



ROCKY TALES

The Official Publication of the Lake Havasu Gem & Mineral Society

JUNE Volume 53, Issue 6

We are DARK all summer.

**No general meetings but check out website –
lakehavasugms.com - for activities.**



Next meeting will be Wednesday, September 2, 2026.

President's Message

By Elley Ringo, President

Summer is officially here, and while many of our members are off enjoying travels, cooler temperatures, and new adventures, there's still plenty happening at the Lake Havasu Gem & Mineral Society!

One of the highlights this month has been the transformation of Havasu Rocks. Thanks to the hard work of our volunteers, the shop has been reorganized and color-coordinated, creating a beautiful and eye-catching shopping experience. If you haven't stopped by recently, be sure to take a look—you'll be amazed at how inviting it has become.

Like many organizations during the summer months, we have been challenged by a shortage of volunteers as several of our regular helpers head out of town. Keeping the shop open depends entirely on volunteer support, and we encourage anyone who has a few hours to spare to consider lending a hand. Every volunteer makes a difference!



We have also listened carefully to the concerns of our vendors regarding their vending spaces during the slower summer season. To support them, the Board has decided to place vendor renewal fees on hold until September. We value our vendors and want to ensure they continue to be an important part of our Society's success.

A special thank you goes to Josh Bagwell, who has done an outstanding job repainting portions of the shop, creating fun and attention-grabbing signs, and working tirelessly behind the scenes to maintain our equipment and keep everything running smoothly. His dedication and hard work are greatly appreciated.

I would also like to thank Michele Trumbull for her years of service to the Society. Michele has decided to step down as Society Treasurer and Assistant Director of Havasu Rocks. We are grateful for all she has contributed and wish her the very best. With her resignation, we are now seeking a new Treasurer. If you have an interest in helping the Society in this important role, please reach out to a Board member for more information.

As summer continues, I hope each of you finds time for family, friends, rockhounding adventures, and a little relaxation. Whether you're traveling across the country or staying close to home, stay safe, stay cool, and keep collecting!

See you at the shop and on the trails!

Rock on,

Elley Ringo

President, Lake Havasu Gem & Mineral Society

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

Havasu Rocks & Lapidary Shop Update from Kelsey

May was a wonderful month at the Rock Shop! I'm happy to report that we welcomed several new Society members through shop walk-ins. We also added a couple of fantastic new vendors, bringing even more variety and excitement to our shop.

One of the highlights of the month was our Safety Class, attended by two families and four enthusiastic young rockhounds. It was a great day of learning and hands-on they'll be returning in a few weeks to learn how to finish their cabochons.

A huge thank you goes out to all of our volunteers who help keep the doors open, the equipment running, and the atmosphere welcoming. Your dedication and positive spirit make the Rock Shop a special place for everyone who visits.



Thank you for all you do!

Havasu Rocks Shop Rate Update

To ensure the long-term sustainability of Havasu Rocks and to keep our lapidary equipment operating at its best, the Board has approved adjustments to the shop fee structure. These changes reflect the increasing costs of oil, maintenance, and equipment upkeep, while continuing to encourage membership and provide affordable access for those who enjoy spending time in the shop.

Effective immediately, the following rates will apply:

Member Rates

- \$5 per hour (one-hour minimum)
- New **Day Rate**: \$20 for unlimited shop use during regular operating hours

Non-Member Rates

- \$10 per hour

- New **Day Rate**: \$40 for unlimited shop use during regular operating hours

Safety Course

- The safety course fee remains **\$15**
- Participants who complete the safety course and become members receive complimentary shop access for the remainder of that day

Membership

- Annual membership dues remain just **\$20 per year**

Volunteer Benefits

- Members can earn complimentary shop time through volunteer service, helping support the Society while enjoying additional access to our lapidary facilities.

LAKE HAVASU GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY 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

These updates allow us to continue maintaining quality equipment, providing a safe and welcoming workspace, and supporting the educational mission of the Lake Havasu Gem & Mineral Society. We appreciate the continued support of our members, volunteers, and visitors who help make Havasu Rocks a valuable community resource.

SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS	
President	Elley Ringo
Vice President	Josh Bagwell
Secretary	Tara Houde
Treasurer	Vacant
Sargent at Arms	Josh Bagwell
Executive Director	Christine Evans
Past President	Jason Upchurch
Havasus Rocks Director	Josh Bagwell
Havasus Rocks Assistant Director	Vacant
Lapidary Shop Director	Josh Bagwell

HAVASU ROCKS BOARD OF DIRECTORS	
Secretary	Vacant
Treasurer	Stever Petrangelo
Lapidary Shop Director	Josh Bagwell
Havasus Rocks Director	Josh Bagwell
Assistant Havasus Rocks Director	Vacant

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.
Parker Tube Float	June 13 8:00 am – 12:00 pm La Paz County Park	Signup sheet in Havasu Rocks
Annual Gem and Mineral Show	November 7/8	Aquatic Center

STANDING COMMITTEES

Events	Kelsey Fredrichsen Christine Evans
Field Trips	Elley Ringo
Finance	Vacant
Gem Show	Elley Ringo
Hospitality	Judy Revilla
Havasus Rocks	Vacant
Lapidary Shop	Josh Bagwell
Membership	Rose Mann

Summer Treasure Hunt: Curating and Organizing Your Rock Collection

By Joyce McCluskey

Summer is field trip season if you go early enough. Between early morning hunts, road trips to old mining districts, and that irresistible urge to bring home “just one more rock,” many of us find our collections growing faster than we can manage them.

If your garage shelves are groaning, your display cases are overflowing, or you’ve forgotten where that beautiful piece of chalcedony came from, summer is the perfect time to slow down, sort things out, and rediscover the treasures you already own.

Start With a Rock Roundup

Gather specimens from shelves, boxes, buckets, vehicles, and those mysterious containers tucked away in closets. You may be surprised by what you find. Many collectors discover forgotten treasures hidden beneath years of newer acquisitions.

Lay everything out where you can see it. The goal isn’t to admire every piece—although that’s part of the fun—but to get an overview of your collection.

Sort Into Categories

There is no single right way to organize a collection. Choose a system that makes sense to you.

Some popular methods include:

By mineral species

By geographic location

By field trip or collecting date

By color

By display quality

By lapidary material versus specimen material

You might even create special sections for favorite finds, club field trip treasures, or specimens with interesting stories attached to them.

Label While You Still Remember

One of the greatest regrets among longtime collectors is failing to label specimens when they were collected.

As memories fade, “that cool rock from Nevada” becomes much harder to identify.

Even a simple label should include:

Mineral or rock name

Location

Date collected

Collector’s name

Future generations—and perhaps future club historians—will thank you.

Create a Display Collection

Not every specimen needs to remain in storage.

Choose a selection of your favorite pieces and create a display that brings you joy.

Rotate specimens seasonally if you have more favorites than display space.

A beautiful display case allows you to enjoy your collection every day rather than keeping it hidden away in boxes.

Let Go of the Duplicates

Most collectors accumulate multiple examples of common materials.

Ask yourself:

Do I really need twenty pieces of the same jasper?

Which specimens best represent this material?

Which pieces might make great gifts, trades, or club donations?

Sharing extras with beginning rockhounds is one of the best ways to grow our hobby.

Document Your Collection

Modern technology makes cataloging easier than ever.

Take photographs of significant specimens and store them in a digital album. Some collectors use spreadsheets, while others use simple notebooks.

The important thing is creating a record that helps preserve the history of your collection.

Remember Why You Collect

A collection is more than a group of rocks. Each specimen represents a place visited, a friend met, a lesson learned, or an adventure shared.

As you sort through your treasures this summer, take a moment to revisit those memories. The value of a collection is not measured by its size but by the stories it contains.

So turn on a fan, grab a cold drink, and spend an afternoon with your rocks. You may discover that the greatest treasure isn't the next specimen waiting to be found—it's the one already sitting on your shelf.

Happy collecting, and we'll see you on the trail.



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



Rocky Tales Newsletter is published monthly from September – May and sporadically throughout the summer. 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



Send me photos of what you guys did all summer for future Rocky Tales issues! Does not have to be rockhounding related. I was in San Diego at the beach with my kids!