

Spokane Bar Sapphire Mine & Gold Fever Rock Shop

End of March , 2006

A normal spring snowstorm closes Interstate 15 into Helena, Montana. The blinding blizzard obliterated the road making driving dangerous at best.

We mined just enough sapphire gravel at the Spokane Bar Sapphire Mine in between storms – to take off the “sold out” banner on the website. Supplies are limited – but for those of you that have noticed our website – phone orders and Internet orders are ramping up. The Travel Channel has expressed interest in filming the sapphire mine as a travel destination for treasure hunters. Order your sapphire gravel containers before the rush!

Mr. Griffin sent his fourteen-carat rough sapphire to Deb to look at that he found in his last El Dorado Monster Mine order at Christmas time. The rough piece does have some cracks and inclusions but grinding those away, should be able to salvage a two-carat gem.



The sapphire mine staff have been busy repairing equipment. Mechanical failures every spring inspire thought. Ice comes and goes on the lake, engulfing the foot valve below the pump.

Here is a quote from Coarse Gold of Montana, currently in editing mode and published version soon to be available. Of course Deb said the same thing about the books progress two years ago. After loosing and retyping the entire document three times, it really does exist – finally:

“...the old miners left tailing piles in a concave shape. One can determine the direction the dredge traveled by looking at the piles. This is very important that you know what direction any dredge traveled while metal detecting. This will determine which side of the pile to detect. If the dredge left concaved shaped piles it means it traveled away from the inside of the concave. The important point here is that when the discharged material fell off the end of the conveyor stacker, the material divides itself. The coarser material always falls away from the dredge and the finer material fell in the pile to the inside toward the dredge. One side will always have boulders and cobbles while the other will have finer gravel. It is always true this is on the inside of the pile, and this is where you want to detect with a metal detector.”

Many secret gold mining techniques and areas to search for gold nuggets are uncovered in the book. The author will also be revealed, though you may need to read the book or be close to the source to know the mystery.

Deb returned January 20 from five and a half months in New Orleans as a FEMA Housing Inspector. Conditions in the New Orleans area surpassed all birds-eye news reports. The massive area of devastation, ghostly vacant, started a trickle of returning homeowners. Most homeowners did not want to return but chose to tackle cleanup versus paying their mortgage plus rent elsewhere. Downed power lines still crossed roads in residential neighborhoods.



We now have both small and large sapphire screens in stock plus gem pickup tools. Guaranteed Monster Mines or Enhanced Monster Mines are popular choices for entertaining groups (with more gems found). Schools order sapphire gravel from the Spokane Bar Sapphire Mine as the mix of geologically significant minerals is a fun learning experience and the value of the sapphires and other gems generates enthusiasm.

Our special this newsletter, good until April 30, is one **FREE GEM HUNT** with every **TWO Monster Mine** orders. Be sure and mention the special with your orders. Order from our website at www.sapphiremine.com or by phone 1-877-dig gems (**1-877-344-4367**).

Sincerely,

Sincerely,

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

1-877-dig gems

<http://www.sapphiremine.com>

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