

Spokane Bar Sapphire Mine & Gold Fever Rock Shop

March 2009 Newsletter

Dear Friends:

Appearances change while waiting and watching. The facade of winter stands still. Hauser Lake freezes and thaws, turbulence unseen, but felt as we endure brutal temperatures. Here at the Spokane Bar Sapphire Mine, ten miles east of the state capital, Helena, Montana, we are “hunkered down” (seems to be the term of the year) waiting for spring mining season and our summer tourist business.



and cold were biting equidistant to the house for those of us without serious layering, long johns, pants, flannels, coveralls and coats all in one package.

Last year I kept the heat off in the rock shop to save on the power bill. I damaged my hands from near frostbite, grading sapphires for a customer in eleven below zero temps inside the shop. This year, the heat stayed on low (worth it) but now the power bill is out of sight! We have rushed to get work done at the mine in between fierce storms. My chair



is set up as close as possible to the pellet stove in the house. Moderating weather this past week 30-40 degrees, melted some ice and snow. The lake has

Sapphire Mine March Special

One round or heart faceted garnet, FREE with any ONE on-line Monster Mine order.

One FREE Gem Hunt with any TWO Monster Mines.

One FREE 3mm Blue Faceted Sapphire with any THREE Monster Mines.

One FREE Gem Kit with any FOUR Monster Mines.

One FREE Monster Mine with any FIVE Monster Mines.

Order at www.sapphiremine.com, Offer good until March 31st.

The crew spent some serious fishing time with a **bit** of open water, braving the road to the beach (sheer ice) to whittle away the time. Fish, wind



frozen and thawed seven times. The weather is the all-important topic!

February 19th – our earliest start for sapphire mining – beat out the winter for a couple days. Twenty-one loader scoops of El Dorado gravel washed through the plant in two and a half days. The third day the pipe froze. Cass spent two hours with a propane heater and rock salt trying to free up the impeller on the pump. Finally he disassembled the last section of pipe and flushed all the uphill ice all over the place. The sun came out later in the afternoon and tempted us all to believe in salvation.

Cass and Deb cleaned the gold carpets. Cass ran the “Blue Bowl” processing black sands next to the wood stove. The small vial of powdered gold warded off seasonal gloom in Cass’s pocket, until he leaned up against the truck and it broke.



Customer Comments:

“Hi Deb, We ordered a monster mine bag and made some light tables for our nieces and nephews to have a Christmas Gem Hunting party. The kids had a terrific time, the adults had a great time too, and everyone had some great finds! Please find attached a picture of the kids with their gems (posted on website). My wife and I just wanted to drop a note of thanks to Spokane Bar Sapphire Mine for enabling such wonderful memories with our family.”

Chris and Pam Czernel

“Hello Ms. Thompson – I showed up back in the first week of December and bought two bags to “go” and dug one bucket of my own from the top of the hill. Then in January we ordered 4 bags, 2 each from Spokane Bar and 2 each from El Dorado and did all our mining at home. The 7.2 carat came from the bucket along with a bunch of small BB’s – most of the green rough came from the El Dorado bags and the other colors came from the Sapphire Bar. El Dorado stones were larger, Sapphire Bar stones prettier. In that picture there are 8 rows of 11 each and then there are approximately 15 or so garnets at the bottom. We also picked out a bag of “B-B’s” as I called them, there were 125 small ones in there of quite a few colors, mostly blue and green with a few pinks, and a couple that are yellow. So from 6 bags and one hand dug bucket we “mined” approximately 88 Sapphires with the largest being a green 7.2 carat rough – the total carat weight for all of the sapphires excluding the bag of BB’s was 110 carats in the rough – the 125 BB’s of which a good portion can be faceted had a carat weight of 20.” D Parisio (Photos posted on website under “Testimonials”.)

“Thanks for the sapphire hunt...took boring out of winter.” Vickie Taylor

Choose gravel packs from either Spokane Bar or El Dorado Bar Sapphire Mine. **Our mine special is good through March 31st!**

Order from our website at <http://www.sapphiremine.com/> or by phone **1-877-dig gems (344-4367)**.

This month, try a Monster Mine Party Pak for school groups and parties. This enhanced gravel will keep a group of twenty busy for two hours! Order the mining DVD, ***Rocks to Riches***, for a geological tour of the mine. (Educate your group before turning them loose on the Party Pak!)

Our website now has more credit card choices, including E-checks!
Deb can be reached at 1-406-227-8989 (local) or 1-877-dig gems (344-4367 toll free).

Something Blue Jewelry in Helena now has sapphire and diamond jewelry with astonishing designs. Check out our personal art flair – paintings and portraits by Deb and Julia. Call Julia at 1-406-457-5525 for gems and designs. Something Blue, at 855 Great Northern Town Center in Helena, Montana.

Thank you for your interest in sapphire and gold mining in Montana!



Sincerely,

Deb Thompson and crew at the Spokane Bar Sapphire Mine
sapphiremine@gmail.com
5360 Castles Road - Helena, Montana 59602
1-877-dig gems (344-4367) 1-406-227-8989 (local)
<http://www.sapphiremine.com>

ORDER FORM
Spokane Bar Sapphire Mine
5360 Castles Road - Helena, Montana 59602
1-877-dig gems (344-4367) 1-406-227-8989 fax
<http://www.sapphiremine.com>

ORDER by Mail or phone –
Products will be shipped UPS

DATE:

Name:

Address:

Phone:

E-Mail:

El Dorado Monster Mine 3 gallon (\$120):

**Spokane Bar Monster Mine regular
3 gallon (\$95)**

**Guaranteed Spokane Bar Monster Mine
3 gallon (\$120)**

Party Pak, Enhanced 3 gallon (\$150)

Mini Mine one gallon (\$49.99):

Micro Mine 10 pint sample bags: (\$120)

Gem Kit with screen (\$49.99)

Credit or Debit Card and Number:
(E-Checks Accepted)

Expiration Date:

Zip Code of Card Holder:

3-Digit Code:

COMMENTS:

Accessories and Tools

(NOTE: a \$10 shipping charge will be added if accessories are ordered separately)

Gem Tweezers (\$3)

Gem Pickup Tool: (\$10)

Sample Sapphire (\$10)

Sample Garnet (\$8)

Medium Screen 12x12 (\$15)

Small Screen 7x7 (\$10)

Hobby Box (\$15) 2nd box add \$10

Enhanced Hobby Box (\$25) with 3mm sap

Blue 3mm faceted sapphire (\$30)

Winter Garnet Box (\$15) 2nd box add \$10

Faceted round 5mm garnet (\$10)

Gem Hunt \$15

Small Tub 1-\$15-2nd tub-\$10 more

National Geographic on sapphires (\$5)

Rocks to Riches DVD (\$20)

NEW BROCHURE AND MAP

www.sapphiremine.com • www.montanasapphiremine.com

Mine Sapphires

Ten miles East of Helena, Montana

From the Lewis & Clark Journal:

“...the Clifts Contain flint a dark Stone & redish bron intermixed and no one Clift is Solid rock, all the rocks of every description is in Small pices appears to have been broken by Some Convulsion...” Capt. Clark, July 19, 1805



Turn Rocks to Riches

Spokane Bar Sapphire Mine & Gold Fever Rock Shop[®]

A Montana Mining Adventure

Ancient Gravel Terraces at Eagles Heights

