

HK Penn MD Quarry Trip July 2018 by Dave Lines



Our Club's third visit in seven months on July 14th was still productive with lots of chrome minerals and great lapidary material colored green. This time we were the guests of the Montgomery County club. Altogether there were about 45 attendees --- we mustered 15 from our club including Lorna, Tim S., Harry, Tina, Sondra, Mike S. Jim, Ralph B., Joe, Paula, Rich, Orion, Arion, Aby and Dave. We all found enough specimens to satisfy our needs --- and then some.

The main difference in conditions on this field trip was that it was hot (very hot), dry and had not rained on any of the rocks since our June visit. That translated to the rocks being dusty and dirty and they all looked the color "gray" (at least to the casual observer). This made a huge difference in being able to determine which rocks were green colored. I partially solved the problem with a bucket of water and a scrub brush. I literally dipped each suspected rock into the water and scrubbed it off. Yes, it was slower, but it was effective.

As it turned out, there were ample quantities of the most "sought after" williamsite. We just had to look harder. Often, we would find pieces right where someone else had just looked there. The key was the bucket of water. The water immediately brought out the color of the rocks when wetted down.

My best piece was about 5 pounds of high quality williamsite --- a nice clear green with a smooth flinty texture. I heard that Joe and Orion found a very large piece (in fact, a seam) and divided it.

This is still a super location and one well deserving of return visits.



