

Black Diamond Mines Outing

On a beautiful early spring day, intense green hills, and a sky so blue it hurts to look at, we met in the early morning chill for the short walk up to the mine entrance.

Rudy Trautner, with help from his wife Mary Dougherty, organized and led our first club outing of the year. Over 20 people attended with members from CCMGS and the Calaveras Gem and Mineral Society.

The Black Diamond Mines History Tour covers two mining eras in the park. Coal mining took place in the late 19th century, and the Hazel-Atlas sand mine was active in the early 20th century. The wonderful park docents wove a compelling story of early mining activities and hardships. Impressive, near life-sized posters depicting early miners lined the entry tunnel and several fixed displays depicted miners working the shallow coal seams.



ENTRANCE ROAD TO BLACK DIAMOND REGIONAL PRESERVE



HARD HATS REQUIRED



RIPPLE MARKS IN SANDSTONE ON ROOF OF TUNNEL



MINER'S CONVENIENCE

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN? - Ripple Marks

An undulatory surface or surface sculpture consisting of alternating small-scale ridges and hollows formed at the interface between a fluid and sedimentary material (esp. loose sand).

Black Dimond Mines, Cont.

The Hazel-Atlas mine produced high quality silica-sand that was used in the making of glass jars. Highly sought after by collectors, a mason jar and saltshaker with the HA logo embossed on the base were available to the tour members. The sands of this ancient seabed make up the rocks of our nearby foothills and the Diablo range. Undulating ripple patters are clear on the roof of the mine. This pattern is possible evidence of shallow water moving over the sand leaving the pattern we see millions of years later. Our tour was a rousing success; thank you Rudy.



TOUR PARTICIPANTS LAGGING BEHIND

EDITOR'S NOTE

After the tour, the editor found that the mine maybe closed over the summer for inspections by the state. And as a cost saving measure, EBRP may also be closing the park— No mine no need for a park



PAST TOUR PARTICIPANTS



MINE REPAIRS ARE ALWAYS ON GOING