

**Spokane Bar Sapphire Mine, 5360 Castles Road, Helena, Montana, USA, 59602,
10/30/02:**

Hi everyone! Some of you have signed up via my email pop-up box on our web site at www.sapphiremine.com Here is #4 newsletter (2 pages!) - Yay!

Thanks for your interest in sapphire and gold mining.

Here we go - finally. I know you were all anxious to hear news of the sapphire mine and all the great gem finds. The summer was too busy to sit down and write (last newsletter 6/13) - though I thought about it off and on, mostly off and that is why you never heard an encouraging word as the skies were not cloudy all day. Corny - sorry.

It seems like my only creative writing moments are when its snowing - so I have the time to sit quietly and think about recent times. You guessed it - it is snowing here in Montana. Out the North window the Hogback Mountain is socked in with a haze of snow, dimly displayed. Fortunately, last Friday we had a warm day and Cass and I finished stocking the bin with sapphire gravel for the Winter orders. You remember last year when I was taping the boxes for the UPS pickup - it is so cold the tape wouldn't stick to the box. It's like that again. No snow on the ground from here to the office yet so I'll manage. We stocked up Gemkits. I ran out of the little round blue sapphires so had to replace them with some rather nice oval blue sapphires that I know you will like, along with the strawberry red garnet with the garnet gravel. Those sell for \$35 shipped UPS.

The Sapphire Store is featuring some free sapphire earrings with a hundred dollar order. They are quite nice and you have a good opportunity to get some quality jewelry ordered for Christmas. Go to our web site at www.sapphiremine.com and click on to the "order jewelry" button. There is also an income opportunity on the "Resaler Program" when you sign up through that link.

Elliott Sher told me the cut off date for getting facet orders for Christmas was October 16th. It is too late. However, he is giving away some faceting rough if you contact him. You can get his coupon with address and email off our web site by clicking on the faceting link and printing his coupon off at www.sapphiremine.com

We are still offering the on-site special on our big concentrates. It is buy five of the 3.5 gallon concentrates and get the sixth bag free. They are \$50 each so it is \$250 for five with a sixth bag free. They are heavy rascals. Most of you have resorted to sending your neighbor who happens to be in the area, to pick up the order for you. Good strategy - even better in the Winter for traction purposes.

The Learning Channel Search for Amazing Treasures program filmed a documentary here at the Spokane Bar Sapphire Mine June 18th. They called recently and said they were still on schedule for airing the program in January. They will notify me exactly when that will air so I will let you know. More...

Todd Tix from Alaska found the largest gem quality sapphire this year weighing 32.9

carats. The Phibbs from Oregon found a 22 carat gem quality sapphire, August 1st. Curtis Wolever from Washington dug up an 11.72 carat garnet on Cactus Hill. He dug for five days, digging a beautiful trench over three feet deep. We were able to read the bedrock and the direction of travel of the stream. There were many dips and smooth holes where the water had run for a period of time, smoothing out hollows for the heavy gravel to deposit. Curtis also found a nice blue sapphire out of a bucket of concentrate he purchased. Sue Waltman from Montana found 651 carats of garnets in one of those rich garnet bags - (I've been telling you about them!). We still have a few bags left. Kerrie from the Thompson Falls, Montana Girl Scout Troup 773 found a gold nugget as big as her little finger nail in her small sapphire bag during their scout field trip at the sapphire mine, June 18th. What a surprise! Those were some highlights - more there I'm sure!

Get your sapphire gravel concentrate orders in early before the Christmas rush. It normally takes six business days to arrive - a bit longer in December.

Deb
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