

The Opal Express

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President's Message

Happy New Year!

With a New Year brings an opportunity to reflect on the past, make changes to the present and look forward to the future.

Kathleen James is retiring as editor from the Opal Express. Thank you for a wonderful job the last 5 years.

We are still looking for someone to take over the Facebook page.

Yvette LaFrinere is the new editor of the Opal Express. See Page 2 for her introduction.

Stan McCall
AOS President
Custom Creative Gem Cutting



**WELCOME NEW
MEMBER:**

Jose Pena



***American Opal Society
Presents***

**55th Annual
Opal , Gem and Jewelry
Show**

**October 18th – 19th 2025
At the Velvet Rose Event
Center**

My name is Yvette LaFrinere and I am the new editor for the Opal Express.

I became a member of the American Opal Society after attending the Opal show at the Velvet Rose Event Center. I met the nicest people from members of the club to the vendors whose love for opals and other gemstones was clear in their work. My husband and I are vendors ourselves and can appreciate the time and energy other vendors give to their pieces.

My husband Greg, is a lapidary, and is always bringing in gemstones to be cut, faceted or carved. I am always looking for stones and agates that catch my eye either with color or pattern.

I have beautiful pieces of Labradorite, with colors of gold and brown, to pieces with their green and blue hues. Amethyst, Celestite, Tourmaline, Quartz Crystals, Turquoise, Fluorite, and Opals. There are Agates that have caught my eye that I had to have. I have a shelf, that was to remain very minimal, now is a host of such a variety of rocks, stones, and carvings that my heart sighs when I take it all in. How can I stop at just one?

I found this quote in a display case by Vickie and Bill Black. I don't know if they are the original authors but I just wanted to share:

"How to become a rockhound. First you must have a basic curiosity. Second buy yourself a sack of marbles. Then every time you pick up a rock, drop a marble. When you have lost all your marbles....you are a rockhound."

Am I a rockhound? I am definitely a rock admirer. I will still ask....Where did they come from? How were they formed? Where can I get more? The questions and the answers are limitless.

I hope in the coming year that we can continue talking, admiring, inspiring one another and that we all take time to enjoy the wonders that Mother Nature has provided us.

Sincerely,

Yvette

Where, in the U.S., are our Opal members? What have you found lately? Where are the best places to go and find opals in your area? These are the things I hope we can answer together this year. If your rockhounding days are behind you please share your wealth of knowledge with us. And if you are new to the rockhounding experience what are you looking for and what questions do you have that we could help you with? Please send all questions and answers to: **aos.newsletter.03@gmail.com**



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-SA](#)

Did you know?

According to <https://www.gia.edu/home>

It's easy to understand why people so easily confuse tourmaline with other gems: Very few gems match tourmaline's dazzling range of colors. From rich reds to pastel pinks and peach colors, intense emerald greens to vivid yellows and deep blues, the breadth of this gem's color range is unrivalled. Brazilian discoveries in the 1980s and 1990s heightened tourmaline's appeal by bringing intense new hues to the marketplace.

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Peridot is one of the few gemstones that occur in only one color: an **olive-green**. The intensity and tint of the green, however, depends on the percentage of **iron** in the crystal structure, so the color of individual peridot gems can vary from yellow, to olive, to brownish-green. In rare cases, peridot may have a medium-dark toned, pure green with no secondary yellow hue or brown mask. Lighter-colored gems are due to lower **iron** concentrations.^[6]

The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica

Last Updated: Dec 6, 2024 • [Article History](#)

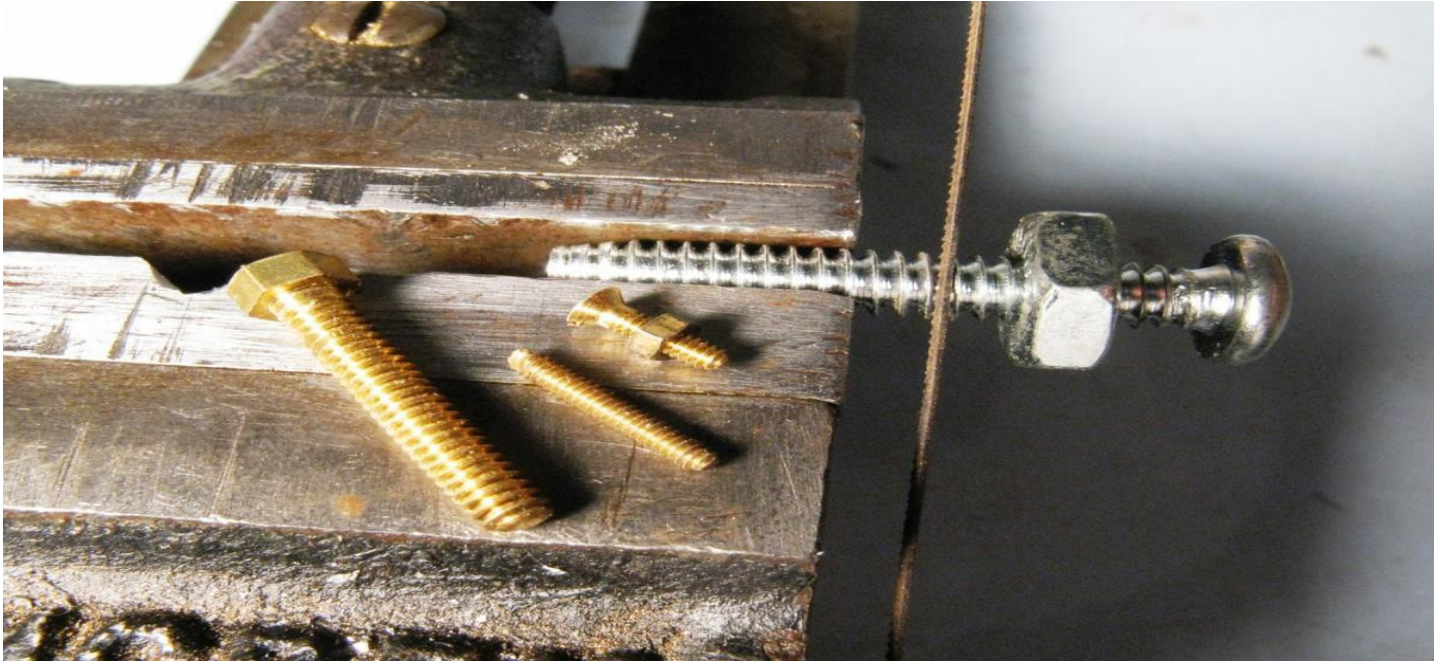
obsidian, **igneous rock** occurring as a natural **glass** formed by the rapid cooling of viscous **lava** from **volcanoes**. Obsidian is extremely rich in **silica** (about 65 to 80 percent), is low in **water**, and has a chemical **composition** similar to **rhyolite**. Obsidian has a glassy **lustre** and is slightly harder than window glass. Though obsidian is typically jet-black in colour, the presence of **hematite** (**iron** oxide) produces red and brown varieties, and the inclusion of tiny gas bubbles may create a golden sheen. Other types with dark bands or mottling in gray, green, or yellow are also known.

~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.newsletter.03@gmail.com

CUTTING A BOLT

by Brad Smith



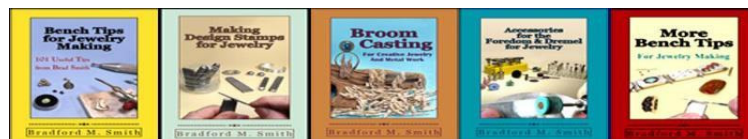
Whenever you have to cut a threaded bolt shorter, it's often difficult to get the nut to thread back onto it. And the smaller the bolt, the more difficult it is to restore any distorted threads. The problem is easily solved with the use of a nut. Here's how I do it.

First, screw a nut onto the bolt before cutting it. Grip the bolt by the threaded section that is to be sawed off. Then saw the bolt to the desired length, taper the end with sandpaper or file, and unscrew the nut from the bolt.

Unscrewing the nut over the freshly cut end of the bolt will straighten out any damage that sawing and filing did to the threads. Gripping the bolt by the piece to be sawed off localizes any crushing damage to the piece that will be thrown away.

See More of my Smart Solutions for Jewelry Making Series

<http://amazon.com/dp/B0BQ8YVLTJ>



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.

Shows for 2025

January 18-19, 2025 – Exeter, CA

Tule Gem & Mineral Society
Exeter Veterans Memorial Building, 246 Chestnut St., Exeter, CA 93211
Hours: Saturday 10 AM – 5 PM, Sunday 10 AM – 4 PM
Tule Gem & Mineral Society Gemboree
Contact: bandgbing@aol.com
Website: <http://www.tulegem.com>

February 15-16, 2025 – Antioch, CA

Antioch Lapidary Club
Contra Costa County Fairgrounds, 1201 West 10th Street, Antioch, CA 94509
Hours: Saturday 10 AM – 5 PM, Sunday 10 AM – 4 PM
Antioch Lapidary Club Jewelry, Gem & Rock Show. Admission \$7, Admission is Cash Only. All vendors take credit/debit cards.
Website: <http://antiochlapidaryclub.com>

February 22-23, 2025 – Vallejo, CA

Vallejo Gem and Mineral Society
Solano County Fairgrounds McCormack Hall, 900 Fairgrounds Drive, Vallejo, CA
Hours: 10 AM – 5 PM
59th Annual Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show
Contact: (415) 254-1506
Website: <http://vjgems.com>

March 1-2, 2025 – Ventura, CA

Ventura Gem and Mineral Society
Ventura County Fairgrounds, 10 W. Harbor Blvd., Ventura CA 93003
Hours: Saturday 10 AM – 5 PM, Sunday 10 AM – 4 PM
62nd Annual VGMS Gem, Mineral, Fossil & Jewelry Show. Kids' activities; jewelry-making demos; exhibits; raffle prizes, hourly silent auctions; dealers in fossils, mineral, lapidary materials; gold panning, Second-Hand Treasures Store of gently used items, books, and plants.
Free admission but the Fairgrounds charges parking if using the Fairgrounds lot.
Contact: (805) 312-8467, info@vgms.org
Website: <http://www.vgms.org>

March 7-9, 2024 – Stoddard Wells, CA

Victor Valley Gem and Mineral Club
1-15 toward Barstow. EXIT #157, stay on Stoddard Wells Road. Follow the signs 7 miles to tailgate
Hours: Daily 9 M – 5 PM
49th Annual Show; Victor Valley Gem and Mineral Club, Annual Stoddard Wells Tailgate; Friday-Sunday 95p; Free to vendors and public; Vendors offering slabs and cabs, findings and equipment, minerals and fossils, rough material, handcrafted and faceted jewelry. Family field trip on Saturday 9a-1p at local collecting site.
Contact: Dave Duncan (831) 406-0214, president@vvgmc.org
Website: <http://vvgmc.org>

Mother Lode Mineral Society Rock & Gem Show - 03/08/2025

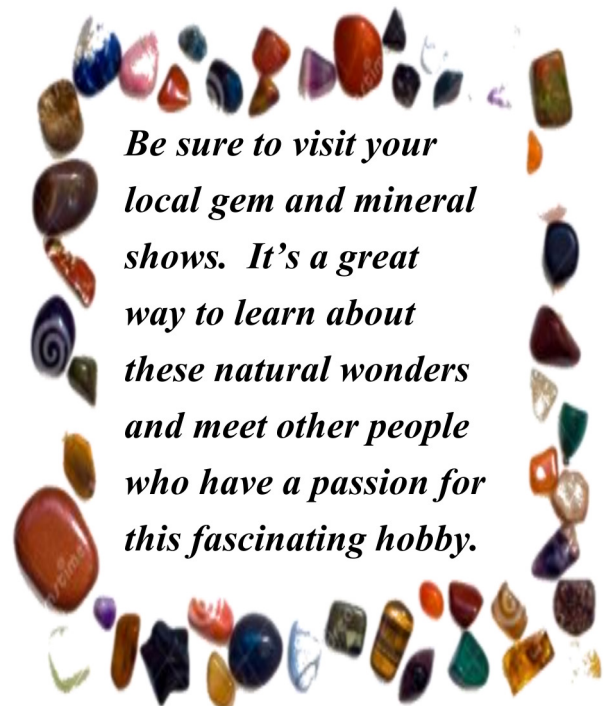
Start Date: 03/08/2025
End Date: 03/09/2025
Hours: 10:00 - 5:00
Venue: Turlock Fairgrounds
Address:
900 North Broadway Ave
Turlock, CA 95380
Website: <http://www.turlockgemshow.com>

Santa Clara Gem & Mineral Show - 03/15/2025

Start Date: 03/15/2025
End Date: 03/16/2025
Hours: 10:00 - 5:00
Venue: Santa Clara County Fairgrounds
Address:
344 Tully Rd
San Jose, CA
Website: <http://www.scvqms.org>

April 12-13, 2025 – Placerville, CA

El Dorado County Mineral and Gem Society
El Dorado County Fairgrounds, Placerville, CA
Hours: Saturday and Sunday 10 AM – 5 PM
Contact: (530) 676-2472
Website: <http://edcmgs.org>



American Opal Society Membership Application

FILL IN APPLICABLE INFORMATION		DUES / FEES	AMOUNT PAID
DUES: SELECT ONE	RENEWING MEMBERS	\$35.00	
	NEW MEMBERS	\$45.00	
INTERNATIONAL MEMBERSHIP FEE (All addresses <u>outside</u> of USA)		\$15.00	
PRINTED NEWSLETTER FEE (<u>Paper copy postal mailed instead of PDF file by e-mail</u>)		\$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

To pay via PayPal, please visit the [PayPal](#) page. The AOS PayPal account is membership@opalsociety.org

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. If paying by PayPal, please download, complete and send this application form by mail to the address above or email to AOS Treasurer aos.treasurer.02@opalsociety.org

NAME			
BUSINESS NAME			
ADDRESS		APT # or PO BOX	
CITY		STATE	
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.

☐ Address ☐ Phone ☐ E-mail ☐ Website

Please sign here: _____ Date _____

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American Opal Society, Inc.
P.O. Box 4875
Garden Grove, Ca. 92842-4875
E-mail: aos.newsletter.03@gmail.com

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

(revised 06/23/24)

The Opal Express

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

Volume 58, Issue 1

— 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 – Thursday, January 16, 2025

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, January 16, 2025 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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