

The Opal Express

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



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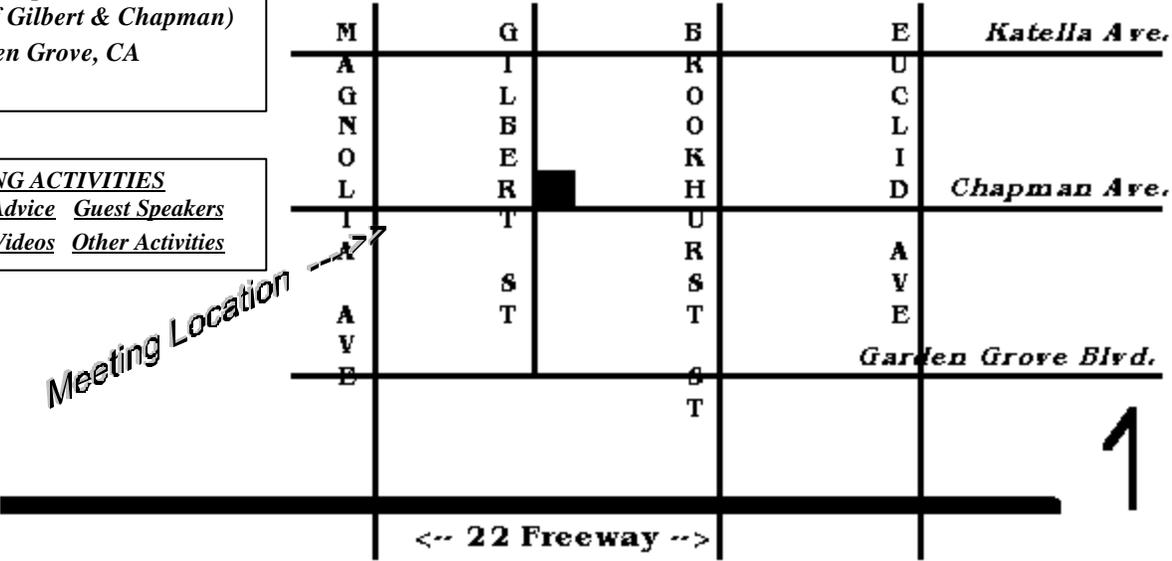
Volume #33 Issue #07 June, 2001

Board Meeting - Monday June 11
 =====
General Meeting – Thursday, June 14
 Program Details are still being
 arranged at press time. Don't miss
 out! Be there!

TO:

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

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



The American Opal Society Contacts: <http://www.opalsociety.org>

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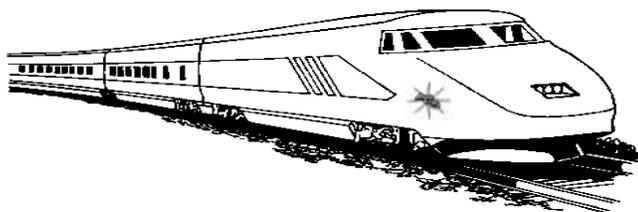
The Opal Express

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Opal
Society

Volume 33, Issue 6



President's Message

From Mike Kowalsky

Well, lots of news from the May activities and the future activities of the American Opal Society.

First, I want to thank the members who provided samples of opal from the North American Continent for our display case at the Searchers Gem and Mineral Show. Our case was a hit among the viewers. Very few viewers knew that there were so many locations where opal is found in North America.

Russ Madsen contributed to the display a beautiful silver piece of jewelry containing an Opal Canyon opal, as well as other polished cabochons and rough opal from Red Rock Canyon in California. Russ also provided a sample of opal rough from Tecopah Springs in California. He also enhanced the display with a number of opals from Opal Canyon in various stages of being polished.

We displayed the beautiful sample of Lead Pipe Springs California opal that was donated by Bob Wheeler of the China Lake Naval Weapons Center. Jim Pisani received the sample during his trip to Lead Pine Springs last year. Both Russ and Jim provided samples of opal rough from the Black Rock Desert in Nevada. Jim Pisani also provided a magnificent specimen of rough opal as well as other specimens from the Virgin Valley, Nevada.

Carol Bova donated to the AOS a sample of rough blue opal from the Richardson Ranch in Oregon. Jim Pisani provided a sample of opal rough from the Okanogan District of British Columbia in Canada.

Pete Goetz loaned a sample of rough opal which he obtained at the Woodward Ranch near Alpine, Texas. I provided polished cabochons which Pete had

obtained for me and some rough pieces of opal from the Woodward Ranch in Texas. Hopefully, Pete will document his trip to Texas in a future article, and a presentation at a monthly meeting.

I provided some black opal cabochons from Mexico and very nice free style opals from Honduras. I also provided several polished freeform stones from Louisiana. I loaned a polished slab of Blue opal from the Huson mine in Idaho, as well as some rough opal from Spencer Idaho.

As you can see we were able to put together a very nice display case in a short time, thanks to everyone who contributed to the success of our case. Jim Pisani is putting together a more magnificent case for display at our annual show in November. Already we have received some additional donations for the North American exhibit. Please note areas where we do not have specimens and help Jim in his goal to cover all the North American opal-bearing locations for our November show.

We are planning to visit the Huson Mine near Salmon Idaho in the latter part of June. Look for full details following this column.

News Flash!!!

As many of you may know, I am planning a trip to visit the Yowah Annual Festival and the Lightning Ridge Festival in July. I just received and accepted an invitation from the Yowah Festival Committee to have the honor of opening this year's Festival. What a honor for the American Opal Society!

Hope to see you at a monthly meeting soon. Mike Kowalsky

Trip to Idaho Blue Opal Mine June 24 to June 26, 2001

The plan for the trip to the Idaho Blue Opal Mine is as follows: Meet in Chalis, Idaho at the Village Inn Motel. My plan is to arrive on the 24th of June and stay there. If you arrive in the evening, we plan to have dinner with Tom Huson, mine owner.

On Monday, June 25 and Tuesday June 26, we will drive to the mine and do some mining. Bring some equipment, pails etc. I plan to leave on the 26th of June.

Please e-mail me if you plan to meet us so we can be prepared for the number of people coming. My email is: mykowalsky@aol.com.

Mike

Trip Report from Aussie Opal Country

As I write, I am washing off my opal rough and getting ready for the 8 hour car ride to Lightning Ridge, which we'll make tomorrow. The last week has been an incredible combination of wonderful weather, great tucker (food) and backbreaking fossicking.

We've just been trucking over heaps of backstow (the overflow taken from the opal mines), picking out opal nuts and other bits that might contain color. Back at the camp, we get our bucket of water and pick, and crack them open.

I have far more appreciation for the time, work and skill entailed in getting the opal from the ground to the cutter. And there are some fabulous cutters here in Yowah, with a lot of tips, which I'll make notes on and share when we get back. It's all very informal, very primitive. The only convenience is plenty of hot water, as Yowah sits on an 80 year old artesian hot water bore which brings the water to the surface at 120°F. Unlimited hot water for showers and washing. The problem is getting it cold enough! And ice is at a definite premium.

Talk to you again from Down Under. Jackie Paciello
PHALETH@aol.com

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Rusty Nail by Cathy Gaber

You've always been told to get a tetanus shot if you step on a rusty nail. Then nail could be contaminated with tetanus (also called lockjaw) and infect you. Well

actually rust has nothing to do with it. Tetanus bacteria spores are most commonly found in soil, dust and manure, so any scratch, puncture or other wound that has come in contact with these substances are the most likely to cause tetanus.

Headache and spasms of the jaw muscles are the first symptoms of tetanus. Irritability and spasms of the neck, arm, leg and stomach muscles may follow. Convulsions can be severe enough to break bones and victims may end up being hospitalized for several weeks. Up to 30 percent of victims in the US die.

Only about 50 to 100 people get tetanus in the US each year, but most of those cases are under-immunized older adults. When was your last booster shot? A booster is recommended at least every 10 years for adults. If a wound has been contaminated by dirt more than 5 years after immunization, then an immediate booster is advisable. If you have any doubt, discuss it with your doctor. When properly immunized, the prevention against tetanus is over 95 percent effective.

In addition to keeping your boosters up to date, proper care of any wound or break in the skin, including burns and frostbite, can help prevent the risk of becoming infected with tetanus. Clean the wound thoroughly with antiseptic and remove all dirt and debris. Tetanus symptoms can occur in as little as two days or as long as a few months with 2 weeks being the average onset time frame. More serious cases manifest more quickly.

-----Opal Express Advertisement-----

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW!

AOS OPAL AND 6EM SHOW

NOV. 3RD & 4TH, 2001

BLOCK OF ROOMS RESERVED QUALITY INN FOR NOV. SHOW!

We have a block of rooms reserved at the Quality Hotel Maingate, 616 Convention Way, in Anaheim, California for the annual Opal and Gem Show. The special rate is \$69.95 plus tax, plus \$8 per day parking fee. (Please note, there is a \$40 per night fee for overnight RV parking.)

If you're planning to stay there, please call early to reserve your room, because this is a very busy area, and the block will be released on Oct. 2nd.

To make reservations, please call the hotel directly: (800) 231-6215 or (714) 750-3131.

-----Opal Express Advertisement-----

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Harry Martin**

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computer while the editor's was down!**

Donations Sought for Show

Our Annual Opal and Gem Show supplements dues income to support the activities of the American Opal Society, and we need your help.

Door Prizes are one of the fund raising attractions of the AOS Show. Winners do not have to be present because we mail prizes if a legible address is given. This means that members and friends all over the country can participate in the fun.

This year, you can help make this the biggest drawing in our history by sending a donated item to be used as a prize. A cab, a piece of opal or other gem rough, a piece of jewelry, a book, a specimen, a tool... the choice is yours. Because we are a not-for-profit educational organization, if you enclose a note with your name and address, the description of your donated item and its value, we'll send you back a donation acknowledgement to use for tax purposes if you itemize deductions.

Costs to produce the show have gone up, so our income has decreased. Costs to produce the newsletter have gone up, and postage rates are due to rise again in July. Dealer table rates are already among the highest in the area, and we have eliminated the 10% early payment discount granted in prior years.

The American Opal Society needs to meet these economic challenges. We know we can count on you and our other members and friends to make this year a real winner for the American Opal Society by sending a donation!

SHOW DATES

June 22-24 2001 Paso Robles, CA CFMS Show & Convention - Gem, Jewelry, and Mineral Show, San Lucia Rockhounds, California Mid-State Fairgrounds, 2198 Riverside Avenue, Paso Robles.
Co-Chairs: Bea & Sherm Griselle (805) 238-4366

July 7-8 Culver City, CA, Culver City Rock & Mineral Club Veteran's Memorial Auditorium, Culver Blvd. & Overland Ave. Hours: Sat 10-6 Sun 10-5.
Brad Smith brad@greenheart.com, (310) 472-6490,
Beth Rosengard (310) 652-0252
bethrosengard@earthlink.net
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