

The Opal Express

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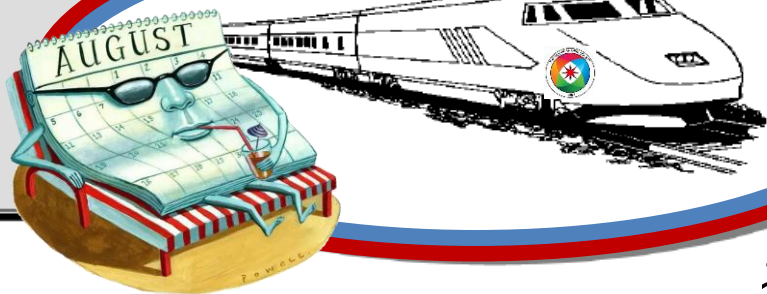


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President's Message

Greetings Opalholics!

Since the COVID pandemic and the cancellation of our annual show for the past three years, which was one of our main revenues for the AOS, we have been running on a shoestring budget. These donations will greatly help out our financial situation, and hopefully the opal show revenues this year will put us in a strong financial position for next year.

The American Opal Society is 100% volunteer run and managed, a few people working very hard for the whole of our society. I encourage our fellow members to volunteer, especially at our annual opal and gem show this year. YOUR SOCIETY NEEDS YOU!!!

As for all the volunteers currently running and managing the American Opal Society, again I truly would like to thank you for your hard work and dedication.

Stan McCall

AOS President

Custom Creative Gem Cutting

Did You Know?

Unlike most other months, August has just one birthstone – peridot. One of the lesser-known gems, peridots come in shades from grass-green to a more earthy olive hue. They're quite a unique gem, really, and quite rare as they can only be found from two very different sources – they can be formed deep in the earth and expelled to the surface along with lava, and they can be found in meteorites! It is claimed that peridots have healing powers and can protect the bearer from evil.

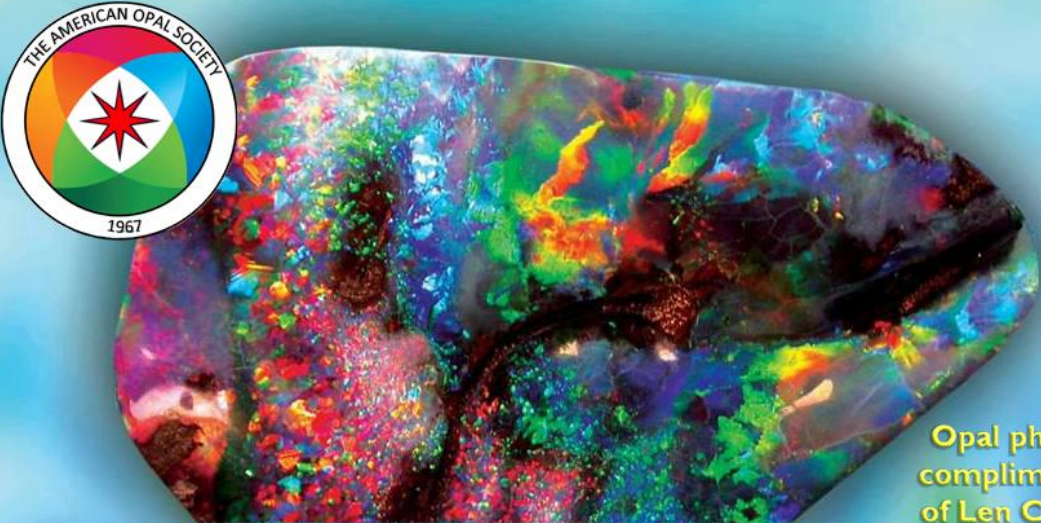


Source: <https://www.thefactsite.com/august-facts/>



We're Back!

After three long years, the Opal Show is back and we have a new location!



Opal photo compliments of Len Cram

53rd Annual Opal Show
October 28-29, 2023
Velvet Rose Event Center



American Opal Society proudly presents
53rd Annual OPAL, GEM & JEWELRY SHOW

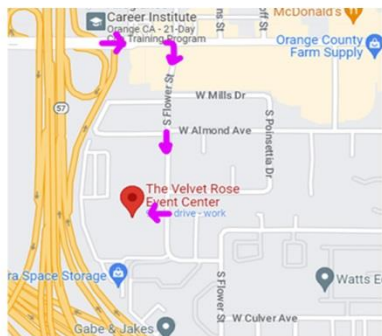
October 28th & 29th, 2023 Saturday 10AM - 6PM Sunday 10AM - 5PM	!Fabulous New Location! Velvet Rose Event Center 300 S. Flower St., Orange, CA 92868
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Opal and Gem Dealers from around the USA and beyond
Rough and Cut Opals, other gemstones, jewelry & supplies
Huge Drawing Grand Prize custom design by Stan McCall
Many other prizes: gemstones, jewelry, books, tools, surprises
Free Demonstrations gemstone cutting, jewelry making, gemstone identification, faceting, gold panning and more!

ADMISSION \$5.00 ADULTS
STUDENTS WITH ID & CHILDREN UNDER 15 FREE
FREE PARKING

American Opal Society, Inc.
PO Box 4875
Garden Grove, CA 92842-4875
Contact: Veronica Purpura (714) 501-9959
info@opalsociety.org <http://opalsociety.org>
(dealer inquiries welcome)

DIRECTIONS: exit Chapman from the 57 towards Orange. Take Flower Street and follow. Make a right into the venue just after passing Larkspur Drive. Parking lot is in the back. There is a church next door.



Rare “diamond within a diamond” is unearthed in India and is named the “Beating Heart”

A unique “diamond within a diamond” has been unearthed, according to a company in India’s Surat - one of the rarest in history when it comes to such stones.

V D Global named the 0.329-carat piece “Beating Heart” and said it consists of a piece of diamond with a smaller freely-moving piece trapped inside, according to the Times of India.

The stone was originally found in the rough in October last year by the diamond manufacturer that operates from Surat and Mumbai, according to the Independent.

The Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC) set up by the Indian government said the 'Beating Heart' joins a little group of similar natural diamonds such as the Matryoshka diamond from Siberia, which was first recorded in 2019.

The authenticity of the stone was confirmed via further analysis, using optical and electron microscopes.

“I have certainly never seen anything like the 'Beating Heart' during my last 30 years in the diamond sector,” Samantha Sibley, Technical Educator at De Beers Group Ignite said.

“Using the expertise of De Beers Group, we can shed light onto the formation and structure of this natural specimen and share these insights with a wider community of diamond professionals,” Ms. Sibley reportedly added.

The rare diamond has “etch features” visible on both the smaller diamond in the inner cavity, it was found.



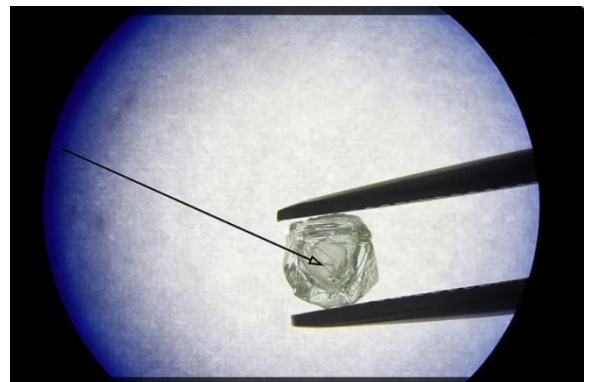
A unique “diamond within a diamond” has been unearthed according to a company in India’s Surat – one of the rarest in history when it comes to such stones.

Experts explained the cavity may have formed due to the preferential etching of an intermediate layer of poor-quality fibrous diamond.

In 2019 another unique “gem inside a gem” diamond was unearthed in Siberia.

The 800 million-year-old two-in-one jewel was said to be priceless and the only such discovery in the world.

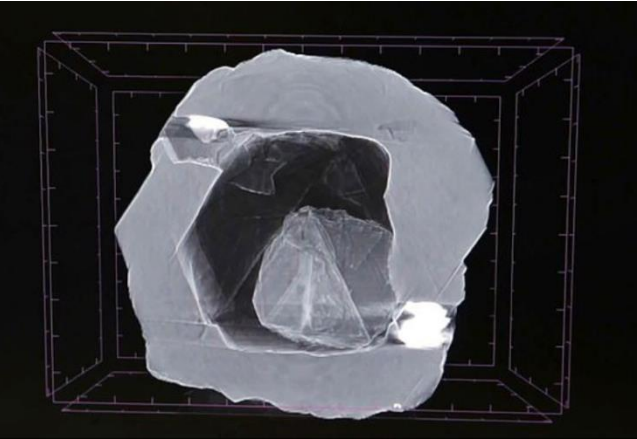
The so-called “Matryoshka” diamond resembles traditional Russian nesting dolls, one inside the other.



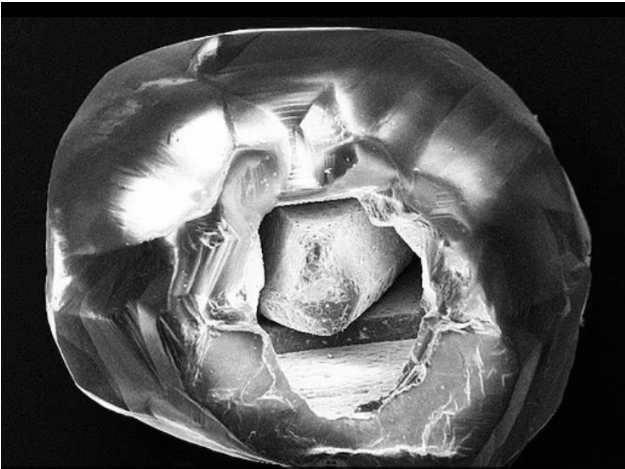
In 2019, another unique “gem inside a gem” diamond was unearthed in Siberia. The “Matryoshka” diamond resembles traditional Russian nesting dolls, one inside the other.

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Inside, the tiny nested diamond in its own sealed air space has an estimated weight of .02 carats and dimensions of 1.9×2.1×0.6 mm. The smaller diamond rattles inside the larger jewel.



The “Matryoshka” diamond found in 2019 is 800 million years old and was said to be priceless.



V D Global named the 0.329 carat piece “Beating Heart” and said it consists of a piece of diamond with a smaller freely-moving piece trapped inside.

Source: <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-11978285/Rare-diamond-diamond-uneearthed-India-named-Beating-Heart.html>

How Does Coal Become A Diamond?

A popular belief is that some mined diamonds originated from coal. However, this is highly unlikely. Coal is a sedimentary rock formed from plant debris deposited on the surface of the Earth.

Coal is not buried deep enough into the surface to be subjected to the heat and pressure required to make a diamond.

Diamonds are made up of billions of carbon atoms and most were formed between one to three billion years ago, deep below the earth's surface under intense heat and high pressure. Older than humankind itself, diamonds are one of nature's most incredible and unique gifts.



Source: Google

Opal in Myths and Legends

Among all gemstones, opals have held a unique fascination throughout the ages. They have a magnetic warmth to their wonderful glowing colors that is not found in any other stone, and their beauty has stirred the hearts and passions of artistic souls for centuries.

Its history goes back to the dawn of time, though it has not always been clearly recorded. The first recorded name given to the stone was by the Romans when they named it 'Opalus', which means 'precious stone'. The Greeks had called it 'Opallos', a verb that means "to see a color change." It was adored by the ancient Romans some 200 years before Christ. Pliny the Elder, the Roman philosopher, once described the opal in a glowing, romanticized way saying: "...for in them you shall see the living fire of the ruby, the glorious purple of the amethyst, the sea green of the emerald, all glittering together in an incredible mixture of light."

According to further writings by Pliny, the Roman senator Nonius once owned a grand opal, the most beautiful in Rome, said to be the size of a hazelnut, that Mark Antony dearly wished to buy as a gift for his lover, Cleopatra. Antony offered the modern day equivalent of a quarter million dollars for the gemstone. Nonius, liking neither Antony nor the deal, however, refused, and a furious Antony ordered Nonius's execution as revenge. Nonius fled Rome before that command could be carried out, leaving all of his possessions behind, with the sole exception of the opal that had caused him such strife.

The superstitions surrounding opals, like many things in the ancient world, were many and varied. The Arabians believed they were magical stones that had fallen from the heavens, while in Asia they were believed to be a precious healing stones, dubbed 'anchor stones of hope'. Some medieval Europeans attributed them strange powers, such as making the wearer invisible and giving great insight.

In the long centuries since its discovery, this prized stone has been mined in many countries, famously in the mines of Hungary and eastern Czechoslovakia. Where it is most well-known today, however, is Australia. Australia is home to arguably the largest and finest supply of opals in the world. There are no official records of Australia's first commercial mines, but it is likely that the industry began in Queensland, in 1872, when the first opal was discovered on Listowel Downs. There was, however, never a mine constructed at that location, only surface prospecting.

Most of the world's opal supply comes from Australia, and Australia has the accompanying variety of opal types that implies. Black opal is the rarest and most valuable, with the vast majority (well over 95%) of the famous gems coming from Australia's Lightning Ridge. Boulder opal is found in crevices and cracks throughout ironstone boulders and comes in many varieties, such as black and crystal. Due to the thinness of most seams, tons of the exquisite gems are cut from the boulders, leaving a natural backing of ironstone on the opal. Light opal, the most abundant type in Australia, is found mainly at the town of Coober Pedy in southern Australia, the source of perhaps 90% of all production.

By 1875 there were many wonderful opal finds, especially throughout the Kyabra Hills of southwest Queensland, but there was no steady market for the newfound treasure. Herbert Bond of Toowoomba, Queensland is credited with the first attempt to establish an industry when, in 1879, he began supplying a company in London with opals from famous mines across Australia, such as the Aladdin, Scotsman and Coonavilla.

His failure was due to many factors, not the least being that the gem merchants found it hard to accept the fact that this brilliant new gem from Australian was not man-made. The problem was that the world had never seen an opal so beautiful

Continued on Page 6

and colorful before. All they had known for centuries was the milky type of opals from Hungary. Though his efforts to begin the industry failed, he was not unrewarded. Bond drew the attention of Queen Victoria, an ardent opal lover herself, who gifted him a 40 acre freehold title over the Aladdin Mine, the only such title in that part of Queensland to this day.

Ten years passed before another attempt was made to establish the industry. In 1889, Tully Wollaston, a young entrepreneur from Adelaide, stamped his name across the pages of Australian opal history with his visit to the Kyabra Field. There were only a few miners in the hills at the time; Charlie White, working at Breakfast Creek, was the first miner to sell him opals, 61 small pieces for twenty seven pounds ten shillings (\$55.00 in today's money). To use Wollaston's own words, "It was small stuff, but very brilliant and the dancing lights pricked my hand in a delicious way."

It was Charles Whitehead's and Joe Bridles' opals from Stoney Creek that Wollaston took to London in July of 1889 that formed the basis of the industry we have today. He was instrumental in marketing all Australia's major finds: the beautiful crystal from Queensland in 1889, the soft, delicate light opal from White Cliffs in 1890, the breathtaking black gems of Lightning Ridge in 1903 and the world's largest supplier of light opal, Coober Pedy in 1915. Wollaston's efforts almost single-handedly kickstarted the industry that has endured to this day, and shared the beauty of the opal with the world at large.

There are several myths surrounding the opal that should be addressed, as they can bring unneeded negative connotations or are just plain misinformation. For the more superstitious types, some believe that opal brings only bad luck, unless it is your birthstone. Strangely, before the 1890s, the opal was considered a good luck stone across the world, particularly in Australia, where they had a saying: "The only bad luck about opal is not owning one!" In London, the opal began making a serious

dent in the diamond market's monopoly in the 1890s, and soon after the rumors of its bad luck began circulating. It is likely this rumor was begun by diamond merchants looking to protect their markets. Despite this veil of negativity, the opal still remains popular; it is commonly used as an engagement ring stone in Japan.

Another common misconception is that opal is too fragile to be safely worn. This is demonstrably false; opal is as hard as jade or amethyst, and tougher than turquoise. True, opals can crack, as can all gems, including diamonds. In general, a cracked opal is caused by an incorrect setting in jewelry. If set by a skilled jeweller and well cared for, an opal can provide a lifetime of beauty safely.

Soaking an opal in water to brighten it is a myth that has been floating around for years, and is distinctly untrue. Most opals come from Australia, and are not hydrophane gems. Hydrophane gems do change color when wet, it is true, but more often than not, this will not be the case with your opal. It is, however, always useful to know where your opal comes from.

The brightness of the fiery color an opal produces is one of the most important contributors to its beauty and value. It is also the most difficult characteristic to judge consistently. It is difficult to keep the brightness of a stone accurately in mind over time, which is one factor that contributes to the difficulty in comparisons. There is also a tendency to elevate the brightness of the stone currently being examined relative to others seen previously. The other reason is that brilliance is adversely affected by the light the opal is viewed under. This is why some opal sellers use high power lamps; they make an opal appear brighter than it would appear in natural sunlight, thus giving the impression that the stone is of greater brightness. Obviously, this implies a greater market value than may be accurate. Remember, brightness is the amount of light coming back from the opal. Moving the opal away from the light gives an idea of how well the brightness holds as lighting changes.

Source: <https://www.aandsopals.com/opal-myths-and-legends>

~ Bench Tips ~

This page will be dedicated to bench tips and techniques from our readers. If you have bench tips you'd like to share, let us know! Bench tips can be anything - metal work, lapidary, wirework - anything creative that you would like to share. Send your tips to: aos.editor.02@gmail.com

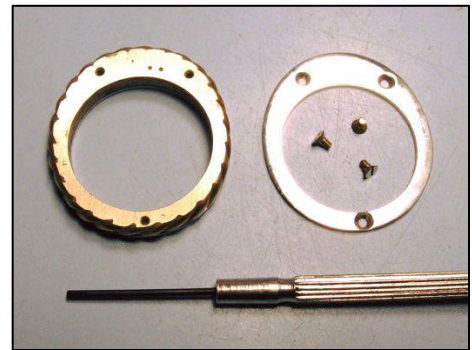
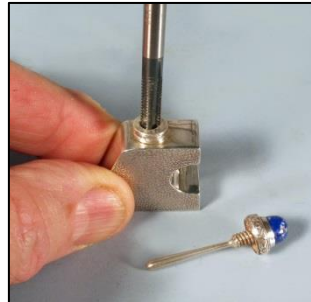
THREADED FASTENERS

by Brad Smith

In some jewelry designs we need to join a couple elements together and cannot risk the heat of soldering. With other items, we may want to be able to disassemble the piece occasionally for cleaning or polishing. An easy solution for things like this is to use small bolts and nuts to hold components together.



Threaded fasteners come in all sizes from large ones on locomotives and earth moving machines to really small ones used in watches and cameras. A Google search will turn up specs and sources. Sizes are generally designated by a two digit code, the first denoting a diameter and the second describing the threads. Fasteners are made in a wide variety of materials (steel, brass, stainless, plastic, etc) and come in both US and Metric sizes.



Work Smarter & Be More Productive with Brad's "How To" Jewelry Books on [Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith](https://www.amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith)



UPCOMING EVENTS

Reader: If your organization has an opal or rockhound-related event, please email particulars to info@opalsociety.org. Upcoming Event listings will be included at the discretion of The Opal Express editor as space and scheduling permit.

August 4, 5 & 6, 2023 – Nipomo, CA

Orcutt Mineral Society
Nipomo High School, 525 N. Thompson Ave., Nipomo, CA 93444
Hours: Aug 4 & 5 – 10 AM – 5 PM, Aug 6 – 10 AM – 4 PM
The 55th Annual Rockhound Tailgating Rock & Gem Festival
Free Admission and Free Parking
Contact: nipomocowgirl55@yahoo.com
Website: <http://www.omsinc.org>

August 5-6, 2023 – Roseville, CA

Roseville Rock Rollers Gem and Mineral Society
Roebbelen Event Center, @the Grounds – Roseville, 700 Event Center Dr., Roseville, CA 95678
Hours: Saturday 10 AM – 5 PM, Sunday 10 AM – 4 PM
61st Roseville Gem, Jewelry, Mineral and Fossil Show
Over 60 vendors, inside and out, featuring Crystals, Fossils, Minerals from around the world, Opal, Amethyst, Beads, Gemstones, Meteorites, Gold, and for Kids – “Education Station”, Gold Nuggets, Prospecting equipment, detectors and supplies, Petrified Wood, Stone carvings. Watch Demonstrations in the Lapidary Arts and bid on Silent Rock Auctions. Free – Scientific Mineral and Gem ID! Bring your Rocks, Gems, Minerals, Meteorites and treasures, for a no-cost Scientific Identification. General Admission \$8, Seniors 60+ \$7, Kids – 12 and under Free. Parking \$10. Discount coupon.
Contact: gloriarosevillerockrollers@gmail.com
Website: <https://www.rockrollers.com/index.html>

August 19-20, 2023 – Tehachapi, CA

Tehachapi Valley Gem and Mineral Society
Annual Tehachapi Valley Gem and Mineral Show
500 East “F” Street, Tehachapi, CA 93561
Hours: 9 AM – 5 PM
Gems and minerals, jewelry, activities for kids and much more.
Free admission.
Contact: (661) 972-1117, travis462@outlook.com
Website: <https://www.tvgms.rocks>

August 26-27, 2023 – Arcadia, CA

Pasadena Lapidary Society
Arcadia Masonic Lodge, 50 W. Duarte Rd., Arcadia CA 91007
Hours: Saturday 10 AM – 5 PM, Sunday 10 AM – 4 PM
Contact: (626) 260-7239
Website: <https://pasadenalapidary.org>

September 16-17, 2023 – Reno, NV

Reno Gem and Mineral Society
Reno/Sparks Convention Center, 4590 S. Virginia St., Reno
The Jackpot of Gems has been held in the Reno area for over 50 years. The show is put on to educate people who have an interest in minerals and gems that are so abundant in our State. RGMS members display over 30 cases of rocks, gems, and minerals. There are demonstrations showing how to make some of the beautiful things shown in the Display Cases. There is a booth high-lighting fluorescent features of some minerals that has been called “nature’s light show”. Expect to learn something new about rocks and minerals in the State of Nevada. It is a fun hobby to learn about and the Show is enjoyable for the entire family. There will be raffle tickets available for fabulous prizes. The Wheel of Fortune is a special place for children who spin the wheel to win fun rock and gem specimens. We also have a new Kids Corner with rock painting and a scavenger hunt. There are great bargains available in beads and minerals in the silent auction held every thirty minutes. Come join us!
Contact: (775) 229-4420, sailondan55@aol.com
Website: www.renogms.org

September 16-17, 2023 – Monterey, CA

Carmel Valley Gem & Mineral Society
Monterey Fairgrounds, Monterey, CA
Hours: 10 AM – 5 PM
Contact: (831) 801-5887, susieharlow@gmail.com
Website: <http://cvgms.rocks>

September 16-17, 2023 – San Luis Obispo, CA

San Luis Obispo Gem and Mineral Club
San Luis Obispo Veteran’s Memorial Building, 801 Grand Avenue, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401
Gems by the Sea Show. Admission: \$5, Children 12 and under Free. Free parking.
Contact: 2023show@slogem.org
Website: <http://slogem.org>

October 7-8, 2023 – Signal Hill, CA

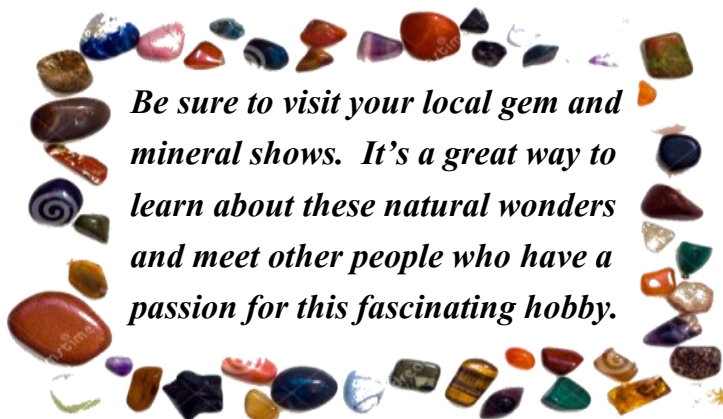
Long Beach Mineral & Gem Society
Signal Hill Library, 1800 E. Hill Street, Signal Hill, CA 90755
“Gems on the Hill” Annual Show
Hours: Saturday 10 AM – 5 PM, Sunday 10 AM – 4 PM
Contact: (562) 253-1390, lbrmineralgemsociety@gmail.com
Website: <http://www.facebook.com/LBMGS>

October 7-8, 2023 – Grass Valley, CA

Nevada County Gem and Mineral Society
Nevada County Fairgrounds, 11228 McCourtney Rd., Grass Valley 95949
Hours: Saturday 10 AM – 5 PM, Sunday 10 AM – 4 PM
57th Annual Earth’s Treasures Show: 25+ vendors, gem and mineral exhibits, Gold panning, lapidary arts demonstrations. Kids Corner, food and ice cream trucks. Admissions – Adults \$4, Children ages 12 and under free with a paid adult, Military with an “active military” I.D. Free, FREE PARKING
Contact: 4vanclan5@att.net

October 7-8, 2023 – Anderson, CA

Shasta Gem and Mineral Society
67th Annual Gem and Mineral Show
1890 Briggs Street, Anderson, CA 96007
Hours: Saturday 9 AM – 5 PM, Sunday 9 AM – 4 PM
FREE! 67th Annual Gem and Mineral Show, Jewelry, Crystals, Minerals, Fossils, Gemstones, Silent Auction, Exhibits, Kids Area
Contact: sgmsrocksredding@gmail.com
Website: <http://shastagemandmineral.org>



Be sure to visit your local gem and mineral shows. It's a great way to learn about these natural wonders and meet other people who have a passion for this fascinating hobby.

American Opal Society Membership Application

FILL IN APPLICABLE INFORMATION		DUES / FEES	AMOUNT PAID
DUES:	RENEWING MEMBERS	\$35.00	
SELECT ONE	NEW MEMBERS	\$45.00	
INTERNATIONAL MEMBERSHIP FEE (All addresses <u>outside</u> of USA)		\$15.00	
PRINTED NEWSLETTER FEE (Paper copy postal mailed instead of PDF file by e-mail)		\$10.00	
ADDITIONAL BADGES (Your first badge is <u>free</u> when joining)		\$15.00	
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 via PayPal, please visit the membership page on our website at http://opalsociety.org/aos_application_by_web.htm to complete the form and make your PayPal payment. 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.

NAME	
BUSINESS NAME	
ADDRESS	APT # or PO BOX
CITY	STATE
ZIP OR POSTAL CODE	COUNTRY (IF OUTSIDE USA)
PHONE - Home ()	PHONE - Business ()
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 roster once per year in its newsletter, The Opal Express. Your name will be included. Please check what additional personal information you listed for other members. If it is different from the information above, please note that on the application.

☐ Address ☐ Phone-landline ☐ Phone-cell ☐ E-mail ☐ Website

Please sign here: _____

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Are Your Dues Due Now?

PLEASE CHECK YOUR ADDRESS LABEL OR NEWSLETTER E-MAIL.

There will 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 Renewal Grace Period of two months will be provided. Please note, that as the system is 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

(revised 11/27/19)

The Opal Express

American Opal Society
P.O. Box 4875
Garden Grove, CA 92842-4875

Volume 56, Issue 7

— GENERAL MEETINGS —

3rd Thursday of the Month
6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Anaheim Community Center
250 E. Center Street
Anaheim, CA 92805

TO:



Meeting – August 17th
at the Anaheim Community Center
Social Time: 6:30 p.m.
General Meeting - Call to Order: 7:00 p.m.



General Meeting Location at:

Anaheim Downtown Community Center

250 E. Center Street
Anaheim, CA 92805

Next meeting will be Thursday, August 17th, at the
Anaheim Downtown Community Center

→ **Social Time: 6:30 p.m.** ←
General Meeting - Call to Order: 7:00 p.m.

American Opal Society

Website: <http://OpalSociety.org>
Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/opalsociety>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/AmericanOpalSociety>
Pinterest: <https://www.pinterest.com/opalsociety>
YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCegTIH1IEyO7y8wdqvRfyUA?view_as=subscriber

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