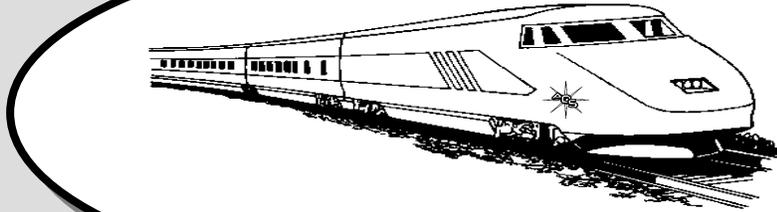


The Opal Express

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President's Message

By Pete Goetz

The June 2012 General Meeting will be the **Live Auction** fund raiser for the Society. That's right!! Its auction time again.

Sooo... go out to the garage, or to the shed, or to the pile of rocks in the back yard, or unlock that secret treasure room. Select some 'stuff', rough or finished stones or jewelry, that will dazzle us all (or not: remember - one mans (OK woman's) trash is another man's [ditto] treasure) bring them on down , make a few bucks for yourself and a few bucks for the Society, have some fun .Items **do not** have to be OPAL related.

last time we had a little mix-up at the end of the auction. In an attempt to smooth out this process, Russ has volunteered to help handle the distribution of treasures and the money, along with the treasurer. It would be nice to see a few more of you shy members participating in this fun event.

Again, The OPAL SHOW is only 6 months away. We need to start planning now for this annual event .A successful show at the end of the year is what allows us to continuing offering this event the following year. The OPAL show is open to the general public as well as fellow Opalholics. I would like to see some new faces participating in the production of our annual event.

Membership: The continued influx of new members is important for the health and future of our Society. Most of you belong to other



Pete Goetz

mineral societies. This is good place to seek new members. That already have expressed an interest in rocks and minerals. Enough yapping for now, talk at you later

May's Speaker – Pete Goetz on Matrix Opal

By Jim Pisani

Our president Pete Goetz gave us a good talk on how to cook Andamooka matrix opal. Pete talked about using an oven instead of sulfuric acid as a safety improvement.

Andamooka matrix is a type of opal found only in the opal field, South Australia. It is a type of sandstone that is impregnated with precious opal that is a tan color and typically does not have much fire. In the early years of the opal field it was ignored as worthless by the miners and only in the last 20-30 years has it has gained in value after it was discovered by blackening it, it resembles black opal and bringing out the color.

Pete's technique is to first, soak the opal in a sugar solution in a crock pot for a day or two. Step two is to wrap the in aluminum foil and bake it in the oven for an hour or two, instead of soaking the opal in heated sulfuric acid, which is quite dangerous.

The head of the oven will burn the sugar in the opal and get the same result as sulfuric acid. Pete states to let the oven heat up slowly and cool down slowly as to not to shock the opal.

Bill has talked at the Opal Society a number of times. He was the rockhound's rockhound. I'll never forget when Bill showed me my first look of Lead Pipe Springs opal, which caused me to have a number of opal adventures. So long, Bill. The Editor

Bill Burns Passing

Bill Burns died Sunday, May 13 at home. He was active until the end with the Whittier Gem & Mineral Society (WGMS), North Orange County Gem & Mineral Society (NOC), the Monterey Park Gem Society, The California Federation of Mineral Societies (CFMS), American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS), American Lands Access Association (ALAA) and probably many more I do not know about. He has traveled the country visiting various shows, making friends along the way (and collecting rocks, too). He & Izzy were active participants in many events important to rockhounds including the push to define the California State Gemstone (Benitoite). They were vocal advocates for rockhounds and for several years were active on the Desert Advisory Council. They helped to reopen Afton Canyon when the BLM closed it down and were instrumental in keeping the Hauser Beds/ Wileys Well areas open for collecting. Until his health began to work against him, he and Izzy were active on numerous field trips every year. He will be missed.



Bill Burns

Seventh AOS Live Auction on June 14th

The AOS will hold its seventh AOS live auction, on Thursday, June 14 at our general meeting at 7:00pm. The auction will be fun, and "fund-raising," so come and snag a bargain while supporting your club!! **There were many great bargains to be had at the event last year!**

Don't miss a chance to buy or sell opal rough, cabs, books, tools, display cases, and other neat gem stuff when members may bring up to 5 items each for sale, as long as they are gem-related, and are approved by the AOS Board of Directors. You must be an AOS member to sell at the auction, and you must sign a vendor agreement. Vendors must donate 10 percent of the final price to the AOS, and will be paid after the refreshment break prior to close of meeting. We will arrive at 6:30pm to help vendors prepare their items. If you have items for sale, please come early, and allow us to assign a Lot Number, any minimum "Reserve" price you may request, and log your items into our computer for easy checkout later!

Bidders may be members, or visitors, provided they have a photo ID like a driver's license, and are willing to abide by Bidder rules. You must have an official bid paddle to bid, so sign up early when you first get to the mtg. Copies of the Vendor Rules and Bidder Rules will be made available at the signup table when you arrive.

If you want to bid, you must sign in to get a paddle, and agree to the Bidder rules, which state that all items must be paid for prior to close of meeting, the highest bid wins, all sales are final, no returns or refunds. The AOS auctioneer has final authority to determine the high bid, and can accept or reject any bid at AOS discretion. Bidders cannot bid for another person, and must pay for and remove their auction items prior to the end of the meeting. Bidders are not permitted to loan their paddles to others.

Proceeds from the live auction will go toward AOS activities like our annual show preparation and advertising. Please be generous with your bids, and get a bargain at the same time!

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AOS Live Auction Rules

- 1) Only American Opal Society (AOS) members may sell an item/lot in the auction.
- 2) The member may submit a maximum of 5 items/lots (single item of grouped package).
- 3) 10% of all sales rounded up to the closest quarter (\$.25) remain with the AOS.
- 4) Anyone that obtains a bidders card and number can bid, but must pay in **cash**.
- 5) All bids and/or raises shall be in dollars (i.e. no bids/raises of less than \$1 will be considered).
- 6) The AOS auctioneer maintains the right to reject unreasonable offers/bids/raises.
- 7) If the sellers minimum (reserve) bid is not received in "going once, going twice" call the item/lot is removed/dropped/pulled from the auction and given back to the seller/original owner.
- 8) Any seller or buyer making side deals/sales within the meeting rooms prior to or during the auction forfeits all rights to participate in the AOS auction.
- 9) Winning bidder must pay for and pick-up purchased item/lot as quickly as possible (within 10 min.) or forfeit right to purchase (with exception of auctioneer, cashier, record keeper or merchandise manager).
- 10) No warranties or guarantees are offered and all items are sold as is and where is.
- 11) All sales are final and no returns, trades or later credits will be considered.

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Why Gold Discolors

The Most common reason gold will turn different colors is due to chemical reactions with the alloyed metals mixed with the gold when

it is exposed to a caustic element. Some of these chemicals are present in common household products. Swimming pool chlorides and Clorox® based household cleaners will definitely cause gold to change to an ugly gray. Mercury from a broken thermometer can literally dissolve the gold right out of a ring leaving a burned black spot of hole.

Copier ribbons contain xylem, which can cause yellow gold to turn white, and some ink stamp pads contain a medium, which will do the same thing. Smog fumes, perspiration, saltwater, or even certain fruit juices can all cause a discoloring effect on gold.

Whenever you are going swimming in chlorinated water or will be working with solvents or cleaners it is best to remove your jewelry. If you get any of these chemicals on your jewelry, clean it with a mild solution of baking soda and rinse well before wearing it again or take it to your local jeweler for a professional cleaning.

The most common reason gold will discolor your skin is metallic abrasion. Many cosmetics contain compounds harder than the jewelry itself. These compounds in the cosmetics will wear away microscopic particles of gold, which will collect in the pores of your skin. Very fine metal particles always appear black, not metallic.

When the particles stick to your skin in Quantities, they will form a black smudge. To prevent this you should remove your jewelry when you apply cosmetics where the jewelry is to be worn. Changing cosmetic brand may also help.

Gold itself will not corrode, but the primarily alloys that are mixed with 10 and 14 karat gold will. They are copper and silver. Under moist conditions, a person's perspiration, which contains fats and fatty acids, can cause corrosion in karat gold jewelry.

The level of corrosion will differ based upon each individual's unique body chemistry. Things that you can do to prevent your jewelry from tarnishing or turning your fingers black are: remove all jewelry before using soaps, perfumes, or cosmetics, and have your jewelry cleaned frequently. You will be amazed at how nice it will look when kept free of oils and dirt.

Eighteen karat gold jewelry is less likely to change because of the lower alloy content and platinum jewelry is nearly impervious to chemical corrosion. Of all the different types of jewelry, it will wear the best and give the least amount of trouble, especially if you experience constant problems with discoloration and black smudges.

From Thomas from the Orchid Digest; via El Gambrisino, November 2010 via the Breca, 5/2012

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Why Gold Jewelry Turns Skin Black

By Jeanette Isabella

The Environment is the cause, not Iron Deficiency

The reaction to gold in some people is a medical-chemical puzzle, but some causes are well documented. The medical term for this reaction is called black dermatographism, meaning *black writing on the skin*. Evidence shows that the marks can come from the gold jewelry, whether 10, 14, 18 karat gold. Because gold jewelry cannot be the too soft pure gold (24 karat), it is mixed with metal alloys like nickel, copper, zinc and silver. It is not, as is popularly thought, that the afflicted wearer has an iron deficiency, but a breakdown of the alloy metals in the piece of jewelry.

When you wear a piece of jewelry, and even when putting it on, metallic abrasion can occur. This miniscule abrading is caused by salt in the air, sulfur, acids, and very often, cosmetics on the skin. When you put your jewelry on, your hands may have residue from cosmetics containing zinc, titanium dioxide, and ferric oxide, to name a few. These will rub off tiny fragments of the gold, and these particles look like a black dust. In fact, contrary to common belief, 18 karat gold will leave smudges more easily than gold of lesser purity. It is not because the jewelry is "cheap" that it causes the black marks.

If you are suffering from blacking of your skin when you have contact to a gold piece of jewelry, analyze your surroundings. Do

you live in an area that has salty air? Are you perspiring a lot? Is there air pollution where you live? Are you using lotions or cosmetics? Does your skin stay damp where the jewelry touches you? These are some of the causes of the marks.

To help cut down on the skin blackening, or black dermatographism, from gold jewelry, make a habit of removing your jewelry often and cleaning both your skin and the jewelry before putting it on. Painting on a bit of clear nail polish will help to minimize the abrasion as well. This also helps with any allergies to the metals in the gold jewelry.

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From <http://jeanetteisabella.hubpages.com>

Included below are a couple jewelrymaking BenchTip items for use in your next club newsletter.

Brad

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Bench Tips for the Month

From Brad Smith

Drilling Small Items

Small pieces need to be held securely while drilling or burring to prevent them from spinning if the drill catches. A quick solution is to hold the work piece with a pair of pliers or your ring clamp. Another alternative is to clamp your piece to the bench pin or a thin board. If using pliers, you can avoid scratches by putting a little tape over the jaws.



Drilling Small Items

Drilling a Stone

One of the things my students often ask to do is drill a hole through a piece of gemstone. The usual thought is to get a diamond drill, but I've found these often break or burn up. The reason I think is that the drill pivots on the piece of diamond on the drill tip. By pivoting the diamond does not cut. When it doesn't cut, you tend to add more force, and the drill is damaged by excess heat.

A much better approach is to use a core drill. This is a small hollow tube with a coating of diamond grit at the business end. The diamonds easily carve out a circular arc without undue pressure or heat buildup.

Core drills are readily available from lapidary and jewelry supply companies. They come in sizes as small as 1mm and are reasonable in price, for instance \$6 for 2mm diameter.

Chuck up the core drill in a drill press or a Foredom and be sure to keep the drilling zone wet to cool the tool and to flush out debris. Also, if you're drilling a through hole, go very easy on the pressure as the drill is about to break through. Otherwise you will usually chip off some of the stone surface around the hole.

See <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/BenchTips/>

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Ethiopian Opal Agony and Ecstasy

From the [GemologyOnline.com](http://www.gemologyonline.com) Forum

Posted from 9/1/2011 to 10/4/2011

InTheDark , Florida

The Opal Express



Core Drill

I got hooked on this material two weeks ago. There were obvious problems with its fragility. It's often difficult to correctly orient because you are unable to properly assess the life of the stone in its natural state. But it's soft and easy to work dry.

My first few stone cabs cut and pre-polished to 600-grit dry then final polished with CEO2 wet. It's a nice finish but the opals usually lost their life and base color with the water. OK, I was told they would dry out. In Florida it's 60%+ humidity all summer, and after 10 days it looked like no real change in the finished stones.

I got some DampRid, a desiccant, and put the finished opals in a container that was essentially 0% humidity. They seem to have dried out in hours, bringing back their earlier color and life. Two out of fourteen cracked and two others seem to have CEO2 discoloration. About 8 stones into my experience I started to completely wet the opal before CEO2 polishing and none of those have the discoloration. Looks like that won't happen again.

I wonder if wetting and drying the discolored stones might help them. I will look for some method of drying them that is less rapid but I don't have a way to measure humidity.

As usual, I know I've come to the right place. Thanks in advance for sharing your own past pain and perhaps sparing myself and others from the pitfalls.

Finally, these opals are freeeeeking awesome. I'm in love. I have three pieces of facet quality rough that I expect to produce some of the finest stones I've ever cut. That's next week.

Update: Looks like only one stone cracked and where it cracked was a clear weak spot so... not really a surprise. Also, the discolored stones have improved quite a lot overnight. Go figure. Maybe they are absorbing water out of the air.

bobsiv, Washington DC

Sounds like you have everything under control. But I'll mention that in my experience different stones show different levels of hydrophaneity. Some will saturate in seconds and completely dry out in hours (the drying process usually goes from totally clear -> cloudy and crappy looking -> back to appearance of the rough). Others will take hours to completely hydrate and can take literally months to totally dry out.

I cut mine wet so I don't have to worry about silicosis and I've never had a stone take up CeO. I have had a couple pull in some discoloration from using nasty old acetone to remove the dops, so I use clean acetone now.

Also, I don't know if you followed some of the earlier discussions on this material, but I and others recommend pavilion angles well below critical if you decide to facet your stones. I managed to kill the color play in a couple of really nice stones before I got my system down.

PS: I always like to see what other people are doing with this stuff. Love to see some pictures of your finished stones.

http://www.etsy.com/shop/FlatFacets?ref=pr_shop_more

InTheDark, Florida

bobsiv wrote:

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You're suggesting a faceted gem that has no working pavilion, like every native cut POS I've ever seen? 35 degree pavilion angles? I defer to experience and will try that on the first one at least.

Worst opal photography ever:

Stonebender, Las Vegas, NV

Enjoy the Ethiopian stuff! It can be a treat to work with and a bear at the same time.

Try adjusting your white balance on your camera, should help with the quality a bit:

Bob is just suggesting you give the stone a deliberate window. We're not trying to highlight and reflect the body color of the stone when

faceting opal with play of color except in special cases- doing so will drown out the play of color. It makes sense to cut to proper angles so the play of color magnifies and reflects, but AFAIK reality takes an opposite outcome. Plus with all those color flashing around the crown, no one's going to pay attention to a window.

Ryan Quantz, A.J.P. (GIA), Gemcutter, Jewelry-Artist and Perfectionist.

mehoose, Australia



Cut Welo Opal

some will stay clear, some can look quite yuck and some will never make up their mind, always changing with humidity. They will absorb colours but if fully saturated beforehand this should be kept to a minimum if there's any at all.

Swishman, USA

Your problem with CeO discoloration is not the CeO but rather the pigments used in cheap CeO. Stick with either optical grade CeO or French Cerium, or try M-5 polish. Use them on felt for optimal results. I would also go much higher than 600grit before polishing. I go all the way to 3K pre-polish at minimum before the final polish. Sometimes even doing a 50K pre-polish. But the color bleeding issue is from cheap CeO and cheap diamond pastes using the pigments. I have never had any issues with the optical grade CeO from Vulcan Workshop, M-5, nor French Cerium.

<http://www.gemaddicts.com> <--- My Website

<http://www.gemsbyjennifer.com/store> <--- Wifey's Store

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/digitaldevo> <--- My Portfolio

gsellis, Suwanee, GA US

Try an acetone soak on your stained ones. It may help remove any dye. It also dehydrates the material.

George Ellis, www.faceting.biz

bobsiv, Washington DC

Looks like some nice bright material. Have fun with the faceting, the clearer stuff makes really neat cut stones (and if you're selling them, in my experience they go fast and at a good profit).

http://www.etsy.com/shop/FlatFacets?ref=pr_shop_more

InTheDark, Florida

As usual, a wealth of ideas for the asking. Thanks all. This is without question the nicest, friendliest forum I've ever frequented.

I've switched over to a lot of Lambina opal for a couple days as the new ideas pour in. That never makes me uneasy.

InTheDark, Florida

I faceted three of these and posted photos here:

<http://gemologyonline.com/Forum/phpBB2/viewtopic.php?f=8&t=3592&p=150280#p150280>

Swishman, USA

George, I know folks who have successfully get the CeO pigments almost all out with the acetone soak, but others had little to no luck. Same goes for diamond paste colors. So, seems like it depends on the type of pigment used.

InTheDark, Florida

Has anyone tried to stabilize this material? I'm thinking maybe dunking one in half epoxy and half alcohol then see how it sets up. I have not the slightest difficulty rationalizing such a process. Thoughts?

Swishman, USA

Jon, I have never had it happen personally to me. The ones I have seen it happen to have this real pinkish CeO, looks way to pink for me. I am thinking you may be on to something!!!! Maybe someone is using pigments to dye another cheaper compound the same color! I have only had it happen with a cheap tube of diamond paste from China, lol.

To seal the opal simply take 1 quart jar of Acetone, squeeze in both tubes of Epoxy 330 clear, and dissolve. Now out your material into it. Soak it for about a week. Remove and let dry a few days. Remember to agitate the jar daily. This is the easiest method.

Best method is to use a coffee maker and heat your canning jar of Opticon. Tutorial is around here somewhere.

Conny Forsberg, Sweden

This seems to me to be a method which could lead to that you sit with a bunch of close to transparent opals with a less than optimal color play. You have to check your opals before by soaking in water and see how they behave regarding to color play. Maybe I'm wrong about this. Have you found white/orange, opaque to translucent stones, to return to the original state after sealing, Swishman?

Which is the reason for my concern.

Conny Forsberg FGA

gondwana, Australia

Sounds like this Ethiopian stuff is not very good quality so I think I'll stick to the Lightening Ridge Black or Cooper Pedy white. Never had a problem with them as long as I cut away the sandstone rubbish, potch, sand-grains, sand islands, cracks, white milky clouds and any other flaw. But I don't like using epoxies or super-glues on them and therefore avoid using acetone and the like. To me dunking an expensive piece of opal into acetone is a sin.

InTheDark, Florida

Gearloose wrote:

I do not know about his particular species of opal but at first glance would be concerned about damaging the color.

The RI of water in the opal structure is 1. If the water were replaced with something with an RI closer to silica, some color play could be lost.

I don't know the opal optics but... are you sure? Isn't water ~1.3 RI or so? I figure epoxy and alcohol to be maybe 1.5-1.7.

I'd love to hear this explained.

Anyhow, I did treat one finished faceted stone today. It was very slightly more attractive than it was totally dry and not nearly as nice as it was water wet.

gsellis, Suwanee, GA US

gondwana wrote:

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Water, alcohol and acetone are three examples of solvents. Welo is hydrophane. Alcohol and acetone can work as drying agents. It actually is pretty amazing that Welo can handle rapid changes in hydration without damage. I will continue to recommend using acetone with Welo as it cuts the drying time from 2 weeks to a day or 2 (dries and then it rehydrates to room humidity).

Next time, I want to try some John Church's dried Virgin Valley... When I can afford it.

George Ellis, www.faceting.biz

gondwana, Australia

Dear Mr Ellis

If you're in such an urgent hurry to dry your opals I recommend you throw them in the laundry drier overnight. That would serve the double purpose of sorting the cracks and flaws as well as extracting the water plus you'll end up with a lot more than what you started with!

Skin is composed of water but I wouldn't recommend drying your skin with acetone! Though some people will try anything.

lightspeed

Acetone.... sounds like a great way to speed up the dehydrating of your beef jerky.

Maybe this should be declared on sale as technically it is a treatment; you are force de-hydrating using chemicals in a process to achieve your results on a porous material. Opal is hygroscopic therefore any process affecting this should be declared as a treatment. The end result may be the same but you are obtaining it by un-natural process.

I am not a fan of any treatments on any gem and can barely abide heating.

My 2c

gsellis, Suwanee, GA US

lightspeed wrote:

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Cutting is a "treatment." You are hydrating it while using water for cooling/cutting and you are hitting it with WD-40 or Dr. Iggy's Snake Oil. Guess you need to count those too. The acetone helps remove the WD-40 too, which clearly is absorbed while cutting. You must be careful on keeping your laps clean as it will migrate swarf into the stone too but usually starts scratching like heck before you get there. The pores are huge and will migrate about anything and as noted, even dyes.

George Ellis, www.faceting.biz

lightspeed

The use of a cooling agent or lubricant should not have anything to do with effecting the internal makeup of a given gem (common exceptions to this are Ruby, Emerald where oiling is a commercial treatment) as the intended purpose for the application of these chemicals (yes water is a naturally occurring chemical) is not for effecting a gemstones internal makeup but is an external application for where the gem is in contact with another surface for the purpose of cutting forming or polishing. I myself used refined Kero to cut as a lubricant now do not, the reason for this was the absorption into emerald(think of surface pressure between lap, lube and stone) while cutting, you are inadvertently treating the stone with oil even

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though not by intention and the use of which was for another purpose. My conscience will not allow me to do this, and to sell as an untreated stone just because it wasn't for the specific intention of affecting the gems internals and appearance.

The use of a non-natural and refined chemical and the soaking of the gem in it is for the singular purpose of effecting the stones appearance by water/oil absorption into a liquid that will evaporate easily.

I am not against dehydrating your opal but the use of immersion in a refined chemical denotes treatment, and in the case of a liquid, this means immersion so that the chemical can penetrate the material being immersed.

Why not try a non-penetrating chemical like Calcium Chloride crystals or Silica gel crystals or even Table salt where the use of these does not penetrate the internal structure and the moisture will still be absorbed. Thereby not introducing a liquid and soaking to directly affect the gems internal structure. That's not going to help your oiling issues though.

Just because everyone else does it doesn't mean we all should.

Well that's another 2c which makes 4c on this topic but in Australia 5c is the lowest denominator.

Swishman, USA

I only did the milky to clear base material. It returned to all of its original color play IIRC. I have never had an issue with losing the color play with the Opticon treatment. You can have them end up more milky vs. totally clear if you get too much heat while soaking them though.

As for soaking in acetone and called it a treatment!?!? Sorry, but that is a bit overboard to say it politely. If you want to start considering these treatments then EVERY SINGLE stone out there is treated, period! Almost every single stone out there is soaked in something to clean it after mining! Tourmaline often soaked in Muriatic Acid, corundum in hydrochloric and/or SIOL or Oxalic Acid, quartz is soaked in SIOL or Oxalic Acid, and the list can go on forever. So, if soaking in a cleaning chemical is a treatment, then there really are NO such things as untreated stones. Not to mention, if you wish to get this technical... A faceted or cabbed gemstone is treated as well even if no other treatments existed. A treatment is defined as something that changes the appearance of the gemstone in order to gain beauty, which in turn causes it to gain value(in most cases, except extreme treatments like glass filling and such)... Faceting or cabbing or even simply tumble polishing exposes the gemstones to all kinds of chemicals, solvents, abrasives, and the act of cutting and/or polishing the stones is in fact significantly changing their appearance (far more than most standard treatments do) in order to increase beauty (in most cases. .lol) and increase their value, the same exact point of normal treatments. So, by technical definitions, faceting, tumbling, and cabbing are all simply treatments as well.

I am all for full disclosure on treatments! Everyone knows that, but there is a line that shouldn't be crossed. I mean, come on, ALL opals should be seasoned anyways, but due to the nature of hydrophane opals, soaking in acetone, draws out the moisture much more readily and can cause them to become seasoned in days versus years. Yet it changes nothing to their appearance, increases stability, does nothing that sitting them in a dry area / room (dehumidifier) for 6 months+ doesn't do in the same way essentially. CA is used to dop them, and they get soaked ion Acetone to remove the CA typically anyways. I don't understand the issue here.

lightspeed

As for soaking in acetone and NOT calling it a treatment, sorry that's a bit overboard to say it politely!?!?

You are soaking to improve the appearance and properties of a gem.

You are drying it to restore its colour, also removing water from the stone, altering its properties artificially.

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Franks dictionary of Gem terms,

TREATMENT: Is the process of artificially altering and improving the appearance and properties of gem materials.

Sorry swish I understand your point and understand what treatment entails. If you had an emerald or ruby and you soaked it in acetone, it would be to probably remove a dye oil or epoxy from the interior of the gem. Same principal, you are removing from the internal of the opal.

If someone handed you an emerald sapphire or ruby and told you it was treated, do you throw your arms in the air because it has been cut and polished and cleaned or are you more likely to be thinking it has been enhanced, I think the latter.

I understand your stance on a technical point swish but if simply cutting using refined Kero is treating an emerald you won't get me to see this one differently you and whoever else can simply do as you like, it bothers me not.

gsellis, Suwanee, GA US

Acetone is not a treatment. It is not even slightly permanent. All you need to do is drop the stone back in water for 20 minutes and you are back to where you started.

George Ellis, www.faceting.biz

lightspeed

Oiling a ruby or emerald is not permanent either, all you need to do is drop the gem back into acetone for 20 minutes and the oil is gone. Soaking a gem in acetone under the definition of terms is a treatment no matter how small or technical you think it is.

There are several ways to dry out your gem, none of which are applying a solvent to the internal structure, directly messing with the internals of a gem structure is treatment.

Jason, McDonough GA

I'm thinking this might need to go under the Treatments forum.

www.selectgem.com

gondwana, Australia

Two old diggers overheard at the Digger's Rest Hotel:

"Hey Blue. Did'ya ere some blokes found some new road base they're callin opal?"

"Nah".

"Yeah, got from Afreekar. They reckon it's so dripping wet they gotta soak it in nail polish remover!"

"Wha' for"?

"Dunno. They say to get the water out, but then they soak it in water again to put the water back in".

"Sounds a bit nuts to me. But I tell ya what, if they can soak the grey outta potch and put a bit of nail polish colour back in, then they'll be onto somethin".

Swishman, USA

Sorry lightspeed, you will find NO untreated gemstones then, nit unless you dig them yourself! But then how would you clean them, since acids and solvents have to be used to so-so. Almost all tourmaline, corundum, quartz, beryl, etc. are soaked to clean them. Soaking in acetone is no different.

For the record, I don't soak my Welo in acetone except to remove the dops, common practice with all gemstones. So then all faceted stones are treated then by your definition. :/.

I'm not bashing your opinion; I firmly am for each and every one to have their own. But, it is being hypocritical that is what I am getting at. Soaking a Welo to season it quickly is treatment, to you, but soaking stones in everyone to remove shipping wax and or glue isn't!? Soaking rough and specimens in acids and solvents to clean all the stuff off isn't treatment!?! Faceting outer cabbing, which drastically alters the entire stone, isn't?!

It is fine to pick a side and take a stance. But you can't have your cake and way it too. If one soak is a treatment, them all are

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treatments, since they see the same chemicals and same soaking times, lol. If one is a treatment then so is the other, our should say others, including cutting them.

I prefer to just let my Welo's season with the rest of my opals, sitting in TheCave™, lol, or out back on the slab when weather permits. I'm not in any hurry and have nothing but time, with tons (literally) of material that needs to be cut, so not like I need outer in a hurry, I can cut something else. Just figured I better specify that I don't use this method, since you seem to think I do/did. I was just merely pointing out a bit of hypocritical standards being applied to things, that's all.

gsellis, Suwanee, GA US

And for the record Jamie, my 'treatment' time is long enough to remove the CA. Usually up to 8 hours (because I drop it in the jar and go to bed). Since Welo can transport water completely through a 3-4ct stone with a 3 minute exposure and waiting 20 minutes....

And a reemphasis for any removing CA with acetone or alcohol, use NEW, CLEAN fluids! Any color will jump right in (and seeing the dye discussions - it is probably the easiest stone to dye.) If you removed wax and a couple other CA dopped stones, then put the Welo in there.... that color is now added to your stone.

George Ellis, www.faceting.biz

Swishman, USA

Great emphasis George, definitely use clean acetone, lol!!!

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Continuing with Chapter 23 of the book

From Rags to Riches & Disasters

By Peter Greisl

Chapter 23 – The Party

I was Friday morning, and Chris reminded me that she has to go to Lottie earlier today as the party activity with starts tonight. I told her I will pick her up and drop her there and also organize Johnny to finish earlier so he can look after Beatrix. Johnny had left earlier as usual in search for the "Bonanza" I arrived at the co-op and there was quite some activity, Gus and Lottie were there and briefly said hello and reminded me about Chris coming down earlier and continued their shopping. I acknowledged and went in to take care of the Butcher shop

Anne arrived and told me that they may have to leave earlier for Adelaide due to some happening which Harry has to attend and rectify. She did remind me to come up to their place tomorrow and have a look if we like the place. I confirmed this arrangement and we went about our daily chores. Lottie came in to the shop and purchased a large quantity of meat and also a few kilos of sausages, which was a great start for the shop. She did comment how clean the shop was and how appetizing the meat was presented etc. I thanked her for the comment and just said, I would appreciate if she tell Dou that, she said I am sure will.

The rest o the day went by very quickly and I said to Anne can you lock up, and go when the time comes, I will be back later just leave the Key with Doug, she said no problem, we see you tomorrow, you just drive up to Doug Johnsons place and we are the pink fibro place right next to him." I just said "oki doki" and left to drive to the claim to tell Johnny to get on the way as I am going to get Chris and take her the Opal Restaurant.

As I arrived Johnny was ready to leave, I said "how come you are ready to go," He told me he remembered. So I got back in the VW and just commented I see at home.

When I got home Chris was ready to leave, she was wearing a very nice white blouse with round collar and two buttons undone to show her cleavage, a very tight fitting navy blue skirt which enhanced her beautiful hour glass figure. I looked at her and said," Darling you look very sexy, Lets go and make love," She smiled and brushed her finger over my nose and said sorry sweetheart we don't

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have time you missed out.” “Well if these Opal Barons see you I am sure there will be tips flying your way for the next three days.” “That’s the object of these outfit,” she replied, Just as we walking out the door, Johnny walked in and let loose a wolf whistle, and just said “WOW, Peter you better watch her otherwise she be off with one of these Opal Buyers,” he joked. All right you better get going, where is Beatrix, Johnny asked, Chris replied “she is lying on her bed with you books, your dinner is in the fry pan, have fun and please make sure Beatrix is in Bed by 9 pm.” “Yes Boss” Johnny said and saluted. We got in to Beatrix room and kissed her goodbye and told her to listen to Johnny and to go to bed when he ask her, she nodded and we got in to the VW and left.

I went to the co-op and got the key from Doug and went into the Butcher shop and finished totaling the takings for today reconciled the ledger to make sure the money coincides with the ledger entries, which did. I gave the money to Doug, and told him we had a great day, he handed me my pay packet and I checked and there were a additional \$ 50.00 in there. I asked Doug what was that, he said you are doing an excellent job with the shop and people told me about it as well what an improvement it was from Arthur. I thanked him and told him I am going over to Gus place as Chris is waitressing there for the next three days. He said that he might call in later, and I replied well I buy you a beer.

As I left I heard a Aero plane engine and there it was on a descent the twin engine Beach Baron from Bill Petrohelos.

I got to Gus’s and there were the guys setting up in a corner the music instruments, Drums, Keyboard, guitars, Microphones etc. Seeing this brought memory back when I was in Sydney I used to play the drums in a group which was called the Frantic Four, we were playing at the Trocadero, a dance club in George Street Sydney in the early 60’s.

I heard the Musos (Musicians) talking; they were waiting for a guy called Terry who was the drummer. There were I little fat guy they called Pancho he was playing bass guitar and he seems to be the band leader, then there was Allan he was on the keyboard and also playing the mouth organ as well as singing. And then Jerry he was playing lead guitar.

I saw Chris with Lottie she was showing Chris the ropes of pouring spirit shots and drawing beer, how to hold and balance the serving tray, etc. Chris did not pay any attention to me. Gus was busy with Arnold their son in the kitchen, all in all there was quite some activity going on. I grabbed a small table close to the band and sat down and waited. Lottie seen me she came over and ask what I would like, I said a Schooner would be nice, she told me the Chris is doing extremely well she is a natural, and she liked the outfit she is wearing. I thanked her and she went to get me the beer. I tried to give her the money she just said “it is on the house tonight.”

I thank you very much was my expression; and she went about her business.

Not long after in came 6 Guys with a very loud Hello to Lottie and hugs were exchanged, and I heard Lottie calling one of these guys Bill, he was a tall fellow fairly solid and had a mustache and silver hair.

Lottie had organized a couple tables put together for the guests and shoed them where to sit. It was about six o’clock and Pancho was absolutely frantic about Terry the drummer not being there. Gus came over and said to them start at 6:30pm to play, something soft and gentle while the guest having dinner, once the finish then lay it on. Chris came over to Bills table greeted them nicely introduced herself to them and told them that she will be looking after them for this evening. Bill smiled and replied, “Honey you can look after me any day.” Chris returned the smile, and just said “well let’s start out with the order; what would you gentlemen like to drink?” They placed the order and Chris went away and got what they asked for.

Pancho got the guys together and said well we have to deliver whatever we can without Terry. So they started to play some soft music, from Nat King Cole, and it did not sound to bad but you could hear that the brushes were missing.

They played a few pieces and then had a break, in the meantime the dinner went very well, and there was a lot of laughter and Gus’s place filled up. A lot of people recognized me and nodded hallo, which I returned. The musicians table was right next to mine, and of course I could hear every word they were saying.

Pancho said, “I don’t want to mess up this gig,” another one said, “Well what can we do about it.?” I could not resist and say to them, “I am sorry guys, I could not help hearing your conversation about the drummer not showing, If you like could help out,” I told them what and where I was playing, and Pancho was absolutely stoked. He said “if you would do this we are most grateful,” But would you be available for the weekend if Terry does not show up?” I said “Tanya is waitressing here for the weekend so there would not be a problem.” Well let’s do it, what’s on schedule, they told me some of the Beetles, Billy Thorp, Lonnie Donegan, The Platters etc. I said “no problem just give me something with a solo to warm up as I have not used any sticks for a few years. Pancho said “what about Sandy Nelsons Caravan?” I replied that’s perfect.

So I got up from the table went behind the drum set and adjusted everything for my comfort. Pancho gave the Key and we I started with the floor tom solo and the rest of the instruments followed. It sounded real good Pancho looked at me and gave me thumbs up. By that time everyone was looking and Lottie and Gus came out and looked and seen me on the drums they both smiled and Gave their salutation, when I went in to the finale and we finished this piece of music, the whole restaurant went apes, the claps and cheers from the guests was absolutely incredible. Chris came over and said to me, “Peter Greisl you are full of surprises, does it bring back memories from the Trocadero?” I replied, “It sure does. I thought I never ever was having the opportunity to use the sticks again, I feel real great.”

She said ask them if they know Birth of the Beat from Sandy Nelson, If so please play this as this is your best drum Solo, and get them to announce it over the Microphone and you will see what reaction you get, particular after they reacted with the Caravan Solo.” “Ok Darling, I do this for you,” Chris went back and I spoke wit Pancho and the guys agreed later down the track when the part is in full swing.

We kept playing and everything went really well, Bill Petrohelos was at his best performance shoving 20 dollar notes down at Chris’s cleavage ordering bottles after bottles of champagne, he had her occasionally sitting for a few moments on his lap, everything was tasteful with no insinuations.

Well it was about 10pm and the party was in full swing and before everyone got totally drunk, Allan got on the Mike and said For your entertainment we will now perform a piece of music, from Sandy Nelson which is called “The Birth of The Beat”

The Drum Solo is performed by Peter.” The drum solo is about 8 minutes long and it starts out very slow and works up to a very fast and rhythmic staccato

Every one cheered me on and away I went, it was as my life depended on it, I performed that Solo not far short of the performance of Sandy Nelson himself.

When I finished it was as if I was The Man himself, standing ovations and everything, and the drinks kept pouring in. Bill got up and gave Pancho a \$100.00.

Well we kept playing and the night went well, at about 12:00 midnight Gus came over and said, Boy, let’s call it a night. Most of the patrons where either drunk and halve asleep while some have left, except Bills Party was still here and just ordered some more food. Lottie told Chris that she can go now, since the last halve hour or so she had been just collecting Glasses etc and washing. Lottie thanked Chris for all her help and told her how pleased she was and handed her \$100.00. Chris thanked Lottie and Gus, shouted out good night and Bill just said, “Will I see you tomorrow?” Chris replied you sure will,” He blew here a Kiss, and went back to his party. I told Pancho If you still short tomorrow I will be here if you need me, Pancho thanked me, and Chris and I went to our Car. We both were

sober as Judges and drove home. Chris sad to me on the way home, "I had to go to the toilet to empty my cleavage as the money was scratching me all the time," I laughed and said, "Do you know how much you got,?" She replied, No but there are a lot of notes.

We got home and Johnny was lying on the couch which we normally make our bed from and was reading. "The Party animals arrived" he laughed. We briefly filled him in and told him there will be a repetition tomorrow. "Well its bed time," I said and Johnny said good night and went to his domain.

Chris and I sat down for a while and she got all the money out of her purse.

I nearly dropped dead; there were a \$50 dollar note, six \$20 dollar notes and four \$10 dollar notes. "Darling you just made in one night \$ 210.00 I nearly have to work a week for that," She replied, "wrong I also got \$100.00 form Lottie as my pay for tonight." "Bloody Hell \$ 310.00 in 7 hours." I stammered, "That's absolutely fantastic." I continued and said," If by any Chance Pancho offers me some money on Sunday when we finish, that is if he still does need me, I will not take any money as I offered to help out and I enjoyed myself." "That's nice of you Darling; do you still feel the way you felt when you came home this afternoon when you picked me up?" And she smiled sheepishly at me. I said" I always feel this way when I look at you, let's open the bed and turn out the light."

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June 2012 Gem & Mineral Shows

More shows can be found at <http://www.rockngem.com/show-dates-display/?ShowState=ALL>

1-3—BONNEY LAKE, WA: Show and sale; Puyallup Valley Club; Swiss Park; 9205 198th Ave. E.; Fri. 12-5, Sat. 10-5, Sun. 11-4; free admission; dealers, minerals, gemstones, fossils, jewelry, beads, findings, lapidary tools and equipment, lapidary demonstrations, silent auction, kids' wheel of fortune and mine, exhibits, scale stone model of the Seattle Space Needle; contact Inga Holmquist, PO Box 134, Puyallup, WA 98371

1-3—WOODLAND HILLS, CA: Show and sale; RockAtomics Gem & Mineral Society; Pierce College Farm; 20800 Victory Blvd.; Fri. 10-5, Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; free admission; tailgating, dealers, gems, minerals, rocks, jewelry, beads; contact William Rucker, 21708 Arminta St., Canoga Park, CA 91304, (818) 428-7834; e-mail: rockhound@rockatomics.com; Web site: rockhound@rockatomics.com

2-3—COEUR D'ALENE, ID: Annual show; North ID Mineral Club; Kootenai County Fairgrounds and Event Center; Kathleen and Government Way, 2 blocks east of Hwy. 95; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4; adults \$2, children (under 12) free with adult; contact Bill Johnson, (205) 765-2900; e-mail: info-bockbb@aol.com

2-3—EVERETT, WA: 59th annual show; Everett Rock & Gem Club; Everett Soccer Arena; 2201 CA St.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; free admission; dealers, demonstrations; contact Fritz Mack, PO Box 1615, Everett, WA 98206, (425) 232-0809

9-10—BUTTE, MT: Annual show; Butte Mineral & Gem Club; Butte Civic Center Annex; 1340 Harrison Ave., exit 127 North; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; adults \$3; 15 dealers, silent auction, demonstrators, raffle, top-class displays of gems, jewelry and minerals; contact Peter Knudsen, PO Box 4492, Butte, MT 59702, (406) 496-4395

16-17—GLEN DORA, CA: Annual show; Glendora GEMS; Goddard Middle School; 859 E. Sierra Madre; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4; free admission; contact Bonnie Bidwell, 1010 E. Mountain View, Glendora, CA 91741, (626) 963-4638; e-mail: Ybidwell2@aol.com

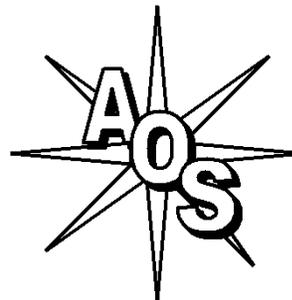
16-17—NEWPORT, OR: 49th annual show, ; OR Coast Agate Club; Yaquina

View Elementary School; Multipurpose Room, 351 SE Harney St., just off Hwy. 20, turn south at the light; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-4:30; adults \$2, students \$1; dealers, demonstrators, displays, door prizes; contact K. Myers, PO Box 293, Newport, OR 97365, (541) 265-2514

16-17—SAN FRANCISCO, CA: Show, ; Pacific Crystal Guild; Fort Mason Center; 99 Marina Blvd.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-4; adults \$6, children (12 and under) free; 30 dealers, minerals, gems, crystals, beads, metaphysical healing tools; contact Jerry Tomlinson, PO Box 1371, Sausalito, CA 94966, (415) 383-7837; e-mail: jerry@crystalfair.com; Web site: www.crystalfair.com

22-24—SAN DIEGO, CA: Wholesale and retail show; Gem Faire Inc.; Scottish Rite Center; 1895 Camino del Rio S.; Fri. 12-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$7, children (11 and under) free; jewelry, gems, beads, crystals, silver, rocks, minerals, nearly 100 exhibitors from all over the world; contact Yooy Nelson, (503) 252-8300; e-mail: info@gemfaire.com; Web site: www.gemfaire.com

29-1—FARMINGTON, NM: Annual show; San Juan County Gem & Mineral Club; Farmington Civic Center; 200 W. Arrington; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; free admission; Wheel of Fortune, silent auction, hourly door prizes, raffle; contact Mickie Calvert, 5986 Hwy. 64, Farmington, NM 87401, (505) 632-8288; e-mail: mickie2@earthlink.net



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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 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.

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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.

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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

American Opal Society
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**Volume #45 Issue #6
June 2012**

Some Topics In This Issue:

- May's Speaker-Pete Goetz on Matrix Opal
- Bill Burns Passing
- Why Gold Discolors
- Why Gold Jewelry Turns Skin Black
- Bench Tips for the Month
- Ethiopian Opal Agony and Ecstasy
- From Rags to Riches & Disasters Ch. 23-
The Party

Important Dates:

June 11 - Board Meeting

June 14 - General Meeting:

Live Opal Auction!!!

**Bring your opal, gems, jewelry,
etc. to make a few \$\$\$!**

**Bring your \$\$\$ to get some
great deals!**

— 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)

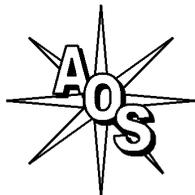
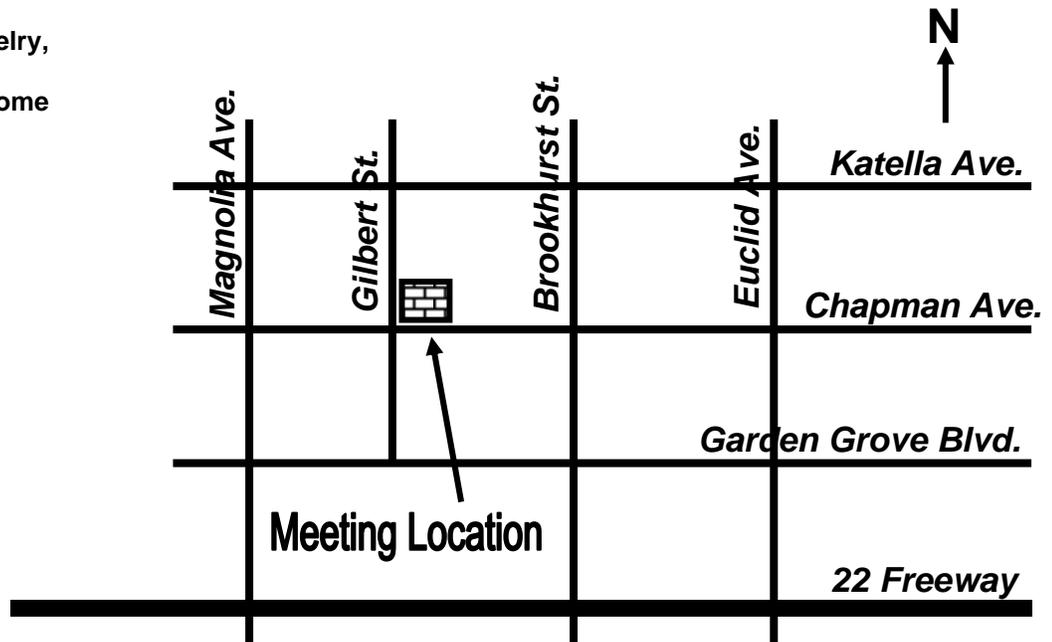
MEETING ACTIVITIES

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

TO:

June 14th

LIVE OPAL AUCTION!!!



The American Opal Society
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