



ROCKY TALES

The Official Publication of the Lake Havasu Gem & Mineral Society

October

Volume 51, Issue 9

OCTOBER MEETING*NEW DATE AND TIME*NEW VENUE

Next meeting is Wednesday October 1, 2025 at 5:30 pm at Yacht Club at

631 London Bridge Road

5:30 pm Sign in and drink coffee, eat snacks, catch up with friends

6:00 pm Meeting starts

Message from the President



President's Message – SEPTEMBER Highlight

September has been full of excitement for the Gem and Mineral Society! Our shop has been busy with inventory flying out the door as quickly as we put it in. Havasu Rocks is now stocked with fresh treasures, including an incredible selection of metaphysical crystals and a fossilized crocodile we've nicknamed Chris Croc. We are also thrilled to share some stunning opalized fluorite from the Pleiades Mine in Nevada – absolutely beautiful, and they light up brilliantly under UV!

Our shop crew has been steadily cutting and creating, and it's been wonderful to see so many members returning after their summer travels. The clubhouse is lively again, just the way we like it.

To top it off, we held our very first meeting at our new venue, the Lake Havasu Yacht Club, and it was nothing short of awesome. Here's to a great season ahead!

Rock steady,

Steve Prather, President, LHGMS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Steve Prather
Vice President	Elley Ringo
Secretary	Sandra Willis
Treasurer	Michele Trumbull
Sargent at Arms	Carrie Morkert
One Year Director	Elley Ringo
Two Year Director	Christine Evans
Three Year Director	Linda Harley
Past President	Jason Upchurch
Havasus Rocks Director	Michelle Trumbull
Havasus Rocks Assistant Director	Leslie Rosario
Lapidary Shop Director	Steve Prather

	Workshop Schedule	
Shop Safety Workshop	As needed and requested. Workshop is required in order to use Lapidary Shop.	This is our shop orientation, how to use equipment per manufacturer recommendations, and the safe use of equipment. Cost is \$15.

In Memoriam:

Don "Grandpa Don" Wininger passed away on August 13. A longtime member of the Lake Havasu Gem & Mineral Society and a regular vendor at our Gem Show, he generously shared his deep knowledge of rocks and minerals with anyone who asked. Grandpa Don will be warmly remembered and greatly missed.

Our condolences go out to Carol Whearty whose husband, Riley, passed away August 29.

Call for Nominations: Help Shape the Future of Our Society!

Are you interested in helping guide the future of the Lake Havasu Gem and Mineral Society? Do you know someone who would make a great leader? It's time to start thinking about board nominations!

We invite all members to consider submitting nominations for the upcoming Board of Directors election. Now is your chance to get involved and make a difference.

Here's how it works:

Nominations can be submitted on or before the November general meeting.

Voting will take place at the December general meeting.

Being on the board is a great way to support the mission of our society, strengthen our programs, and bring fresh energy to our events and outreach. New voices are always welcome!

To nominate someone, please contact a current board member or submit your nomination in person at the November meeting.

Let's continue to grow, evolve, and rock on - together!

Trash in the Desert: A Growing Problem Near Lake Havasu City

On a recent rockhounding trip, Lake Havasu Gem & Mineral Society members Steve and John made a disappointing discovery out among the rugged beauty of our desert. Instead of finding only colorful agates or glittering quartz, they came across a burned-out camper shell and piles of household debris scattered across the land.

A Hidden Scar on the Landscape

At first glance, the desert around Lake Havasu looks endless and untouched—rolling washes, volcanic outcrops, and open skies. But when trash gets dumped illegally, it leaves behind scars that last for years. Unlike city streets where garbage trucks make regular rounds, what's left in the desert often stays there. Rusting metal, broken appliances, and charred shells of old campers don't just look bad—they leach chemicals into the soil and create hazards for people and wildlife alike.

More Than Just an Eyesore

Illegal dumping threatens the very reasons people venture into the desert. Families come to camp, hike, and enjoy the scenery; rockhounds search for treasures beneath the sand and gravel. Yet when they stumble across a heap of discarded furniture or construction debris, the experience is tarnished. Wildlife can be harmed by sharp metal or toxic residues, while desert plants struggle to grow in contaminated soil.

The Cost to Everyone

Cleanups of these dumping sites don't happen for free. Tax dollars, volunteer hours, and countless weekends are spent hauling out other people's garbage. Every abandoned mattress, fridge, or camper shell becomes a burden carried by the wider community instead of the person who left it behind.

What We Can Do

The desert belongs to all of us, and protecting it starts small:

- Pack it in, pack it out. Whether it's a soda can or a tent stake, don't leave it behind.
- Report illegal dumping. Mohave County and the Bureau of Land Management both have hotlines for reporting abandoned debris.
- Join a cleanup day. Local groups, including rock clubs and off-road associations, often organize desert cleanups. Many hands make light work.
- Educate others. Share the message that trash doesn't just disappear—especially in the desert.

A Desert Worth Protecting

Steve and John set out that day looking for rocks, not ruins of someone else's irresponsibility. Their find is a sobering reminder that while Lake Havasu's desert is vast, it isn't limitless. Every pile of debris left behind eats away at the beauty and health of the land we treasure.

With care, respect, and community effort, we can keep the desert the wild and wonderful place it's meant to be.

LHGMS General Meeting Minutes 03 September 2025

Board Members present: Steve Prather-President; Elley Ringo-Vice President; Michele Trumbull – Treasurer; Linda Harley-Director; Carrie Morkert - Sergeant at Arms, Leslie Rosiaro – Assistant Director of Havasu Rocks

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Steve Prather-President. This is our very first meeting at the new location – The Havasu Yacht Club. Huge thanks to our new hosts.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG: Pledge of Allegiance was led by Carrie Morkert-Sgt at Arms.
MINUTES: Minutes of the May 09, 2025 meeting were posted in the Rocky Tales and emailed to membership. Motion by Bambi to approve the Minutes as posted in the Rocky Tales and emailed to members. Motion seconded by Jane. Motion passed.
Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's report was given by Linda Harley. Society: \$32,478.03 Havasu Rocks: \$26,791.78, Total: \$59,269.81, Scholarship Fund: Over \$6,000

Committees and Reports:

Membership: It was reported that we have a total of 328 members, which is up an incredible nearly 40 new members from our total of 290 in May. This amount of growth over the summer months is unmatched in our club's memory. Great job getting the word out and sharing the love of geology everyone!!!

Many new members were in attendance, including but not limited to Dave the jade guy, John from Montana, Keith who's on the lookout for a nice, wealthy widow to supplement his rock habit, Patti who was a member years ago and is back for more, Foxx from Colorado, Sonia who used to edit our newsletter in the 90's – welcome back! Cindy and Gary from California are excited to expand their rock knowledge, and Debbie and Kenny are from the rock painting club in town that shares our name Havasu Rocks, and are excited to find out what our version of Havasu Rocks has to offer!

Memorial Notice: Steve Prather brought to the club's attention the tragic loss of our collective Grandpa, Don Winninger on August 13th. Grandpa Don was an honorary lifetime member of the club and will be sorely missed. No services have been decided upon as of yet, but details will be distributed to everyone as they come.

Summer Report: A question was brought up by a member about how things at Havasu Rocks were doing since the split with the museum and consolidation in one location. Steve Prather was proud to report that Havasu Rocks continues to thrive and grow. The split from the museum was a beneficial move for us and things have really taken off in a great direction. Volunteers have stepped up to the plate (more are always welcome and

needed!) and the shop is doing very well. This summer season has exceeded our sales and participation expectations. Good job everyone!

Field Trips: It's still very warm, but we are working on it! Steve reported that he and John are taking regular scouting trips for a new spot for the club. They want to have a claim with the club if we find a really cool material. They brought some purple agate material to show off. Where they found it is potentially a future field trip spot or claim. If something with reasonable accessibility can be found, we will do our best to get a field trip put together, but if anyone feels confident suggesting a location or even leading a trip, please reach out! We'd love to remind everyone that field trips are not exclusively planned by the board. ANY member can suggest or lead a field trip and the club would be very grateful!

Bylaws: Elly Ringo reported on her progress updating the bylaws. She's put a lot of work into making clarifications, updates, and revisions that should make them easier to read and understand. The updated bylaws and rules will be shared and voted on after the revisions are finished.

Elections: Elections are up! As of now, the new board members up for election are Kelsey Friedrichsen for Secretary, and John Jackson for Lapidary Shop Director. Any additional nominations for board members are welcome to be heard at a meeting, or emailed to the club.

6:30 - 15 Minute Break

Gem Show: Steve Prather and Elley Ringo reported this year's gem show is shaping up to be the biggest yet! Our annual gem and mineral show will be held on Nov 8th and 9th this year and vendor spots are sold out. We desperately need members to commit to volunteering to ensure this show runs smoothly. Sign-up sheets will be at the next club meeting, but please email the club if you are interested in helping! We need everything from greeters, security, and manual labor to bake sale volunteers and baked goods as donations! We will find a place for you to volunteer no matter what your talents are. Steve would also like to see T-shirts available by the gem show. We are in the process of making this happen. They will have a design with the new logo

Other Shows: Winterfest will be Jan 31st – Feb 1st 2026, and the dates for the PowWow in Quartzsite have yet to be announced but we will need volunteers for both. More details to come as those events get closer.

Cab Cutting Contest Winner was Tom RHBC with a piece of Royston turquoise he mined himself on the Nevada trip earlier this year.

Raffle: Joyce won \$14 and Charlotte won \$15
Toni Ruff and Jane Highness won candles in the raffle.

Door prizes donated by the club were once again great! Thank you everyone who came and participated!

Meeting was adjourned at 7:15.
Where was Josh Bagwell???

Minutes taken by member, Kelsey Friedrichsen – Please vote for me for Secretary! I'll do a good job I promise!

CLUB INFORMATION

The Purpose of this Society shall be to:

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

STANDING COMMITTEES	
Events	Courtney Payton
Field Trips	Elley Ringo
Finance	Michele Trumbull

Gem Show	Steve Prather, chair Sandy Willis, co-chair Elley Ringo, vendors
Hospitality	Sandy Guelff
Havasu Rocks	Michele Trumbull
Lapidary Shop	Steve Prather
Membership	Rose Mann
<i>If you are interested in being on one of the above committees, or chairing a committee, please contact the President Steve Prather.</i>	

The Lake Havasu Gem and Mineral Society meets **the first Wednesday of each month from Sept. through May at the Yacht Club facility at 631 London Bridge Road in Lake Havasu City.** Fiscal Year: February 1 – January 31.

Name badges are required for all members. One time or replacement badge cost is \$15.00

Annual membership dues are payable on:

Due January 1 for all members who joined before July, 2024. (due Jan. 1 and delinquent after February meeting)

Due month of membership for all members who joined after July 2024. (due the first day of the month of join month and delinquent after the next month's meeting)

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

Payment should be remitted to:

Lake Havasu Gem & Mineral Society ATTN: Membership

PO Box 990

Lake Havasu City AZ 86405

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).

Rocky Tales Newsletter is published monthly from September – May. Members are encouraged to submit articles for publication. The submission of news and articles deadline is the 3rd Friday of the month by email to:

Rocky Tales Editor: Joyce McCluskey at bigmamablue@gmail.com

Follow us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/HavaRockShop2017>

Website Administrator is Karen Sawyer <http://www.lakehavasugms.com>