

Hi everybody,

I finally returned home November 2009. Since then I've been trying to get adjusted to retirement. Less money to deal with, but less distractions.

I do miss all of you at the OMGS. That was the best "club" I've ever joined and both Judi and I had a lot of fun being members.

OKC made the news shows this morning with a bit on how OKC has rebuilt the downtown and how it's booming. Okies have a lot to be proud of in their state. I miss it.

I'm still fighting my injuries and don't think I'll get much better. That helicopter crash in VN sure screwed my spine up. I have to walk with a cane or crutches and sit down a lot. Guess I'm lucky thou, when I go to the VA clinic in Orlando, I feel guilty I can walk in with crutches. These young people in Iraq and Afghanistan are sure getting beat up worse than we did in RVN. They have diagnosed me with PTSD but haven't gotten around to doing much about it. The VA is swamped in FL, not at all like the OK Dept of Veterans Affairs. The Orlando clinic has the highest patient count of any clinic in the USA. It's doesn't hold a candle to the facility in OKC.

I'm getting my workshop fixed up and will come to OK sometime this summer, health permitting, to get the rest of my stuff out of storage in Norman. I'll try and plan the trip over a monthly club meeting so I can visit. Got most of my rocks home via my Suburban and that 5X8 cargo trailer I bought. The trailer is still in OK and I'll have to pull it home too.

I'm enjoying fishing and shooting, gardening and going to the beach. Our family owns a condo at New Smyrna beach and if it's not rented, we go over for a couple of days. I hope you guys will leave me on the mailing list, I probably should keep on paying my dues for a while. Might just do that here pretty quick. I find petrified wood and alibates flint in the "river rock" that the nurseries sell for ground cover.

Thanks to everyone for giving me their time and patience in teaching me about rocks and lapidary skills. Especially the Colonel, Oscar, Paul, John and you. Many other helped, but this crowd seemed to guide me along pretty good and on a consistent basis. I ended up with some pretty complete and serviceable tools and lots of rocks and ideas. Thank God Oscar talked me into buying a lot of silver in 2003-2004 as I've got enough to last me a long time. When I run out, I'll just cut and polish anyway. Lots of "artists" here that silversmith, make jewelry and do shows but don't have the capability to cut and polish cabs. They like the freeform's anyway and I never could cut that perfect calibrated stone.

Miss you guys,
Les