

The Opal Express

American Opal Society
 P.O. Box 4875
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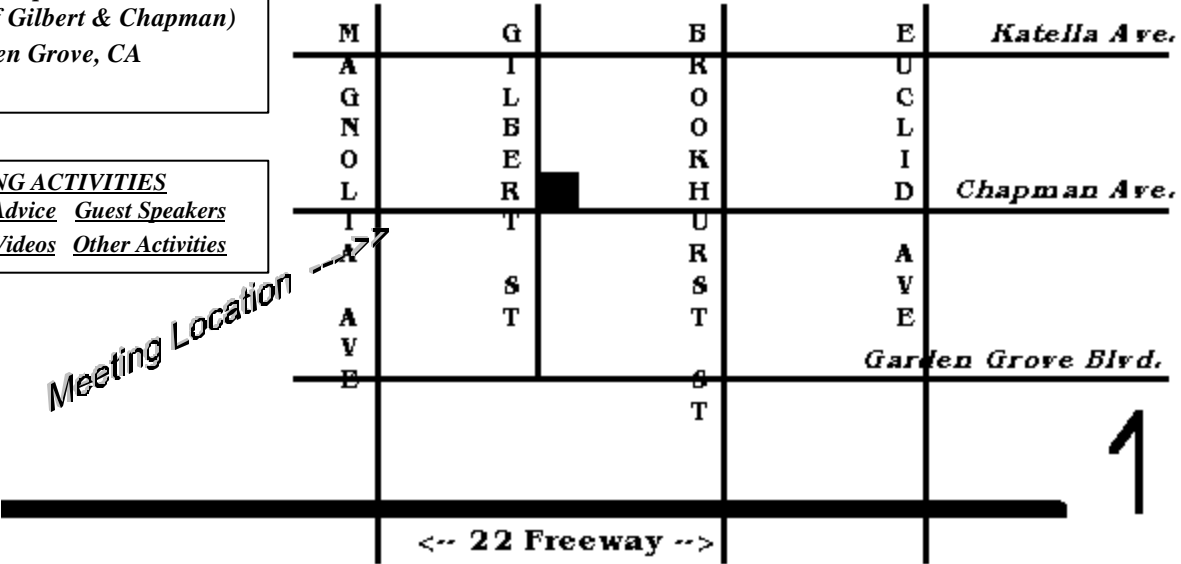
Volume #33 Issue #07

Thursday, July 12, 7PM
Don't Miss Clare Gagnon –
Beginning Faceting!

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
<http://www.opalsociety.org>

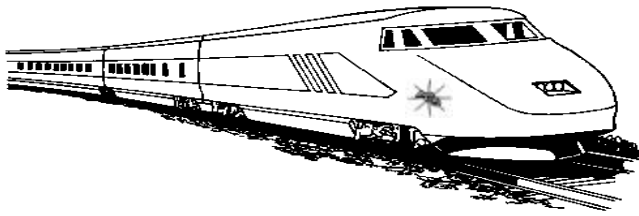
Mike Kowalsky	President	(714) 761-4876	email: mykowalsky@aol.com
Bob Dixon	Vice President	(714) 534-5063	
Bob Olinskas	Treasurer	(949) 786-7291	
Jay Carey	Show Chairman	(714) 525-7635	email: jaycarey@gte.net
Jim Pisani	Webmaster	(562) 797-4986	email: vulajim@socal.rr.com
Carol J. Bova	Editor	(818) 951-1402	email: editor@bovagems.com

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Society

Volume 33, Issue 9



President's Message From Mike Kowalsky

July 12 Meeting: Clare Gagnon Beginning Faceting

June has been a busy month for many of us on the AOS Board of Directors. Most importantly, we were able to finalize contracts for the very important folks, the dealers for our annual show on the third and fourth of November. If anyone wants information on the show or needs a contract, please contact Show Directors Jay Carey or Bob Dixon.

At the June meeting, we had an excellent presentation by Dr. Walt Johnson, which covered using opal in combination with other stones, a practice which has become very popular. Walt used magnificent slides to illustrate various combinations of stones in a number of different jewelry designs. Walt had slides of the winning designs by the AGTA Jewelry design contest. Some of the winners were quite innovative, and very different from more typical designs. Walt's comments on design principles were very informative and useful.

The AOS has purchased a set of eight different videotapes, which Walt Johnson uses in teaching his Jewelry Techniques Course. These eight tapes cover different types of casting, stone-cutting techniques, lost wax model design and casting techniques, cutting and setting different types of softer stones, as well as diamond prong setting, fabrication of bracelets and soldering techniques. The tapes also cover chain making, wire wrapping, gemstone carving and intarsia.

Since we have just received the tapes, the Board has not had a chance to develop a policy on how the tapes may be used by AOS members, and what rules/costs will apply. The addition of this set of videotapes represents a very large set of knowledge that can be accessed by AOS members. I want to personally thank Dr. Johnson for allowing us to purchase the set at an excellent price. These tapes

will help our members in their adventures in jewelry design.

Our July meeting speaker is Clare Gagnon. He will speak on Beginning Faceting. Clare is always a popular speaker, and we hope you'll make a special effort to attend. Bonita Chamberlin has been rescheduled to be our speaker for the August meeting. I hope to have a presentation ready for the September meeting covering some part of my Australia visit and to be able to show some of the treasures I hope to acquire during my travels to the Opal mining fields. Look for news in the August Opal Express.

Last but not least is the good news on the continuing North American Opal display case for the Culver City Gem show. I was able to find volunteers to help put in the AOS display and to pick up the display case at the end of the show. Hopefully we will be able to expand some of the material to be displayed from the May display at the Searchers Gem and Mineral Show.

While Jim Pisani is planning to put together the North American Opal display case for our annual AOS show in November, I am going to try to put together a display of fluorescent opals for our show. I do not have very many fluorescent opals, but I do have other fluorescent material to display. If anyone can lend samples of fluorescent opal for the display case please let me know and I will work on putting together a display for our show.

See you when I return from the land of OZ.
Mike

Ed. Note: Please contact Bernhard directly if you have any interest in this program, or comments or questions. Cjb

B Hochwimmer & Associates Pty Ltd ACN 006 951 748
Consultant Geologists Mineral Exploration & Mining Geology
358 East Street
ALBURY NSW 2640
Phone +61 2 60211047 / +61 2 60414993
Fax +61 2 6041 4993 Mobile 0412 544 386
E-mail prois@dragnet.com.au

To: American Opal Society
AUSTRALIA OPAL SUPPLIES

Dear Carol,

David Westneat, President of the Coober Pedy Miners Association, suggested I contact you regarding our Australian Opal project. Our vision is to be the De Beers of opal, partly owned by Australian opal miners.

This marketing board will be centred about an axis with the Coober Pedy Miners Association for supply. (Coober Pedy currently supplies 82 % of the world's opal). We aim to incorporate all the Opal Mining Associations in Australia, representing about 95% of the worlds trade. Our goal, with venture capital, is to form an Australia wide centralized opal marketing board to internationally promote and directly market opal to both small niche and large clients (2000 to 5000 pieces) in rough and cut gems.

I perceive several advantages for miners and customers world-wide that only a centralised marketing organisation can deliver, namely:

1. Continuity of supply and direct sales leading to better prices
2. Guarantees of quality
3. Establish world standards of Australian opal, and eventually retail standards.
4. Stability for miners, who can participate in value adding by earning equity in the Australian Opal project, thereby ensuring the Australian opal miner will not become an extinct species.

The board aims to have its own outlets in the US, Germany and other countries, effectively providing direct supply and prices. I am interested to know how your members would receive this project.

We are developing a database of potential clients for market research and would be grateful if you could forward details of any contacts that would be interested in obtaining opal through this program. For instance example of diverse buyers, small niche, medium, large and their requirements would be most useful to help these clients.

Look forward to hearing from you and thank you for your assistance.

Yours sincerely

Bernhard Hochwimmer, Manager

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
OFFICE OF THE U.S. ATTORNEY
DISTRICT OF MINNESOTA**

from PRESS RELEASE. April 26, 2001

Contact: Karen Bailey, Community Relations Specialist (612) 664-5610; Robert Small, United States Attorney (612) 664-5600; Mike Ward, Assistant United States Attorney (612) 664-5600

Minneapolis - An Australian man charged with orchestrating a \$2 million opal fraud scheme is facing additional charges of money laundering and tax evasion. Robert John Kane was charged in a superseding indictment brought today by a federal grand jury with 45 counts of money laundering and five counts of tax evasion. Kane, his brother Gerard Danilen Kane, both from Australia, and Gloria Jane Quinn, from Minnetonka, were initially named as defendants in an indictment returned in March.

The Kane brothers and Quinn allegedly conducted a scheme to defraud by marketing "opal distributorships" throughout the United States, bilking more than 50 victims of almost \$2.5 million. Each victim distributor was allegedly induced to pay between \$10,000 and \$96,000 for a distribution territory and an inventory of opals, represented to be worth \$45 per carat. The grand jury alleged in the indictment that the opals sold by Kane were not taken from his opal mine in Australia but were manufactured opals known as "doublets" that were purchased in Iowa for as little as \$.50.

Today's superseding indictment alleges that Kane concealed the proceeds from his opal fraud scheme by depositing the funds in several bank accounts opened in the name of various business and individuals.

Robert Kane, Gerard Kane, and Gloria Quinn each face a maximum potential penalty of five years in prison and/or a \$250,000 fine on each count with which they were charged. Any sentences would be determined by a judge based on the federal sentencing guidelines.

The case is the result of an investigation by the Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigations Division, the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, and the Immigration and Naturalization Service. Assistant United States Attorney Mike Ward and Trial Attorney Jennifer C. Smith of the Department of Justice, Tax Division are prosecuting the case.

Criminal indictments are only charges and not evidence of guilt. A defendant is presumed to be innocent unless and until proven guilty.

Show Calendar

JULY 11-15--NYSSA, OR., "Thunderegg Days"; Nyssa School Grounds, 804 Adrain Blvd.; Wed. 9-9, Thu. 9-9, Fri. 9-9, Sat. 9-9, Sun. 9-4; free tours, meals and entertainment every night; Debbi deBoer (541) 372-3091; e-mail: debbi_d@cmc.net.

13-15--CASCADE LOCKS, OR; 11th annual show, Cascade Locks Marine Park, 1-84 exit 44; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; free admission; Jean Miller, (503) 829-2680, fax (503) 824-3218.

14-15--BETHEL, ME: Western Maine Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Festival; Oxford County Mineral & Gem Assoc; Crescent Park School; Sat 9-5, Sun. 10-4; Maine displays, guided field trips; Dennis Gross, (207) 665-2759.

14-15--SYRACUSE, NY: A Touch of Gold; Gem & Mm. Society of Syracuse; NY State Fairgrounds, Verizon Center Bldg., 1-60 exit 7; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-4; adm. \$5 (both days), children under 12 free; exhibits; demos, fluorescent light show, lectures, auction, drawings; John Baumler, GMSS, (315)339-0399; e-mail: baumler@borg.com. 20-22--BOONE, NC: Treasures of the Earth Gem & Jewelry Shows; National Guard Annory, 274 Hunting Hills Ln.; Fri. 10-6, Sat 10-6, Sun. 11-5; free admission; Van Wimmer, (540) 384-6047; e-mail: vawimmer@rbnet.com.

20-22--TILLAMOOK, OR: Tillamook County Fairgrounds, 4603 3rd St.; Fri. 10-5, Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4; free admission; Jean Miller, (503) 829-2680, fax (503) 824-3218. 21-22--CORTEZ, CO: Ute Mountain Gem & Mineral Society; Montezuma County Annex, 103 N. Chestnut; Lewis or Nancy Schultz, (970) 565-1170; email: Inshultz@fone.net

21-22--MINOCQUA, WI: 33rd annual show, Lakeland Gem Club; Lakeland High School Conirmons, Hwy. 70W; Sat. 9-4, Sun. 9-4; free adm; door prizes, silent auctions.

21-22--RAPID CITY, SD: Western Dakota Gem & Mineral Society; Rushmore Plaza Civic Center, Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-4; Wayne Coon, (605) 342-5105; e-mail: hbomford@rapidnetcom. 25-29--FRANKLIN, NC: "Gemboree"; Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin; Community Facilities Bldg., Hwy. 23/441S; Wed. 1-6, Thu.-Sat. 10-6, Sun. 12-5; adni \$2, children under 12 free, Franklin Chaniba~- of Commerce, (888) 510-GEMS; www.franklin-chamber.com. 27-29 Nipomo, CA, Orcutt Mineral Society, St. Joseph's Church, 298 S. Thompson Aye, 10-5 Glenda Reeves (805) 733-2775 hawkymoin@aol.com <http://lhome.netcom.com/~shields6/tallgate.html>

28-29 Escondido, CA Palomar Gem and Mineral Club, Del Dios Middle School, 1400 West Ninth Ave., Hours: Sat 9-7 Sun 9-2, Van Lynch (760)749-4164

28--BANCROFT, ONT, CANADA: "Mineral Capital Rock Swap"; Bancroft Gem & Mineral Club; Bancroft Legion Hall, Station St.; Sat. 10-4; free adm, material for trade and sale; special mineral presentations, displays and demos; Chris Fouts, (613) 332-1513; cfouts@commerce.bancroft.on.ca.

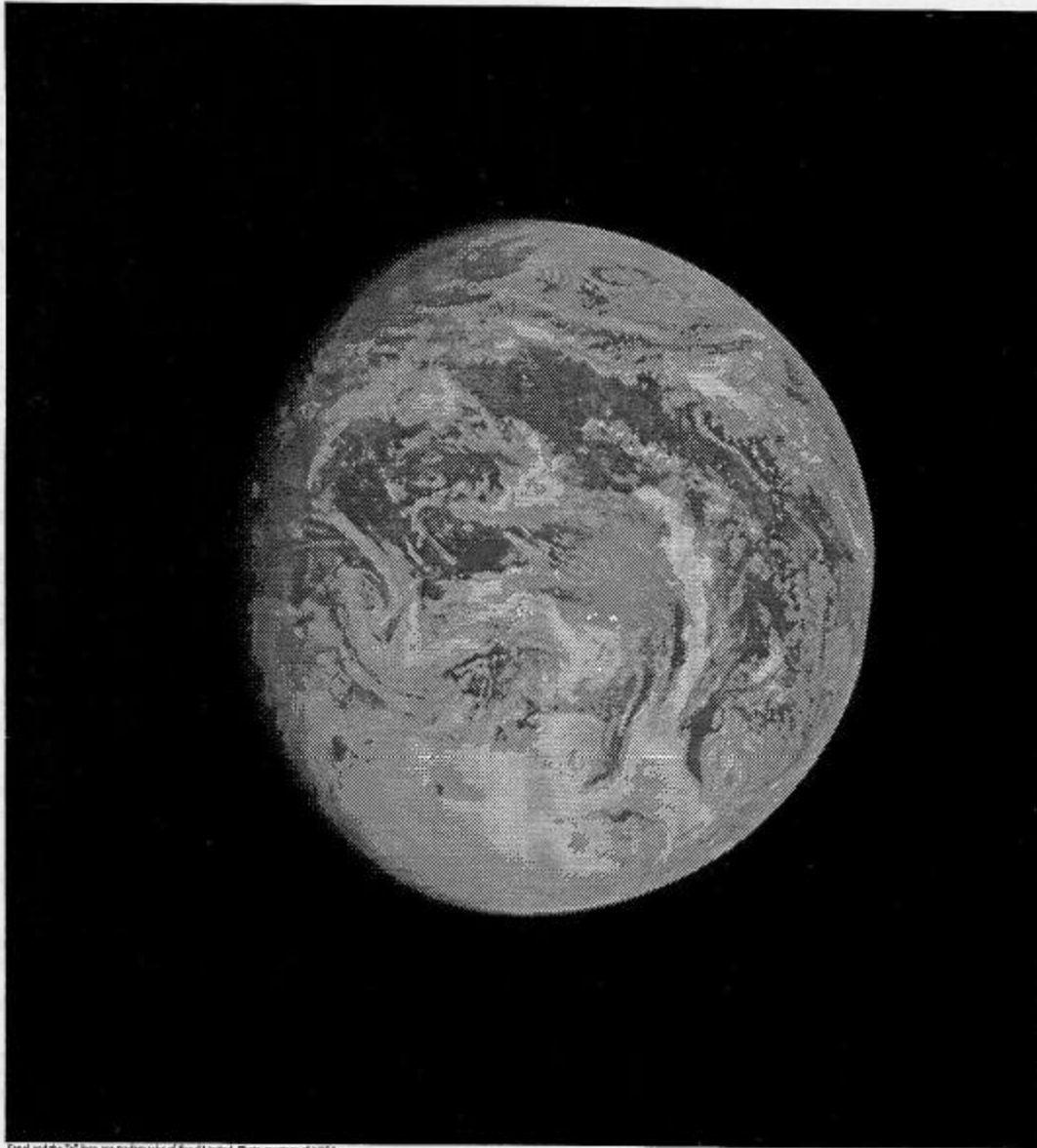
29-Aug 5--SPRUCE PINE, NC: Grassy Creek Fire & Rescue; field, on 226S; Mon.- Sat. 9-7, Sun. 12-7; free admission; Roger Frye, Grassy Creek Fire Dept. (828) 765-2117.

Aug 2-5 BANCROFT, ONT, CANADA: "Bancroft Rockhound Gemboree"; North Hastings Community Centre, 11 Newkirk Blvd.; Thu. 10-7, Fri. 10-9, Sat 10-7, Sun. 10-5; adm \$6, seniors \$5, children \$3 daily guided field trips, mineral talks, Chris Fouts, (613) 332-1513; e-mail: cfouts@commerce.bancroft.on.ca.

4-5.NORTH BEND, OR: FarWest Lapidary &.-l'em Society; North Bend Junior High School, 1500 16th 3t.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; admission \$1; dealers, gemstones, gifts, opal, carvings, old-timers, awards; breakfast Sun. morning at 8.

10-11--BUENA VISTA, CO: Swap, "Contin-tail Rock Swap"; Colorado Federation of Gem & Mineral Societies; Rodeo grounds; Fri-Sun 9-6; free adm; Greg Tunnidiff (303) 499-1434; ctunnidiff@msn.com

Mark Your Calendar!
AOS Opal and Gem Show Nov. 3 & 4, 2001
Quality Hotel, Anaheim, CA



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RESERVE ROOMS NOW AT QUALITY INN FOR NOV. SHOW!

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

If you're planning to stay at the Quality Hotel, please call early to reserve your room, because this is a very busy area near Disneyland and the Convention Center, and the block will be released by Oct. 2nd.

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

CHANGE OF SCHEDULE FOR AOS WORKSHOP!!

The workshop will be open on July 11, then closed until August 1st Call Stan if you're planning to come July 11 or August 1!

The workshop at Walker Jr. High is available for the use of AOS members on Wednesday nights. Please call Stan McCall at Gems & Opals (714) 827-5680 if you plan to attend a shop session.

WORKSHOP RULES

1. Shop may only be used by AOS members.
2. Shop users must sign liability waiver.
3. Shop users must sign in. Shop supervisor will maintain sign-in list and collect usage fees.
4. Shop usage fee is \$3 per session.
5. To assist us in scheduling, call Stan or a board member to reserve shop time.

IDAHO TRIP POSTPONED!

The Idaho Trip planned for last month was postponed until August. Details will be firmed up when Mike Kowalsky returns from Australia. If you want more details, contact Mike through email at mykowalsky@aol.com, or phone him at (714) 761-4876.

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

AUSTRALIAN OPAL MINES

P.O. Box 345

Magill, South Australia 5072

Email address:

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email me in Australia at
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Harry Martin

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Editor - Carol J. Bova
Please address all inquiries and exchange newsletters to:

The Opal Express c/o
Carol J. Bova
P.O. Box 5388
Glendale, CA 91221-5388
Email: editor@bovagems.com
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