



ROCKY TALES

Volume 37, Issue 3

March 2011

LAKE HAVASU GEM & Mineral SOCIETY

The Official Publication of The Lake Havasu Gem & Mineral Society

Editor

AlbertaWiederrick
editor@lakehavasugms.org or
walberta@custertel.net

BOARD MEETINGS

5:00 P.M. Prior to

**GENERAL MONTHLY
MEETING (Sept.-May)**

At Mt. Olive Parish Center

2170 Havasupai Blvd.

FIELD TRIP COMMITTEE

The committee meets the
second Monday of each
month at 7:00 p.m.
Meeting will be held at David
Frybarger's house at
2510 Angler Dr.
928-9080

SILENT AUCTION

**Bring items, rockhound
or lapidary related, to
donate for auction**

**HELP THE CLUB AND
JOIN IN THE FUN AND
BRING MONEYTOO!**

GENERAL MONTHLY MEETING

Friday, March 11, 2011

Mt. Olive Parish Center

2170 Havasupai Blvd.

Lake Havasu City

Meeting begins @ 7:00 p.m.

Visiting @6:30 p.m.

Mar. 11, 2011 Program

Surprise!!

**Hint...about a very special member of the Lake
Havasu Gem and Mineral Society.**

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Lake Havasu Gem & Mineral Society Information	Page 2
President's Message/ General Meeting Minutes January	Page 3
Jan. Minutes cont.	Page 4
Jan. Minutes cont. /Bench Tips	Page 5
Birthdays/Anniversaries	Page 6
Gem Shows/Geodes	Page 7
Field Trip Pictures and Notes	Page 8
Field Trip Calendar	Page 9

SILENT AUCTION AT MEETING MARCH 11, 2011!!
The club has some Aztec Artifacts that we have had for many
years which will also be auctioned off on March 11.

CLUB INFORMATION

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).

The purpose of the Lake Havasu Gem and Mineral Society is:

1. To increase our appreciation of the beauty and value of the land in which we live.
2. To foster good fellowship among the members while pursuing the Club's activities.
3. To foster knowledge of the earth sciences.
4. To provide educational scholarships in scientific fields.
5. To procure and improve club equipment.

The Lake Havasu Gem and Mineral Society meets the second Friday of each month from September through May at Mt. Olive Parish Center 2170 Havasupai Blvd., Lake Havasu City, AZ. The membership typically votes to eliminate the June, July, and August meetings.

Fiscal Year: January 1st– December 31st

Name badges are required for all members.

One time or replacement badge cost - \$8.00

Single membership cost - \$16.00

Family sponsored Junior membership cost - \$8.00

Family membership cost - \$16.00 for the first member and \$8.00 for each member thereafter with a maximum of \$25.00.

Annual Membership dues are payable on January 1 and shall be delinquent after the February meeting.

Please remit payment to:

Lake Havasu Gem & Mineral Society
Attn: Membership Chairperson
P.O. Box 990
Lake Havasu City, AZ 86405-0990

The Rocky Tales is published monthly, except for June, July, and August. The submission deadline is the 3rd Friday of the month in writing to the above address or by email to:

editor@lakehavasugms.org

Rocky Tales Team: Alberta Wiederrick and Bob & Ann Holmstrand
 Group Site Moderator: Bruce Wilhelm

OFFICERS and DIRECTORS

"C" Russell	President	928-846-0927
Pat Guilmet	Vice President	
Vacant	Secretary	
Liz Porter	Treasurer	
Don Wininger	Sgt. at Arms	
Jack Hodges	First Year Director	
Tom Henderson	Second Year Director	
Rick Gilpin	Third Year Director	

COMMITTEES

Assets/Swap Meet	Kathy McCauliff	680-7698
By-Laws, Standing Rules:	Harry Kilb	855-1630
Charter:	OPEN	
Decorations:	OPEN	
Editor:	Alberta Wiederrick	208-756-7787
Field Trips:	David Frybarger	855-5767
Finance Advisor:	Harry Kilb	855-1630
Greeter/ Fifty-Fifty Gromov	Edith Walden, Anne Roberts,	Linda
Government Compliance:	Judy Cano	
Friendship:	Madge Klinger	855-3196
Historian:	Liz Porter	453-8415
Membership:	Gail Gilpin	208-8992
Program Director:	Rick Gilpin	208-8950
Property/Inventory:	OPEN	
Publicity:	Harry Kilb	855-1630
Refreshments:	OPEN	
Show Chair:	OPEN	
Scholarship/Education	Lou Porte r	453-8415
Social Director & Special Events:	OPEN	
Webmaster:	Bruce Wilhelm	566-4580
Workshop/Education:	Don Wininger	208-9828

President's Message---

Two meetings down and seven to go. Ha Ha! It seems the first couple of months of the year and a set of new officers in place tend to be a bit of a challenge. We have a good group and things are coming together very nicely. The bottom line is, I'm still having fun being your president.

Anyone who missed the February meeting, too bad! We had almost ninety people attending and they all brought good dishes to the annual pot luck. After we stuffed ourselves, we were entertained with another great program from Mike Riddle. So, be sure you don't miss the March meeting. It will be the "Annual Silent Auction". If you have something you would like to donate, bring it to the meeting; but please, bring only items that are rockhound and lapidary related.

The program for the March meeting is still a surprise, even to me, at this time. The program that Rich planned is still up in the air, but he has a plan B, just in case.

See you at the meeting
"C"

How to find a star in a garnet

Cut both ends out of a 3-pound coffee can. Put a light with a 300 watt bulb inside the can. Make a cover with a 1 inch hole in it and put over the can with light inside. Make a bar with holes ranging from 1/4 to 1/2 inch. Place the garnet in the appropriate sized hole. Rotate the garnet over the light coming through the 1 inch hole until the dark spot in the garnet shows up in the middle of the garnet. Mark this spot with fingernail polish. Dip on to the spot marked and shape and polish the garnet. The star should be exactly opposite the spot you marked. You can also dip exactly opposite the spot marked and work the stone accordingly. Either side should produce a star.

*From Hounds Howl via Rock Buster News. 9/99
via Golden Spike News 10/99*

General Meeting Minutes February 11, 2011

**Mt. Olive Parish Center
2170 Havasupai Blvd.
Lake Havasu City, Az. 86403
Submitted by Acting Secretary
Carol Rhodaback**

6:15 PM A Potluck was held.

President "C" Russell called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

The Program was given by Mike Riddle from the Havasu Museum of History. The subject was Mining History of the Lower Colorado.

Sergeant-at-Arms Don Winger led the members in the Pledge of Allegiance. President Russell welcomed seven guests to our meeting.

Two corrections need to be made to the January 14th, 2011 General Meeting Minutes. Both Bill and Bess Terrell received their 10 year membership pins. Carl Kilefner first name is not spelled Carol. The minutes were then approved as printed with corrections.

Budget Committee: The Proposed Budget has been approved with the addition of the "Promotion" account and the Scholarship and Education accounts have been combined to become the Scholarship/Education account.

Twelve new members were voted in and seven other new members received their badges, By-Laws, Standard Rules and the membership roster.

Announcements:

Shows to attend: Apache Junction Show, February 19th & 20th, 2011. Verde Valley Show, March 11-13, 2011

Sales will be held tomorrow, Saturday February 12th, from 9AM to 3PM at Helen Milne's and Don Winger's homes.

General Meeting Minutes, cont.

Jack Hodges reported that the Lapidary just had the last of a four class series for this session at the College. Another class may be scheduled if they can get a minimum enrollment of five students.

Darlene Quandt told the group that her Granddaughter and Husband will be featured on the February 20th Extreme Home Makeover television show. The husband was seriously injured while serving in the military and his commander recommended them for the show.

Committees

Field Trips:

Dave Frybarger stated that the Feb. 19th Field Trip, led by Ken Diehl, will be headed to The Green Streak Mine. The Feb. 26th Trip will be to Keenan Camp lead by Dave Frybarger.

It was suggested by President Russell that all members study the books on local rock hunting sites, choose a site they would like to go to, find the site, then offer to schedule a field trip. There are only a few leaders at this time and they could use the help.

Friendship:

Madge Klinger reported that Charlisce Scott is enjoying her Rocky Tales at her new address. Keep 'em coming. President Russell reported that Ron Murphy has had a surgery and is recuperating.

Program Director: Rick Gilpin says the program in March is to be a SURPRISE.

Scholarship:

Lou Porter explained the process the scholarship money goes through to assure the funds are disbursed according to the rules.

Social & Special Event Director:

Pat Guilmet reported that after checking with many local restaurants that Shugrue's has the better facility for the money. It was suggested we have a buffet instead of being individually served so everyone gets a warm plate of food. She will be checking into the final arrangements and report again next month.

General Meeting Minutes, cont.

Assets and Swap Meet:

Kathy McCauliff gave a rundown of the Balloon Fest Booth. There was a good turn out and she thanked each individual that helped in the booth. A profit was made on the booth and the final figures will be in next month's financial report. The Swap Meet Booth is a read hit. Kathy asked for more participation by members to help with these and many other events of the Club.

Refreshments: Nan Russell asked members to please sign up to bring refreshments for the coming meetings. She has a sign-up sheet at meetings. President Russell called a break in the meeting to celebrate Helen Milne and Marge Klinger's and 22 other members of the Club.

Gayle Gilpin did a survey of the members to find out which events are the most popular. Field trips are the most popular. Lapidary was second and minerals was third in popularity.

Old Business:

A Show Chairperson is needed. Kathy McCauliff and Nan Russell stated they would help or assist. It was suggested we consider a Co-Chairmanship. No conclusion was reached.

Gail Gilpin reported that everyone has now received their 10 year pins.

June Smith offered to be the Silent Auction Chairperson at next month meeting.

There is an Art Show at the College through February. Contact the College for information.

New Business:

New Committees are as follows:

Government Compliance – Judy Cano
This committee will keep the Club up-to-date on required paperwork from agencies that require timely reporting.

Workshop/Education – Don Wininger

The workshop at the College will be open for our use one day a week. We are to help maintain the equipment.

General Meeting Minutes, cont.

Swap Meet – Kathy McCauliff

There has not been a committee for the Swap Meet booth.

There was some discussion of a New Member Sponsor/Mentor Program. More discussion is needed.

Keenan Camp Claim: Jack Hodges, Jerry Monk and President Russell recently went to the claim and staked it out. The claim is in the process of being filed. A motion was made by Barry Banaruk to name the claim “LHGMS#1”. The motion was seconded by Jay Brown. The motion was approved.

Door prizes were drawn and the 50/50 drawing held. There was \$178.00 total in the 50/50 drawing. Mike Miller received \$40.00, Howard Wicks \$30.00 and Mary Miller \$19.00 with the remainder going to the Club.

There were 89 members present and 12 guests at this LHGMS meeting.

The meeting was adjourned by President Russell.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Rhodaback, Acting Secretary

Opals-the largest known Opal is a yellow-orange one of 220 troy ounces unearthed by a bulldozer at Andamooka, South Australia in January, 1910. It is valued at \$210,000.

The largest recorded stone of gem quality was a 520,000 carat (229 pounds) aquamarine found near Marambais, Brazil in 1910. It yielded over 200,000 carats of gem quality stones.

The largest lump of gold ever found was in the Holterman Reef, New South Wales, Australia in 1972, It weighed 7,560 ounces.

The largest pearl, for you pearl lovers, weighs 14 pounds, 1 ounce. It is 9.5 inches long by 5.5 inches in diameter. It was found in Palawan, Philippines, on May 7, 1934, inside the shell of a giant clam.

Want something from the good old US of A. How about a turquoise weighing 218 pounds found in Riverside County, California, on January 17, 1975.

Del Air bulletin 98 et al. Via Golden Spike News 4/01 via Hy Grader 6/01

BENCH TIPS By
BRAD SMITH

MODIFY TOOLS FOR PRONG SETTING

When setting stones in a prong mount, avoid slipping by grinding a groove in the face of your prong pusher or one jaw of your flat-nose pliers. Easiest way to cut the slot on the pusher is with a file., and the easiest way to cut the slot on your pliers is with a cutoff wheel in the Foredom or Dremel.

SANDING DISKS

One of the flexshaft tools that saves a lot of time is the snap-on sanding disk. I mainly use the medium and fine grits but sometimes need the very fine ones sold for working with platinum.

Ordinarily, you'd think of placing the disk on the mandrel with the grit side facing away from your hand, but notice that you end up with your elbow up in the air. Instead, try flipping the disk so that the grit side is towards your hand. It's a much more comfortable pose because the elbow is down near your side, and it gives me a better view of what I'm sanding.

I use these snap-on disks so frequently that I keep multiple mandrels with different grits already mounted in the bur stand. Some mandrels have the grit facing out and some facing in.

More Bench Tips by Brad Smith are at
groups.yahoo.com/group/BenchTips/
or
facebook.com/BenchTips

Here is a suggestion to make the wet grinding procedure more comfortable. Place water pipe foam insulation over the edge of the water trough for an easy wrist rest while working the stone. Just cut to the length needed and slip it over the edge of the water pan.



Happy Birthday

Madge Klingler and Helen Milne

Charter and Life Member Madge Klingler and Life Member Helen Milne were honored for their birthdays at the February Monthly meeting of the Gem and Mineral Society.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

**Nancy Hill
Lori Ann Johnson
Harvey Lynch
Helen Milne
Robert Wiederrick
Kathryn Barker
Shana Bodily
Mary Brown
Sally Beyer
Barbara Carpenter
Deanna Montgomery
Nan Russell**

Happy Anniversary

**Chip & Carol Brown
Jay & Marie Cole
"C" & Nan Russell
Robert & Joyce Skoien
Ole & Peg Olson**



Junior, Mommy would like to talk to you about your rock collection.

*by Erston Barnhart
via Hy Grader 3/94*

Rock & Gem Shows

March/April

March 11-13, 2011 Cottonwood Verde Valley Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show,

Verde Valley Fairgrounds, 800 E. Cherry St.,
Cottonwood, AZ 86326

Sponsored by: Mingus Gem and Mineral Club

Website: www.mingusclub.org

Hours: Fri., Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4

Admission: Fri. \$1.00, Sat.-Sun. \$3.00 Children
Free

Show Chairperson: TBA

Dealer Chairperson: TBA

April 9-10, 2011 Kingman

Kingman Annual Show

Kingman Academy of Learning HS

3420 N Burbank St., Kingman, AZ 86401

Sponsored by: Mohave County Gemstoners,

P.O. Box 3992, Kingman, AZ 86402

Displays, silent auction, dealers, demos, raffle and
Door prizes.

Hours: Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-4

Admission and parking Free

More Info: Nan Russell 928-846-0927 or visit

www.gemstoners.org

Geodes

Step into a rock museum or collector's shop and you will immediately light on the geodes. Resistance is futile. These are among the most enchanting and puzzling of Earth's creations.

There are conflicting views about how geodes form but most geologists agree that they begin as bubbles in underwater limestone sediments or in a lava flow. Occasionally they form around the body of a sea creature on the ocean floor. Over time the bubble is cast in a hard shell of silica, and water containing dissolved material is trapped inside. The precipitate that results is composed of a variety of minerals, usually quartz or calcite, but also aragonite. Many thousands of years later, weathering lifts the hard little silica orb away from the surrounding rock.

The Exterior of the sphere appears dull and pitted, which is no doubt why the Greeks called them geodes, meaning "Earthlike". However, on the inside, they can look heavenly. The precipitate forms a lining of inward projecting crystals and, since different materials harden at varying temperatures, the material forms layers.

Sometimes a cavity may be completely filled by layers. Purists refer to these geodes as nodules. Crack open a nodule and instead of a hollow crystalline core, you might find haloes of brilliantly hued agate, produced where chalcedony-laden water precipitated within the shell.

The best locations to look are in deserts in the Western US, especially Arizona, Utah and Nevada. BC is well known for its own brand of geodes known as Thunder eggs.

Geodes come in many sizes, from marble sized to as large as 18 inches in diameter. Once you uncover a geode, tap it firmly as you would test a watermelon for ripeness and listen for the telltale hollow sound. Then, with a well-placed blow, split the rock to unlock its secrets.

--Summarized from Rocks and Minerals by Discovery Channel, via Port Moody Newsletter and The Rock Vein, March/April, 2001. Via The Rockcollector 9/01



We'll be on our way in no time Agnes
You unload the rocks and I'll change the tire

by Bill Mittlebeeler via Dust & Grit 2/00
via Golden Spike News 4/00

FIELD TRIP NOTES AND PHOTOS



Tom Henderson holding a large Amethyst on McCracken Mountain Field Trip

McCracken Mountain Field Trip By David Frybarger

On Saturday morning, February 5, thirty three members and eight guests followed Gary Mortimer to a new location on McCracken Mountain we had found a few months earlier. Using saws, hammers and chisels we were able to get several pounds of purple Amethyst and some crystal vugs out of solid rock. Some nice quartz crystal clusters were also found nearby. After everyone got all the Amethyst they wanted I led those rockhounds who hadn't left yet to another new location nearby that was an abandon copper mine. Here we collected Chrysocolla, Malachite and banded Fluorite.

Mammon Mine Field Trip

By David Frybarger

On the morning of January 29, 2011; thirty one members and nine guests headed out Shea Road to visit the Mammon Mine. Since the mine is located in a Wilderness area we were only able to drive to the boundary and had to hike the other half mile or so to the mine. There are abundant quantities of Chrysocolla, Malachite and Hematite in the tailings piles here, although little of it is usable as a lapidary material. They do make nice shelf specimens though and most everyone got something pretty to carry back.



Don Winger (left)
Shown with a small
part of his collection
at the show Feb. 12.

Helen Milne (right)
shown with Tom
Henderson during
the show Feb. 12.



A good crowd showed up for the show and sale at the homes of Don Winger and Helen Milne. Besides making a number of sales, Don Winger gave some wonderful talks on the locations and identification of specimens in his collection. Helen Milne showed the long held collection of Aztec Artifacts of the Club, part of which will be for sale at the silent auction March 11 Gem and Mineral Meeting.

Mar. 2011 Field Trip Calendar
Field Trip Committee Meets 2nd Monday of each month @7:00 p.m.
David Frybarger Committee Chair

SIGN IN TIME: 15 MINUTES PRIOR TO SCHEDULED DEPARTURE & WEAR YOUR BADGE!

<p>SATURDAY MARCH 5 To: Near Oatman Leader: Jerry Monk 846-9217 Distance: 170 miles RT Vehicle: 4WD</p>	<p>LOOKING FOR: Squiggly Jasper Departure: 8 AM Meet: Lowe's parking lot Tools: Hammer, chisel & bag Bring: Lunch & Water</p>
<p>SATURDAY MARCH 12 To: Pick & Shovel Claim Leader: Gary Mortimer 505-1786 Distance: 160 miles RT Vehicle 4WD or SUV</p>	<p>LOOKING FOR: Honey Onyx Departure: 9 AM DIGGING REQUIRED Meet: Lowe's parking lot Tools: Pick, shovel & bag Bring: Lunch & Water</p>
<p>SATURDAY MARCH 19 To: Plomosa Mts. Leader: Tom Henderson 486-0238 Distance: 150 miles RT Vehicle: 4WD</p>	<p>LOOKING FOR: Banded Jasper/Barite Departure: 8 AM Meet: South Side Basha's parking lot Tools: Hammer, chisel & bag Bring: Lunch & Water</p>
<p>SATURDAY MARCH 26 To: Rawhide Mine Leader: David Frybarger 230-9080 Distance: 170 miles RT Vehicle: 4 WD</p>	<p>LOOKING FOR: Copper Minerals Departure: 8 AM Meet: Lowe's parking lot Tools: Hammer & bag Bring: Lunch & Water</p>

**ANYONE INTERESTED IN A GUIDED TOUR OF SWANSEA, MIKE RIDDLE (855-6836)
 VOLUNTEER WITH LAKE HAVASU MUSEUM & ARCHAEOLOGIST WITH B.L.M. WILL
 BE IN SWANSEA EVERY TUESDAY IN MARCH STARTING AT 10:00 a.m. UNTIL 2:00 p.m.**

To get to Swansea first drive to Parker. Then follow Hwy 95 south to Shea Road which is at the edge of town just past the last car dealership. Follow Shea Road for several miles to the sign for Swansea Road which will be on the right. The road is dirt but usually passable in a passenger car

**MARCH 26, 2011 WILL BE THE LAST FIELD TRIP UNTIL
 FALL.**

If you go out on your own, please watch out for the rattle snakes!



Please send exchange bulletins to

The address below

Rocky Tales

Lake Havasu Gem & Mineral

Society, Inc.

P.O. Box 990

Lake Havasu City, AZ 86405