



The official publication of the Lake Havasu Gem & Mineral Society

**Next General Meeting is September 2, 2026 at 5:30 pm at Yacht Club
at 631 London Bridge Road**

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

6:00 pm Meeting begins

Check out lakehavasugms.com - for activities.

President's Message

By Elley Ringo, President

Dear Members,

The past few months have brought significant changes to our society, and I wanted to take a moment to update everyone on where we are, the challenges we've faced, and the exciting opportunities ahead.

Leadership Opportunities

Like many volunteer organizations, we rely on dedicated members to keep the society operating successfully. We currently have several important leadership positions that need to be filled, including:

- LHGMS Treasurer
- LHGMS Director (Member-at-Large)
- Havasu Rocks Shop Director



- Assistant Shop Director
- Havasu Rocks Secretary
- Assistant Lapidary Shop Director

At the moment, many of these responsibilities are being shared by myself, Vice President Josh Bagwell, and Havasu Rocks Treasurer Steve Petrangelo. While we are committed to keeping everything running smoothly, we cannot continue to do so without additional volunteers stepping into leadership roles.

If you've ever considered becoming more involved, now is a wonderful time. Fresh ideas and new volunteers are essential to the future of our club.

Havasus Rocks Shop

Due to our current shortage of volunteers, the lapidary shop is temporarily open only on Saturdays.

Operating the shop involves much more than simply being present. Volunteers are responsible for assisting customers, operating our Square point-of-sale system, following opening and closing procedures, and ensuring both the storefront and lapidary shop operate safely and efficiently.

While volunteers certainly enjoy being around rocks and fellow members, their primary responsibility during their shift is serving the club and its visitors. We greatly appreciate the dedicated volunteers who have generously donated their time, and we thank them for helping keep our doors open.

If you'd like to learn how to volunteer, we'd be happy to train you.

Moving Forward Together

As with any organization, periods of change can be challenging. Over the past several months, the Board has worked through a number of governance and administrative issues while ensuring the society continues operating in accordance with our bylaws, standing rules, and established policies.

To protect the club's assets and maintain continuity, we have updated several administrative systems, including establishing a new official club email address. These changes help ensure that club records, communications, and digital resources remain under the control of the organization rather than any individual volunteer.

The Board remains committed to conducting business professionally, respectfully, and transparently. Healthy discussion and differing viewpoints are always welcome—they

make our organization stronger. However, we also expect all members to treat one another with courtesy and respect, both during meetings and while volunteering. Our goal is to provide a positive, welcoming environment for every member and visitor.

While personnel matters are handled privately and in accordance with our governing documents, our focus today is firmly on rebuilding, strengthening our volunteer base, and creating an even better future for the society.

Exciting News About Our Gem Show

One of the biggest decisions we've faced this year concerns the annual Lake Havasu Gem & Mineral Show.

Many members heard rumors that rental fees at the Aquatic Center were increasing. Unfortunately, those rumors proved true. The cost of the facility has more than tripled, and we have been informed that additional increases are expected in the future.

After carefully evaluating our options, the Board made the difficult but necessary decision to relocate the show.

The good news is that we've found an exciting new home.

We are working with Arizona State Parks to host the show at Windsor Beach Campground in the overflow area, creating a beautiful outdoor venue that fits both our budget and our long-term vision. Vendors have been notified that the show will now be entirely outdoors. While a few vendors have chosen not to continue with the new format, many others are excited about the opportunity, and we look forward to welcoming new participants as well.

Making this move helps ensure the long-term financial health of our society. By controlling expenses, we can continue funding the educational mission of our club—including our annual scholarships.

This year, we were proud to award two \$1,500 scholarships during the Evening of Excellence to deserving students pursuing degrees in Earth Science and related fields. Supporting the next generation of geologists, environmental scientists, and earth science professionals is one of the most rewarding things our society does, and the success of our Gem Show makes these scholarships possible.

We Need Your Support

As we begin this exciting new chapter, we ask for your continued support.

If you know of vendors who may be interested in participating in our Gem Show, please encourage them to contact us at:

LakeHavasUGemMineralShow@gmail.com

Our new official club email address is:

lhgmsclub@gmail.com

Together, we can continue building a vibrant, welcoming society that serves our members, supports education, and promotes the wonderful hobby of rockhounding for many years to come.

Thank you for your continued support of the Lake Havasu Gem & Mineral Society.

All the best,

Elley Ringo

President, Lake Havasu Gem & Mineral Society

Elley Knows Rocks

<https://youtube.com/c/ElleyKnowsRocks>

LHGMS General Membership Meeting Minutes

May 6th, 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

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

a. Minutes from the previous meeting are approved.

2. Elley Ringo-President's Report:

a. We are working on a new digital Membership application and a way to pay electronically.

3. Havasu Rock Shop/Lapidary Shop Report:

a. Havasu Rocks store is doing well.

b. The lapidary shop is doing well.

c. Kelsey is doing a great job!

d. We are getting a new saw for the Lapidary Shop.

e. Volunteers are desperately needed at Havasu Rocks and in the Lapidary Shop.

f. We are hoping to keep Havasu Rocks open, but shop hours may vary during the summer. Call the shop or look on our webpage for current hours.

g. We are rewarding volunteers with free Lapidary Shop time!

h. New shop prices: \$5.00/hr for Members, \$10.00/hr for Non-Members, \$20.00/day for Members, \$40.00/day for Non-Members. Rock cutting fee starts at \$10.00.

i. We will be doing training for new volunteers.

j. Vendor fees at Havasu Rocks will roll over after summer.

4. Membership Update-Rose Mann: We now have 298 Members.

5. Michele- Treasurer's Report: We had a loss this month due to the cost of our picnic.

The Treasurer's report was approved.

6. Watched an educational video on Fluorite 7. Rockhounding: Glitter Mountain near St. George, Utah. Date TBD, either the beginning of September or in October.

a. We are looking for suggestions for rockhounding field trips! We have a suggestion

box located at Havasu Rocks.

8. The potluck picnic at London Bridge Park was enjoyed by all.

9. Airport field trip: Lots of fun finding agates! New members showed up.

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

11. Scholarships: Two scholarships will be given out Monday May 11th during the Evening of Excellence at the High School.

12. 50/50: Bev Baker

13. Mystery box: Julie

14. **Cab contest winner:**

a. 1st Place: #3- Sandi

b. 2nd Place: #5- Bill Pepper

15. NO OUTSIDE DRINKS ALLOWED!

Steve Prather, Former President, has signed resignation papers as statutory agent for both the Society and Havasu Rocks and those have been paper-filed with the Corp Commission. A motion was made and approved to appoint Elley Ringo, current President, as statutory agent.

Next meeting is September 2nd, 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

Havasus 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

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

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

Every Rock Has a Story

One of the best things about being a rockhound is discovering that every rock has a story. Some have traveled through ancient volcanoes, others have been shaped by rivers over millions of years, and a few have waited patiently in the desert until the right person came along to find them.

But the story doesn't end there.

Once a specimen comes home, it becomes part of your story. Maybe it reminds you of a memorable field trip, a camping adventure with friends, or a quiet morning spent exploring the desert. Perhaps it was your first cabochon, your first successful wire wrap, or a gift from someone special.

As we move through the heat of August, many of us are spending a little more time indoors. It's a wonderful opportunity to dust off a display case, label a few favorite specimens, polish a stone that's been waiting on the shelf, or simply admire the treasures you've collected over the years.

Take a moment this month to pick up one of your favorite rocks and remember where it came from. Chances are you'll smile—not just because of the stone itself, but because of the memories it holds.

Happy rockhounding, and may your next great discovery be just around the bend

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 attendance is required to be able 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.
Annual Gem and Mineral Show	November 7/8	Windsor State Park Beach Campground <i>*New Venue*</i>

STANDING COMMITTEES	
Events	Vacant
Field Trips	Elley Ringo
Finance	Vacant
Gem Show	Elley Ringo

Hospitality	Judy Revilla
Havasus Rocks	Vacant
Lapidary Shop	Josh Bagwell
Membership	Rose Mann

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



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