



# ROCKY TALES

The Official Publication of the Lake Havasu Gem & Mineral Society

MAY Volume 52, Issue 5

## MAY MEETING\*

Next meeting is Wednesday May 6, 2026 at 5:30 pm at Yacht Club facility at

631 London Bridge Road

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

6:00 pm Meeting starts

➡ This will be our last meeting until September 2026 so be sure to come!

### LAKE HAVASU GEM AND MINERAL 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.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

President	Elley Ringo
Vice President	Josh Bagwell
Secretary	Tara Houde
Treasurer	Michele Trumbull
Sargent at Arms	Josh Bagwell
Executive Director	Christine Evans
Past President	Jason Upchurch
Havasu Rocks Director	Kelsey Friedrichsen
Havasu Rocks Assistant Director	
Lapidary Shop Director	Josh Bagwell

**Schedule of Workshops and Events**

Check out our website to stay current with planned events at:  
<https://lakehavasugms.com/events/>

<b>Shop Safety Workshop</b>	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.
<b>Parker Tube Float</b>	June 13 8:00 am – 12:00 pm La Paz County Park	Signup sheet in Havasu Rocks
<b>Annual Gem and Mineral Show</b>	November 7/8	Aquatic Center
<b>Last Saturday of the Month Pizza Party</b>	11:00 – 2:00 pm	Havasu Rocks – Everyone invited!

## **LHGMS General Membership Meeting Minutes**

**April 1st, 2026 / 6:00 PM /Yacht Club-631 London Bridge Rd.**

### **Officers Present**

**Elley Ringo-President**

**Josh Bagwell-Vice President/Sgt. At Arms**

**Tara Houde-Society Secretary**

**Michele Trumbull-Treasurer**

**Meeting called to order by Elley Ringo at 6:00 PM**

### **Notes**

**Review of Previous Meeting Minutes: Minutes are available at Havasu Rocks, and they're also sent out in the Rocky Tales email.**

**Minutes from the previous meeting are approved.**

**The Society President and Havasu Rocks Director, Steve Prather, resigned from his positions effective March 30th, 2026.**

**The Board of Lake Havasu Gem and Mineral Society and Lake Havasu Mineral Lapidary Group accepted the resignation of Steve Prather.**

**Elley Ringo is now the President for Lake Havasu Gem and Mineral Society and Lake Havasu Mineral and Lapidary Group.**

**Josh Bagwell is now the Vice President for Lake Havasu Gem and Mineral Society and Lake Havasu Mineral and Lapidary Group.**

**Kelsey Friedrichsen is now the interim Havasu Rocks Director for Lake Havasu Mineral and Lapidary Group.**

**Elley Ringo-President's Report:**

**Elley Ringo read Steve Prather's resignation letter to the Membership.**

**Michele Trumbull-Treasurer's Report: The Society and Havasu Rocks are both in good financial standings. Treasurer's reports are available at Havasu Rocks, all you have to do is request them.**

**Treasurer's report was approved.**

**Havasu Rock Shop/Lapidary Shop Report:**

**Havasu Rocks store is doing well.**

**The lapidary shop is doing well.**

**Josh Bagwell has been busy doing maintenance on the lapidary equipment.**

**Talked about purchasing equipment for the Lapidary Shop, such as a 10" saw.**

**Volunteers are desperately needed at**

**Havasu Rocks and in the Lapidary Shop.**

**Membership Update-Rose Mann: We now have 300 Members! 6 new members last month.**

**TURQUOISE FIELD TRIP: Bob Giese is leading a field trip to Tonopah, NV to dig for Turquoise at the Otteson's mines on April 24th and 25th. An email will be sent out to the membership with all of the details.**

**Watched an educational video on Sodalite.**

**Break at 6:28 PM**

**Lavic Siding, CA Field Trip: Fun was had by all, and they found some beautiful jasper!**

**Chili Cook Off: March 14th- Everyone had a great time voting for their favorite chili.**

**1st Place- Judy Kuhnau**

**2nd Place- Christine Evans**

**3rd Place- Tara Houde**

**Pizza Social/Show and Tell: March 28th- Everyone had a good time eating pizza and sharing rocks they've found.**

**Talked about the importance of having volunteers so we can keep our doors open this summer.**

**Upcoming Picnic: April 11th, 12:00 PM-5:00 PM at London Bridge Beach, Ramada #5**

**50/50: Bob Giese**

**Mystery box: Lynda Giese**

**Cab contest winner:**

**#5- Kelsey Friedrichsen**

**Field trip behind the airport on Sunday, April 12th. Meet at Lowe's at 7:30 AM.**

**NO OUTSIDE DRINKS ALLOWED!**

**Steve Prather, resigned as President, and is to be removed from the Lake Havasu Gem and Mineral Society and Lake Havasu Mineral and Lapidary Groups checking account # \_\_\_\_\_ and # \_\_\_\_\_. (Debit cards will be returned)**

**Elley Ringo, is the new President for the Lake Havasu Gem and Mineral Society and Lake Havasu Mineral and Lapidary Group. She is no longer Vice President of both. (No debit card needed)**

**Josh Bagwell, is the new Vice President for the Lake Havasu Gem and Mineral Society and Lake Havasu Mineral and Lapidary Group, and is to be added to the checking accounts # \_\_\_\_\_ and # \_\_\_\_\_. (Debit cards needed)**

**Next meeting is May 6th, 2026 at 6:00 PM, with a 5:30 PM social time at The Yacht Club**

**Meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM**

**Minutes taken by Society Secretary-Tara Houde**



**Photo from a recent rockhounding trip.**

STANDING COMMITTEES	
Events	
Field Trips	Elley Ringo
Finance	Michele Trumbull
Gem Show	Elley Ringo
Hospitality	Sandy Guelff
Havasu Rocks	Michele Trumbull
Lapidary Shop	Josh Bagwell
Membership	Rose Mann

*The annual Spring BBQ was held on the Island Park on April 11, A fun time was had by all!*





## Desert Lessons from the Rocks

By Joyce McCluskey

There's a moment in the desert—usually when the sun is just starting to drop and everything turns that soft gold—that I remember why I fell in love with rockhounding in the first place. It isn't the finds. Not really. It's the quiet. The space. The way the desert doesn't rush you, doesn't flatter you, doesn't try to be anything other than exactly what it is.

And somehow, over time, the rocks start to teach you the same thing.

When I first started going out, I thought success meant coming home with a bucket full of beautiful stones—colorful jaspers, agates with hidden worlds inside, pieces that made you say “wow” the second you picked them up. And yes, those days happen. But more often, you walk. You look. You bend down a hundred times. And you come home with... maybe one rock. Sometimes none.

The desert doesn't reward impatience.

That might be the first lesson.

You learn to slow down. To really see. To notice the difference between an ordinary brown rock and the one that has just a whisper of something more—a line, a glow, a feeling. You start to trust your eye. Your instinct. And eventually, you realize that what you're really collecting isn't just rocks—it's attention. Presence. A kind of quiet awareness that's hard to find anywhere else.

And then there's the lesson of imperfection.

Some of the best stones don't look like much at first. They're rough, dusty, maybe even a little ugly. It's only after you clean them—or cut them, or polish them—that the color reveals itself. The patterns. The depth. The story that was there all along, just waiting for someone to take a closer look.

People aren't so different.



I've picked up stones I almost left behind. We all have. Something made me pause—just for a second—and I tossed it in the bucket anyway. Later, it turned out to be one of my favorites. That's another desert lesson: don't dismiss something too quickly. Not a rock. Not a place. Not even a moment in your life that doesn't look like much on the

surface.

Give it time. Let it reveal itself.

Rockhounding also teaches you about letting go. You can't take everything home. You learn to put things back. To appreciate them where they are. To understand that part of the beauty is in the finding, not the keeping.

And maybe that's the hardest lesson of all.

Over the years, these trips have been about so much more than what's in my bucket at the end of the day. They've been about the conversations, the laughter, the quiet drives, the shared discoveries. The feeling of standing out in the middle of nowhere and realizing it doesn't feel like nowhere at all.

It feels like exactly where you're supposed to be.

As I write this—I can't help but think about how much this little corner of the desert, and this community, has meant to me. Like rockhounding, it was never just about the obvious things. It was about the connections. The stories. The moments that didn't seem like much at the time but turned out to matter more than I expected.

If the rocks have taught me anything, it's this: beauty is often quiet. Growth takes time. And the most meaningful things in life are rarely the ones you can measure by how much you bring home.

Sometimes, they're the ones that change you while you're out there looking.

So the next time you're walking a wash or scanning the ground for that one perfect piece, remember—you're not just finding rocks.

You're learning how to see.

And that might be the best find of all.

Have a great summer!

— Joyce

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 \$20.00

**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).

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

Website Administrator is Karen Sawyer [www.lakehavasugms.com](http://www.lakehavasugms.com)



**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](mailto:bigmamablue@gmail.com)