



# ROCKY TALES

The Official Publication of the Lake Havasu Gem & Mineral Society

August 2025 Volume 51, Issue 4

## No August Meeting

Next meeting is Wednesday September 3, 2025 at 5:30 pm at Yacht Club at 631 London Bridge Road

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

6:00 pm Meeting starts

## Message from the President

Hello, Rockhounds!



Summer may be sizzling, but our Lapidary Shop is staying cool and productive! Several safety classes were held this past month, and it's been great to see so many new members getting trained up and actively using the shop. Just a reminder—all new members must complete safety classes before using the equipment. It keeps everyone safe and helps our shop run smoothly.

Speaking of equipment—huge thanks to our dedicated volunteers who've been keeping everything in good working order. Your behind-the-scenes efforts are what keep the wheels turning (and the wheels grinding!).

Our retail store has seen steady sales as has our vendors — thank you to everyone who's been supporting the shop and sharing the love for handmade jewelry, stones, and treasures.

A special shoutout to Kelsey, who rented the facility for her birthday on July 20. The celebration was a hit, and fun was had by all!

We're also excited to announce that we've officially secured the Aquatic Community Center for our upcoming 55th Annual Gem and Mineral Show. Mark your calendars—this is going to be one of our best yet!

And in other exciting news, we have a new home for our general meetings! Starting in September, we'll gather at the Yacht Club at 613 London Bridge Road. Join us for social time at 5:30 PM, with the meeting to follow. It's a fresh venue with plenty of space and a great atmosphere.

Stay cool, stay curious, and keep those rocks rollin'!

Rock Steady,

Steve Prather

President, Lake Havasu Gem and Mineral Society

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

President	Steve Prather
Vice President	Elley Ringo
Secretary	Sandra Willis
Treasurer	Michele Trumbull
Sargent at Arms	Carrie Morkert
One Year Director	Elley Ringo
Two Year Director	Christine Evans
Three Year Director	Linda Harley
Past President	Jason Upchurch
Havasu Rocks Director	Michelle Trumbull
Havasu Rocks Assistant Director	Leslie Rosario
Lapidary Shop Director	Jason Upchurch



## Volunteer Spotlight: John Jackson — From Pastor to “New Guy” in the Lapidary Shop

If you’ve spent any time in the Lapidary Shop lately, chances are you’ve met John Jackson — or as he’s affectionately called around here, “the new guy.” Don’t let the nickname fool you, though. John has been a member of the Lake Havasu City Gem and Mineral Society for two years now, and he’s become an indispensable part of the crew.

Originally from Elgin, Illinois, John was gently coerced into joining the Society by his wife (thanks, Mrs. Jackson — we owe you one!). Since then, he’s found his niche among rocks, saws, and the occasional chaos that erupts in the shop — most of which, according to him, revolves around “keeping Steve under control,” his self-appointed favorite

task.

John is a man of many talents. He’s a skilled guitarist, jewelry maker, reader, and woodworker. When he’s not monitoring in the Lapidary Shop, you might find him dreaming about green things — fitting, since his favorite color is green — or admiring blue ones. Specifically, blue rocks. Chrysocolla, in particular, has stolen his heart (and likely some space in his collection).

John’s favorite part of being in the Society? Field trips. Whether it’s rockhounding in the desert or just hitting the open road, he loves the adventure and camaraderie of exploring the great outdoors. His ultimate happy place, however, is cruising in his Jeep along a sandy beach — wind in his hair, waves on the horizon, and probably a blue rock in his pocket.

He’s got a curious spirit, too. On his “bucket list” of lapidary skills? Gold panning and silver casting — two things he’d love to learn. (Sounds like a future workshop waiting to happen!)

And just when you think you’ve got John all figured out, he throws you a curveball. Something most folks don’t know: he once planted and pastored a church. That compassion, dedication, and quiet leadership? It shines through in everything he does — from mentoring in the shop to just being a friendly face for newcomers.

We’re lucky to have John Jackson as part of our rock-happy family. Whether he’s wrangling Steve, shaping stones, or rocking out on his guitar, he brings warmth, humor, and heart to our Society.

Thanks for being you, “New Guy.”

<b>Upcoming Workshops</b>		
<b>Wirewrapping Workshop</b> taught by Danielle Jackson	Saturday, Aug. 9 10:00 am	All supplies included to make a Tree of Life pendant with silver craft wire Cost is \$50 for members and \$75 for nonmembers
<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.

**Call for Nominations: Help Shape the Future of Our Society!**

Are you interested in helping guide the future of the Lake Havasu Gem and Mineral Society? Do you know someone who would make a great leader? It’s time to start thinking about board nominations!

We invite all members to consider submitting nominations for the upcoming Board of Directors election. Now is your chance to get involved and make a difference.

**Here’s how it works:**

Nominations can be submitted on or before the November general meeting.

Voting will take place at the December general meeting.

Being on the board is a great way to support the mission of our society, strengthen our programs, and bring fresh energy to our events and outreach. New voices are always welcome!

To nominate someone, please contact a current board member or submit your nomination in person at the November meeting.

Let’s continue to grow, evolve, and rock on—together!



## Staying Found: Essential Navigation Tools for Rockhounds

Rockhounding takes us to remote places in search of that perfect specimen. While adventure is half the fun, getting lost isn't. Whether you're exploring desert washes, forests, or rugged hills, having reliable navigation tools—and knowing how to use them—is critical for a safe, enjoyable trip.

Below is a guide to essential navigation tools

and tips every rockhound should carry:

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### 1. Paper Maps: Don't Leave Home Without Them

Advantages:

Never runs out of batteries

Works anywhere

Shows topography and landmarks

Tips:

Get a detailed topographic map of your area

Learn to read contour lines

Highlight planned routes and exit points

- Many BLM and Forest Service offices provide free or inexpensive maps
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### 2. Compass: The Trusty Backup

Why carry one?

- Works without batteries or signal
- Essential for orienting maps and taking bearings

Tips:

Learn basic compass use before your trip  
Calibrate if it has adjustable declination  
Store away from magnets or metal  
Practice in familiar areas

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### 3. GPS Devices: Powerful Precision

Benefits:

Track your route

Mark waypoints like your vehicle or collecting spots  
Reliable in remote area

Tips:

Preload routes at home  
Mark key locations  
Bring extra batteries—cold and heat drains them quickly

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### 4. Smartphone Mapping Apps

Benefits:

Easy to use  
Supports offline maps  
Mark waypoints and routes

Popular apps:

- Gaia GPS
- AllTrails
- Avenza Maps

Tips: Always download maps for offline use

- Don't rely on cell service in remote areas
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### 5. Markers and Landmarks

Staying aware:

Note natural landmarks (rocks, trees, ridges)

Use flagging tape sparingly and responsibly

Avoid damaging sensitive environments

Tip: Turn around often to see your route from the return angle

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## **6. Satellite Messengers and PLBs**

Why invest?

Work even without cell service

SOS function for emergencies

Peace of mind for solo or remote trips

Examples:

Garmin inReach

Personal Locator Beacons (PLBs)

Tip: Some clubs pool funds to share devices

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## **7. Tell Someone Your Plan**

The most important step:

Leave your trip plan with someone you trust

Include destination, route, companions, and return time

Check in when you're back

Tip: Many clubs include this in field trip signups

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## **Final Words: Practice Makes Perfect**

Navigation tools are only useful if you know how to use them.

Suggestions:

Practice regularly in familiar areas

Take a navigation or orienteering class

Include navigation training at club meetings or events

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Happy rockhounding! May you always find your way back with pockets full of treasures

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## **Lake Havasu Gem and Mineral Society (LHGMS)**

### **General Meeting Minutes – May 9, 2025**

Final meeting until September (time/place TBD)

#### **Board Members Present**

Steve Prather – President

Elley Ringo – Vice President

Michele Trumbull – Treasurer

Linda Harley – Director

Carrie Morkert – Sergeant at Arms

#### **Call to Order**

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Steve Prather, President.

#### **Salute to the Flag**

Pledge of Allegiance led by Carrie Morkert.

#### **Approval of Minutes**

Motion to approve by Bruce Davies, seconded by Courtney Payton. Motion passed.

#### **Treasurer's Report**

Report given by Michele Trumbull and filed for audit.

#### **Committee Reports**

- Membership (Rose Mann): 290 total members, 8 new in the last month. New members included the Huckers (NC), Michelle and Heidi (via MCC classes), Judy and Ted Nevins, and others.
- Nevada Trip Recap (Elley Ringo): 6 months of planning, hosted by the Otteson family. 27 attendees from several states. Possible repeat trip in two years. Next field trip to Houser Geo Beds in September.
- Summer Shop Info (Steve Prather): Havasu Rocks shop is thriving, averaging \$3,000/month. Volunteers needed. New hour-for-hour volunteer trade program for lapidary use.
- Special Donation: 500+ specimens from Frances Delach Jr. (father's collection). Kept for education/display. Frances granted lifetime membership.

- GPS Issue: Some phones can't find the shop location. Help requested from tech-savvy members.
- Radio Ads: Coming soon on 95.7 River Rat Radio.
- July BBQ: Motion by Steve Prather, seconded by Kelsey Friedrichsen. Motion passed.

**15-Minute Break**

**Suggestions**

- Suggestion Box: Add more scholarships. MCC is a candidate. Current scholarships: two at \$1,500 each.

**Next Meeting Info**

Meetings will resume in September with a new time/location. Members will be notified via email.

**T-Shirts**

New shirts coming for both the Society and Havasu Rocks.

**Gem Show Announcement**

- Dates: November 8–9, 2025
- Coordinator: Elley Ringo (Elleyknowsrocksfans@gmail.com)
- New features: outdoor vendors, new layout, children's activities throughout the show, collaboration with other clubs.
- Upcoming show: Prescott – August 1–3

**Contests & Raffles**

- Cab Cutting Contest Winner: Elley Ringo (turquoise from Nevada trip)
- Raffle Winners: Courtney Payton (\$20), AJ Hugger (\$15), Grandpa Don (ice cream)
- Note: \$22 Rim Job Special at Car Toyz no longer valid.

**Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 8:08 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:

Kelsey Friedrichsen, Member

**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.

<b>STANDING COMMITTEES</b>	
Events	Courtney Payton
Field Trips	Elley Ringo
Finance	Michele Trumbull
Gem Show	Steve Prather, chair Sandy Willis, co-chair Elley Ringo, vendors
Hospitality	Sandy Guelff
Havasu Rocks	Michele Trumbull
Lapidary Shop	Jason Upchurch
Membership	Rose Mann
<i>If you are interested in being on one of the above committees, or chairing a committee, please contact the President Steve Prather.</i>	

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 \$15.00

**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).

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)

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

Website Administrator is Karen Sawyer <http://www.lakehavasugms.com>