

Spokane Bar Sapphire Mine, 5360 Castles Road, Helena, Montana, USA, 59602, 01/23/03:

Hi everyone! Some of you have signed up via my email pop-up box on our web site at www.sapphiremine.com. Here is #5 newsletter, (revised a million times - edition) – Yay - the technologically challenged rises again.

Thanks for your interest in sapphire and gold mining.

I was thinking about writing another newsletter but just been putting it off - and rightly so with all the problems in getting it sent out! I almost sent out the old one to the new people who have signed up at www.sapphiremine.com – but – it is already outdated. It gets that way fast! I tried sending some photos but they took up too much megabites and most of you could not open the letter. I spent the next three days (rather eight days now) trying to figure out what went wrong. So here is the limping, revised letter - without the photos. Eventually I will figure it out- one can only hope.

We have boxed sapphire gravel til I thought the floor might collapse. Russ took a truck load to Laughlin, Nevada where you can pick it up at the AVI Casino-Cloud's Jamboree - at least until mid-February.

Russ is in Laughlin, Nevada for the Cloud's Jamboree at the AVI Casino South of town. If you are close, stop by and see him. He brought sapphire gravel bags, gem kits, fossils plus "Hernie" the fossil turtle. If you want something special – like a truckload of sapphire gravel – be sure and stop by to pick some up - before it is gone! Our Rock Creek material is sold out! Elliott Sher is in Laughlin visiting. He started his heat treating services along with his faceting business. You can still print out his cutting coupon off our web site if you need the discount coupon at www.sapphiremine.com

January is for garnets - birthstones, of course!. I still have that super rich garnet gravel ready to ship. Call me at 1-877-diggems or email me at deb@sapphiremine.com and I will send you some. Also ready for you is February's Amethyst - many cut stones to choose from, plus Siberian rough.

January is when The Learning Channel, *Search For Amazing Treasures* program said they would air the documentary about the sapphire mine. They filmed for five hours last June 18th. I still don't have their schedule but hope to soon. If not - it will be happen stance at best. If anybody hears anything let me know. I could not get a person by phone and searched their web site to no avail and gave up.

First it is mild weather here at the sapphire mine and we are ready to get the tools out and start repairing equipment. Then it changes - as always in Montana - turns nasty with snow, ice and treacherous driving. We had eight inches of show yesterday and the road looked like it would drift over. It was back to 43 degrees by afternoon - weird. You can't win the weather pool - at least until Summer. Hope to see you all then! While you are waiting - order some sapphire gravel to mine at home: www.sapphiremine.com

Sincerely,

Deb Thompson
Spokane Bar Sapphire Mine