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June 2022 Volume 50, Number 6



THE ALASKA MINER

Journal of the Alaska Miners Association



***Mining Day '22 Celebration:
Together Again in Fairbanks!***

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*Comparison of Cummins engine configuration against EX1200-6.

Dear Miners, Members, Supporters and Friends:

This is one of the most fun Alaska Miner Journals we have put together in a while. Just look at the photos of people, gathered together, in the same room, doing a celebration!

I lost track of how many times I said and heard, "It is so great to be doing this again" on Alaska Mining Day.

The more than 200 attendees of our educational presentations, luncheon where we were all guests of the Fairbanks Chamber, and the party, had a fantastic time learning current issues and updates, celebrating achievements and catching up with old friends who are family.

We initially set out to hold an event similar to that done in Anchorage in 2019, a party with a few short remarks and more focused on networking. However, following a two-year absence of events and having a lot of good stories to tell, the staff, board and planning committee quickly realized Alaska Mining Day 2022 needed to be bigger.

Who you won't see much of in the photos throughout this issue are Dave "Zoom" Szumigala, Vanessa Larimer, Dave Larimer, Lisa Herbert, Jamie Marunde, Jen Wieland, Wendie MacNaughton, Rick Solie, Ken Hall, Dave Hoeffel, Brenna Schaaake, Anna Atchison, Bartly Kleven, Jennifer Luiten and Darlene Strickland.

The staff and Planning Committee of Alaska Mining Day 2022 in Fairbanks worked hard behind the scenes not just that day, but for weeks beforehand,



bringing us the perfect event. I was frequently and repeatedly amazed by what this group came up with. From brainstorming the perfect event, location and topics of interest that comes from a love of their community of Fairbanks, to the menial and labor-intensive tasks leading up to event deployment, to the day of just making

things run smoothly. I can honestly say this is one of the best groups I've ever worked with.

I'll never forget Zoom sending 3 a.m. emails, Dave and Vanessa wheeling carts and carts full of supplies, Lisa crawling underneath a table to get the audio visuals to work. There is no task that you could throw at this committee that it wouldn't conquer. So, while they are not in photos and you may not have even had a chance to say hi to them that day, I really hope you will reach out to them and thank them for their efforts.

Alaska Mining Day in 2022 was a great success and the kind of kick-start we needed to begin this summer and keep up the strong advocacy to protect and grow our industry.

We showcased our industry's tremendous benefits to Alaskans and our communities, boasted about our exemplary safety and environmental record, and shared the educational and workforce development opportunities that lie ahead. These bright lights set the stage as to why we need more mining to supply the world with the minerals we will increasingly need more of, and all the great reasons that mining should be done right here in Alaska.

Thank you to ALL of you who planned, attended, sponsored, spoke and participated in Alaska Mining Day!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D. Skibinski".

Deantha Skibinski, Executive Director

The Alaska Miner is the official journal of the Alaska Miners Association, published eight times a year exclusively to our members.

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We actively seek contributions from our members and the mining industry. Please email story ideas and photos to Lee Leschper.

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Alaska Mining Day 2022 Celebration in Fairbanks



AMA would like to thank every one of the participants who attended the 10th annual Alaska Mining Day celebration May 10 in Fairbanks! The in-person event included speakers detailing the numerous impacts of Alaska mining at both the state and federal levels, and even on a global scale. AMA is grateful for your support of events like Mining Day that help shine a spotlight on just how vital mining is here and abroad. We're looking forward to more in-person gatherings this year!





Alaska Mining Day 2022 Celebration in Fairbanks





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In Memoriam: Members We've Lost Since 2020

At Mining Day on May 10 in Fairbanks, there was a table set with a single chair and mining gear, in honor of the miners and AMA members who have passed away in recent years.

It is a tradition we plan to continue in the future, in respect and appreciation for them and their contribution of Alaska mining.

A partial list of members we have lost in the past three years includes:

2020

Roger Jenkins

2021

Paul Richards

Deryl Box

Jenny Hawley

Russell Babcock

Gail Phillips

Cynthia Toohey

Deborah Kendrick

Don Mullikin

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Dunleavy Sees Bright Alaska Mining Future

By Shane Lasley, North of 60 Mining News

"We truly have a bright future for mining in the state if we are allowed to pursue it."

That was the message Alaska Gov. Mike Dunleavy delivered to the more than 250 people that gathered to celebrate the 10th anniversary of Alaska Mining Day.

While commemorating the intrepid pioneers that first ventured North in pursuit of Alaska's rich mineral potential and celebrating the mining's current contributions to the state's economy, Dunleavy said the state's mining sector's future is being held back by a federal government that ironically is in need of Alaska's abundant natural resources.

A preliminary look at a report being prepared by the McKinley Research Group shows that Alaska's mining industry injected more than \$2 billion into the state economy during 2021.

Commissioned by the Alaska Miners Association and Council of Alaska Producers, "The economic benefits of Alaska's mining industry" report found that nearly half of the mining money injected into the state's economy goes directly into the pockets of Alaskans. According to the

report, \$985 million in wages were paid to some 10,800 people either working directly on Alaska mining projects or in service, supply, and other jobs induced by the sector.

The average wage for those working directly for Alaska's mining operations was roughly \$130,000, providing hefty paychecks to workers that live in 95 communities across the state.

In addition, mining and mineral exploration projects spent \$640 million for goods and services provided by more than 400 Alaska businesses; paid \$161 million in royalty payments to Alaska Native corporations; paid \$83 million in state mining licenses, taxes, rents, royalties, and other fees; paid \$44 million in local taxes and payments; gave \$3.3 million in donations to around 250 Alaska non-profits; and invested \$1.1 million to support education in the state.

"These numbers are impressive, but even more impressive is our potential," said Gov. Dunleavy.

"We have so much to offer — we have the richest graphite project in the country, Graphite One on the Seward Peninsula; we have a rich copper-cobalt prospect at Bornite in the Ambler Mining District; at Bokan Mountain, we know we have many of the rare earth elements required for our high-tech society; Donlin will be one of

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the biggest producers of gold in the world once it starts to operate,” he continued.

The cobalt, copper, graphite, and rare earths touted by the governor are critical to the electric vehicles and renewable energy infrastructure required for the low-carbon energy future envisioned by the Biden administration.

The World Bank estimates that roughly 550 million tons of copper will be needed for low-carbon technologies such as wind turbines, solar panels, and electric vehicles over the next 25 years, which is roughly equivalent to the total copper mined globally since the dawn of the Bronze Age some 5,000 years ago.

In addition, roughly 1.6 billion lb of cobalt and 8.6 billion lb of graphite, which is roughly four times the total amount mined globally last year, along with 360 million lb of rare earths, will be needed each year to hit the EV sales benchmarks set by global governments and automakers.

Despite this critical need, there was no graphite or cobalt mined in the U.S. last year and the mixed rare earth products produced in California had to be shipped to China where they were separated into the individual

The 2022 report by the McKinley Research Group shows that Alaska’s mining industry injected more than \$2 billion into the state economy during 2021.

- *\$985 million in wages were paid to 10,800 people*
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- *\$1.1 million to support education in the state*

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elements needed for EVs, wind turbines and other high-tech applications.

Dunleavy said graphite, cobalt, rare earths and other minerals needed for the White House energy policies could be produced in Alaska without the environmental and human rights concerns that are imported with these materials sourced from places like China and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

"If you want to protect the environment, you do it here in America, and if you really want to protect the environment, you do it here in Alaska," he said. "Alaska would be better off for it, the world would be better off for it, and we will improve our national security."

Earlier this year, federal agencies filed a motion to rescind the permits for the Ambler Access Project and suspended the right-of-way across 25 miles of federal land needed for this proposed 211-mile road to the Ambler Mining District, a region of Northwest Alaska enriched with copper, cobalt, zinc, and other minerals critical to the Biden administration's energy and infrastructure initiatives.

"Rather than encourage and support development in places like the Ambler District, the Biden administration is trying to stop it," Dunleavy said.

White House efforts to stop natural resource development in Alaska prompted the governor to establish the Statehood Defense initiative, which was funded by state legislators last year.

Alaska's mines and mineral exploration projects employed residents from 95 communities across the state.

"We shouldn't have to spend millions of our own dollars fighting our own federal government," Dunleavy said, likening the efforts to stop Alaska resource development to sanctions on the state.

"I prefer to have a federal ally instead of an adversary, but this is where we are at," he added.

Toward the goal of building a reluctant alliance, the governor's office hopes the White House gets the message that President Biden's renewable energy and EV ambitions need the cobalt, copper, graphite, rare earths, and other minerals Alaska's mining sector has to offer.

"We are going to do everything we can to support you because your industry produces jobs, opportunity, creates wealth and revenue for the state of Alaska," he told the crowd gathered in Fairbanks to celebrate the 10th anniversary of Alaska Mining Day.

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HEALY — Usibelli Coal Mine sadly announces the passing of Joseph E. Usibelli, chairman of the company's board of directors. Mr. Usibelli passed away after a long-term illness on May 12, 2022, in Tucson, Arizona, with his wife Peggy Shumaker by his side. Mr. Usibelli was 83.

"My dad was a visionary and a pioneer in Alaska's mining industry," said Joe Usibelli Jr., president of Usibelli Coal Mine. He was known for his ingenuity, generosity, and his deep love for his family, employees, and community. Together, we mourn his loss."



Joe Usibelli was born on December 28, 1938, in Suntrana, Alaska to Emil and Rose Usibelli. He became president of Usibelli Coal Mine at the age of 25 after his father, Emil Usibelli, passed away unexpectedly in 1964. Joe would serve as the mine's president until 1987. During his tenure, Mr. Usibelli initiated the modernization of the mine's equipment,

"My dad was a visionary and a pioneer in Alaska's mining industry. He was known for his ingenuity, generosity, and his deep love for his family, employees, and community. Together, we mourn his loss."

**— Joe Usibelli Jr.,
President of Usibelli Coal Mine**

introduced new mining techniques, and implemented a successful land reclamation program.

In 1987, after announcing that his son, Joe Usibelli Jr., would assume the position of president, Mr. Usibelli went on to serve as chairman of the board of directors until his passing.

Mr. Usibelli is survived by his wife, Peggy Shumaker; his sister Rosalie Whyel; six children (Joe Usibelli Jr., Cathy Usibelli, Mitch Usibelli, Anna Tavener, Rob Usibelli, and Sean Usibelli); 10 grandchildren, three nieces, and a nephew; and three great-nieces and nephews.

Details regarding the funeral and memorial arrangements will be forthcoming.

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Thank you to these companies, organizations and individuals who have pledged their support to AMA's Durability Project! Your Contributions are invaluable in helping to ensure the future success of AMA's mission and outreach.

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Pebble Partnership Comments About EPA Preemptive Veto

Pebble Partnership CEO John Shively released this statement about the Environmental Protection Agency plan to advance its preemptive veto of the Pebble Project:

"This is clearly a giant step backward for the Biden Administration's climate change goals.

"I find it ironic that the President is using the Defense Production Act to get more renewable energy minerals such as copper into production, while others in the Administration seek political ways to stop domestic mining projects such as ours.

"As we are still actively working through the established permitting process via our appeal of the Army Corps of Engineers permit denial, we oppose any action that is outside of that process. This preemptive effort is clearly a political maneuver to attempt to block our ability to work through that established process. Further, the Army Corps of Engineers published an Environmental Impact Statement for Pebble in 2020 with input from many

agencies including the EPA that states that the project can be done without harm to the region's fisheries.

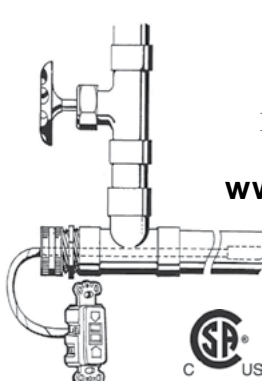
"The EIS further notes the tremendous economic opportunity the project represents for the communities around Iliamna Lake where year-round jobs are scarce, and the cost of living is very high. We still need an opportunity to review the specific details that will be in the preemptive veto action. It is also worth noting that there are several additional internal steps that the EPA must follow before anything is final including a public comment period and a decision by the Assistant Administrator.

"The Pebble Project remains an important domestic source for the minerals necessary for the Biden Administration to reach its green energy goals. If it blocks Pebble, it will have to seek minerals to meet its goals from foreign sources which simply do not have the same environmental standards as we do."



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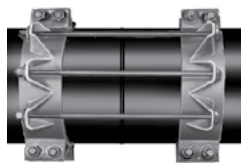
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Governor Sees Firsthand Impact of Mining and Petroleum Training Service



Gov. Mike Dunleavy, Jim Smith and William Bieber talk during the governor's visit to the Mining and Petroleum Training Service underground facility. The governor also was on hand to attend a graduation ceremony for students in the program.

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FEATURED PHOTOS: Gold Buyers of Alaska Miners Dinner



In May, the Gold Buyers of Alaska hosted their seventh Annual Miners Prime Rib Dinner at a local favorite spot, the Turtle Club in Fox, Alaska. The event is a chance for gold miners from around Alaska to come together for an evening of good food and fun times with fellow miners and friends. Lee and Melinda St. Pierre, owners of GBA Assaying & Refining, welcomed more than 180 guests to dine and toast the new mining season of 2022. This occasion is a great opportunity for miners to see each other one last time before everyone heads out to their mines across Alaska. Many won't see city lights again until after the first snow. The first event was inspired at the Alaska Mining Association convention at the Carlson Center in 2015. Lee enjoyed visiting so much he invited the attendees to dinner at the Turtle Club to catch up and share their stories, and GBA's Annual Miners Kick Off was born!





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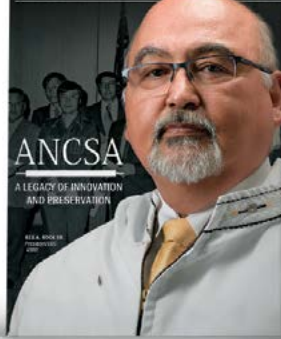


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Advanced Supply Chain International LLC	Colorado Mining Association	IBEW Local 1547	Prospectors & Developers Association of Canada
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AIDEA	CONAM Construction Company	Institute of Northern Engineering	Redpath USA Corporation
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Alaska Business	Construction Machinery Industrial LLC	ISCO Industries	Resource Development Council
Alaska Chamber	Consumer Energy Alliance	JCM Industries Inc.	Rotak Helicopter Services
Alaska Coastal Aggregates LLC	Contango Ore, Inc.	Juneau Economic Development Council	Roughstock Mining Services LLC
Alaska Commercial Fishing & Agricultural Bank	Cook Inlet Region, Inc. (CIRI)	Just Refiners USA, Inc.	Royal Gold Inc.
Alaska Forest Association	Craig Taylor Equipment Company	Kinross Alaska	Ruen Drilling Inc.
Alaska Frontier Constructors Inc.	Crowley Fuels LLC	Klondike Placer Miners' Association	Ryan Air Inc.
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Alaska Resource Education	Delta Constructors	M-W Drilling, Inc	Society For Mining, Metallurgy & Exploration
Alaska Rock Products Association	Delta Industrial Services Inc.	Madison Lumber & Hardware Inc.	Soloy Helicopters LLC
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Arcticom LLC, a BSNC Company	DXP Alaska Pump & Supply	Montana Mining Association	Swick Drilling North America
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Automatic Welding & Supply	Everts Air Cargo	NISS	The Alaska Support Industry Alliance
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City of Ketchikan	HDR	Peggy Petroleum Products	World Trade Center Alaska
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	Heliostar Metals	Petro Marine Services	Yukon Chamber of Mines
	HighGold Mining Ltd	PND Engineers Inc.	Zonge International Inc.
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Third Coal Classic Golf Tourney on June 30



Who wants to play golf in sunny Fairbanks this summer! The Alaska Resource Education 3rd Annual Fairbanks Coal Classic Golf Tournament Presented by Usibelli Coal Mine and sponsored by AMA and the Alaska Support Industry Alliance will be Thursday, June 30, at Chena Bend Golf Course in Fairbanks.

The Classic is one of the biggest events and fundraisers of the year for ARE, supporting the mission of educating young Alaskans on the real story and critical value of resource development in Alaska.

To register for teams and sponsorships, use online registration at: birdease.com/FairbanksCoalClassic



New and Renewing Members

Thank you to all the AMA corporate and individual members who joined or renewed their membership to the association in March and April. You make AMA possible!

Corporations

Alaska Railroad Corporation
Aurora Geosciences (Alaska) Ltd.
Colaska
Cummins Sales & Service
Fairbanks Economic Development Corporation
HighGold Mining Ltd
Metco Alaska LLC
Northwest Pump
Remote Site Services Inc.
Roughstock Mining Services LLC
Sealaska Corporation
Shoreside Petroleum Inc.
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James Dickey

Not yet a member of the Alaska Miners Association? Or have not yet renewed your membership for 2022? Renew today so you don't miss a single issue of The Alaska Miner or this year's 2022 Alaska Miners Handbook and Service Directory, available only to AMA members. Call or email Jennifer Luiten, Membership and Fundraising Director 907-270-9232; jennifer@AlaskaMiners.org.



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Alaska Mining Calendar

- **Juneau Gold Rush Days:** June 18-19, Douglas. More information: juneaugoldrushdays@gmail.com
- **Fairbanks Coal Classic Golf Tournament:** Co-hosted by AMA, Alaska Resource Education and The Alliance; June 30, Chena Bend Golf Course, Fairbanks
- **Southeast Alaska State Fair:** July 28-31, Haines, Southeast Alaska State Fairgrounds. More information: seakfair.org
- **Tanana Valley State Fair:** July 29-Aug. 7, Fairbanks. More information: www.tvsfa.org
- **Alaska State Fair:** Aug. 20-Sept. 5, Palmer. More information: www.alaskastatefair.org
- **Mining Day at the Fairs:** Tanana Valley, July 29, and Palmer, Aug. 20
- **AMA Annual Convention and Trade Show:** Nov. 6-10, Anchorage. Visit AlaskaMiners.org for more information.

AMA Branch Meetings

- AMA Statewide Branch meetings are scheduled bi-monthly through September 2022. These meetings are hosted on Zoom and take place at 7 a.m. Friday. For meeting schedule, please visit www.alaskaminers.org/ama-member-branches
- Branches are meeting in-person! For your local branch schedule, please visit www.alaskaminers.org/ama-member-branches or contact Jennifer at jennifer@alaskaminers.org for information


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