

Morefield Mine Trip

By Joe Davis, Pictures by Marco Pasquale de Pompa, III



I was not very impressed my first time at Morefield Mine so I had no plans to go back. At the monthly meeting Dave said that there was going to be a “club member only” day. When he asked who was interested not one person raised their hand. I didn’t want Dave to have to go alone so I volunteered. I should have known, all of my military friends keep telling me **never ever** volunteer for **anything**. As soon as I said that I would go, Dave told me that he wasn’t going, He already had other plans for that day. Before I could withdraw my offer, Tina told Paula that Harry and she would join us. I was able to talk the two new members, Ralph and Marco into going with us also.

Saturday morning we started off for the mine. Thanks to a wrong turn on the Powhite Parkway we were running a few minutes late as usual. We arrived at the mine to find Harry and Tina out in front of the office waiting for us like parents waiting for their daughter to come home from her first date. The mine was a little busy and judging by the number of small children, the “club member only” was not being enforced.

Ten thirty in the morning and it was already getting hot. The humidity was so high that moisture was just hanging in the air. It didn’t take long for the first dump. Soon we were finding plenty of amazonite and shiny books of mica. We were also finding an occasional garnet or quartz crystal. There were also chunks of smoky quartz in a feldspar matrix. Some people were talking about common opal but I couldn’t tell it from the pieces of white quartz. With a little looking around, we all started finding small pieces of amethyst of varying degree of darkness. Late in the day, after the second dump, there was a short but very heavy shower. The hard rain pounded down the dust and fine dirt. Before it even finished small chips of garnet were beginning to appear right before my eyes, covering the dump sight. Before I was ready to go I was being told that the mine closing. I was having such a good time that I lost track of time.

We left the mine and went out, where we were treated to dinner . I had a great day spending time with my new friends.

