RIMSTONES REVIEW

A monthly newsletter from the Payson Rimstones Rock Club

PO Box 1641, Payson, AZ 85547
www.rimstonesrockclub.org

November 2026
Birthstone for this Month is Citrine

OUR CLUB MEETS THIS WEEK - Wed NOV 4

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Did you know that we have more pics on our Website and Facebook pages. Links below.

November Playbook

by Rollo Pool, President

Just some random notes on a very rainy Sunday afternoon on the First of November.

TORCH PASSING: Elections are this week, Nov 4, at the club meeting. You need to be present to vote for President and Treasurer. We nominate and vote at the beginning of the meeting.

Speaking of the **BOARD**, your board meets at 2p on Nov 4 in our library meeting room, when we will review and hopefully pass a budget for 2027. Members are welcome to attend.

Mark your calendar for **Wed Dec 2**, which is the date of our Holiday party and meal. We also have a White-Elephant-style gift exchange which can be very entertaining. New members are especially welcome. **Sign-up sheets** for food dishes, snacks, and volunteers will be at the Nov 4 meeting.

TWO MONTHS LEFT for our Special Raffle item - a new Highland Park tumbler (value $820) that will polish 25# of rocks at a time. Buy your raffle ticket at the Nov meeting this week or at the Christmas Party Dec 2 - which is the date that the winner will be selected.

UPCOMING SHOWS
NOV 7 - Gila County GMS, 1 day Show & Sell, Bullion Plaza, Miami
NOV 28-29- Wickenburg annual gem show, Hassayampa Elementary School
DEC 4-6 - Apache Junction annual gem show, Mesa Marketplace, Baseline Road
JAN 8-10 - Flagg Show, -annual gem show, Mesa Community College.

PASSINGS: A sad note was received in October. Long-time club member Mardy Zimmerman passed away. She and her husband Dick have donated their time, energy, knowledge and buckets of rocks to the Rimstones. Mardy will be missed. She was an educator, a fluorescent rock expert, and a mineral-geology advocate who was instrumental in creating a statewide mineral program for schools.

CLUB MEETING WED NOV 4 - TWO DAYS AWAY

Where: Payson Public Library, Rumsey Field, 328 N McLane Rd
When: 3:30p

ELECTIONS: Members present at this meeting will have the opportunity to vote on the next President and Treasurer.

TRIVIA is back and so is Rollo. You won't want to miss the trivia fun - which centers around a gem that takes its name from a French word for a color. Hmmm? Which of the 1 million colors is it?

PRESENTATION: **Meteorites**. Our preeminent geologist and member Larry Bagshaw will be our speaker.

We also will pass along news from the Board Budget meeting - and, as a bonus, we may have a glimpse at changes to the website.

What else you will find at our meetings: Raffle, rock giveaways, silent auction, door prizes. We also have a special raffle item - a 25lb rock tumbler donated by Eric Randau. Plus, you will hear information about field trips and classes, announcements, and events of interest to members.

Check out our monthly selection of items on the Silent Auction table. Our merchandise guru, Dave Deweese, usually has a table selling club T-shirts, caps, totes and other merch.

Snacks are brought by members whose **last name**s begin, this month with **A-C.** If that isn't you, don't let that stop you from adding to the yummies. A very reliable bird told me there will be **C-A-K-E** at this meeting**.**

CLASSES

CABOCHON CLASSES: Dates are Sat Nov 14, and Sat Dec 5 in Payson, at the home of Barbara Harrison. The November class is FULL, but there is room for her Dec 5th class. For more info or to enroll for Dec, contact Barb by text Small fee for supplies.

OCT Meeting Notes

OCT Meeting Highlights

More than 60 members and guests attended our Oct meeting in Payson. It was the month for our Mega Show-N-Tell - which we do each year. Ten members brought in known and unknown treasures from their collections and field trips. Click the **OCT Meeting Notes** button for a summary of the meeting and the Show-N-Tell, submitted by club secretary Diana Wright.

WIRE WRAPPING - Our next class is Sat Nov 28 (11:45a-1:45p) in the Payson Public Library. There is no class in December, but the first class of the year will be Sat Jan 2. There is a small fee for supplies. To enroll, contact our new instructor Jodi Brewster.

Photo shows examples from the Oct wire wrapping class.

FIELD TRIPS

Despite continuing rains and monsoons, we completed two trips in October

Three trips are scheduled for November and Three so far for December

by Rollo Pool, trip lead

SHOULD WE SING RAIN-RAIN-GO-AWAY or should we wish for more. We know that the more rain/snow that we receive, the more erosion we have -and the more rocks are exposed. We all know what that means.

NEW TRIPS: I have added a trip to Peridot for Peridot on Friday December 4th and one local trip in Nov. See below for the added the dates for other December trips.

FIELD TRIPS for October

On **Sat Oct 10**, about a dozen Rimstones' members joined other clubs to Dobell Ranch for rainbow Petrified wood, thanks to Bill Freese who organized this trip. Rockhounds got to select from dozens of piles of this gorgeous wood. We try to schedule at least 2 trips a year to Dobell.

On **Sat Oct 24**, more than 15 Rimstones visited Stone World in Ash Fork, AZ to collect big and small pieces of Arizona banded onyx that is "scrap" for the fabricator but is a treasure to us. One person took home almost a thousand pounds but most of us collected 50-150 pounds. In the afternoon, Rimstones club members visited an obsidian collection area near Parks, AZ. After the recent rains, the material here was larger and more plentiful than what I had seen in the Summer, and members found lots of mahogany obsidian. It was good to see member and former Payson resident Dick Harrington on this trip. *His mahogany obsidian piece is shown above.*

UPCOMING TRIPS for November and December

You can sign up for any of these trips, or ask questions or ask for some pics. Please use my email address.

November -

Sat Nov 7 - Agate Claims, Bloody Basin, South of Camp Verde - a first time for the Rimstones. We will have 3 agate guides along with us. Because of the long drive and the hiking involved, I rate this trip on the tougher side - compared to most other trips. You will need to be in moderately good shape to hike for 0.6 mi. Cost is $50 per person to the claim holder. *I have room for 5 more.*

Sat Nov 21 - Chilito Mine (Chrysocolla, some with azurite). After the meet-up in Hayden, AZ, the road to the mine is rough, so you will need high clearance or need to hitch a ride.. Meeting location is 2hrs South of Payson and 90 min east of the Sky Harbor Airport (PHX). This is private land and there is no fee. Trip lead is Bill Freese. *He has lots of room.*

NEW Sat Nov 28 - Local Trip (will depend on roads and weather.) Rye Creek, Doll Baby Rd, Whispering Pines (Geode Hill).

December -

NEW Friday Dec 4 , Peridot, AZ Our guy on the Rez, Robert Ramos, has invited us to his Peridot claim on tribal land. We will be joined by the MSA (Mineralogical Society of Arizona) and can take a maximum of 10 Rimstones members. The cost is $75/person and you can collect multiple buckets while we are on Peridot Mesa, Also, there is a $10/person recreation day-pass to access the San Carlos Reservation. This should be on your bucket list for Field Trips.

Saturday Dec 18 - Rowley Mine, Gila Bend, To find are chrysocolla, other copper derivatives and maybe some wulfenite if you are lucky. This is a long trip from Payson (so you may want to overnight) but close for our members in the Valley. The mine owner charges a small fee. This is a trip that can be driven in cars, and collection areas are fairly easy to navigate. You can dig, too, but there is no allowed access into the underground mines.

Wednesday Dec 30 - Cave Creek, In the morning we will hunt Jasper north of Cave Creek, and in the afternoon, I will lead a trip for onyx at a nearby abandoned quarry. This is a joint trip with the Daisy Mtn rock club. You will need higher clearance for the jasper site, but cars can get close to the onyx location, with a short shuttle.

We find seats for folks that need to ride in higher-clearance vehicles.

Sign up/ask questions are best by email.

Field Trips Pics - October

New Members in October

Our membership stands at 440 members - an all-time high.
We must be doing something right.

ANKERS Sherry, John and Leah, Payson
NASH Rebecca and Jan, Payson
BRUNNER, Scott & Sherri, Payson
LYNCH, Michael, Payson

Visit our Website

BOARDS & COMMITTEES

Who's Who

OUR NEXT CLUB MEETINGS

Dec 2 - Xmas Party
Jan 6 - Club Meeting

Payson Rimstones Rock Club is a 501c3 nonprofit organization.

FOLLOW US7

PRRC CLUB MEETING MINUTES

CLUB MEETING

Date:	October 7, 2026
Time:	3:30 pm
Meeting called to order by:	Larry Pluhar, Vice President

IN ATTENDANCE

Existing Members = 54 New Members = 3 Newly Renewed = 0 Guests = 4 Total = 61

BUSINESS MEETING NOTES FROM THE BOARD MEETING

There was no board meeting in October. However, due to her move to the valley Linda Marsh resigned from her 5 year service to the board. She is being replaced by Jane Brown. Jane was introduced and welcomed by the attendees. Our bylaws state that the President appoints, the board confirms, and the new director is announced at the next club meeting. The board confirmed her unanimously.

Finance Report – We had a great annual show and made lots of money for scholarships. Our vendors were happy, kids who visited the education room were happy, our 100 volunteers were happy. Our revenue for the show was up and expenses were down - that is always good. Our club's financial affairs are in excellent order. Members can check with a board member anytime to see a copy of our budget which we update at the beginning of each month. Members asked if the increased revenue means more scholarships. The short answer is, Yes! The amounts of the new scholarships will be determined by the Scholarship Committee.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rollo is away this month but says he will be at the November and December meetings. We are still looking for a nominee for President. New board members will be elected at the November meeting. Rollo has 'termed out' so we really need someone to step forward.

The MEMORIAL SERVICE for Tom McGarry is Oct 13, from 11a-2p at Messinger Funeral Home, Payson.

The WEST VALLEY rock club's annual show is this weekend (Oct 9-11) in Buckeye.

THANK YOU to Mike and Luze, Tikka Opals, who were vendors at our show and are club members. They gave us some nice opal stones: how to be distributed to be determined (sell?)

Silent Auction Table is in the back of the room. There are many new items and you can also buy raffle tickets for the 25# tumbler (retail value $820). Only a limited number of tickets for the tumbler will be sold. Once they are all sold the drawing will be held: tickets are $10 each. This money will support our educational efforts. Thank you Eric Randau for donating the tumbler.

November 4th is our next club meeting and we will be electing a new President and Treasurer. Rollo has "termed out" as President. However, he as decided to put in his name for Treasurer and our current Treasurer, Philip, will take a break. A presidential candidate has not come forward but there is still time.

SHOW REPORT: HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2026 SHOW

CoChairs - Phil/Tam

There were 1800 visitors to the show (19% increase). This meant an increase in our Admission fees collected. The Vendor fees were raised and so there was more collected from the vendors. The Silent Auction items were very popular and those revenues increased 44%. We gained 65 new members at the show. The advertising efforts on Social Media were greatly increased this year...thank you Phil, for the great graphics on the media postings. A huge thank you to Chris Pool and all the volunteers...special thank you to Pat Valesco and Joe Mercer. Combined we will have much more to give out in scholarships this year.

Northern Gila County Fair - The club had a large interactive area at the fair. They saw about 600 kids on Thursday. Joe Mercer won a "Best In Show" award for his Florescent Display. You can enter your rocks, art, jewelry, etc in the fair - remember this for next year.

CLASSES
Oct 10th - Cabochon making, 10a with Barb Harrison
Oct 30th – Wire wrapping, 11:45a with Jodi Brewster, Payson Public Library (club meeting room)

Reminder - The Gold Club meets the first Thursday of the month at Tiny's Restaurant. Attendance has been meager, so please make sure to support this group if you are a member.

FIELD TRIPS
2 trips in September - Sun Sept 13th - a dozen Rimstones met on the Rim above Strawberry to collect primarily fossils. The trip was cut short by weather but, by then, most members had collected various marine fossils - including some larger pieces. Sat Sept 26th - about 20 Rimstone members drove to Pinedale looking for petrified wood and fossils. It was a gorgeous weather day. The club visited two sites - with paleontologist Doug Wolfe joining us at the last minute. Petrified wood was easy to find and plentiful - some was black-and-white and some had colors. At Doug's secret site, members found two ammonites - one was between 1-2 pounds. We also found various shells, including clams and oysters, and pondered and photographed a large rock that appeared to have small dino bones.

UPCOMING for Oct/Nov/Dec are 5 trips:

Sat Oct 10th - we have a trip to Dobell Ranch (Holbrook) for petrified wood. Bill Freese will lead lead this trip. The charge is about $55 per 5-gallon bucket. You can buy more and you can buy larger peices that are priced fairly reasonably. Cars Okay.

Sat Oct 24th - Ash Fork, AZ, for banded Arizona onyx. We go to a fabricator who cuts for commercial and residential uses. We get the 'scraps' - big and small pieces - at $.50/pound. Workers weigh and help load. Cars okay.

Bill Freese is leading some trips for the Daisy Mountain group in October: Roberts Mesa, Prescott Valley and the Paleo Site. Please email him directly for details.

Sat Nov 7th - Bloody Basin, for agates, which is about 2 hours from Payson. Once we park, there is a short hike with elevation gain and then digging. This is a private claim where we pay the owner a small fee.

Sat Nov 21st - Chilito Mine, near Hayden, for chrysocolla. This is private land owned by ASARCO. We can collect as much as we can carry. There is also a trip during that week to clear the road and fill in ruts(Wed Nov 18th) - with some collecting at the mine site. A rotary hammer is highly recommended.

Dec 19th - Rawley Mine, Gila Bend for chrysocolla, malachite, azurite, etc. More details to follow.

Rollo is working on some other trips for Oct/Nov/Dec - to be posted as they become available.

To get on any trip, you need to e-mail Rollo. He often doesn't know where his phone is.

"MEGA" SHOW AND TELL

We had about 10 members share items with the group: Herkimer diamonds from Diamond Point, a cut meteorite, obsidian/Apache tear candle holders, wire wrapped jewelry (which won awards at the Northern Gila County Fair), a "rock-in-a-rock", lapis and peridot jewlery, a beautiful table top, and a septarian nodule were some of the treasures shared.

The meeting ended with some snacks, the Silent Auciton, and the 50/50 raffle winners at 5:40p.

Respectfully submitted,

Diana Wright, Secretary

DOBELL RANCH Oct 10

B Freese Pics

Member Marilyn Albright

A happy Steve Sundra

Rhonda Dobell, flashing a Victory Sign

Ash Fork and Parks, AZ
Oct 24

Evonne and Wayne at Stone World, Ash Fork

Too Big to Move

Chris and Joe

Obsidian Hunters look over their Finds

Joyce with a Pretty Big Obsidian Hunk