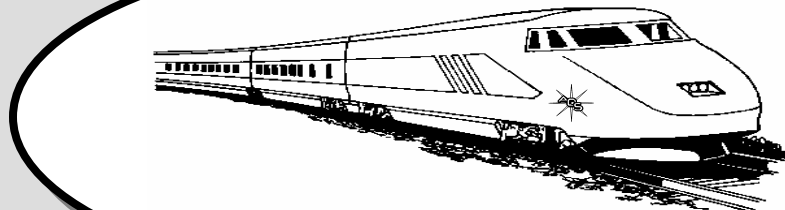


# The Opal Express

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## President's Message

*By Gene LeVan*

A new year is here time to look for more opals, my time goes by fast! Our Christmas party was very successful with lots of good food and conversation with our membership.

The winner of the door prize of a very fine black crystal opal stone was very lucky member Nancy Soluna.

Up coming meetings will have interesting speakers like Len Cram in February. We need a little input from the membership of what type of meetings are best. Give me hand please! Our board is working to give you the best presentations to cover the opal world. Again thanks for your continued support.



AOS President Gene LeVan presents member Nancy Soluna with a beautiful Lightning Ridged black opal prize that was raffled at the Christmas Party. Our thanks to Australian Opal Imports for the donation.

## Members Only Website Password

To log onto the website's members only area at: [http://opalsociety.org/aos\\_members\\_only\\_area.htm](http://opalsociety.org/aos_members_only_area.htm) type: Name: "member" and Password: "opalmine".

## Opal Society Workshop

The American Opal Society's workshop is open at Ball Jr. High School every Monday from 7:00 to 9:30 p.m. The school is located at 1500 W. Ball Road in Anaheim. This is between Euclid Ave. and Harbor Blvd. If you are traveling east on Ball Rd. the parking lot entrance you need to use is just before the railroad tracks. If you are traveling west, the lot is just after the railroad tracks. Room 37 is in the center of the campus.

Instruction will be given in cutting opal, wax models, lost-wax casting, fabrication, and setting stones. The workshop will furnish machines to cut and polish stones as well as a centrifuge for casting and a kiln for burnout. You will need to furnish other equipment you wish to use. Please bring a roll of PAPER TOWELS with you for clean-up as the room is a science lab and needs to be kept spotless.

To attend, membership in the American Opal Society is a must due to insurance. A nightly fee of \$2 is asked to help keep the equipment in good running condition. Our thanks to Pete Goetz and the Anaheim Union High School District for the use of this classroom for our workshop!

## Announcement - AOS Dues Increase

Starting February 1<sup>st</sup>, the AOS Board has determined that the member dues need to be increased by \$5. This increase is necessary due to the gradual increase in costs for newsletter printing and postage, clubhouse rent, and refreshments. The new dues rates are as follows:

- \$30 - Members within the USA, including Alaska and Hawaii
  - \$40 - Members outside the USA
  - There will still be a \$5 discount for seniors 65 years or older.
- In addition, the cost of making badges has gone up. The cost of extra or replacement badges will increase to \$10 per badge. A free badge will still be given to new members.

Please remember that although the AOS is a non-profit organization but still needs revenue to stay in operation. One way you can help the Society is by receiving the Opal Express newsletter by e-mail instead of a hard copy. Each hard copy costs around \$1 after printing and postage, where e-mail is basically free. The e-mail version has a number of advantages. It is in PDF format and can be printed on you home computer printer; it is in color; and it never wears out!

## January Speaker – Clare Gagnon on Gemstone Identification

Clare Gagnon will give a presentation on gemstone identification techniques. Clare is a long time member who is a active faceter who has performed faceting demonstrations for our Opal & Gem show. Clare is a key member of the Gem Faceters Guild. He also very active in the Seal Beach Leisure World Lapidary Shop.

## AOS Website Now Accepts Credit Card Payments

The American Opal Society website, <http://opalsociety.org>, will now accept credit card payments for membership dues. This should make dues payments easier for our members and allows the complete transaction to occur on-line. To pay you dues on-line, just go to [http://opalsociety.org/aos\\_application\\_by\\_web.htm](http://opalsociety.org/aos_application_by_web.htm) and fill out the form!

## Famous Opals - The Duffield Opal

The opal specimen shown on the cover of this issue (Lapidary Journal, Oct. 1974) was found July, 1968 at the "Little Joe" Opal Mine by the owner of the mine, Raymond Duffield of Carson City, Nevada.



*The Duffield Opal*

*Transparency by Fred C. Chex, Los Gatos, California*

This potato shaped specimen weighs 348.8 grams (1744 carats) and measures 103.5 mm. in length, 63.5 mm. wide and is 35 mm. to 52.5 mm. thick. It is semitransparent and consists of three

layers running diagonally to the length of the stone with an unusual "egg yolk" inclusion in the upper layer. It has two flaws, one through the "egg yolk" portion of the upper layer and one which extends through the center of the fire opal into the girasol opal layer.

The "Duffield Opal" has been reported to be perhaps the largest known opal to be found in amygdules. The mine has been closed till further notice.

*If anyone knows the current location of the "Duffield" or the status of the Little Joe Mine, please let me know (e.g. Natural History Museum?) – The Editor*

## Woodward Ranch Adventure

*By Bess and Dick Shields*

*Editors Note: This is the only place I know in the Mid-West where you can find precious opal.*

Woodward Ranch was originally established as a cattle ranch in 1883, and the family still has a small herd. Today it is the destination of countless rockhounds from around the world. Its reputation is well deserved as a premier collecting area for the wide variety of agates, precious opal, and an assortment of mineral world rarities. It was a MUST GO destination for the two of us on our vacation.

Somewhere between Van Horn and Marfa, TX, we received a call from Amanda, our youngest daughter, informing us about the 6.5 quake near Paso Robles CA. She was afraid that we would turn around and head back to California.

We were on day 3 of a 2 1/2 week vacation, and planned to spend it rockhounding our way to Boerne TX, visiting family, then collecting on the way home. After reassuring Amanda that we were making an overnight stop at the Woodward Ranch, then continuing to San Antonio the next day, she felt much better.

We first met Trey and Jan Woodward, the third generation resident hosts of Woodward Ranch, at the Fredericksburg TX Gem Show two years ago. Trey and Dick share a love of fluorescing, and Jan is a jeweler / beader. Their unlimited supply of red and black plume agate and over 70 other gemstone types give Trey and Jan a distinct advantage since they get "first dibbs" on specimens for their museum and gift shop displays.

The Woodward Ranch is located sixteen miles south of Alpine on Highway 118. The visitor area, RV parking, and Rock Shop are located two miles to the west of the turnoff on a county maintained access road, and is well marked. RVs, 2 and 4 wheel drive vehicles, and trailers will have no problem on this road. Please contact Trey or Jan prior to



*Woodward Ranch agate hill with Cathedral Mountain, an extinct volcano*



*Pegasus, the winged horse (head to the left), aragonite in iris agate*

arrival since the Ranch is closed to rock collecting on days when hunters are present.

Winter is the best time to collect since snakes are hibernating, grasses are dormant, and open patches make it easy to spot specimens. Take a rock hammer, screwdriver for prying out stubborn specimens from the red lava



30X microscopic view of Pegasus's head

rock, a collecting bag, and a bottle of drinking water. Before doing any collecting, check in with Trey or Jan.

There are a few RV sites on the property, and hotel rooms are available in Alpine, 16 miles to the north. Big Bend National Park and Terlingua are about 100 miles to the south on highway 118.

The Rock Shop and Museum are quaint, and authentic. You will find no touristy stuff here. The Woodward's have collected lots of rough materials that are housed in outdoor bins, and have an abundance of finished pieces available for purchase in the shop. They also have some interesting traded materials that other visitors left behind in the bargaining process.

Hill after hill of first-rate materials are plentiful within walking distance of the rock shop. Tons of collected materials are available to buy, or you are invited to collect your own materials nearby for a small fee per pound. Trey will help expert and novice alike identify the numerous types of materials, and assist you in high-grading your selections.

The ranch houses are unique, and built from local stone. Some now house visiting international researchers, others are in the process of being refurbished (like the huge barn whose roof flew off in a high wind), and the main house which is currently occupied by Trey and Jan. The fireplace in their home is 16' x 21', and contains prize specimens collected by the three generations of Woodward's who have called the Ranch "home".

Trey informed us that one of the researchers stated, "more than 70 different types of agate and minerals are to be found on the Ranch". There are more different types of quartz family gemstones on the Ranch than in any other one locality in the entire world. Some of the materials found at Woodward Ranch include:

- petrified wood
- agates: red and black plume (the only location for this unique agate in the world!), flower garden, banded, iris, picture, lace, Pom -Pom, cathedral, moss, and sunburst
- fluorescent calcite
- quartz
- geodes
- aragonite crystals
- bloodstone
- wulfenite
- carnelian
- jaspers
- amber
- citrine
- amethyst
- chalcedony pseudomorphs after aragonite (marshmallows with caramel sauce)
- precious opal in rhyolite cavities
- stalactites and stalagmites

- clear, facet quality gem labradorite (loose in igneous soil)
- Potato Hill andasite

The Ranch is located in the heart of the northern extreme of the Chihuahuan Desert at an altitude of 5000 feet. The lavas that produce the Woodward Ranch gemstones are 750 feet thick and are exposed over the 2400 acres of the main ranch, and other family holdings in the Terlingua area near Big Bend National Park.

Trey and Dick spent a long time fluorescing the whole rock shop and workshop as I strolled the hills in search of specimens. Old Blue, the ranch dog, is the friendly greeter to numerous visitors. Goldie, the resident horse, followed me around as I collected specimens in the hills near the ranch house. Goldie would enjoy being hostess to your favorite horse, and accompanying you on a trail ride.

When I returned with my beauties (and two artifacts), Dick chattered on and on about the abundance of fluorescent specimens. Trey showed me numerous glowing finds, calcites, iris agates, and fluorite from a broad area, including Marathon, Marfa, Terlingua, and northern Mexico.



Red and yellow agate from Woodward Ranch

Trey showed us biscuits (his name for agates the shape of an English muffin) he had recently collected. He slabs and polishes the agates to sell in his Ranch Rock Shop. He can also mail order you a 5 pound selection of assorted plume,

green moss, and PomPom agates if you can't make a trip to see him. One of the most extensive explanations on this ancient string of Texan volcanoes is found in the Geo-Texas book. Hundreds of volcanoes covered the trans-Pecos area, Austin, Uvalde, Knippa, Alpine, Big Bend National Park, El Paso, Davis Mountain (home of the McDonald Observatory), and Van Horn (to name a few).

The agates found on the Ranch were formed in gas pockets in the repeated layers of lava flows. Each intrusive igneous flow contained a slightly different chemical mix, hence the different types and colors of agates in the area. The massive volcanic eruptions, volcanic flows, and volcanic ash covering (which sometimes exceeded 1000 feet in thickness), created an oozing, hot, molten mix.

The red lava rock covering Woodward Ranch was penetrated from above by water, silica, and trace elements which seeped down through the ash. Vents from below worked their way to the surface and riddled the lava with another diverse mix of trace minerals.



Chalcedony pseudomorphs after aragonite in the fireplace wall

Three large pieces of the chalcedony pseudomorphs after aragonite (marshmallows with caramel sauce) have been found on the Ranch. One is now residing in the Smithsonian Institute, one lives in Trey and Jan's fireplace showplace, and the third is on display. The crystals are enormous, and are covered by a deep caramel colored coating that honestly looks good enough to eat!

Now that we have returned from our adventures, we'll get our tumbler going with those biscuits, and work with the other gifts provided by Mother Nature. Dick and I bought and traded for an ample supply of Woodward Ranch specimens, but will definitely gather more on our next trip east. We left our Wilderness trailer in Boerne TX with Amanda, so this gives us an excellent excuse to visit the Woodward Ranch again later this spring when we retrieve the trailer – Yee Haw!

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You can see more about the ranch on the web page at <http://www.woodwardranch.net> or send an e-mail to Trey and Jan at [woodward13@earthlink.net](mailto:woodward13@earthlink.net).

*From Ore-Cutts Volume XXXIX, Issue I January 2004*

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*This book is the one the movie, Opal Dream, was based on. See the review in the 12/2006 Opal Express. The Editor*

## Here's Looking at You, Kids

*By Jeff Giles  
November 5, 2000*

### Book Review - Pobby and Dingan

*By Ben Rice*

*94 pp. New York: Alfred A. Knopf. \$16.*

POBBY and Dingan are invisible: you don't have to believe in them, but for God's sake don't sit on them. "Dad, be careful!" 8-year-old Kellyanne Williamson tells her father early in Ben Rice's slender first novel. "You almost trod on Pobby with your fat feet! Watch what you're doing!" Kellyanne's father, Rex, makes the usual halfhearted apology. "Aw, sorry, princess. Did I tread on your fairy-friends?"

Rex is a miner. He's dragged his family from England to a weird, desolate nowhere called Lightning Ridge, Australia, where he digs for opal quixotically by day and drinks beer voraciously by night. Rex has only the vaguest idea of how lonely and fragile his daughter is, but he's about to find out. One morning, he gamely offers to take Pobby and Dingan to the mine with him while Kellyanne is at school. He comes home drunk, and alone. Kellyanne suddenly sees the roof fall in on her little life: her father has lost her imaginary friends. She becomes so sick with worry that soon she's confined to her bed, where she refuses to eat and dwindles to nothing. It never bothered her that Pobby and Dingan were invisible -- but now they've disappeared.

Ben Rice, meanwhile, has arrived. "Pobby and Dingan" is an enormously touching, imaginative and unexpected novel that just glows in your hands. It's like one of those old Italo Calvino books that gave you a contact high -- not the smarty-pants, postmodern

stuff but the fables like "The Baron in the Trees." The book is narrated by Kellyanne's scrappy older brother, Ashmol, who has always rolled his eyes at his sister's imaginary friends. When a teary Kellyanne tells him Pobby and Dingan may be dead, he shoots back: "Good. Perhaps you'll grow up now and stop being such a fruit loop."

On the afternoon that Pobby and Dingan disappear, Kellyanne insists that the Williamsons drive out to the opal mines and search for them. Rex scouts around someone else's mine and is arrested for poaching, despite his airtight alibi that he was hunting for his daughter's invisible playmates. Ashmol quickly hatches a plan he's sure will save his father from prison and his fast-fading sister from the hospital. He will convince all of Lightning Ridge that Pobby and Dingan really do exist, and enlist the entire town in the search for them. First, however, he needs to know what they look like. "Kellyanne whispered that they didn't look like anything in particular, but Dingan had a lovely opal in her bellybutton, only you had to be a certain kind of person to see it. And Pobby had a limp in his right leg."

Don't worry, nobody's going to tell you to clap your hands if you believe in fairies. What's so extraordinary about Rice's novel is how unpredictable it is, how effortlessly it mingles whimsy and gravitas, how its plot races ahead long after you figured it would run out of gas and pull over to the side of the road. (Not only do the eccentrics of Lightning Ridge search for Pobby and Dingan, 10 of them show up at the Williamsons' door claiming to have found them: "One old lady turned up with a little jar saying she had caught them in it. Ken from the chemist's came in all stooped over saying he was giving Dingan a piggyback.") "Pobby and Dingan" is an uplifting book, but it's also a hell of a sad one at times. The bond between Ashmol and Kellyanne deepens even as the bond between their parents disintegrates. For every shower of fairy dust here, there's a handful of Angela's ashes.

RICE, who's a 27-year-old Brit, knocked "Pobby and Dingan" out at Oxford, inspired by stories his girlfriend told him about her hometown and her imaginary childhood friends. At 94 pages, the book is as slim as a volume of poetry. Rice's publisher was absolutely right to let "Pobby and Dingan" stand alone, but marketing what's essentially a novella must be like trying to find an invisible girl with an opal in her bellybutton. As I write this, the sales ranking for "Pobby and Dingan" at Amazon.com is a lonely 20,297; at Barnesandnoble.com, it's a suicidal 80,273. In a just universe, there would be T-shirts that say, "Missing: Pobby and Dingan," and bumper stickers reading, "I Brake for P & D." Kellyanne's buddies are an unforgettable pair. Invisible or not, they're like nothing you've ever seen.

Jeff Giles is a senior editor at Newsweek, where he writes about books, movies and music.

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## The Jades

*A short address by the late Dean S. M. Field at f the CGA Gem Conference, October 20, 1990 at George Brown College, Toronto*

As you all know, the name Jade includes both nephrite and jadeite. Taken separately, nephrite is a silicate of calcium and magnesium (with some iron in the ferrous state) and belongs to the amphibole group. Jadeite, the "companion" mineral, is a silicate of sodium and aluminum belonging to a group of rock-forming minerals known as pyroxenes. Both are inosilicates characterized (as the name suggests) by sinews or chains of silica tetrahedra. These may be simple oxygen-linked strings or complex double chains latterly bonded to various types of cations, that is, positively charged atoms, that produce differing mineral species such as diopside, enstatite, jadeite, spodumene and the like. The pyroxenes have simple, single



Dean S.M. Field

To my knowledge, no individual crystals of nephrite itself occur, but I have seen tiny, drusy jadeite crystals in a boulder cavity or "vug" from Burma.

### Nephrite Jade

The traditional jade of China was, of course, Nephrite. It was worked in that country as early as the Late Neolithic period (ca. 3000-1500 B.C.). Apparently, all the nephrite rough was imported from sources outside China, for even in modern times there seems to be no substantiated Chinese deposits. It is believed that the Chinese sources for nephrite were located, in olden times, in East Turkistan, from which boulders were transported for many centuries over most difficult transcontinental routes to their final destination in China. During the past century, however, much of the rough destined for China came from New Zealand, Siberia and Canada.

The best green nephrite I have ever examined was exceptionally hard and compact and took almost a mirror finish when polished with diamond in the modern manner. It came from British Columbia during the late 1950's and early 1960's, and is still being mined there at several localities. Its hardness (about 6.5) is very close to that of jadeite and the colour is a deep apple green. It was, for the most part, completely free from concentrations of chromite and other impurities. A Dube carving of a large angel fish cut from one of the pieces of that nephrite is here and available for hands-on inspection.

The fact that nephrite from other localities does not generally accept an even polish is, in my belief, due to (1) the presence of other minerals - associated or as inclusions - and/or (2) variations in the felting of the crystals that comprise the variety of jade we know as nephrite.

Some sections have been shown to be more densely matted than others, hence take a higher polish than do adjoining less-tightly felted areas.

Additionally, it may be said that the matted structure of nephrite jade makes it one of the toughest but certainly not the hardest mineral known. It was the recognition of this property that probably induced the world's ancient peoples to utilize it for the making of weapons, tools, bowls, vases and, as civilization advanced, carved images of flora and fauna of both secular and religious significance.

The late B.W. Anderson stated that some of the jade from Taiwan showed a distinct chatoyancy and there was a tendency to market stones cut from this green material as "nephrite" cat's-eyes, but this was discouraged by leading gemmologists. Their judgment was based on the fact that "although the composition and properties of these stones are akin to nephrite, their structure consists of strictly parallel fibres to which the chatoyancy is due, whereas in nephrite the fibres are in random orientation as a tangled mass in typical jade fashion." He went on to say that, "Analysis has shown that the most accurate description of these cat's-eyes would be 'tremolite cat's-eyes!'" Several tremolite and one actinolite cat's-eye are here and on display.

chains whilst double-chain structures are characteristic of the amphiboles, such as nephrite, hornblende, tremolite, actinolite, etc.

As rough, minerals from the two groups can be distinguished by cleavage: 56° for the amphiboles (tremolite) and 90° for the pyroxenes (diopside). Too, it should be noted that pyroxenes are anhydrous, whilst amphiboles contain water and will give off water vapour or steam when heated in a closed test-tube. Also of interest is the fact that the amphiboles tend to be fibrous, acicular or elongated in habit. Both jadeite and nephrite are monoclinic.

### Jadeite Jade

Jadeite is somewhat less tough but slightly harder than nephrite. It has a fine granular structure of interlocking crystals that may vary slightly in hardness. This gives rise to a subtly dimpled surface when the material is cut and/or polished. In late years, however, the use of diamond in the polishing process has made the dimpling much less apparent. It has also resulted in a higher polish, making the age of the piece more readily recognized as modern or re-finished.

Jadeite was introduced to Chinese artisans only about the middle of the 18th century, during the reign of the emperor Ch'ien-lung (1736-1795). It is said that the Chinese knew of the jadeite of Burma since the 13th century of the Christian era; but some five hundred years elapsed before any jadeite jade reached China and was worked on anything like a large scale. This was due not so much to transportation difficulties as it was to a long-lasting "cold war" and political conditions, generally. The Chinese and Burmese were definitely not good trading partners. Even when it was brought to China, Burma jadeite took almost a century to become accepted as a valuable stone; and it was probably due to the old empress dowager, Tz'u Hsi, who loved its bright, vivid colours, that it finally reached preeminence as the Imperial Stone or most precious thing, in China. It is generally believed that no art objects were created in China from jadeite much prior to that time. Indeed, it is fairly safe to date intricately carved vases and the like fashioned in jadeite jade to the various periods after about 1780 AD.

Jadeite, with a hardness of 7 on the Mohs' scale of relative hardness, occurs in white, grey, pale blue, pale lavender, yellow, mutton-fat cream, orange, brown, burnt-sienna red, black and, of course, green. The greens are most favoured in the Western world and vary greatly in saturation and hue, from the palest of greens to a deep translucent emerald hue. The Chinese also favour an even darker translucent green colour, but this has the tendency to appear blackish in artificial light. The rare fancy colours are also gaining world-wide attention for their rarity and innate beauty, especially when they are set next to the brighter green shades.

Although green jadeite and emerald both owe their colour to chromium, green jadeite does not show red under the Chelsea filter, nor does it do so under either LW or SW UV light. With the spectroscope, however, green jadeite shows several bands in the violet, the strongest being at 437 nm. It is intense enough to be discerned by reflected light and by transmitted light if the material is not too opaque or too dark in colour to transmit well. Naturally green jadeite also shows three chromium lines somewhat resembling steps or louvres in the red, at about 630, 660 and 690 nm. In contrast, dyed green jadeite may show one broad band extending from about 630 to 670 nm; but above this is a light zone from about 670 to the end of the visible spectrum. In the "natural green" spectrum just described, there is nothing but darkness above the 690 nm band. Note however, that the band at 437 nm is present in both the natural and dyed examples.

Lavender jadeite is also frequently dyed. Anything but a pale shade is immediately suspect. Koivula (1982) reports that dyed lavender jade shows orange under LW UV light. This is also true, I have found, of the lavender-dyed alabaster simulant on display here today. The two large lavender jade cabochons are inert.

Most jadeite regardless of colour will remain suspended or very slowly sink in methylene iodide (di-iodomethane) that has a density of about 3.32-3.33 at normal room temperature. The mean R.I. of jadeite is 1.66 (alpha 1.654; gamma 1.667). This mean R.I. can be determined quite readily by the distant vision method. Strangely enough, if the stone is loose and has a flat back, the alpha and gamma values can be read off and the birefringence of 0.013 determined even though the material is actually a multi-crystal aggregate.

Whilst deposits of gem quality nephrite are widespread throughout the world, there is only one source of any importance for

the varieties of jadeite used in modern jewellery, and for carvings and art objects. That source is located at My-it-ky-ina in the Shan mountain district of Upper Burma, about 100 to 125 km west of the town of Mogaung, which is the sorting and storage centre. No jadeite is found anywhere around Mogaung itself, and about the only way to get to it is by a rather ramshackle plane. Although My-it-ky-ina is the most northerly train depot, only the occasional train makes it that far north, and that sporadically. My-it-ky-ina was one of the main Japanese air bases in Burma during the occupation of the Second World War. The town is located on a raised plateau surrounded by a flat fertile plain through which a branch of the Irrawaddy flows.

All jade from the in-place deposits, as well as boulders from the rivers northwest of the village, are transported by truck and jeep to Mogaung, where they are examined, tested, graded and marked, and stored for shipment to the south. If the mines are producing, helicopter service could probably be used now, but for countless years, the crudest (and probably the cruellest) means of transportation were used. The instability of the politico-economical situation in Burma has halted much of the jade and ruby mining in Burma, and we can only speculate on what is in store for future developments of these quality-unique deposits.

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9. *The preceding article was a short address by the late Dean S.M. Field at the CGA Gem Conference, given on October 20, 1990 at George Brown College, Toronto.*

From the Canadian Rockhound, Summer / Fall 2000 Volume 4, Number 2 at <http://www.canadianrockhound.com>

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## January 2007 Gem & Mineral Shows

**1--YUCAIPA, CA:** 46 annual show; Yucaipa Gem & Mineral Society; Yucaipa Gem & Mineral Society; Yucaipa Community Center, 34900 Oak Glen Rd.; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4; free admission; 15 vendors, rough material, beads, gems, mineral specimens, lapidary tools, club displays, silent auction, lapidary demonstrations, 150 prize drawings; contact Bill Jochimsen, P.O. Box 494, Yucaipa, CA 92399, (909) 790-1475; e-mail: bjm2285@aol.com; Web site: <http://mysite.verizon.net/yucaipagem/id3.html>.

**5-7--MESA, AZ:** 35th annual show, "Flag Gem & Mineral Show"; AZ Mineral & Mining Museum Foundation; Mesa Community College, 1833 W. Southern Ave., south parking lot, NE corner of U.S. 60 and Dobson Rd.; Fri. 9-5, Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-5; free admission; free samples for children and teachers, nearly 100 vendors, displays; contact Ray Grant, 3262 W. Monterrey, Chandler, AZ 85226, (480) 814-9086; e-mail: raycyn@cox.net.

**5-7--SANTA ROSA, CA:** Show; Gem Faire Inc.; Sonoma County Fairgrounds/Grace Pavilion, 1350 Bennett Valley Rd.; Fri. 12-7, Sat. 10-7, Sun. 10-5; \$5 weekend pass; contact Yooy Nelson, (503) 252-8300; e-mail: info@gemfaire.com; Web site: [www.gemfaire.com](http://www.gemfaire.com).

**12-14--DEL MAR, CA:** Show; Gem Faire Inc.; Del Mar Fairgrounds/Exhibit Hall, 2260 Jimmy Durante Blvd.; Fri. 12-7, Sat. 10-7, Sun. 10-5; \$5 weekend pass; contact Yooy Nelson, (503) 252-8300; e-mail: info@gemfaire.com; Web site: [www.gemfaire.com](http://www.gemfaire.com).

**12-14--LAKEWOOD, CO:** Annual show; Denver Area Mineral Dealers; Holiday Inn Denver West, 14707 W. Colfax Ave; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-4; free admission; door prizes, 10 dealers, minerals, fossils, jewelry, gemstones, gemstone rough; contact Pat Tucci, (303) 279-5504; email: ptucci@sprintmail.com.

**19-21--GLOBE, AZ:** 50th annual show; Show; Gila County Gem & Mineral; Gila County Fairgrounds; Fri. 9-5, Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-4; adults \$2, high school

The American Opal Society

students with ID and children with adult free; dealers, demonstrations, lapidary equipment, finished jewelry, books, tools, minerals, slabs, fossils, door prizes; contact Bill Morrow, (928) 812-0561, or Clyde Caviness, (928) 425-7200.

**20-21--EXETER, CA:** 51st annual show, "Gemboree"; Tule Gem & Mineral Society; Exeter Veterans Memorial Bldg., 324 N. Kaweah (Hwy. 65); Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4; free admission; 10 dealers, gems, jewelry, rocks, minerals, lapidary supplies, grab bags, displays, demonstrations, wheel of fortune, door prizes; contact Tule Gem & Mineral Society, P.O. Box 1061, Visalia, CA 93279.

**24-28--QUARTZSITE, AZ:** 41st annual pow wow and show; Quartzsite Improvement Association; 235 E. Ironwood Dr.; Wed. 9-5, Thu. 9-5, Fri. 9-5, Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-5; free admission; more than 300 vendors, rocks, gems, minerals, fossils, beads, wire wrap supplies, jewelry, lapidary supplies, daily field trips, lapidary, jewelry-making, faceting, knapping, and gold panning demonstrations, exhibits; contact Diane Abbott, Pow Wow Chairman, P.O. Box 881, Quartzsite, AZ 85346-0881, (928) 927-6325; e-mail: gia@rraz.net; Web site: [www.quartzsiteimprovementassoc.com](http://www.quartzsiteimprovementassoc.com).

**26-28--REDLANDS, CA:** 42nd Pacific Micromount Conference; Mineralogical Society of Southern CA; The San Bernardino County Museum, 2024 Orange Tree Ln.; Fri. 3-10, Sat. 8-10, Sun. 9-10; adults \$10; \$10 advance registration, \$15 at the door; field trip Sun.; contact Walter Margerum, 14892 Sutro Ave., Gardena, CA 90249, (310) 324-1976; e-mail: mssc@mineralsocal.org; Web site: [www.mineralsocal.org](http://www.mineralsocal.org).

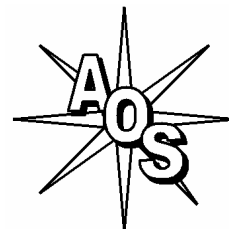
**26-28--ROSEVILLE, CA:** Show; Gem Faire Inc.; Placer County Fairgrounds, 800 All America City Blvd.; Fri. 12-7, Sat. 10-7, Sun. 10-5; \$5 weekend pass; contact Yooy Nelson, (503) 252-8300; e-mail: info@gemfaire.com; Web site: [www.gemfaire.com](http://www.gemfaire.com).

**26-6--TUCSON, AZ:** Show; J.O.G.S. International Exhibits; Tucson Expo Center, 3750 E. Irvington Rd.; Fri. 11-6; free admission; rough rock, polished rock, findings, finished jewelry, Brazilian gems and stones, amber, jewelry designers, minerals, fossils, mammoth bones and carvings; contact Vitaliy, 650 S. Hill St., Ste. 612, Los Angeles, CA 90014, (213) 629-3030; e-mail: info@jogsshow.com; Web site: [www.jogsshow.com](http://www.jogsshow.com).

**27-4--TUCSON, AZ:** Wholesale show; George Zraket; BGMS Gem Central, 5151 S. Country Club; 10-6 all days; US and international exhibitors, designer jewelry, rough and faceted gemstones, specimens, cabochons, crystals, beads, lapidary, findings; contact George Zraket, 6060 N. Miller Rd., Scottsdale, AZ 85250-4626, (480) 998-4000; e-mail: gzraket@aol.com; Web site: [www.beaudrygemshow.com](http://www.beaudrygemshow.com).

**27-10--TUCSON, AZ:** Show, "AZ Mineral & Fossil Show"; Martin Zinn Expositions; five locations: The InnSuites Hotel, 475 N. Granada; The Mineral & Fossil Marketplace, 1333 N. Oracle Rd.; Clarion Hotel - Randolph Park, 102 N. Alvernon Way; Quality Inn, 1025 E. Benson Hwy.; Ramada Limited, 665 N. Freeway; 10-6 daily, 10-5 last day; free admission; more than 400 international dealers, free shuttle among locations, Artist Gallery at InnSuites Hotel; contact Martin Zinn Expositions, P.O. Box 665, Bernalillo, NM 87004-0665, fax (505) 867-0073; e-mail: MZ0955@aol.com; Web site: [www.mzexpos.com](http://www.mzexpos.com).

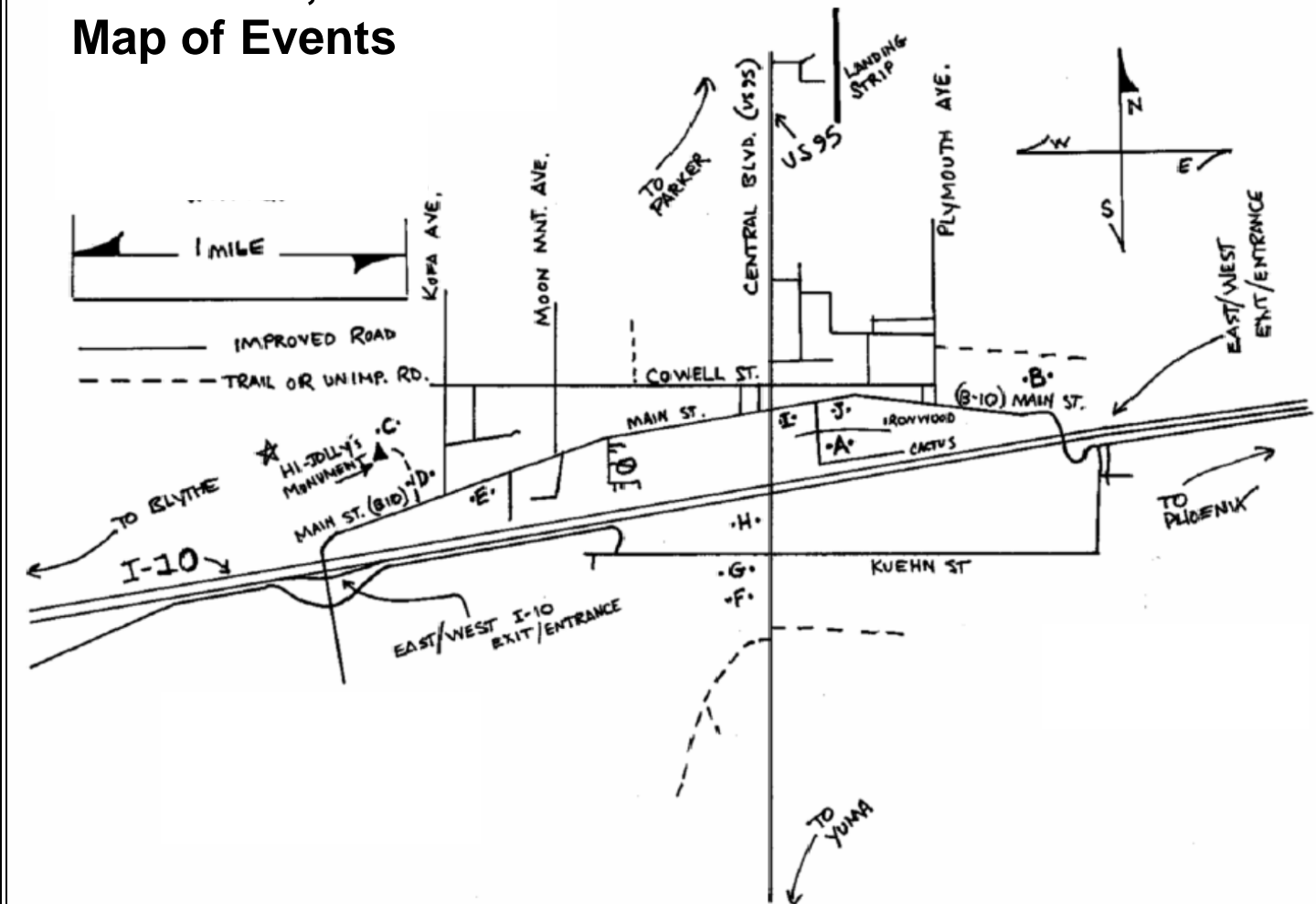
**29-5--TUCSON, AZ:** Bead Renaissance Show; J&J Promotions LLC; 3340 E. MI, next to the Hollidome; Mon. 10-6, Tue. 10-6, Wed. 10-6, Thu. 10-9, Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-6; free admission; contact J&J Promotions LLC, P.O. Box 420, Williamsburg, NM 87942, (505) 894-1293; e-mail: info@beadshow.com; Web site: [www.beadshow.com](http://www.beadshow.com).



## Quartzsite Shows for 2007

Show	Address	Phone	Date	Map Location
Desert Gardens Gem & Mineral	PO Box 619 Quartzsite, AZ 85346	928-927-5555	Jan 1 - Feb 28	Map Look below the E; South of I-10 on access road (West side Kuehn St)
Hi Jolly Daze Parade	PO Box 85 Quartzsite, AZ 85346	928-927-5600	Jan 6	Map ref C
41 <sup>st</sup> Annual Quartzsite Pow Wow Gem & Mineral Show	PO Box 881 Quartzsite, AZ 85346	928-927-6325	Jan 24 - Jan 28	Map ref A
The Main Event	PO Box 2801 Quartzsite, AZ 85346	928 -927-5213	Jan 5 - Jan 31	Map ref D
Rice Ranch "Yawl Come Show" Bluegrass Festival at Rice Ranch		928-927-8118	Nov 1 - Feb 28 Feb 23 - Feb 25	Map Look below the A on Kuehn St
<a href="http://www.tysonwells.com">Tyson Wells Rock &amp; Gem Show</a> <a href="#">Tyson Wells Sell-A-Rama</a> <a href="#">Tyson Wells Arts &amp; Crafts Fair</a>	<a href="http://www.tysonwells.com">www.tysonwells.com</a> PO Box 60 Quartzsite, AZ 85346	928-927-6364	Jan 5 - Jan 14 Jan 19 - Jan 28 Feb 2 - Feb 11	Map ref H
<a href="#">Vacation &amp; R V Show</a> <a href="#">Roll Classic Car Show</a> <a href="#">Hobby Craft &amp; Gem Show</a>	4952 Warner Ave, Suite 203 Huntington Beach CA 92649	800-969-5464	Jan 20 - Jan 28 Feb 3 - Feb 4 Jan 31 - Feb 4	Map ref F
Prospector's Panorama	PO Box 786 Quartzsite, AZ 85346	928-927-6467	Nov 1 - Feb 15	Map ref G

## Quartzsite, Arizona Map of Events





**Dear Fellow Members**

**Invitation to Subscribe**

Aussie-opals has been involved in the opal industry for 14 years and has sold thousands of gems worldwide. We offer a fantastic range of Lightning Ridge solid black opal and Queensland solid boulder opal.

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This email based purchase system operates in the following manner:

- We email our subscribers video links of the opals available for purchase. Clicking on the link will allow the video to play automatically.
- The clips will include voice narration briefly describing opal type, weight, price and a reference number of the opal.
- To make a purchase you email us the reference number for the opal (s) selected.

We have also been selling opals on eBay for the last 2.5 years under the name of 'aussie-opals' and you can check out our feedback for our credibility.

If you are interested in becoming a subscriber with Aussie Opals please contact us via email on [opals4u@bigpond.net.au](mailto:opals4u@bigpond.net.au)

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# American Opal Society Membership Renewal

TYPES OF MEMBERSHIP		DUES / FEES)	AMOUNT PAID
<i>DUES:</i> <i>SELECT ONE</i>	<i>All US Addresses including Alaska and Hawaii</i>	\$25	
	<i>International Members All addresses outside of US Addresses</i>	\$35	
<i>ADDITIONAL BADGES \$5.00 each (First Badge free when joining)</i>		\$5	
<i>ONE TIME INITIATION FEE All New members</i>		\$10	
<i>SENIOR DISCOUNT Age 65 or over deduct \$5</i>		-\$5	
<b>TOTAL PAID DUES, less Senior Discount plus Badge plus Initiation Fee (if Applicable)</b>			

Please make check or money order payable to "**American Opal Society**". Mail payment and application to:  
**American Opal Society; PO BOX 4875; Garden Grove, CA 92842-4875**  
 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](http://opalsociety.org/aos_application_by_web.htm) and complete the form. You may pay with a **Credit Card** or via **PayPal** account. The transaction is completely secure and the AOS never sees your credit card number. The AOS PayPal account is [membership@opalsociety.org](mailto:membership@opalsociety.org).

NAME		
BUSINESS NAME		
ADDRESS		APT # or PO BOX
CITY		STATE
ZIP or POSTAL CODE		COUNTRY (IF OUTSIDE USA)
PHONE - Home ( )	PHONE - Business ( )	FAX ( )
E-MAIL		
WEBSITE		
OCCUPATION		HOBBIES AND INTERESTS

**NAME BADGE ORDER FORM:**  
 PLEASE PRINT NAME AS YOU WISH IT TO APPEAR ON YOUR BADGE using up to two (2) lines of text for your name, nickname, or name of your opal related business.

**MEMBERSHIP ROSTER and NEWSLETTER MAILING:** 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.

- Address   
  Phone   
  E-mail   
  Website   
  E-Mail the Opal Express Newsletter instead of Postal Mail  
 Include my name & address on a list provided to the Dealers selling at our Annual Opal & Gem Show.

Please sign here: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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 The American Opal Society.  
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**Editor-Jim Pisani**  
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**Jim Pisani**  
**P.O. Box 4875**  
**Garden Grove, CA 92842-4875**  
 E-mail: [editor@opalsociety.org](mailto:editor@opalsociety.org)

**Are Your Dues Due Now?**  
**PLEASE CHECK YOUR ADDRESS LABEL.** If your label shows the current month/year your dues are DUE NOW. If the date is older, your dues are overdue.  
**A Renewal Grace Period** of two months will be provided. If your dues are due now you will receive two additional issues of the newsletter. Please note, however, that as the system is now set up, if your renewal is not received you will be AUTOMATICALLY dropped from membership thereafter. It is your responsibility to assure your dues are current.  
 Thank you,  
 The Editor

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



**Volume #40 Issue #1  
 January 2007**

TO:

**Some Topics In This Issue:**

- Announcement - AOS Dues Increase
- AOS Website Accepts Credit Cards
- Famous Opals - The Duffield Opal
- Woodward Ranch Adventure
- Book Review - Pobby and Dingan
- The Jades
- Quartzsite Show Schedule

**Important Info:**

**Board Meeting  
 January 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**General Meeting  
 January 11<sup>th</sup>**

January Speaker – Clare Gagnon on Gemstone Identification

**— GENERAL MEETINGS —**

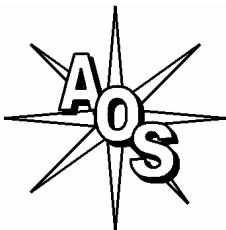
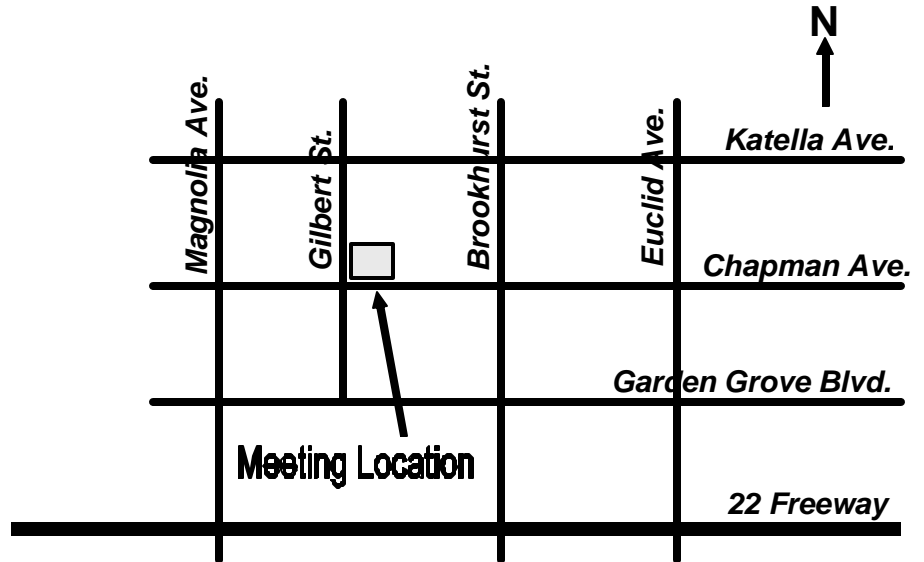
2nd Thursday of the Month  
 7:00 pm - 9:00 PM  
 Garden Grove Civic Women's Club  
 9501 Chapman Ave.  
 (NE corner of Gilbert & Chapman)  
 Garden Grove, CA

**MEETING ACTIVITIES**

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

**January 11th:**

**Clare Gagnon on Gemstone Identification**



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

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Jim Lambert	Vice-President	(714) 891-7171	email: jlamb777@yahoo.com
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