



# ROCKY TALES

The official publication of Lake Havasu City Gem and Mineral Society

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**General Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, April 1, 2026**

**Location: Lake Havasu Yacht Club Facility at 631 London Bridge Road**

**Time: 5:30 pm doors open**

**6:00 pm meeting starts**

**Come for the fun! Stay for the snacks!**



## President's Message –

We had quite a March—and the fun continues!

Our Havasu Rock Safety classes were rocking, with multiple sessions helping members stay safe in the shop. We also headed out to Lavic Siding, where we found some truly beautiful jasper. A big thank you to Elley for leading another fantastic trip—it did not disappoint!

The Chili Cookoff was a hit, with eight contestants competing for cash prizes and medals. Congratulations to our winners, and thanks to everyone who came out to participate and cheer them on.

Looking ahead, we have a wire wrap class on March 23 with Michelle Trumbull as our instructor—don't miss it!

Stay tuned for April, when we'll be gathering for a picnic in the park.

Rock steady,

Steve Prather

President, Lake Havasu Gem & Mineral Society

**Chili Cookoff Success! 🍲**

The Lake Havasu Gem & Mineral Society turned up the heat on March 14 with a fantastic Chili Cookoff featuring eight talented contestants!

- 🥉 Third Place: Tara Houde
- 🥈 Second Place: Christine Evans
- 🥇 First Place: Judy Nevins — woo hoo!



Congratulations to our winners, and a big thank-you to all who entered and everyone who came out to taste and support the fun. It was a great day filled with good food, friendly competition, and even better company!

### **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 year 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

**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**

<b>HAVASU ROCKS BOARD OF DIRECTORS</b>	
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

## **Rockhounding and Rattlesnakes**

Rockhounding in the deserts of Arizona can be an incredible adventure—but it also means sharing the landscape with rattlesnakes. Fortunately, rattlesnakes usually want nothing to do with people and most bites happen only when a snake is surprised or cornered.

Here are a few simple habits that can keep you safe in the field:

Watch where you place your hands and feet.

Never reach blindly under rocks, ledges, or into crevices. Rattlesnakes often rest in cool shaded spots during the day.

Step on rocks and logs, not over them.

If a snake is on the other side, stepping directly on top gives you a chance to see it before you put your foot down.

Listen for the warning.

That famous rattle is a snake’s way of saying “please go away.” If you hear it, freeze, locate the snake, and slowly back away.

Give them space.

Most rattlesnakes can strike about half their body length, so keep several feet between you and the snake.

Wear protective gear.

Sturdy boots and long pants add an extra layer of protection when walking through brush or rocky terrain.

Don't try to handle or move the snake.

Many bites happen when people try to interact with a snake. Simply leave it alone and move on to your next rock pile.

With a little awareness and respect for desert wildlife, rockhounding can remain both safe and rewarding. After all, the only thing you want striking out there is a great mineral find!

<b>Schedule of Workshops and Events</b>		
Check out our website to stay current with planned events at: <a href="https://lakehavasugms.com/events/">https://lakehavasugms.com/events/</a>		
<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.
<b>Picnic</b>	Saturday April 11, 2026 at Rotary Park	Bring a dish to share. Club provides hot dogs.

**Committees**

Events	Courtney Payton
Field Trips	Elley Ringo
Finance	Michele Trumbull
Gem Show	Elley Ringo, 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 \$20.00

**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).

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

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

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)