

Spokane Bar Sapphire Mine & Gold Fever Rock Shop

March 2004 Newsletter

Dear Friends,

Tinsel blue ice lines the corrugated lake water etching an imaginary shoreline of fading winter. Sunshine bathes the dry reed stocks reflecting gold, penetrating shadowed patches of snow. Cumulous clouds dance around growing patches of blue sky. Banning winter – the staff at the Spokane Bar Sapphire Mine started stocking the office with sapphire gravel bags for the approaching tourist season, sapphire digging and geological field trips. Shipments of sapphire gravel Monster Mines and Gem Kits continue. Our monthly order customers have been calling in and sending photos of interesting finds. A large blue sapphire one half the size of a dime was found by Mr. Walker in a recent El Dorado Monster Mine shipment. The color reminded me of the tinsel blue lake ice.

The Learning Channel, Hunt for Amazing Treasures “*Fortunes Abound*” program that aired May 1, 2003 about the sapphire mine can not be copied for resale until June of 2010. The idea of having it available is out the window. However, the Discovery Program (who owns the full rights) told me they may possibly re-air the program this next quarter – during April, May or June. They said to get in touch with them to check on scheduling the last week of

March at 1-859-342-8439. They told me they keep track of the number of interested people as they base their decision to re-air on that factor. They also said this particular program was very popular and they had a high number of inquires both by phone and email. They can be contacted from their website at www.discovery.com and click on “**Contact Us**” at the bottom of the page.

We are still planning on making a “how to” video on sapphire mining this summer. When that is available, I will have it for sale on our website at www.sapphiremine.com and plan on letting everyone know via this newsletter.

Deb was invited to the first candidate signing for Governor. Tom Keating from Billings, Montana is running for Governor with his running mate for Lt. Governor, Matt Brainard of Florence, Montana. These candidates demonstrate a strong stand for mining. We have always been low key in mining because of the extreme negative stance taken by present government policies. We love minerals, rocks with their associated uses and Montana has so much to offer in that regard.

Sherril and Michael Burke, architects from Billings, will be working on some architectural plans for our expansion. At this point we are working only with ideas. Deb has been working on ideas her whole life and



Sapphire Mine overlooking Hauser Lake



View from the Sapphire Mine window

takes small steps towards improving the sapphire mine. If anyone would like to contribute any ideas or money (just kidding, sort of) please send some. As the New Yorker who stood on the porch of the rock shop offering constructive criticism suggested we clean up our water tubs as *“then people from the city would not be afraid to put their hands in the water”*. I told him at that time – and that was 16 years ago – every year we make improvements – and that year we dug a deeper outhouse hole. Presently, we have the same facility.

The rock shop renovations are just about done. That gave all of us something to do indoors when we could not mine through the winter ice and snow. The new hardwood floor and track lighting spruced up the shop. We moved in the sapphire bags, hobby boxes, screens, crystal bookends and amethyst clusters. The awning even got a pretty coating over the concrete floor so we can keep your gravel shipments going.

Recent finds – a cornflower blue sapphire found by Mr. George turned out to be a 7.9 carat. We posted the photo on our website if you want to see it under “Testimonials” at www.sapphiremine.com. Scroll down to “El Dorado Treasures” sent in by Mr. George.



Sapphire Mine Office Interior

Our first school field trip of the season came in Monday. Huge blocks of ice were dumped out of the tubs and Deb added some fresh water – that did not freeze as it came out of the hose! There is your “first sign” of spring!!!

Sincerely,

Deb and Russ Thompson
and staff at the Spokane Bar Sapphire Mine
<http://www.sapphiremine.com>

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Sunset over the Sapphire Mine in Helena, Montana !

