



ROCKY TALES

The Official Publication of the Lake Havasu Gem & Mineral Society
February 2026 Volume 52, Issue 2

GENERAL MEETING

Next meeting is Wednesday February 4, 2026 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



President's Message – February

February is off to a strong start, and I want to begin by saying thank you to all the members who stepped up and volunteered for leadership positions in both the Society and Havasu Rocks. We have some great people willing to help steer the ship, and I'm excited to welcome our new Board members.

I also want to thank the many volunteers who continue to come forward at Havasu Rocks. Whether you're behind the counter, in the shop, or helping wherever needed, your time and commitment keep everything running. The store and lapidary are both busy, which is always good to

see.

Quartzsite PowWow was a big success. Thanks to everyone who volunteered at our booth and helped spread the word about our club. A special thank-you to Alan and Kim Hay for coordinating the campout on Plomosa Road — Quartzsite was awesome!

As we move forward, keep an eye on what's happening in the rock world. Some materials we've enjoyed in the past may not be coming into the country anymore, so it's something to be aware of.

Looking ahead, Winterfest is happening this weekend! We're packed up with lots of inventory and ready to sell. Stop by our booth, say hello, and help support the club.

Plenty of good things are happening, and there's more to come as we head into spring.

Rock Steady,

— Steve

President, Lake Havasu Gem & Mineral Society



February Birthdays

Have a great day!

Pete Andrican

Wayne Brood

Christine Evans

Ruth Jackson

Sue Johnson

Sherrill Mann

Barbara Peacock

Sol Poe

**Lake Havasu Gem & Mineral Society
General Membership Meeting
January 7, 2026**

Officers Present

President Steve Prather

Vice President Elley Ringo

Treasurer Michele Trumbull

Secretary Sandra Willis

Pre-meeting statement from Elley Ringo, regarding conflict of previous meeting. Ballots were passed out to members present.

The meeting was **called to order** at 6:07 PM, by President Steve Prather.

The **Minutes** from the previous meeting, found in Rocky Tales, were accepted without comments or corrections.

Elley Ringo reported that the **field trip** December 20th, to Hauser Geode Beds, past Blythe, California was a fun time. She has commitments this month and will not be able to lead a field trip. Looking at Aguila in February. Anyone can lead a field trip, and encouraged to do so.

Steve reported that the Christmas party boat parade was well attended and fun.

Treasurer's report by Michele Trumbull is available at the shop.

Havasu Rocks shop is doing well, with good sales. There are two vendor spaces available. A 3% charge will be added to all credit card charges on the Square.

The **Lapidary Shop**, per Steve, is getting busier since the holidays are over. All equipment is functioning well.

Rose Mann, **Membership** Chairman, reported that there is a total of 273 members, with 13 new members. New members, Ron and Jill Myers, and Steve McKay were in attendance, along with April Decker, visitor.

Steve mentioned that he would like to have a special function to thank all of those who volunteered for the gem show. More information coming.

10 minute recess

Sign-up sheets are available for those going to the QIA Pow Wow and Winterfest.

50/50 was won by Bruce Davies and Sandi Guelff.

Door Prizes went to Kip Hanna, Martin Moffett and Ken Nevins.

There were no cabochons.

There were 40 ballots counted, and 5 write-ins for Josh Bagwell for Lapidary Shop Director. All are for two-year terms. The following are due for election in one year as their two-year terms expire:

President, Steve Prather

Vice President, Elley Ringo

Society Treasurer, Michele Trumbull

Election Results, as follows:

Society Secretary, Tara Houde

Havasu Rocks Secretary, Kelsey Friedrichsen

Havasu Rocks Treasurer, Steve Petrangelo

Havasu Rocks Director, Steve Prather

Havasu Rocks Assistant Director, Michele Trumbull

Lapidary Shop Director, Josh Bagwell

Executive Director, Christine Evans

Sargent at Arms, Josh Bagwell

The next meeting will be February 3, at the Yacht Club, 5:30PM meet and greet and 6PM meeting.

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:06.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Willis
Secretary

NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR SOCIETY

President	Steve Prather
Vice President	Elley Ringo
Society Secretary	Tara Houde
Sargent at Arms	Josh Bagwell
Executive Director	Christine Evans
Immediate Past President	Jason Upchurch
Havasu Rocks Director	Steve Prather
Society Treasurer	Michelle Trumbull

HAVASU ROCKS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Havasu Rocks President	Steve Prather
Havasu Rocks Vice President	Elley Ringo
Havasu Rocks Treasurer	Steve Petrangelo
Havasu Rocks Secretary	Kelsey Fredrichsen
Lapidary Shop Director	Josh Bagwell

Havasu Rocks Director	Steve Prather
Assistant Havasu Rocks Director	Michelle Trumbull

<p align="center">Schedule of Workshops and Events</p> <p align="center">Check out our website to stay current with planned events at: https://lakehavasugms.com/events/</p>		
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.
Winterfest	Jan. 31 – Feb. 1, 2026 On McCulloch Blvd, Lake Havasu City	We have two spaces and will be selling Club inventory. Volunteers are needed to man the booth.

Is Love Written in Stone?

Gems of Romance Through History

Valentine's Day may belong to florists and chocolatiers, but long before greeting cards and heart-shaped candy, humanity turned to stone to say, "You matter to me." Across cultures and centuries, people have given gems as promises, prayers, and declarations of love. In a way, rockhounds are part of that same ancient tradition—we just skip the velvet box and go straight to the dirt.

Some stones have carried the language of love for thousands of years.

Rose Quartz is perhaps the most obvious. Pale pink and softly glowing, it has been called the "heart stone" since antiquity. The Assyrians traded it as early as 800 B.C., and Roman lovers carved it into seals. Today, it's still associated with compassion, tenderness, and emotional healing. Whether you believe in crystal energy or not, there's no denying that rose quartz feels gentle. It's the stone equivalent of a warm hug.



Garnet, January's birthstone and a winter favorite, has long symbolized devotion and safe return. Ancient travelers carried it for protection on journeys, and medieval lovers exchanged garnets as pledges of fidelity. Its deep red glow looks like it's lit from within—like embers that refuse to die out. It's a perfect metaphor for enduring love: steady, warm, and quietly powerful.

Ruby has always been the stone of passion and royalty. In many cultures it was believed to contain the very essence of life. Burmese warriors embedded rubies in their armor for courage; Indian legends said rubies glowed in the dark. To give a ruby was to say, "You are my fire." Even now, no gemstone says "romance" quite like that blazing red.

Amethyst, February's birthstone, brings a softer kind of love. The Greeks associated it with clarity and balance. In medieval Europe, it symbolized faithfulness and calm. Amethyst was often given to strengthen bonds and steady hearts. It's a reminder that love isn't only passion—it's patience, understanding, and staying grounded when life gets messy.

What's fascinating is that these meanings didn't come from marketing departments. They arose organically, shaped by human experience. People looked at these stones—how they formed, how they endured heat and pressure—and saw reflections of their own relationships.

And in a way, every rockhound participates in this story.

We head into the desert or mountains with nothing but hope, water, and a vague sense that something beautiful might be waiting. We walk washes, scan gravel, and pick up what others pass by. Most of what we find is "just a rock." But sometimes—just sometimes—we turn over a dusty lump and see color, sparkle, promise.

That's not so different from love.

Every great love story begins the same way a good rock hunt does: with curiosity, patience, and the belief that something extraordinary might be hiding in plain sight. We clean it. We cut it. We polish it. We discover what it can become.

So this Valentine's season, whether you're giving a gemstone, sharing a field trip, or simply admiring a tray of cabochons, remember—you're holding more than mineral. You're holding a piece of humanity's oldest language.

Love, after all, is written in stone.

Rockhoulder's First Aid Kit (Field-Ready)

1. Basics (Non-Negotiable)

- Adhesive bandages (various sizes)
- Sterile gauze pads (2x2 & 4x4)
- Medical tape
- Antiseptic wipes or spray
- Antibiotic ointment
- Alcohol wipes
- Disposable nitrile gloves
- Small scissors or trauma shears
- Tweezers (for cactus spines & splinters)

2. Cuts, Scrapes & Rock Injuries

- Butterfly closures or wound-closure strips
 - Compression bandage / elastic wrap
 - Finger bandages (great for lapidary knicks)
 - Liquid bandage (excellent for cracked fingers)
 - Steri-Strips (optional but handy)
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3. Blisters & Foot Care

- Moleskin or blister pads
 - Foot tape (Leukotape or athletic tape)
 - Small safety pin (for draining blisters—sterilize first)
 - Antifungal wipe or powder (multi-day trips)
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4. Heat & Desert-Specific Items (CRITICAL)

- Oral rehydration salts or electrolyte packets

- Instant cold pack
- Cooling towel or bandana
- Sunscreen (SPF 30+)
- Lip balm with SPF
- Aloe vera gel or burn cream

5. Stings, Bites & Critters

- Sting relief wipes
- Antihistamine tablets (Benadryl)
- Hydrocortisone cream
- Tick removal tool
- Snake bite instructions card (not suction kits — outdated)

6. Medications (Personalized)

- Pain reliever (ibuprofen or acetaminophen)

- Any personal prescriptions
 - Antacid tablets
 - Anti-diarrheal medication
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7. Emergency & Extras

- Emergency whistle
 - Small flashlight or headlamp
 - CPR face shield
 - Emergency contact card
 - Space blanket (heat & shock)
 - Duct tape (wrap some around a pencil—fixes everything)
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Desert Rockhound Pro Tips

- Carry more water than you think you need (minimum 1 gallon per person/day in summer)

- Keep the kit accessible, not buried in the vehicle
- Store meds in a heat-resistant pouch
- Add a pair of sturdy gloves for digging & scrambling
- Tell someone where you're going and when you'll be back

 **Club or Group Kit Add-Ons**

- Tourniquet (training recommended)
- SAM splint
- Extra compression bandage
- Incident report notepad & pencil

STANDING COMMITTEES	
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	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

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

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