



# ROCKY TALES

Volume 43, Issue 5

May 2017

LAKE HAVASU GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

The Official Publication of The Lake Havasu Gem & Mineral Society

*Editor: Susan Sease*

**BOARD MEETING**  
May 10th, 5:30 pm  
Lake Havasu Gem &  
Mineral Lapidary Shop  
2186 McCulloch Blvd #B

## GENERAL MEETING

May 12th!

**Lake Havasu Gem & Mineral Lapidary Shop**  
**2186 McCulloch Blvd #B**  
**Lake Havasu City, Az. 86403**  
**Meeting Begins @ 7:00 p.m.**  
**Visiting @ 6:30 p.m.**

**Rock & Egg  
Breakfast**  
**4<sup>th</sup> Monday each  
month**  
**9:00 a.m.**  
**At**  
**Golden Corral**

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### ***Summer is almost here!***

This will be the last newsletter until September, and our next general meeting will be the last until September also. There is still one outing planned for the Flagstaff Gem Show the first of June so look out for emails with details on the trip. Havasu Rocks will be open with limited hours to be announced later, and please call a day ahead to see if there will be a shop monitor if you want to use the workshop.

For those in town, Havasu Rocks needs your help!

***Have a great summer!***

# CLUB INFORMATION

The Purpose of this Society shall be to:

- A. Increase our appreciation of the beauty and value of the land in which we live.
- B. Foster good fellowship among its members.
- C. Host an annual Gem and Mineral Show for the community.
- D. Foster awareness of the earth sciences by:
  - 1. Increasing knowledge pertaining to minerals, gems, and rocks.
  - 2. Disseminating knowledge of collecting and classification of minerals, fossils and rock through collection and classification.
  - 3. Improving the practical knowledge of cutting, grinding and polishing materials to use in the design and creation of jewelry and other useful objects.
- E. Provide educational scholarships in the scientific fields.
- F. Procure and improve the Society's property.

The Lake Havasu Gem and Mineral Society meets the second Friday of each month from September through May at **Lake Havasu Gem & Mineral Lapidary Shop 2186 McCulloch Blvd #B, Lake Havasu City, Az.** The membership typically votes to eliminate the June, July, and August meetings.

Fiscal Year: February 1 – January 31.

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 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).**

## OFFICERS and DIRECTORS

<b>Hank Smedley</b>	President
<b>Linda Harley</b>	Vice President
<b>Kathie Bryson</b>	Secretary
<b>Carol Lasater</b>	Treasurer
<b>Ed Darnell</b>	Sgt at Arms
<b>Patrick Bell</b>	First Year Director
<b>Gayle Gilpin</b>	Second Year Director
<b>Carol Jose</b>	Third Year Director
<b>Barry Bandaruk</b>	Past President
<b>Michelle Smedley</b>	Director of Operations Havasu Rocks

## COMMITTEES

<b>Club Promotion</b>	Open	Gayle Gilpin
<b>Communications</b>	Susan Sease Bruce Wilhelm	Secretary Kathie Bryson
<b>Education</b>	Open	Patrick Bell
<b>Facilities</b>	Open	Ed Darnell
<b>Field Trips</b>	Open	Kathie & Steve Bryson
<b>Finance</b>	Open	Carol Lasater
<b>Fund Raisers</b>	Open	
<b>Gem Show</b>	Barry Bandaruk	
<b>Greeters</b>	Edith Walden	Gayle Gilpin
<b>Hospitality</b>	Helen Reyes Kathy Padilla	Ed Darnell
<b>Property</b>	Open	Carol Jose

Rocky Tales is published monthly. The submission deadline is the 3rd Friday of the month by email to:

[aredtigress@gmail.com](mailto:aredtigress@gmail.com)

**Rocky Tales Team:** Michelle Smedley, Linda Harley and Susan Sease

**Website: Moderator:** Bruce Wilhelm  
<http://www.lakehavasugms.org/>

**Facebook Page:**

<https://www.facebook.com/lhcgems/?fref=ts>

## --President's Message--

Well the heat is upon us once again. The forecast temperature was 104, my backyard thermometer says 109, doesn't matter which is right, it is hot. We will see how the heat affects our store and shop. I hope the summer will find some people willing to come downtown to use the facilities. I expect things to slow down a bit, but we should be able to limp along through the summer till cooler temperatures prevail.

To our members residing and traveling in other states; we would love to see some of the finds you make. Please plan on bringing something back for the club. It would be great to create a display for the gem show of rocks and minerals collected by members from around the country.

We have had an exciting, amazing rock hounding season. It was just this past October when we opened the doors on our store and shop. Since then we have held a gem show, more than tripled our membership, established lapidary, silversmithing and wire wrapping workshops and held field trips most weekends. It is very gratifying when a group of people get together and decide to make something happen.

Thanks to everyone who continue to give their time to make this happen.

I hope to see all of you at our next meeting; it will be the last general meeting until September.

Have a wonderful summer and stay cool out there!

*LHGMS sends a special thank you to Ella Palmquist, life member,  
for her donation of a large amount of rough rock.*

**Watch your email for information on  
field trips and camping trips!**

The following camping trips are planned,  
subject to updates:

Flagstaff Gem Show, June 1-5

**LAKE HAVASU GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY  
LAKE HAVASU MINERAL & LAPIDARY GROUP  
Combined Minutes - General Meeting**

April 14, 2017  
Havasu Rocks  
2186 McCulloch Blvd Unit B  
Lake Havasu City, AZ 86403

Board Members in attendance:

Hank Smedley – President	Barry Bandaruk – Past President
Linda Harley – Vice President	Patrick Bell - 1 <sup>st</sup> year Director
Kathie Bryson – Secretary	Gayle Gilpin - 2nd year Director
Carol Lasater - Treasurer	Carol Jose - 3 <sup>rd</sup> year Director
	Michelle Smedley – Director of Operations – Havasu Rocks

Members present: 32

Guests present: 2

Club President, Hank Smedley called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

**Flag Salute** - Hank led the club in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Secretary's Minutes** – The minutes for the general meeting for the LHGMS & LHMLG were published in the most recent edition of the *Rocky Tales* newsletter. Hank asked if there were any corrections or changes needed to the minutes. No changes were requested. A motion was made to accept the minutes. The motion was seconded and approved. The minutes will be accepted as read.

**Treasurer's Report** –Treasurer, Carol Lasater read the Treasurer's reports for March 2017, for both the LHGMS & the LHMLG. The Treasurer's reports will be filed for review.

**Director and Committee Reports** - 2nd Year Director, Gayle Gilpin (Membership & Club Promotion)

- Membership - Gayle stated that we have 26 new members since last month. That brings our total membership to 387.

- Guests – Two guests attended our meeting today. 'Welcome' rocks/slabs were presented to each.

- Inventory – Carol Jose has completed the inventory, it is currently being typed up.

- Education – Patrick Bell announced that a winner of the Gem and Mineral Society has been found. The student is declaring a major in Mining Engineering and will receive a \$1000 scholarship.

**Old Business** -

- Club Brochures – we held a meeting on March 29th @1:30, here at Havasu Rocks, to discuss the new design and layout. A number of ideas were discussed and a proposed design, layout and content were agreed upon. A rough draft is being created.

- Club breakfast – We held a club breakfast on March 13<sup>th</sup> at 9:00AM, here at Havasu Rocks. A number of members attended, it was a great event. We may do more of these in the future.

(LHGMS / LHMLG minutes continued)

**New Business –**

- Gem Show – Barry has agreed to chair the Gem Show this year. Carol Jose agreed to put together raffle baskets and Michelle Smedley agreed to handle Vendors and advertising.
- We are exploring new summer hours for the retail store and shop. This is due to an anticipated decrease in business over the summer as well as the need to give our volunteers a break. We will review our sales data to determine how we can best reduce our hours for the summer.
- Volunteers are needed for HAVASU ROCKS - We are still looking for volunteers to help out in the store and shop. In the store, the *store attendants* always have a *store lead* here with them. We need shop monitors desperately. Shifts are only 3 ½ hrs. Please sign up to help out.

You too can volunteer to help. You can sign-up for a shift here:

<http://signup.com/go/mgFkHE>

- Field Trips - A field trip is scheduled for April 16 to the Eagles Nest mine area. We will meet at the Bashas parking lot at 7:45AM, leaving at 8:am. A four wheel drive is not needed.
- This will be the last one day field trip of the season.
- Barry is organizing a 4-5 day field trip to Flagstaff over June 1-5, 2017, more details to come.

The next meeting will be the last meeting until September 2017.

The business meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Submitted by Hank Smedley, President



Pictures from the April meeting – check out LHGMS’s youngest member!

### Mineral Fun Facts – Ambergris

Dinosaur dung, a.k.a. Coprolite is a popular rock to find for many people but did you know that people hunt for sperm whale dung, a.k.a. Ambergris. Charlie Naysmith, 8, was strolling with his dad along the beach in New Zealand when he stumbled on what he thought was a funny-looking rock. Charlie decided to take it home and lucky he did, Charlie's 1.3-pound piece of ambergris is estimated to be worth somewhere around \$65,000. That is not the biggest one found though, In 2008, two beachcombers were walking their dog along a beach in North Wales when they found a chunk that weighed 110 pounds. It ended up fetching them \$790,000.

Sperm whales form a fatty secretion in their bile ducts and scientists have theorized that the substance is produced by the whale's gastrointestinal tract to ease the passage of hard, sharp objects that it may have eaten such as squid beaks, and is passed in the fecal matter. Only one percent of the 350,000 sperm whales on Earth can actually make it, Ambergris is rare and once expelled by a whale, it often floats for decades before making landfall.

Ambergris - *ambergrease* or *grey amber*, is a solid, waxy, flammable substance of a dull grey or blackish color – though it is not technically amber, or a mineral; ambergris is a regurgitated 'stone' from the lining of the sperm whales intestine. It is primarily found in the Atlantic Ocean and on the coasts of South Africa, Brazil, Madagascar, the East Indies, The Maldives, China, Japan, India, Australia, New Zealand, and the Molucca Islands. Most commercially collected ambergris comes from the Bahamas in the Caribbean, particularly New Providence. Fossilized ambergris from 1.75 million years ago has also been found.

Because it's used in the high-end fragrance industry, Ambergris was the main ingredient in a super-expensive, 200-year-old perfume originally made by Marie Antoinette. And today, perfume companies like Chanel and Lanvin use it to "fix scent to human skin," says Johnna Rizzo at *National Geographic*. A few ounces of the stuff can go for a few thousand dollars, earning it the nickname "floating gold." Because sperm whales are an endangered species, the United States and Australia ban the sale and use of Ambergris. Most perfume companies have stopped using it also.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ambergris>

<http://theweek.com/articles/472696/8yearold-who-discovered-65000-piece-whale-poop>

### **NOTICE TO MEMBERS**

**Our Bank has informed us they will no longer accept checks written out to LHGMS, they are now requiring our full name to be written out. Please remember to write:  
LAKE HAVASU GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY**

## MAY WORKSHOPS AT HAVASU ROCKS

We ask that you pre-register and pre-pay for workshops.  
*You can check the class schedule online [here](#).*

### INTRO TO LAPIDARY & CABOCHON DESIGN

\$60 Members  
\$75 Non-members

3 Classes to choose from, each one repeats the same day of the week for four weeks:

May 2 - 23, 1:00pm – 5:30pm

May 3 - 24, 1:00pm – 5:30pm

May 4 - 25, 1:00pm – 5:30pm

Instructors Hank Smedley & Jack Hodges  
LHGMS Members

### BASICS OF WIRE WRAPPING - One Day Workshop

\$40 Members  
\$55 Non Members

May 13, 11:00 am - 3:30 pm

\*Learn the basics of wire; including types, gauges & tempers. You will be introduced to basic design and execution of a border wrap on a cabochon. Learn how to wrap a basic shape and take home your creation.

\*Wire, cabochons and tools provided. Jewelry tools are available for purchase.

### BASICS OF WIRE WRAPPING II ONE DAY WORKSHOP

\$40 Members  
\$55 Non-members

One Day

May 24, 1:00pm – 5:30pm

\*We will review the basics of wire (temper, gauge and type) and constructing a basic border wrap. You will then learn basic design techniques and apply them in the workshop.

\*Wire, cabochons and tools provided. Jewelry tools are available for purchase.

Instructor Michelle Smedley, LHGMS Member

### SILVERSMITH WORKSHOPS

\$60 Members  
\$75 Non-members

Wednesday May 10 & 17

10:00 AM -2:00 PM

\*In this workshop, you will learn about the different types of metals and how to determine what gauge to use. This is for the basics of silversmithing where you will learn design, soldering and use of a torch and then apply your new skills to make your own jewelry.

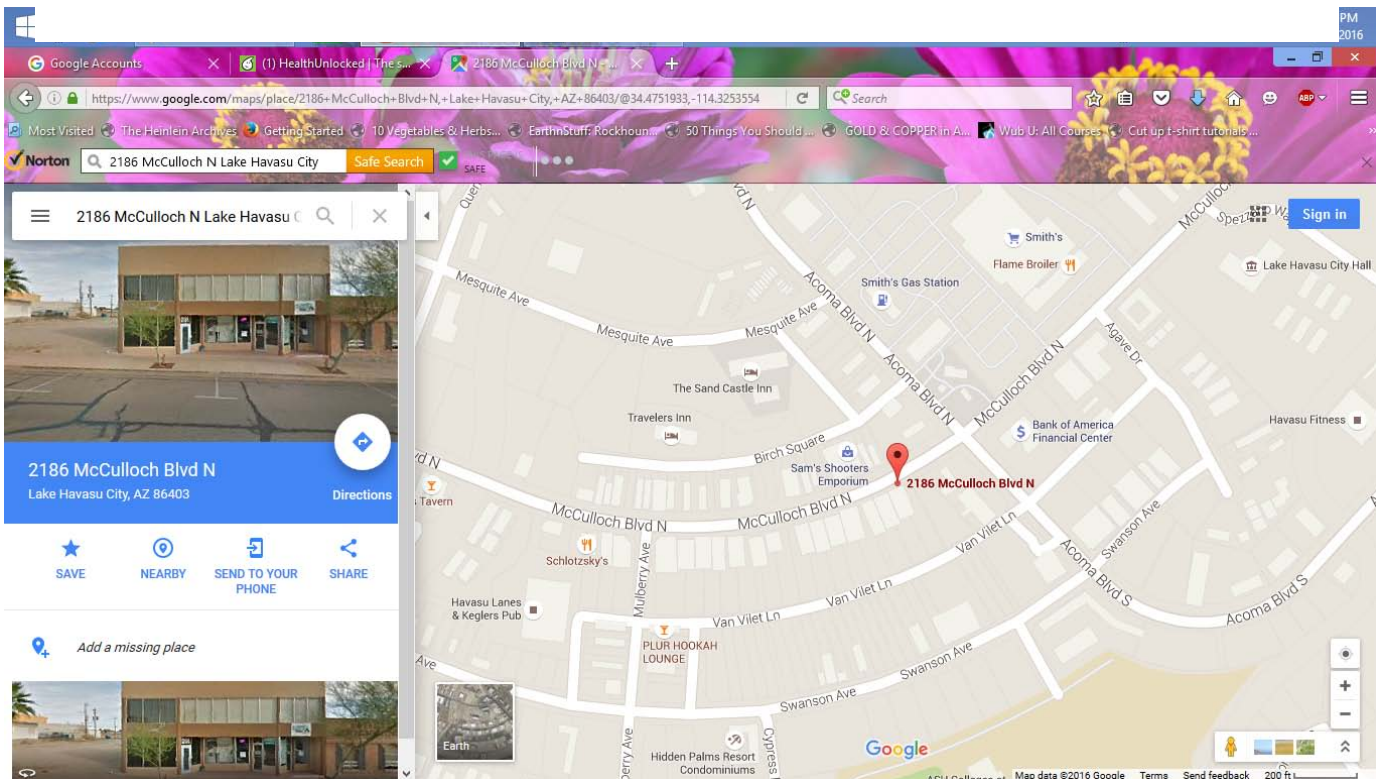
\*Limit of 4 people

\* Fee includes everything needed for your first project. Can bring your own cabochon (oval no larger than 30x22 mm), if desired.

Instructors: Linda Harley & Ellie North

**Havasu Rocks**  
*supplies everything you need for  
the classes!*

## Shop & Meeting location AMPLE PARKING IN BACK PARKING LOT!!



### You Know You're A Rockhound If:

- You prefer baryte roses to real ones.
- Your garage is so full of rocks that the car won't fit in.
- You collect Interesting specimens, including the brown unknown ones, just in case they might turn out to be something special.
  - You've ever sorted through a mullock heap.
  - You've ever dumpster dived at a marble warehouse.
- You color co-ordinate your clothes and shoes to match your gemstone pendants.
- The sign on the side of the road says "Falling Rock" and you pull over to wait.
  - You like to examine the rocks in your driveway.
  - You treasure ancient, fossilised animal dung.
- You spend hours searching the ground while everyone else around you gets bored.

<https://owlcation.com/stem/Lapidary-Jokes-For-The-Discerning-Rockhound>



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY  
MAY**

Barry Bandaruk	Julia Marlar
Brittany Bell	John McCarthy
Patrick Bell	Kathy Oswald
Sarah Bell	Ella Palmquist
Rick Bierbrodt	Louise Ridenour
David Bridgewater	Mary Roberts
Jeff Burke	LaVeta Roberts
Sandra Carson	Ken Sobchuk
Robert Casserly	Dan Springer
Peggy Claeys	Rod Stetner
Patrick Conolly	Chris Sutherland
Michael Erland	Bess Terrell
Ronald Forth	Michele Trumbull
Manfred Frisch	Leslie Walker
Linda Gauthun	Mary Weldon
Gordon Gregg	Martha Whitman
Daniel Hanes	Dennie Wilmoth
Ed Huskinson	Lucy Wright

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY  
MAY**

Gene & Dayna Ballen

Curt & Kathy Clark

Stan & Willie Droegemeier

Chad & Shelby Fowlks

Mike Guelff

Sheral Henning

John & Nora McCarthy

Steve & JoDell Merrill

Jon & Kristal Norman



**LAKE HAVASU GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY**  
**P.O. BOX 990**  
**LAKE HAVASU CITY, AZ 86405**