

Trip to HK-Penn Quarry
By Bernie Borgnis



This was my second trip to Haines & Kibblehouse Penn Maryland Materials Quarry (HK-Penn), and it was just as rewarding as my first. I was initially expecting to upgrade the items in my collection. However, I thought that this was going to be a difficult task. Some of the items that I collected on my first trip are very nice, in my opinion, and I cannot imagine finding something to replace them.

The weather was great the entire day. If anything, a little cloud cover would have been welcomed. The day's surprises began when Rich Simcsak asked about a Mason-Dixon Line marker that is on the property. The quarry supervisor took us to see the marker since it was on the way down into the quarry. As someone who has always had an interest in history, I found it very interesting to see.

The drive into the quarry was dusty. I stayed far enough back to allow the dust to somewhat settle so that I can see the road to avoid the ruts and obstacles that might be present. There was enough of a cloud of dust that it would have been impossible to lose them.



Once everyone was safely at the bottom, we all scattered to look for our desired pieces. The sounds of people moving rocks, rocks being dropped into plastic buckets, and hammers hitting chisels are all relaxing under these circumstances. Everyone seems to have collected their fill.

As expected, the few items I had from my previous trip that I thought would be difficult to replace are still in my collection. However, I was able to replace quite a bit with what I think are nicer/larger pieces. And, of course, then there are the others. The new items are now part of my expanding collection. And I think these will be difficult to replace in the future.



My homework is still ongoing. Dave mentioned that williamsite and serpentine will be on the site. He had also previously mentioned mcguinnessite, picrolite, and antigorite. Now, how to distinguish these from each other along with marmolite, chrysotile, nakaurite and the other 30 some odd minerals?

That is the third and final enjoyable portion of these trips – first the collecting and interacting others doing the same; second cleaning and sorting your finds getting excited when the cleaning reveals more than what you imagined; and third educating yourself. Maybe after enough of these trips and enough research afterwards I'll finally know what I am looking at. Until then, I'll keep collecting and studying.