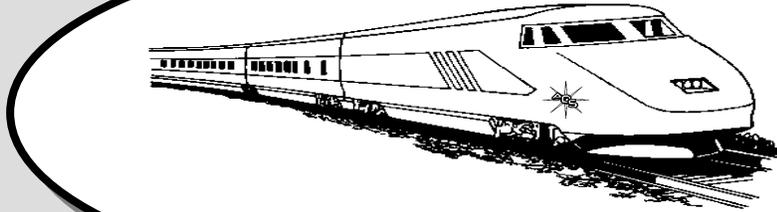


The Opal Express

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President's Message

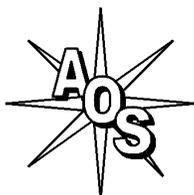
By Pete Goetz

Well, fellow OPALHOLICS, it's that time of year again, no, not just Fall, but time for the 44th Annual OPAL and Gem Show. So, grab your friends, neighbors, aunts, uncles, and maybe some folks you don't even know and come on down to White House Event Center and spend some time at the OPAL Show. We have a lot of your favorite vendors and a few new ones. As you might expect, our "regular" vendors will have an astronomical array of delightful and delectable eye-candy for you to ogle and purchase. Our new vendor promise to add a little kick to your optical senses. We will have four information packed seminars to tantalize your gray matter, and if when you are done walking the show, you can sit in the patio and BS (that's: be social) with your friends or strangers about OPAL. I look forward to seeing a lot of you there.

I would like to thank all of our volunteers and the Board of Directors for all the time and energy they put into making the OPAL Show happen. Thanks again.

The Board of Directors will start planning next year's show around the end of December, if you enjoyed your self and think you would like to part of the cadre, let us know.

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***It's Here!
Make Your Plans!***

***The American Opal Society's 44th Annual
OPAL & GEM SHOW***

The Largest Opal Show in USA!

Sat. Nov. 5, 2011 - 10AM - 6PM

Sun. Nov 6, 2011 - 10 AM - 5PM

Opal and Gem Dealers from the USA and Australia.
Rough and Cut Opals; gemstones; jewelry & supplies.
Huge Raffle many prizes of gemstones, jewelry, tools, etc.
Free Opal Seminars on Saturday with Paid Admission.
Free Demonstrations on gem cutting, jewelry making, etc.

Same great location!

White House / West Wing Event Center

1238 S. Beach Blvd.

Anaheim, CA 92804

<http://whitehouseeventcenter.com>

Located at Hobby City

**A few dealer spots are still
available! If you are interested,
contact us ASAP!**

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OpalSociety Group on the Internet

The American Opal Society has an on-line e-Group called "OpalSociety". If is for members to communicate on club activities and as a discussion forum for all things opal. It is located at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/OpalSociety/>.

All members are invited to join and by clicking on the button "Join This Group" on the web page to join.

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: "opallover".

Paperless Newsletter

Want to see color photos in your copy of the newsletter? Sign up for electronic delivery of the newsletter, and enjoy an added bonus by saving the club postage cost and a reduced membership fee! Also, you are saving paper. Simply contact Jim Pisani at editor@opalsociety.org.

Smoke Treatment in Wollo (aka Welo) Opal.

From the AGTA

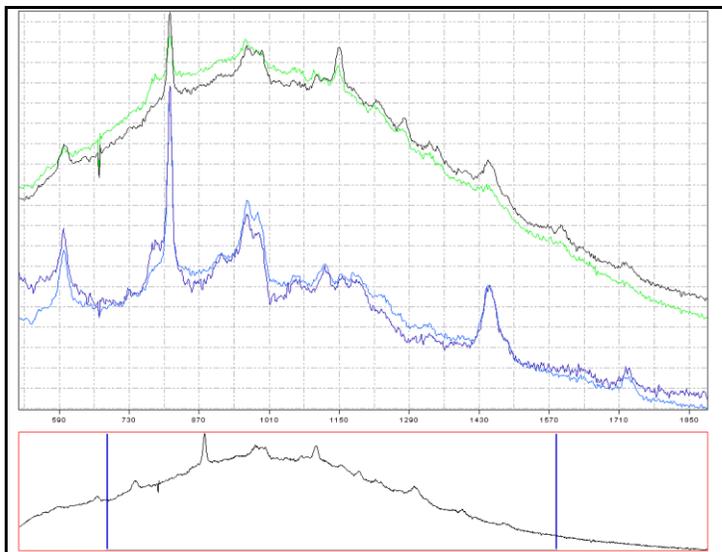
An older treatment has recently been applied to some of the newer Ethiopian Wollo crystal opal on the market. Resembling natural black hydrophane opal, such as that occasionally seen from Indonesia, this material is a hydrophane crystal opal that has been darkened by a smoke process.

Stone Group Labs was recently presented with samples of a reportedly new find of black opal from Ethiopia. The samples were submitted by Jewelry Television, prior to purchase by their Bangkok office.

Black opal is the rarest and most desirable color of opal, as a dark body color sets off an opal's play of color more dramatically. Few places produce black opal, most notably the areas in and around



Before & After smoke treatment. These opals originally looked identical in transparency and play of color. Burn spots inside smoke treated opal.



RAMAN signatures of Wollo smoke treated vs. natural material. Upper two green & black lines are your Wollo Smoke Treated. Lower 2 blue traces are Natural Wollo crystal. The naturals show a straighter (more horizontal) reading with higher peaks, whereas the smoke treated have the peaks more attenuated, as well as having a higher wave due to a general fluorescence effect. This is just about diagnostic in itself, however, the important part here is the formation of the 1150 cm-1 peak found in the smoke treated opals. In the literature this peak is attributed to C-C / C-O-C a carbon phase formation.

Lightning Ridge, Australia, as well as Mintabie in South Australia. Indonesia produces a very small amount of black opal, most of which has a brownish (black tea) color. Shewa, another opal producing area of Ethiopia, also produces brown body colors, but opal from this particular area is notoriously unstable. Honduran opal can have a very black body color, but the play of color tends to be much smaller pattern size and has a very different, more opaque appearance.

The new material exhibited fair to bright play of color, predominantly in the red and green colors. The shape of the cabs and the pattern of the color was much like material previously seen from the Wollo area of Ethiopia. Gemological testing revealed no anomalies in this material, although some showed cracks and crazing that are not commonly observed in Wollo opal. Tests performed included x-ray fluorescence (XRF), infrared spectroscopy (FTIR), Raman laser analysis, and UV-Vis spectrophotometers. Still, the black body color was not convincingly natural when taken in context with this lab's experience with opal. The secrecy surrounding the source, as well as the unavailability of rough material reinforced any doubts.

We then experimented with our own in-house lab samples, subjecting them to various means of adding body color. Experiments with smoke treatment eventually yielded an identical effect. In retrospect, the porosity of hydrophane opal makes them ideal for this sort of treatment, as the smoke can penetrate deeply into the hydrophane type of opal, yielding an even body color. The dark body color permeated fairly evenly throughout the samples we broke open.

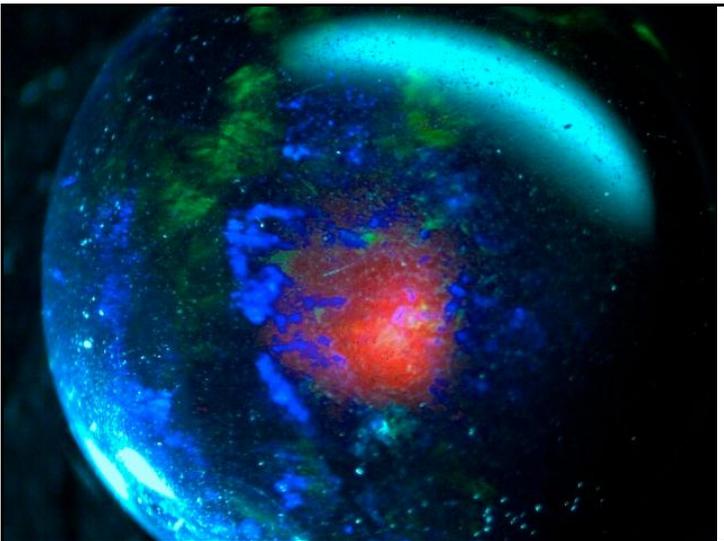


Back-lit opal showing smoke concentration in cracks

Once before and after test samples were available, it was possible to isolate the subtle differences in test results. Raman spectroscopy yielded clear differences in treated and untreated stones. The in-house smoke-treated samples matched the submitted black opal samples exactly. Further, our less than ideal, experimental treatment process exhibited obvious burn marks and smoke concentrations that were visible under magnification. Once these markers were identified as a result of treatment, we were able to see similar features in the submitted black opal samples.

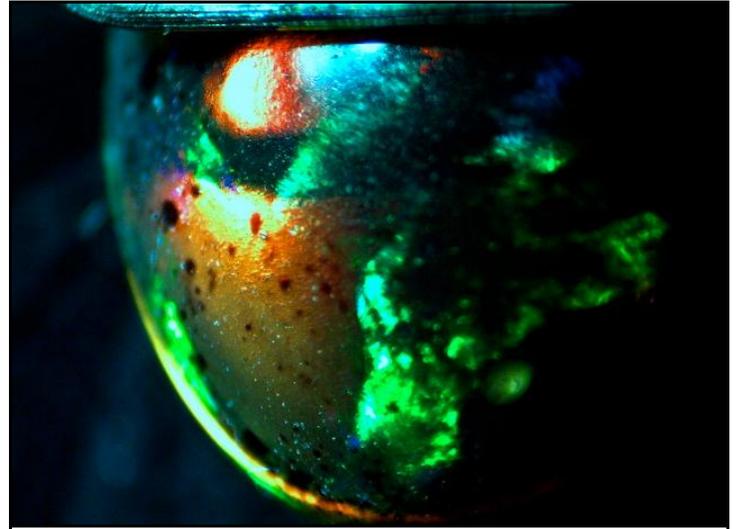
Gemologists and appraisers should be able to sight ID this material once they have seen a few, especially if they have prior opal experience. Laboratories should look for carbon peaks at 1150 cm^{-1} in Raman readings. This Raman peak is often presumed to indicate carbon, such as that created in a CVD process, but it more likely indicates an amorphous C-O bonding. This peak was consistently present in all smoke treated opals tested, but absent in natural opals.

This is the second instance of Ethiopian opals being submitted to the lab as natural black opal this year – and this was by far the more challenging treatment to identify. Smoke treatment in opal has been known, but it has not been commonly seen in the market since the



Surface pitting on reflected surface of treated opal – upper right of photo

early 1980's, when the treatment was applied to some Mexican
The Opal Express



Burn spots inside smoke treated opal.

hydrophane opal. To date, we have not seen natural black opal from Ethiopia, but it is possible that it could exist. The dark body color of some Shewa opals leans toward black.

Stability tests to date show the treatment to be stable and durable. The deep penetration of the smoke color allows for repolishing if necessary without losing color. Cleaners and solvents did not alter the color in treated stones. While the Wollo opal is a comparatively stable opal, we did observe cracking and some crazing, presumed to be a result of the high heat during treatment, but this was observed in less than ten percent of the samples.

This discovery merely confirms that any treatment can be done to any stone. We would like to thank JTV for their diligence in submitting this material to this lab. Catching this kind of treatment early is essential to maintain confidence in the colored gemstone market, as this material is currently being widely represented as natural.

Further results of testing and additional photos will be added as available.



Natural Shewa dark opal

Huge Asteroids Brought Gold to Infant Earth, Study Says

Pluto-size space rocks may have put precious metals in the mantle.



*A moon-size object collides with a planet in an artist's conception.
NASA/JPL-Caltech*

*By Brian Handwerk, for [National Geographic News](#)
December 9, 2010*

Just as wise men are said to have brought gold to baby Jesus, huge [asteroids](#) may have brought gold and other precious metals to [infant Earth](#), new research suggests.

Scientists have long known that there's a mysterious amount of siderophile ("iron-loving") metals in Earth's mantle. Such metals, including gold, tend to affiliate with iron in their liquid forms.

The best explanation has been that some sort of space object brought the elements to the planet just after it formed its core, but the exact nature of the impactor has been a matter of debate.

Based on computer simulations, the new study says that a small number of enormous, random impacts roughly 4.5 billion years ago are the sources of Earth's iron-loving materials.

These impactors were rocky objects left over from our solar system's planet-formation phase. The largest one that hit Earth was roughly the size of Pluto—up to 2,000 miles (3,220 kilometers) wide, the study suggests.

And young Earth wasn't the only recipient: Cataclysmic collisions delivered iron-loving metals to the moon and [Mars](#) around the same time, the study authors say. What's more, the impacts may have been the source of water on the moon.

(Related: "[Moon's Silver Hints at Lunar Water Origins.](#)")

"These elements are telling us about what was hitting these worlds in sort of the 'last gasp' growth spurt that they had," said study leader [William Bottke](#), of the Southwest Research Institute in Boulder, Colorado.

Impact Odds Like Rolling the Dice

Moon rocks brought back during the Apollo missions led to the now widely accepted theory that [the moon formed when a Mars-size object crashed into early Earth](#).

Energy from the impact would have spurred the still forming Earth to develop its mostly iron core. When this happened, iron-loving metals should have followed molten iron down from the planet's mantle and into the core.

But we know that gold and other iron-lovers are found in modest abundances in Earth's mantle. ([Explore Earth's insides.](#))

Using a mathematical approach called Monte Carlo analysis, Bottke's team calculates that iron-loving metals were delivered in a

limited number of massive impacts that just happened to miss the moon.

In cross section, the moon is about one-twentieth Earth's size, so one might expect the moon to have one-twentieth as many precious metals in its mantle, if the materials were delivered by impacts.

That's because, if millions of impacts had occurred, the odds of objects hitting Earth and the moon would likely have evened out to sustain the 1-to-20 ratio.

Instead, the moon has one-thousandth as many iron-loving metals as Earth. According to the study, published this week in the journal [Science](#), those odds can be explained if a limited number of massive impactors were involved.

A lucky roll of the dice could easily have meant that a huge object missed the smaller moon but smashed into Earth—creating the metal discrepancies we see today.

Asteroid Belt Puts Proof in the Pudding?

"It's a cute result, but how do you prove such a thing?" Bottke said. The key, he thinks, is to look at the existing remnants of planet formation in our solar system, aka asteroids.

In the inner asteroid belt, the three largest space rocks—Ceres, Pallas, and Vesta—range from 300 to 600 miles (483 to 966 kilometers) across.

These bodies are much larger than the biggest of the rest, which measure only 150 miles (241 kilometers) across, and no "in between" sizes seem to exist.

"Most of the mass is in the biggest objects," Bottke said. "It's a top-heavy size distribution that is consistent with the kinds of populations needed to make what we see on the Earth and moon."

Martian craters tell a similar tale. The sizes of the oldest impact basins on the red planet appear consistent with a theory that Mars was hit by a population of space objects dominated by a few large asteroids, Bottke said.

(Related: "[Texas-Size Asteroid Slammed Early Mars, Studies Say.](#)")

Weak Links in Chain of Speculation?

While the theory is intriguing, planetary scientist [Jay Melosh](#) of Purdue University said he isn't quite convinced.

"This is a darn good group of people," Melosh said of the study's authors. "But I find this theory really speculative, and I think some of the links in this chain of speculation are quite weak."

For instance, Melosh notes—and the study authors agree—such massive space rocks would themselves have formed cores, which would have trapped their gold and other iron-loving metals.

"The problem, then, is how the impactors' cores gave up their gold and re-implanted it into the mantles of the Earth and Mars," he said.

"The only way this can happen is if the metallic iron of the impactor core is oxidized"—but that would require an abundant source of oxygen, which most models of early Earth don't include.

"So what they need to provide is some mechanism for getting those elements out of the [asteroids'] cores and into the mantle of the Earth," he said. "A mechanism for that is not at all easy and very hard to understand."

The study addresses this problem with simulations showing that the projectiles may have plowed entirely through early Earth—still largely molten—and come out the other side in highly-fragmented states, raining debris back down on the surface over an extended period.

"This allows big collisions to deliver lots of material, but in a manner not so different from small-body accretion," study leader Bottke said.

(Related: "[Comet Swarm Delivered Earth's Oceans?](#)")

But Purdue's Melosh also thinks it's possible gold exists in Earth's mantle due to unknown but orderly chemical processes and not random collisions.

"Observations show that concentrations of these elements on Mars and Earth are about the same, and the moon is a lot lower," he said.

"What the model does is make this a complete accident, a matter of who got hit by what and when."

"It might indeed be completely accidental," Melosh said. "But the fact that Earth and Mars come out nearly the same strongly suggests that it's not accidental."

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Continuing with Chapters 13 & 14 of the book
From Rags to Riches & Disasters

By Peter Greisl

Chapter 13 – The Lesson and Betrayal

When I got home, I said to Chris, "Darling let's sit down and look at our situation, financial etc., I hate to see you both not having a little comfort, I am referring to, Electricity, Water, a bit of luxury like going out to dinner sometimes etc."

"Tell me how much have you got left?" \$ 480 she replied. "We have \$ 1,000 in the bank, and I have \$ 650, that gives us a total of \$ 2,130 which at this rate last about 20 weeks or 5 month" I said.

Chris said, "Have you lost your confidence and maybe have second thoughts?" "No I replied," I just hate to always have to encroach on other people; I never did that before I always was my own man and had no problems with anything. But here, I just don't have the knowhow, Ok I am picking up fairly quickly but it is not the same, every little thing I need someone to help me, I should really work with someone for a while so I got to know the game better."

Chris replied, "Well what's stopping you; you got the offer from Steve why don't you take him up on it." I sat back and let out a "Hmmmmm, I never gave it a thought." Well ask him and tell him it is only temporarily till Johnny is ready to come here." That gives you about 10 Day's and you can see what Steve is doing and maybe you get Ideas you can implement with Johnny." Well that's not such a bad Idea, as long as the winch is ok out there," I replied. She just smiled and said, "No one knows that you're not working the claim, and you can go and check before you come home." As usual Chris makes sense as always.

I waited for Steve to come home and as he drove up in his Holden Ute I went to say hello. He returned my greeting and ask me how things are progressing, I told him that I have a couple issues and if he wants I can help out but I cannot promise for how long. He said "well let's give it a go, I leave at 7 in the morning just come across you can go with me," I ask do you want me to bring anything?" Just yourself and some lunch and coffee if you indulge in this kind of thing he replied. I thanked him and acknowledged this arrangement.

In the morning sharp at 7am I went across to his shack and he came out and said, "Well lets go." I got in the Car and we drove to Hallion Hill where his claim is. On the way he told me of what he wants me to do which was gouging out under the level along the seam. He did tell me that there are a lot of traces and big junks of potch but very little colour. As we got there I met Stavros again his partner, we shock hands and he said to Steve, "Do you want me work with Peter?" Steve replied no I put Peter in the area where I was working which is ok for one person and I work with you as we have to still move the dirt and then drop the level." Ok replied Stavros and Steve took me across the cut where a tunnel had been started on the ramp into the face of side wall of the cut, The tunnel was about 4 feet high and quite comfortable to work on your knees it went ion about 3 feet and I could see the level all I had to do was drop about another foot and I will be able to drop the level, Steve gave me a hand pick a screw driver a plastic bucket and a battery lantern and he said, "anything which looks like potch and colour just throw in the bucket and we clean it up at home, well good luck and happy digging." "Thanks Steve may Lady Luck shine up on us I smiled." I grabbed my tools and got started dropping that foot of dirt from the level, I shone the torch along the seam and looked closely and I did notice some small blue and green flashes, I got the screw driver and started digging where the flashes were and yes there little chips of colour and potch. I really got excited and started working like a mad man to get the excess dirt of the level, Steve came across and ask me how I am doing, I said "well I seen potch and colour, which is

quite exciting," Steve just retorted "this has been going on for the last couple of weeks, I am sure it is here somewhere as we did not get out to much from the cut." Obviously if you did not get anything out of it, or not convinced that there is something here, I am sure you would not be here or even got me involved." Yes it is here somewhere as this was virgin ground, we sank a shaft and hit a small pocket which was not bad so we opened up a little to see in which direction the level is running, and then we put in the cut hence we have the level running on either side of the cut." "Well let's find the bloody thing I replied and he smiled and walked off." I started digging again and shoveled the dirt back to the opening, and finished of the last couple feet and now I was ready for the exciting part , dropping the level. That's when I work with the lantern and small pick and screw driver; I felt like a Surgeon trying to take out an appendix, I started with gentle pick strokes to brake of the level which ranges from 2 to 4 inches in some places. The first lot broke off and I dropped on the sheet and put the light on it and broke it in to pieces and there was again small colour and potch this would make nice chips, but nothing of any reasonable size. Whatever was bigger was colour less or just a faint hue of blue. Well this did not deter me and I kept on and to my astonishment there were some pieces of potch which had beautiful colour on one end and of course there was more, amongst that lot there was a rock and it had a seam running right around it which was about from 2 mm to about 10mm in some places with beautiful blue green colour. I went to see Steve, and ask him to come and have a look, he came I showed him the rock and he turned it around and said oh just some rubbish throw it in the bucket, he said." I thought what a strange comment, I showed him the rest of the colour in the pieces I dropped and he said the same thing again. Well who am I to question if it is good stuff or not, so I did as he asks. I kept working away and found more of this kind of material, which I sorted and put what had any kind of colour in the bucket. Steve called me for a break and I got my lunch and Thermos and we sat and Stavros was looking at some stuff which were the size of my first joint of the thumb and I could see great flashes green orange flashing at me he had about two or three of this size in his hand, I just gasped and said, "That's great stuff," Steve just said it's just rubbish throw it in the Bucket Steve," and he looked at Steve as if he was annoyed. That got me thinking, It also brought back to me when Chris and I were at Steve's place and I saw his Buckets with material in and I commented how nice the stuff was, and again his favorite words "Just Rubbish".

I did not say anything and just finished my lunch and said, well back to work.

I kept dropping and breaking and dropping and breaking and kept finding bigger pieces of potch with stronger colour but no green or orange or red. I put everything in a the plastic bucket, which was full by now and I had a lot small material on the sheet, I gathered up the Sheet and dragged it out, went to Steve and told him my bucket is full and what does he want me to do with the material of the sheet. He said "I got a Winch bucket on the back of the Ute just drop it in there."

Which I did and he said, "it is just on 3 pm let's call it a day and have a quick beer at the opal restaurant." I replied that's sounds ok with me. So we got all the gear and packed it on Ute and headed for Gus place.

We got there and people greeted us and Steve ordered 3 beers and Steve, Stavros cheered each other and I broke the Ice, by saying, "There would had be some money there today, am I right?" Steve said if you would have to live on that you would starve." I could not help myself and said, "What is it what you are looking for?" he replied, "When you find it I will let you know." We finished the beer and we were heading back for Dutton Village, I got out and said to Steve, "When are we going to clean the stuff?" He replied we do it the Weekend and see what we got, but don't be disappointed, by the way do you need any money?" No thanks I said we are ok still."

He said "whenever you do just let me know." I nodded my head and said good bye and walked to my Shack. Chris came out and Beatrix

ran up to me greeting me happily, I picked her up and we went in to the shack. Once we were in Chris said to me, "Why are you so quiet and so sincere?" I replied, "I am confused," and I told Chris of what went on today, she being a very trusting person told me, I am worrying about nothing, I should wait to see what happens on the weekend.

I agreed with her and let it ride, I asked her what she has been doing, she told me she was a while at Stella's place the Jack Dutton's daughter came and she and her had a chat and some coffee, then she went down to the post office and put a call through to the Land Lord in Sydney to see if he knew if Hilda and Herman were still there. Apparently they left about 2 weeks ago, everything was fine they cleaned the place up ok and everything was gone. She did ask him if they left a forwarding address and he said they did not, as they arranged to have the mail diverted.

When she was finished telling me all this, I was so upset, and I told her if there was ever any time I would meet up with him I would knock his block off. He stole from us at the worst scenario a minimum of \$ 2,000.00 from all our furniture etc.

Well that put now a different light on the situation here. I was going to buy a generator so we could have light at the mine and at home, but this has been squashed now. Chris did say "I told you that things were strange with them, I should have stayed in Sydney and did everything myself and when everything was sold you could have come and got us." Darling I trusted Herman I never in my wildest dreams would I have thought he would deceive me or steal from us." She just replied, "we cannot dwell on the past we have to make the best we can with what we have available and just pray to god that the same thing does not happen with someone else and that your feelings toward the situation with Steve are unjust." I hugged her and said, "You're a good woman, she responded with a kiss and replied "You are a good man and father."

The next few days went by with the same instances, I kept finding good material but of course it always was "Rubbish".

The weekend came and on Friday I was working and I found a beautiful piece of opal in a pocket in the seam with all colours running through it, it was about 2cm long and 1cm wide and about 1cm thick and partially covered with sandstone on one side.

I did something which I never would have done, but I had to be sure, I put the piece in my pocket, the reason why I did this was because Stavros pieces which I seen were much bigger and they were labeled rubbish by Steve.

Anyhow when we finished work, and we went home, I walked in to the door and told Chris I am going to town I have to do something, I grabbed the keys from the VW and went straight down to Peter Vlack the opal buyer. He was there and I asked him what the value would be of this piece, he weight the piece and did not hesitate long and said, I give you a hundred Pounds for it, I told him "thanks Peter, I will be back with more stuff on the weekend."

I went home and told Chris what I did, and showed her the stone, which she thought was absolutely beautiful. She just said, "Well let's see what happens on Saturday."

On Saturday, I got up had breakfast and was ready to go to Stave to sort out what we brought home all week, I looked out and Steve was gone, at least his Ute was gone, so I waited a little longer and then I went over to his place and knocked and Stella came out and ask, "are you looking for Steve?" I replied yes I am She said he left very early he said he do go and attend to some business, he is always attending businesses, I never ask him what he is doing." I said to her, "I think I dropped my Car keys last time I was here in the room where Steve keeps all the buckets, can you please look,?" She said "come in and we look". We went in there and I was not surprised to see that all the Buckets he had there with opal material in it including the 4 we brought home this week were all gone.

I said "I cannot see the, maybe I lost them at home somewhere. I thanked her and went home. I told Chris about what happened and said to her, "well Darling another kick in the gut, I will question him

when I see him next time, what happened with the stuff and where is my share.

Steve came home later this afternoon and when he stopped his FJ Ute, I got out and said to him, "Hey Steve when are we cleaning up all the stuff?" He replied I did go through it last night and there was nothing in there which was of any value." I replied, "I see, actually Steve I will not work with you anymore I am going to be very busy as of next week." So I wish you good luck and I hope you find another sucker." And I went in to the House.

Chris was so disappointed and I said to her, "At least I got this piece and we know we can get a couple hundred dollars for it."

Chapter 14 – The Dawn of a New Era

After the scenario with Steve, I decided it is time that I stand on my own two feet, the weekend was very pleasant, Chris, Beatrix and I we went to white Dam not to visit just for a picnic and I made out off Jack Dutton's surplus material namely chicken wire a Yabby trap. I had been told by Klaus at the White dam there is great Yabby catching. This was inspired me to make this trap and we got a couple pieces of fat Mutton meat which we use as bait. Chris prepared Sandwiches and Coffee and we picked up a large bottle of Coke and we headed for White Dam, we took the VW as I did not want to expose the Ute to unnecessary mileage as I like to only use it for Work.

We arrived at the Dam and I could see a Truck with a Water tank strapped to it and he was pumping water from the dam in to the Tanker. I walked across and introduce myself to the driver and ask him if he is delivering Water to Dutton Village, he replied affirmative so I did ask him if he could fill up the drums at number 8 and he said yes so I paid him, and went back to our Blanket. Chris prepared the Lunch and I got busy with the Yabby Trap placed the meat in side and submerged the trap about 15 feet inside oh the dam. Secured the rope at a rock on the bank and went back to the blanket and relaxed with a lovely Roast mutton sandwich and a glass of cool coke. Beatrix scratched around at a mullock heap and is looking for coloured stones as she called them, I had my head on Chris's lap and she stroked my hair and said, "Do you still fill confident?" I replied with saying to her "well let's put it this way, I really did not give it a fair go, we here now for 6 weeks or so and what have I done, admittedly the conditions were not very congenial," "first I did not know what I was doing, then I did not have the right equipment, no possibility or chance in starting a new shaft in virgin ground or the possibility of putting in a cut which we could not afford, then the event with Steve, so if I sum all that up I think, I have a fair and acceptable excuse."

I continued by saying, "I am going to clean up whatever I can of the rubble we have at home and see what is there and I will and go and see Laszlo and ask him if he will accept the opal in lieu of cash for the Ute, so I get rid of this debt." Chris replied, "Do you think there is enough material to pay for the car?" I said I don't know I know that we have at least \$ 400 from the couple nice pieces we have at home, I would have loved to keep them as a keepsake being the first stones we found." She smiled and said, "When you find some more and we don't need to sell them then we keep some as memorabilia." We were quite then and I drifted off to sleep, a gentle tickle at my nose woke me up and Chris said, if you want to sort out some stuff in daylight we better head back." "I said ok, stretched and got up and went to where the rope was tied to the rock, I pulled on it and the bloody thing was really heavy to pull out, I thought it was stuck on a submerged branch or rock etc., I kept pulling and it came slowly out of the water, when I saw what happened I let out a scream of joy and Chris and Beatrix came running and I showed them I had a trap full of Yabbies of all sizes. I laughed and said Guess what's for dinner?" I said Chris empty the Esky and use the Coke Bottle and fill it up halve way with water," While she was doing this I kept the Yabbies submerged in water. When there was enough water I opened the

make shift flap and tipped the Yabbies into it. The little buggers could nip quiet severely I told them, when they were in the Esky I put the lid back on and took them to the Car, Chris gathered all the other stuff in the blanket and stored it also in the car we got in and drove home. When we arrived I said to Chris get the big boiler and put some water on and bring it to the boil, with a good dash of salt and a shot of vinegar. I tipped the water out and replaced it with clean fresh water to rinse them otherwise they would taste very muddy, let them swim and move around for a while and I could see the water getting dirtier and dirtier. I repeated this a couple more times and then there was no more dirt coming and by this time the water was boiling in the in the pot and I tipped out the water from the esky and slowly emptied the Yabbies into the boiling water. There were a couple of faint screams and then the big silence. We watched and could see how the Yabbies turned a nice crimson red, a couple more minutes and they were done. Chris brought me a large Bowl and a pair of tongs and I fished the cooked Yabbies out of the pot and I counted them which was a staggering amount of 43 Yabbies, absolutely fantastic.

I said, "Let's let them cool off and you can prepare some salad and some lemon slices, while I start cleaning up some of the rubble in my buckets.

I washed and sifted all the fine material I had and then got some tweezers for the tin little chips which were absolutely beautiful and very strong in colour. I placed them all in a 125 gram Nescafe Jar and nearly filled the jar up, unfortunately there were nothing amongst the bigger pieces just a couple of painted ladies with very little opal on it but nice pieces for ornaments, there was a bit of blue in the potch but again nothing which would make a nice stone or would be salable. So all in all it was not very successful as of this moment. But the exciting part was the traces, small chips they told me that either there is something still down there somewhere or it had been taken out. But of course there are the two pillars with strong traces. I filled two 500 gram coffee jars with potch and a little colour. And took everything in to Chris, she said just in time to eat, the table was set with this sumptuous dinner, I got a pair of scissors and cut the Yabbies lengthwise just like you do with Lobster, even little Beatrix loved them as there is not to much flesh on them we had no problem in finishing the lot. I sad to Chris, "By the way is the room ready for Johnny?" to which she replied yes fresh linen Kerosene lamp full, Wash Basin and Jug with water, ready for occupation." "I expect him to roll up tonight if the guy is back from Adelaide as he will move back in to the room where Johnny is staying," I replied.

Just as soon as we put away the dishes for washing up, I heard a car driving up. I went outside and there was Johnny getting out of the car thanked the person which drove off and Johnny came and shock my hand, and he had a paper bag and a small suit case with him. We went inside and he greeted Chris and of course Beatrix came up and grabbed his hand and we sat down and Johnny opened his paper bag and pulled out a box of chocolate and handed it to Chris and a packet Jelly frogs to Beatrix. I asked Chris if she could make some coffee, she said "already done, how do you take your coffee Johnny?" He replied "2 sugar and milk please." We talked trivial things and drank our coffee; I filled Johnny in of what had happened the last couple of weeks and he just said "The Bastard" of course meaning Steve, I told him about the explosive ticket and he said that he and his previous partner used quite a bit of gelignite and he has a fair understanding of blasting. Which I was great full for, I asked him where do we get Gelignite etc. He told me from Johnny Lyons Store; as he is authorized to sell this stuff to people which have a ticket to use it.

Well that solved this problem, since Johnny had more experience with mining that I have and he also has been working with explosives. The time was getting late and I said, "Well it is time to hit the sack," Johnny grabbed his suit case, said good night to Chris and Beatrix and we walked around the site to the annex, we walked in and Johnny just exclaimed, "Wow that's great you guys did a great job, thank you very much,"

I just said to him, "My friend this is your home away from home now, let's just hope we get some opal, just a couple things Johnny we have breakfast at 6:30 am and Chris prepares some sandwiches and a Thermos of Coffee and we head off to the claim and we finish at 3 pm and on the way home we fill up the Ute with gasoline and the drum for the winch if needed so we don't have to do it in the morning, also Johnny you not bound by us you can come and go as you please if you need transport to go to town you always can use the Ute. If you need anything like deodorant, soap etc, please give Chris a list. By the way we shower as soon as we get home, one bucket of warm water, I don't know what the arrangements were at the co-op but as you can see all we have here is two 44 gallon drums. Any dirty clothes you wash yourself." Johnny said "that's great I got no problem with that, and thanks again." I looked at him and said, "My friend tomorrow is The Dawning of a New Era, have a Good Night" and I left and went back, I told Chris that he was very pleased and happy with everything, and he will be here for breakfast at 6:30 in the morning. She just replied, "I hope things turn out ok he seems a very nice person."

I retorted, "I think so I like him also, well darling let's pull the pin," Beatrix was already in bed and we followed shortly. It did not take me long to fall in to a very peaceful and deep sleep.

+++++

October 2011 Gem & Mineral Shows

More shows can be found at <http://rockngem.com/showdates/>

1-2—WALNUT CREEK, CA: Show, "Contra Costa Crystal Fair"; Pacific Crystal Guild; Civic Park Community Center, 1375 Civic Dr.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-4; adults \$6.; contact Jerry Tomlinson, P.O. Box 1371, Sausalito, CA 94966, (415) 383-7837; e-mail: jerry@crystalfair.com; Web site: www.crystalfair.com

7-9—BIG SUR, CA: 20th annual show, "Big Sur Jade Festival"; South Coast Community Land Trust, Pacific Valley PTO; Pacific Valley School; Fri. 12-5, Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; contact Kirk Brock, (831) 659-3857; Web site: www.bigsurjadefestival.com

8-9—TRONA, CA: 70th annual show, "Gem-O-Rama 2011"; Searles Lake Gem & Mineral Society; Lapidary and Show Bldg., 13337 Main St. (at Trona Rd.); Sat. 7:30-5, Sun. 7:30-4; free admission; more than 20 dealers, 50 exhibits, geode cutting and sales, demonstrations, gem dig, door prizes, field trips; contact Jim or Bonnie Fairchild, (760) 372-5356; Web site: www.iwisp.com/tronagemclub/

8-9—VISTA, CA: Annual show; Vista Gem & Mineral Society; Antique Gas & Steam Engine Museum, 2040 N. Santa Fe Ave.; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4; free admission; dealers, gems, handmade beads, carvings, faceted stones, tools, slabs; contact Ray Pearce, (760) 726-7570, or Lois Harr, (760) 724-0395

14-16—COSTA MESA, CA: Wholesale and retail show; Gem Faire Inc.; OC Fair & Event Center, 88 Fair Dr.; Fri. 12-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$7 weekend pass, children 11 and under free; jewelry, gems, beads, crystals, silver, rocks, minerals; contact Yooy Nelson, (503) 252-8300; e-mail: info@gemfaire.com; Web site: www.gemfaire.com

15—WEST HILLS, CA: Annual show; Woodland Hills Rock Chippers; First United Methodist Church, 22700 Sherman Way; Sat. 10-5; free admission; gems, minerals, rocks, fossils, displays, dealers, silent auctions, demonstrations, hands-on activities; contact Mary Beth Pio, (818) 349-9163; e-mail: info@rockchippers.org; Web site: www.rockchippers.org

15-16—CAYUCOS, CA: Annual show; San Luis Obispo Gem & Mineral Club, Cayucos Vets Hall, 10 Cayucos Dr.; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-5; free admission; lapidary materials, rocks, rough, jade, slabs, fossils, crystals, gemstones, beads, custom wire wrapping and jewelry, lapidary equipment, jewelry-making items, rock carvings, minerals, free raffle; contact Mike Lyons, (805) 610-0757; e-mail: jadestar@charter.net

15-16—PLACERVILLE, CA: Annual show; El Dorado County Mineral & Gem Society; El Dorado County Fairgrounds, 100 Placerville Dr.; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; adults \$4, children 12 and under free; dealers, displays, minerals, gems, jewelry, beads, opals, meteorites, geodes, tools, books, lapidary and jewelry-making demonstrations, amber exhibit and presentations, free rocks and activities for kids; contact Karen Newlin, (530) 676-2472; e-mail: info@rockandgemshow.org; Web site: www.rockandgemshow.org

15-16—WHITTIER, CA: Annual show; Whittier Gem & Mineral Society; Whittier Community Center, 7630 Washington Blvd.; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; free admission; dealers, minerals, jewelry, gems, collectibles, lapidary demonstrations; contact Marcia Goetz, 755 W. Dike St., Glendora, CA 91740, (626) 260-7239; e-mail: joenmar1@verizon.net

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Image Numbers 001 – 002 – 003 Lightning Ridge faced Nobby 3.17 grams For Only \$180

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American Opal Society Membership Application

FILL IN APPLICABLE INFORMATION		DUES / FEES)	AMOUNT PAID
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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	
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Please make check or money order payable to "American Opal Society". Mail payment and application to:
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 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 and complete the form. You October 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.

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NAME BADGE ORDER FORM:
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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.

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Are Your Dues Due Now?
PLEASE CHECK YOUR ADDRESS LABEL or NEWSLETTER E-MAIL. There should be a date that shows the current month/year of your membership. If the date is older than the current date, your dues are overdue. A warning will be stated if you are overdue.
 A Renewal Grace Period of two months will be provided. 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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**Volume #44 Issue #10
October 2011**

TO:

Some Topics In This Issue:

- Smoke Treatment in Wollo Opal
- Huge Asteroids Brought Gold to Earth
- From Rags to Riches & Disasters (Chapters 13 & 14)

Important Dates:

October 3 Board Meeting

October 13 - General Meeting:
Opal & Gem Show Preparation Meeting
Please come to help organize for the Show

November 5 & 6 – Opal & Gem Show

October 13 Opal & Gem Show Preparation Meeting

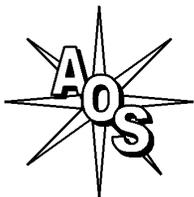
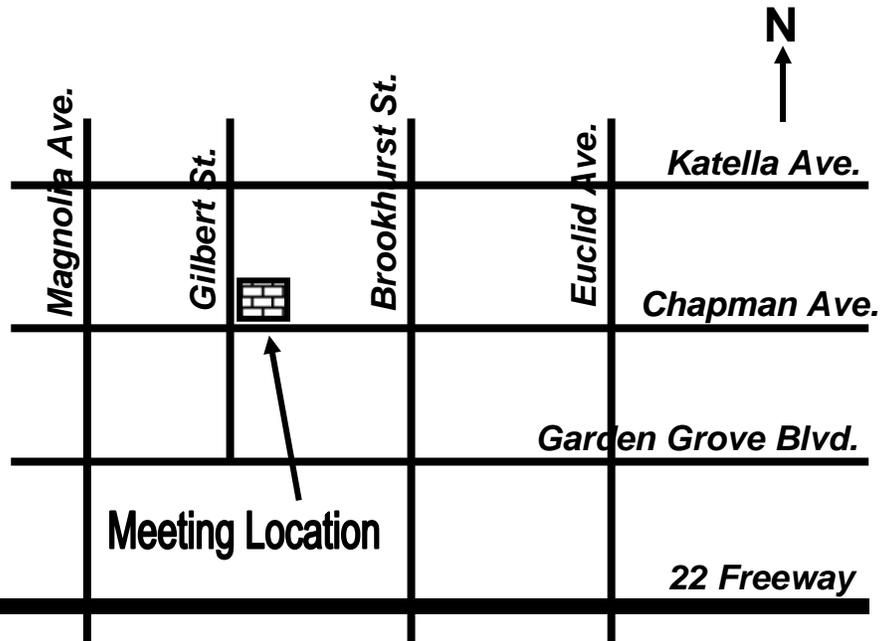
— GENERAL MEETINGS —

2nd Thurs. 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



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

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