

*Spokane Bar Sapphire Mine
& Gold Fever Rock Shop*

November 2003 Newsletter

Dear Friends!

A lasting edge of sun rays flood the late November sky. Pink clouds reach further, chasing sunset. Winter chill blankets air and ground. Stark, leafless brush dons a fading glow as shadows retire into night. The November gray sky covers Montana as winter approaches.



We are still mining, taking advantage of every day of dry weather here at the Spokane Bar Sapphire Mine near Helena, Montana. Mike fished moss away from the suction pipe at the lake, a yearly event. The trommel works perfectly, as long as the water flows freely. Ice is forming on the sapphire water tubs each morning. Most wayward tourists decide to take their material home rather than break the ice off the tubs and stand in the telling wind. We can ship you fresh material until the water freezes up the pipe. Order from

our web site at www.sapphiremine.com or call 1-877-Dig Gems. Order extra Gem Kits and Premium Gem Kits.

We bundled up with extra coats and hats on the trip up to El Dorado this morning. After walking the fence line looking at the gravel piles, I picked up some hematite and jasper. Russ brought back some sapphires and we marked out some new digging prospects. On the way home, the snow started falling, covering the road.



Canada customers can call for UPS Broker Rates at 1-800-742-5877.

Inquiries regarding faceting: Mr. Sher will be going back to Thailand to visit his factory. He will be there from mid January to mid February. He regrets any delay returning your finished work to you while his office is closed. Additional faceting

coupons can be printed from our website at www.sapphiremine.com. Heat treating or cabochon cuts can also be requested from Mr. Sher. Nick from Florida wrote:

"Hi Deb...We received our order from SherGem and Co.and I wanted to let you in on the beautiful job they did. The 7.9 carat blue sapphire cut to a 4.45 finished gem. You featured it in your "Testimonials". It's still on your website in the rough. The other smaller sapphires are no less gorgeous in color and clarity. They range in carat weight from .10 to over .60 carats. Look at the collection of garnets from Spokane and the Eldorado!! The pear-shaped one on the upper left corner of the picture weighs in at close to 3.5 carats..translucent!! I'll be sending another rough garnet for faceting which is about 6.5 carats found in an Eldorado bag !! I have all my sapphire rough cooked...sometimes a stone just isn't going to be gem quality...Yet what fun it is to mine these wonderful creations of nature...Some will turn up in rings and pendants..Maybe as gifts. What wonderful gifts they make. Thanks for the fun." See Nick's photos under "Testimonials" on our website at www.sapphiremine.com .

Our special this month, good until December 31st – One free ELF BOX with every regular Spokane Bar Monster Mine, Guaranteed Spokane Bar Monster Mine or E-Eldorado Monster Mine order. These gift sized sapphire gravel boxes are equivalent to a Hobby Box, 4"x4" box of sapphire gravel. Additional gift boxes of Winter Garnet Gravel (specify heart or round faceted garnet with your order) Hobby Box or Elf Box can be purchased with any Monster Mine orders for \$10 each. Special will be extended through December 31st.

Plan your next vacation to Montana early. A list of campgrounds close to the Spokane Bar Sapphire Mine follows:

Campgrounds near Helena, Montana and Hauser Lake:

Fish, Wildlife & Parks Department - 406-444-3750
For: Black Sandy Beach
Bureau of Land Management – 406-227-3570
For: Clark's Bay and
Devil's Elbow Recreation Site

Canyon Ferry Lake:
Kim's Marina - 406-475-3723

Lincoln Road RV – 406-458-3725
H&C Camp – 406-458-3833
Helena Campground – 406-458-4714

Vigilante Campground – 8 miles North of York, Forest Service maintained
National Forest Information– 406-449-5201

To request travel guides, campground guides, motel-hotel Guides: Travel Montana – Department of Commerce 1-800-VISITMT
www.discoveringmontana.com

Visitor Information:
Helena Chamber of Commerce - 406-442-4120

El Dorado legend:

Noun	1.	<i>eldorado - an imaginary place of great wealth and opportunity; sought in South America by 16th-century explorers. Freedictionary.com</i> Too bad they weren't looking in the right place! We have the El Dorado here in Montana and are currently mining it!
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Excerpt from Deb's report on the Florida hurricane relief trip:

"The storms in Florida left behind unbelievable damage as seen with my own eyes. No one up in my home state of Montana would even give it more than a passing thought, read about a four inch article in the local newspaper, a passing quip. My glimpse was first hand during my three week job as a housing inspector, contractor for FEMA. I drove past subdivisions with mailboxes peaking through mountains of ruined furniture, broken sheetrock and rotting clothing. Blue tarped roofs warded off continual rain showers but the damage was already apparent. Debris trucks were busy picking up heaps of shattered tree limbs and hauling them to the local fairgrounds. The Fort Pierce Fairgrounds was a gigantic chipper factory – a solution to the heaps of trees and brush trucked in from the city. I saw a ten acre area of 150 foot tall pine trees that were completely debarked. Four hurricanes and 130 tornados (in one town) impacted the south Florida area in a big way. Coming from rural Montana, I noticed there was no relief (except out in the ocean) from the constant highway traffic noise. When I came home to Montana I sat outside and listened to a few lonely coyotes and then I breathed a sigh of relief! I'll just wait around for the next blizzard to clear out any highway traffic!"

Sincerely,

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