

Field Trip Report to the Herkimer Diamond Mines October 3-7, 2010

By Bob Davidson

Trip participants were Elizabeth Adams, Paula and Joe Davis, and myself



It's always fun to go to the Herkimer Diamond Mines. There are three separate mining areas there. The rock in Mine #1 is the easiest to break and gets progressively harder as you move toward Mine #3. As a newcomer to the club, and to rockhounding, Elizabeth concentrated her efforts in Mine #1.



It's the same area that Tina and Harry had worked in May that was so productive.

She wound up bringing home a nice bag of crystals.

I decided to work in Mine #3 near the area where my friend Tom Copeland was working on his Commercial Dig. Looking at the picture below, he had already removed all the rock in the brown area and needed to go another 2 feet or so before reaching the first crystal layer. He will need to remove all the rock in order to reach large pockets he hopes are located underneath the wall.



I began working on this piece of rock jetting out from the wall. The little pockets above and to the left of it suggested there must be something behind it.



Using spring steel and wedges I was able to break the rock and remove it.



The hole above the sledge hammer contained a nice 2 in crystal and a small pocket was found in the area to the left of my red handled chisel. Both were good finds and well worth the effort needed to remove the rock.





The wall area to the left of my too bag revealed other wall pockets.



Elizabeth left on Tuesday and Joe and Paula arrived on Wednesday and began working where she left off. They found a few crystals. But that night the rain came in from the tropical storm that had plagued the east coast. On Thursday morning I decided to call it quits rather than work in the down pour. But Joe and Paula decided to stay. I later heard they found some nice crystals in Mine #3 where I was working. I look forward to seeing them.