

Spokane Bar Sapphire Mine & Gold Fever Rock Shop

December 2003 Newsletter

Dear Friends,



Icicles clung to the pipe as a slow drip edged the flow line. How to thaw the pipes – became the daily question. Salt was tried, an electric blanket was considered and propane torches were used... Early morning at twenty degrees, Mike tried to start the pump at the lake. Finally at noon, water started to flow cascading over frozen rubble below the trommel. Sapphire and gold mining in Montana has a season – and it's not winter! The recent snow storms slowed us down. You could barely discern the rock shop through a

kaleidoscope of snow flakes. Cass brought more sapphire gravel into the office to thaw out. You always wanted a bit of Montana with your sapphire gravel – but some snow to go with it? We have used every possible day above freezing (and some below) to concentrate sapphire gravel hoping the weather would hold out.

Now, as the pile is dwindling, we have asked the haul truck drivers to schedule one more day of hauling from the El Dorado property. Day by day, we check the weather forecast. A tentative window of opportunity is etched on the calendar. We will keep processing sapphire gravel concentrates from the new mine – right up until the water freezes up the pipe completely. Then – it is back to the summer stockpile. The Spokane Bar Monster Mine summer stockpile is still heaped up. We are shipping both the Monster Mine and the E-El Dorado Monster Mines with the Christmas special gift – Elf Bag sapphire gravel stocking stuffers until December 15th, (see newsletter #10 at www.sapphiremine.com) Believe it or not – the UPS truck is still finding his way out here to pick up your gravel – so keep ordering!



Spokane Bar sapphire jewelry was presented to the President of Kyrgyzstan on Tuesday, December 2. Montana hosted President Askar Akaev and his group on their peace mission and shared ideas for housing the disabled through The Farm in the Dell program. Out at the Spokane Bar Sapphire Mine shop, Deb mounted a set of blue sapphire jewelry

for this event, as a gift from Montana. Secret Service members scanned the event area for guns with infrared sensors. (Big Game hunting ended after Thanksgiving, so only a few hundred rifle toting Montanan's were a field.) The visit to Montana by a President of a foreign country was a first.



President Akaev met with Governor Judy Martz and Mr. Lowell Bartells of the Farm in the Dell Foundation. The 14 farm staff members, 70 foreign dignitaries and 20 plus secret service arrived an hour and a half early. Rows of black Suburbans, a tour bus, a smattering of highway patrol cars and several patrolling Black Hawk helicopters set the tone. Deb Thompson from the Spokane



Bar Sapphire Mine arrived just in time (last one through the door before lockdown) with the sapphire jewelry gifts and a special gold nugget for the president. You could pick the Kyrgyzstan out of the crowd by their dark fir coats and hats. The secret service were wearing dark coats and clear ear pieces and talking into their folded hand. Cameramen in foot deep cameras elbowed away any thoughts of being too close to the President.

The Presidential special, A comparable array of blue sapphires, can be purchased from the Spokane Bar Sapphire Mine – (imagine one of those for yourself!). Cass has been taking digital photographs for just such a need. We have added these faceted blue sapphires to our ordering choices at www.sapphiremine.com.



Premium Gem Kits continue to outsell the regular Gem Kits in advance of the Christmas holiday. Sapphire gravel brings the family together for an exciting adventure—a box of rocks for every occasion! The Elf Bag sapphire gravel gift box is included in Monster Mine and E-El Dorado Monster Mine orders through December 15th. Additional Elf Bags available to order separately at www.sapphiremine.com.



Sincerely,

Deb and Russ Thompson and staff at the Spokane Bar Sapphire Mine
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