

*Spokane Bar Sapphire Mine
& Gold Fever Rock Shop*

April 22, 2005

Dear Friends,

Peering through a frozen windshield – onto the appearance of a road, crunching through frozen drifts of unplowed road surface – the driving conditions do not entice stranded motorists back onto the highway. Much needed rain and snow enthuse the optimistic (though I missed that meeting).

Workers at Spokane Bar Sapphire Mine near Helena, Montana filled Hobby Boxes this week and included a small faceted blue sapphire inside the box. It was inevitable that this would happen, not having instructions from the boss. Deb and Cass were still in Boise, Idaho at the International Tour Operators conference. Springtime blooms



of tulips, daffodils and flowering trees fostered fragile alliances with those in warmer climes. Boise inhabitants seemed oblivious to the neighboring state of Montana's dire weather patterns.



Deb and Cass presented the Spokane Bar Sapphire Mine as a tour destination for European travelers. We had ten-minute interviews with each of the international conference attendees from Europe, including Belgium, United Kingdom, France, Italy and Germany. The sapphire mine was unique among mostly hotel groups and ranch operators. We gave a packet of literature to conference attendees about the mine and included a free cut and rough sapphire (verses a free pen). The tour operators had never seen a rough sapphire and were unfamiliar with our

unique products. Halfway through the interviews we heard several comments from the tour operators that they

“heard about us!” and the sapphires we were giving away. Rumors had time to circulate! The Rocky Mountain International group and the Idaho Commerce Department sponsored a dinner after the conference event at the historic Idaho Penitentiary. There was some trepidation from attendees walking into the jail complex. The dinner and presentation were well done with a theater group performing. The penitentiary had converted into a museum with an open courtyard for events.

The sapphire mine special this month continues until April 30th - one free Winter Garnet Gravel box with a choice of round or faceted garnet or one free Hobby Box (no faceted sapphire) included with any Monster Mine order. **Additionally – we have a limited number of Enhanced Hobby Boxes with a small faceted blue sapphire added for \$35.** These Enhanced Hobby Boxes can be ordered separately at www.sapphiremine.com.



Sincerely,

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