

## REPORTS ON RECENT FIELD TRIPS

### Royal Peacock Opal Mine



**We** headed to Virgin Valley, Nevada with one stop in Winnemucca for some ice and fuel; This was the last reasonable place to fuel the truck. We took NV-95 to NV-140 and reached the Denio Junction in about an hour and a half. The junction does have fuel and rooms for rent for those who don't want to camp. We traveled about an hour from the Junction to The Royal Peacock Opal Mine. The last 45 minutes were on a washboard gravel road, but the 5th-wheel camper made it without problems. We were camped next to Frank and Kendall. They live in their RV full-time, mine rock and minerals, and sell all they find. They have a social media page under the handle That Camping Couple.

I met Aaron and Barbara Roderick at the Royal Peacock Opal Mine on Saturday morning to do bank digging. It was a bit overcast with a temp of 90 degrees F. A rock hammer and a little bucket or container of water are needed for bank digging. Any opals dug out of the bank should be put in water to prevent the opal from drying out too quickly and Fracturing. If a nice specimen is found, displaying it in a container like a water globe is recommended. If the specimen is left out in the air, it could fracture into a bunch of pieces. I found a few pieces of brown opal, and I was calling it a root beer due to its color. I found some petrified wood and some Limb casts.

It rained overnight, and Sunday morning showed clear skies. We decided to do the tailings at Royal Peacock. The rain wet the tailing piles, and the full sun made picking out the shiny materials on the top easier. Various pieces of wood and glass were picked right off the surface. Aaron and Barbra found some nice stuff. The afternoon sun tested our dedication. I am glad the Rodericks brought a pop-up canopy.

Attendees: Barbra Roderick, Aaron Roderick, Mary Dougherty, Rudy Trautner