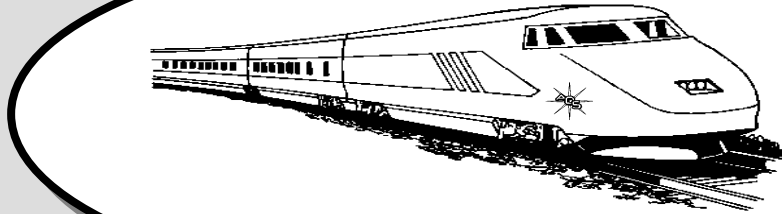


The Opal Express

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Show Recap

By Jim Pisani

Well, the 45th Opal & Gem is over as of last night. We are all tired and a little sore from breaking down the tables, electrical cables, and packing them again for next year. But it's a good soreness and tiredness that you get after a job well done. The show was a good show, with plenty of great dealers and a smaller, but definitely enthused, crowd.

We won't know exactly how well we did until after we check the gate receipts and balance the books, but financially, we are confident that the show was a success. We had sold a good number of tables, more than last year, plus we made profit on the great sandwiches that Pete Goetz arranged. Also, we had good participation in the raffle.

The White House staff was very accommodating and friendly. The StaffPro guards were friendly and very professional. I'd like to give a big thanks to all who helped. Pete Goetz, our President, worked exhaustively for the last couple months to pull this show off. Thanks, Pete. Stan McCall designed and created the great fire opal pendant that was the grand prize for the raffle. Stan also gave a great seminar on wax carvings. Russ Madsen handled the table rentals, the beautiful opal flyer that got rave reviews and the tickets for the raffles. Russ also helped tear down the show. Jay Carey got the donuts and put up signs. Jim Lambert handled security and big thanks to his son and his son's friend for being a night guard. Bob Dixon and his daughter Debbie and son-in-law Jerome helped out quite a bit with the food and front desk, along with Eva Coan. And last, but not least, Veronica Purpura and LaVerne Christenson did a fantastic job handling the front desk and dealing with the unseasonable hot weather we had for the show. Hopefully, I didn't forget anyone.

Thanks to Dr. Walt Johnson for giving a great lecture on how to identify common gemstones with nothing but a 30 power loop. Also, Larry Hoskinson and Leslie Neff gave a great visual show of their trip to Yowah in Queensland, Australia.

I gave a talk about the opals of the USA that was received very energetically from the audience. Seems like a lot of people like good ol' USA opal!

We also had seven new dealers this year. Andrew Akers, of Gem World, has some great Central American opal (Honduran?) that had quite a bit of good fire. The Gem Garden brought a huge estate of excellent opal to the show. Charles Dixon, the Gemnatis, brought some very nice Burmese jadeite and Canberra opal. Linda Queally and Eduardo Rocha had some outstanding custom jewelry, along with Earth Art Gem & Jewelry. Mike Woodward had some excellent micro-photos of opals and other minerals that were amazing? The coolest dealer had to be Suhail of Opal Essence, who flew all the way from Thailand to sell beautiful cut Ethiopian Welo for an excellent price.

Now for the bad news... It turns out that the venue, the White House Event Center, has new lease owners. They believe that they can get quite a bit more business renting out the center than what we have been paying and basically are tripling the rent for the weekend to over \$15,000. The Society cannot afford that price; we barely make a profit at the current rate.

So, we are looking for a new venue. A promising site is the Brookhurst Community Center in Anaheim. For those familiar, this is where the Searchers Gem & Mineral Club have their show. Pete Goetz is currently in discussions with the management of the center.

If any other member local to the Orange County area is familiar with a hall that would fit our show, please let us know. Our e-mails and phone numbers are on page 10.

This month's meeting on November 8, this Thursday; we'd like to go over the show and ways to improve for next year.

I've attached a list of the dealers and contact information for those that may want to have further interactions with them.



Opal & Gem Show in the White House

Dealers for the 2012 Opal & Gem Show

Company	Name	Phone	Email	Website
Art by Linda Queally	Linda Queally	(818) 585-2640	linda.queally@gmail.com	
Ashbrook & Associates	Rick Ashbrook	(714) 553-3983	riscashbrook@hotmail.com	
Australian Opal	Larry Hoskinson	(310) 318-2170	lesneff@aol.com	
Australian Opal Imports	Eugene LeVan	(562) 621-1805	fineblackopal@sprynet.com	http://www.australianopalimports.com
BKW Opals	Bob Sanger	(619) 594-4358	drbugster@gmail.com	
Casa De Lumbre	Salvador R. Chavez	(408) 926-7261	zrchavez@sbcglobal.net	
Custom Creative Gem Cutting	Stan McCall	(714) 220-9282	custom-creative@earthlink.net	http://home.earthlink.net/~custom-creative/
De Boer's Gemstone Treasures	Andrew De Boer	(949) 929-1484	precan@yahoo.com	
Ethiopian Imports	Gabriel Mosesson	(323) 516-9442	gabrielmosesson@gmail.com	http://www.ethiopiaimports.com
Gems & Jewelry by Gerard Pope	Gerard Pope	(213) 595-0485	gnppp@hotmail.com	
Gem World	Andrew Akers	(909) 256-2949	andrewgems74@yahoo.com	
Ken Gard	Ken Gard	(909) 624-1782	jagard@roadrunner.com	
Lasco Diamond Products	Donna Schultze	(818) 882-2423	donna@lascodiamond.com	http://www.lascodiamond.com
Los Laureles Opals Mex	Pedro Banuelos	(510) 393-6573	laurelesopalsmex@yahoo.com	
Mike Woodward Photography	Mike Woodward	(310) 545-0678	Mike.city@gte.net	http://www.MikeWoodwardPhotography.com
No Stone Left Unturned	Shinko Kuramochi Lin	(714) 501-5988	mllin8873@yahoo.com	
Opal of Australia	Craig Aaker	(562) 277-8288	craig@OpalOfAustralia.com	http://www.opalofaustralia.com
Oro Valley Gems	Edward S. Newman Sr.	(520) 544-0295	ovgems@aol.com	http://www.orovalleygems.com
Owyhee Sunset Mines	Stan Pegram	(208) 337-3521	jimsopals@dslextreme.com	
Poor Boys Opals	Jim & Barbara Runkle	(386) 985-5376	jimgems@hotmail.com	http://PoorBoysOpals.com
Santiago Canyon College	Lothar Vallot	(714) 893-6643	ovdiamonds@aol.com	http://www.sccollege.edu/apps/comm.asp?Q=65
The Gem Garden	Gracie Hays	(760) 744-1000	thegemgarden@pacbell.net	www.shopthegemgarden.com
Opal Essence	Suhail	(662) 635-1166	alharamgems@gmail.com	http://stores.ebay.com/THE-OPAL-ESSENCE
Tikka Opals	Matti Tikka	61-7-55469324	mattitikka@bigpond.com.au	
Walter Johnson	Dr. Walter Johnson	(714) 533-1287		
Charles Dixon	The Gematist	(213) 880-4729	shamanmajick@gmail.com	
Austin Moore	Earth Art Gem & Jewelry	(805) 540-9093	austin@earthartgems.com	http://www.earthartgems.com

Seminars for the 2012 Opal & Gem Show

Saturday, November 3 th		
11:00 am	Larry Hoskinson & Leslie Neff	Finding Opal in Yowah, Queensland, Australia
2:00 pm	Dr. Walt Johnson	How to Identify Gemstones for Beginners

Sunday, November 4 th		
11:00 pm	Jim Pisani	Opals of the Americas , Part 2
2:00 pm	Stan McCall	Wax Carving a Pendant

American Opal Society Calendar	
Date	General Meeting Topic / Speaker
12-Jan-12	Fred & Charlotte Ward on Opals
09-Feb-12	Gretchen Krutz on Jewelry Design and Wax Carving.
08-Mar-12	Jim Pisani on the World of Jade, with an emphasis on California Jade
12-Apr-12	Mike Woodard Photography – Gem micro-photography
10-May-12	Pete Goetz on Cooking Andamooka Matrix
14-Jun-12	Live Opal Auction
12-Jul-12	Opal Cutting Seminar
09-Aug-12	<u>Member Show & Tell</u>
13-Sep-12	Connie Grundke on Intarsia
11-Oct-12	Opal & Gem Show Work Session
03-Nov-12	45th Annual Opal & Gem Show
04-Nov-12	45th Annual Opal & Gem Show
08-Nov-12	Opal & Gem Show Recap
13-Dec-12	AOS Christmas Party Potluck

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Rock Stars

Why geologists deserve their own Nobel Prize.

*By Robin M. Mills
October 16, 2012*



Alfred Nobel intended his prizes to honor those who had "conferred the greatest benefit on mankind." But on top of choosing militarist peace laureates, and overlooking giants like Tolstoy, Joyce, and Ibsen in literature, the awards have another weakness. They are missing a science that has shaped our economy and society so profoundly that we are not even aware of its contribution. It's the reason we have unprecedented mobility, nutrition and comfort; can have some warning of volcanoes and tsunamis; can contemplate "deep time" on a planet 4 billion years old; and have some inkling of our own origins.

Alongside economics, chemistry, physics, and medicine, there should be a Nobel prize in geology. With any luck, a Russian metal magnate or Texan oil tycoon will step up to endow it.

Every fourth year, the Nobel committee does award the Crafoord Prize for geosciences (taking turns with mathematics, astronomy, and biology). Though worth \$500,000, it doesn't draw anything like the attention the Nobels do. The Vetlesen Prize was created by a Norwegian shipping baron as a kind of geology Nobel, but though it comes with prestige and a big check, it is not awarded annually.

The absence of a geology Nobel is surely an oversight, given how Alfred Nobel's older brother Robert made his fortune. Working grudgingly for his younger brother Ludvig, he was sent in 1873 to the Caucasus to find walnut wood for the Russian government. Instead, arriving in Baku, he caught oil fever and spent the twenty-five thousand roubles of "walnut money" on a small refinery.

With gushers such as "The Devil's Bazaar" and "The Wet Nurse," Robert and Ludvig developed the oil tanker, became the oil kings of Baku, and broke Standard Oil's monopoly on international trade. Russia briefly became the world's largest producer, a position it would regain in the 1970s, then in the twenty-first century. A young Stalin cut his revolutionary teeth organizing strikes among the workers.

Exhausted by his labors, Ludvig suffered a heart attack at 57; confusion with his better-known brother gave rise to the famous "Merchant of Death" [obituary](#) that inspired Alfred to endow his prizes.

Had history worked out a little differently, who might have won the geology prize? Given more than a century's injustice towards geologists, we will have to relax the restriction on posthumous awards. But the great 19th-century pioneers do not qualify -- only work since the first Nobels in 1901 is eligible. So, with apologies to many other great geologists, here is my shortlist.

This year is the centenary of Alfred Wegener's Continental Drift hypothesis. Wegener, a German meteorologist, noticed that the coasts of Africa and South America fit together, as do Antarctica, Australia, India, and Madagascar. What is more, distinct ancient plants, the fern *Glossopteris*, and traces of glaciations are found across the southern continents. He proposed that the continents had once been combined into Pangaea -- Latin for "All Earth"-- and that the Atlantic and other oceans had then opened between them.

A scientific outsider, Wegener was scorned by geologists and physicists alike. He died in 1931 during an expedition to Greenland. His body, not found for six months, was reburied where it lay and now lies under 100 meters of ice and snow.

Wegener's ideas were kept alive by a few converts until a new generation of brilliant geologists took them up in the 1950s and 60s. Their discovery, plate tectonics, explains how Wegener's continental drift operates, and ties together earthquakes, volcanoes, mountains, ocean trenches, fossil lineages, petroleum basins, and mineral belts into a paradigm as intellectually satisfying as relativity or genetics.

In 1926, a director of what was then Anglo-Persian (now BP) declared that Saudi Arabia appeared "devoid of all prospects" for oil, and found Albania more promising. Oregon native and Stanford graduate Max Steineke thought differently. Arriving in the kingdom for the first time in 1934 as chief geologist of what is now Saudi Aramco, the world's largest oil company, he grew a beard and donned robes to make himself less strange to the local people.

Six wells had been drilled, unsuccessfully, at Dammam on Saudi Arabia's Gulf coast. Steineke wanted to drill deeper at Dammam-7 in 1936, but the well encountered a series of problems and he had to fly back to head office in San Francisco in early 1938 to urge perseverance. In March, the drill bit struck a large oil reservoir, the first of the Saudi giants. Shortly before Steineke's death in 1952, Ghawar, the world's biggest field, was identified. As the American Association of Petroleum Geologists puts it, "The methods [Steineke] developed probably resulted in the discovery of greater reserves than any other geologist."

Iran and Iraq were already important oil producers. But the enormous volumes of cheap Saudi oil fuelled the postwar economic boom. They made possible mass-market motoring, suburbia, globalized trade, and routine air travel. The West was able to out-compete the Soviet Union; Japan, without fossil fuels of its own, became the world's second-largest economy. Modern medicine may tend to 7 billion people, but it is mechanized agriculture and chemical fertilizers that feed them. Now, China and India are adopting the same lifestyle, with powerful impacts on global energy markets and the environment.

Steineke was one in a line of geologists whose discoveries have powered our civilization with coal, oil, gas, and uranium. We could also mention the Soviet greats, or the visionary scientists who discovered North Sea oil in the 1970s, uncovered the giant Brazilian "pre-salt" oil fields in 2006, and created the U.S. shale gas revolution. Their efforts have kept the "peak oil" wolf away.

Yet the extraordinary concentration of petroleum in the Middle East distorted the region's societies. It unleashed the long struggle between companies and governments for control of this unique prize, a battle that led to the formation of OPEC in 1960. And it fuelled a series of wars and embargoes, throwing the world into economic crises, tarnishing oil as geopolitically risky, and furnishing opportunities for several peace prizes.

But geology isn't just about resources. It also promises answers to some of the most profound questions we have, on the origins of life and of human beings. British palaeontologist Simon Conway Morris, a brilliant lecturer, made his name studying Canada's Burgess Shale. Its immaculately preserved fossils are a unique window into the emergence of complex life 500 million years ago, including familiar animals such as molluscs and sponges, but others that are mysterious, including *Hallucigenia*, a spiny-backed worm with legs.

It is humbling to reflect that the tiny eel-like *Pikaia* in the Smithsonian museum may be the ancestor of all vertebrates -- FP readers as well as our pet cats and goldfish, the crows cawing outside, and Tyrannosaurus Rex.

Yet in contrast to the aggressive atheism of Richard Dawkins, Conway Morris has sought to reconcile evolution with his Christian faith, speaking out against both creationism and reductionist genetics. "Of all the possible examples of evolution can there be a more glorious accident ... than human intelligence? But is this correct?" he has said. "Rather than trudging across the arid landscapes skimpily sketched by the materialists, we need to accept the invitation and accompany the Artist that brought Creation into being."

The final nominee, geologist of ancient climates Wallace Broecker of Columbia University, created the expression "Global Warming" in 1975 upon realizing that burning coal, oil, and gas was leading to rapid accumulation of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. Broecker made fundamental discoveries about global oceanic circulation and the carbon cycle.

One of his most important observations: "The climate system is an angry beast, and we are poking at it with sticks." He has documented severe, persistent dry periods in California during medieval times, suggesting the state's modern climate is unusually wet. This summer's droughts, and the unexpectedly rapid disappearance of Arctic ice, remind us of the possibility of sharp tipping points in climate as we continue our unintentional and perilous experiment with the atmosphere.

Broecker, who is still going strong at 80 years old, advocates carbon sequestration -- taking carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and disposing of it safely in rocks underground -- as one way of tackling the problem, but is not optimistic. As one of his colleagues puts it, "Whenever we sit around over beers at one of these conferences, we talk about where we think we'll be 50 years from now. To a man, the answer is: carbon dioxide will still be rising. Climate will have changed. We'll have developed sequestration

technologies -- and maybe they'll be doing 3 percent of what's needed."

For the profound importance of his work to the future of humanity as much as its past, Broecker is my choice for inaugural winner of the geology Nobel. Geologists have been too successful: having "conferred the greatest benefits" on 20th-century humanity, now they are turning to saving it in the 21st.

From http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2012/10/16/rock_stars?page=0_1

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Drop of Water Test for Topaz

Quartz and topaz are not easy to separate by eye, and sometimes it is impossible when the quartz is a true topaz color. There is a big difference in price between the two, and anyone describing quartz as "topaz," however innocently, may well be in trouble.

Topaz is quite a different mineral and is harder than quartz. Because of this, a drop of water will not spread on topaz but will spread on quartz.

Clean the stone as effectively as possible with a cloth or handkerchief to remove all traces of grease. It must be dry before the test. Then place a spot of clean water on it with a thin glass or metal rod. On stones with a hardness of less than 7 on the Mohs scale, the water is dispersed. On harder stones it will remain a globule. The harder the stone, the more rounded will be the globule.

From *The Backbender's Gazette* July 2011, <http://www.hqms.org/>

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Penn Researchers Find New Way to Mimic the Color and Texture of Butterfly Wings

October 10, 2012

By Evan Lerner, elerner@upenn.edu, 215-573-6604

PHILADELPHIA — The colors of a butterfly's wings are unusually bright and beautiful and are the result of an unusual trait; the way they reflect light is fundamentally different from how color works most of the time.

A team of researchers at the University of Pennsylvania has found a way to generate this kind of "structural color" that has the added benefit of another trait of butterfly wings: super-hydrophobicity, or the ability to strongly repel water.

The research was led by [Shu Yang](#), associate professor in the [Department of Materials Science and Engineering](#) at Penn's [School of Engineering and Applied Science](#), and included other members of her group: Jie Li, Guanquan Liang and Xuelian Zhu.

Their research was published in the journal [Advanced Functional Materials](#).

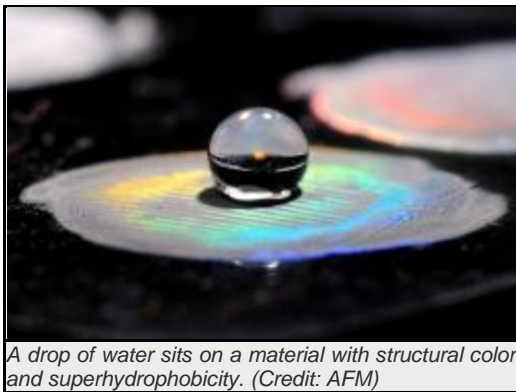
"A lot of research over the last 10 years has gone into trying to create structural colors like those found in nature, in things like butterfly wings and opals," Yang said. "People have also been interested in creating superhydrophobic surfaces which is found in things like lotus leaves, and in butterfly wings, too, since they couldn't stay in air with raindrops clinging to them."

The two qualities — structural color and superhydrophobicity — are related by structures. Structural color is the result of periodic patterns, while superhydrophobicity is the result of surface roughness

When light strikes the surface of a periodic lattice, it's scattered, interfered or diffracted at a wavelength comparable to the lattice size, producing a particularly bright and intense color that is much stronger than color obtained from pigments or dyes.



Shu Yang



A drop of water sits on a material with structural color and superhydrophobicity. (Credit: AFM)

When water lands on a hydrophobic surface, its roughness reduces the effective contact area between water and a solid area where it can adhere, resulting in an increase of water contact angle and water droplet mobility on

to develop such coatings for solar panels.

The researchers have ideas for how the two traits could be combined in one application, as well.

"Specifically, we're interested in putting this kind of material on the outside of buildings," Yang said. "The structural color we can produce is bright and highly decorative, and it won't fade away like conventional pigmentation color dyes. The introduction of nano-roughness will offer additional benefits, such as energy efficiency and environmental friendliness.

"It could be a high-end facade for the aesthetics alone, in addition to the appeal of its self-cleaning properties. We are also developing energy efficient building skins that will integrate such materials in optical sensors."

The research was supported by the Office of Naval Research and the National Science Foundation.

From <http://www.upenn.edu/pennnews/news/penn-researchers-find-new-way-mimic-color-and-texture-butterfly-wings>

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From Rags to Riches

By Peter Greisl

Chapter 28 – The Mine Collapse

such surface.

While trying to combine these traits, engineers have to go through complicated, multi-step processes, first to create color-providing 3D structures out of a polymer, followed by additional steps to make them rough in the nanoscale. These secondary steps, such as nanoparticle assembly, or plasma etching, must be performed very carefully as to not vary the optical property determined by the 3D periodic lattice created in the first step.

Yang's method begins with a non-conventional photolithography technique, holographic lithography, where a laser creates a cross-linked 3D network from a material called a photoresist. The photoresist material in the regions that are not exposed to the laser light are later removed by a solvent, leaving the "holes" in the 3D lattice that provides structural color.

Instead of using nanoparticles or plasma etching, Yang's team was able to add the desired nano-roughness to the structures by simply changing solvents after washing away the photoresist. The trick was to use a poor solvent; the better a solvent is, the more it tries to maximize the contact with the material. Bad solvents have the opposite effect, which the team used to its advantage at the end of the photolithography step.

"The good solvent causes the structure to swell," Yang said. "Once it has swollen, we put in the poor solvent. Because the polymer hates the poor solvent, it crunches in and shrivels, forming nanospheres within the 3D lattice.

"We found that the worse the solvent we used, the more rough we could make the structures," Yang said.

Both superhydrophobicity and structural color are in high demand for a variety of applications. Materials with structural color could be used in as light-based analogs of semiconductors, for example, for light guiding, lasing and sensing. As they repel liquids, superhydrophobic coatings are self-cleaning and waterproof. Since optical devices are highly dependent on their degree of light transmission, the ability to maintain the device surface's dryness and cleanliness will minimize the energy consumption and negative environmental impact without the use of intensive labors and chemicals. Yang has recently [received a grant](#)



Yang's group has a new way of combining the structural color and superhydrophobicity found in butterfly wings (Credit: AFM)

The move went well, Jack Dutton was paid up to date and everything was done, The Generator set up, the light bulbs changed and the Cutting Equipment set up in the Shed with an extension cord.

Of course Chris put her female touch to the place and it turned out to be a very nice and comfortable place.

Johnny's room was also very nice and he felt great about it. The real thing I liked was the Shower, no more buckets.

Anyhow all on all it was a transition which will make the stay in Andamooka more palatable.

The weekend went by without any problems hassles as a matter of fact, I was at the VW outside the House and these Land Cruiser drove up and slowed down, a head of a fairly young guy popped out the window and Introduce himself as Doug Johnson and he pointed in the direction of these lavishly Abode and said that where he lives, we shook hands and I said "I am here at Anne's Place with my wife, daughter and Partner, he did mention that Anne told him about us coming. He said we must come over some time and enjoy a drink with him when he spends more time on the field again he is very busy in Adelaide and flying back and forward. He also told me that Harry was taking him to the Air Strip when he flies out and brings the Land Cruiser back to his place and locks it up. I said to him, "If it is any help I am quite happy to do this for you since we are so close to you." "Actually Harry suggested that to me when he told me they were leaving the fields, well how about you come over with your wife on Tuesday after work about 5pm and we have drink and I tell you basically what I need to have done when the time comes." He replied. I accepted and we said good bye and he went to his place.

I got inside and told Chris about it and she said "That's fine."

The rest of the evening was spent in dreaming about the big Opal find and forming strategic action plans of the mining activity.

We had dinner and decided we have an early night, Johnny went to have the first shower, I told him to do the same thing, to rinse the body turn of the water and lather himself , and then turn on the water for washing of the soap to conserve water. He agreed and after the shower he said good night and went to his room.

Beatrix was next and then I and Chris. It was bliss, I felt like a human again. But I could not get the Opal mining activity out of my mind, I can hardly wait to get the Compressor and get my hands on the Jack hammer and gouge out the dirt to get closer to the Pot of Opal at the end of the Rainbow.

I was in Bed already and Chris joined me shortly after, what a great feeling it was lying in a proper bed again.

Chris snuggled up and put her head on my shoulder and started to tell me how happy she is now, but what worries her is that I will be very disappointed if we did not find the Pot of Opal as I called it. I stroked her hair and said to her, "Sweetheart I know I will find it is going to be a hard slog, but I will not be defeated, and if I have to sink a new shaft on a different hill, well so be it." We have all the equipment to do this, the only thing I don't have is enough time myself to work in the claim." "I am concerned that Johnny will get fed up with no or very little help from me, as it is no pleasure to dig out the dirt or blast it out then fill the buckets and climb up and pull them up, empty them send them down one by one and climb down and fill them, you this after each blast about 12 times up and down. I done for a short period of time as you know and it is back breaking, By the way I must not forget to give Johnny the wind sock to take with him and I steal a broom handle from you and bring one back from the co-op, he will need it to span the windsock across the handle and secure it to the winch and then air will be blowing down the shaft."

I don't think Chris heard the last few words, I closed my eyes and pictured me holding in my hand a beautiful piece of red orange Crystal Opal in my hand, and with this picture in my mind I drifted off in to most peaceful and relaxing sleep I had for a long time.

I felt some tugging on my blanket, as I opened my eyes there was little Beatrix holding a cup of coffee and she is calling, "Daddy wake up you must go to work." I smiled and said "Is this coffee for me?" She nodded, I took it and it was like Nectar of the gods after a good night sleep.

I got up and went to the Kitchen there was Johnny sitting already having Toast, Bacon and Eggs for breakfast. "Good morning all" I said, kissed Chris on the cheek and sat down and Chris was serving me the same. I said to Johnny "ready for action," As ready as I ever will be he replied." He got up and started singing: "Hi Li Hi Lo off to work I go," grabbed the thermos and lunch bag, I smiled and said, "That's the Spirit Son," and don't come home without any Opal," You bet, I feel it in my water, this is the Day, I had a great sleep I feel full of Vim and Vigor, watch out here comes Johnny." He crooned. And he went out the door.

I said to Chris, "This is amazing what this new place does to everyone, how you feel?" Chris replied "I feel great I had a good rest and I was nice getting up and walking out of a bedroom into a functional Kitchen, that's why you guys got the breakfast so quickly and Beatrix insisted to bring you the coffee and wake you up, let's hope this is a good omen."

I hope and wish with you Darling; I better shake a leg and get also going and don't get paranoid if we not home early I like to put in some time with Johnny, and help getting the claim ready for the next morning with him so he does not have to start the day out with pulling buckets." Chris said by the way you forgot to give Johnny the Windsock." I will take it with me and that way I can get a broom handle from the co-op." I better get going and you and the little one enjoy the new place." I continued and walked to car, Beatrix came and kissed me good bye so as Chris and I drove off.

As I arrived there was quite some activity at the Co-op lot of People where there and also the Police etc.

I asked Doug what was going on, he told me that they found an aboriginal woman with her head bashed in, and they arrested the White Abo, the one who sold me the Stuart Creek Opal chips which I still have. Apparently they were drunk and fighting over some metho, and he clubbed her. I went inside the butcher shop and started my daily routine. It was always quiet on Mondays that gave me an opportunity to make sausages so I did not have to stay back this arvo.

Closer to closing time I started to clean up the shop and a few minutes after official closing I Left to drive to the claim.

When I got there, Johnny was up on the top and pulling buckets. "The last one," you just in time to drop the level," he shouted. He switched of the winch and I said to him why don't we put another charge and pull that dirt tonight and then tomorrow you have a greater amount of level to drop."

He replied, well that's ok with you being here now let's do it." "By the way I got the windsock for you, with a brand new broom handle." I said to him, "Bloody Beauty" he screamed, "Now we cooking with gas."

We quickly set it up on the winch and dropped the Shute down the shaft and it was just a couple feet of the bottom and perfect to blow any draft in to the tunnels.

We got down and I had a look and said to Johnny "where is the level?" "That's what I want to find out I think there is a slip somewhere here." He replied, "let's hope we find it with the next blast.", I looked and said to him the gypsum band is very narrow, it is normally twice as thick, isn't this Gypsum the main strength of supporting the roof of the tunnels?" I asked.

He replied "Yes it is but it what we still got here is ok, I am sure." "Well you the expert who am I to question things, so let's do it."

We drilled alternatively and prepared the charges and this time Johnny decided to put in three.

After everything is done, I said "you can set them I go up." He nodded, I grabbed everything and took it to the shaft and went up the top.

Not much later Johnny appeared and we waited for the three detonations.

And there they were, one after another just like clockwork. We could see how the windsock pushed the gaseous air out of the shaft. We waited a few minutes and we went down. I got down first and lit my lamp and crawled in and I just Screamed out, "Bloody Hell I don't belief that," Johnny came and just said "Holy Shit the whole lot came down," The main tunnel and the two tunnels we started were buried with mountains of dirt which spilled right back to where the main pillar is. So my assumption was right and maybe we should not have put three charges, we crawled up the dirt mount to see what's left holding the rest up, the only thing what holding up the rest is sandstone and clay. I said to Johnny, "I think I was right about the gypsum band." Johnny agreed and said I should have only used two charges, what a mess, I can see a gap so everything did not come down, but will it if we clean out the mess, among all that crap here there could be the slip or the opal level appearing again." There are only two options we have" I said, "Clear out the dirt over the next couple of days or start a tunnel behind the ladder, as this is virgin ground." Johnny replied well we can do that but I think we should keep going in the direction we found all the chips from which means cleaning out the mess." Since the claim was heavily worked anyhow why was there no tunnel behind the ladder, they just opened it out a little obviously there were no traces so they did not continue, if that makes any sense."

Unfortunately I have to agree with Johnny and said "well let's do it and hope the whole shebang does not come down on us as we clean out."

Once the decision was made we did not waste any time and we started shoveling and pushing buckets, I said "I take the first shift on the Winch with 10 buckets then we swap." Johnny agreed and I went up when the three buckets were full, before I went up Johnny told me to tip them out in a neutral spot so we can look through it as the first few buckets will be all the material from the roof and there could be a Opal level or pockets with material in there. I nodded and up I went, it started to get dark I shouted down to Johnny to send me up a hurricane lamp.

I started the winch and pulled the first bucket with my lamp on it, I found a spot and put the pipe in this direction so I and slide the bucket on it.

I noticed the first three buckets were gypsum lumps, which I dumped somewhere else. Once the gypsum was up and dirt started to come I dumped this at the spot I selected, the next 5 buckets, I tipped at the same place and then it was my turn to fill them.

Johnny came up and he was perspiring like a pig. I went down and Hooked up the first bucket for him and then the next and the next.

I shoveled and pushed, and shoveled and pushed. It was a back breaking job. I think Mother Nature is paying us back for trying to rob her of the "Rainbow Rock" But as hard as it is to reach this beautiful Gem I have no desire to quit, I noticed I developed blisters from the shovel handle as the dirt keeps rubbing, and it is burning like hell. After my 10 Buckets, I shouted to Johnny "Are you ready for another lot or you want to call it a night?"

He replied let's do another shift each ok? I said "Ok, but I have to get some first aid activity going." He looked and said "wash your hands to get all the grit off where the skins is gone and wrap a rag around it." He poured some water over it and it burnt like crazy and I wrapped a rag around it which Johnny tied a knot into it. I said "when you get to Adelaide you can apply for a job as a Nurse." He laughed and said "well let's keep the momentum going before I decide to collapse," "I feel the same way, "I replied.

Johnny went down and we started the same routine again, then it was my turn, and it got harder and harder, it seems the shovel is getting heavier and heavier and the buckets bigger and bigger. My back was killing me, my hands burnt like as they were on fire but it did not give in I was more and more determined to finish my shift.

Finally I filled my last Bucket and I knew it will be the end for this night.

I got up after the three buckets were own and said to Johnny " I am really stuffed. I wish I had a bathtub; I would soak in it all night."

He smiled and said, "I know how you feel, tomorrow bring some lard from the shop and before you start shoveling which you will, you rub your hands with lard that makes the skin smooth and soft and you skin will move with the rubbing and not break."

He went down and we finished the next ten buckets, and when he came up he said "we have at least another evening to do before we see what is left of the tunnel I will be shoveling all day also, but I will take it slower so I am not worn out before you got there." He put all the gear in to the Ute and pulled down the windsock and wrapped it up and put it on the Ute as well.

I said, "Let's go home." We drove home and Chris was sitting outside on the bench in front of the house and was waiting for us. We went inside and I told her what was happening and she could not believe what we told her, then she saw my makeshift bandages and said, "My God what happened,

"I unwrapped the hands and she saw how the skin was off between the Thumb and the index finger on both hands. She got a bowl with warm water and put in some Dettol antiseptic. And pushed my hands into it, I shouted "Shit that burns," just soak it she replied, while I am getting dinner."

"What's for dinner" I asked, Chris replied, "Rissoles and Mash Potatoes"

"Bring it on Girl; I could eat a Horse and the Jockey."

Beatrix came up and said you hurt Daddy, I said "yes Pumpkin only a little, I will be ok by tomorrow."

I told Chris what Johnny said about the Lard, she said, "that does make sense, but tomorrow you will be with bandages I put on for you in the morning, tonight we leave it open so it dries up, I put some lanolin cream on it."

We had dinner, and Johnny was very quiet as he was tired also, I said, "Go and have your shower mate, and hit the sack," I will he replied and disappeared in to the bathroom. Chris gently is washing the wounds and the patting them dry, the burning sensation has ceased and I said "I will have my shower when Johnny is finished and hit the sack, but could you please give me a good back massage with Denco Rub?" "Of course" Chris replied.

While I was waiting for Johnny to appear Chris told me that Marianne called in to introduce herself, she is the wife of Blue the drunk driver.

Chris said she is a lovely lady and told her about the drinking problems of her husband and how she has to always argue and fight to get some money from him for food etc. I told Chris how sad situations like that are but don't get too involved with it. It could back fire when something goes wrong.

Chris agreed.

Johnny appeared and said a quick good night and left. I got in to the shower and when I was finished I went to bed and Chris told me she be in shortly she just wants to put Beatrix to bed. I nodded and went to the bedroom.

Not too long after Chris came and turned me over and gave me a massage.

When she finished she said she is just washing the dishes and coming to bed also. I just nodded and drifted off to sleep.

+++++

November 2012 Gem & Mineral Shows

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

3-4—ANAHEIM, CA: Annual show; American Opal Society; White House West Wing Event Center; Hobby City/Adventure City, 1238 S. Beach Blvd.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$3.50, children (under 15) free; opal and gem dealers from the US, Australia and other countries, rough and cut opals, gemstones, books, jewelry tools and supplies, prize drawing, free opal seminars, free demonstrations, gem cutting, jewelry making, gem carving, wire wrapping, inlay, faceting, cabbing; contact Pete Goetz, (714) 530-3530; e-mail: info@opalsociety.org; Web site: <http://opalsociety.org>

3-4—LANCASTER, CA: Annual show; Palmdale Gem & Mineral Club; Antelope Valley Fairgrounds; 2551 W. Ave. H; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4; free admission; dealers, displays, Dino Show; contact Cheri George, PO Box 900279, Palmdale, CA 93590, (562) 243-8470; e-mail: pgmc@antelcom.net; Web site: www.palmdalegemandmineral.com

3-4—SAN DIEGO, CA: Annual show; San Diego Mineral & Gem Society; Al Bahr Shrine; 5440 Kearny Mesa Rd.; Sat. 9:30-5, Sun. 10-4; free admission; free gem identification, more than 12, more than 40 exhibits, demonstrators, faceting, lost wax casting, silver chain making, sphere making, wire wrapping, Junior's booth, club sales, slabs, books, magazines, door prizes, field trip information; contact Bob Hancock, (619) 889-6886; e-mail: rhobhancock@cs.com; Web site: www.sdmg.org

9-11—SANTA ANA, CA: Fall West Coast Gem & Mineral Show; Martin Zinn Expositions LLC; Holiday Inn - Orange County Airport; 2726 S. Grand Ave.; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; free admission; 80 retail and wholesale dealers; contact Martin Zinn Expositions, PO Box 665, Bernalillo, NM 87004-0665; e-mail: mzexpos@gmail.com; Web site: www.mzexpos.com

10—VALLEJO, CA: Show and sale; Vallejo Gem & Mineral Society; Vallejo Vets Bldg.; 420 Admiral Callaghan Ln.; Sat. 9-5; adults \$1, children (under 14) free with adult; rocks, beads, jewelry, fossils, crystals, meteorites, crafts; contact Dan Wolke, 255 Essex Way, Benicia, CA 94510, (707) 745-1816; e-mail: dncwolke@sbcglobal.net

10-11—SACRAMENTO, CA: 76th annual show; Sacramento Mineral Society; Scottish Rite Temple; 6151 H St.; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4; adults \$5, children (12 and under) free; crystals, fossils, beads, gemstones, meteorites, jade, gold, prize drawings, auctions, demonstrations, exhibits, kids' area, \$1-off coupon on Web site; contact Stanley Henneman, (916) 363-5011; e-mail: lakota27@sbcglobal.net; Web site: www.sacramentomineralsociety.org

10-11—YUBA CITY, CA: Annual show; Sutter Buttes Gem & Mineral Society; Yuba-Sutter Fairgrounds; 442 Franklin Ave.; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-4; free admission; dealers, exhibits, jewelry, demonstrations, youth activities, rock auction; contact Sutter Buttes Gem & Mineral Society, PO Box 269, Marysville, CA 95901; e-mail: show@sutterbuttes.net; Web site: <http://sutterbuttes.net/Show.html>

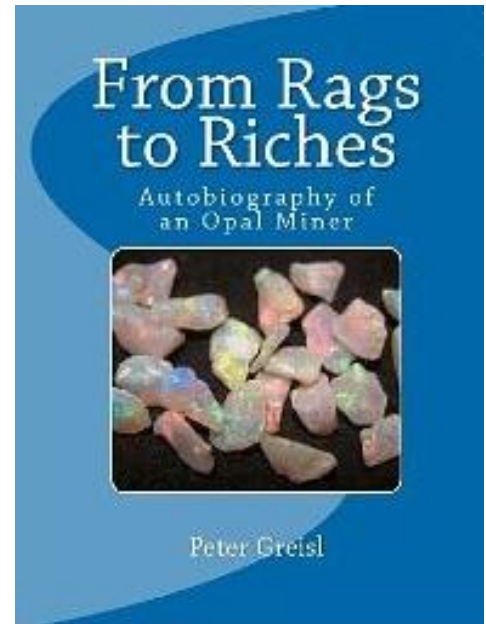
17-18—LIVERMORE, CA: Annual show; Livermore Valley Lithophiles; The 'BARN'; 3131 Pacific Ave.; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4; adults \$5, children (12 and under) free; contact William Beiriger, PO Box 626, Livermore, CA 94551-0626, (925) 443-5769; e-mail: info@lithophiles.com; Web site: www.lithophiles.com

24-25—MONTEREY, CA: Annual show; Gem Faire Inc.; Monterey County Fairgrounds; 2004 Fairground Rd.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; free admission; jewelry, gems, beads, crystals, silver, rocks, minerals, exhibitors, on-site jewelry repair; contact Yooy Nelson, (503) 252-8300; e-mail: info@gemfaire.com; Web site: www.gemfaire.com

24-25—SAN FRANCISCO, CA: Show, "San Francisco Crystal Fair"; Pacific Crystal Guild; Fort Mason Center; 99 Marina Blvd.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-4; adults \$6, children (under 12) 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

"FROM RAGS TO RICHES"

The book, ***From Rags to Riches*** by Peter Greisl, that has been printed a chapter at a time in this newsletter is finally in print. ***From Rags to Riches*** is the autobiography of a real opal miner in the Australian Outback town of Andamooka.



To purchase the book, please visit the website, <http://opallover.com> and follow the online purchasing instructions.

You can also contact Peter Greisl personally and place an order. You can contact Peter at +61 417 555923 or e-mail him at gem@opallover.com. Peter will accept MasterCard, Visa, or PayPal.

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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	
TOTAL PAID DUES plus International, Print or Badge Fees if Applicable:			

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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 #45 Issue #11
November 2012**

Some Topics In This Issue:

- Show Recap
- Dealers for the Opal & Gem Show
- Seminars for the Opal & Gem Show
- Rock Stars
- Drop of Water Test for Topaz
- Researchers Find New Way to Mimic the Color of Butterflies
- From Rags to Riches – Ch. 28 – the Mine Collapse

Important Dates:

November 8 - General Meeting:
Opal & Gem Show Recap 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)

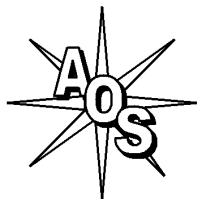
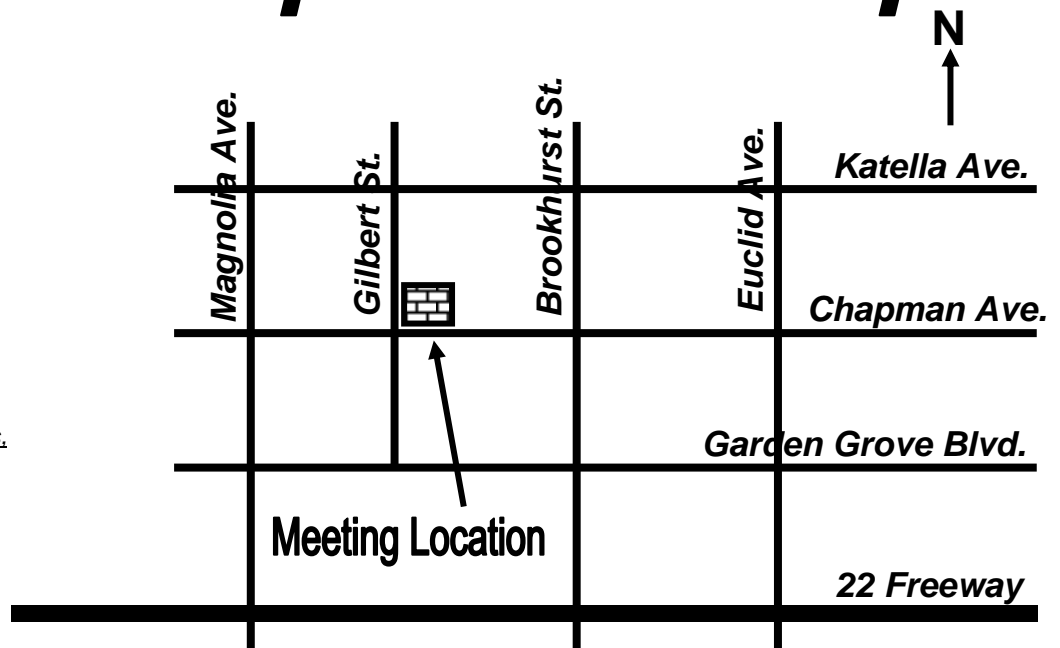
MEETING ACTIVITIES

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

TO:

November 8

Opal Show Recap



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

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