



ROCKY TALES

The Official Publication of the Lake Havasu Gem & Mineral Society

January 2026 Volume 51, Issue 1

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

**Next meeting is Wednesday January 7, 2026 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

President's Message for the New Year

Hello Rockhounds!

Happy New Year to all our Gem and Mineral Society members!

As we step into 2026, I want to thank each of you for the energy, enthusiasm, and generosity you bring to our club. What makes this society special isn't just the rocks, minerals, and gems we love—it's the people who show up, share knowledge, volunteer their time, and make this club such a welcoming community.

Before we look too far ahead, I want to give a big thank-you to everyone who came out for our rocking picnic and potluck at the Boat Parade on December 13. We had a great turnout, lots of good food, plenty of laughs, and an all-around fantastic time. It was wonderful to see so many members there enjoying the evening together.

Looking ahead to the new year, we have several exciting events coming up, including QIA PowWow in Quartzsite and Winterfest here in Lake Havasu City. These events are great opportunities to represent our club, connect with the community, and share our love of rocks and minerals. More details will be shared as plans are finalized, and volunteers are always appreciated.

We will also have club elections coming up, and I encourage members to consider stepping into a leadership role. At this time, we are still in need of a Shop Director and a Secretary. These positions are vital to keeping our club running smoothly, and they come with the full support of the board and fellow members. If you are interested or would like more information, please reach out—we would love to talk with you.



The start of a new year is the perfect time to get more involved, whether that means volunteering in the shop, helping at events, joining a committee, or simply introducing yourself to someone new at a meeting. This is your club, and it continues to thrive because of you.

Here's to a rock-solid 2026 filled with discovery, learning, and camaraderie. I look forward to seeing you at our meetings and events in the months ahead.

See you at the meeting—and out in the field!

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
Havasu Rocks Director	Michelle Trumbull
Havasu Rocks Assistant Director	Leslie Rosario
Lapidary Shop Director	Steve Prather

Schedule of Workshops and Events

Check out our website to stay current with planned events at:

<https://lakehavasugms.com/events/>

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.
QIA PowWow	Jan. 21-25, 2026 Quartzsite	We have a booth. More info later on website.
Winterfest	Jan. 31 – Feb. 1, 2026 On McCulloch Blvd, Lake Havasu City	We have two spaces and will be selling Club inventory. Volunteers are needed to man the booth.

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? Contact a board member if are interested in serving in a leadership capacity in our club.

Rockhounder's Resolutions — Havasu Style

A New Year on Desert Ground

A new year in Lake Havasu doesn't arrive quietly. It comes with cool desert mornings, long shadows on the hills, and that familiar itch to get back out on the land. While the rest of the world is busy making big resolutions, rockhounds know better. The best promises are small, steady, and worn in like a favorite pair of boots.

So as we kick off another year in our corner of the Mojave, here are a few Rockhounder's Resolutions — Havasu style.

1. I Resolve to Respect the Desert That Gives Us So Much

From the washes and ridgelines around Havasu to the wide-open spaces we explore beyond town, the desert is generous — but fragile. Filling holes, packing out trash, watching where we drive, and honoring land rules help ensure these places stay open and beautiful for years to come.

2. I Resolve to Learn the Land, Not Just the Rocks

Every trip teaches us something — about geology, plants, weather, or why that hill looks easy until you're halfway up it. Knowing the land makes us better collectors and safer explorers.

3. I Resolve to Share the Experience

Invite someone new on a field trip. Help a first-timer spot their first decent find. Share tips in the shop or stories at a meeting. Many of us remember the moment we got hooked — and it usually involved someone generous with their time.

4. I Resolve to Rock My Own Way

Some members love early-morning field trips. Some prefer the lapidary shop. Some come for the science, some for the sparkle, some for the camaraderie. There's no single "right" way to be a rockhound in Havasu — and that's what makes our club strong.

5. I Resolve to Support the Club When I Can

Whether it's volunteering, helping with an event, showing up to meetings, or just offering encouragement, our society runs on participation. Every small contribution adds up to a strong community.

6. I Resolve to Appreciate My Finds — Old and New

Before chasing the next great piece, take a moment to admire what's already been collected. The slabs waiting to be cut, the jars of "maybes," the rocks that hold memories of trips, friends, and good days in the field.

7. I Resolve to Keep the Joy Front and Center

Because in the end, this hobby is about curiosity, connection, and that unmistakable thrill of finding something beautiful where others might see only dirt and stone.

Here's to a new year of desert sunrises, dusty boots, friendly conversations, and a few surprises hiding in plain sight.

Happy New Year from Rocky Tales — see you out there.

Lake Havasu Gem & Mineral Society**General Membership Meeting****December 3, 2025****Officers Present****President Steve Prather****Vice President Elley Ringo****Treasurer Michele Trumbull****Secretary Sandra Willis****Sgt at Arms Carrie Morkert**

The meeting was called to order at 6PM, by President Steve Prather.

The Minutes from the previous meeting, found in Rocky Tales, were accepted without comments or corrections.

A comment was made about the lack of doing the Pledge of Allegiance. Members present voted to do it. It was led by Carrie Morkert. The reason stated was that this was not a political organization.

Elley Ringo reported that the field trip to Jack's Place by Oatman was a success and we may be able to do another trip in January. December 20th is the trip to Hauser Geode Beds, past Blythe, California. It is an all-day

trip and requires 4WD vehicle. There will be some that will want to make it a camping trip.

Treasurer's report by Michele Trumbull is available at the shop. She opened a contingency fund of \$10,000 to be in a separate account and used for unexpected occurrences, such as that which happened during the Covid shut down. Michele asked that someone help by doing her "Road Show" presentation in the schools. It is a demonstration of minerals in Arizona.

Havasu Rocks shop is doing well, with good sales. Michele's rearrangement and organization of the shop have put a positive presence for those who visit.

The Lapidary Shop, per Steve, is being underutilized. He hopes that more members will use it.

Sargent at Arms, Carrie Morkert, reported that the Christmas Boat Parade and party on Dec.13, will be at the London Bridge Canal, Island side #5, starting at 4PM. The club will furnish Brats and condiments. Please sign up to bring side dishes. She suggests we come early, as parking can be challenging.

Rose Mann, Membership Chairman, reported that there is a total of 368 members. There are 16 new members, 13 from the gem show.

Elections have been delayed until there are persons who can fill the positions. Positions open are for Secretary and Lapidary Director. Steve Prather is running for Havasu Rocks Director and Josh Bagwell for Sargent at Arms. Sandie spoke about the position of Secretary.

Upcoming Events include the QIA Pow wow (Jan 21st to Jan 25th), and Winterfest (Jan 31st to Feb 1st). Information will be found on the Website. Volunteers are needed. The Quartzsite trip will also include a campout, headed by Alan Hay. He will set up a spot for the club members that attend. There will be a potluck on Thursday or Friday.

Tee shirts are available for \$25 and aprons for \$30 at the shop.

A break was taken.

Cab contest winner was Paul Black.

50/50 raffle went to Bob Giese and Joie Thomas.

Door prizes were given to Kim Hay, Donna Milquist, Jace Verketter, Julie Revilla, Judy Nevins, John Falconer and Al Hay.

Gem Show comments from Elley, stated the food trucks were a hit and vendors were happy. They have secured the Aquatic Center for the first week in November, the 7th and 8th. There will be a meeting at the Aquatic center in January and then we will know more about next year's gem show. They also plan to have more committees. She thanked the people who volunteered, including Josh Bagwell, Julie Revilla, Judy & Ken Nevins, Byron, Keith, Paul and Bruce.

The next meeting will be January 7th, at the Yacht Club, 5:30PM meet and greet and 6PM meeting. It will be a potluck to celebrate the new year.

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:02.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Willis

Secretary

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

If you are interested in being on one of the above committees, or chairing a committee, please contact the President Steve Prather.

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 - lakehavasugms.com