

OPEN HOUSE AT THE PENFIELD QUARRY, PENFIELD, NY

SATURDAY, 10 MAY, 2008, 7:00 AM to 11:30 AM

Background:

The Dolomite Products Group is a collector-friendly operation that regularly schedules open houses at both of their quarries near Rochester, NY. The Penfield Quarry open house is usually in May while the Walworth Quarry open house is in October or November. This year's Penfield Quarry open house is on Saturday, 10 May. Since this is an open house you don't have to be a BMC member to go. However, you must have the appropriate safety gear.

Minerals to be found:

Good specimens of fluorite, calcite, dolomite, selenite, celestite & sphalerite are found in pockets in limestone boulders. The rock is hard and the trick is to break down the boulders to a manageable size without destroying the crystals. Some example photos from the NY State Museum website are shown below.



Fluorite, Specimen #17890, Erik Rutnik photo



Calcite, Specimen #19319, Erik Rutnik photo



Fluorite, Specimen #19327, Erik Rutnik photo



Celestite, Specimen #16654, Erik Rutnik photo

Tools required:

Recommended tools are a 3 to 4 lb crack hammer, flat & bull point chisels, a heavy sledge hammer, pry bar and/or crow bar. A portable gas-powered saw with a diamond blade is also very useful at this quarry. Also bring gloves, wrapping material, 5-gal pails for specimens, sun screen, plus food and water. Required safety gear includes hard hat, safety glasses & sturdy footwear, preferably steel-toed boots.

Instructions:

This years' open house will be Saturday, May 10th from 7:00 AM to 11:30 AM. Participants need to arrive by 6:45 AM to sign in and hear the safety talk. Required safety gear includes hard hat, safety glasses & sturdy footwear, preferably steel-toed boots. Children are allowed if they are well-supervised by an adult and are wearing a hard hat or bicycle helmet, safety glasses & sturdy footwear. Contact Nate Martin at rocknate@gmail.com if interested in the trip.

Driving Directions:

The address for the quarry is Dolomite Products Co., Inc., Penfield Plant, 746 Whalen Road (south of Browncroft Blvd (Rte. 286)). From the Boston area, it is about 385 miles to the Penfield quarry (a mere 6 hour drive, mostly on interstate). Use www.mapquest.com with the Whalen Road street address for the quarry to find specific directions from your home. Obviously this involves driving out on Friday and coming back Saturday after the open house ends at 11:30 AM. There are a number of motels in the area that you can stay in.