

**QUERY:** Hi - I found your information on Kelly mine; thanks for your information. I just joined the lapidary club in Madison WI after taking a class on polishing rocks. I will be traveling to NM with a friend from Thailand (i just met a few weeks ago) and her sister (residing in IL). We are interested in collecting rocks, although we know next to nothing. One of the club member suggested I look into Kelly mine. Your website mentioned finding pyrite and smithsonite at the Kelly mine. Can you tell me what are the other mineral specimen we might find. I was a little confused as to how to access the Juanita stockpile; who issues the permit: Bill's rock shop or Tony's rockshop? Being novice, how much work/difficulty in finding specimens? We are not dedicated rockhounds.

**RESPONSE:** The Kelly Mine is fairly popular and an interesting site to walk around, but it has been picked fairly clean. In 3-4 trips out to the site I have found pyrite, some allophane (zinc carbonate), calcite, and some flecks of brochantite. But never in very large quantities. Up the hill at the Paschal Shaft, the tailing pile is a little less picked through and you may have better luck there. If you are interested in rocks with interesting composition for lapidary work, there is a lot of phyllite, a type of metamorphic rock that has an interesting layer pattern on the road near the Juanita Mine (at Kelly). Mrs. Zamora at Tony's Rock Shop can give you a pass to the Kelly site. Her shop has some really neat gem quality smithsonite as well, but it is expensive. She also has some jewelry made from smithsonite that is exquisite but again very expensive. The \$10 entrance fee (per person) will allow you to collect 10 lbs. of rock.

The Graphic Mine and Nitt Mines ... [information deleted at request of mine owners.](#)

I would also recommend stopping by Southwestern Minerals, on Central and Louisiana in Albuquerque, they have a great collection and they are the hub for a lot of rockhounding in the state. And in Socorro, the New Mexico Tech Mineral Museum is also a great place to visit and look at samples of minerals.

Attached are photos of the rocks we have found at Kelly Mine. Photos of Graphic and Nitt are [deleted.](#) I have done my best to identify as many of the rocks we found as possible, but in some cases I made a best guess. If you identify anything else either from my pictures or in your trip I would be interested to know what it was. The photos are compressed, and the plastic cased smithsonite came from Tony's and Bill's rock shops.

I hope this helps, and if you have any other questions don't hesitate to ask.



◀ Kelly Rock Samples

Response text and images © 2010 Matt Thompson