

Spokane Bar Sapphire Mine & Gold Fever Rock

January 6, 2005

Dear Friends:

Like little moles, we burrow in for winter. The sapphire mine terrain at the Spokane Bar Sapphire Mine on Hauser Lake near Helena, Montana – lays dormant.

Randy locked himself out of his motor home New Year's Eve. He managed to unstick the frozen window over the sink to shimmy his way inside. Problem was – he was not quite skinny enough. After hanging out the window for 45 minutes, half in half out at minus 5 degrees outside, he finally got his belt and coat off and squeezed the rest of himself inside. There was no one to holler to, out on the prairie, as the rest of us were watching the New Year's celebrations on television. A bit shaken, rather shaking from the freezing temperatures, he came over to the house and we shared a laugh.



Russ spent the evening making a fireworks platform with Deb's left over bottle rockets from summer. Russ's fireworks display on New Year's Eve rivaled the local bar at Lakeside Marina on the west end of Hauser Lake. Only three of us, Russ, Deb and Rick stood at midnight in the snowstorm in awe.

Rick moved into the Pool House out at the mine. The sapphire mine crew helped him move his 26 year accumulation of household stuff plus three garages full of lumber and let's say – miscellaneous building supplies. While adding a bit of extra storage space, Rick decided to clean the bedrock for gold and sapphires while excavating the new garage floor next to the Pool House. Five ounces of gold came out of the parking area already. We await the yells of "Eureka". Do you ever get that "burrowed in for winter" feeling?



Sapphire mining came to a screeching halt with the weather change. The water pipes for mining are totally frozen and the lake is a sheet of ice. Our Elf Box special was great fun for the Christmas customers. According to Sylvia from Griffin, Georgia: *“I have ordered from you several bags of sapphire gravel and we have had the most fun and found lots of sapphire and garnets.. we had a few cut and faceted.. we have been very pleased. I am thinking of ordering some for our large family Easter Hunt..... but I would like to know if you could make a pretty good deal on some cut small sapphires or garnets to add to the hunt for a lot of great grand children... or do you have a package that might fit what we may need... right now I'm just in the figuring cost and aren't quite sure how many I might need... I am thinking about 20. I thought maybe a large bag of sapphire gravel and then some to enrich the hunt for each child... so please get back to me.. My own grandchildren and I have had so much funwe want to share the experience.... so thanks so much!..Sylvia”*

There are numerous requests for enhanced sapphire gravel for entertainment or resale purposes. Bernie from GemsUSA is setting up a sluice box at the Tucson, Arizona show (Tent 2 at http://aksshow.com/html/floor_plan.jsp;jsessionid=kgf9zmw111?show_id=12, between Howard Johnson and LaQuinta on South Freeway-AKS Gem Show) to offer **Spokane Bar Sapphire gravel** in his show line. I decided to add a new product to our website at www.sapphiremine.com. It will be the **Guaranteed Spokane Bar Monster Mine – ENHANCED**. I have added \$30 to the price for a total of **\$150**. It is a 3.5 gallon, guaranteed gravel (a regular Spokane Bar Monster Mine with treated blue sapphire rough **added**) plus Enhanced with approximately ¼ cup of garnets). Hobby Boxes and Winter Garnet Gravel boxes are still available to order at www.sapphiremine.com.

Sylvia purchased some Gem Hunt faceted stones at \$5 each to add to her treasure hunt. The Gem Hunt is a fish tank of sand full of faceted gems here at the Gold Fever Rock Shop. You can order a random “**Gem Hunt**”, one gem for \$5 each. Faceted gems in the sand box include amethyst, citrine, garnet, ruby, sapphire, topaz, moonstone, peridot, opal, topaz, iolite, tourmaline, and smoky quartz. Sizes vary from tiny up to chunky. I am adding both the **Enhanced Monster Mine** plus a **Gem Hunt** selection on our website at www.sapphiremine.com. (while supplies last) You can add a Gem Hunt with any order for \$5 each gem. (Single Gem Hunt orders add \$10 postage and insurance).



Message from Elliott Sher's Faceting Service:
Dear clients, your donations to Thailand's recovery from the disasterous Tsunami is needed. The country also need you to visit Thailand this winter to help maintain the tourism industry. Millions of Thai people rely on tourism for their livelihood. As most of you know I have been visiting Thailand since opening my factory there in the spring of 1982. I now have a large Thai vocabulary. I have been attending a Thai Monastery in my county, for many years, to

become literate. If you would like to make a donation please send them to me made to

Atammayatarama Buddhist Monastery. I am there every Friday afternoon for language class when I am not working for our Seahawks foot ball team at Qwest Field in Seattle. The people of Thailand thank you for your generosity. Sincerely E. S. " Rocky" Sher. PO Box 6041 Bellevue WA 98008 206-464-3010 essher@hotmail.com. Please visit www.atamma.org. This is the monasteries website.

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