ROCKY TALES

The Official Publication of the Lake Havasu Gem & Mineral Society

NOVEMBER 2026 Volume 53, Issue 10

GENERAL MEETING NOVEMBER 4, 2026

LOCATION: YACHT CLUB AT 631 LONDON BRIDGE ROAD

5:30 PM SIGN IN AND MEET WITH CLUB MEMBERS

6:00 PM MEETING BEGINS

PLEASE DO NOT BRING OUTSIDE DRINKS INTO THE MEETING.



President's Message

By: Elley Ringo

Greetings, Rockhounds!

First off, what an absolutely fantastic time we had at the claim on Saturday! What a turnout! We had such a fun group of people, and I want to thank everyone who came out and made the day so enjoyable. Great rocks, great company, and plenty of laughs—what more could we ask for?

Speaking of great people, I want to give a huge shout-out to Judy, Julie, and Charlotte, for all their hard work gathering donations for our gem show raffle baskets. Thank you, ladies! And to everyone who has already signed up to volunteer at the gem show—YOU ROCK! Your enthusiasm and willingness to help are what make events like this possible. I have a feeling this is going to be a terrific show!

There are still a few ways you can help make this year's show a success:

Setup and teardown: We could still use some extra hands before and after the show.

Kids' Treasure Hunt: We need a couple of creative volunteers to organize a treasure hunt in the sand for our younger rockhounds.

Silent Auction: Donations are still needed, so please consider contributing an item.

Mineral Displays: We'd love to see your favorite rocks and minerals showcased in our display cases! And let me tell you, the ribbons this year look amazing. I can't wait to hand them out to our display contestants!

Bake Sale: Calling all bakers! We only have a couple of volunteers so far, and without enough baked goodies, we may have to cancel the sale. So, dust off those favorite recipes and help us make it happen!

And here's something important to spread around: **The Windsor State Park entrance fee will be waived for visitors attending our Gem and Mineral Show!** Please help us get the word out.

We've also ordered new club T-shirts in a different color, and they'll be available for purchase at the show.

One more exciting bit of news! Andy has generously donated a brand-new gem faceting machine to the club, and we're raffling it off! The lucky winner will be announced on the final day of the gem show. A big thank-you to Andy for this wonderful donation!

Looking Ahead: Board Nominations

It's also time to start thinking about the future of our club. All board positions are open for nominations, from President to Member-at-Large, for both the Lake Havasu Gem and Mineral Society and the Havasu Rocks Lapidary group.

If you know someone who would make a great board member, please send your nomination to LHGMSclub@gmail.com. Be sure to include a few words about why you think that person would be a good fit for the position.

And if you're interested in serving, we encourage you to spend some time shadowing the person currently holding that position. It's a great way to learn the ropes, see how the board operates, and decide whether it's something you'd enjoy doing.

Our club depends on members who are willing to step up, share ideas, and lend a hand. Please consider getting involved!

Coming Up: **The Boat Parade!**

Another fun event on the horizon is the boat parade! We've reserved Gazebo Five for the entire day, so come early, claim your favorite viewing spot, and settle in for a great time with your fellow rockhounds.

We'll be having a potluck, with the club providing hot dogs and condiments. Please bring a side dish to share. We'll have a sign-up sheet at the next meeting so we can coordinate who's bringing what. After all, as much as we love potato chips, we probably don't need 15 bags of them!

Don't Forget!

If you have a cabochon you'd like to enter in the cab contest, be sure to bring it to our next general meeting. Let's see what beautiful creations you've been working on!

Finally, I want to thank each and every one of you for being part of this club. Whether you're volunteering, sharing your knowledge, displaying your treasures, or simply showing up and enjoying the company, you help make our rockhounding community something special.

We've got a lot of exciting things happening, and I look forward to sharing them with all of you.

Until next time, keep on rockin'!

Elley Ringo

President, Lake Havasu Gem and Mineral Society

SCHEDULE OF WORKSHOPS AND EVENTS

Check out our website to stay current with planned events and trips 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. You will learn how to use equipment per manufacturer's recommendations, and the safe use of equipment. Cost is $15.00.
Gem Show Meeting	October 29, 2026 4:00 pm	Havasu Rocks to finalize show plans
Fright Night	October 31, 2026 4:00 – 8:00 pm. On McColloch Blvd.	Bring candy to the shop. Volunteer to man the booth. We will be handing out candy to the kids on McColloch. WE NEED CANDY.

General Membership Mtg	November 4, 2026 5:30 Sign in 6:00 Meeting Starts	Nominations will be made for Executive Board for 2027
Annual Gem and Mineral Show	November 14 and 15 9:00 am – 5:00 Windsor Beach Special Events Area	Volunteer to help set up, work at the Show, work before and behind the scenes, and after the show. VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED.
General Membership Mtg	December 2, 2026 5:30 Sign – in 6:00 Meeting Starts	Election for Officers
Christmas Party/Potluck at Havasu Boat Parade	December 12, 2026 4:00 pm - ???? London Bridge Beach Gazebo 5	Bring a potluck dish to share. Hotdogs provided!

LAKE HAVASU GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS	
President	Elley Ringo
Vice President	Josh Bagwell
Secretary	Cheyenne Gaxioloa
Treasurer	Steve Petrangelo
Sargent at Arms	Josh Bagwell
Executive Director	Joyce McCluskey
Past President	Jason Upchurch
Havasu Rocks Director	Josh Bagwell
Havasu Rocks Assistant Director	Vacant
Lapidary Shop Director	Josh Bagwell

HAVASU ROCKS BOARD OF DIRECTORS	
Secretary	Cheyenne Gaxiola
Treasurer	Steve Petrangelo
Lapidary Shop Director	Josh Bagwell
Havasu Rocks Director	Josh Bagwell
Assistant Havasu Rocks Director	Vacant

Lake Havasu Gem & Mineral Society / Havasu Rocks

General Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, October 7, 2026

Time: 5:30 PM

Executive Board Attendance

Elley – President

Josh – Vice President

Steve P. – Treasurer

Cheyanne G. – Secretary

1. Welcome & Administrative Review

Call to Order: President Elley called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

Previous Minutes: The previous meeting minutes were published in Rocky Tales. There being no objections, the minutes were approved as distributed.

Communication Issues: Members were reminded that some individuals are not receiving club communications from the new email address. All members are urged to check their spam and junk email folders.

2. Field Trip Update

Upcoming Trip: Scheduled for Saturday, October 10th.

Logistics: Participants will meet at the Parker Walmart at 8:30 AM.

Requirements: Attendees must sign the insurance waiver and pay the dig fee. Participants keep what they find.

Shop Closure: The Lapidary Shop will be completely closed on Saturday, as all personnel and volunteers will be attending the field trip.

Preview: Specimens of the rock types targeted at the claim were displayed on the front table for member inspection.

Discussion Regarding Claim Fees:

Club member Mike voiced strong dissatisfaction regarding the new dig fee, arguing that members used to access this specific claim for free in previous years and shouldn't be charged.

Elley clarified that she and Steve are now partners on the claim. She explained that she personally paid over $1,000.00 to complete the paperwork, walk the claim with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and file the necessary California state documentation. She noted that nobody stepped up when she previously asked the club for volunteers to handle it, prompting her and Steve to secure it so it wasn't claimed by outside parties.

Mike countered that the claim should have been secured on behalf of the club as a whole.

Elley noted that attendance on the trip is entirely voluntary. She pointed out that members routinely pay similar fees for other club outings, such as trips to Jack's claim or various turquoise claims, to cover ownership costs. She added that she loves the area and is personally excited to see what specimens are exposed following the recent rainstorms.

3. Shop Operations & Volunteer Training

Promotion: Vice President Josh reported that he is working on acquiring promotional banners and currently has one in his truck.

Operations: Deep appreciation was expressed to Cheyanne G. for keeping the shop open. Weekend traffic has been consistently busy.

Volunteer Requirements: Elley clarified that volunteering at the shop carries significant operational responsibility and is not a social space. Volunteers must learn formal opening/closing procedures, operate the Square register, know inventory locations, count register cash accurately, and manage utilities (ensuring lights and A/C are turned off).

Scheduling Strategy: Additional volunteers are urgently needed to expand operational days, particularly with incoming winter visitors. If current volunteers split from large groups of four into smaller pairs, the shop can safely open on additional days to drive higher sales.

Eligibility: To legally volunteer at the shop, individuals must hold an active club membership.

4. Financial Report

Steve P. (Treasurer) presented the year-to-date (YTD) financial standing for the period spanning February 1st through September 30th.

Entity / Account

Income / Balance

Expenses

Net / Notes

Society (YTD)

$2,327.00

$8,967.00

Includes $1,500 scholarship & $2,065 storage fees.

Havasu Rocks / Shop

$24,400.00

$28,994.00

Net: -$4,594.00. Includes $6,973.00 in vendor merchandise sales.

Society Checking

$21,051.00

—

Active balance.

Scholarship Account

$3,961.00

—

Restricted funds.

Contingency Fund (CD)

$10,000.00

—

Dedicated emergency fund.

Havasu Rocks Checking

$17,035.00

—

Separate corporate account.

Corporate Distinction: Elley clarified that the Club operates as a 501(c)(7) organization, while the Lapidary Shop operates as a 501(c)(3). They are legally distinct corporations with separate checking accounts.

Financial Health: While the shop generated $24,400 in total sales, $6,973 went directly to external vendors, leaving the shop with a net loss of $4,584 over the summer. Increasing open hours and total sales remains a critical priority before further action is taken with Steve P. regarding long-term financial planning.

5. Membership Report

Current Roster: Rose reported a total of 266 members, including 15 new or returning members.

New Member Introduction: Marcus was welcomed as a new member and expressed immediate interest in volunteering. He selected his free rock from the Rock Box and noted he discovered the club online.

6. Secretarial & Marketing Updates

Labor Update: Cheyanne G. noted she has worked consecutive weekends and requested support to train an additional person to alleviate her schedule and assist during busy Sundays. Linda and Norb continue to keep lapidary operations running on Sundays as well.

Social Media & Outreach: Members are strongly requested to like and share Cheyanne G.'s weekend Facebook posts and upcoming features on Arizona community pages to drive business.

Marketing Materials: Distribution of Havasu Rocks flyers and tumbled promotional stones will continue on Mondays.

7. Upcoming Events

Fright Night (October 31st):

The application has been submitted. The club is waiting on final placement details (determining if the layout is first-come, first-served).

Members are urgently asked to donate candy. The event historically runs out quickly; only one bag has been received so far.

Annual Gem Show:

Volunteering: Sign-up sheets for various roles are available on the back table. Members are asked to review openings and sign up during the break. Elley is available to answer questions regarding positions.

Venue & Fees: The show will be held on the asphalt in the overflow parking lot (not in the dirt or sand). State Park entry fees are completely waived for Gem Show attendees, who may use a dedicated entrance. This will be promoted via the website and Facebook.

Raffle Baskets: Julie, Judy, and Charlotte are actively collecting donations around town. Charlotte and Julie are available to train new volunteers to help solicit businesses. Tax information forms detailing our non-profit status are available; funds raised directly benefit local high school scholarships.

Vendors & Attractions: 25 vendors and 3 food trucks are confirmed so far, with booking open until the week prior. Geode Cracking tables will be featured.

Vendor Pricing: Vendor tables are set at $75 per table with a two-table minimum requirement (vendors receive one additional table free for both days).

8. Educational Presentation

Video Screening: Josh presented an educational video titled "Rock to Crystals" for the membership.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheyanne G.

Secretary, Lake Havasu Gem & Mineral Society / Havasu Rocks

Be Somebody. Get Involved!

Your Club Needs YOU!

Have you ever thought about running for office in the Gem & Mineral Society? Or volunteering to help make things happen? Well, why not?

Our club doesn't run on rocks alone. It runs on people! People with ideas, enthusiasm, a little spare time, and a willingness to pitch in.

You don't have to be an expert in geology, a master lapidary artist, or even know the difference between jasper and agate. You just have to care about the future of our club.

Serving on the board isn't about being important. It's about doing something important. It's an opportunity to bring fresh ideas, make new friends, learn something new, and help shape the club you want to belong to.

And here's a little secret: You don't have to know everything before you start. None of us did!

So don't sit back waiting for somebody else to step up. Be that somebody!

Run for office. Volunteer. Speak up. Get involved.

After all, the best treasures in our club aren't always the ones we dig out of the ground. Sometimes they're the people who step forward and make a difference.

Our club rocks because YOU do!

— Joyce McCluskey

Editor, Rocky Tales

All About the Lake Havasu Gem & Mineral Society

The Lake Havasu Gem and Mineral Society meets the first Wednesday of each month from September through May at the Yacht Club facility, 631 London Bridge Road in Lake Havasu City. Our fiscal year is February 1- January 31. Name badges are required for all members and should be worn at the meetings. One time or replacement badge cost is $20.00.

Annual membership dues are payable on January 1 for all members who joined **before** July 2024 (due January 1 and delinquent after February meeting). Membership dues are due the 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.

Payment should be remitted to: Lake Havasu Gem & Mineral Society Attention: Membership, PO Box 990, Lake Havasu City, AZ 86405.

The Lake Havasu Gem & Mineral Society is a member of the Rocky Mountain Federal of Mineralogical Societies (RMFMS) and associated with the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS).

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:
5. Increasing knowledge pertaining to minerals, gems, and rocks.
6. Disseminating knowledge of collecting and classification of minerals, fossils, and rocks through collection and classification.
7. Improving the practical knowledge of cutting, grinding, and polishing materials to use in the design and creation of jewelry and other useful objects.
8. Provide educational scholarships in the scientific fields.
9. Procure and improve the Society's property.

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

Website Administrator is Karen Sawyer and our website is:

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. Submit news and articles to:

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