



ROCKY TALES

The Official Publication of the Lake Havasu Gem & Mineral Society

OCTOBER 2026 Volume 53, Issue 9

GENERAL MEETING OCTOBER 7, 2025

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



I hope that you all had a wonderful summer. And for the snowbirds that are returning, we welcome you back. We look forward to seeing you at the meetings, on field

trips and in the shop.

The gem show is fast approaching and we need volunteers to help. Please keep an eye out in your emails to look for gem show meetings.

If you miss the gem show meeting. Sign-up sheets to help out at and during the show will be at the next meeting

Our first field trip for the season is coming up October 10. It's a paid dig. Hopefully you have seen the email sent to you by now. It has been going to people's junk mail so please check yours. If not, please check out the website.

We are still looking for vendors for the gem show, we are trying to get as many as we can because we have plenty of room. If you know of anybody, please have them email the gem show email address lakehavasugemmineralshow@gmail.com

A lot has been going on in the shop with new people to come in and volunteer to keep the shop open. If you're interested in helping out with the shop, please reach out to Josh Bagwell. There is a little bit of training involved. You have to learn how to run the register and be there for a few days while the shop is open to learn the ropes. We look forward to you coming in.

The shop hours right now are Saturday Wednesday and Sunday.

All The Best -

Elley Ringo

Elley Knows Rocks

President LHGMS

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.
Field Trip	Saturday October 10	This is a fee dig, \$25 per person. Keep what you find. We will be meeting up at the Parker Walmart parking lot at 8:30 am collecting payment and leaving at 8.45 am to caravan to the claim. It's a 20 min. drive.
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.
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 pm 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

LAKE HAVASU GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS	
President	Elley Ringo
Vice President	Josh Bagwell
Secretary	Cheyenne Gaxiola
Treasurer	Steve Petrangelo
Sargent at Arms	Josh Bagwell
Executive Director	Christina Westerbeke and Joyce McCluskey
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	Cheyenne Gaxiola
Treasurer	Steve Petrangelo
Lapidary Shop Director	Josh Bagwell
Havasus Rocks Director	Josh Bagwell
Assistant Havasus Rocks Director	Vacant

Lake Havasu Gem and Mineral Society Minutes

Location: Lake Havasu City Yacht Club

Meeting Minutes

Date: September 2nd, 2026

Time: 5:30 PM

Opening Remarks

Officer on Deck (OOD) Fred welcomed everyone back to the club and thanked them for attending. He shared his appreciation for the club and its standing as the oldest organization in the city, wishing everyone a great time ahead.

President Elley thanked the attendees for coming out and expressed hope that everyone enjoyed an amazing summer.

Recognitions, Appreciations, & Club Business

Financial Report: Treasurer Steve P. reported the Society and Havasu Rocks year-to-date income, expenses, and cash balances.

Rocky Tails Update: A special thank you was extended to Joyce for her continued work on the "rocky tails." There are no changes to report regarding this from the months prior to the summer break.

Lifetime Membership Presentation: Rose presented Linda with a lifetime member badge, congratulating her on this milestone. Linda was recognized for her extensive contributions, including serving on the board and countless committees, and for being a foundational backbone of the club.

Shop Vendor Fees Reopening: Shelf vending fees inside the shop—which were completely shut off for the summer—will resume in September. Anyone new who wants to set up a display shelf should contact Josh or Cheyanne.

New Members: The club warmly welcomed 3 new members this evening.

Guest Speaker Suggestions: Members were asked to share suggestions for future guest speakers who could present on rock-related topics, earth sciences, or similar fields.

Field Trips & Activities

Suggestions Wanted: President Elley requested that members write down field trip suggestions for the upcoming year during the break, focusing on places they would like to visit and things they want to see.

Upcoming Field Trip: A club trip to Elley's claims is being planned for either October or November, with Steve assisting. The claims feature Banded Agate and picture Jasper.

Scheduling: Final details and a firm date will be sent out via email as soon as possible, depending on weather, schedules, and coordination with the upcoming Gem Show.

Shop & Community Events (Cheyanne's Update)

Fright Night (October 31st): Cheyanne will be hosting a "Fright Night" event from 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM. She welcomed decorating ideas (such as tarps or strobe lights) and asked volunteers to stay after the meeting to exchange phone numbers. She will also be completing the necessary application process for the event.

Candy Donations: Members are asked to drop off sealed, unopened bags of candy at the shop on Saturdays to ensure safe treats are ready for the kids on Fright Night.

Weekend Shop Hours: Cheyanne prefers hanging out with rocks on weekends and is looking for volunteers to help open the shop on Sundays. Members interested in helping on Sundays should come forward after the meeting.

Labor Day Weekend Plans: The shop will be open this coming Friday and Monday for the holiday weekend to welcome out-of-town visitors.

Havasu Treasure Hunt: On Monday, the club plans to hide tumbled rocks or small rock bags around town alongside the club's business card. Members are encouraged to do this on their own time as well to create a fun "treasure hunt" that drives visitors to the club.

Gem Show Venue Change & Logistics

Event Dates: November 14–15

Venue Explanation: President Elley addressed questions regarding the change of venue for the upcoming Gem Show. While the club highly valued the convenience of the indoor facility at the Aquatic Center, a significant fee increase necessitated the move.

Financial Details: The city over tripled the rental fee for the facility. Last year, the club paid \$1,500 for the rental space. This year, the city requested \$4,800 for the exact same space, with additional hourly penalties for going overtime.

Vendor Sign-Ups & Pricing: The club currently has 18 vendors signed up. Pricing is set at \$75 per table with a 2-table minimum. New vendors will receive one free table under the 2-table limit promotion.

Banners & Advertising: Advertising is progressing well. A radio ad campaign is planned to run for a couple of months leading up to the show. The club is still looking into city

permissions to hang a promotional banner over the London Bridge. Flyers and promotional cards have not been printed yet, but there is still plenty of time.

Gem Show Committees & Volunteering

The club is seeking volunteers to join primary planning committees. Interested members should sign up by emailing the club's new email address (found in the Rocky Tails newsletter), as the old email address is being phased out.

Security & Front Table: Responsible for welcoming guests and collection/tallying of entry fees.

Attendance Tracking: Per State Park regulations, the club must provide the Ranger Station with an accurate visitor count. A ticket-tracking or counting table will be set up at the entrance. The club has successfully used ticket numbering systems in the past to track averages and hand out door prizes.

Club Booths: Volunteers are needed to staff the Havasu Rocks booth and the Silent Auction. Tony has generously agreed to donate rocks for the auction.

Bake Sale: This will be held in the covered pavilion located in the center of the park, situated right next to the Havasu Rocks and club booths.

Raffle Baskets: Holly has been mapping out the city into grouped sections for advertising and donation collection. Members will be assigned specific geographic lists to prevent the club from over-asking local businesses or accidentally hitting the same locations twice.

Other Show Announcements

Cabochon Contest: Members were encouraged to enter the upcoming cabochon contest.

Floor Opened for Questions: Members were invited to ask any further questions regarding the venue change, vendor costs, or show details during the meeting.

Submitted by:

Secretary: Cheyanne

Club Executive Board:

President: Elley

Vice President: Josh Bagwell

Treasurer: Steve P.

Share Your Rock Knowledge with U.S. Fish & Wildlife!

Do you know a thing or two about rocks, minerals, fossils, geology, mining history, or the fascinating desert landscape around us? Here's a chance to share what you know!

A representative from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service recently reached out to the Lake Havasu Gem & Mineral Society looking for people who might be interested in giving casual, educational presentations about geology, rocks, minerals, and related subjects—especially topics connected to our local desert and Colorado River region.

These are not intended to be formal academic lectures. They're an opportunity to share knowledge, stories, photographs, specimens, or experiences with people who are curious about the natural world around them.

Possible topics could include local geology and how our landscape was formed, rocks and minerals found in the region, rockhounding and responsible collecting, mining history, fossils, lapidary arts, identifying minerals, desert soils, volcanic activity, or even how geology influences the plants, wildlife, and waterways of our area.

And you don't have to be a professional geologist! Many of our club members have spent years exploring the desert, collecting specimens, cutting and polishing stones, researching local history, and learning through hands-on experience. That knowledge is worth sharing.

If you have a favorite subject—or even an idea for a presentation—consider volunteering. This could be a wonderful way for the Lake Havasu Gem & Mineral Society to share our enthusiasm for the earth sciences while helping others appreciate the remarkable geology right beneath our feet.

Interested in Presenting?

Please contact:

Joey Saccomanno

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

928-259-9632

You never know—your favorite rock, collecting spot, or geological story might inspire someone else to start looking at the desert in an entirely new way.

Havasu Rocks Is More Than a Gem Show

Come for the Rocks, Stay for the People

Something is happening to our little gem show. It's becoming more than a place to buy rocks.

It's becoming a celebration of Havasu.

On November 14–15, Havasu Rocks will come to Windsor Beach, and this year we hope it feels a little different. Of course there will be rocks. Lots and lots of rocks! There will be minerals, fossils, slabs, cabochons, jewelry and all the wonderful treasures that make rockhounds stop in their tracks and say, "Ooooooh...what's THAT?"

But Havasu Rocks can be about something bigger, too.

Lake Havasu is full of interesting people doing interesting things. We have rockhounds and lapidary artists, painters and photographers, jewelry makers and craftspeople, desert explorers, collectors, gardeners, outdoor enthusiasts and people who simply love discovering something new.

Why not bring some of that energy together?

That's the spirit behind Havasu Rocks.

Our Gem & Mineral Society has always been about more than stones. Rocks may be what bring us through the door, but people are what make a club. Someone teaches us how to use a saw. Someone shows us how to polish our first cabochon. Someone identifies the mysterious rock we dragged home from the desert. Someone shares a favorite collecting spot—or at least gives us a hint about where it is!

Before long, acquaintances become friends.

That same sense of discovery and community is what we hope people experience at Havasu Rocks.

We want the person who has never been to a gem show to feel just as welcome as the lifelong collector. We want kids to discover that the ordinary-looking rock beneath their feet might contain an extraordinary story. We want people to meet artists and makers and learn how something found in nature can become something beautiful.

Most of all, we want people to wander around, talk to each other, learn something, find a treasure and have a really good day.

And what better place to do it than Windsor Beach?

November is when those of us who live in Havasu remember why we put up with August. The brutal heat finally gives way to blue skies, cool mornings and that

irresistible urge to get outside again. Rock picks come out of garages. Buckets get tossed into vehicles. Maps appear on kitchen tables.

Rockhounding season has returned.

Havasu Rocks is a celebration of that season and of this wonderfully strange hobby that brings all of us together.

Because there is something rather wonderful about a group of grown adults who can become genuinely excited over a particularly beautiful piece of jasper.

We understand one another.

So this November, let's invite the rest of Havasu to join us.

Bring the rock collectors. Bring the artists. Bring the makers. Bring the desert wanderers. Bring the families. Bring the person who doesn't know a piece of quartz from a potato but thinks rocks are kind of cool.

There's room for all of them.

Havasu Rocks — November 14–15, 2026, at Windsor Beach.

Come for the rocks. Stay for the people.

Keep calm and Rock On!

— *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.

Ways to Get Involved:

1. Bring snacks to the meetings. Help clean up after the meeting.
2. Volunteer in Havasu Rocks (talk to Josh) in front at retail store or back in lapidary shop. We need volunteers to keep the store open! And you will need to be trained.
3. Organize and lead a rockhound adventure. (Talk to Elley).
4. Volunteer for a board position. Check out the open positions. Do you fit in any of those spots? Talk to Elley.
5. We need volunteers to man the booth at Fright Night handing out candy. Easy Peasy! Super fun event. Talk to Cheyenne.
6. LOTZA volunteers are needed for the Gem Show. Planning, setting up, manning the show, security at show, troubleshooting at show, taking down after show. Talk to Elley.
7. Elections are coming up in December. Consider becoming a Member of the Board of either the Society or Havasu Rocks or BOTH. We need dedicated and passionate people to volunteer and keep the Society going and Havasu Rocks open. Talk to Elley or Josh if you want to be on the Board and get on the ballot.

If a board position is too much, consider stepping in on a committee. There are lots of places to serve in the Society. It's fun and rewarding. You meet the greatest people and find the coolest rocks! Talk to Elley or Josh.

PERMANENT STANDING COMMITTEES

Events (oversees development and implementation of Event Planning, including identifying programs that the General Membership supports, how to meet those needs with products/services/programs, and how to promote the events – i.e., Winterfest, swap meet, Fright Night, Christmas Cookout Boat Parade).	Vacant
Field Trips (research areas where rocks may be collected, plan weekly field trips to locations for members to access, provide guidelines for these activities, assure that those on the fieldtrip have signed the appropriate waiver).	Elley Ringo
Finance and Audit (Members shall include the President, Treasurer, and Past President of the Society with two or three General Membership participants encouraged to participate, consider financial issues, oversee development of the budget, ensure accurate tracking and accountability for funds, ensure adequate financial controls and complete a yearly audit of expenses, develop new ideas for fundraising).	Elley Ringo Josh Bagwell Steve Petrangelo
Gem Show (Develop subcommittees to insure a successful show)	Elley Ringo
Hospitality ((will ensure treats are available at General Membership Meetings, will organize and collect monies for the 50/50 fundraiser at the General Membership Meetings, will provide rocks as gifts for guests and new members at the General Membership Meetings, will organize the annual Christmas Dinner for the Society, will include the Sergeant-At-Arms as a member of this committee).	Judy Revilla
Havasu Rocks (Director and committee will update the inventory, add new purchases to the inventory, make an inventory of all the property, will make recommendation to the Executive Board, items that need replacement or returned to vendor).	Josh Bagwell
Lapidary Shop (with Director and volunteers will hold safety and lapidary classes monthly as needed, issue charge slips, collect monies for utilizing the Lapidary shop, make sure all members have signed the attendance log, purchase new equipment).	Josh Bagwell
Membership (maintains club records and documents pertaining to membership, maintains a current roster of members, maintains a list of the committees and committees' members, presents new members with copies of By-laws and Standing Rules, and membership badge.)	Rose Mann
Communications (communication with press, publish and distribute Rocky Tales, maintain website, maintain Facebook page, furnish speakers and exhibits to community organizations)	Karen Sawyer (website) Joyce McCluskey (Rocky Tales newsletter)
Program (arranges speakers at meetings. Displays, demonstrations, research)	Vacant

AD HOC COMMITTEES (AS NEEDED)	
Bylaws and Standing Rules Committee (reviews the By-Laws and Standing Rules every year, makes recommendations for amendments as may be necessary).	Vacant
Nominating Committee (will consist of three members appointed by the President at the September General Membership meeting, will propose one or more candidates who have agreed to serve for each office to be filled, will recommend those members at the November General Meeting, will suggest additional nominations from the floor at the November and December meetings, will assure that each candidate for an Executive Committee office be allowed a presentation on his/her qualifications at the December General Meeting prior to voting).	Vacant
Scholarship Committee (will be selected by the President prior to February General Meetings, consisting of 3-5 members with one person serving as Chairperson. The Chairperson shall schedule meetings as needed, Chairperson shall introduce him/herself to the Lake Havasu High School Career Center Advisor and be the primary contact for the Society, will review applications for scholarship, Chairperson shall advise Board and General Membership by May about qualified applicants, shall notify the scholarship recipients at the appropriate venue or via mail or email).	Vacant for 2027

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

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