

LAKE HAVASU GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

**P. O. Box 990
Lake Havasu City,
AZ 86405**

**Editor:
Barbara Wiggins
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A GOOD YEAR

A brand new year is given us,
It could be likened to a stone.
It can be polished and enhanced,
Or it can be left alone.

We can sit and watch it pass,
And wish we had our youth,
Or we can use the years we have
In search of love and truth.

This year can be a better year,
We can shine it to a glow.
No year is bad, no year is good,
Just people make it so.

Let's plan this year to be our best
By sharing love with others,
For peace will never thrive on earth
Until we live as brothers.

Source: Chiasto-HI-Lites via
Calgary Lapidary Journal,
12/2008

Rocky Tales

Volume 48, Issue 1

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The Official Publication of The Lake Havasu Gem & Mineral Society

GENERAL MEETING JANUARY 14, 2022

**Mount Olive Lutheran Church
2170 Havasupai Boulevard
(corner of Havasupai Blvd. and Acoma Blvd.)
Lake Havasu City, AZ 86403**

**Meeting Begins @ 7:00 p.m.
Visiting @ 6:30 p.m.**

Dues for 2022 are due now.



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CLUB INFORMATION

The Purpose of this Society shall be to:

- A. Increase our appreciation of the beauty and value of the land in which we live.
- B. Foster good fellowship among its members.
- C. Host an annual Gem and Mineral Show for the community.
- D. Foster awareness of the earth sciences by:
 - 1. Increasing knowledge pertaining to minerals, gems, and rocks.
 - 2. Disseminating knowledge of collecting and classification of minerals, fossils and rocks through collection and classification.
 - 3. Improving the practical knowledge of cutting, grinding and polishing materials to use in the design and creation of jewelry and other useful objects.
- E. Provide educational scholarships in the scientific fields.
- F. Procure and improve the Society's property.

The Lake Havasu Gem and Mineral Society meets the second Friday of each month from September through May.

The membership typically votes to eliminate the June, July, and August meetings.

Fiscal Year: February 1 – January 31.

Name badges are required for all members. One time or replacement badge cost is \$12.00

Annual Membership dues are payable on January 1 and are delinquent after the February meeting.

Single membership cost is \$20.00
Junior membership cost is \$10.00

Please remit payment to:

Lake Havasu Gem & Mineral Society
Attn: Membership Chairperson
P.O. Box 990
Lake Havasu City, AZ 86405-0990

The Lake Havasu Gem & Mineral Society is a member of The Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies (RMFMS) and associated with the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS).

OFFICERS and DIRECTORS

Rick Kerber	President
Linda Harley	Vice President
Sandie Willis	Secretary
Doreen Davis	Treasurer
Don Wininger	Sgt at Arms
Sherrill Mann	Director One Year
Kathy Padilla	Director Two Years
Linda Chandler	Director Three Years
Barry Bandaruk	Past President
Helen Reyes	Director of Operations Havasus Rocks
Vacant	Director of Operations Lapidary Shop

COMMITTEES

Communications	Jane Highness
Event	Open
Field Trip	Al Yannity
Gem Show	Sandie Willis
Hospitality	Open
Membership	Gayle Gilpin / Rose Mann
Lapidary Shop	Open
Havasus Rocks	Helen Reyes
Finance	Linda Harley
By-Laws	Sandie Willis
Nominating	Sandie Willis
Scholarship	Sandie Willis

Rocky Tales is published monthly except for June, July and August. The submission deadline is the 3rd Friday of the month by email to: bartobra@gmail.com

Rocky Tales Editor: Barbara Wiggins

Website Moderator: Jane Highness
<http://www.lakehavasugms.com/>

Facebook Page: Jane Highness
<https://www.facebook.com/HavaRockShop2017>

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Happy New Year to all club members and their friends and families. As we start 2022, the club is whole again. We have our retail shop inside the Lake Havasu Museum of History and our Lapidary Shop is just a few buildings south of the museum in the same parking lot. 2021 was a crazy year but we made it through with the help of a lot of our club members volunteering to move us here and there.

The Gem Show had about 1,500 guests and was a great success for the club. The total income from the show was \$8,466.95. Thank you Gayle Gilpin and Michelle Smedley for all of your hard work. Part of that income, the raffle baskets, brought in \$2,189.00 which will go into the scholarship fund for 2022 scholarships. Thank you Carol Jose for making those great raffle baskets.

Our partnership with the museum continues to grow as we work together, and we are looking for a great 2022 for both our club store and the museum. The club retail store has purchased a lot of new merchandise and the club store had a couple of Christmas sales which were a great success.

As we recover from the loss of over 100 members who did not renew during the Covid outbreak, we are now back up to 300+ members. We have field trips planned starting in January and the lapidary shop is up and running. A citizen (James Blake and his wife) sold the club some lapidary equipment including two brand new flat-lap type machines at a rock-bottom-price because they wanted our club to have them.

We had over 40 members at our last general membership meeting and a new board of directors has been voted in. You will see some familiar names and a few new ones. Look to see who is on your new board at the bottom of page 4.

Thank you to all of those of you that stepped up to be on the board and to all of those who continue to volunteer to make this a great club. Thank you to all who helped us move into and set up the new lapidary shop. A special thank you to Chuck Davis, Doreen Davis, Jane Highness, Mike Bamsch and Rose Mann who put in countless hours setting up the lapidary shop and having it ready for the grand opening on December 6th. Thank you to Doreen Davis who was our Treasurer in 2021 and who set up the very successful Christmas Party. I can keep on thanking so many members who have made my vision as president become successful.

Thanks all club members whose dues help keep our club financially stable. If you have not renewed your dues for 2022, now is a good time to do so.

Rick Kerber – President



LAKE HAVASU GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES
December 10, 2021

Board members present:

Rick Kerber, President
Linda Harley, Vice President
Doreen Davis, Treasurer
Sandra Willis, Secretary
Sherrill Mann, 3 Year Director
Linda Chandler, 2 Year Director
Kathy Padilla, 1 Year Director
Don Wininger, Sargent at Arms
Rose Mann, Assistant Director Havasu Rocks

The meeting was called to order by Rick Kerber, President, at 7PM.

The **Pledge of Allegiance** was led by Don Wininger, Sargent at Arms

The **Minutes** from the previous meeting, found in Rocky Tales, was approved unanimously, after a motion by Al Yannity and second by Doreen Davis.

Treasurer's Report was presented by Doreen Davis, Treasurer, and is available with the Society's records. Doreen has decided to step down from her position. Thank you, Doreen, for doing a great job as Treasurer. We appreciate the work you have done and all you have accomplished for the Society.

Membership Chairman, Gayle Gilpin reported that we currently have 298 members, and 2 have joined today, making it 300. There were 24 new members during the past month, 22 of whom joined at the Gem Show. Only 107 present members have paid dues, which are due by the February meeting. New members present tonight are Manda Davis, Jan Salisbury, Terry Foster, Amanda Bonnett, Spencer Frankenberger, and Brandon and Francie Hayden who joined this evening. Each was presented with a polished rock.

Board Election: Members up for election were introduced. Joni McKenna, who was running for 3 year Director, had backed out, and Jim Wijnhamer was put in her place. Joseph Scheyer stepped up to be in the 1 year Director slot that had been opened when Sherrill Mann agreed to run for Vice President. Still open are Treasurer and Lapidary Shop Director. Barry Bandaruk is Past President on the board, and Linda Chandler moves into the 2 year Director position.

President, Rick Kerber
Vice President, Sherrill Mann
Secretary, Sandra Willis
Sargent at Arms, Don Wininger
3 year Director, Jim Wijnhamer
1 year Director, Joseph Scheyer
Havasus Rocks Store Director, Kathy Padilla
Havasus Rocks Co-Director, Rose Mann

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Ballots were passed out to 38 members, making a quorum. There are "write-in" lines for each position.

Gem Show Report, Gayle Gilpin reported approximately 1500 guests. Carol Jose's baskets were beautiful, consisting of mostly donated items from local businesses. The proceeds went to the Scholarship fund, which is almost \$4000. Sandie Willis will become the Gem Show chairman, with much assistance from Gayle. Thank you, Gayle, for your years of service, and a job well done.

Havasu Rocks: The store, per Kathy Padilla, is doing well. Winter visitors are coming back. New hours are from 11am to 3pm. There will be a 25% off sale on Saturday, December 18, 2021. Member, Kathy Winterburn from Nebraska, made a donation of many articles to sell in the store. The swap meet last Sunday was successful, and another is planned if there are any folks who would like to sell their wares.

Lapidary Shop: Chuck Davis has resigned as Lapidary Shop Director. A big "Thank you" to Chuck for all his hard work and organization of the new shop, along with all he did with moving out of the old into storage, and moving out of storage and into the new shop. Great job! The Grand Opening with the ribbon cutting was the 6th, and was well attended. The shop is getting busier. All who operate equipment are required to take a refresher/safety class. The classroom has been set up and will be ready for classes that should start in January. The Lapidary Shop flag has been purchased and is put up when the shop is open, unless there is strong wind. Some used equipment has been purchased for \$350, which included 2 flat lap grinders that have not been used. The value is close to \$2000.

Old Business: There have been no field trips this month, due to the moving and set up of the new shop. Four trips are in the planning stages and will be in emails. Jim Peterson, sphere maker, has equipment for sale. He will have a yard sale on December 17th and 18th at his home at 3000 Star Drive.

New Business: The \$200/year passes are available. They must be paid with cash or check, and will become valid January 1, 2022. The club has ordered new business cards with the address corrections.

Website: Jane Highness continues to work on the website. She has run into some difficulties, but says it is a "work in progress." Website: Lakehavasugms.com; Facebook is Havasu Rocks, Rockshop & Lapidary Workshop.

The Christmas party is tomorrow, starting at 4pm, with dinner orders taken at 5pm, at the Quality Inn. 47 have signed up for it.

Ballots were counted, and all running were elected into their offices.

A break was taken and refreshments were served.

The door prizes were given out and winner of the entire 50/50 was Lilly Betts.

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sandra Willis
Secretary

Membership Dues for 2022 are due

Single membership is \$20.00
Junior membership (ages 12 to 18) is \$10.00

Please either renew at the general membership meeting or mail your payment to:

Lake Havasu Gem & Mineral Society
Attn: Membership Chairperson
P.O. Box 990
Lake Havasu City, AZ 86405-0990

TREASURER'S DREAM

Author Unknown

**I fell asleep the other night
and while I had my snooze
I dreamed each member stepped right up
and promptly paid his dues.**

**But when I found it was a dream,
I nearly had a fit.
It's up to you to make it true,
so won't you please REMIT?**

Source: Shin-Skinner, 11/2005, via The RockCollector, 12/2005

Havasu Rocks Lapidary Shop's Grand Opening



The new Lapidary Shop is located at 278-B London Bridge Rd., Lake Havasu City, AZ. The entrance faces the parking lot.

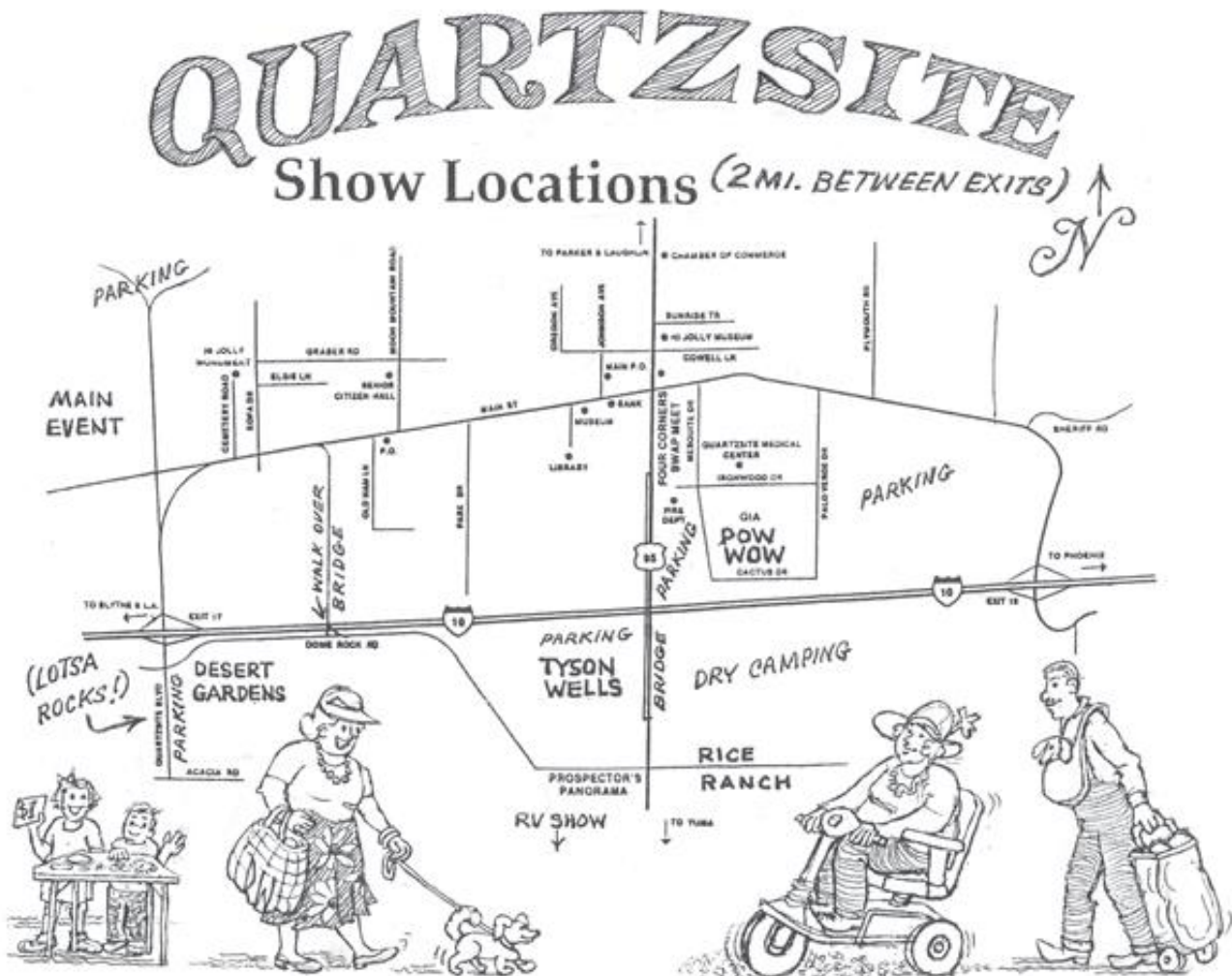
The Lapidary Shop is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm until June.

Due to the Lapidary Shop being closed for the past eight months, everyone will need a refresher course on shop safety and proper use of equipment. If you have taken the club safety course before, this update will be no cost to you. For those who haven't taken the course previously, the charge is \$15.

Use of grinders, polishers and trim saws - \$3 per hour / \$10 half day (up to 4 hours) or \$18 full day (7 hours or more).

Slab saw cuts - 25 cents per sq. inch per cut - requires completion of the Slab Saw Class.
50 cents per sq. inch per cut if a Shop Monitor does it all.

Members may purchase unlimited use of the lapidary equipment for \$200 a calendar year. This begins in January of each year.



Quartzsite Market Place Street Fair
 October 1, 2021 - March 31, 2022

Tyson Wells Market Center Swap Meet
 October 01, 2021 - April 1, 2022

Grease Wood Swap Meet
 November 2021 - April, 2022

Desert Gardens - Gem & Mineral
 January 1, 2022 - February 28, 2022

Prospectors Panorama
 January 2022

Tyson Wells Rock & Gem Show
 January 7 - 16, 2022
 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Tyson Wells Sell-A-Rama
 January 21 - 30, 2022
 9:00 am-5:00 pm

Sports, Vacation & RV Show (The Big Tent)
 January 22 - 30, 2022
 9:00 am-5:00 pm (3 pm closing day)

Arts and Crafts Fair
 February 4-13, 2022 - 10 days,
 2.2 miles of aisle frontage

Quartzsite Gold Show - QIA building
 February 11 - 13th 2022
 Friday - Saturday 9-4 pm, Sunday. 9-3 pm

Source:
<https://www.desertusa.com/cities/az/quartzsite.html>

BUYING LAPIDARY MATERIAL
A Guide for Buying Material at Rock & Gem Shows
Joel Johnson

With the Gem & Mineral shows coming up here are some thoughts about buying lapidary material. Don't expect a discount if only buying one item. You might ask if this is the best deal they can make but remember that for many of these vendors this is their livelihood. Best material goes early, and you'll likely pay full price. Best deals are at the end of the show, but the selection of material will be limited.

Buying Rough - You are going to lose about 25% when slabbing so you better be getting it cheap. Unless you have your own slab saw (or a friend with one) it's going to cost you to get it slabbed. You never know how good the slabs will turn out. Bad slabbing can trash a piece of rough.

Buying Slabs - It is often better to buy slabs. May be more expensive per lb. but you aren't paying for a lot of material you won't/can't use. Get to see patterns immediately. Can see fractures and flaws. If buying by weight, it may be more cost effective to buy smaller pieces you will use entirely than a big piece where you might throw away a lot of unwanted stone.

Slab buying etiquette - **DON'T EVER CHECK FOR FRACTURES BY DROPPING THE SLAB!** You break it, you bought it is very true here. This is a technique you **ONLY** use on slabs you own. Bring a scribe to check for fractures. Bring a loupe/10x lens for closer inspection. Bring a pencil/sharpie to write on your purchases. Most vendors will have water (spray or tubs) so use it to check for color and fractures. Might want a small towel to wipe off excess water to check for fractures. Don't forget to check the edges. Plain looking surfaces may hide real layered treasures exposed in the edges. May also expose that the great surface is only superficial. If material name and source isn't identified, ask and use a pencil or sharpie to write the info on your slab purchases for later identification. It may be a while before you get back to them.

Buying Finished Cabs - Sometimes you may fall in love with a material and there aren't any slabs or rough for sale. In this case you may want to buy someone else's cab. The bulk of the cost is not the material but the labor involved in cutting. Better cutting means higher prices. You should know enough now on what to look for in a finished cab: How are the edges? Are they beveled, straight, or reversed? Do they come down to a knife-edge or do they have a girdle? Is there a slight back bevel at the bottom edge so it isn't sharp and likely to chip. Is the surface smooth and free of scratches, flat spots, or ridges. These issues can be fixed by re-cutting or re-polishing the stone. They may also be a bargaining point to get you a better deal.

Even if you don't buy... Talk to vendors. Find out where they do their buying (don't be surprised if they all say "Tucson"). Look at material and what it is priced and ask where it comes from. This will build your knowledge base. Check out finished cabs. Build a relationship you might use in the future and, most importantly... Have Fun!

Source: Palo Duro Lapidary via Stone Chat, Winter 2017-2018, via The RockCollector, 1/2018

TOTE THAT ROCK - LIFT THAT TOOLBAG

Mel Albright
AFMS Safety Chai

One thing that we rockhounds do a whole bunch - pick up rocks - little rocks, bigger rocks, and big rocks. Rocks by themselves, rocks in boxes, rocks in buckets, rocks in sacks - all are ways we collect and move rocks. And heavy tool bags are lifted all too often.


The classic joke picture of rockhounds is a bunch of people standing with straight legs, bent over at the waist, and touching the ground with their hands. It is too often true, unfortunately.




Another thing we rockhounds do is put those heavy tools and rocks into a vehicle - or take them out - often by swinging things.

And the result is a lot of bad backs, sore backs, back strains, sometimes even permanently damaged backs. So, we need to learn - AND PRACTICE - the proper way to lift and lower heavy stuff (actually light stuff, too) without hurting ourselves. To lift and move something, several steps should be followed. We'll pretend we're picking up a rock, but the rules are the same for ANYTHING we pick up - even our dirty socks.

1. Stand with your feet apart about shoulder width, the rock between your feet, and one foot slightly in front of the other (for balance).

2.  Lower yourself by bending your knees until you can grab the rock. The rock should be close to your body. Keep your back straight and your chin tucked in.

3.  SLOWLY lift the rock by straightening up your knees and pushing with your leg muscles. Keep the rock in close to your body. Do NOT twist sideways.

4. Once standing, DO NOT TWIST your back. To move the rock sideways, turn with your feet. Keep the rock in close to your body.

5. Once you get where you are going with the rock, reverse the steps you used to lift the rock. Remember - KEEP YOUR BACK STRAIGHT!!

6. If the rock must go into a trunk or car or whatever, set it down on the edge keeping a straight back. Then slide it into the vehicle. Most of us will bend over at the waist and swing it in - a sure way to get a bad back!

7. You aren't SUPERMAN OR WOMAN! If the rock or bucket or bag is too heavy for you to carry easily, do it another way! Get help. Use a skid made from a heavy cloth or a wood slat with a rope tied to the end. Roll the rock using a long handled tool to pry with. Use your ingenuity!

Source AFMS Newsletter, 4/1998

DESERTS OF CALIFORNIA

by Stephen P. Mulqueen

WHY IS THE MOJAVE DESERT such a great laboratory for the study of the geosciences? The Mojave Desert is a vast region composed of an abundance of rock units containing complex mineral assemblages in an active tectonic setting. These factors allow the field observer to gather an abundance of scientific knowledge regarding all aspects of the geological sciences while exploring the Mojave.

Variety of Rocks and Minerals - The Mojave Desert contains a vast sequence of rocks that represent the three rock types including sedimentary, igneous and metamorphic. This variety of rocks with their associated mineral deposits is unparalleled in the realm of the geological sciences. The Mojave contains at least "one of each" of the unusual varieties of rocks and minerals known to occur within the Earth's crust.

Oldest Rocks - Some of the oldest rocks in California are found in the Mojave Desert. The oldest rocks in this desert region range in age from 1.7 to 2.5 billion years old. These ancient rocks are metamorphic, date from the Early Proterozoic Eon of the Precambrian Era and consist of altered sedimentary, volcanic or intrusive igneous rocks. These old rock units tell a story of early depositional or intrusive events followed by exposure to harsh tectonic forces under conditions of deep burial, intense heat and extreme pressures.

Marine Sedimentary Sequences - The Mojave contains examples of deep marine depositional environments and stratigraphic sequences, features that cannot be easily observed at the extreme depths of the oceans. In some regions of the Mojave, stratigraphic sequences represent the entire marine environment from near-shore to deep ocean basins, preserved in the sedimentary rock units. The Mojave also contains marine fossils representing the earliest life forms to emerge on the Earth.

Gold Deposits - Some geologist and prospectors have proclaimed that the Mojave is "full of gold." This statement is actually true. Gold can be found throughout this desert region in the form of hard-rock occurrences, large disseminated deposits and placer accumulations. Gold can be found in varying amounts just about everywhere in the Mojave. Some of the old prospectors would state, "For every dime's-worth of gold mined from the ground, there is a dollar's-worth remaining." This is still true today in the Mojave Desert.

Metallic Ore Deposits - The Mojave Desert contains thousands of large metallic ore deposits besides the abundance of gold. Ore deposits of the Mojave include minerals containing varying amounts of iron, lead, silver, zinc, copper, titanium, platinum, tin, gallium, cadmium, bismuth, tungsten, vanadium, chromium, manganese, magnesium, cobalt, nickel, molybdenum, beryllium, strontium, barium, lithium, radium and the rare earth metals (partial list). Many of these deposits have been mined for their valuable resources. Desert features exhibiting abandoned mining operations are indicators of the rich deposits that occur or have occurred in the Mojave Desert. These mines and metallic deposits offer geologic lessons in ore chemistry, mineralogy and mining history.

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Industrial Mineral Deposits - Industrial minerals are natural resources that are in demand by industry and society for their physical and/or chemical properties. Examples of industrial mineral deposits found in the Mojave Desert may include aggregates (sand & gravel), natural brines containing chemical resources, clay (kaolinite, bentonite, hectorite, etc.), barite, diatomite, borate minerals (borax, colemanite, etc.), dimension stone, feldspar, fluorspar, limestone/dolomite, marble, mica, potash, pumice, quartz, slate, silica sand, sulfur, talc, vermiculite and zeolite (partial list). These deposits offer fantastic lessons to geology students about geochemistry, depositional environments and industrial uses of minerals.

Lake Deposits - The Mojave Desert has many examples of the depositional features common to enclosed lake basins, now exposed as ancient lacustrine deposits. The Barstow Formation exposed in the Barstow Basin and the Calico Formation in the Calico Hills are two great examples of lake deposits exposed at the surface. These deposits offer wonderful examples of sedimentary structures such as ripple marks, tectonic features such as folding/faulting, industrial mineral deposits such as borate accumulations and details of soft sediment deformation. The Barstow Basin is frequently visited by geology students for field studies on sedimentary rocks and geologic mapping.

Landslides, Rock Falls and Mudflows - The Mojave contains many examples of the process known as “mass wasting” caused by the sudden release of unconsolidated rock and mud debris. Flashfloods and mudflows are common in the desert regions due to the occurrence of cloudbursts and the inability for rainwater to be quickly absorbed by the thin underdeveloped soils. Windstorms can obstruct views and at the same time can offer examples of the intense forces of nature at work in the desert. One of the largest landslides in North America is known as the Blackhawk Landslide, located on the north slope of the San Bernardino Mountains in the southeastern portion of Lucerne Valley within the Mojave Desert. The landslide debris field is approximately 5 miles long, 2 miles wide and 30 to 100 feet thick. This slide occurred during a year of abundant rain around 17,000 years ago. Geology students from colleges throughout the country have conducted detailed fieldwork at the Blackhawk Landslide in order to study the complex nature of the causes of landslides.



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Aerial view above of the Blackhawk Slide, Mojave Desert, California. It measures 5 mi. l. x ca. 2 mi. w. x 30-100 ft. d. The slide is one of the largest known in North America. This prehistoric slide occurred ca. 17,000 years ago, which is recent in geologic timeframes. It originated on Blackhawk Mountain, which is located on the north side of the San Bernardino Mountains, and it spread across the Lucerne Valley. Credit: Doc Searls, Wiki Creative Commons.

Erosion - Erosion allows for new rock exposures, the removal of the thin soil cover and the deposition of new sediment. Erosion is caused by the forces of wind, water movement and/or chemical degradation of rocks. This allows the field observer to witness geologic forces as they occur, revealing details of the complex nature of the Earth's crust. The Mojave is a great setting to observe the forces of nature at work and to see the depositional features related to those forces.

Additional References.

The Blackhawk Slide. <http://www.lucernevalley.net/history/blackhawk.htm>

W. Feller. Digital Desert. <http://mojavedesert.net/overview/01.html>

USGS. General Geologic History. <https://pubs.usgs.gov/of/2004/1007/geologic.html>

Source: The Pegmatite, 1/2019

10 New Year's Resolutions for Rockhounds

1. Collect interesting specimens, including the brown unknown ones, just in case they might turn out to be something special.
2. Look for signs on the side of the road stating "Falling Rock" and pull over to wait for them to fall.
3. Treasure ancient, fossilized animal dung even the kind I find in my own backyard.
4. Color co-ordinate clothes and shoes to match gemstone pendants.
5. Chant "Them rocks, them rocks, they really rock."
6. Lick better rocks.
7. Move the rock garden into the house.
8. Cut and polish more rocks.
9. Volunteer at the club more.
10. SHARE THE LOVE OF ROCKHOUDING WITH OTHERS

Source: Victor Valley G&MC, The Bulletin, 1/2015

HAPPY JANUARY BIRTHDAY

Sally Bruce
Lorell Bryson
Peggy Delach
John Dobberteen
Karen Downs
Lani Henschen
Dave Kazsak
Rod Lano
Rose Mann
Elisa McKenzie
Michael Ridenour
Leslie Rosario
Matt Schilling
Cal Sheehy
Mel Shockey
Rebecca Smith
Helen Springer
Nick Yanity

HAPPY JANUARY ANNIVERSARY

Jude Galbraith
Duane & Linda Gauthun
Gene & Debbie Johnston
Clara Kelley
Lou & Liz Porter
Jan Salsberry
Nathan & Susan Scott
Tracy Scribner
Leonard & Bonnie Wegman

DENDRITES

Did you know that dendrites are perhaps the most common geologic oddity? They usually resemble a tiny fern frond or colony of algae. The term “dendritic” refers to branching figure resembling a fern, frond, branch or tree. They are usually formed in thin hard-bedded shale and limestone. Concentrations of the manganese mineral called pyrolusite (black manganese oxide) percolate into the cracks and fissures of shale and limestone, leaving behind a residue which forms the dendritic patterns.

Source The Fossil Enquirer, via Chips ‘N Splinters, 9/2005

Hints n' Such

These hints were gathered primarily from the bulletins and web sites of other clubs. You should always use them with caution because some are untried and others may not be tried and true. Just ideas!

OBISIDIAN TIPS

Safety: After obsidian is sawed, be sure to bevel the edges all around on your fine grinding wheel to keep them from flaking and chipping. Wear goggles or glasses at all times. If a small chip of glass (obsidian) got into your eye, it would be hard to remove as it is transparent and hard to see even with a powerful magnifying glass, and the edges may cut you to a great extent before it could be removed.

Grinding Cabs: Approach your grinding wheel with the material at a slight horizontal angle. If brought straight in, it may be a "shattering" experience as obsidian fractures conchoidally and this is a sure way to do it.

Polishing Obsidian: Keep the polishing wheel wet. A dry polishing wheel will result in blisters and scratches.

Source: Rockhound Ramblings via Chips 'N Splinters, 10/2004



To clean fragile or hard to reach recesses in mineral specimens, try CREW, a product of Johnson's Wax. Spray the foam on the rock, let it set a minute, then rinse with water. It is safe on all materials including calcite and fluorite.

Source: Rock Waves, 4/2002 via Gneiss Times, 10/2004



POLISHING TALC by Richard Chappell, Jr. Houston Gem & Mineral Society

The natives of Brazil have used the talc found there to make common utensils such as cooking appliances. Professional talc carvers from Anapolis-Goles, Brazil, showed me this quick method when they visited Houston, Texas, in a nation-wide tour.

1. CUT the talc into size desired with hand saw (even the pros didn't use any electric equipment except a lathe for hollowing out bowls and pots). Sometimes this step may be skipped if the piece is of the correct size.
2. CARVE the talc into approximate shape with a knife.
3. SAND with 220 or 400 grit sandpaper.
4. SMOOTH with quadruple zero (0000) steel wool, the finest available.
5. HEAT in strong sunlight or warm oven until slightly warm to the touch.
6. RUB with clear paste wax while the talc is still hot, and you have got yourself a finished carving.

Reasonably pure talc is required, but impurities give it a delightful marking or pattern. This method may be used for cabs, statues, or anything else. The finished product may surprise you, as you can't tell how it will turn out until the paste wax is on.



A quick and safe way to determine the hardness of a stone is to mark it with an aluminum pencil. The fainter the marks the harder the stone and you will not harm the tested piece. An aluminum mark cannot be made on a stone harder than 7 on the MOS scale.

Source: Golden Spike News, 7/2004, via Quarry Quips, 9/2004

ROCKY TALES
LAKE HAVASU GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY, INC.
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