

A Trip to Sterling Hill

By Tina League



On April 28th Harry, Myself, Joe, Paula, Gary and Cindy went to Ogdensburg, New Jersey for the Sterling Hill Mine Super Dig. Ogdensburg is a few miles away from Franklin, New Jersey which is world famous for it's variety of fluorescent minerals.



They had an action packed schedule of events that lasted until 11:00 pm. We all signed in and headed down to the rock piles to see what we could find. Hunting for fluorescent minerals in the daytime proved to be quite a challenge. We brought our black robes and heavy blankets to hide the sun from our specimens. It was quite a sight to see all of the "blanket lumps" scattered about the mine pit area.

We collected minerals until 10:00 am and then headed to the main tent for "Glowhound Orientation". The mine had many must-see tours on the schedule and there was no time to waste. We spent the day touring the Lower Mine, the Museum (fantastic museum!!), the Trotter Tunnel, the Upper Mine and Mill (where we each got our "Last Day of Mine Operation" specimen off of the conveyer belt- certificate of authenticity included), the world famous Black-Out Tour of the Mine, and the grand finale the Illumination of the Fluorescent Wall in the pit area.



We even managed to get in some mineral hunting!! The night hunting was very "Halloweenish"...hundreds of people walking around in the dark with buckets and flashlights/uv lights collecting "rock candy" of many vivid colors. It was a lot of fun!



The dig concluded at 11:00 pm when we all staggered out of the mine with our buckets of goodies. It was an action packed, fun filled, family friendly event that I would recommend to Rockhounds of all ages!

The next day we all went to the Franklin Gem and Mineral Show. It was a great show with a spectacular variety of minerals from all over the

world. We had to exercise a great deal of restraint with our wallets...there were so many beautiful specimens for sale...so many...and so little room left in the car.....