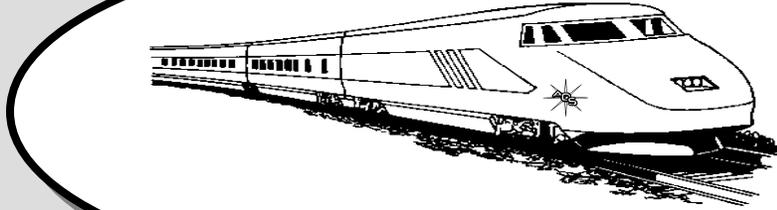


# The Opal Express

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## Rate Increase for Paper Newsletter

*By Jim Pisani*

Just to remind our members from what we published last month - the American Opal Society will now charge an additional \$5 yearly fee to the yearly dues to have a paper Opal Express Newsletter mailed by postal services versus an e-mail version. Please indicate in the membership application next time you renew how you want it sent. The default for the on-line form is to send by e-mail.

If you want it e-mailed ahead of time before your next renewal, please send an e-mail to the editor, Jim Pisani, at [webmaster@opalsociety.org](mailto:webmaster@opalsociety.org). Please indicate your name and e-mail address that you want it mailed to.

## 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: opalgem".

## Successful Opal & Gem Show!

*By Jim Pisani*

The Opal & Gem Show was one of the best shows ever! Our new location at the Whitehouse Event Center was viewed by most as a great new location. It was spacey, with lots of room, with a great courtyard; definitely a step up from the Clarion. Parking was free and easy. The décor was beautiful.

We made more money on this show that most of our previous shows. We had a fairly good crowd of guests show up and the dealers seemed pleased.



Grand Prize Necklace designed and built by Stan McCall of Custom Creative

We want to thank some of our volunteers. Big credit is due to Gene LeVan, our show chairman, for filling the place with dealers. Corey Kuepper basically ran the show, working extremely hard months before and during to organize and set it up. Thanks to Erik Spande, one of our Chicago members, who flew especially out for the show and helped us set up.

A big thanks to Pete Goetz for getting the food, Russ Madsen for printing the raffle tickets, Bob Dixon, Evelyn Nissan, Veronica Purpura, Eva Coan, for manning the entry desk, Jim Lambert for security, Jay Carey for coffee, donuts, and printing, and LaVerne Christensen for handling the money. If I forgot someone, thanks!

We also want to thank Stan McCall for the wonderful necklace that he designed and built for the grand prize of the raffle.

A big thank you goes to our seminar speakers - Larry Hoskinson, Leslie Neff, Stan McCall, Jim Pisani, and Walt Johnson.

We also want to thank the demonstrators for cutting, grinding, carving, soldering, etc., for two full days! A special thanks to Bob Gillian for organizing them.

We also want to thank our dealers for participating, donating the prizes for the raffle, and putting up with the difficulties of a new venue. They made the show!

## AOS Election Information

The AOS will hold elections at the February General Meeting. The offices to be voted on will be President and Vice-President.

If you interested in running for office, please submit your name to the board by the January meeting. Current So. Cal. local members in good standing may run for office. The current members of the Board of Directors are as follows:

President <sup>1</sup>	Jim Lambert	Position Up for Election
Vice-President <sup>1</sup>	Stan McCall	Position Up for Election
Treasurer <sup>1</sup>	LaVerne Christenson	Recently elected
Show Chairman <sup>2</sup>	Gene LeVan	Up for appointment
Newsletter Editor & Webmaster <sup>2</sup>	Jim Pisani	
CFMS Representative <sup>2</sup>	Fran Todd	
Member At Large <sup>3</sup>	Dr. Walt Johnson	
Member At Large <sup>3</sup>	Pete Goetz	
Member At Large <sup>3</sup>	Jay Carey	

Note 1 - President, Vice-President, and Treasurer are elected

Note 2 - Positions that are appointed by the AOS Board

Note 3 - Member At-Large - usually previous board members

## Opal Lexicon

From Unique Opals, Pratteln, Switzerland

### Opal Characteristics

<b>Formation</b>	Opal is deposited in cavities and fissures in rocks from low temperature, silica-bearing water. Opal may also replace existing structures, such as fossils or soluble minerals.
<b>Composition</b>	Opal is composed of amorphous, hydrated silica: $\text{SiO}_2 \cdot n \text{H}_2\text{O}$ While opal usually contains around 6 - 10% water, it may contain as much as 25%
<b>Structure</b>	Precious opal consists of regular, three-dimensional arrays of tiny, uniformly sized silica spheres. The spheres show a shell-like build-up with a nucleus in cross section and must have a diameter of 200 - 350 nm to be able to produce a play-of-color.
<b>Mohs hardness</b>	Ranges from 5.5 - 6.5
<b>Specific gravity</b>	2.1 / Fire Opal is slightly lower at 2.0
<b>Refractive index</b>	Ranges from 1.44 - 1.46 / Fire Opal may have an RI as low as 1.40 Opal is near-amorphous and therefore singly refractive.
<b>Transparency</b>	Opaque / translucent (Semi-crystal Opal) / transparent (Crystal Opal)
<b>Optical effects</b>	Play-of-color (Precious Opal) / Chatoyancy (Cat's eye Opal)
<b>Luminescence</b>	Most opals show a whitish fluorescence under LW and SW UV light which is used for example to spot rough opal in noodling machines. Also opal usually shows some phosphorescence. This may be used to distinguish natural opal and "synthetic" opal (e.g. Gilson and Kyocera Opal) which commonly does not exhibit phosphorescence.

### Opal Classification

<b>Precious Opals</b>	Exhibit a play-of-color produced by the diffraction of white light at the spaces between tiny, uniformly sized silica spheres that are arranged in an orderly, three-dimensional array.
<b>Common Opals and Potch</b>	Do not show a play-of-color. These opals may be valued for a pleasant body color e.g. pink, blue and green (Colored Opals) or red, orange and yellow (Fire Opals). Fire Opals frequently show also a play-of-color in which case they are considered Precious Opals. Common Opals may also be of interest in the form of opalized fossils (e.g. shells, snails, belemnites, bones, teeth and wood) and as pseudomorphs of opal after glauconite crystal aggregates (Opal Pineapples). Such fossils may also exhibit a play-of-color and be classed as Precious Opals. Furthermore Common Opals may be praised for dark dendritic inclusions which resemble the patterns of mosses, ferns or trees (Dendritic Opals) and for an optical cat's eye effect (Cat's eye Opals) that is due to many fine, parallel arranged needle or tube like inclusions (this effect must not be confused with a rolling flash). Also black potch may be used as the backing of doublets and triplets.



Precious Opal



Common Fire Opal



Cat's Eye Opal

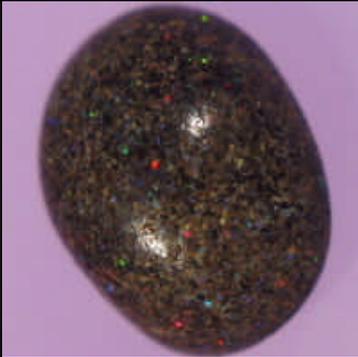
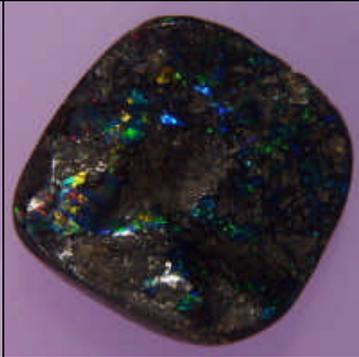


Opalized Potch Snail Fossil

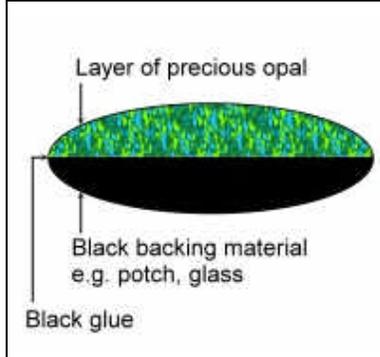
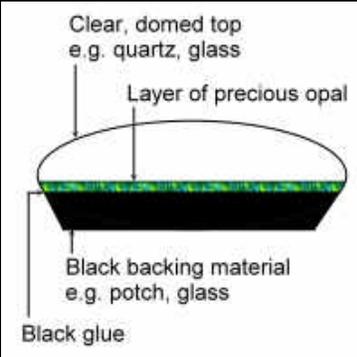
### Types of Natural Opal

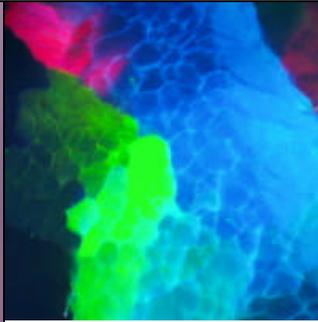
The Australian Gemstone Industry Council, the Australian Gem Industry Association (AGIA), the Gemmological Association of Australia, the Lightning Ridge Miners Association and the Jewellers Association of Australia have produced a system for the nomenclature and classification of opal by the subdivision in Opal Type and Variety which is determined by Body tone and Transparency. A thorough explanation of these terms can be found here and on the following pages.

<b>OPAL TYPE 1</b>	This type is commonly known as <b>SOLID</b> opal. A single piece of opal with a more or less homogenous chemical composition. However some parts of the piece may be precious opal and others may be potch and it still may contain minor remains and inclusions of sandstone and other non-opal materials.
<b>OPAL TYPE 2</b>	This type is commonly known as <b>BOULDER</b> opal. A layer of opal that is still naturally attached to the host rock in which it was formed (e.g. ironstone or any other rock material). The reason for this is that the layer of opal is usually too thin to be cut without retaining a backing of host rock.
<b>OPAL TYPE 3</b>	This type is commonly known as <b>MATRIX</b> opal. The material consists of a conglomerate of minute grains of opal which are diffused as fillings of pores or holes or between grains of the host rock in which they were naturally formed e.g. Andamooka Matrix Opal. <b>BOULDER MATRIX</b> is a special form of matrix opal with a different structure compared to the granular build-up of Andamooka Matrix Opal. It usually shows many fine veins and small patches of opal surrounded by host rock.

Type 1	Type 2	Type 3	Type 3
			
<b>Solid Opal</b>	<b>Boulder Opal</b>	<b>Andamooka Matrix Opal (treated with sugar/acid)</b>	<b>Boulder Matrix Opal</b>

Note: These official three types apply only to natural opals.

 <p>Layer of precious opal</p> <p>Black backing material e.g. potch, glass</p> <p>Black glue</p>		 <p>Clear, domed top e.g. quartz, glass</p> <p>Layer of precious opal</p> <p>Black backing material e.g. potch, glass</p> <p>Black glue</p>	
<b>Construction of a Doublet</b>	<b>Opal Doublet</b>	<b>Construction of a Triplet</b>	<b>Opal Triplet</b>

	
<b>Gilson Black Opal</b>	<b>Chicken wire or lizard skin structure in Gilson Opal</b>

Other kinds or types of opal-like materials as opal imitations, composites (e.g. doublets and triplets) and artificial or "synthetic" opals (e.g. Gilson and Kyocera Opals which can also be considered opal imitations since they have a slightly different composition and lack the water content compared with natural precious opal) have no relevance in this kind of classification.

### Varieties of Natural Opal

The variety of natural opals is determined by the two characteristics of Body tone and Transparency.

Depending on the specific Body tone and Transparency of an individual opal it is classed as one of the following varieties:

\* Body tone is not applicable to almost colorless, transparent opals

(explanation see Body tone)

Note: This classification is mainly used with Solid Opals (Type 1). Opals of Type 2 and Type 3 are usually opaque. Therefore the Transparency results in no further subdivision of these two types.

The Body tone may sometimes be applied to Boulder Opals (Type 2) to emphasize that it has a particular black body tone. In this case the term **BOULDER BLACK OPAL** may be used.

Light Opals with a white body tone (N9) are sometimes called **WHITE OPALS**.

Variety	Body tone	Transparency
<b>Black Opal</b>	N1, N2, N3, N4	Opaque, Translucent
<b>Black Crystal Opal</b>	N1, N2, N3, N4	Transparent
<b>Dark Opal (Semi-black Opal)</b>	N5, N6	Opaque, Translucent
<b>Dark Crystal Opal</b>	N5, N6	Transparent
<b>Light Opal</b>	N7, N8, N9	Opaque
<b>Semi-crystal Opal</b>	N7, N8, N9	Translucent
<b>Crystal Opal (Water Opal)</b>	N/A*	Transparent

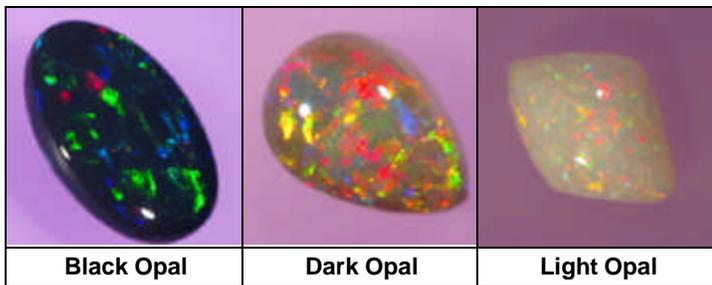
The outlined varieties above describe the most important varieties of Australian Opals. Sometimes the term JELLY OPAL is used for Crystal Opals that have a particular jelly-like appearance and only show a diffuse play-of-color instead of the clearly defined and structured color patches of other opals. There are further varieties some of which may exhibit a special behavior like CONTRA LUZ OPAL - meaning "against the light". This variety comes from Mexico and Oregon and shows its play-of-color only by transmitted light and not by incident light as usual.

Another special variety is HYDROPHANE OPAL which is porous and almost opaque without a distinct play-of-color in the dry state but when immersed in water the porous opal starts to soak up water, becoming translucent to transparent and starts to exhibit a play-of-color. This variety occurs in Mexico and other places.

## Opal Body Tone

The body tone of an opal (also termed base tone or background color) refers to the relative darkness of the background which is contrasting with the opal's play-of-color. It is assessed face-up while ignoring the play-of-color and may range from N1 (jet black) to N9 (white) as per AGIA body tone chart:

<b>BLACK OPALS</b>	Black Opals show a play-of-color within or on a black body tone compliant with N1 to N4, when viewed face-up.
<b>DARK OPALS</b>	Dark Opals show a play-of-color within or on a dark body tone compliant with N5 to N6, when viewed face-up (these are also known as Semi-black Opals).
<b>LIGHT OPALS</b>	Light Opals show a play-of-color within or on a light body tone compliant with N7 to N9, when viewed face-up (the N9 category is also referred to as White Opal).



								
N1	N2	N3	N4	N5	N6	N7	N8	N9
<b>Black Opal</b>				<b>Dark Opal</b>		<b>Light Opal</b>		

**AGIA Body tone chart (approximation)**

Note: Body tone is usually not applicable to almost colorless, transparent Crystal Opals (sometimes also termed Water Opals) since it would be completely affected by the color of the surface on which it is examined (e.g. in front of a white or black background). However dark colored, transparent Crystal Opals may be graduated

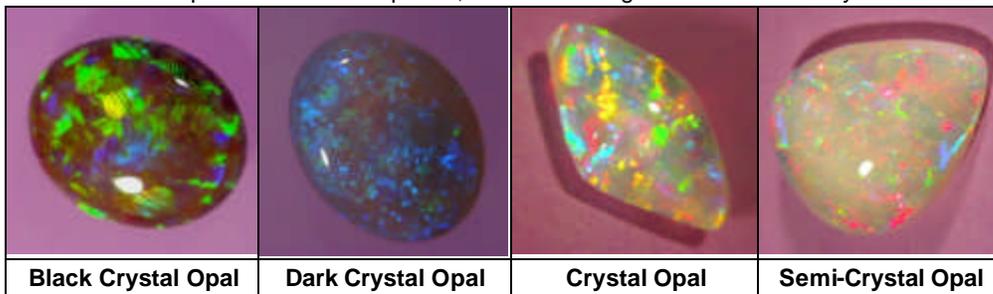
in the first approximation lying on a white sheet of paper which demonstrates the worst case.

## Opal Transparency

Opal may be anything from crystal clear to completely opaque. Depending on its transparency the term Crystal and Semi-crystal may be included in the variety name of an opal. These terms do only indicate the transparency of an opal. They do not refer to its structure since opal is near-amorphous and not crystalline. In crystalline materials the atoms are arranged in a regular, repeating, three-dimensional pattern.

<b>CRYSTAL OPALS</b>	More or less TRANSPARENT opals. Under spot light you should be able to read a text (black on white) through this kind of opal while it is lying directly on the text. This becomes increasingly difficult the less transparent the opal is but also the darker the body tone turns (e.g. Black Crystal Opal). Transparent opals which are almost colorless are sometimes named Water Opals.
<b>SEMI-CRYSTAL OPALS</b>	This term usually applies to TRANSLUCENT Light Opals only. These stones have a distinct cloudy appearance so that you are no longer able to read a text (black on white) through this kind of opal. However it should still be possible to discern the black text as an unreadable shadow.

Note: OPAQUE opals don't have a special, additional designation in their variety names.



## Opal Play-of-Color

The play-of-color in precious opals may exhibit every prismatic color from violet to red. It is produced by the diffraction of white light at the spaces between tiny, uniformly sized silica spheres that are arranged in an orderly, three-dimensional array. Depending on the diameter of the silica spheres and the angle of the incident white light one particular wavelength (prismatic color) is reinforced by constructive interference while the others are diminished by destructive interference. The structure must consist of spheres with a uniform diameter between 200 - 350 nm to be able to produce a play-of-color in the visible light range from violet to red (wavelength 400-700 nm).

Stacking faults in the silica sphere structure of opals produce many distinct color patches and determine the Pattern of a specific opal. This phenomenon can be described by Bragg's law which is originally the result of experiments into the diffraction of X-rays or neutrons off crystal surfaces at certain angles:

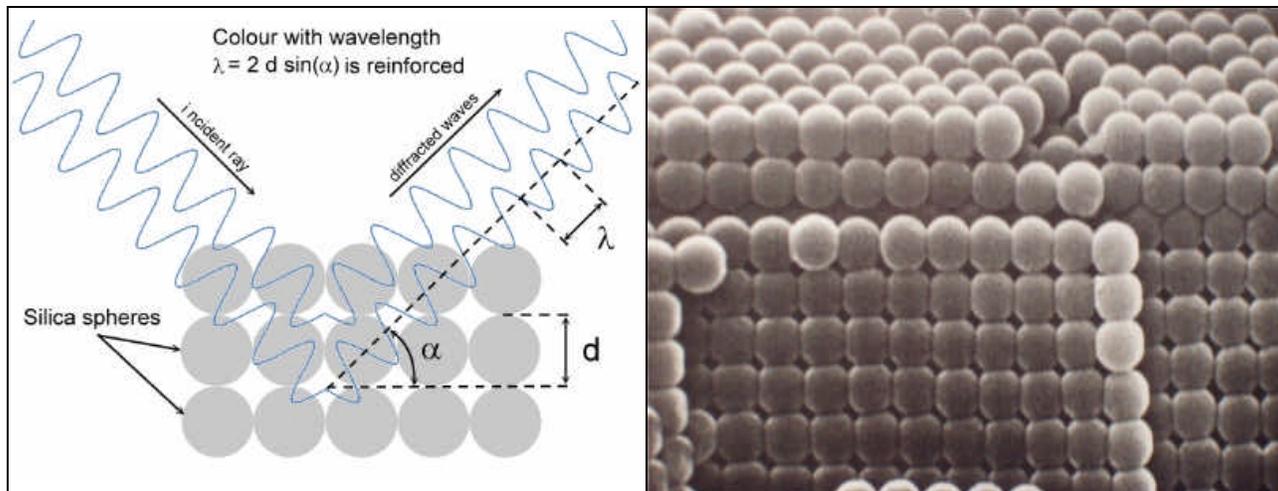
**a** = angle between the diffracted waves and the scattering planes

**l** = wavelength which is reinforced at angle **a**

$$2 * d * \sin(a) = n * l$$

**d** = diameter of the silica spheres (distance between the scattering planes)

**n** = 1, 2, 3...



**Bragg angle adapted to the silica sphere structure of opal**

**Scanning electron micrograph showing silica sphere structure of precious opal under 40000 x magnification**

**BRAGG'S LAW** explains why opals with a red play-of-color usually are able to show all other prismatic colors too (at least when the stone is tilted and viewed from lower angles).

**COMMON OPAL** and **POTCH** do not exhibit a play-of-color because the silica spheres are not uniformly sized or not arranged in an orderly pattern or because the spaces between the spheres are completely filled with silica. Sometimes it may also happen that the spheres are too small (< 200 nm) to produce a visible play-of-color. In this case the longest wavelengths that are reinforced are part of the UV light range and therefore not visible to the human eye. If the spheres are too large (> 350 nm) there is no good play-of-color with upright lighting conditions since the reinforced waves are located in the infrared range. However if the stone is tilted the wavelength that is reinforced becomes shorter and may move to the visible part of the spectrum so that - at first - red colors may start to appear.

**PLAY-OF-COLOR** is described by the main, dominant color followed by the accompanying colors. If the play-of-color exhibits three or more different colors the main color followed by the term **MULTICOLOR** may be used. For example Red-multicolor stones are the rarest and most sought-after opals.

Blue only	Green with some blue	Yellow with some Green	Red with other colors
<b>Blue</b>	<b>Green-Blue</b>	<b>Yellow-Green</b>	<b>Red-multicolor</b>

Furthermore the appearance of the play-of-color is classed by Brightness and Pattern.

## Opal Brightness (Brilliance of Fire)

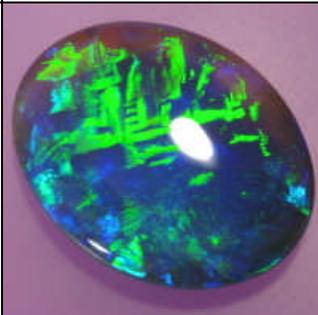
The brightness of an opal (also termed brilliance) considers the brightness and clarity, the amount and density as well as the directionality of the play-of-color and is rated on a scale from 1 to 5:

<b>Level 1: FAINT</b>	Opal shows play-of-color only under sunlight.
<b>Level 2: DULL</b>	Opal shows some dull play-of-color under sunlight or spotlight.
<b>Level 3: BRIGHT</b>	Opal shows a nice play-of-color under sunlight or spotlight.
<b>Level 4: VERY BRIGHT</b>	Opal shows a nice play-of-color under low light and a very good under sunlight or spotlight.
<b>Level 5: BRILLIANT</b>	Opal shows a bright crisp mirror-like play-of-color under sunlight or spotlight and often seems even brighter in subdued light.

## Opal Pattern

The various patterns of the play-of-color have their cause in stacking faults in the silica sphere structure of opal which may produce many distinct color patches. There are no limits to the fantasy of patterns Mother Nature has produced as little as to the different terms that have been and are being created by people with a vivid imagination...

Therefore it's no surprise, that these terms are sometimes misapplied or that some people use the same or similar terms but with different ideas. Fortunately there are also some patterns that are more or less consistently used or clearly defined. We will limit our examples to such patterns and include some of the most important patterns as we do name them.

Mix of various patterns e.g. Broad flash and Pinfire	Pattern resembling the structure of moss	Similar to Broad flash but with diffuse, textured flashes	Separated, randomly sized and distributed patches
			
<b>Mixed</b>	<b>Moss</b>	<b>Sheen</b>	<b>Flashfire</b>
Many closely packed pinpoint of fire with columnar structure	Color patches form more or less parallel running ribbons	Single large flash that covers a substantial part of the face	Long flash that rolls across the face when stone is moved
			
<b>Pinfire</b>	<b>Ribbon</b>	<b>Broad Flash</b>	<b>Rolling Flash</b>
Randomly oriented patches, broken by fine parallel lines	Pattern resembling the design of Chinese ideographs	Variouly shaped patches, fitting mosaic-like together	Mosaic-like pattern, resembling a fish scale design
			
<b>Chaff</b>	<b>Chinese Writing</b>	<b>Flagstone Harlequin</b>	<b>Fishscale Harlequin</b>

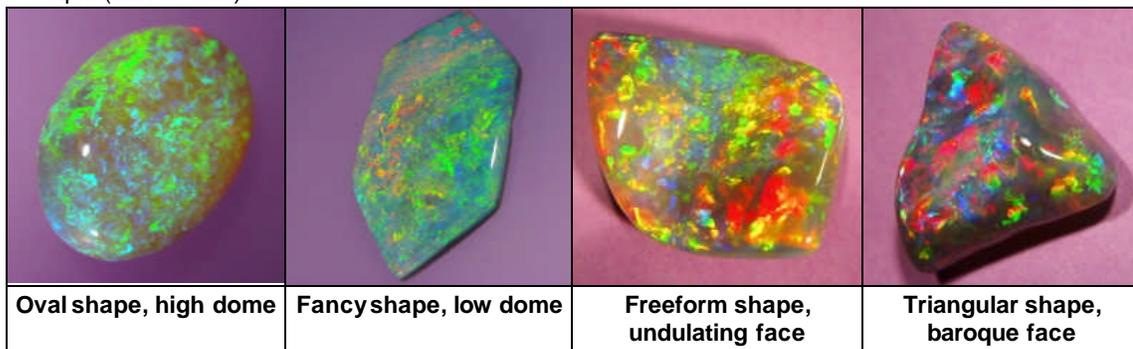
## Opal Shape and Face

Most opals are cut as cabochons, beads and carvings. Fire opals without a play-of-color are sometimes faceted. Many cabochons are classically shaped as ovals. However in our more modern times pear and freeform shapes become increasingly popular particularly when set in attractive, individually designed jewellery.

The term freeform is usually applied to all shapes that do not have an own, clearly defined denotation like oval, circular, rectangular, square, triangular, pear, cushion etc. However personally we subdivide the freeform category into freeform (uneven shapes) and fancy (symmetrical shapes but without a special denotation).

Most opals are single-sided stones i.e. with a polished face and a roughly sanded back. In many cases the natural backside consists of patch and does not show a play-of-color at all. It also occurs frequently that the back still shows some natural remains like patches of sandstone or an uneven and pitted surface.

The appearance of the face is classified as flat, low, medium and high domed or if unevenly shaped as undulating (wavy surface) and baroque (carved face).



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**E-mail:** [info@uniqueopals.ch](mailto:info@uniqueopals.ch), **Website:** [www.uniqueopals.ch](http://www.uniqueopals.ch)

## Nevada Opal: Part II, the Rest of the State

By Chris "The Prospector" Ralph

Nevada has produced some spectacular opal: This is Part II covering the rest of the state excluding the Virgin Valley deposits...

Nevada is famous for its beautiful, colorful Opal. The state contains a number of rich precious opal beds in a variety of geologic settings. Many of these produce spectacular and extremely valuable specimens, but have not received the publicity of the more famous Virgin Valley opal beds in northwest Humboldt County. This is part II on Nevada opals, covering the opal deposits of the rest of the state.

Locations for common opal are too numerous to mention, but precious opal - stones displaying a play of color - are less common and can be listed as follows: (the opal deposits from Virgin Valley, by far the best known deposits in the state, are described in last month's Opal Express as **Nevada Opal; Part 1 Virgin Valley**.)

### Little Joe / Duffy deposit, Humboldt County:

Located off the Soldier Meadows Road about 40 miles north of Gerlach in western Humboldt County along the eastern front of the Calico Hills is a deposit of precious opal. Historically, local residents had been picking up precious opal from this area for many years, but it was not until 1960 that Ray Duffield staked the Little Joe claims covering the deposit. The opal occurs here as nodular masses filling vesicles in basalt. A portion of the vesicles are filled with clear yellow orange and red opal that commonly has purple blue green red and yellow fire, although red and green predominate. Opal with a milky white background occurs with both precious and common varieties. Many of the basalt nodules also contain agate and common opal. Unfortunately, like the Virgin Valley Opal, the Calico Hills Opal also has a high tendency to desiccate and crack. The Duffield claims are now patented, private property and not open to the public. The deposit is well known however, because for many years this deposit was operated as a pay to dig site. About 6 miles north of the Little Joe claims in the Calico Hills, another deposit of precious opal occurs in basalt at Willow Creek within a similar geologic setting. This site is still being operated as a pay to dig site with campground.

### Gabbs

On the east side of the Monte Cristo range, about 15 miles north of the small town of Gabbs in night County is the star fire opal deposit. The precious opal from this deposit is a beautiful blue-gray base color. The play of colors in the precious opal commonly exhibits reds greens and blues. The deposit was discovered early in the 1900s, and during the 1970s was worked commercially and operated as a fee dig for rockhounds. Private claims now cover the main work area. A considerable area has been worked by bulldozer. The opal is found in a soft altered and weathered rhyolite tuff and is less subject to cracking than most Nevada Opal. Much white common opal and chalcedony are also present in the area which covers many acres.

### Webber Claims, Lincoln County

An interesting new deposit of precious opal has been located recently in a remote part of Lincoln County, in the southeastern part of Nevada. The opal has a blue background with a red, green and blue play of color. The opal is found in gas cavities and fractures in an extremely tough highly siliceous dense brown rhyolitic tuff. The toughness of the enclosing host rock mandates that blasting must be used to extract the opal, which in turn causes some fracturing. After mining, the opal bearing rock must be sawed to remove the gems from the enclosing matrix. Like the Gabbs Opal, it is generally more durable and less prone this occasion and cracking than is most Nevada Opal.

### Firestone, Humboldt County

This opal deposit is located in the Santa Rosa Mountains north of Winnemucca. At one time it was operated as a fee dig area and campground. It has been inactive for a long period of time. Precious opal from this location occurs filling vesicles in basalt and comes in a wide variety of base colors including white, yellow, orange, red and black. The base is opaque to transparent and shows plays of red, blue, green, and yellow fire. While opal occurs only sparsely in the basalt vesicles at this location, a fairly high percentage of the vesicles filled with opal are of precious opal.

### Velvet Pass, Pershing County

There is a little known location for precious opal in Pershing County. It is located on the road from Lovelock to the old Velvet gold mine where that road crosses over the summit of the Trinity range.

There is said to be a rhyolitic formation there which contains fire opal. Because of the hardness of the rock, it is difficult to extract the opals. As with much other Nevada opal, these gems deteriorate when they dry out on exposure to the air. The most likely location for this deposit is the southern half of section 33, T27N R29E. As with most locations worldwide, common opal is far more prevalent than the precious variety.

Opal is a widespread low temperature and secondary mineral which is confined to near surface deposits. Common opal generally shapes from white to Brown and is often found with petrified wood and sometimes with at the tops of hydrothermal vein systems. Common opal occurs at a large number of locations in Nevada and is sometimes collected for gem use. Mercury (cinnabar) laced common opal is mined many of the old pits of the McDermitt Mercury mine in some of the other old Mercury mines in Nevada.

From <http://nevada-outback-gems.com>

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**December 2009 Gem & Mineral Shows**

*From Rock & Gem Magazine*

*More shows can be found at*

<http://www.rockngem.com/showdates.asp>

4-6--SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA: Gem Faire; Gem Faire Inc.; Earl Warren Showgrounds/Exhibit Hall, 3400 Calle Real; Fri. 12-7, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; \$5 weekend pass; contact Yooy Nelson, (503) 252-8300; email: [info@gemfaire.com](mailto:info@gemfaire.com); Web site: [www.gemfaire.com](http://www.gemfaire.com)

5-6--BARSTOW, CALIFORNIA: 34th annual show; Mojave Desert Gem & Mineral Society; Cora Harper Community Center, 841 S. Barstow Rd.; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; free admission; classes, dealers, demonstrations, displays, grab bags, silent auction, wheel-of-fortune; contact Gene Haines, (760) 256-0595; e-mail: [email@mdgms.org](mailto:email@mdgms.org); Web site: [www.mdgms.org](http://www.mdgms.org)

11-13--COSTA MESA, CALIFORNIA: Gem Faire; Gem Faire Inc.; OC Fair & Event Center/Bldg. 10, 88 Fair Dr.; Fri. 12-7, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; \$5 weekend pass; contact Yooy Nelson, (503) 252-8300; e-mail: [info@gemfaire.com](mailto:info@gemfaire.com); Web site: [www.gemfaire.com](http://www.gemfaire.com)

12-13--DERIDDER, LOUISIANA: Show; DeRidder Gem & Mineral Society; Beauregard Parish Fair Exhibit Hall, 610 West Dr.; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4; adults \$2, military free with current ID Sun., children under 12 free; door prizes, jewelry, gems, cabs, wire wrapping, Louisiana opal, silent auction, hands-on instructions in flint knapping, cab making, gem faceting; contact Adam Valin, (337) 585-3693; e-mail: [avalin1@bellsouth.net](mailto:avalin1@bellsouth.net)

18-20--SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA: Gem Faire; Gem Faire Inc.; Scottish Rite Event Center, 1895 Camino del Rio S; Fri. 12-7, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; \$5 weekend pass; contact Yooy Nelson, (503) 252-8300; e-mail: [info@gemfaire.com](mailto:info@gemfaire.com); Web site: [www.gemfaire.com](http://www.gemfaire.com)

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# American Opal Society Membership Application

FILL IN APPLICABLE INFORMATION		DUES / FEES)	AMOUNT PAID
DUES: SELECT ONE	RENEWING MEMBERS	\$30	
	NEW MEMBERS	\$40	
INTERNATIONAL MEMBERSHIP FEE (All addresses <u>outside</u> of USA)		\$10	
PRINTED NEWSLETTER FEE (Paper copy postal mailed instead of PDF file by e-mail)		\$5	
ADDITIONAL BADGES (Your First Badge is <u>free</u> when joining)		\$10	
TOTAL PAID DUES plus International, Print or Badge Fees if Applicable :			

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).

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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:** 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

Please sign here:

Date:

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**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 #42 Issue #12  
December 2009**

### Some Topics In This Issue:

- Opal & Gem Recap
- AOS Election Information
- Opal Lexicon
- Nevada Opal: Part II

### Important Dates:

**Dec. 7 - Board Meeting**

**Dec. 10 - General Meeting**

## Annual Potluck Christmas Dinner Party

The Annual Christmas Potluck Party at the Clubhouse. The Main course will be provided FREE; Please bring a side dish, dessert, or drinks!

### — GENERAL MEETINGS —

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

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

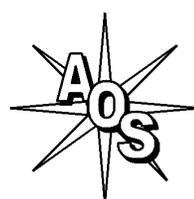
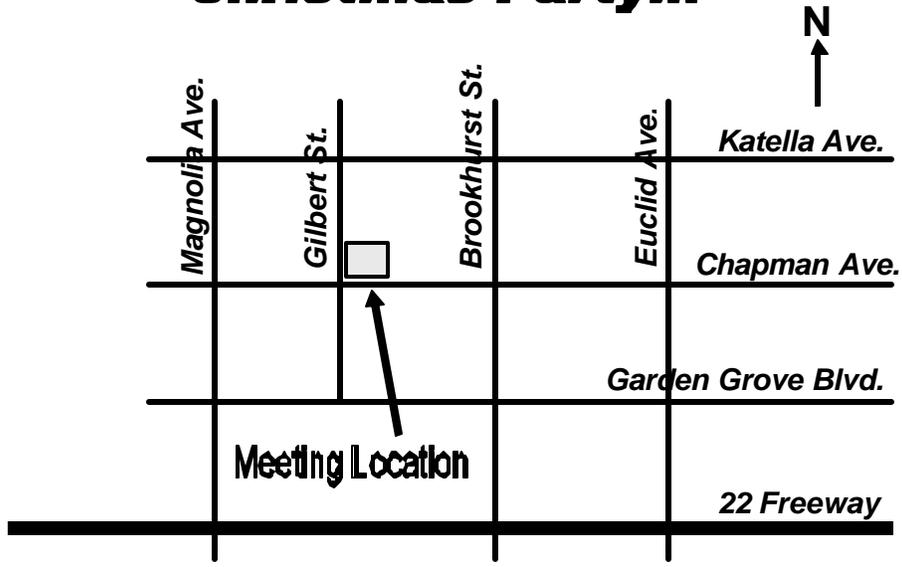
### MEETING ACTIVITIES

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

TO:



## **December 10 Annual Potluck Christmas Party!!!**



## The American Opal Society

<http://OpalSociety.org>

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