

LHGMS General Meeting Minutes 04 March 2026

Board Members present: Steve Prather-President; Elley Ringo-Vice President; Tara Houde - Secretary; Josh Bagwell – Sargent at Arms

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Steve Prather-President.

MINUTES: Minutes of the February meeting were posted in the Rocky Tales and emailed to membership. Motion to approve the Minutes as posted passed.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's report was given by Steve Petrangelo. It has been submitted for audit. The treasury report is always available for review by members per request.

Committees and Reports:

Membership: It was reported by Rose Mann that we have a total of 291 members. This number is down from our high of nearly 350 members in the fall of 2025. We do have a seasonal ebb and flow of members, with things typically slowing down in the summer, but don't forget to renew your membership and tell all your friends about the society!

Special Welcome to our guests – Julie, Lori, Ken, & Matt

Elections: Kelsey Friedrichsen took her oath at the board meeting for Havasu Rocks, and with that, all our new board members have officially been sworn in!

Nature Notice: Steve Prather reminded everyone that we are getting into rattlesnake season and to be alert when out on the land. Snakes are particularly active in the mornings and in the evenings when the sun isn't directly overhead. They can sometimes be found in piles of rock, taking shelter from the heat of the day. When you flip over a rock, always flip it so the rock is between you, and whatever is under the rock! Take any extra precautions you need, and be aware out there!

Field Trips: We are trying to get out as much as we can before it gets too hot! We'd love to remind everyone that field trips are not exclusively planned by the board. ANY member can suggest or lead a field trip and the club would be very grateful! If you have a suggestion but aren't confident leading an excursion, come to Havasu Rocks and consult with the volunteers. If we want to have more frequent rockhounding trips, more ideas and volunteers are needed to facilitate them.

Elley Ringo proposed an RSVP service for attending fieldtrips. We can easily implement this tool if we think it would assist field trip coordination. Please speak up if you have strong feelings about this either way.

Havasu Rocks: Steve Prather reported that Havasu Rocks is continuing to thrive. Both the shop and the vendors are experiencing financial success that we hope continues!

Due to the continuing success at Havasu Rocks, Josh Bagwell proposed buying some new equipment for the lapidary shop. Some of the equipment is showing its age from constant use, and some new items would not only really upgrade the workshop, but

make maintenance easier for our hard-working volunteers. A new saw and a bead-making machine were mentioned.

With the goal of strengthening friendships and fellowship in the club, Kelsey Friedrichsen proposed holding a social gathering at Havasu Rocks on the last Saturday of each month. This will be an afternoon of rocks, snacks, and comradery! The proposed name of the event is "Social Saturday Show & Tell" and the first one will be happening on Saturday, March 28th. Watch your emails for details!

6:30 - 15 Minute Break

Rock Tumbling Contest: The contest was really fun! It was so successful that we want to make it a yearly contest. All the winners this year were from out-of-town. Better luck next hear Havasu! ;)

Other Club Happenings:

Huge THANK YOU to Michele Trumbull and Christine Evans for taking the Rock Road Show to the Jamaica Elementary School, nurturing the next generation of rockhounds! You ladies are AWESOME!

The luncheon we had at Mudsharks for the gem show volunteers was a lot of fun. We played ping-pong and ate our weight in the finest assortment of pizzas the place had to offer. Thank you volunteers! Nothing would happen without you!

Chili Cookoff is happening March 14th. There will be cash prizes.

Cab Cutting Contest was a tie for the first time ever! Rock buddies Bob and Ken were our winners!

50/50 Raffle: Matthew Choate won \$94! Big money big money!

Door prizes donated by the club were once again great! Josh Bagwell provided a special mystery prize that turned out to be a new rock hammer! Thank you everyone who came and participated!

Meeting was adjourned at 6:59.

Minutes taken by Havasu Rocks Secretary, Kelsey Friedrichsen