

Sterling Hill Super Dig

March 31, 2009

Greetings GlowHounds!

Your TripMaster is a bit late this year sending my usual wakeup call to you glowhounds. It's taken a while to defrost here.

But I've been up to Sterling Hill several times over the winter to check on things. The folks up there are very excited about April 25th - last year was again a simply "smashing event" and the great news this year is... The registration fee is still only \$20.

We will have a full repeat of all the exciting special events we did last year, and once again those who attend will have their chance to "pick a piece of history" by selecting their choice of a piece of ore that still sits on the mill's conveyor belt from the day the Sterling Hill Mine was shut down - Good Friday, March 28th 1986.

This year, 2009, we have some really exciting news -- the "Passaic" and the "Nobel" pits have been excavated, turning up new soil for our explorations. I've never seen this much tailings exposed for collectors... it's just unbelievable!



The excavator has been working in the pits for about a month, digging up to expose new soil for exploration and digging. (Some of your registration fees goes to pay for this excavation equipment and operator).

More than 750 pounds of fluorescent and daylight minerals have been brought down from Canada and from upper New York State... from the "Balmat" mining district in NY (which was another mine owned by the NJ Zinc Company, which owned the Sterling Hill mines), and from the "Long Lake" mine in Canada. This truckload of goodies has been placed on the Sterling Hill site ONLY for this dig.

(See the long horizontal structure at the top of the picture? That is where the conveyor is located - the "upper mill" - and we will once again have a very special tour of that off-limits area.)



The "upper mill" area is still not open to normal tours or even any access to the public, so our guests at the Sterling Hill Dig have a very unique privilege extended to them on this one day of the year.

In addition to the special tour of the highest part of the mill structure, we're also planning to have an extended "blackout tour" of the lower part - the mine itself. Maybe we will even be able to go back into two or three tunnels, in the dark with only your black lights on - time permitting. And this year, a very special surprise has been added -- an animated blast display. Wait until you see this! and hear it!! The kids will love it.

Keep in mind also that, weather permitting, the Ellis Observatory will be open after dark - the 20-inch telescope is amazing!!

As in past years, we will have many useful door prizes donated by our supporters (see their links on the main webpage, and check out their websites) including special prizes just for our young diggers. For sure, there will be two 12-volt portable ultraviolet lamps... one to be awarded to a lucky young digger, the other for an adult digger. Special thanks to Bill Gardner of "Way Too Cool" for donating these lamps.

Prior to our special weekend, the day's schedule will be posted on our website and probably sent out by email to those on the list. We're still working out the details of all the exciting adventures for the day.

Registration is going well so far. Everyone is excited to come back, based on their past experiences at this annual dig. We need at least 100 registrations in order to break even on the event expenses, and so far we have about 47 registered. If you have not yet signed up, there is a direct link on the main website page - and also at the bottom of the "Trip Info" page (the PayPal button). It's important to register early, so we can guarantee the event will occur and also so that all the check-in documents can be pre-printed - which has made our check-in procedure very fast and

efficient for the past several years. Please, if at all possible, use the PAYPAL payment method -- to guarantee that your check-in process will go quickly and smoothly. If you opt to send a check, it means the check must be received by the club treasurer... must be logged in and deposited... and your registration record needs to be manually marked as paid. And it will cost you 42 cents to mail the check! The PayPal payment process charges us a small commission, which is why we have to add the \$1 fee; but that's only 58 cents more than the postage stamp -- and you are guaranteed to be registered and have all your check-in paperwork ready at the registration table. (if you don't have a PayPal account, you can still use your credit card during the PayPal process).

Once again... I'm so excited this year, I just have to say it again: There's an unbelievable amount of new stuff on site to be collected this year... it's a "collector's paradise." And remember, there is no other place on Earth where some of the Sterling Hill minerals can be found; and we're the only dig at Sterling Hill where you can do a "night dig" plus see the "rainbow wall" of fluorescent rocks light by large UV lamps. So if you have to, take a nap in the afternoon so you can be "bright and bushytailed" in the evening.

If you have ANY questions not answered by info on the website, email me at:

TripMaster@Uvworld.org

and be sure to include your telephone number - I have "unlimited calling" and will be glad to call you back. I enjoy very much talking with our collectors, and I want to be sure you have the best possible experience with us at Sterling Hill on April 25th. (By the way, we do not share your private info with anyone other than the registration crew).

Remember to check the website at <http://www.uvworld.org/> now and then for new and updated info.

I look forward to hearing from you, and seeing you on Saturday at the Dig.

Your TripMaster again this year,



Jeff Winkler