



# ROCKY TALES

The Official Publication of the Lake Havasu Gem & Mineral Society

September Volume 51, Issue 8

## SEPTEMBER MEETING\*NEW DATE AND TIME\*NEW VENUE

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!



## President's Message – August Highlights

August may be one of the hottest months in Havasu, but that didn't slow us down! Our members were busy behind the scenes keeping Havasu Rocks and Society moving forward in preparation for the busy season ahead.

We kicked off the month with Josh stepping up right after work to haul six pails of oil, just one example of his dedication. He and John have been putting in steady effort

to get the shop in shape for when members return in full swing.

Mid-month, Danelle hosted a wire wrap workshop on a Saturday that was a big success. Everyone who attended left with beautiful creations and a smile. We also stocked up on fresh new inventory for Havasu Rocks, and it looks incredible! Sales have been strong all summer, thanks to the support of members and the community.

Behind the scenes, Elley filmed a new episode for her YouTube channel *Elley Knows Rocks*. The video, "Elley Does Dirty Chores," featured her tackling the 24" slab saw, no small feat since it was still caked in Blackjack turquoise from our Tonopah trip.



Meanwhile, Gem Show planning has been in full swing. Elley has been working overtime coordinating with vendors and perfecting the layout. We're excited to see all the pieces coming together for what will be another fantastic show.

As we wrap up the summer, I want to remind everyone that our first general meeting is right around the corner on Wednesday, September 3rd, at our new venue, the Yacht Club, 631 London Bridge Road. Join us for social time at 5:30 pm before the meeting begins.

Thank you to everyone who gave their time and energy this past month. The work we do together keeps our Society strong and thriving.

Rock steady,

Steve Prather

President, Lake Havasu Gem & 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	Steve Prather



## Volunteer of the Month:

### Josh Bagwell

The Lake Havasu Gem and Mineral Society is proud to recognize Josh Bagwell as our Volunteer of the Month!

Josh has been a dedicated member of the Society for about two years, joining after his daughter's love of rocks sparked his own interest. Born in Riverside, California, Josh relocated to Lake Havasu City and quickly found a second home with our club. Since then, he's become a constant presence, always lending a hand, sharing a smile, and

helping our members grow in their love of gems and minerals.

---

### A Passionate Rockhound

Josh's favorite mineral is obsidian, and it's easy to see why – its mysterious, glossy beauty matches his curious and adventurous spirit. His favorite color is green, which also happens to be his favorite place to be: anywhere lush and green. Out in the field, you'll usually find him happiest on our Society's field trips, which he considers the highlight of his membership.

---

### Beyond the Rocks

Outside of the club, Josh keeps busy with a wide range of hobbies. He enjoys coaching school sports, spending time rockhounding, and practicing his aim while shooting. In the shop, he's taken up cabochon cutting and hopes to expand his skills into jewelry making soon. And when it's time to recharge, nothing beats a plate of his favorite food: lasagna.

---

### Always Smiling, Always Helping

If you've met Josh, you know two things immediately: he's tall, and he's always smiling. That upbeat energy extends to his volunteer work. Josh is one of those rare people who never hesitates to say "yes." He regularly uses his own vehicle to haul and pick up rocks and minerals, rearrange supplies, and help with any task that needs to be done. His passion for helping people shines through in everything he does, whether it's assisting new members, sharing knowledge, or making sure our shop and events run smoothly.

## A True Asset to the Society

The Lake Havasu Gem and Mineral Society is lucky to count Josh among our members. His enthusiasm, reliability, and generosity of spirit make him not only an incredible volunteer but also a friend to everyone in the club. We thank him for all he does and look forward to many more adventures together!

✦ Congratulations, Josh, and thank you for all that you do for our Society! ✦

	Workshop Schedule	
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.

## 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!

## **So You Wanna Go Rockhounding on BLM Land in Arizona? Here's the Scoop:**

If you're itching to get out there and collect some shiny treasures (gems, minerals, petrified wood, etc.) on BLM land here in Arizona, here's what you need to know before you grab your bucket and shovel.

---

### **What You Can Collect (Without Getting in Trouble)**

Yes, you can collect rocks and minerals for personal use, just not by the truckload.

- Federal rules (43 CFR 8365.1-5(b)(2)) say you can pick up a "reasonable amount" for your own non-commercial enjoyment.
- In Arizona, that means up to 25 pounds per person per day, plus one big ol' chunk, and no more than 250 pounds total per year (yep, they're counting).
- This includes semiprecious stones, petrified wood, common invertebrate fossils—just not dinosaur bones or ancient arrowheads (more on that below).

---

### **Where You Can't Collect (Don't Even Try)**

Some spots are off-limits, period. Don't go digging in:

- Developed recreation areas
- National Monuments
- Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs) or any formally withdrawn lands
- Active mining claims, even if you're not after what they're mining. If someone staked a claim, ask first.

Tools matter, too:

- You can use basic hand tools like shovels and picks.
- Metal detectors? Usually okay, unless you're in a restricted area like the San Pedro Riparian NC area
- But leave the backhoes, dredges, and explosives at home. Seriously.
- And don't trash the landscape, no digging massive pits or leaving piles behind.



---

### **📄 Need a Permit? Here's When:**

- Going over 250 pounds per year? Or found a mega-specimen that tips the scale past that? Time to call the BLM and work out a permit or possible purchase.

Planning to sell, trade, or barter what you collect? That's commercial use, and it requires a mining claim or A commercial permit.

### **Quick-Glance Cheat Sheet**

**What**

**What's Allowed on BLM land**

Daily collecting limit

25 lbs + 1 large specimen

Annual limit

250 lbs total

Use

Personal only (no selling/trading)

Tools allowed

Hand tools; metal detectors in most spots

Motorized/mechanical tools

Not allowed

Off-limits areas

Rec sites, monuments, mining claims, ACECs

Bigger collections/commercial use Requires permit or mining claim

Other Things to Keep in Mind

- Know whose land you're on.

Arizona State Trust Land? Not public—you'll need a permit just to be on State Land. That does not mean you can collect rocks, however. Check the rules and regs. Private land? Get permission first.

- Don't touch anything historic.

That pottery shard or arrowhead you just found? Put it back. Cultural artifacts and vertebrate fossils (like dino bones or mammal remains) are off-limits and protected by law.

- When in doubt, call BLM.

Each field office (like Lake Havasu, Kingman, or Safford) may have specific local rules. Best to check first and not have to apologize later.

---

7 jb rr

### **Bottom Line**

Yes, you can rockhound on Arizona BLM land—just follow the rules. Keep it personal, keep it under 250 lbs/year, use only hand tools, and stay out of restricted areas. And if you're planning to go big or go commercial, check in with the local BLM folks first.

Happy hunting—and leave the dynamite at home. 😊

## **Don't be confused. Arizona State Land Trust is not the same as BLM**

To get a permit for recreational use of [Arizona State Trust Land](#), you can either purchase it online through the Arizona State Land Department's website or in person at their Phoenix office. The recreational permit allows access to millions of acres of State Trust land for various activities like hiking, camping, and OHV usage but NOT rock collecting.

Here's a more detailed breakdown:

### 1. Online Purchase:

- Visit the State Land Department's website. [Land.az.gov](http://Land.az.gov)
- Navigate to the recreational permit section.
- Choose the appropriate permit type (individual or family).
- Select your desired activities and complete the purchase.
- Note that there may be a small convenience fee for online purchases.

### 2. In-Person Purchase:

- Visit the Arizona State Land Department office located at 1110 West Washington Street in Phoenix.

- You can purchase your permit directly at the office.

### 3. Permit Details:

- The permit is valid for one year from the date of purchase.
- A family permit covers two adults and their children under 18.
- Permits allow access to State Trust land for activities like camping, hiking, OHV use (with the OHV Decal), and more.
- An [OHV Decal](#) is also required for operating off-highway vehicles on State Trust Land, and it can be purchased online through the Arizona Department of Transportation's Motor Vehicle Division (MVD).

On Arizona State Trust Land, even with a Recreational Use Permit, you cannot legally collect rocks, minerals, or fossils. The permit only covers things like hiking, camping, sightseeing, biking, photography, and birdwatching.

### **If you want to rockhound or collect, you'll need to go to:**

- BLM land (where recreational collecting is allowed in reasonable amounts),
- National Forest land (with some restrictions), or
- Private land (with permission).

**For State Trust Land, the only way you could collect would be through a mineral exploration permit or lease, which is more like a mining arrangement and not practical for hobby collecting.**

**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 Gueff
Havasu Rocks	Michele Trumbull
Lapidary Shop	Steve Prather
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 is \$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>