

*Spokane Bar Sapphire Mine
& Gold Fever Rock Shop*

October 20, 2004

Dear Friends:

Pools of gray clouds shelter the valley floor. Pink belts of haze tinge mountain ridges above Hauser Lake near Helena, Montana. Gold mingles with blue sky blending into morning.



We successfully mined material from the Independence pit this month at the sapphire mine. A customer reported a 12 carat, 9 carat plus 8 carat sapphire found in a regular Spokane Bar Monster Mine! We are hoping to have enough material to last through winter orders as we continue to mine into fall. Large sapphires from the El Dorado gravel have turned up including a 14 carat green one found by a customer from Minnesota visiting the rock shop. He bought several bags to take home to his neighbor to save on shipping.

Rick finished the sapphire gravel drying bins during a drenching downpour – seems ironic! Other than a few leaks around the edge of the building, the gravel is mostly dry. During the construction process, someone – not naming names – scattered a bit of wood debris, nails, and (hate to mention it) sunflower seeds! I'll get over it – but you might wonder if you notice something odd now and then in your gravel. Other than that – a bit more interesting hematite has shown up. Hematite clams and sprouted fossilized seeds were found. Some areas in the mine had no hematite – but aren't we after sapphires – after all!



A customer called to say his girlfriend collected some pretty rocks while at the mine. He was sorting through them and thought he had a sunstone. After a hardness test the

stone was identified as a 9 carat “straw yellow” sapphire! Someone is always finding a great item of one kind or another.

Group dynamics continue to change at the mine. Brian went south to San Diego and warm weather, Luke went back to college, Crystel keeps coming back weekends to work and Cass and Mike keep the trommel running. Russ managed to get the loader repaired. Rick keeps building awnings for Deb. (Deb is temporarily in Florida helping with disaster relief for FEMA. “It’s not just the beach!!” ha ha)

We are starting the Hobby Box and Winter Garnet Gravel special for \$10 a box with any regular Spokane Bar Monster Mine or El Dorado Monster Mine orders starting on the release of this newsletter and ending November 15th. Get your orders in before the Christmas rush! Remember to try our new Guaranteed Spokane Bar Monster Mine bags – best for entertaining guests and relatives with blue sapphires. Also don’t forget the Gem Kits great gift for the holidays. And they are going fast.



Sincerely,

Deb and Russ Thompson and staff at the Spokane Bar Sapphire Mine
1-877-dig gems www.sapphiremine.com sales@sapphiremine.com
5360 Castles Road – Helena, Montana 59602