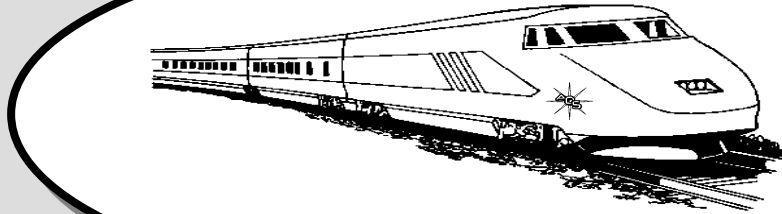


# The Opal Express

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## Members Only Website Password

Name: "member"; Password: "opalholic".

## Opal Show News

*By Veronica Purpura*

I've met with our new coordinator at the Business Expo Center to get him up-to-date with various aspects of our show and what's been previously agreed upon. He is also verifying some extra items for me. I'm planning a trip to the BEC to map out the electrical layout sometime in September. Over half of the dealer tables have been sold and the AOS is current on its venue payments. I am hoping for a chance to request the BEC to become a PokeStop (from the app Pokémon GO) as another method of promoting venue visibility (I'll let

you know if I'm successful). Everything else is current on schedule and on track of what could become our greatest show.

Our annual Opal Gem & Jewelry Show, on **Nov. 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>**, will have a new home this year at:

**The Business Expo Center  
1960 S Anaheim Way  
Anaheim, CA 92805**

See <http://www.businessexpocenter.com/>

## AOS Facebook Page

The American Opal Society has had a Facebook page for the last three years. Kathy James has volunteered to manage it and is doing a great job adding new content. Please visit and give it some good "LIKES" and add your favorite opal picture, story, article, etc. The AOS Facebook page is located at:

<https://www.facebook.com/AmericanOpalSociety>

## Important General Meeting Information

The next General meeting will be Wednesday, Aug. 24, 2016.

The General Meetings will now be held on:

**The Fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) Wednesday of the Month**

The new location is:

**Garden Grove Masonic Center  
11270 Acacia Parkway  
Garden Grove, CA 92840**

## AOS Calendar

Date	Day of Week	Meeting Location	Meeting Topic / Speaker
01/27/16	Wednesday	<a href="#">Garden Grove Masons Lodge</a>	Stan McCall on Quartzsite, Arizona
02/24/16	Wednesday	<a href="#">Garden Grove Masons Lodge</a>	Russ Madsen on Volcanic Opal
03/23/16	Wednesday	<a href="#">Garden Grove Masons Lodge</a>	Opal Appraisal / Workshop Session
04/27/16	Wednesday	<a href="#">Garden Grove Masons Lodge</a>	Stan McCall on Lost Wax Casting / 3D Printing
05/25/16	Wednesday	<a href="#">Garden Grove Masons Lodge</a>	Geology of Opal in the Great Artesian Basin By Pete Goetz
06/22/16	Wednesday	<a href="#">Garden Grove Masons Lodge</a>	Live Opal Auction
07/27/16	Wednesday	<a href="#">Garden Grove Masons Lodge</a>	Pete Goetz on Cutting Lightning Ridge Black Opal
<b>08/24/16</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b><a href="#">Garden Grove Masons Lodge</a></b>	<b>Opal Cutting Seminar</b>
09/28/16	Wednesday	<a href="#">Garden Grove Masons Lodge</a>	To Be Announced
10/26/16	Wednesday	<a href="#">Garden Grove Masons Lodge</a>	Opal & Gem Show Work Session
11/05/16	Saturday	<a href="#">Business Expo Center</a>	49th Annual Opal & Gem Show
11/06/16	Sunday	<a href="#">Business Expo Center</a>	49th Annual Opal & Gem Show
11/23/16	Wednesday	<a href="#">Garden Grove Masons Lodge</a>	Opal & Gem Show Recap / Possible Speaker
12/28/16	Wednesday	<a href="#">Garden Grove Masons Lodge</a>	AOS Christmas Party Potluck

## AOS Aug. 24<sup>th</sup> Meeting: Opal Cutting Seminar

This month we will be having an **Opal Cutting Seminar**. We will have at least two Diamond Pacific Pixie lapidary sets available. Also, the Opal Society's experienced cutters will be there to demonstrate and help. Bring in your rough opal to cut. The AOS will also provide rough. This is a fun and educational event.

### Lightning Ridge Opal for Sale at Aug. 24<sup>th</sup> Meeting

Frank Gross, long time member of the AOS, has returned to the USA from Australia, where he has lived for the last 6 years.

Frank, about 10 years ago, would travel to Australia, and would purchase parcels of opal from dealers in Lightning Ridge that a number of us would go in on. When back in the states, we would have a ceremonious "opening" of the opal from the 4-5 members who contributed. Those were exciting days for us; we got some great opal!

Frank is visiting his brother in Palos Verdes and is selling their house so his brother can move to smaller premises. In a closet he discovered a very large, heavy traveler's bag of Lightning Ridge opal rough and rub.

He does not want to take this heavy item back to Australia. He is offering it for sale to the members of the AOS at prices that cannot be refused. When you see it you can make an offer and he is sure you will get your parcel/s at a price cheaper than what he paid back in the 2000s.

**BRING CASH** for some great deals! I know I will!

After you buy the opal, you can practice cutting it at our Opal Cutting Seminar!

### President's Message

*By Pete Goetz*

Greetings fellow opalholics:

This is your August Prez-newz updates.

**BOARD MEETINGS:** First, all board members hear ye hear ye - Board of Directors meeting is the third Monday of each month at the Mason's Hall (same building as the general meetings). Please try to be there, we need to gang up on the show and your participation is important.

The August board meeting is Monday August 15<sup>th</sup> 7:00 pm. This month the board will be reviewing the financial position of the show and looking for new ideas to reach the public. Members are also welcome at all board meetings. If you are a member wondering how you can help make YOUR Opal Society a better club, come on out and share your thoughts.

**OPAL SHOW:** Veronica is doing a great job of getting dealers signed up and the floor plan laid out. Kathy is doing a fantastic job with the Opal Society Facebook page (go LIKE it!). Jim Pisani continues to make the AOS webpage one of the best rockhound club pages.

Here's how your club needs YOU - We need a media outreach person (or team) who will engage local news stations and publications with our Opal Show Press Release. If you are available to make phone calls or, better yet, schedule yourself to a visit with a reporter, for example at the offices of Orange County Register or the LA Times, we believe the show will be well received as a subject for a published article.

**GENERAL MEETINGS:** August general meeting is Wednesday August 24<sup>th</sup> 7:00 pm: our topic this month is an opal cutting seminar. We will have pixies at the meeting room and members and guests will have the opportunity to watch, ask questions and learn, or "take the wheel" and do some cutting with guidance from our experts and

experienced hobbyist lapidaries. If you have pieces of opal you don't know how to approach cutting, bring those and participate in Q&A. Everyone gains from questions - and that includes the most basic questions, "Which side of the rough opal is the top?" "How do I know when to stop cutting and look?" (Paul Downing's advice here - cut a little, look a lot.) "What about the finished shape of my opal? Does it have to be a certain size oval? Can it be round? Or pear shaped?" We need a bigger turnout for our general meetings. This is where we feed each other's love of opal. Your passion and participation are important to the chemistry of AOS being an active vibrant club. Please be a part!

**MEETING SPEAKER SCHEDULE:** We are looking for someone to take up the role of scheduling meeting speakers. This is another way you can participate in making the club run well by making phone calls. You will be talking to interesting people who have skills and abilities the club will enjoy. The primary focus is on opal, but we are also seeking talks on any & all aspects of jewelry making, metalsmithing, enameling, rockhounding sites, other topics on websites and articles in the literature.

Meeting topic ideas:

- Opal identification (where did the material come from - why might that matter?), opal valuation using the American Opal Society Opal Identification and Valuation Guide
- Opal locations in the Americas, did you know there is a mine for sale in the Virgin Valley right now (the Opal Negra mine)?
- Field trip ideas: trips to local museums with gem-related displays
- LA Natural History Museum Trip
- San Diego Museum Trip
- Gemological Institute of America
- Digging field trip - Gold Rock Ranch (near Wiley Wells)

**OPAL SHOW PARCEL:** check out the AOS Facebook page for a series of photos of a fantastic stone exhibiting what is being termed liquid color play found in a share of a parcel obtained as a group buy at the 2015 Opal Show. Watch for a video which will be posted soon. If you are still reading, good on ya mate! Hope to see all you all at the August meeting!!!

### Pete's Opal Surprise

*By Kathy James*

Pete Goetz, Russ Madsen, Jim Pisani and Jay Carey, members of the American Opal Society, went in shares on a parcel of Lightning Ridge opal rough. Each share was just over 150 grams.

Russ and Jim thought there were three to four pieces that had some promise, but Jay didn't think he had anything in his parcel that could be worked.





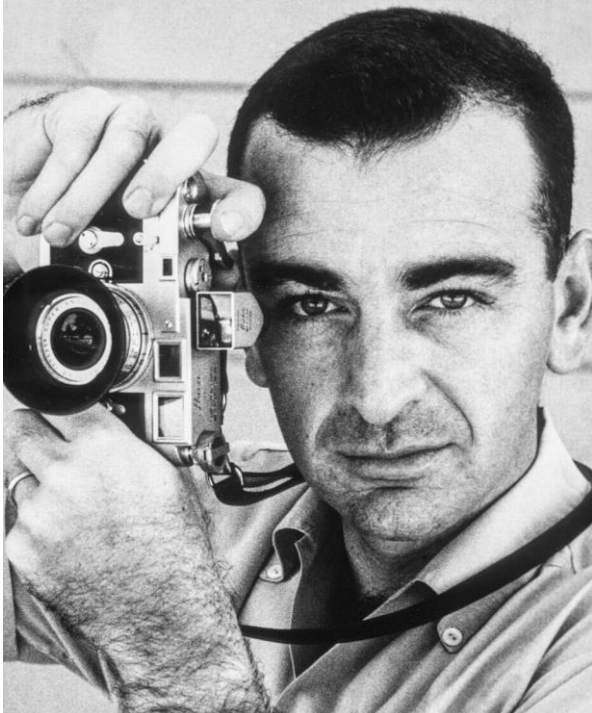


Pete picked one piece from his share to work on - a chunk of mudball, and got down to a nodule of gray base opal. No color play was showing. He then ground into the nodule and hit this uneven color bar. It showed promise and he judged it was beyond his skill level to continue working the rough.

Pete took it the nodule over to Stan McCall, American Opal Society Vice President, who is an expert opal cutter and jeweler. He soon received a call from Stan to come over to the shop. Thinking that the opal had cracked, Pete went to the shop and was in for a major surprise when he saw the finished stone! The stone is worth ten times what he paid for his of the original parcel. Needless to say, he is extremely happy with the finished opal.

The pictures are all of the same opal!

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**Fred Ward 1935-2016**

**Fred Ward is well-known in the Gem World for his many books on Gemstones, including Opal. Fred, with his wife Charlotte, gave a lecture in Jan. 2012 at the AOS General Meeting. Godspeed, Fred! The Editor.**

**Like Forrest Gump, Photographer Fred Ward Witnessed, Captured History**



*Fred Ward, the photographer who shot major world figures like JFK, Castro and the Beatles, is captured at his lens in his college years at the University of Florida in the late 1950s by his wife Charlotte Ward. Charlotte Ward Courtesy Charlotte Ward*



Actress Elizabeth Taylor reputedly never batted an eye, even during the flash of Fred Ward's camera. Fred Ward. Courtesy Charlotte Ward

By Howard Cohen

Fred Ward's family affectionately dubbed him "the Indiana Jones of photojournalism."

Ward, who died at his Malibu home on July 19 from Alzheimer's at 81, earned the description for a 50-year photographic career that took him across the globe to shoot historical figures, the embattled Everglades and his beloved gemstones.

Among the notables captured by Ward's lens were political figures like presidents John F. Kennedy and Gerald Ford, Cuban dictator Fidel Castro and the Soviet Union's General Secretary Leonid Brezhnev, civil rights leader the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and entertainers such as the Beatles, Elvis Presley, Barbra Streisand and Elizabeth Taylor.

Ward's work has appeared in Life, Time, Newsweek and National Geographic. For National Geographic, he worked as a freelancer and traveled to more than 130 countries from 1964 to 1992. Many of his photos are on display at the Library of Congress, the Metropolitan Museum of Art and even in space aboard the Voyager spacecraft.

Like the fictional movie character, one could also call Ward a Forrest Gump-figure for his omnipresence at so many significant events as history unfolded before his gaze.

When Kennedy was assassinated in November 1963, Ward caught Jacqueline Kennedy returning to Washington with her husband's blood still caked on her pink Chanel suit. He was there, too, to photograph a solemn image of his widow and their children watching the funeral procession as his casket left the White House. The photo was emblazoned on Life's cover.

That year, Ward also snapped civil rights activist Gloria Richardson as she batted away a bayoneted rifle of a National Guardsman that had been pointed in her direction during a demonstration in Cambridge, Maryland.

In 1964, he snapped the Beatles' first U.S. concert at the Washington Coliseum. He shot photos of a probing King in portraiture and a triumphant Robert Kennedy on the campaign trail — just before they were assassinated in 1968. During the 1970s, Ward traveled to Cuba for a series of candid photos of Castro that were compiled into his book, "Inside Cuba Today," in 1978.

Ward had a Miami history. When Elvis Presley hit South Florida for a series of concerts at downtown Miami's Olympia Theater in August 1956, Ward was there as an intern for the former Miami Daily News.

"The day editor told Fred, 'You're young. Go cover this guy, Elvis Presley,'" said his wife, Charlotte Ward, in an email to the Miami Herald. "Fred spent the day and evening at the Olympia Theater with Elvis, capturing images that still have viability today."

Indeed, Ward managed to find Presley in a pensive mood backstage, the star clad in black with his pant leg rolled up to reveal white loafers. Another caught The King singing before an adoring throng of female fans.

For Ward, born in Huntsville, Alabama, on July 16, 1935, Miami was the start of his career and a location for much of his work. He moved to Miami with his parents in 1948 and attended Ponce de Leon School and then Coral Gables High School, from which he graduated in 1953. There, his speech teacher and debate club coach K. Werner Dixon had a lasting impact. "Mr. Dixon must have recognized his brilliance because he lent Fred his personal camera, a Pentax, and gave him a key to his home so that Fred could learn to develop his photographs," his wife said.

The high school paper published his first shots. So did the Gables High yearbook, which named him "Most Likely to Succeed."

At the University of Florida, he married his wife in 1958, a year after earning his bachelor's in political science and Far East history. In 1959, he earned his master's in journalism and communications at UF.

Ward turned his camera on Florida's fragile environment and the Everglades for National Geographic to make a point.

"With his dear friend and diving buddy Jerry Greenberg, Fred grew concerned about the reef die-offs occurring in and around Pennekamp Park [in Key Largo]," his wife said. Ward took photographs of the reefs and compared his images with those taken 10 years earlier by Greenberg. Ward's pictures revealed whitened and broken coral.

Ward was disheartened. "The editor softened the story by titling it 'The Imperiled Florida Reefs,' but Fred's title was accurate, 'The Dying Florida Reefs' — even more so with the addition of global warming," Charlotte Ward said.

Ward, who published nine books on gems and "Golden Islands of the Caribbean," was named Outstanding Journalist of the Year for 1980 by the Florida Scholastic Press Association. His presidential photographs were exhibited by the International Center of Photography in New York.

"He spent about three months with President Ford and he had incredible access," said David Hume Kennerly, Ford's official White House photographer, in the Washington Post. "They got along great. Fred's disposition was a lot like Ford's."

In addition to his wife, Ward is survived by their children Kimberly Litle, Christopher, Lolly and David Ward, four grandchildren, and his sister Lynn Erckmann. Donations can be made to the Alzheimer's Association for research at [Ward's tribute page](#).

Howard Cohen: [305-376-3619](tel:305-376-3619), [@HowardCohen](#)

Read more here:

<http://www.miamiherald.com/news/local/obituaries/article92343707.html#storylink=cpy>

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***The following are the final chapters of the book From Rags to Riches, by Peter Greisl. The first forty chapters were published in the Opal Express from August 2011 through Nov. 2013. The Editor***

***From Rags to Riches***

## **Chapter 59 - The Death of the VW**

The time passed quickly after the scenario with the claim jumpers, no charge against Peppy, the three guys went to jail; I have not heard anything about the injuries of Will.

With that out of the way we finally have some peace and quiet. Most of the people on holidays returned to the field, when the hottest part was over.

Ludwig came also back and got his Generator back, so they can continue with their claim. The town certainly became more active.

Johnny and I we kept on working away without much success, just enough to keep us interested, but we do know where we feel the mother lode is, in the main pillar of our first shaft. At the present we are not making any money and we just manage to keep our head above water.

The weather started to get cooler as we keep approaching winter.

Chris is getting more and more pregnant and she got all her things together so she is ready when the time comes. The birth is estimated to be middle of July, we have now end of June, everything is organized with the Hospital to prime the Flying doctor for an emergency flight to Port Augusta, also we booked into Port Augusta Hospital, and so this part is ok. We had a few days of bad weather and had to span a tarp across the Shaft entrance to stop the rain washing down of course we could not use the compressor or lighting as we have no cover for it. I am starting to get concerned about the whole matter, we hardly pull anything out at all and it gets more difficult for one person to work this claim and of course it is not fair. I think I have to make a decision after the baby is born in reference of staying in the shop, or see if I can come to some arrangements with Doug about times spent by me in the shop without affecting the business.

Maybe I should be considering putting in this cut and hope it will be the right decision.

Any how we shall see first things first. I have to think of a cover so we can use the machinery. I thought of having four pieces of six foot long by 3x2 inch timbers and bury part of it and then run a couple bearers and put 3 sheet of corrugated iron on top a few nails and we have a 6x4 foot shelter which is plenty to cover the compressor, this will be the weekend job, I am sure Laszlo can help me with this material.

I finished for today and went home and found Chris laying down she does not feel well. I ask her what the problem is, she told me she is losing blood but not too much, I said to her "we better call up into the Hospital and let them check, the Doctor is here tomorrow and he can hopefully tell us what is wrong." Chris agreed and we left it at that.

The evening progressed slowly, I was preparing dinner for all of us and had Chris resting, and everyone was very concerned and made sure not to put Chris into any strenuous situation.

I went across to see Lorraine and ask her if she could take Chris up to the Hospital in the morning as I had to open the Shop, I told her what has happened and she agreed of course and she also offered to look after Beatrix if there are any problems at all. I thanked her for it and went home, I told Chris about it and she was pleased.

The next morning I went to the shop but not before making sure that Chris is ok and ready to go to the hospital with Lorraine. I was at the shop and Doug told me that Hilda is not coming back anymore to the Fields, he said that he will advertise again on the Co- Ops Notice board and the Post Office etc., and hope fully we find someone who could replace her so I can have my time I require for my mining activity. That of course threw a Spanner in to the works and stuffed me up completely, just as I was ready to sort out some time with Doug. Anyhow when the day was over I went home and there was Chris and she looked relieved, She had a checkup and the Doctor told her she ruptured a blood vessel it was nothing serious and there was no danger of any miscarriage.

Well that pleased me, Chris also told me that the time we were given for the birth could have been wrong as the baby dropped already lower than it should be for the so called assumed pregnancy time. I asked her when the baby would then be due; she said beginning of August which is only about 4 weeks.

We continued as nothing had changed, I am in butcher shop and Johnny at the mine, and the results were appalling. Lots of little traces but they did not amount to anything.

Johnny keeps breaking through other drives, and has to change directions. He told me there is something there somewhere but we don't know where.

It started raining again and I had to go to Laszlo and see if he got the material I need for the Shelter. He did have and I said I send Johnny to pick it up with the Ute, I paid him and I went home I saw Johnny and I told him and drew him what I want to erect and ask him to pick it up from Laszlo and if it is not raining to build this bloody thing so we can use the Compressor.

Johnny agreed and I knew it will be done. He did a great job with this Shelter and we can use the equipment now without any worries. Actually Johnny was quite happy to use the compressor again since he had to use the pick and shovel for a few days and Carbide lamps. A couple of uneventful weeks were passing and Chris started to get pains sometimes, which she felt could be Labor pains. I said to her let's not mess around and see if we get you to the hospital in Port Augusta. I went up to the Hospital and saw Vera there and told her of the situation with Chris, she said "I organize the flying Doctor you get her ready; I see if I can have him here in a couple of hours."

I thanked her and went back home I told Chris and she did not want to go and I told her "I don't want any complications, if you have the baby here and there is not a Doctor on hand when the time comes, I would be very worried and paranoid . I rather have you gone a few days earlier and know you are in good hands." She was going to argue and I said to her "Sweetheart I do understand but this subject is not open for discussion.

"You don't have to worry about anything, I am sure Lorraine will take care of Beatrix while you in the hospital, and Johnny and I we can look after our self and Beatrix in the evening." So you better get ready." I went across to Lorraine and told her of what's going on and she immediately said no problem bring the little one over anytime.

I said "I will but this time I take her with me to the Plane so she can say good bye to her mum."

I got Beatrix and told her that mummy is going away for a few days and maybe bring back a sister or a brother, Beatrix was quite excited about that and said, "don't worry mummy I look after daddy and I want you to bring me a little sister," Chris hugged her and told her she will do her best to bring a little girl back as long as she promised that she will listen to Lorraine which will look after her while daddy and Johnny are at work.

She promised she will be good.

Well time was telling us we have to go to meet the plane at the Air Strip, when we got there Vera was there and the Plane just landed, she gave the male nurse which came with the Flying Doctor paperwork for Chris admission to the hospital in Port Augusta. We kissed good bye and Chris got strapped in and the doors closed and the Plane took off on its way to Port Augusta. Vera said to Beatrix, "Your Mummy is going to have a baby and you will have a little sister or brother," Beatrix beamed and said she wants a little sister, but a little brother could be ok also. I said to Vera how can I get in touch with Chris and see how she is doing. Vera said you can come in the evening and I will make contact on the radio and if Chris is ok she can speak with you for a little while. I will be informed as soon as there are any changes or she has given birth and I will inform you immediately, I will call on you and let you know.

I thanked Vera for everything and we went home. I went across to Lorraine and told her Chris sends her love and thanks her for looking after the girl. Lorraine was happy about it.

The next couple of days were sort of very lonely, I managed to speak with Chris, she was fine, one day I got Beatrix with me and she spoke with Chris which ended up in a very happy situation for Beatrix.

Chris has been gone for 4 days, when Vera came to the butcher shop and saw me, I thought she came to buy some meat, but she came to tell me, "Congratulation you are now the proud father of a 9 pound bouncing baby boy." I could not believe it, I hugged her and I ran to the other part of the Co-Op and I saw Doug and told him, and he was very happy for me. Vera said to me before she left "I made arrangements for you to speak with Chris this evening." I thanked her and she smiled and said, Good luck Peter you deserve it, see you tonight."

I went this evening with Beatrix to the Hospital and we spoke with Chris, she was happy to hear from us and I thanked her for the little boy, Beatrix just said, "Oh well a little brother can also be fun, when are you coming home," Chris said, "in a couple of days, which is next Sunday" I told Chris I will pick you up it is only about 300km which takes about 5 hours I have Vera contacting the hospital to find out if it is ok for you to come home on Sunday."

Chris agreed we exchanged I love you's and we went home.

I told Lorraine of what happened and she was ever so pleased. So was Johnny and I told them I will pick up Chris from Port Augusta on Sunday if she is ok to leave.

The next couple days have been taken up with getting gear together for the newborn, like a bassinette or crib which we can put into our bedroom, etc. Lottie the wife of Gus was able to help with that she had bassinette left by someone which was great for us, she did not charge anything and I know Chris got all sort of other stuff together for the little one.

Anyhow cutting a long story short I filled the car on Saturday evening not to waste time the next day.

Sunday morning is here the time is 6am and I was ready to take off.

I prepared some Sandwiches and a flask of coffee, kissed the little one good bye and said I am off I should be back with Mum by 6 pm. I had to be careful as the road was a dirt track till I get to Woomera, after that I had a sealed road. It was a treacherous trip a lot of potholes



which were covered with the red bull dust, so I had to go slower. I also encountered a couple sand dunes but I managed to get over ok. Finally I got to Woomera and I had Bitumen under the wheels and of course I sped up and still hit 80 miles per hour, and we gobbled up mile after mile and just on 11:30am I got to Port Augusta. I did ask at a Gas Station for instruction how to get to the Hospital.

I got there in about 5 minutes and I parked the car and walked in asked all the relevant questions and Ushered in to a Ward where Chris was with the baby, she saw me and smiled and hugged and kissed me and then she pointed at a little Crib right next to her bed. I looked in, and there was this tiny little human being all rugged up and sleeping, when I saw this I was so proud. Chris told me that she has to wait for the doctor which should be here shortly to see if it is ok for her to go home.

She also told me that she can take the Crib with her and to drop it off at the Andamooka Hospital after we finish with it.

The Doctor came finally and he did his examination while I waited outside, he checked the chart and came out and said to me "you can take her home" I replied "thanks doc. I will." Chris got all the medications etc. and given all the other instructions, been told "good luck take care." I grabbed the Crib and carried to the car I put it behind the Passenger seat and moved the seat right back so it was wedged in and could not fall in an emergency braking event. Chris got in and said, "Let's go home Darling." We headed toward the Sign to Woomera and I opened the throttle a bit to gain some time to get back, the weather was looking not good, it was heavy overcast and it could start raining, I said I got some sandwiches and some coffee if you want. Not now she said let's keep moving. We managed to get to Woomera and a few miles after it started to rain, I did say silently a prayer for the rain not to get stronger otherwise we are in deep trouble. But it was not meant to be. It started to bucket down, the car was slipping and sliding from side to side and I had a lot of trouble to keep control of it, we did not go very fast anyhow but the bull dust became red mud and slush, several times the wheels were just spinning and we were not moving.

Finally we got to one of the dunes and that was the end of our journey. We got bogged; I could not even open the door as the mud was half way up the side of the door. Chris being a real trooper and not a panic merchant just said well we have to sit till it stops and hope fully it is not too long. We waited and we had some sandwiches and drank the rest of the coffee. The baby started crying and Chris said he is hungry I have to feed him every 4 hours. Chris climbed in the back behind the driver's seat and grabbed the baby and placed him on her lap while she unbuttoned her blouse to breast feed him. The little fellow started sucking and was still winging, Chris checked if she had milk and said there is very little milk coming, he is hungry and does not get satisfied, she put him back on the breast and you could see how he was laboring to get something. The rain was still teaming down and it looked hope less.

The baby crying, Chris in distress about not being able to feed the baby, I told myself I have to keep a cool and calm attitude to keep everything under control. The time was already 9pm and we have according to my speedometer another 85miles to cover.

We were sitting there and Chris nursing the baby in a gentle rocking motion to try to stop him from crying, which he started at intervals.

I felt so damn helpless, no idea what I could do.

Suddenly I noticed light reflection in my rear vision mirror, and there it was A 4 wheel drive little truck appeared, I put my lights on in the car as the others he could not see they were covered with mud. He got on the driver side and stopped and opened the window, which I did also, he said "do you need a tow," I said "I sure am and I told him I had a newborn baby in here and no food for it. He said it cost you 50 quid, I was shocked but I had no other choice, I said go on he got out and was wearing a drizabone coat, he had a chain and he crawled in the dirt and mud and dug out the front axle and he secured the chain around it, He got in to his car and said "I am taking up the slack and then I let it go as we have to get over the dune, you have the motor going at full revs." I Nodded and he started I said to Chris "you get the

Baby secure it will be a rough ride." The chain got taught and he accelerated and so did we, I felt the car moving and picking up slowly speed he was using his 4 wheels and he dragged us over the dune, on the other side we were just slipping and sliding with him going quite fast, I felt several hard thumps of rocks hitting the floor and some dents in the floor appeared it was shocking, I could not tell him to slow down etc., even if I put on my brakes meant nothing he was just dragging us on top of all the mud and whatever was in the way we hit he did not as he was higher but our car was very low to begin with. I am sure the car is going to be a wreck.

We finally got to Andamooka station and we knew we had only a few miles left. It was still raining and we were just about turning in to the main street near the Co-op he stopped and said where to go I told him up on the hill near the Hospital I have the place between Doug's place and the hospital, he knew where this was and got in the car and dragged us up there my motor would not start anymore I don't know why not, but I am sure I will find out, we arrived and it was 12:30am Johnny and all the gang were still around and waiting for us, I could see a relief on all of their faces. Lorrain came and helped Chris with the baby; Beatrix was asleep on the lounge.

The Guy whose name was Adam, he took the chain off and I gave him the \$ 100 dollars which was equivalent to 50 quid. He said "I better get out there I am sure there are more to be rescued." He left and we got in and Lorraine was cuddling the little fellow and Chris is making a bottle of formula to feed the little dyke.

After everything was cleaned up and sorted out, I was dead beat, Lorrain gone home Johnny carried Beatrix to bed and I had a shower while Chris was feeding the baby which had a good munch on the bottle and was contented.

I said to all let's call it a day we can meet up tomorrow and we will tell you what happened, everyone said good night and we all went to bed except Chris she was changing nappies etc. and went to bed after that. The next morning I got up and went outside to look at the car, it was an absolute mess. I noticed a large patch of oil under the car, I knelt down and had a look and there it was the cover plate which protects the motor block was missing, a chunk of the sump being a boxer engine with the cylinders on the side of the block, had the oil sump as part of the block and there was a chunk missing which got smashed in by a rock. There were several cracks in the floor all the results of this irresponsible towing exercise. The Car is dead rendered useless.

I was not happy, later the day I saw Laszlo and he came with me and had a look and said "Peter you need a new engine block and then we got no idea what happened to the front when he ripped at it in his towing." I agreed with Laszlo, and said "I need another car." Come and see me I think I can work out something with you.

I thanked him and said good bye, I told all my family what happened and we all were very angry about Adam.

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## August 2016 Gem & Mineral Shows

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

### August 2016

19-21—SEASIDE, OREGON: Annual show; Jean Miller, Seaside Convention Center; 415 1st Ave.; Fri. 9-6, Sat. 9-6, Sun. 9-4; Free Admission; Seaside Gem, Jewelry, & Fossil Show Free Admission, Wheelchair Accessible, Raffle Prizes, and Fun for the Whole Family. Free strand of pearls for the first 75 women through the door each morning. Free tumbled stone for each child through the door! Great times to be had shopping for and experiencing a wide variety of gems, minerals, crystals, enhydros, beads, petrified wood, slabs, rough and polished rock, sunstones, lapidary tools and equipment, stone carvings, opals and more. Treasures from all over the world; contact Jennifer Macias, 1839 Ryan Court, Prescott, AZ 86301, (619)-261-8765; e-mail: karmicbeadsandgems@yahoo.com

19-21—LAKE GEORGE, COLORADO: Annual show; Lake George Gem & Mineral Club, Field next to Lake George Post Office; 37380 US Hwy 24; Fri. 9 -5 , Sat. 9 -5 , Sun. 9 -5 ; Free Admission; Good selection local Pikes Peak Region minerals from local miners including Club Member Rich Fretterd and others. Vendors have mineral specimens, fossils and jewelry items. Dealer Contact: Becky Blair blairra@hotmail.com; contact Steve Woje, P.O. Box 171,

Lake George, CO 80827, (719)-258-8293; e-mail: stevengwoje@gmail.com; Web site: LGGMClub.org

19-21—SOUTH BEND, INDIANA: Show and sale; Michiana Gem & Mineral Society, St. Joseph County 4-H Fairgrounds, Ester Singer Building; 5117 South Ironwood Rd.; Fri. 12-7, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; Admission \$3.00, Children 6-12 \$1.00; Michiana Gem & Mineral Society 53rd Annual Jewelry, Gem & Mineral Show and Sale and 76th Midwest Federation of Mineralogical & Geological Societies Convention. Attractions include gem, fossil, mineral and jewelry dealers, lapidary arts demonstrations, exhibits, Kid's Korner, and silent auction.; contact John Davis, (574)-232-8823; e-mail: sumu95@hotmail.com; Web site: www.michianagms.org

19-21—SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA: Wholesale and retail show; Gem Faire Inc, Scottish Rite Center; 1895 Camino del Rio S; Fri. 12-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; Admission \$7 weekend pass, Children 11 and under free; Fine jewelry, precious & semi-precious gemstones, millions of beads, crystals, gold & silver, pearls, minerals, fossils & much more at manufacturer's prices. Exhibitors from around the world will be on site. Jewelry repair & cleaning while you shop. Free hourly door prizes. ; contact Yooy Nelson, (503)-252-8300; e-mail: info@gemfaire.com; Web site: http://www.gemfaire.com

20-20—SHELTON, WASHINGTON: Annual show; Shelton Rock and Mineral Society, MCRA Park; 2100 E Johns Prairie Road; Daily 9 -5 ; Free Admission; 7th Annual Tailgate Rock Sale and Swap. All rock hounds and vendors are invited to participate and bring rocks, minerals, fossils, rock crafts and equipment to sell and swap. Raffle, door prizes, and displays; contact Susan Perrault, WA, (360)-272-9432; e-mail: srms242@ yahoo.com; Web site: sheltonrockclub.weebly.com

26-28—COSTA MESA, CALIFORNIA: Wholesale and retail show; Gem Faire Inc, OC Fair & Event Center; 88 Fair Dr; Fri. 12-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; Admission \$7 weekend pass, Children 11 and under free; Fine jewelry, precious & semi-precious gemstones, millions of beads, crystals, gold & silver, pearls, minerals, fossils & much more at manufacturer's prices. Exhibitors from around the world will be on site. Jewelry repair & cleaning while you shop. Free hourly door prizes. ; contact Yooy Nelson, (503)-252-8300; e-mail: info@gemfaire.com; Web site: http://www.gemfaire.com

27-28—JASPER, TEXAS: Annual show; Pine Country Gem & Mineral Society, The Event Center; 6258 Highway 190 West; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10 -5; Adults/Seniors \$3.00, Students/Children free; Lapidary demonstrations, exhibits, door prizes, silent auction, grand prize raffle and spinning wheel featured. Vendors from across the country will offer rough rock, lapidary equipment and finished jewelry for sale.; contact Jonetta Nash, 737 FM 254 South, Jasper, TX 75951, (409)-384 3974; e-mail: jonetta.nash@yahoo.com; Web site: www.pinecountry-gms.org

27-28—ASHLAND, OREGON: Annual show; Scott Blair, First United Methodist Church; 175 N. Main St. ; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 12-5; Admission \$2, Children free; Quality crystals, minerals, beads, hand crafted gemstone jewelry, fossils, precious opals, and much more. Silent auction. Free field trip on Monday, Aug. 29, after the show. ; contact Scott Blair, 1009 Talent Ave., Talent, OR 97540, (541)-621-2558; e-mail: scottsrocks@scottsrocks.com; Web site: www.scottsrocks.com

#### September 2016

2-4—HILLSBORO, OREGON: Wholesale and retail show; Gem Faire Inc, Washington County Fairgrounds; 873 NE 34th Ave; Fri. 12-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; Admission \$7 weekend pass, Children 11 and under free; Fine jewelry, precious & semi-precious gemstones, millions of beads, crystals, gold & silver, pearls, minerals, fossils & much more at manufacturer's prices. Exhibitors from around the world will be on site. Jewelry repair & cleaning while you shop. Free hourly door prizes. ; contact Yooy Nelson, (503)-252-8300; e-mail: info@gemfaire.com; Web site: http://www.gemfaire.com

3-4—HANFORD , CALIFORNIA: Annual show; Diggins Productions, Hanford Civic Auditorium ; 400 N Douty; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-6; Admission \$3, Children free; Museum quality fossil display, gold panning demonstration, faceting demonstration, free Prize drawing ; contact Kathy Corbett, 341 cedar st., Hanford, CA 93230, (559)-904-4795 / (559)-924-4052; e-mail: Corbett1@sbcglobal.net

3-5—CANBY, OREGON: Annual show; Jean Miller, Clackamas County Fairgrounds; 694 NE 4th Ave.; Sat. 9 am-6 pm, Sun. 9 am-6 pm, Mon. 9 am-4 pm; Admission is Free!; Canby Gem, Mineral, Jewelry, & Fossil Show - Gems, Minerals, Jewelry, Fossils, Petrified Wood, Jade, Carvings, Beads, Crystals, Enhydros, Rough & Polished Stones, Slabs, Opals, Sunstones, Native American Jewelry, Turquoise, Singing Bowls, and More!!! Free Admission, Wheelchair Accessible, Raffle Prizes, Fun for the whole family! FREE STRAND OF PEARLS TO THE FIRST 75 WOMEN THROUGH THE GATE EACH DAY! Free tumbled stone to each child through the gate. For more information or vending opportunities please contact Jean Miller 971-219-0323 or email shadow92337@molalla.net or Jenny Macias 619-261-8765 or email karmicbeadsandgems@yahoo.com; contact Jennifer Macias, 1839

Ryan Court, Prescott, AZ 86301, (619) 261-8765; e-mail: karmicbeadsandgems@yahoo.com

9-11—RENO, NEVADA: Wholesale and retail show; Gem Faire Inc, Reno Sparks Livestock Events Center; 1350 N Wells Ave; Fri. 12-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; Admission \$7 weekend pass, Children 11 and under free; Fine jewelry, precious & semi-precious gemstones, millions of beads, crystals, gold & silver, pearls, minerals, fossils & much more at manufacturer's prices. Exhibitors from around the world will be on site. Jewelry repair & cleaning while you shop. Free hourly door prizes. ; contact Yooy Nelson, (503)-252-8300; e-mail: info@gemfaire.com; Web site: http://www.gemfaire.com

10-11—PORT ANGELES, WASHINGTON: Annual show; Clallam County Gem and Mineral Association, Vern Burton Community Center; 308 East 4th Street; Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-4; Free Admission; contact Jennie Bourassa, PO Box 98, Sequim, WA 98382, (360)-681-0372

10-11—WALLA WALLA, WASHINGTON: Annual show; Marcus Whitman Gem and Mineral Society - Walla Walla WA, Walla Walla County Fairgrounds; 363 Orchard Street, Community Center; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; Admission \$3, Free admission for children; contact Keith Bacus, 1829 Howard St., Walla Walla, WA 99362, (509)-529-1248

16-18—PLACERVILLE, CALIFORNIA: Annual show; 77th Annual California Federation of Mineralogical Societies Show & Convention Hosted by the El Dorado County Mineral & Gem Society, El Dorado County Fairgrounds; 100 Placerville Dr; Fri. 10-5, Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; Adults \$7, Seniors \$6, Children under 12 free; Special prize drawings, minerals, exhibits & demonstrations, gems, jewelry, gold, slabs, tools, meteorites, displays, fossils, kids activities, geode cutting, fluorescent tent, silent auction and club bargain table, gold related lectures, gold panning and kids gem search.; contact Barbara Terrill, 3721 Larkspit Lane, Cameron Park, CA 95682, (530)-676-2472; e-mail: info@eldoradomineralandgem.org; Web site: www.cfms2016show.com

16-18—SAN RAFAEL, CALIFORNIA: Wholesale and retail show; Gem Faire Inc, Marin Center; 10 Avenue of the Flags; Fri. 12-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; Free Admission; Fine jewelry, precious & semi-precious gemstones, millions of beads, crystals, gold & silver, pearls, minerals, fossils & much more at manufacturer's prices. Exhibitors from around the world will be on site. Jewelry repair & cleaning while you shop. Free hourly door prizes. ; contact Yooy Nelson, (503)-252-8300; e-mail: info@gemfaire.com; Web site: http://www.gemfaire.com

17-18—CASTLE ROCK, WASHINGTON: 51st Annual Rock and Gem Show; The Southern Washington Mineralogical Society, Castle Rock Fairgrounds; SW Corner of Highway 411 and Cowlitz River; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4; Free Admission; Black light, display cases, food, country store, door prizes, gem dig, demonstrators, spin table, silent auction and kids scavenger hunt. ; contact Nicole Doiron, (360)-785-4417; e-mail: raknad@q.com

17-18—CHICO, CALIFORNIA: Annual show; Feather River Lapidary & Mineral Society Inc., Silver Dollar Fair Grounds; 2357 Fair St.; Sat. 9:30-5, Sun. 9:30-4; Admission \$3, Children under 16 free; Opals, rough rock, crystals, fossils, minerals, jewelry, beads. Demonstrators in wire wrapping jewelry making, geode cutting, cabbing, faceting, display cases. Kids game wheel of fortune, treasure hunt, grab bags also first 250 kids though the doors both days receive a wire wrapped arrowhead necklace.; contact John Scott, 1288 Glenwood ave, Chico, CA 95926, (530)-321-6331; e-mail: jweazel@sbcglobal.net; Web site: featherriverrocks.org

24-25—LODI, CALIFORNIA: Annual show; Stockton Lapidary & Mineral Club, Lodi Grape Festival & Harvest Fairgrounds ; 413 E. Lockeford Street; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; Admission \$6, Children free; Earth's Treasures gem and mineral show. There will be exhibits, demonstrators, dealers, gems, minerals, fossils, beads, crystals, fluorescents displays, finished jewelry, jewelry making supplies, tools, gold panning, student and children activities, rock identification, super raffle, snack bar, and more.; contact Jerold Kyle, 327 Del Mont Street, Lodi, CA 95242, (209)-368-9411; e-mail: jeroldkyle@yahoo.com; Web site: www.stocktonlapidary.com

24-25—MONTEREY, CALIFORNIA: Annual show; Carmel Valley Gem & Mineral Society, Monterey Fairgrounds; 2004 Fairgrounds Road; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; Admission \$4, Children free; Featuring jewelry, cut and uncut gemstones, beads, crystals, rough and polished rocks, mineral specimens, and fossils. This annual event also has over 50 displays featuring the gem, mineral, and fossil collections of guest and member exhibitors. In addition, there will also be demonstrations of jewelry making, sphere making, rock grinding and polishing. This is a family event with plenty of great activities for the kids. This event supports the Carmel Valley Gem & Mineral Society's educational outreach for Monterey schools. ; contact Janis Rovetti, 1047 Roosevelt Street, Monterey, CA 93940, (831)-372-1311; e-mail: janis12@sbcglobal.net; Web site: www.cvgms.rocks

24-25—WEST FRIENDSHIP, MARYLAND: Annual show; Gem Cutters Guild of Baltimore, Howard County Fair Ground; 2210 Fairgrounds Rd; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; Adults/Seniors \$6, Children/Students 12 and under free; Wishing well grab bag for minerals, fossils and gems. Find gems in the Gem Mine!;

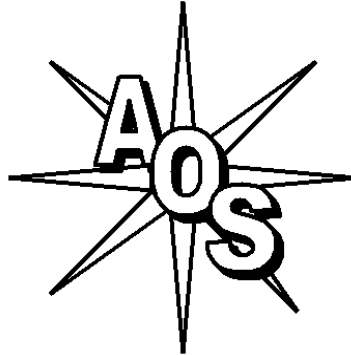
contact Bernie Emery, 3600 Clipper Mill Rd, Suite 116, Baltimore, MD 21211, (410)-467-9838; e-mail: info@gemcuttersguild.com; Web site: www.gemcuttersguild.com

24-25—SANTA ROSA, CALIFORNIA: Annual show; Santa Rosa Mineral & Gem Society, Luther Burbank Center for the Arts; 50 Mark West Springs Road; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; Admission \$6, Children 12 and under free; Something for everyone, dealers, gold-panning and info booth, rock ID (bring your mystery rock), lapidary demonstrations, games, door prizes, Raffle Madness at 4 each day, wire-wrapping classes, sculpture display, Silent Auction, exhibit cases, and lots of friendly club members to talk to about rockhounding and club activities. ; contact Jolene Coon, CA, (707)-849-9551; e-mail: coons@sonic.net; Web site: SRMGS.org

24-25—REDWOOD CITY, CALIFORNIA: Annual show; Sequoia Gem and Mineral Society, Community Activities Bldg. ; 1400 Roosevelt Ave; Sat. 10-5,

Sun. 10-5; Admission \$3; contact Val Concello, (650)-954-6020; Web site: SequoiaGemandMineralSociety.org

24-25—FRANKLIN, NEW JERSEY: Annual show; Franklin Mineral Museum, Franklin School; 50 Washington Ave; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4; Adults \$7, Children \$4; This show attracts people from all over the world. The dealers are well known and reputable. Some of them have been attending since inception. The attendance draws over 2000 citizens throughout the weekend. A great family outing with many stops for the day. Visit the show, museums, and digs that are happening all weekend long in beautiful Sussex County. contact Robyn Seger, 22 Palomino Trail, Vernon, NJ 07462; Web site: http://spmom3.wix.com/franklin-gem-mineral



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# American Opal Society Membership Application

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

Please make check or money order payable to "American Opal Society". Mail payment and application to:  
**American Opal Society; PO BOX 4875; Garden Grove, CA 92842-4875**  
 An optional, quicker method of payment is via the Internet. To pay, just visit the membership page on our website at [http://opalsociety.org/aos\\_application\\_by\\_web.htm](http://opalsociety.org/aos_application_by_web.htm) and complete the form. You may pay with a Credit Card or via PayPal account. The transaction is completely secure and the AOS never sees your credit card number. The AOS PayPal account is [membership@opalsociety.org](mailto:membership@opalsociety.org).

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BUSINESS NAME			
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ZIP or POSTAL CODE		COUNTRY (IF OUTSIDE USA)	
PHONE - Home ( )	PHONE - Business ( )	FAX ( )	
E-MAIL			
WEBSITE			
OCCUPATION		HOBBIES AND INTERESTS	

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

**MEMBERSHIP ROSTER:** The AOS publishes a membership directory once per year in its Newsletter, the *Opal Express*. Your name will be included. Please check what additional personal information that you want listed for other members. If it is different from the information above, please note that on the application.

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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  
P.O. Box 4875  
Garden Grove, CA 92842-4875

Volume #49 Issue #8  
August 2016

## August 24<sup>th</sup> General Meeting

— GENERAL MEETINGS —  
4th Wednesday of the Month  
7:00 pm - 9:30 PM

### Garden Grove Masonic Lodge

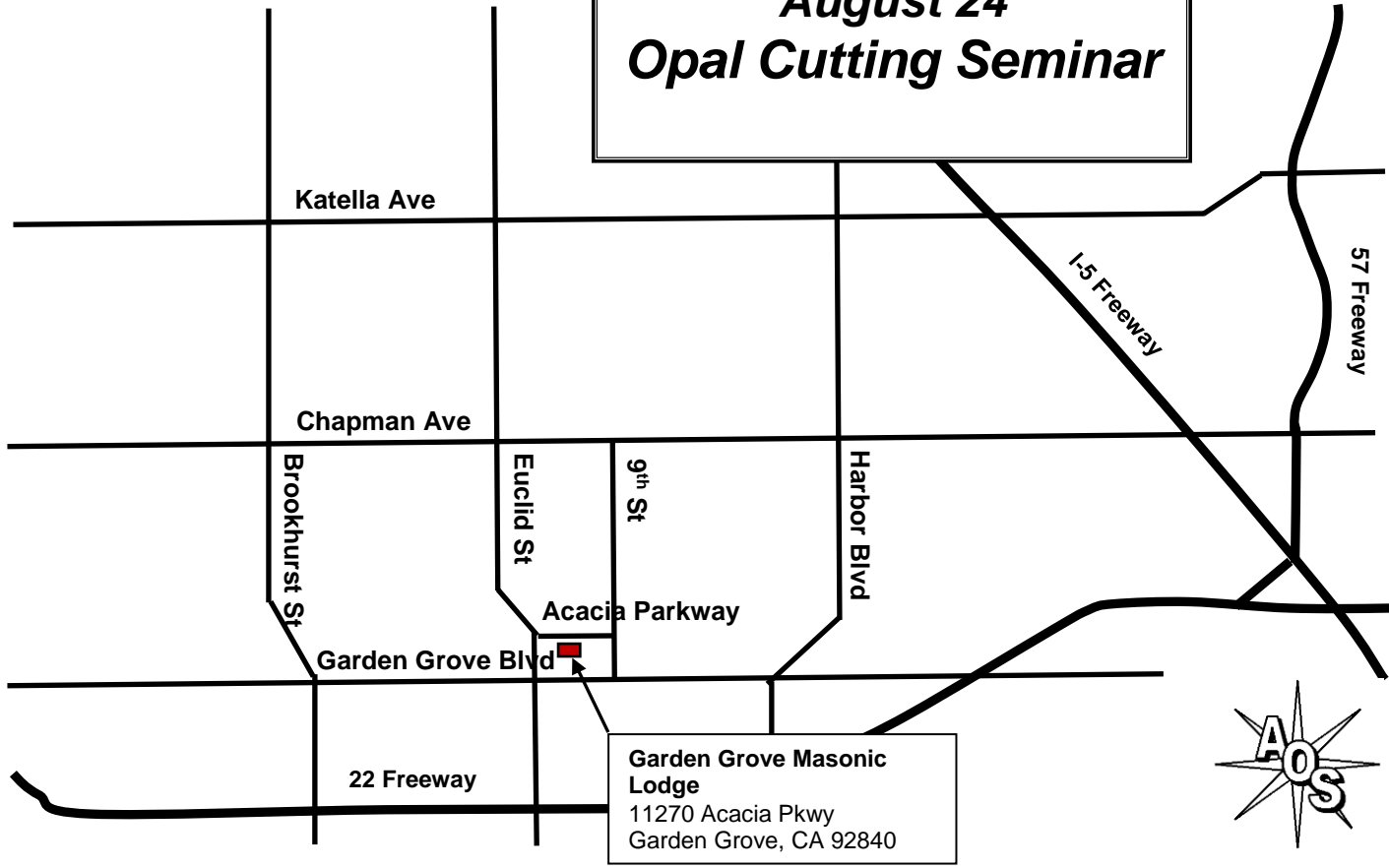
11270 Acacia Pkwy  
Garden Grove, CA 92840

#### MEETING ACTIVITIES

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

TO:

**August 24  
Opal Cutting Seminar**



### Some Topics In This Issue:

- Aug. 24th Meeting: Opal Cutting Seminar
- Lightning Ridge Opal for Sale at Aug. 24th Meeting
- Pete's Opal Surprise
- Photographer Fred Ward Witnessed, Captured History

## The American Opal Society

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