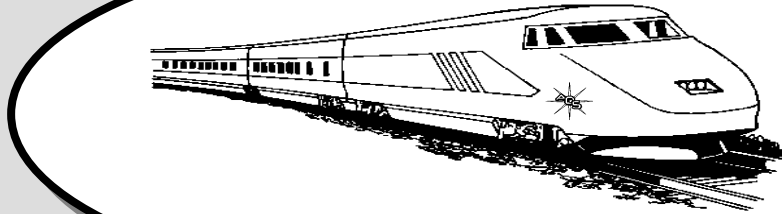


The Opal Express

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President's Message

By Pete Goetz

Well fellow Opalholics, it's here, **OUR 44th ANNUAL OPAL & GEM SHOW**. The Board of Directors and I invite you all to come to the White House / West Wing Event Center on Beach Boulevard this Saturday and Sunday. We would like all of you and your friends to experience OPAL at its best. There are vendors from several different OPAL producing countries with rough and finished stones; vendors with fine examples of jewelry made with OPALS and other precious and semi-precious stones; there will be novelty items; great Christmas gift ideas; and educational seminars on Jade and other opal related topics.

I would like to thank The Anaheim Arts Council for their generous support as well as all the society members who have donated their time and energy to making this event come to life.

Short and to the point this month. Hope to see you all next General Meeting, we will have a lecture on appraising OPAL.

Your almost Ex-President, Pete Goetz

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Opal Show Seminar Schedule

Sat. Nov. 5, 2011 - 11AM

How to find Opal in Coober Pedy, Australia, by Larry Hoskinson

Sat. Nov. 5, 2011 – 2PM

How to Identify Gemstones for Beginners (with no equipment) by Dr. Walt Johnson

Sun. Nov 6, 2011 - 11 AM

Advanced Opal Inlay, by Stan McCall

Sun. Nov 6, 2011 – 2PM

The World of Jade – by Jim Pisani

IT'S ARRIVED! THIS WEEKEND!

The American Opal Society's 44th Annual **OPAL & GEM SHOW**

The Largest Opal Show in USA!

Sat. Nov. 5, 2011 - 10AM - 6PM

Sun. Nov 6, 2011 - 10 AM - 5PM

Opal and Gem Dealers from the USA and Australia.
Rough and Cut Opals; gemstones; jewelry & supplies.
Huge Raffle many prizes of gemstones, jewelry, tools, etc.
Free Opal Seminars on Saturday with Paid Admission.
Free Demonstrations on gem cutting, jewelry making, etc.

Same great location!

White House / West Wing Event Center

1238 S. Beach Blvd.

Anaheim, CA 92804

<http://whitehouseeventcenter.com>

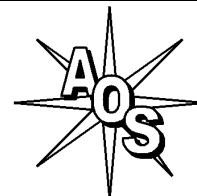
Located at Hobby City

A few dealer spots are still available! If you are interested, contact us ASAP!

Contact Info:

Pete Goetz

Phone: (714) 530-353 e-mail: mpr1022@aol.com



OpalSociety Group on the Internet

The American Opal Society has an on-line e-Group called "OpalSociety". If is for members to communicate on club activities and as a discussion forum for all things opal. It is located at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/OpalSociety/>.

All members are invited to join and by clicking on the button "Join This Group" on the web page to join.

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: "opalshow".

Paperless Newsletter

Want to see color photos in your copy of the newsletter? Sign up for electronic delivery of the newsletter, and enjoy an added bonus by saving the club postage cost and a reduced membership fee! Also, you are saving paper. Simply contact Jim Pisani at editor@opalsociety.org.

Opal Cutting Tips (Part 1)

By Steve Newstrom, Village Smithy Opals
(<http://www.villagesmithyopals.com>)

Let me preface this by saying there are many, many methods of opal cutting that are effective and will result in a perfectly acceptable finished cabachon. I have developed some techniques, over the years that have worked well for me. I would like to share my personal methods with you in the hopes that it will save you some time and frustration (and also produce gems you will be proud of). You may want to, almost certainly, expand on these techniques and develop a method of opal cutting that works well for your style and types of equipment.

Basic Non-motorized Equipment

Some of this is a repeat of the dialogue on our home page, but I would like to go into this topic in a little more detail. When I was 24 years old and stationed about the aircraft carrier USS Saratoga (1969-1973 for any salty sea dogs who may have been in the same position) I had some free time on my hands and was homesick for my lapidary equipment in Richfield Minnesota. I wrote to my parents and had them send me an unused 8" 220 grit grinding wheel, various grades of wet/dry sanding cloth, some dop sticks, some dopping wax, and some tin oxide polishing powder.

I ordered some opals from W. H. (Bill) Walker. He was an opal-dealer in the late '60's and early 70's. I heard some very colorful stories about Bill Walker in Coober Pedy, from the old time miners and buyers. He made several opal-buying trips to Australia in the 60's and 70's and is quite a legend.

I would study the stones carefully for maximum fire and direction and decide which side would be the back, then grind the back of the stone to make it flat and attach the stone to the dop stick for better control. I would carefully dop the stone by heating the stone gently (to make it adhere better to the dopping wax) and fix it to the melted dopping wax (on the dop stick) forming the wax onto the opal base in a smooth symmetrical fashion.

I would use the flat side of the grinding wheel, by hand to flatten the stone back and rough shape the stone once it is on the dop stick. It is a slow process and I didn't use much water...just enough to keep the dust down and clean the wheel occasionally...it was a dusty job. Final shaping was done using the 220 grit wet/dry sandpaper and then going to 600 grit paper (final sand and pre-polish with the old 600 cloths) and then polishing on a piece of old felt blanket with tin oxide. It was very labor intensive, but the control was amazing and you seldom cut through a fire layer!

Motorized Equipment with Diamond Abrasives

Sorry, but I don't have any new Genie's, Pixies or Titans (although they would make wonderful opal and gem cutting machines...maybe someday).

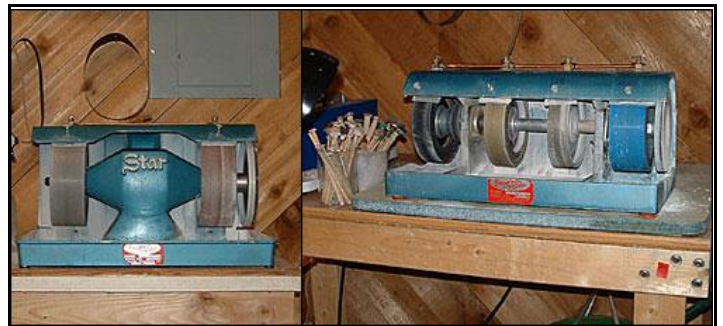
I have converted several machines, which I purchased new, (several years ago) from silicon carbide abrasives to diamond abrasives. It really was quite



a hit or miss proposition to find the right combinations in diamond abrasives vs. silicon carbide and come up with a workable solution to give a decent polish and not cut too fast or too slow.

First of all I use my Hi-Tech 8-inch unit to flatten the back of the stone (once you have studied and oriented the stone). I use a 180 grit for rough grinding for the back and then go to a 600 grit wheel to give it a partial polish.

I then use 220 diamond grinding belts or wheels for rough cutting and shaping the tops of the larger stones. With smaller stones (less than a carat) you may want to use a 320 grit sanding belt for rough shaping. Small stones cut very fast and before you know it there is nothing left...so beware. After rough cutting is finished I go to a 320 grit sanding belt (I personally like Raytech True Circle belts). I then go to a 600 grit belt for some final shaping and sanding (and to put a small bevel around the perimeter of the stone base...to prevent chipping when setting or to compensate for any extra solder the goldsmith may have left around the inside of the bezel) and then to a 1200 grit belt to get rid of the 600 grit scratches.



For pre-polish I use either an 1800 grit belt or a 3000 grit belt. Most of my wheels on the capping units are expanding drums to make switching of belts simple and economical. They either (1800 grit or 3000 grit) seem to give a great pre-polish. I then wash the stone and dop sticks well to remove any contaminating grits and it's off to the leather disc with tin oxide for the final polish. I am old fashioned as many people use 14,000 grit diamond and 50,000 grit diamond...I guess I like my tin oxide on soft leather discs. And as long as you keep the wheel wet, with a little mist from a spray bottle, there is really no heat buildup. It gives a great polish. Note: December 30, 2005...I broke down and bought an 8", 50,000 grit diamond sanding disk, for the end of my 8" unit, and have been using it for an extra bright final finish on opal cabs (after polishing with a tin oxide/Linde A mixture). I have to admit it DOES give a great final polish to my opal cabs and I really can tell the difference...the old adage is wrong...you can teach old dogs new tricks!



6-inch TC-6 trim saw...careful of the thin blade...it cuts flesh!

Sawing

For sawing I use my newest piece of equipment (2 years old) a Diamond Pacific TC-6 trim saw equipped with a MK-1000 6 inch by .006-inch blade. I purchased the saw through Kingsley North Lapidary supply (whom I recommend for equipment and general lapidary supplies...they are timely and helpful, and courteous). The blade is very thin so you don't lose much opal) so watch your fingers and it is also stainless so rusting is not a problem. I like to use Lube Cool 4800 for a saw coolant...a 16 ounce container goes a long way in a small trim saw especially when diluted 10 to 1 for sawing purposes.

A Little about Dopping

I used to use dopping wax to hold my stones on the dopping sticks, but after cracking a few heat sensitive opals (and having a few fly off of the stick and smash into little pieces) I decided I needed a new approach.



Use wood glue and fingernail polish when thoroughly dry to attach stones to dop sticks.

adding a coating of clear fingernail polish over the well-dried wood glue. I placed the stone with a drop or two of glue on the stick and centered it carefully) and placed the stone and stick vertically in a flattened pad of children's modeling clay and let the stone dry overnight. I then coated the glued portion with the fingernail polish and ten minutes later I was ready to cut. This takes some extra patience when waiting for the glue to dry overnight, but with a \$500.00 (or more) stone in the balance it may well be worth it.

To remove the stone I use acetone or fingernail polish remover to remove the fingernail polish and set in a glass of water overnight and the stone usually just falls off the dop stick in the morning. Be sure to clean the back of the stone with soap and water to remove any extra glue or you may re-glue the stone to a tabletop.

If you have any questions about techniques, equipment or opals in general don't hesitate to call. Evening hours 406-651-4947 (8:00 AM to 9:30 PM Mountain time). We like to visit about opals in general and are for the most part, very friendly, so don't hesitate to call! You know that good old Scandinavian heritage and hospitality...ya hey der, you know by golly.

Treating fractured opals

This is an e-mail I received from a good friend and a customer on treating fractured opals.... I cannot personally vouch for the procedure because I have not tried it but he swears by it and I have seen some amazing pictures of opals that he has treated in this manner.

Hey guys, this works!

Here is my procedure on Opticon for opals. This is done without the use of a vacuum machine and the results are very good! First I cut my opals to the desired shape with my opal blade (.006 diamond blade). I also use my saw blade to rough dome my cabs. This is done very slowly. Most people will grind the dome with their first stage of grit. After you have roughed in the stone and it is dry, place the stone or stones in a pint mason jar. It is more cost efficient to do several stones at once.

Fill the jar with Opticon (resin) to just cover all the stones by 1/8-1/4 inch over the stones. Place the jar on a coffee machine burner, like an old Mr. Coffee machine. Turn on the machine like you would if you were making coffee and cover the pint jar with a doubled piece of foil (do not put lid and ring on). Cook the opals for 6-8 hrs. After you are done cooking the opals remove the opals from the heat, take off the foil and pour as much of the Opticon out of the jar as you can, use oven mitts...that jar is mighty hot!!!! After you have gotten the hot resin out, put back on heat for a minute or so. Once you've done this procedure a few times you can empty out the resin pretty fast and don't have to return it to the heat. The whole point is to keep the stones hot.

After you empty the resin, place the lid and ring on the jar and tighten. Set aside for 8 hrs. When it cools the lid will pop and create its own vacuum. I usually start in the morning and then let the jar cool overnight. After it has set for 8hrs or more, open up the jar and remove the opals one by one, cleaning off the resin with a paper towel. Use gloves (surgical or latex) when doing this. You do not want to get this stuff on your hands!!!! Get another pint jar out for the hardener, ring and lid also. Place opals on a piece of foil and take hardener bottle and apply it to the stones (don't use a whole lot but the stones have to be wet). Get a pair of chopsticks or shishka-bob sticks and roll the stones so every part is wet with hardener. Take the jar and run it under as hot of water as your sink puts out, (pre heating it. Don't get the inside wet). When the jar is fairly warm, place the opals (on the foil) down in the jar. I normally shape the foil first to fit down into the jar. Place the jar on the coffee machine burner and cook 2hrs, covering it with foil. About 1 hr into the cooking, get your chopsticks and roll the stones in the hardener at least once. It is very important that you do not breath the fumes; hold your breath when you do this.

After about 2 hrs., remove from heat and place lid and tighten ring on jar. Set aside for 6-8 hrs., the lid should pop or suck down on this also. After it has set 6-8 hrs., open up jar and remove stones (with gloves on) and wipe off any remaining hardener. Let stones sit for a day or until they don't feel sticky. Dop up your stones and proceed to polish them. Keep in mind;

the Opticon only penetrates so far into the stone, 1/16-1/8 inch maybe. So the less gouges in the stone the better. I have yet to replace a ring on either jar, they keep sealing (10 times so far on both rings).

Opticon is an optical grade polymer resin, clearest of clear. It can save a stone that normally would have to be re-cut or used for chip inlay...crushed. There is nothing wrong with using Opticon but you need to state that the opal has been treated with it. Paul Downing has a good view on morals of the use of this product. Some people will treat their high-end stones with Opticon to stabilize the stone from possible damage in the future. Opticon will protect or save you from future grief. Opals are so awesome and I if you can keep one whole or save a fractured stone all the better. You just need to state the fact that you treated the stone. It doesn't harm or affect the beauty of the opal and can only be detected under a microscope and special lights. The stone will "fluoresce" or glow a reddish color under magnification, otherwise it is undetectable by the human eye, even with a loupe. This procedure does not make the stones invincible but they will last a whole lot longer, be less fragile, and much more stable. P.S. I don't treat every opal I cut, just problem ones.

Hopelessly addicted
Jeff Norman

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Continuing with Chapters 15 & 16 of the book
From Rags to Riches & Disasters

By Peter Greisl

Chapter 15 – A Great Partnership

Johnny knocked on our door sharp at 6:30am I let him in and Chris was cooking scrambled eggs and a couple chops, the sandwiches were ready and the thermos with the coffee, we ate and I said "You ready for action," Johnny replied, "Am I ever." Let's go I said kissed Chris and Beatrix and Chris said "Good Luck go and get them." We got in the Ute and drove to our claim, we arrived and Johnny said "I know this area, that where the Croatian Fellow Drago pulled out about \$40,000."

I replied, "Yes Klaus and Ludwig told me the same, I wonder if it is good or bad?"

"Well if you have traces and there is still virgin ground then we have every opportunity to find some," Johnny replied. We got out of the Car, got our gear and headed for the Shaft. I uncovered the Winch filled up the little tank with gasoline started it up and brought a Bucket to the surface, Johnny put in the gear and we sent the bucket down. Johnny commented, great job with the winch and the ladders when we were down in the shaft. He took the Carbide Lamps put in carbide and water and waited for the gas to appear and lit them. I got the Hurricane Lamps going and placed them so we could see our way. Johnny said, "how about you go up and operate the winch and I clean up here first," I said, "ok I helped filling the three buckets and then I claimed up and started up the winch again, I felt the tug and I pulled up the first bucket, swung it across the shaft on top of the pipe and pushed the bucket to the edge of the mullock heap and emptied the bucket. Returned it to the shaft and sent it down, that procedure happened for the other two, I had to wait a while till Johnny filled them and repeated that for about 12 buckets. Once that was finish I went down and joined him.

So my friend what do you think I said, he looked at everything closely and agreed with what Klaus and Ludwig said also.

We have two directions left to go, as long as we do not break through in to another tunnel, the opal which came out of this area is top material mostly crystal opal which fetches big money. I replied well let's hope there is some left for us.

Johnny said, "What I suggest we blast and start tunneling right here and he pointed at a virgin wall with a nice strong opal level we

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make it wide enough to fit either of us and a bucket alongside us so we can drop everything straight in the bucket which helps double handling all the dirt, can you afford to buy some Gelignite etc?

It is not cheap." The reason why I suggested this side is when you look at the strata you can work out that we would be working in the slip which is in the pillar as you can see if you draw a line across from the level of the pillar and the level of the wall where going to start the tunnel." I nodded and said, "Hey how could I argue against you got 2 years on me working in these things." Right well lets drop the level where you finished off at the opening to the other shaft and let's see if something was forgotten." Listen Peter, I don't like to sound like I am your boss but as you said you I have a bit more experience, but if there is something you don't agree please tell me, it was you who gave me the opportunity to work with you and you are supporting me, so it is in our interest for me to earn my keep." Very funny, just get on with it, if I am not happy with anything you will find me protesting."

He said you hold the Lamp and I start dropping the level. Johnny started picking away gently and slowly and you could see he did this before a few times.

When suddenly he said, hold it give me the lamp, which I passed to him and he shone the light very closely and he said we got some very colourful traces here not very thick but nice chips, he put his hand under and used the screw driver to dig then out, I could see by looking over his shoulder the beautiful colours, of green orange and blue and red, a magnificent display of colours. I passed him my linen sack I have with me all the time and he dropped them in, unfortunately they were only small traces about a millimeter thick, Johnny kept digging with his screwdriver and there were more and more, He just kept dropping in to my linen bag. Then all of a sudden the colour stopped and he got lots of potch but it became thicker and thicker but no spec of colour. He dropped them in anyhow. He said, "Why couldn't the colour be in these Bastards." I said "we nearly at the end at the other shaft."

Let's just finish up here and go up and have a coffee," So we just dropped the rest very careful but without any excitement. Johnny shoved the rest in a bucket and dragged it to shaft and connected the winch cable, we can look through it on the top. I climbed up and started the winch and tried to haul the bucket up, but it would not move the pulley shaft is spinning, inside the pulley, I shouted down to Johnny, of what happened, he came up and had a look and said, have you got any Allen keys I said there are some tools which came with the winch in the Ute, I went and got the tin with the tools and found Allen Key, handed it to Johnny he tried to tighten the screw but she just turned and turned without tightening. He said "the thread is stripped." Why can't we have just one week without any hassles, let's get the pulley off and take it to Laszlo and have him drill it a little larger and tap a new thread and new screw preferable with a hexogen head so we can use a spanner on it. Because the shaft was spinning in the pulley made it easy to remove the pulley.

We got our gear and we headed for Laszlo.

Up on arrival Laszlo was sitting outside and enjoying a sandwich and a cola, we got out and I told him what happened and he just said, "No Problem I fix this in a jiffy. He finished his Sandwich and Cola took the Pulley and walked to his work bench, I just wandered around and I noticed a engine which had only one cylinder and a heavy flywheel of about 2 foot diameter, and it had a sign on it saying For Sale,

32 Volt 1000 watt Generator in perfect working order only \$ 250.00 and right next to it was a two wheel grinder and a separate diamond saw for gem cutting and the price on this one was \$ 100.00 and it was also powered with 32 Volt Motors.

My mind started ticking over. The Generator had some pipes attached to the exhaust and was leading to a 5 Gallon drum, and a pipe protruding from the 5 Gallon drum, very intriguing.

When he was finished he charged me \$ 5.00 for the job and the pulley did have a halve inch hexogen screw in it.

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I did ask Laszlo about all the equipment and he said if I want it he will bring it up to my place. I asked him if he is interested of taking opals in lieu of payment for the Ute. He replied, I have a look and if ok yes we can do a deal. I said to him I will see him later today.

I told Johnny the story how I got the Ute and Johnny replied well if he will accept of what you got which I got no Idea about it that would be great. I said I have to talk to Chris if she agrees for me to spend \$350.00 on the generator and the Cutting equipment which would help in cleaning up stones etc.

Johnny no more work today, I just have to get all the little things out of the way so I can concentrate completely on the mine. Johnny just replied "you do what you have to do, unfortunately I am not able at this moment to contribute financially, but once we make money I will most certainly pay for halve of what you paid out for equipment etc since you offered halve of what we get out off, and you support me, so all I can offer is my help with anything what's need doing." When we got home it was about 2pm. Chris came out and said, "What are you doing home?"

I told her what happened and also about the opal chips which we will sort out and wash and brush, I also told her I am going to see Lazlo with our opal stuff and see if I can do a deal with him about the Ute, so we don't have this hanging over us.

I mentioned the Generator and the cutting gear and explained the benefits to her of owning them, like the gas lights will be replaced with electric lights, and it is cheaper than buying gas and I have to get a couple Batteries one 24 Volt and one

12 Volt connect them together in series which gives me 36 Volts, and the generator will charge the batteries and we will have in the evening battery power, as the batteries would last supplying six 60 watt globes continuous use 32 hours.

And when we would use the cutting gear then we would have the Generator running. It would be more convenient and considerable cheaper.

She just said to me, "You know I trust you and if you feel this is a better way to go then make this investment, you know our financial position." I have a serious think tank about it I replied.

I got all the jars with the opal etc., and ask Johnny if he wants to come. He said "Can you take the VW and let me have the Ute, I like to go somewhere and see somebody who owes me money and he has a lot of Gelignite, Fuses and Detonators, I see if he can either pay me or we do a deal with the gelignite."

"Sure take it that sounds good" I replied.

So I went to Lazlo and Johnny went where ever it was. I arrived at Lazlo and asked him if he got time to look at the stuff I brought. Sure he said, and we went out the back of his work shop and sat on a bench and I pulled out the jars and he had a look, then I gave him the couple of stones which were exquisite. That's nice he exclaimed and said, I tell you I like you and you seem to be a straight guy, give me another \$ 100.00 and you got a deal, what do you say?" I said well Laszlo I am very interested in the generator and cutting gear, will you accept the stones and

\$ 350.00 for the lot?" He looked at me and said, I like to give a nice bloke a chance and help if I can. You got a deal. We shook hands and I went across to the Post office and withdrew \$ 350.00, which left me a balance of \$ 650.00 in the Bank and \$ 600.00 operating funds and I knew Chris still had \$ 350.00 of her money this gives us a total of \$ 1,600.00 not a great deal but I am so convinced that we will find something very soon.

I paid Laszlo, and he said he will drop the gear off after he closes his workshop.

I thanked him and he just said I wish you all the Luck.

I drove home and felt real good to be able to give Chris a bit of a better comfort with lightning at least and we had some equipment to clean up any stones etc.

When I arrived Johnny was already home and he was smiling like a Cheshire Cat.

I said what's that smiling all about? He said follow me, we went outside to the Ute and he threw back an old blanket we had on there

and I saw a case of gelignite and 3 rolls of fuses and 2 boxes of detonators. I slapped him on the shoulder and said that's fantastic, did you steal it I laughed? He said no, this guy is a Slovak and I sold him my car and he did not pay for it in full he owed me a couple hundred dollars, but he gets his explosive from one of his mates and picks it up every month from Port Augusta."

Well my friend I owe now the Ute, and a generator and the cutting Gear.

So my task is now finish, I am ready now for serious mining.

I said let's look at the stuff we brought home, we went around the back to our bench and emptied the linen bag into a bowl, I had a couple coffee jars and we started licking and sucking of the stuff and seen some beautiful opal chips, some were the size of the little finger nail, I licked and spat out the dirt in the process. And we were so excited about this material, my heart was pounding, I said there must be something still there, Johnny replied we will find it if it is still there.

We filled up a jar with good stuff and the other with coloured potch but it was great and I am sure we will get a good price for it. I said to Johnny well we can get the generator working by the weekend and start cleaning up the stuff.

I got some water and filled up the jar and washed the stones a few times and even with dirt etc on it they looked great.

Asked Chris to come out and she had a look and just stammered "wow what colours, that's real nice opal." You got all dirt around your mouth she said to me, I said I know I was licking and sucking on them to see the real colour."

Well my darling all we want is about 100 ounces of this colour and we are made."

Let's hope so she replied.

Tomorrow is the day were I can start concentrating on my dream, which I came to Andamooka for, to be a Opal miner, I had a great partner, I had Machinery, I had a comfortable lodging, I had a couple of cars, but most of all I had a fantastic Wife which is all the way behind me and does not complain.

So tomorrow, this is it!

Chapter 16 – The Miracle

Chris and I were sitting outside and enjoying a cup of coffee, Johnny went to the post office as he had been told from the Scotts fellow across from us that there is a letter for him.

And that was when Chris said to me, have you made any payment on the car since we left? I replied, "No I did not." She said, that means we owe them 3 month payment on the 15th of this month," I know I replied and was hoping that I find enough to make this payments, I just have to send at least a couple payments which is \$ 350.00 I get money orders and send them tomorrow," I said.

Chris of course looked very worried and stammered a question at me, will we be ok? I assured her we will be fine, and tomorrow we start working the claim just like a job, and there are traces everywhere, and I am sure we find some Opal.

Johnny arrived back with the Ute got out and sat next to me and he had a very serious expression on his face. I said to him," What's the matter you look like you seen a ghost." He replied it's my mother, she had a heart attack and is in Hospital, this letter is from my sister asking me to come back to Adelaide as she does not know if my mother will make it." Chris's face went ashen, I had to swallow

And all I could say was, Johnny you have to go." "I do realize this, but how?"

I got no money, there is no truck going down to Port Augusta at least not for a couple of days. "Johnny said. "Hold on let's not be too hasty," I replied, there is the mail truck let's find out when he is coming and can you get a lift back with him."

Come on lets go to the Post office and ask Schultz, so in the Ute we jumped and drove down to the Post Office, and Schultz was there we asked him and told him of the situation, and he replied he is

still here having a meal at Gus's place and he has to pick up parcels and mail from me here as I was not ready for him."

So go to Gus's and ask for Albert and tell him your predicament and I am sure he will help."

We went to Gus's and there was Albert having a meal, we introduced ourselves and told him Schultz told us to see him. Johnny told him the Story and showed him the letter from his Sister, Albert just said," be at Schultz in an hour and you can come with me to Port Augusta, I have to make a short stop in Womera on the way."

We thanked him and went home, we told Chris of what's happening, and she went to prepare some sandwiches for Johnny to take with him. I said to Chris," Give Johnny the Coupon book for the AGC Finance Change the address on the back and give him please \$1,250.00 from our tin, which is 6 Car payments and \$200.00 for him so he can catch a plane from Port Augusta to Adelaide and have his Sister pick him up, in case it cannot be done so he got some money for Taxi."

Jonny was ready packed and with only necessities, Chris gave him the sandwiches and I gave him the money and explained what was what. He said," You are great friends; I will not let you down. I will be back." "Keep us posted of what's going on." I kissed Chris and Beatrix good buy, and I took him down to Schultz – Post Office. Albert was there and they just threw in the last few parcels and Johnny jumped in and off they went. Johnny waved and showed me Thumbs Up.

I got in my Ute and felt real pleased with myself, that I was in a position of helping someone in despair.

It was about 2 pm when I got back to the Shack, Chris was waiting and I told her Johnny got off ok. Chris asked me, do you think we did the right thing? I said," Darling I am a fairly good judge of character, and if I had any reservations I would not have given the money for the car payments to Johnny, but I am sure we will be ok and he will be back."

"The only problem I have got now is I cannot start our project because of the blasting, I would like to be part for a few more times and watch and learn before I attempt to set charges myself," I explained.

In the mean time I can get the Generator set up and see Jack Dutton if he got some wall light fittings in his repertoire which I could use, also some timber sand corrugated iron sheets so I can build a cover for the generator.

Chris mentioned that we would have about 4 weeks of money left, I agreed with her and again I told her that we will be Ok, the big Guy up there he will not let anything happen to us.

I managed the to get the Generator set up with the help of Chris, I dug the hole where the exhaust drum was going and covered it up and just a 6 inch pipe protruded from the ground which was the end of the exhaust system, the reason for all this was the drum which was nearly full with dirt and hence there was no loud exhaust noise, it was just a very muffled tshoof, tshoof, tshoof noise, being a single cylinder engine. There was also supplied a 5 gallon drum which had converted to a fuel tank for this engine. Well I had set up everything, Generator with Grounding Stake, Exhaust System, Fuel Supply, Batteries, and on one of the timber supports I mounted a power point, to plug in the extension lead which goes to the supply board of the 4 lights, and a power circuit for the Cutting Gear, which was set up in a corner of Johnny's room. Being a electrical whizz I had no problems in setting up everything what was needed and the great part is it is low Voltage so you could not really get electrocuted. The only thing I need now is a inverter rectifier, which converts the AC Current to DC Current, so I can have the batteries charged which will supply the Lighting, the Cutting Gear will be running direct from the Generator which we have to start up before we cut some stones.

Looked at the Job as was very please with my efforts, I picked up 6 32 volt light globes from the CO-OP and we were ready for the big test.

Drum is full of Gasoline, Sump is full of oil, and I got the Crank Handle which fit on to the enormous fly wheel and I started it turning which was very hard to start with till it picked up a bit of momentum and that was when I threw the starter switch and low and behold it fired instantly and away she went with this gentle whispering exhaust noise. Just like one of these boats you can hire with a single engine and they call it put, put as that was the sound the generator made but very quietly. It was running very steady and I plugged in the power lead, and went is side and plugged in the main light supply cord, and there it was in all its glory we had electric light. Chris said "that's great darling," I smiled and replied "White Man's Magic, "She laughs and hugged me. I explained to her about the Rectifiers I had to get up from Adelaide or any electronic shop and they are very cheap only a few cents as they are just a component like a transistor not a piece of equipment.

Over the next few days, I just went to the Claim occasionally started up the winch and made sure everything is ok, I went down the shaft a couple of times and scratched around a little but with no success.

Three weeks have passed since Johnny had left and I was totally unproductive. Our funds depleted rapidly, I have not heard a thing from Johnny, I kept checking daily at the Post office.

This particular morning I went in to town with Chris to pick up a few things from the Co-Op, when Peter Schultz spotted me outside the Co-Op waiting for Chris when he shouted across "I got some mail here for you." I went across and he handed me a letter it was from Johnny. He told me he got to Adelaide ok, but without the money I gave him he would have never managed it as no one was able to get him he, caught a flight from Port Augusta to Adelaide, and then a Taxi to the Hospital.

He said his mum is ok but they have to do a bypass operation, which will happen in the following week, he explained that he will be back as soon as he knows his mum is ok. He told me that he made the car payments to AGC and gave them the new address as I asked him to do.

He just joked when he wrote; I hope you left some opal in there for me to get out when I am back. He mentioned if everything goes Ok he should be back in two weeks as he wants to be sure that his mum is fine and don't have to be put in the hospital again.

Well it was great news but that will be very tight and scary in reference of my resources. I don't think we can last three weeks.

Since I used all my Opal resources to pay for the Ute etc.. I got nothing left I could maybe sell to get some money. This was the first time I am starting to get concerned and worried.

I decide I cannot wait any longer, I have to go to work the hard way, by working with Pick and shovel, well so be it I told myself it has to be done.

The next day I went to the claim and started working, with the pick I stared gouging out the clay and filling the buckets, three at a time and then I went up pulled them up with the winch, emptied and down I went and so on. It was a back breaking job, so I decide not to work on the tunnel I just gouge out a few inches below the level and work it as far as I could reach in and still be able to pull out some dirt. I did this on all virgin walls, and I cleaned up the dirt and pulled it up.

Then I just dropped very carefully the level and looked and checked and Looked and checked etc., nothing, and that went on for just two weeks.

Our Money tin was empty; the money in the bank I took out when I paid Laszlo and put it in the tin it was to cover the car payments which I gave to Johnny to make six individual payments.

All Chris had was \$5.00 and I had about \$20.00 which I need for fuel.

I knew I should have not worried about the Car and let them find me etc, like other people do, but I am not this way inclined, when I borrow I pay back. I am sure something will happen and I will find something salable.

In the morning Chris did not sleep a wink nor did I as we had to pay in a couple of days the rent to Jack Dutton then the meat supply, we need to buy water etc. The cupboards were empty.

And we did not have the money to do this. It was not a great situation to be in.

Anyhow in the morning we had the last couple of slices of bread for toast and Chris gave me the last \$5.00 and said to me get bread milk and cereal on your way home please, and she had tears in her eyes. I was choking myself and pulled her towards me in a big hug, and tried to reassure her we will be ok I sure something will happen, we make it."

I picked up Beatrix and kissed her and said daddy will see you this afternoon, you be a good girl for mommy." She hugged me and said "I love you daddy" I replied I love you too Pumpkin".

Put her down and got in the Ute and drove down to the co-op to buy a bottle of kerosene for the hurricane lamps.

As soon as I walked in the Co-Op Store Doug McCallum the Manager came up to me and said," Peter you are a Butcher by trade?" I replied "yes I am a qualified Butcher"

He then said," I am a bit in a bind here, Arthur my Butcher who was running the butcher shop had to leave for Adelaide at the drop of a hat, there was a death in the family and he was executer and has to sort the estate for his family and also take over the family business. He could not even give me any warning he left last night with one of Johnny Lyons Truck." He continued, "I don't have a Butcher all I have is Anne she is just serving but she could not dress any meat, or make sausages etc. I know you came to fields to work and find Opals, and I am only asking you as I don't know of anyone on the field who is a butcher, and I cannot shut the shop down till I get a replacement for Arthur, can you help me out?" My heart jumped for joy but I kept it calm and asked him what hours etc. He replied," It would be from 8:00am till 4pm we have a break from 12:00 to 1:00pm then we open the shop again, I will pay you \$250.00 per week plus daily meat."

I said to him "when do you want me to start?" He said "Go home and get changed into some clean clothes and come back and you start straight away." I could not hide my joy any longer, and told him," You know I started, and pulled out the \$5.00 Chris gave me and said this is our last money, your proposition was a god send, we got no food in the cupboards and I just came to buy some cereal and milk and bread, to take home to feed our daughter."

He then said," Take a trolley, and put in whatever you need and a bit of luxury biscuits etc., take it home and come back." I said thank you Mr. McCallum he replied "Doug is the Name." I see you when you get back. I shoved all the Groceries and to large Paper Shopping bags and there were three bags.

I put them on the back of the Ute covered it up with the tarp and went home.

When I arrived, Chris came out and said" What happened, why you are home?"

I said," That's it I had enough." She looked dumbfounded and I grabbed her twirled her around and said "have a look darling." I threw back the tarp and there were these three bags full of goodies, She said with her eyes wide open, "Did you rob the Store, she laughed" I told her what was happening, she started crying, and looked me in the yes and just blurted out" Peter Greisl I love you," We carried all the groceries inside, I asked her to give me a nice white shirt and my Dark Blue Shorts.

I changed, washed and shaved and was ready to be a Butcher. No more Mutton now Beef, Pork and chicken.

Now I knew, I can get the money together to put a Cut in and I can take care of Johnny without any worries, Johnny has to work on his own as long as he can I will join him when I finish in the shop for a couple of hours to pull dirt for him etc.

And then when we have enough we put in the cut. I also told Doug that this will not be a permanent arrangement, but I will give him plenty of Notice so he will find a replacement.

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November 2011 Gem & Mineral Shows

More shows can be found at <http://rockngem.com/showdates/>

4-6—EUREKA, CA: Show and sale; Humboldt Gem & Mineral Society; Redwood Acres Fairgrounds, 3750 Harris St.; Fri. 9-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$2, children \$1; flint knapper, live demonstrations, geode cutting; contact Toni Tyson, 82787 Charlestown Ave., Indio, CA 92201, (707) 502-9574; e-mail: rockchick9233@aol.com

4-6—SAN DIEGO, CA: Retail show; PrimeXpo Jewelry Bead and Gift Show; Scottish Rite Events Center, 1895 Camino Del Rio South; Fri. 12-6, Sat. 11-6, Sun. 11-5; free admission; jewelry, beads, gifts, local, national and international exhibitors; contact Shalisha Lawson, 270 E. Hunt Hwy., Ste. 16-323, San Tan Valley, AZ 85143, (480) 458-7600; e-mail: info@primexpousa.com; Web site: www.primexpousa.com

5-6—ANAHEIM, CA: 44th annual show; American Opal Society; White House/West Wing Event Center, Hobby City, 1238 S. Beach Blvd.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$3, children under 15 free; opal and gem dealers from the USA and Australia, rough and cut opals, gemstones, jewelry, supplies, raffle, free seminars, free gem cutting and jewelry making demonstrations; contact Pete Goetz, (714) 530-3530, e-mail: mpg1022@aol.com; Web site: <http://opalsociety.org>

5-6—CONCORD, CA: Annual show; Contra Costa Mineral & Gem Society; Centre Concord, Clayton Fair Shopping Center, 5298 Clayton Rd. (near Ygnacio Valley Rd.); Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; adults \$5 (discount on Web site), children under 16 and Scouts in uniform free with adult; contact Harry Nichandros, P.O. Box 4667, Walnut Creek, CA 94596, (925) 289-0454; e-mail: bob@ccmgs.org; Web site: ccmgs.org

5-6—LANCASTER, CA: 10th annual show; Palmdale Gem & Mineral Club; Antelope Valley Fairgrounds, Van Dam Pavilion, 2551 W. Ave. H; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-5; free admission; gemstones, minerals, beads, lapidary, jewelry, display supplies, dinosaur program with Richard Wade, petrified wood programs with Walton Wright, kids' scavenger hunt, silent auction, demonstrations, raffle; contact Cheri George, 2255 W. Avenue O, Palmdale, CA 93551, (562) 243-8470; e-mail: lizardwoman3@yahoo.com; Web site: www.palmdalegemandmineral.com

5-6—RIDGECREST, CA: 56th annual show; Indian Wells Gem & Mineral Society; Desert Empire Fairgrounds, Mesquite Hall, 520 S. Richmond Rd.; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-5; free admission; contact John DeRosa, (760) 375-7905; e-mail: IndianWellsGems@hotmail.com; Web site: www.indianwells.weebly.com

5-6—SAN DIEGO, CA: Annual show; San Diego Mineral & Gem Society; Al Bahr Shrine, 5440 Kearny Mesa Rd.; Sat. 9:30-5, Sun. 10-4; free admission; free gem I.D., more than 12 dealers, more than 40 exhibits, club sales, slabs, books, magazines, junior booth, door prizes, demonstrators, faceting, lost wax casting, silver chain making, sphere making, wire wrapping; contact Bob Hancock, (619) 889-6886; e-mail: RHBOBHANCOCK@cs.com; Web site: www.SDMG.org

11-13—SACRAMENTO, CA: Annual show; Sacramento Mineral Society; Scottish Rite Temple, 6151 H St.; Fri. 10-5, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-4; adults \$5, children (12 and under) free; 75th Diamond Jubilee.; contact Terry Rubstello, 8251 Tanowa Court, Sacramento CA, 95828, (916) 682-5330; e-mail: onerockcollector@gmail.com; Web site: www.sacramentomineralsociety.org

11-13—SANTA ANA, CA: Wholesale/retail show, "Fall West Coast Gem & Mineral Show"; Martin Zinn Expositions; Holiday Inn-Orange County Airport, 2726 S. Grand Ave.; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; free admission; open to the public, more than 80 wholesale and retail dealers, minerals, fossils, gems, jewelry, lapidary supplies; contact Martin Zinn Expositions LLC, P.O. Box 665, Bernalillo, NM 87004-0665, (505) 867-0425

12—VALLEJO, CA: 2nd annual show; Vallejo Gem & Mineral Society; Vallejo Veterans Bldg., 420 Admiral Callaghan Ln.; Sat. 9-5; adults \$1, children under 14 free with adult admission; free raffle prizes; contact Dan Wolke, 255 Essex Way, Benicia, CA 94510, (707) 745-1816; e-mail: dncwolke@sbcglobal.net; Web site: www.iwired.org

19-20—OXNARD, CA: Annual show; Oxnard Gem & Mineral Society; Oxnard Performing Arts Center, 800 Hobson Way; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4; free admission; free rock for each child, lapidary demonstrations, glass-bead making, wire wrapping, rock polishing, dealers, gems, minerals, fossils, stone beads, ID opals, silver craft, finished jewelry, tools, lapidary supplies, books; contact Norb Kinsler, 6550 Swan St., Ventura, CA 93003, (805) 644-6450; e-mail: show_info@oxnardgem.com; Web site: www.oxnardgem.com

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American Opal Society Membership Application

FILL IN APPLICABLE INFORMATION		DUES / FEES)	AMOUNT PAID
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	NEW MEMBERS	\$40	
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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:			

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

Are Your Dues Due Now?
PLEASE CHECK YOUR ADDRESS LABEL or NEWSLETTER E-MAIL. There should be a date that shows the current month/year of your membership. If the date is older than the current date, your dues are overdue. A warning will be stated if you are overdue.
 A Renewal Grace Period of two months will be provided. Please note, however, that as the system is now set up, if your renewal is not received you will be AUTOMATICALLY dropped from membership thereafter. It is your responsibility to assure your dues are current.
 Thank you,
 The Editor

The Opal Express

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

**Volume #44 Issue #11
November 2011**

Some Topics In This Issue:

- Opal & Gem Show Seminars
- Opal Cutting Tips
- From Rags to Riches & Disasters
Chapter 15 – A Great Partnership
Chapter 16 – The Miracle

Important Dates:

October 30 Board Meeting

November 5 & 6 – Opal & Gem Show

November 10 - General Meeting:

- Show Recap
- Opal Appraisal – bring in your best opal to be appraised.

TO:

November 5th & 6th Opal & Gem Show



— GENERAL MEETINGS —

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

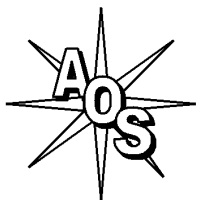
Garden Grove Civic Women's Club
9501 Chapman Ave.
Garden Grove, CA 92841
(NE corner of Gilbert & Chapman)

MEETING ACTIVITIES

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

Meeting Location

22 Freeway



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

Pete Goetz
LaVerne Christenson
Jim Pisani
Gene LeVan

President (714) 530-3530
Treasurer (714) 531-4041
Editor & Webmaster (714) 815-4638
Show Chairman (562) 208-7494

email: mpg1022@aol.com
email: laverne@socal.rr.com
email: editor@opalsociety.org
email: fineblackopal@sprynet.com