

Spokane Bar Sapphire Mine & Gold Fever Rock Shop

August 22, 2006 Newsletter

Dear Friends,

Picks and shovels chip and dig into the rust red bedrock shale atop Cactus Hill, and the dust kicked up drifts onto the hot stones at the feet of hard working prospectors. They labor through the heat with cracked hands, knotted backs, and smiles on their faces because today could be the day they make their fortune. Every visitor who traveled to the Spokane Bar Sapphire Mine near Helena, Montana this summer was more than a customer, they became those prospectors, reliving a day in the life of the old-timers who staked claims and hit the mother loads in an age that can still be experienced in Montana.

Due to the overwhelming reports of success from the customers who ordered [Cactus Hill Gravel](#) we decided to make the material available again. Typically, we only allow digging with shovels and picks up there, but every once in a while we take the dump truck and haul off a couple loads. "It's like we're jumpin' our own claim," explained Russ Thompson. All I know is there's lots of sapphires left up there." To order [Cactus Hill Gravel](#), click Spokane Bar Monster Mine, and in the comment bar type "Cactus Hill".



The day we had the [El Dorado Gravel](#) delivered to us the wind was blowing hard enough to take my breath away, and as I walked back to the shop looking at the dust blow off the tips of the gravel mounds, I saw part of the top mound shift like a great sand dune and tumbling out of that pile, rolling all the way down the dirt to stop at my feet was a green ten carat sapphire I named Royce (like Rolls Royce, get it, *rolls*?). He's now sitting in our display case along with all the other sapphires that have come to call the Gold Fever Rock Shop home.

When the treasures come leaping out of the ground to greet you, you know you've got your hands on a claim that'll pay out the motherload! If only every stone found its way to us this way. Royce is my first indication that the gravel we had taken from the [El Dorado Gravel](#) Bar is full of extravagant sapphires that all want to be found and rescued from their sedimentary obscurity. The second indication is the amount of heavy stone, such as hematite that can be



seen in our gravel piles, and in *this photograph* taken from where the bulldozers were taking material.

To make the process of looking for your sapphires easier, we are offering **one free Sample Sapphire with every Monster Mine Order through August 31st**. The Sample Sapphire sells for eight dollars, and comes in a small protective case. Additional sample sapphires or sample garnets are available for sale on our website at www.sapphiremine.com. Order “Rocks to Riches”, the educational DVD with the geological field trip of the Spokane Bar Sapphire Mine for an introduction to sapphire mine features.

Dr. Thomas from South Carolina called in to report a handful of lime green sapphires found in his recent Cactus Hill Monster Mine bag. Dr. Thomas is one of our monthly order members who patiently waits for each month’s delivery of sapphire gravel. He found 159 carats of sapphires, one five carat and several three carat sapphires in his last delivery.

Mrs. Flynn from Texas picked out three faceted sapphires for a custom piece of jewelry. All three sapphires are different pastel colors, typical of the Spokane Bar Sapphire Mine gems, no two alike! Custom jewelry is the end product for customers that mine their own sapphires here at the Spokane Bar Sapphire Mine. Join us for an exciting time prospecting valuable sapphires and gold here in Montana! Hours are 9-5, seven days a week. Order sapphire gravel to mine at home from our website at www.sapphiremine.com.



Sincerely,

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