS Board Meeting	Board Member's Home	
Dec. 8, 2011	Thurs.	AOS Christmas Party	Garden Grove Civic Women's Club	Potluck - AOS provides main course

About Boulder Opal



Queensland Boulder Opal is the name given to opal that has formed inside ironstone boulders of rock. These rocks or boulders are round or of spherical formation and have veins of opal running through them. The opal inside the boulder is not always of good quality, but when a good one is found, the colours can be amazing. The colour plays an important part in the value of the opal. Interesting patterns also increase the value of a matrix Boulder Opal. As opal is refracting light, the colour in an opal can vary from blue, green, and purple to the more valuable red, orange and yellow. Boulder opal is only found in an area through the middle of Queensland Australia. It spans from near Cunnamulla to around Winton in the north.



Boulder Opal was first discovered on a sheep station near Quilpie in 1869. Various people took these rocks to the capital cities and then to London. Most of the day were so Boulder Opal not get the recognition it deserved until around 1895. Up then, people so impressed by its beauty they



until were its

thought it must be a fake.

In 1896 the biggest opal rush of Queensland started in the town of Fermoy, now known as Opalton. It was the largest quantity of opal found in any one location throughout Queensland. The Opalton Opal rush lasted for around 6 years between 1896-1901. Boulder Opal is still being mined in Central Queensland thanks to small family enterprises and individual miners possessing extreme tenacity. It still remains a highly sought after gemstone.

How does Boulder Opal differ from other types of opal?



The Opal in Queensland has formed in veins of various thicknesses, that run through the ironstone boulders, hence the name Boulder Opal. Other types of Opal occur in seams running through the ground. As this water then slowly dried out and gelled up, the opal formation began. With a fault present in the ground, friction occurs, creating static electricity. A combination of mineral rich water and a slight electrical charge has grown a crystal structure inside the opal that refracts light and thus produces precious opal. How long this has taken to form is still being debated.

Care of Opals and Opal Jewellery

We cut and polish the Boulder Opal with the opal veneer exposed, leaving the natural ironstone as backing. The combination of the ironstone boulder and the opal within is perfect for jewellery, as we don't necessarily have to set the stones in silver or gold for them to be durable, strong and long lasting.

As a natural gemstone there are no special care instructions. Treat an opal as you would any other gemstone.

Are there different types of Boulder Opal?

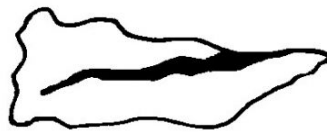
Every Boulder Opal will be different, but there are two main types:

Boulder Matrix Opal and **Boulder Opal**

Boulder Matrix Opals have Opal veins that are running through ironstone rock



Boulder Opals contain thicker opal veins running on **top** of the rock



As this is a natural gemstone there are many variations on these themes and are to be used as a guide only.

From <http://www.opalbar.com.au>

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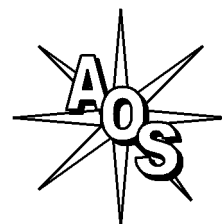
March 2010 Gem & Mineral Shows

More shows can be found at

<http://www.rockngem.com/showdates.asp>

March 11 -13 – Stoddard Wells Tailgate

The Victor Valley Gem and Mineral Club will host its famous Tailgate event along Stoddard Wells Road from March 11 through the 13th. The tailgate is located 12 miles east of I-15, off the Stoddard Wells exit north of Victorville the last 7 miles of this road east of Dale Evans Pkwy is graded dirt. This is a free event for both vendors and the public. Last year nearly 100 vendors attended this event. Dry camping is available at the foot of the famous Verde Antique Marble quarry. Attend the Sat. March 12th field trip from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm for various marble materials. Shop daily from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm for rough materials, gems and jewelry, findings, equipment and more. Silent auctions for vendors and the public. Club snack bar and porta potties are provided. This is the mini Quartzsite of the Mojave. A great family adventure! Call the club at (760) 243-2330; Brett Ward at (760) 954-4323 (no bars on AT&T cell when at Tailgate site) or download map and details at www.vvgmc.org.



Opal Business for Sale [Australian Opal Imports.com](http://AustralianOpalImports.com)

- Everything -
Displays, Rough,
Finished Stones, Gold Jewelry,
Trade Name, All Rights and National Ads.

Gene and Loretta LeVan

Phone: (562) 208-7494
fineblackopal@sprynet.com

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American Opal Society Membership Application

FILL IN APPLICABLE INFORMATION		DUES / FEES)	AMOUNT PAID
DUES: SELECT ONE	RENEWING MEMBERS	\$30	
	NEW MEMBERS	\$40	
INTERNATIONAL MEMBERSHIP FEE (All addresses <u>outside</u> of USA)		\$10	
PRINTED NEWSLETTER FEE (Paper copy postal mailed instead of PDF file by e-mail)		\$5	
ADDITIONAL BADGES (Your First Badge is <u>free</u> when joining)		\$10	
TOTAL PAID DUES plus International, Print or Badge Fees if Applicable:			

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

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NAME BADGE ORDER FORM:
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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.

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Please sign here: _____ Date _____

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Are Your Dues Due Now?
PLEASE CHECK YOUR ADDRESS LABEL. If your label shows the current month/year your dues are **DUE NOW**. If the date is older, your dues are overdue.
 A Renewal Grace Period of two months will be provided. If your dues are due now you will receive two additional issues of the newsletter. 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
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Volume #44 Issue #3
March 2011

Some Topics In This Issue:

- Buyer Beware
- Fire Opal
- Treasures of Tucson
- Farmers and Opal Miners Locked in a Turf War
- American Opal Society 2011 Calendar
- About Boulder Opal

Important Dates:

March 2 - Board Meeting

March 10 - General Meeting:

Fused glass artist **Bob Bradley** will demonstrate how to make a fused dichroic glass bead in less than 10 minutes in a microwave oven. Stan McCall will then show how to mount this bead into a wire-wrap piece of jewelry. **Not to be missed!**

— GENERAL MEETINGS —

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

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

MEETING ACTIVITIES

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

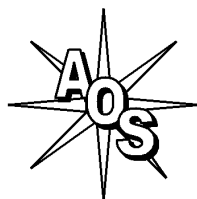
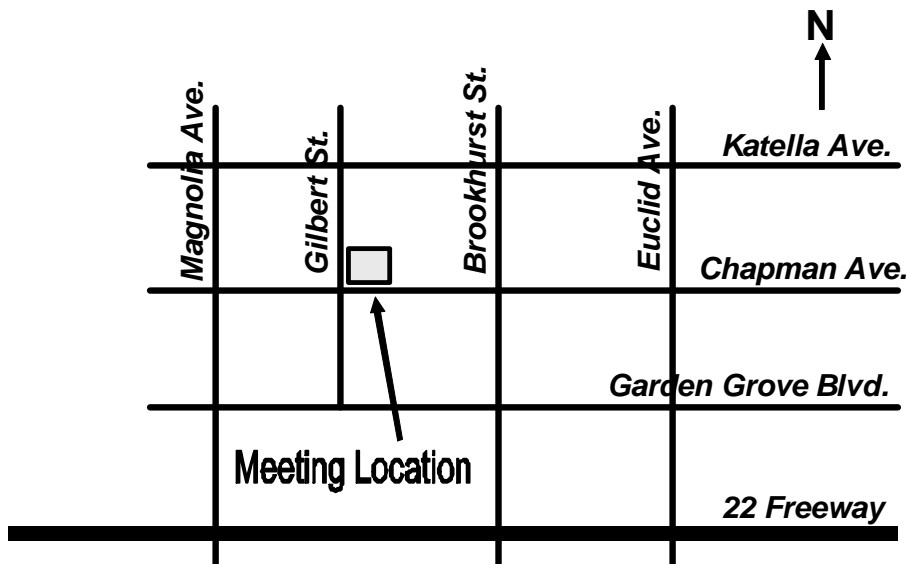
TO:

March 10th

Bob Bradley & Stan McCann

Demo Making Dichroic

Glass Beads & Wire Wrap



The American Opal Society

<http://OpalSociety.org>

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