

The Opal Express

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



**Volume #37 Issue #7
July 2004**

Some Topics In This Issue:

Royal Rainbow Opal Mire Directions
Finding Opal in Coober Pedy
Cripple Creek Opal
San Antonio Canyon Lapis Lazuli
Opals 101
AFMS Code of Ethics

TO:

July 8th - General Meeting Speaker: Stan McCall Opal Triplet Making & Workshop

Important Info:

Board Meeting
June 30th

General Meeting
July 8th

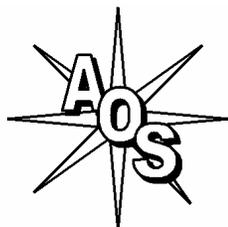
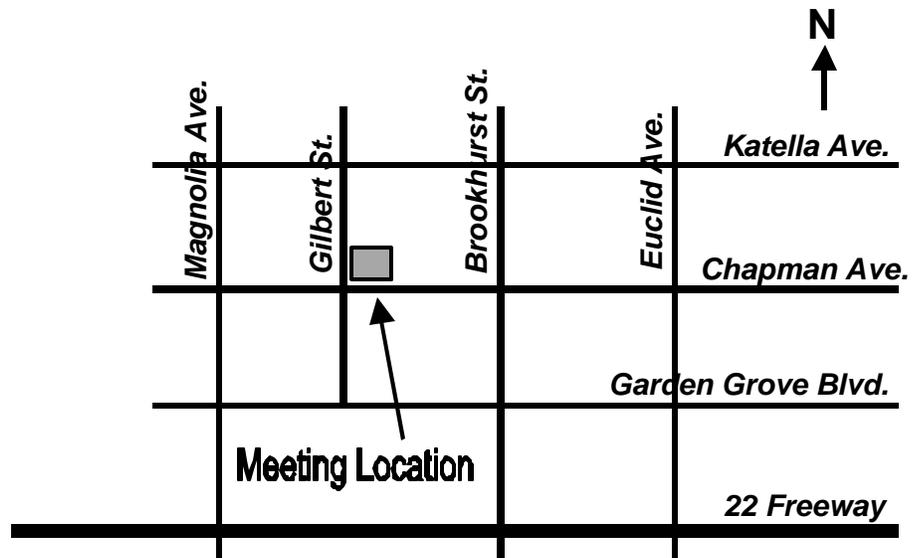
Speaker: Stan McCall
**How to Make Triplets
& Workshop**

— GENERAL MEETINGS —

2nd Thursday of the Month
7:00 pm - 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://opalsociety.org>

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Editor-Jim Pisani

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Are Your Dues Due Now?

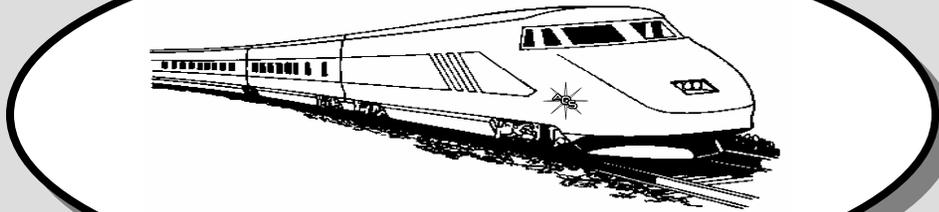
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A Renewal Grace Period of two months will be provided. If your dues are due now you will receive two additional issues of the newsletter. Please note, however, that as the system is now set up, if your renewal is not received you will be **AUTOMATICALLY** dropped from membership thereafter. It is your responsibility to assure your dues are current.

Thank you,
The Editor

The Opal Express

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Society



July 2004

Volume 37 Issue 7

Table of Contents:

President's Message	3
July Speaker- Stan McCall: How to Make Opal Triplets	3
Royal Rainbow Opal Mire Directions	3
Opal Workshop	3
Members Only Website Password	3
Last Month's Lecture: "Finding Opal in Coober Pedy"	3
Cripple Creek Opal	4
San Antonio Canyon Lapis Lazuli	5
Opals 101	9
AFMS Code of Ethics	9
July Gem & Mineral Shows	10

President's Message

By Pete Goetz

Hi Folks,

I hope you all had a safe, great, and loud 4th of July weekend; watched a lot of fireworks, ate a lot of picnic foods, and consumed your favorite brew (soft drinks that is), and most importantly, hooked up with some good friends. OR just around the garage cutting OPAL.

If you missed last months meeting, Leslie and Larry treated us to a great presentation on finding OPAL in Coober Pedy. This month, Stan McCall will give a demonstration & lecture on how to cut and assemble doublets and triplets. If you have some material and want to start a doublet or triplet project, bring it along and Stan will help you get started.

The OPAL & GEM SHOW is creeping-up on us on the first weekend in November. We could still use some volunteers to help at the show.

If you are going to be in town that weekend, this is great way to hook-up with old Opalholics and meet some new ones.

The building that houses our workshop is under construction again, so the shop will be down for about a month or so. By the way, the shop is for your use. Please use it... call Stan at 714-220-9282. More later,

Pete

July Speaker- Stan McCall: How to Make Opal Triplets

Stan McCall, longtime member and expert stone cutter, will give a presentation at the AOS July General meeting on how to create opal triplets. Stan will demonstrate how to create triplets, showing us his special techniques and trade secrets. Stan will also give advice on your own triplet making, so bring in your projects you are working on.

Royal Rainbow Opal Mire Directions

Elselil is a member and runs the Royal Rainbow Opal Mine in the Black Rock Desert. Here she has responded to the Opal Forum (see – <http://opalsociety.org/talkshop/index.html>). The American Opal Society's website, <http://opalsociety.org>, has a discussion forum where questions on opals can be asked – to the world if they are listening!. Participation is encouraged from members of the AOS, to help the world understand opal better.

The Editor

Although Mitch's plaintive query about how to get to the royal rainbow opal mine is several years old, perhaps directions will help another prospective digger!

Royal rainbow is located north of Reno, in the black rock desert in the northwestern corner of Nevada. On your map, locate highway 447, east of Reno, and follow it north to Gerlach. Go through Gerlach (this won't take long) and, at the fork, take Highway 34 follow this road for 12 miles and turn right on soldier meadows road, which is a dirt, 42 county road, so check your spare and water supply! At about 35 miles, you will see the sign for the mine and you'll be able to see the campground.

Information is available at: nvopallady@pocketmail.com

Elselil Philipps

Opal Workshop

The AOS opal workshop is at Ball Jr. High School on 1500 W. Ball Rd., Anaheim, CA. It can be open for members on Monday. Contact Stan McCall at (714) 220-9282.

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: "spencer".

Last Month's Lecture: "Finding Opal in Coober Pedy"

Last month Leslie Neff and Larry Hoskinson gave a presentation titled "How to Find Opal in Coober Pedy, Australia". Leslie and Larry have had extensive travels in Australia, to look for, of course, opal! They gave a lecture and slide presentation of the local character and nodding techniques of the biggest opal field of the world – Coober Pedy.

When Leslie and Larry go to Australia, they stay for months. Since they need to drive extensively, they have found it much more affordably to actually purchase a car instead of renting it. And you need a car - distances in Australia are great; comparable to driving across country in the USA. They will drive the car for 4-5 months and then sell it when they leave. They do

this in Sydney, where they attend an automobile auction where a vehicle can be purchased and sold quickly.

Their opal destinations on their last trip were White Cliffs and Coober Pedy. White Cliffs was the oldest opal field in Australia. Here they found a very small town with little if any mining activity happening. They found most of the opal being sold there at the souvenir shops originating from other fields.

They spent a few days there and finding very little opal in the mine dumps. The actual field is quite small compared to Coober Pedy. From there they traveled to Coober Pedy, quite a few hundred miles away.

Leslie and Larry have friends at Coober Pedy who own an underground hotel that they stay at. The rooms are cut out of the solid ground and are quite strong and safe. In Coober Pedy, quite a few of the homes are underground, due to the excessive heat in the summer months. The temperature inside one of these homes is quite constant all year in the low 70's. Most originated from old opal mines, where the mine can be entered horizontally from the side of a hill. In enlarging the hotel one year, the owners actually found quite a bit of new opal. In one of the rooms, an opal in can be spotted. The rooms can be dusty, due to the bare walls. In fact, some underground residents and miners sometimes acquire a disease called silicosis, where mineral dust particles get trapped in the lungs. To avoid this, the walls and ceilings are often plastered in the better homes. Using the hotel as a base, Leslie and Larry fan out to the surrounding Coober Pedy opal fields to look for opal, which go on for miles. To find opal, they used a number of techniques. One method is to just walk the mine dumps, looking for surface opal. This is probably the most productive method. Another method is to dig and screen they mine dirt when they locate a good spot by the first method. Some productive finds have been where the old miners from years ago had dumped their potch. What was considered to be worthless years ago (e.g. potch with color) is now a valuable commodity. One of these dumps yielded literally pounds of opal.

A third method is done at night time only. By using black light, Larry was able to find opal that fluoresced. Certain type of opal has fluorescence when illuminated. Most Coober Pedy opal does fluoresce. One, however, must be very careful when going into the opals fields at night (and the daytime also). There numerous shafts, around three feet in diameter, that drops straight down from thirty to eighty feet. Usually the shafts have an "ant hill" around them, but many do not. A number of tourists have fallen into these holes when backing up to take photographs. Warning signs have been posted around fields with pictures of a person falling down a shaft. But back to the black light.

Leslie and Larry gave a demonstration at our meeting by positioning pieces of opal around the room and then turning off the lights. Larry then used his custom black light to detect the opal in the dark. It actually glowed white quite brightly, with a side effect of having phosphorescence when the light was taken away (this means it would have a glow that lasted after it wasn't being illuminated.) This helps the searcher to avoid other fluoresce objects, such as number of man-made materials as paper, that didn't have phosphorescence. Larry actually had his black's ultraviolet frequency tuned to the Coober Pedy opal – somewhere in the long wavelengths – by a knowledgeable friend in the UV business. One of the members – myself - actually had some Lightning Ridge opal present at the meeting. The black light was tried on these and they actually glowed! Who knows, maybe Larry's tuned black light for Coober Pedy is tuned for Lightning Ridge opal also! This may be an interesting discovery...

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We at the AOS would like to thank members Leslie Neff and Larry Hoskinson for an excellent presentation that inspired the adventurous spirits in all of us. Come see Leslie and Larry at our Opal and Gem show where they are repeat dealers.

Cripple Creek Opal

By Steven Wade Veatch

Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society

Michael J. Driessen

Earth Science Student - Emporia State University

Introduction. Water plays an important role in the formation of opal deposits. Groundwater, seeping downward through decomposing silica-rich rocks, picks up traces of the silica and then combines with various chemical elements at low temperatures, forming a kind of silica gel. This gel often fills amygdules (cavities) in volcanic rocks such as rhyolite and basalt. Opal may replace a buried shell, a bone, or more commonly an old log forming an opalized fossil in sedimentary rocks.

Opal deposits followed the emplacement of a volcanic complex in Cripple Creek, Colorado about 32 million years ago. The volcanic complex contained several explosive vents localized along a single diatreme (central fissure). Mineralization soon followed the emplacement of the volcanic complex when mineral-rich fluids moved from great depths below the ground and seeped into cracks and fissures. These mineral-rich fluids then cooled into narrow, high-grade gold telluride veins or as low-grade disseminated, microcrystalline native gold attached to pyrite. A number of other minerals, including opal, were also deposited in those veins.

Opal - Opal is identical to quartz in chemical composition, but contains one to ten percent water. The water is in the microscopic openings between silica spheres that make up the bulk of an opal. Since opals contain water and may lose it in dry air, some varieties of opals may slowly decay through the loss of water. The results are a stressed and smaller opal covered with cracks.

Physical Properties - Opal is amorphous (not in crystals), brittle, easily scratched, and heat sensitive. Its hardness can range from 5.5 to 6.5 on Mohs scale, and has a specific gravity between 1.98 and 2.25. Opal has a milky translucency, a vitreous or pearly luster, and forms in a variety of habits ranging from globular to massive. Opal leaves a white streak on a porcelain plate. Due to a lack of crystalline structure, opals have a conchoidal (shell-like) fracture -- the same as quartz. As with many other minerals, opals vary in color. Common colors include white to gray; red, yellow brown, blue, green and even colorless. Opal often contains a trace of uranium, which cause them to be

highly fluorescent with a distinct bright green tint under short-wave ultraviolet light.

Types of Opal - Opal has more than one hundred varieties and trade names, including common (non-precious) or colorless (hyalite) opal. The most important and widely known variety is precious opal, a gemstone. Precious opal displays a brilliant rainbow of colors. This rich play of color is due to the microscopic silica spheres found in all opals. In precious opal the minute spheres are uniform in size and packed into a regular array so that they scatter light (diffraction) in various colors (O'Neil, 1983). Common opal, which can occur in a variety of colors, does not show this iridescent play of color. Color modifiers (white, black, pink, and blue), which describe the body color of the opal, may subdivide precious opal even further, such as white and black precious opal from Australia and blue precious opal from Arizona. Precious opal is usually cut as a cabochon or carved. With its play of color ranging from orange-yellow to red, the fire opal, another gem opal, is sufficiently transparent to be faceted.

Precious Opal Body Colors and Their Causes		
Color	Description	Cause
Black	A black or dark background in gray, blue, or green	Dark inclusions
Fire	Transparent or translucent with yellow, orange, red or brown play of color	Ochre-colored iron oxide in inclusions
Water	Transparent or colorless	Few or no inclusions
White	A white background	Internal boundaries or fluid inclusions

Cripple Creek Opal Deposits - Several varieties of opals and were deposited in vugs (open spaces) during the last phase of vein formation during the mineralization event that took place in the Cripple Creek area (Lindgren and Ransome, 1906). Cripple Creek miners, while searching for gold during the late 1890s, discovered opal deposits. The miners, not sure what the opals were, called them jasper. Hyalite, the colorless opal, was found in dike fissures at the Anaconda mine. At the Victor mine, the miners dug out white, brown, and brilliant red opals. Miners, working deep underground, encountered precious opals in the Buena Vista mine a century ago (Cross and Penrose, 1897). The most unusual opal deposits occurred in huge yellow masses of entangled wires and rods in the Zenobia mine (Lindgren and Ransome, 1906).

Today white or common opal can still be found on the dumps of the Star of the West mine and other localities on Mineral Hill in Cripple Creek. An unusual specimen was recently found on Mineral Hill that was a combination of both common and fire opal. This unique specimen, encrusted with minute turquoise nodules, displayed a brilliant red to orange fire (Rich Fretterd, Pers. Com, 1998). There remains little doubt that there are other unusual mineral treasures, just waiting to be found, on Mineral Hill.

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San Antonio Canyon Lapis Lazuli

Here is an internet message thread that should interest we society members who reside in Southern California. The Lapis Lazuli deposit here mentioned in San Antonio Canyon is one of only a few known in North America. It is in the San Gabriel Mountains, about an hour drive of most of the population in LA. I had heard rumors of the deposit before this thread was posted on the Internet E-Group, LA Rocks on July 3, 2002 through July 21, 2002. It is amazing on how the Internet was able to bring this information to our attention. To see the color photos, log onto the Members Only Area on our website, <http://opalsociety.org>. - The Editor

From: DrBackman@a...

Does anyone have the directions to the Lapis mine/collecting area in San Antonio Canyon by Mount Baldy? I will be out in

Claremont this Saturday and I would like to see what I can find. I'll send a report back on my return. Thanks, Gary



Photo #1 – Corundum Crystals found in San Antonio Canyon

From: Phil Peck <comptrguru@y...>

Hi, I was the original prospector who found that mine in 1959. It was under lease from the U.S. Forest Service during the period I (and partners) operated the mine. Any other and all removal from the mine or area is VERY illegal as the mine is within the Angeles National Forest. There have been a number of people arrested for removing any rock from the area.

Regards, Phil Peck

From: Bill Lokken <BillLokken@c...>

I always thought that one could pick up hobby rocks in a National Forest (but not a National Park). Is that wrong?

Bill

From: Sbogolian@a...

Bill,

I agree. I think the only exception is the valid claim where assessment work is being done, or if it is a patented claim (private land). The lapis location may be in one of these two categories.

There is also a possibility that the lapis is in an area which has been set aside for wilderness study by the USFS, in which case the specific regulations may prohibit collecting. If anyone knows about the status of that particular forest, it would be good to know.

Stan

From: WookmansTV@a...

Phil,

I never cease to be amazed by this medium. Somebody asks a question regarding the source of something or other and up pops another person that can speak with authority about it. I remember reading something about lapis in the local mountains and always thought it would make an interesting place to explore someday.

What can you say about the quality of material that came out of your mine? Are there specimens available (legal sources) anywhere to your knowledge? How did you discover it? What did you and your partner do with the material you mined? Was the source pretty much localized or does it occur throughout the area? When you quit was it because it wasn't economical to mine or the quality not high enough or were you booted off by the guardians of our natural resources? In other words, if you would please, tell us more.

Terry Vasseur

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Lot 1043 Italian Club Road, Coober Pedy

From: Phil Peck <comptrguru@y...>

Hi Terry, I don't have the patience to give you a detailed report on the mine. I could probably write two or three books on the subject. I'll try to answer your questions and synopsise a bit more.

We (my father, a childhood chum, and myself) began looking for the lapis in the early 1950's. We followed tiny blue chips after the rains for several years. Finally in the Spring of 1959 (I was 14 at the time), I located the source of the chips in a side canyon off of San Antonio Canyon. The mine is in a very remote, very difficult area to get to. There have been numerous, serious injuries by folks hiking in the mine area. All the material came out on our backs. In spite of other postings here, the Angeles National Forest has very different mining laws than many other National Forests. For example, you cannot file a mineral claim nor patent such within Angeles. If the vein had been a few miles to the east, in San Bernardino, we could have filed a claim with no problem. We entered into a 99-year (renewable) Lease with the U.S. Forest Service. We paid an annual Lease fee and a premium on each and every pound of stone we removed from the Forest. We also had severe restrictions on the type of mining we could do in the area. Believe me; we had our lawyers do everything possible to even try to put a road in - impossible.

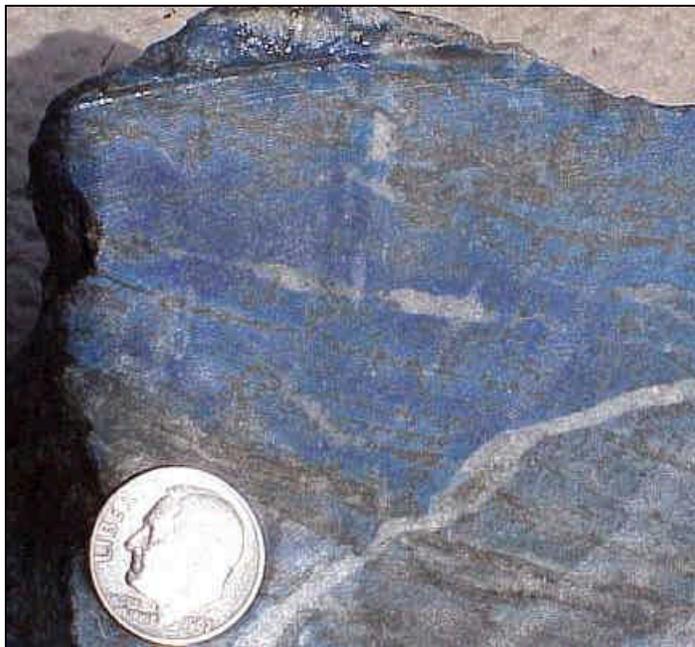


Photo #2 – Average Lapis

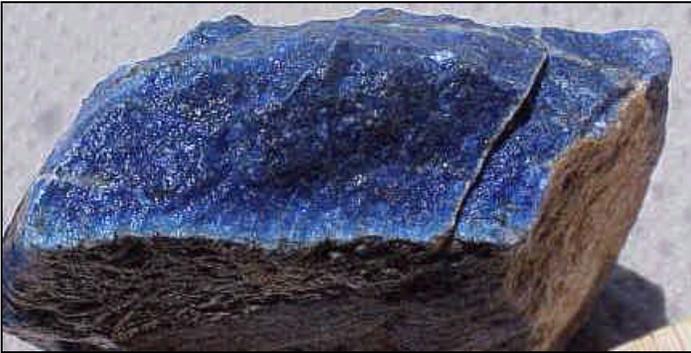


Photo #3 – High Grade Lapis

We took another partner into the business - a man who worked with my father at General Dynamics. We worked the mine for the next couple of years. My father and I were both involved with Boy Scouts. We invited some of the Scouts to join in the mining and cutting the lapis to make money for other Scout projects. At that time there was an all night talk show on KFI Radio in LA. It was hosted by a man named Ben Hunter. Ben loved to promote our jewelry because of the Scout involvement. A local reporter caught wind of our activity. He approached us and we took him up for the story and pictures. His story went out on API and voila...we were an instant success.

The quality of the best material is quite high. We sold some to be used as ultramarine pigment for premium oil paints. It is quite different than any other lapis in the world. It tends to be more 'subdued' blue that the top Afghani material. Many folks like it better. The mine also produced a small amount of 'robins egg' blue lapis and even some green lapis. The lapis was sold to many rock shops across the US. The better grades were sold to a few fine gemstone dealers. I still have a fair amount of material, including several very large pieces. The best material came out fairly early on. I don't think anyone has found any appreciable amount of decent material since we quit mining in the late 1960's. In fact we inadvertently sold an illegal 'miner' some of our lower grade because he wasn't able to produce any from the mine.

The canyon itself is very rich mineralogically. I wrote my Masters Thesis on the mineralogy of the immediate area. It would have taken a lifetime to do a thorough job of it. It is a contact



Photo #4 – Heart Pendant made for High Quality Lapis

metamorphic zone. I have found other tiny amounts of lapis in the area, but not enough to even cut a cab from. One very interesting mineral from the area is corundum. There is a couple of very, very large deposits of interesting purple. The crystals are small and never clear, but there a lots of them. I can post pictures, if there is any interest. (See Photo #1).

If anyone has specific questions, I'll try to answer...

Regards,
Phil Peck

From: "Larry Bruce" <exoner8r@e...>

Just as an aside, the location above Redlands is a separate deposit. There is a pegmatite above actually Mentone (and above Forest Falls) on Anderson Peak which could be accessible from Jenks Lake (Poopout Hill). Also accessible from Forest Falls. Steep country also.

From: Phil Peck <comptrguru@y...>

Hi Larry... Lapidary Journal did a spread on us and the mine early on. They also ran an article about the illegal mining in later years. I believe I have copies of both. The API article was written by Hal Borchert. He was a reporter for the Ontario Daily Report at the time. I believe I have a copy of that, too. I'll try to get



Photo #5 - Phil Peck in 1960 Mining Lapis with his father, brother, & family friend.

together some pics in the next day or two.

I hadn't thought much about it, but perhaps I could offer a few specimens in the future. Give me a bit to take stock. I'm a bit hesitant to put out the best cutting material... but that isn't the best specimen material, anyway.

Phil

From: Phil Peck <comptrguru@y...>

Hi...

I've attached a few pics of material from the Lapis mine. I have a picture of the sapphire crystals in the area that I will send in another e-mail. Yahoo only allows three at a time.

Photo #2 is average quality material. This is the corner of a large (10+ lbs.) That probably end as a carving someday. I have

several other large pieces also. The largest is a high grade chunk that weighs 48+ lbs. It is wet. I even have another 135 lb.

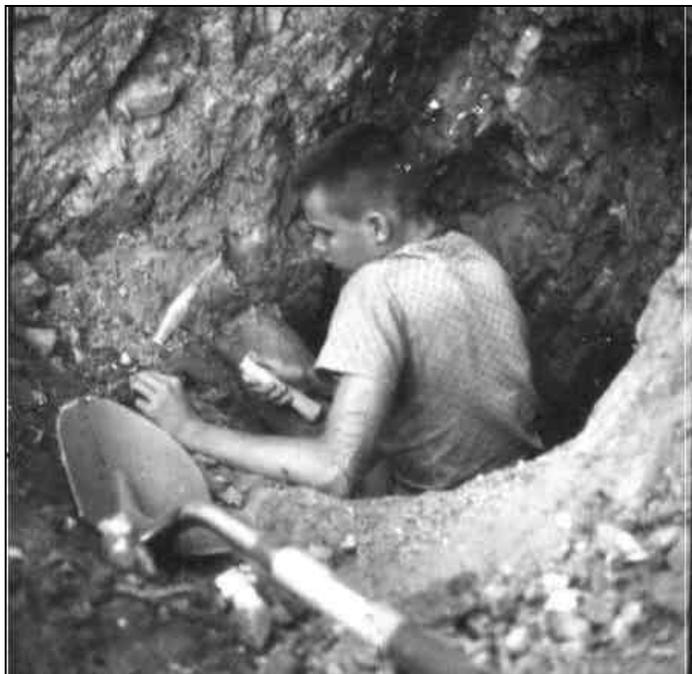


Photo #6 – Phil Peck in 1960 mining Lapis

plus chunk that is mostly 'just rock' but does have lapis in it. Remember that this material all came out on our backs. This is some of the most rugged country that I have ever been in. I feel fortunate that we never had any major injuries. Many other people have been in the area. I do bear a scar on my forehead thanks to a Big Horn ram knocking a pretty fair chunk of rock off the ridge above the mine. It put me out cold. That's what one gets for not having my hard hat on...

Photo #3 - This is high grade material that was taken early in our mining. I wet this to show the blue. This piece is about 31/2" wide.

Photo #4 - Is a heart pendant that is typical of the better material we mined. Again, we only got this grade early in the operation. I do have a reasonable stockpile of this material.

Phil Peck

From: "Jim Puckett" <jcpro@h...>

It may well be that Phil's discovery is a second occurrence as he seems very certain that he was in Los Angeles County.

I have had a specimen of lapis lazuli from the San Gabriel Mountains since the early 1950's. I was told that it was collected before 1920.

Here is what literature references there are on the original site. Quoting from Joseph Murdoch and Robert Webb (Dec. 1956), Minerals of California, CA Div of Mines Bull. #173, page 204.- "San Bernardino County: 1, A small prospect pit (NE 1/4 sec. 6, T. 1 N., R. 7 W., S. B.) in Cascade Canyon has produced a little lapis lazuli as patches and grains in a mica-diopside schist. It was first found as boulders in the bed of San Antonio Creek, and traced to the outcrop."

Lapis lazuli, presumably from this locality, was mentioned in 1867 by Charles W. King, The natural history of gems or decorative stones, as a footnote on p. 273.

Murdoch and Webb references: Gordon Surr (1913), Lapis lazuli in Southern California, Mining World, p. 1153, A. F. Rogers (1912), Notes on rare minerals from California, p. 377, *ibid.* (1938), Lapis lazuli from San Bernardino County, California, American Mineralogist, p. 111.

Quoting John Sinkankas (1959), Gemstones of North America, Vol. 1, p.538 - "An interesting but commercially unimportant deposit of lapis lazuli occurs on the north slope of the south fork of Cascade Canyon, about 12 miles from the city of Upland, San Bernardino County, and about 5 miles by trail from the mouth of San Antonio Canyon where the nearest approach by road is possible"

Jim Puckett

From: Phil Peck <comptrguru@y...>

Hi... Yes, indeedy. Some of your info is correct, some is not. Unfortunately, the diggings from the 19 teens and 20's was (purposely) mis-mapped. In fact, I have literature going back into the 1850's that show the lapis diggings above Redlands in the Jenks Lake area. It is all from the same area. All from well inside the Angeles National Forest. Unfortunately...

I am probably the only person alive that knows where that original pit was. I say was, because it was buried many years ago in a landslide. We discovered that small pit about two years after locating our mine in a fairly nearby area. The two outcroppings are about 1/2 to 3/4 of a mile apart. Interestingly, there was still dynamite and blasting caps near the old location. This outcropping is VERY hard schist. I do have a cut stone or two from that local including some green lapis. I doubt if more than a few pounds were ever taken. I suspect that was all quite low quality. I'd love to see a pic of your sample, Jim.

John Sinkankas wrote that in his book at about the same time as we opened our mine. The "north slope of the south fork" is accurate for the original digs, not ours. John later visited us in our home on several occasions to study our lapis and learn more of our deposit. His intent was to update that info in later editions of "Gemstones of North America". I don't believe he ever did so. I think most are aware he passed away a couple of months ago. One terrific Gentleman. I enjoyed his friendship.

Once more, I need to put a little caveat in here... This is VERY steep, rugged country. It is very a dangerous area. I can detail many, many broken legs, arms and ribs dished up from an unforgiving mountain. It is also closed to entry due to fire danger. I can only imagine the horror of that area in any fire. No one could possibly survive. Remember, too that no one may take (legally) so much as a pebble from the area.

Phil

From: "Larry Bruce" <exoner8r@e...>

Just as an aside, the location above Redlands is a separate deposit. There is a pegmatite above actually Mentone (and above Forest Falls) on Anderson Peak which could be accessible from Jenks Lake (Poopout Hill). Also accessible from Forest Falls. Steep country also.

From: Phil Peck <comptrguru@y...>

Hi Larry... As a young man, I did a great deal of exploration in that area. I don't believe the lapis rumors about the Anderson Mountain area. Lapis is not found in pegs. It comes from a very

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distinctive contact metamorphic zone. Even though most folks that know my name connect it with lapis, I have spent many, many more hours in pegmatite mines. I am still involved with several tourmaline mines both in and outside the US.
Phil

From: Phil Peck <comptrguru@y...>

Hi all...

I have posted some photos taken in 1960 of the lapis mine (see Photo's # 5 & 6). These were some of the pictures that Hal Borchert used in his API article in 1960. Some of these pictures were taken from a contact sheet that he gave me at that time. I haven't found all the mine material yet. It's been packed away for a number of years.

Phil

From: kronney@a...

I don't know if this will help, or just add to the confusion, but about 20 years ago there was a fellow commercially mining lapis in the San Bernardino Mountains. There was a multi-page story about his mine and the material in the Lapidary Journal. If I remember correctly, his material was the feature of the magazine's cover. I remember this quite well, as I met him two or three years later at Quartzite, where he was selling his material. As a follow-up, he spoke to our club at our monthly meeting, and it was quite interesting. I don't remember his name or any other details, but if you can check Lapidary Journal archives for the 1980 through 1982 (or so) time frame, you might be able to find the article. I have a vague recollection that the mine name was something like the Ram's Horn, or something like that. And of course he wasn't giving exact location information, other than some photos, which showed the mine in the middle of a very large steep hill. There it was, for whatever it was worth.

Ken Ronney

From: "Warren Owens" <wowens@b...>

How about Big Horn Mine, San Antonio Canyon 6.8 miles from Mt. San Antonio summit it's under USLM so I would stay away, but for you who wish to find it on a map the coords are 34.21.22N -117.44.41W, the mine is actually in the San Gabriel Mountains located about 5 1/2 miles from the San Bernardino Mts.

Warren Owens

From: Phil Peck <comptrguru@y...>

The man's name was Sam Spierstra. He was mining my mine illegally. Any material he brought out was done so against the laws of the Angeles National Forest. It was my understanding

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that he was prosecuted.

Phil Peck

From the Yahoo Egroup LA-Rocks <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/LA-Rocks>). *LA-Rocks is a group of rockhounds generally based around Los Angeles who enjoy talking about and going on field trips. Discussions involve gem and mineral collecting sites and coordination of field trips in southern California.*

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Opals 101

Here's an eclectic assortment of tips you may find helpful when buying or working with opal.

1. Not all opal is valuable. Potch, sometimes called "common opal" does not reflect colors. Potch does have its use, however as a backing for doublets and triplets. When there is color mixed with potch it's called "potch and color."
2. Some classes of rough opal are unsuitable for making gemstones. Some are very porous. Others have a chalky appearance. Still others can lose their color in a short period time, and it's common for certain types to shatter in a dry atmosphere when the water evaporates. The best protection for buyers is to purchase opal from a knowledgeable and reputable dealer who details what you are purchasing and is willing to guarantee the stones. **Note:** If you buy rough opal, there is no guarantee that it will not crack. This is the calculated risk you take and is part of the "excitement" of opal cutting.
3. When buying opal over the net, ask the seller to give you a summary of how close the graphic sample is to the real thing. Opal is very difficult to photograph and the appearance on the computer screen may give it a different look. Particularly this is the case in regards to size. Graphics come out in all different sizes, usually a lot larger than actual ... so make sure you get your ruler out and actually draw the size on a piece of paper so that you will know in your own mind's eye the actual size of the stone.
4. The same thing applies to the color of the stone. Make sure you get the supplier to give a commentary on the color so that you will know pretty well what you are getting. The camera sometimes picks up colors that are only minimal, while ignoring the feature colors.

- Summarized .Tips & Hints via Opalmine.com via The Nugget, 2/03, Via The RockCollector - Newsletter for the Rochester Lapidary Society - April, 2003

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AFMS Code of Ethics

A large measure of the enjoyment of our hobby consists of collecting in the field. For that reason, the members are proud to endorse the following:
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- I will respect both private and public property and will do no collecting on privately owned land without permission from the owner.
- I will keep informed on all laws, regulations or rules governing collecting on public lands and will observe them.
- I will, to the best of my ability, ascertain the boundary lines of property on which I plan to collect.
- I will use no firearms or blasting material in collecting areas.
- I will cause no willful damage to property of any kind such as fences, signs, buildings, etc.
- I will leave all gates as found.
- I will build fires only in designated or safe places and will be certain they are completely extinguished before leaving the area.
- I will discard no burning material - matches, cigarettes, etc.
- I will fill all excavation holes which may be dangerous to livestock.
- I will not contaminate wells, creeks, or other water supplies.
- I will cause no willful damage to collecting material and will take home only what I can reasonably use.
- I will practice conservation and undertake to utilize fully and well the materials I have collected and will recycle my surplus for the pleasure and benefit of others.
- I will support the rockhound project H.E.L.P. (Help Eliminate Litter Please) and will leave all collecting areas devoid of litter, regardless of how found.
- I will cooperate with field-trip leaders and those in designated authority in all collecting areas.
- I will report to my club or federation officers, Bureau of Land Management or other authorities, any deposit of petrified wood or other materials on public lands which should be protected for the enjoyment of future generations for public educational and scientific purposes.
- I will appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources.
- I will observe the "Golden Rule", will use Good Outdoor Manners and will at all times conduct myself in a manner which will add to the stature and Public Image of Rockhounds everywhere.

Revised July 7, 1999 at the AFMS Annual Meeting
<http://www.amfed.org>

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July Gem & Mineral Shows

30-4 — MADRAS, OR: Show; All Rockhound Pow Wow Club of America; Jefferson County Fairgrounds; about 70 dealers, field trips daily; contact Charles Prentice, (360) 293-2031; e-mail: mistybluemom@aol.com.

1-4 — SISTERS, OR: 8th annual show, "Sisters Roundup of Gems" Jean and Wayne Miller; Sisters Elementary School, 611 E. Cascade, off Hwy. 20; free admission; minerals, crystals, gems, books, tools, jewelry mounting, demonstrations, handcrafted items; contact Jean Miller, P.O. Box 136, Molalla, OR 97038, (503) 829-2680; e-mail: shadow92337@aol.com.

2-4 — FLAGSTAFF, AZ: 18th annual show; Flagstaff Gem & Mineral Society; Little America Hotel, Butler Ave. and I40; Fri. 11-7, Sat. 10-7, Sun. 10-5; adults \$3, children under 12 free; rough rock, gemstones, minerals, jewelry, beads, crystals, fossils, tools, equipment, door prizes; contact Val Latham, 6598 Pintail, Flagstaff, AZ 86004, (928) 526-5152.

2-4 — FARMINGTON, NM: 18th annual show, "Freedom Days Gem & Mineral Show" San Juan County Gem & Mineral Society; Farmington Civic Center, 200 W. Arrington; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; free admission; displays, demonstrations, jewelry, hourly drawings, raffles; contact Dave Stewart, P.O. Box 1482, Farmington, NM 87499-1482, (505)-325-3800; e-mail: dstewart@v1ist.com.

2-4 — WAYNESBORO, VA: 17th annual show; Treasures Of The Earth Gem & Jewelry Shows; William Perry Elementary School, 840 King Ave., across from DMV; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-5; contact Van Wimmer,

5273 Bradshaw Rd., Salem, VA 24153, (540) 384-6047; e-mail: van@toteshows.com; Web site: www.toteshows.com.

9-11 — DURANGO, CO: Show; Four Corners Gem & Mineral Club; La Plata County Fairgrounds, 2500 Main Ave.; Fri. 11-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; free admission; contact Bill Birza, (970) 247-8980.

9-11 — PORTLAND, OR: Retail and wholesale show, "Bead Renaissance Show" J&J Promotions; Holiday Inn, Portland Airport, 8439 N.E. Columbia Blvd.; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; free admission; bead artists and merchants carrying ancient, vintage and contemporary beads, designer beads, buttons, jewelry, tools, books; contact Glen or Joan Johnson, J&J Promotions, P.O. Box 420, Williamsburg, NM 87942, (505) 894-1293; e-mail: info@beadshow.com; Web site: www.beadshow.com.

10-11 — BETHEL, ME: 43rd annual show; Oxford County Mineral & Gem Association; Crescent Park School; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4; adults \$2, children under 12 free; dealers from ME and across the United States, specimens, jewelry, gem rough, museum quality displays, fluorescent mineral booth, guided field trips to local mines Sat. and Sun., mineral swap Sat., door prizes, grand door prize; contact Dennis Gross, 178 Main St., Bryant Pond, ME 04219; e-mail: mincoll@megalink.net.

10-11 — CASCADE LOCKS, OR: Annual show; New Era Rock & Gem Club; Marina Park; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-6; free admission; dealers, displays; contact Joyce Emerson, P.O. Box 5415, Bend, OR 97708, (503) 559-2595.

12-13 — MAITLAND, FL: "FL Summer Classic Intergalactic Bead Festival" Intergalactic Bead Shows; Maitland Civic Center, 641 S. Maitland Ave.; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; adults \$8 Sat., \$5 Sun., children 0-12 free; contact Intergalactic Bead Shows, (888) 729-6904; email: ibs@beadshows.com.

16-18 — BOONE, NC: 10th annual show; Treasures Of The Earth Gem & Jewelry Shows; Boone National Guard Armory, 274 Hunting Hills Ln., Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-5; subject to cancellation during a state or national emergency, call or check our Web site; contact Van Wimmer, 5273 Bradshaw Rd., Salem, VA 24153, (540) 384-6047; e-mail: van@toteshows.com; Web site: www.toteshows.com.

16-18 — SUTHERLIN, OR: Show; Digger Don's Rockhound Club; Community Center, 150 S. Willamette St.; Fri. 4-8, Sat. 10-8, Sun. 10-5; creative arts festival and rock and gem show; contact Mezdulene, (541) 459-3115; e-mail: mezdulene@jareeda.com.

17 — OSAGE BEACH, MO: 3rd annual summer show; Osage Rock & Mineral Club; Stone Crest Mall, 3797 Hwy. 54; Sat. 12-6; mozkarkite items, contact Ellis and Jackie Bray, (573) 392-6764; e-mail: hombre@socket.net.

17-18 — MOOSE LAKE, MN: 35th annual show, "Agate Days" Carlton County Gem & Mineral Club; Moose Lake High School Gym; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-4; free admission; door prizes, dealers with polished agates, minerals, crystal groups, fossils, gems, and jewelry inside, rough rock tailgating outside, agate stampede/search Sat. at 2, self-guided field trips, agate state park nearby; contact, Al Hyopponnen, (218) 525-7766.

17-18 — RAPID CITY, SD: 24th annual show; Western Dakota Gem & Mineral Society; Rushmore Plaza Civic Center; Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-4; contact Paul Reiter, (605) 348-3467.

21-25 — FRANKLIN, NC: 39th annual show, "Macon County Gemboree" Franklin Area Chamber of Commerce, Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin; Community Facilities Bldg., Hwy. 23/441S; Wed. 10-6, Thu. 10-6, Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 12-5; adults \$2, children 12 and under free; sales, special exhibits, equipment, supplies, demonstrations, jewelry, jewelry repairs, custom mounting, cutting; contact Franklin Area Chamber of Commerce, 425 Porter St., Franklin, NC 28734, (888) 510-4367; Web site: www.franklin-chamber.com.

24-25 — CASPER, WY: Show; Natrona County Rockhounds; Parkway Plaza, I25 and Center; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-5; contact Steve Pfaff, (307) 234-9874.

24-25 — KENNER, NEW ORLEANS, LA: Show; AKS Gem Shows; Pontchartrain Center, 4545 Williams Blvd.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-6; contact Kay Schabillon, P.O. Box 24552, New Orleans, LA 70184, (504) 455-6101; Web site: www.aksshows.com.

24-25 — TENINO, WA: 10th show, "Rock & Gem Rendezvous" WA Agate & Mineral Society, Tenino Rock Cruisers; Parkside Elementary School, Stage St. S; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; free admission; during OR Trail Days, dealers, demonstrations, door prizes, spinning the wheel, displays; contact Daniel DeBoer, 5107 Brenner Rd. NW, Olympia, WA 98502, (360) 866-3940.

