

Spokane Bar Sapphire Mine & Gold Fever Rock Shop

June 2006 Newsletter

Dear Friends,

The summer months in Montana have been known to bring great fortunes to the men and women who toil for gold and stones in its mountains and creeks, and July of 2006 is no exception! Many exciting events took place in the past few weeks at the Spokane Bar Sapphire Mine near Helena, Montana, and they lead us to anticipate many more to come.



Our humble little mine will be in the national spotlight in the months to come. The **Travel Channel** spent two days, June 2 and 3, filming our unique approach to gem hunting. Host Becky Whorley and her Indigo Film camera crew had an adventurous time observing handfuls of sapphires being mined by our hard working customers. We were told that the sapphire mine segment would air in 2007 and would be approximately twenty-two minutes on national television. Look for future updates in upcoming newsletters. We anticipate that business will increase once this segment airs, so think about putting in your orders for Monster Mines at www.sapphiremine.com before the rest of America knows about one of Montana's best kept secrets!

To further promote our growing mine, we hired Vid-Tek Productions from Helena, Montana to create a special educational DVD: “**Rocks to Riches**”, that describes our mining techniques in-depth. Owners of the DVD are given special instructions on screen shaking and gem hunting which can increase the chances of finding sapphires in each bag purchased from the mine. “Rocks to Riches” also explores the geological and historical background of the Spokane Bar Sapphire Mine making it ideal for classrooms or previews for mining activities. To order “Rocks to Riches” call us at 1-877-DIG-GEMS (1-877-344-4367), or 1-406-227-8989. On line orders can be accomplished at www.sapphiremine.com.

In anticipation for the increase in business, we acquired a new Shaker Plant from the high mountains over Stemple Pass in Lincoln, Montana. There was some trepidation as three tires went flat and one tire flew off into traffic on the trip. No problem, the tire service truck showed up and two hours later the plant got under way. Mike and Cass then serviced the machine and changed all the belts. We are



now using the plant to take out the boulders before the gravel goes into the trommel. This saves on wear and tear on the machines and the boulder lofter – Mike. To celebrate this occasion, we are having a **Shaker Plant Special: one mini-screen with every on-line Monster Mine order at www.sapphiremine.com . Our special is good until July 31st.**

Recent big finds include a 16.49 carat sapphire out of a Spokane Bar Monster Mine from the new Independence Pit found by the Baylor family from South Dakota. There is a long list of El Dorado sapphires found including a dazzling ten carat star sapphire found by Chuck from Orlando, Florida!

The Spokane Bar Sapphire Mine would like to congratulate the patrons who traveled great distances to experience our one-on-one method of sapphire mining, (includes several newsletter followers who showed up!) California, Colorado, Florida, Idaho, Louisiana, Minnesota, North Dakota, New Mexico, Nevada, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Washington, and Wyoming. We would also like to thank travelers from Alberta, British Columbia, Taiwan and Spain!

In the months to come, the Spokane Bar Sapphire Mine plans to give the public more access to precious stones in an industry whose doors are otherwise closed to them. We pride ourselves in our revolutionary model to the gem industry: taking stones straight from the mine and putting them directly into the jewelry boxes of our customers. Typically, stones are mined and then sold to dealers, who then mark them up and sell them to distributors, who then increase the price and sell them to jewelry makers and stores who mark up their products to compensate for the endless supply of middlemen who have touched them. Our mine drastically alters and challenges the face of the modern gem market. We hope you continue to join and support us on our journey to change rocks into riches!

Sincerely,

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

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