

Lyman, New Hampshire Pyrite Deposit – March, 2009

Joe Mulvey (minerals from this locality will be part of my trades)

A trip was made in August 2007 to the Lyman, NH pyrite road cut. This locality is about 60 miles north of Concord, NH close to the Vermont border.

I visited this site last September on the way from somewhere to somewhere else. It was raining, I was wet and cold and under equipped yet still managed to find some very nice cubes of pyrite both in the shale and as crystals that popped out in sizes up to 3/8".

My return trip with my daughter and some close friends was much more fruitful. I brought a 4 foot long crowbar, 3lb sledge and a home depot chisel with the orange plastic protector.

Using the crowbar, we separated a slab of shale from the wall. The slab was about 4 feet tall, 6 inches thick and maybe 3 feet wide. We spent the next 2 hours breaking this piece down, constantly finding pyrite cubes. From above, using the hammer and chisel, hitting into the seam, the large slab broke into manageable pieces from which we pulled cubes of pyrite up to 3/4" on edge. I prefer to keep my specimens in matrix, however, my daughter as well as my friend's wife Terry preferred separating the crystals even if it meant shattering a prize or two along the way.

We spent about two hours collecting and had superb luck. I brought home 4 or 5 pieces of shale about 4" – 6" square with a nice cube partially embedded in the center. The girls brought home at least a dozen cubes each most with at least 3 sides intact and several complete specimens. I think Terry has become a rock hound. She was the last person in the car when we were all ready to go.

I would suggest a good pair of gloves for this location. The host rock can be very sharp and a short swipe of the hand can result in a razor cut.



My daughter Rosemary in front of the Lyman pyrite road cut



David Cicia displaying a nice 3/4" cube of pyrite in host shale.