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March 2024 Volume 52, Number 3



THE ALASKA MINER

Journal of the Alaska Miners Association

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Dear AMA Members and Friends,

I've waited six years to say these words ... I can't wait to see you in Fairbanks this month! Yes, hard as it may be to believe, we last held a spring convention in Fairbanks in 2018, thanks to the complications and restrictions of the pandemic.

My friend Dave "Zoom" Szumigala, our Fairbanks chairman, on page 8 of this Journal provides a host of compelling reasons why you really do need to join us in Fairbanks March 25-29.

But here are mine: the Golden Heart City is just special! Fairbanks is friendly, unique, and so connected to the mining industry in Alaska. This is also a community-wide event, and our Fairbanks friends and neighbors join us and celebrate with us the contributions of mining in their lives.

It's a great reminder that even with the daily challenges and occasional frustrations, we are blessed to work in an amazing business, with the greatest people on earth, providing priceless resources and benefits to our state and our country.

Did you realize we are celebrating the 85th Anniversary of your Alaska Miners Association this year? Our forefathers in Alaska mining, in the turbulent days of 1939, were looking ahead to our future and the need to advocate for our industry in an evolving world.

Imagine what they might have theorized about the future we are living.

They might have guessed that a World War was coming, but could they have guessed a whole series of future regional conflicts would occur, that took American lives and resources and attention?

Maybe they dreamed about Alaska



Deantha with AMA President Lorali Simon and Rep. Tom McKay in Juneau for the Juneau Mining Forum.

statehood, but did they think about a future Federal government refusing to release its tight grip on Alaska lands or resources?

What would they think of 2024?! I can't imagine they envisioned drones, robotics, social media, or any of the vast changes technology has made in our lives.

But they clearly saw one certainty, which led them to establish AMA. They knew that if you don't tell your own story, somebody else will make one up. They also realized we'd only have the right to mine, and to provide for a self-sufficient Alaska, by fighting for that right. To this day, telling our own story remains our biggest challenge and opportunity.

It's been a whirlwind of a start to 2024,

but in a great way.

What a glorious few days we had last month for our second Juneau Mining Forum, History Night, and presentations to the Legislature! Many AMA members and interested state officials joined us to learn about Juneau's long and vast mining history, more than 150 years in the making, as well as the state of Alaska mining today.

We've made a couple of trips to our Nation's capital representing Alaska Miners both on Capitol Hill and with our National Mining Association. As much as we may be frustrated by Federal actions, it is more critical than ever to be present, to advocate for you and our industry.

Forty years ago, Sen. Ted Stevens, speaking at the first Meet Alaska presented by the Alaska Support Industry Alliance, said it's critical to keep educating the D.C. community: *"When the federal government becomes better informed about our nation's mineral needs and the role that Alaska can play in meeting those needs many of the federal problems facing Alaska miners should become more manageable... Working together we can make sure federal policy makers know the true story about the importance of Alaska's mineral resources...."*

Speaking of the Alliance, please make plans to attend the 40th anniversary of Meet Alaska on March 22 in Anchorage. Rebecca Logan and her Alliance team are great partners with us in advocating for you. It's going to be a super event about Alaska mining as well as oil and gas.

We'll have a lot more stories to share later this month ... see you in Fairbanks!

**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. It is published in partnership with the Alaska Miners Association by Fireweed Strategies LLC, 4849 Potter Crest Circle, Anchorage, AK 99516.

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

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Bridging Generations for Alaska's Mining Future

Dear AMA members, friends, and curious bystanders:

Welcome to the 2024 Alaska Miners Association Biennial Convention and Trade Show in Fairbanks!

It's been a long time coming to have all of you join us in the Golden Heart of Alaska for a mining convention. We were ready to bedazzle you with an outstanding array of events in 2020, only to be stymied by the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. No worries, we adapted and adjusted as Alaskans and miners.

Hosting the 2022 Alaska Mining Day in Fairbanks was a wonderful experience and made the Fairbanks AMA Branch members yearn to host another event. Well, here it is! Join us as we celebrate our 27th biennial conference.

We believe that anyone who wants to know about Alaska's mineral industry or interact with Alaska's mining leaders should be in Fairbanks beginning on March 25, 2024. We expect 600-700 attendees (help us



set a record by surpassing these numbers!) from across Alaska and beyond, and from all sectors of our industry, for a week of great networking events, a trade show showcasing products and services important to various mining industry sectors, and presentations important to Alaska miners. The Carlson Center will be home to most of the events.

Dave Larimer, the AMA Fairbanks Branch Chairman, gave you a lot of reasons in the Winter 2024 edition of The Alaska Miner for why you should be in Fairbanks in March. I'm not going to state those reasons again, but I do stress that

March is many people's favorite time of year in Fairbanks. The outside light is amazing during the day, and it still gets dark at night to participate in aurora borealis viewing. Check out the Explore Fairbanks website (www.explorefairbanks.com) for things to do while in Fairbanks and the aurora forecast website (www.gi.alaska.edu/monitors/aurora-forecast) for those possible spectacular late-night views.

Our convention theme is *Bridging Generations for Alaska's Mining Future*. We are dedicated to our current AMA members, and encourage and support responsible mineral exploration, development, and production in Alaska.

We recognize that mining in Alaska is essential for our State, and critical for our future. Our great mining industry supplies so many benefits to Alaska's economy and communities, and to the families working in and supporting it. We need to bridge any real or imagined gap between the generation currently working in Alaska's mining



industry with the next and future generations of Alaska miners. The things that attracted our members to mining should attract those future generations – high-paying jobs, great people to work with, providing critical and essential resources to America’s strategic industries, etc. AMA and its members are dedicated to attracting those future generations.

We are bringing the Young Professionals Mixer to Fairbanks after several successful events at the annual convention. Of course, we are putting a Fairbanks twist on the event. I’m not spoiling any surprises, so you will have to attend our event and see. You will also see students at the trade show, so please interact with them and excite them to be part of the future Alaska mineral industry. There will be plenty of other networking events throughout the convention schedule to help bridge those gaps between you and the next generation, the other mining sectors, your knowledge of the current projects, or knowledge of State and Federal regulations, requirements, and other policies.

Please check out all the various components of our convention and trade show. You can see those components in the following pages, as well as visit the Alaska Miners Association website Fairbanks Convention tabs (www.alaskaminers.org/fairbanks2024). We hope to provide something for everyone from Monday’s mine tours of Usibelli Coal Mine and Kinross Alaska’s Fort Knox Mine, followed by a town hall meeting for the Fairbanks community, through a bevy of short courses and curling on Tuesday, to the filled trade show, the Core Shack and Prospector’s Tent, technical sessions, opening breakfasts with the University and Mining Districts, luncheons with keynote speakers, History Night and the Mining Hall of Fame, to our closing Banquet and beyond.

Thank you to our sponsors and trade show vendors for your support of this event and the Alaska mining industry. We truly could not have this convention in Fairbanks without you. AND YOU! – the attendee. Your attendance is critical to our overall success. Please take advantage of everything that we have assembled for you.

Finally, thank you to the committee of volunteers, along with the AMA staff, that have been planning for months. I have been fortunate to work with them as they bring their talents, perspectives, and dedication to assembling a top-notch event. They have worked doggedly to provide you with a terrific experience. Please thank them when you meet them in Fairbanks.

I’m looking forward to seeing you in Fairbanks in March!

– Dave “Zoom” Szumigala
 Chairman, 2024 Alaska Miners Association
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This year's theme: Bringing Generations for Alaska's Mining Future
On the following pages find everything you need to make the most of our 2024 Spring Convention and Trade Show in Fairbanks:

■ **Trade Show, Page 12**

- **Mine Tours, Pages 14-15**
- **Schedule at a Glance, Pages 18-19**
- **History Night, Pages 20-21**
- **Short Courses, Pages 22-24**

All we're missing is you ... Please join us in Fairbanks!

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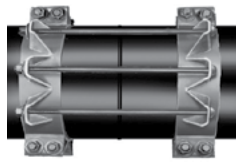
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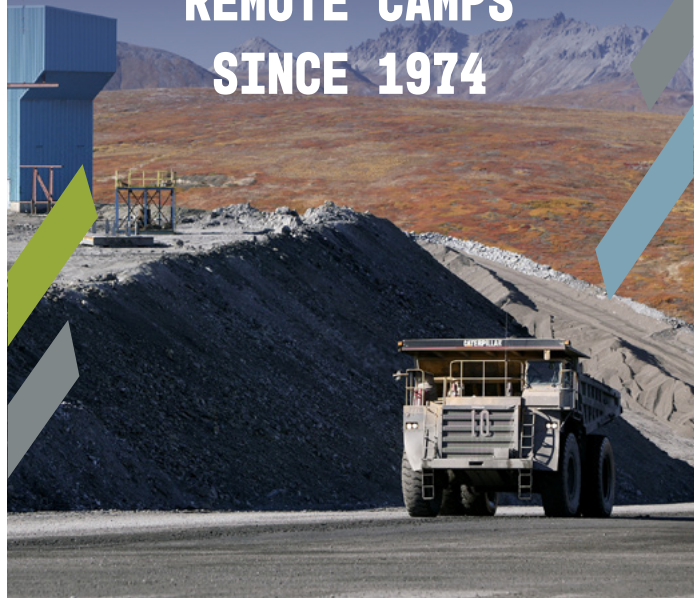
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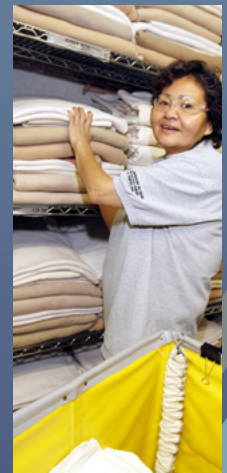
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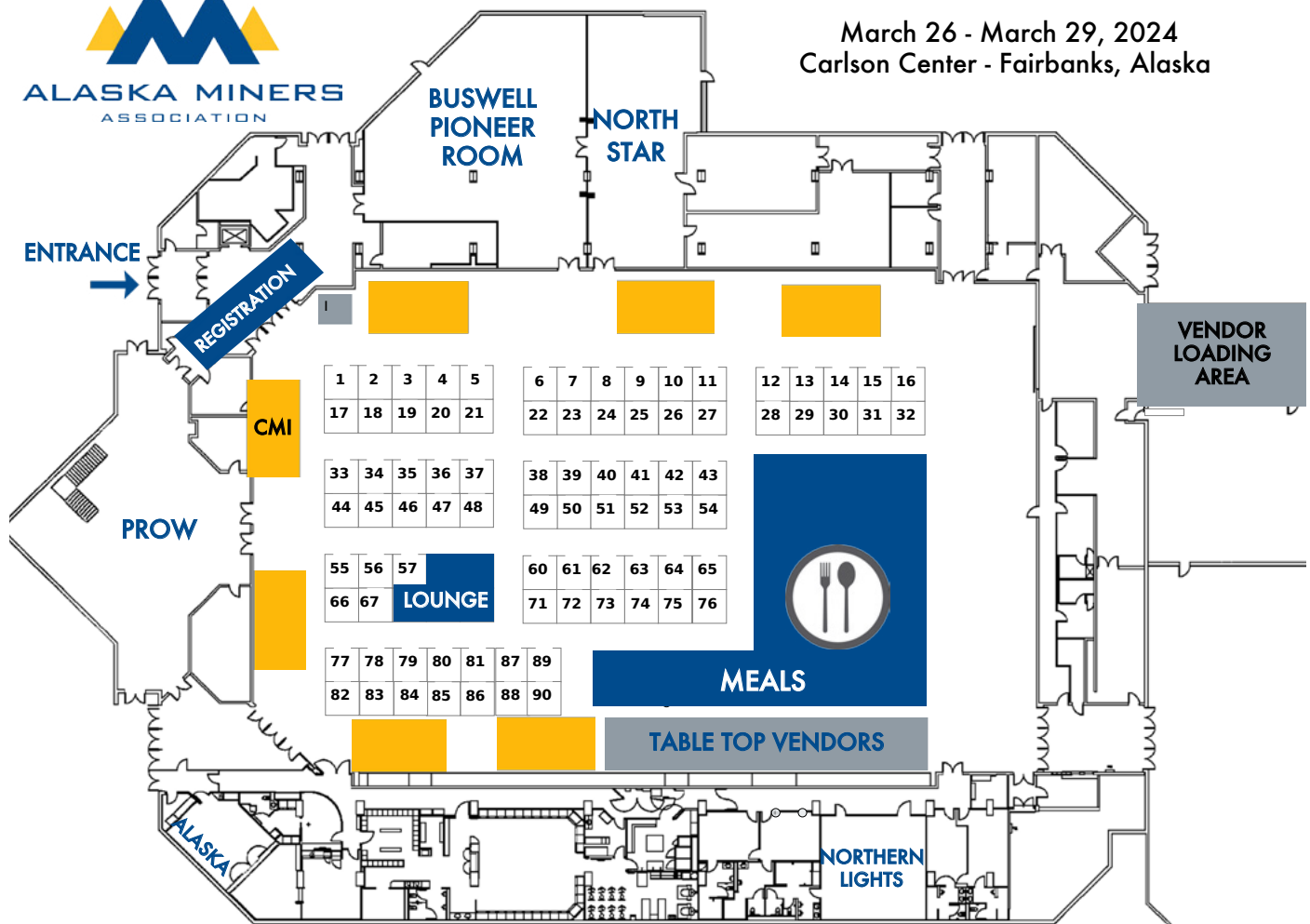
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3:30 p.m. Motorcoach arrives at Carlson Center

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- 2) 8:15 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. @ Carlson Center

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Gold Hits Record Price

From Bloomberg News

Gold prices have now set a new all-time high after speculation over a Federal Reserve pivot and geopolitical risks underpinned a rally in the precious metal.

The first week in March, spot gold rose as much as 1.3 percent to hit a new record of \$2,141.60 per ounce. US gold futures had a similar run, peaking at \$2,150.50 per ounce then falling to \$2,134.80.

Gold has added about \$100 in the past five sessions, fueled by a combination of expectations for monetary easing, geopolitical tensions and the risk of a pullback in equity markets.

According to Bloomberg, the scale of the recent move has surprised some market watchers, who said it may be partially driven by momentum,

The rising risk of a stock market correction — flagged by weak US manufacturing data on Friday — may have persuaded some investors to move out of equities and into gold, said Ole Hansen, commodity strategist at Saxo Bank A/S.

While the timing of the Fed's pivot remains uncertain,

signs that it's getting closer have supported gold since mid-February. Swaps markets show an almost 60 percent chance of a rate cut in June, a higher probability than early last month.

In the first months of this year, gold's role as a haven asset is being underlined by elevated geopolitical risks, with attacks on shipping in the Red Sea showing escalating Middle East tensions. China's economic woes and the US presidential election at the end of the year make it a potentially volatile mix.

"Speculation over a Fed rates pivot and continued geopolitical tensions keep gold shining," said Ewa Manthey, commodities strategist at ING Group. "We expect gold prices to trade higher this year as safe-haven demand continues to be supportive amid geopolitical uncertainty with ongoing wars and the upcoming US election."

Still, bullion has further to go to reach its inflation-adjusted peaks set more than a decade ago. It has risen more than 600 percent since the turn of the millennium, though adjusted for inflation it remains below the high of \$850 touched in January 1980, which would be equivalent to more than \$3,000 in today's dollars.



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TUESDAY MARCH 26		SHORT COURSES					
		VEND					
WEDNESDAY MARCH 27	MINING DISTRICT BREAKFAST	TECHNICAL SESSION	BREAK	TECHNICAL SESSION	BREAK	KEYNOTE LUNCHEON	
		TRADE SHOW					
THURSDAY MARCH 28	FRIENDS OF UAF BREAKFAST	TECHNICAL SESSION	BREAK	TECHNICAL SESSION	BREAK	KEYNOTE LUNCHEON	
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On March 27, The Alaska Mining Hall of Fame Foundation will induct three new mining pioneers at its museum on 406 Cushman Street in downtown Fairbanks.

The ceremony will take place 7-9 p.m. There is no charge for the event and the public is invited to attend.

Carl Gordon Parker was born Feb. 6, 1916, in Fairbanks, the son and grandson of Klondike stamperders. Carl graduated from the University of Alaska in 1939 with a BS in Mining Engineering, which provided guidance in his four decades of gold mining in Interior Alaska. By inducting Carl, the Foundation also honors many other members of the Parker Mining Family.

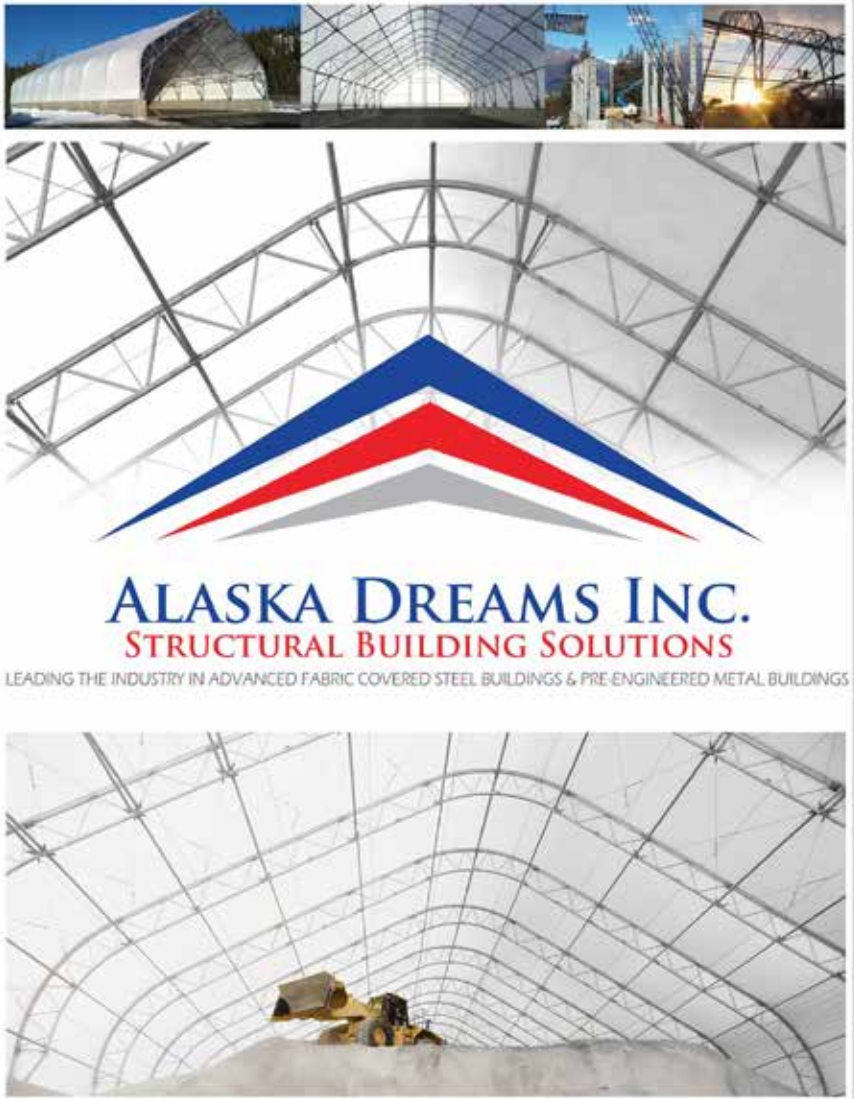
Walter Roman's extensive career spanned more than a half Century of mining in the Circle and Fairbanks districts of Interior Alaska. He was awarded the Alaska Miners Association's Distinguished Mining Service Award in 1985 and he continued to mine until his death in 1993. Walter discovered 'Blue Babe,' the famous mummified step bison now on display at the University of Alaska Museum of the North. The well-preserved animal was found when Walter was operating his hydraulic giant to remove overburden on Pearl Creek, a tributary of Fish Creek in the Fairbanks district.

Joseph Emil Usibelli was born Dec. 28, 1939, in a log cabin in Suntrana, Alaska. He attended a one-room school at Suntrana, Old Main School in Fairbanks, and the University of Alaska, earning a BS degree in Civil Engineering there in 1959. He was a crack shot on the first University of Alaska rifle team. After losing his father

to a mine accident, Joe took over Usibelli Coal Mine and is credited with streamlining production, upgrading equipment, developing new markets, and reclaiming mined lands years before it was required. Joe gave to the community of Fairbanks including

the University of Alaska Museum of the North at UAF, scholarship programs, and the Literacy Council.

Please join us for History Night, to honor these pioneers of Alaska mining.



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One of the greatest benefits of every AMA convention is the opportunity for incredibly valuable continuing education and refreshers through the short courses we provide. Please make plans to attend.

All short courses are scheduled for Tuesday, March 26, and will be at the Carlson Center. The courses are open to the public and will provide valuable information to any-one involved with or interested in the minerals industry. Registration required.

MSHA REFRESHER COURSES:

Surface and underground mining refresher courses are scheduled for Friday and Saturday, March 29 and 30. Registration required.

- Friday, March 29: 8 a.m.-5 p.m.: MSHA Surface at Carlson Center
- Saturday, March 30: 8 a.m.-5 p.m.: MSHA Underground at CMI Office, 2615 Twentieth Ave

SHORT COURSE #1:

Placer Mine Permitting 101

Tuesday, March 26 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

Topics to be presented:

- Overview of multi-agency Application for Permits to Mine in Alaska (APMA) and process. (DNR)
- Tips, Tricks and Timelines for Placer Mine Permitting (DNR)
- State Placer Mine Reclamation overview and tips (DNR)
- Placer Mining Wastewater Discharge Permitting (DEC)
- Wetlands Dredge and Fill Overview (USACE)
- Exploration Notices and Plans Of Operations (BLM)
- Question and Answer Sessions with presenters. (ALL)

Presenters:

- Dave Charron, DNR Mining: Placer Permitting Manager

- Nick Dallman, DEC Water: Placer Mine Coordinator
- James Whitlock, BLM Alaska: Minerals Lead

SHORT COURSE #2:

Mining 101: Overview of the Mining Industry

Tuesday, March 26 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

■ This one-day course will provide an overview of the mining industry, especially as it exists in Alaska. The course starts with a visual tour of a hard-rock mine. In six segments, the course will provide the student with an understanding of the exploration and development process, environmental issues, industry economics, the permitting/regulatory process, and public issues. The course is designed for participate in portions of the industry but would benefit from an overview, those who may one day work in the industry. It is also for those who are interested in natural resource and

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environmental policy that surrounds mining, and those who are interested in the issues of the day that one hears about almost daily on TV or in the press.

Presenter:

■ Bob Loeffler, Research Professor of Public Policy at the Institute of Social and Economic Research at UAA

SHORT COURSE #3:

Introduction to EPA Waste Management

MORNING SESSION

Tuesday March 26 8 a.m. – noon

■ The half-day Short Course, “Introduction to EPA Waste Management” is intended to provide the attendee with an introduction and understanding of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) waste management regulations and

its requirements. The course is focused on waste management regulations of Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) and portions of §260 - §279. The course also provides a review of waste management by experienced RCRA waste generating personnel. The course will provide a historical discussion of the RCRA program and why waste is managed today. Discussions of solid and hazardous waste definitions and how to prepare waste determinations in order to comply with waste management regulations that will assist the attendees’ organization for determining its waste generation status, waste accumulation time requirements, and an acceptable waste management program.

Waste types that will also be discussed during the course include investigation derived wastes, universal wastes, and used oil. Attendees will learn the

requirements of land disposal requirements and its purpose for waste material disposal.

EPA requires the EPA Uniform Hazardous Waste Manifest for shipping hazardous waste to permitted disposal facilities. U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) shipping requirements for hazardous waste will be briefly presented. The afternoon’s Short Course “DOT Transportation of Hazardous Material and Hazardous Waste” will provide detailed requirements for transportation of waste generators’ waste shipments.

Presenter:

■ Mark Huffington

SHORT COURSE #4:

DOT Transportation of Hazardous Material and Hazardous Waste

Tuesday March 26 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.

The half-day Short Course, “DOT Transportation of Hazardous



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Material and Hazardous Waste” is intended to provide the attendee with an understanding of the U.S. Department of Transportation, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (DOT) regulations and its requirements for shipping hazardous materials, hazardous substances, and hazardous waste (hazmat). The course is focused on DOT hazmat transportation regulations of Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Subchapter C and portions of § 171 - §180.

The course also provides a review of hazmat transportation by experienced hazmat shipping personnel. The course will provide a historical discussion of the DOT hazmat program and why hazmat transportation is managed today. Discussions of hazmat training, shipping papers, container types, container markings, container labeling, and transporter placards

will provide the attendee with the tools necessary to find the appropriate requirements for shipping hazmat throughout the transportation process.

EPA requires the EPA Uniform Hazardous Waste Manifest for shipping hazardous waste to permitted disposal facilities. U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) shipping requirements for hazardous waste will be more thoroughly discussed than what is briefly presented in the morning Short Course, “Introduction to EPA Waste Management.”

Presenter:

- Mark Huffington

SHORT COURSE #5:

Affidavits of Labor: Who, What, When, Where, Why, and How

Tuesday March 26 8 a.m. – noon

- This short course will cover

everything you should know about preparing and recording an affidavit of labor required to maintain all State of Alaska mining claims, leasehold locations, and mining leases under Alaska law as revised in 2020.

We will review the requirements for who to identify as owner and who can sign, what must be included, when labor must be performed and when the affidavit must be recorded, where the affidavit must be recorded, as well as carry forward and payments in lieu.

We will also cover common claim maintenance issues that arise and how to address or avoid them, as applicable. We will complete the course by putting this information into practice and preparing a mock affidavit of labor.

Presenter:

- Ramona Monroe, Steel Rives LLP

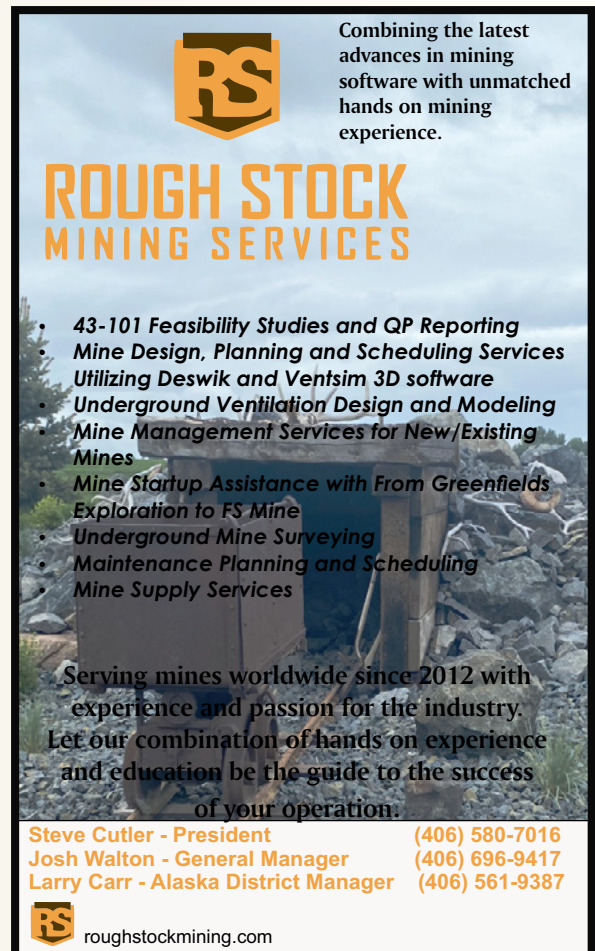


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The AMA Juneau Branch, led by Jason Hart, and Senator Click Bishop held a fantastic Juneau Mining History Night the night before the Mining Forum. Nearly 300 people learned about Juneau's past, present and future mining industry.

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National Mining Association Applauds End to Unlawful Coal Moratorium

The National Mining Association has applauded a ruling from the Ninth Circuit vacating a prior, unprecedented ruling from the district court, which manufactured a nationwide injunction against federal coal leasing unless and until the Bureau of Land Management completed an unnecessary programmatic environmental impact statement.

The Ninth Circuit agreed with the NMA, as well as the states of Wyoming and Montana, that the case should have ended once the challenged Department of Interior Secretarial Order was rescinded in 2021.

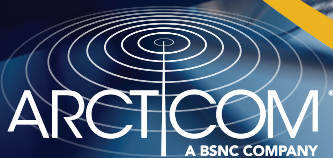
Rich Nolan, NMA President and CEO said, "This is a victory for American-mined energy, and we are pleased with the court's recognition of the need to dismiss this irreparably flawed ruling.

"With this ruling, important projects can once again advance and support the production of affordable, reliable power to the grid, while creating jobs and economic development across the country, helping federal, state and localities with necessary funding by contributing hundreds of millions each year in revenues to state and local governments."



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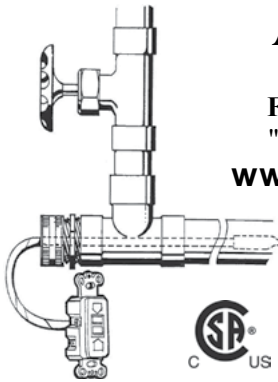
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Alaska Mining Calendar

- **March 22:** Alaska Support Industry Alliance Meet Alaska Conference in Anchorage
- **March 25-29:** AMA Fairbanks Convention at Carlson Center
- **May 10:** Alaska Mining Day
- **May 20-23:** Alaska Sustainable Energy Conference, Anchorage; alaskasustainableenergy.com
- **Sept. 24-26:** MineEXPO International, Las Vegas, Nev.
- **Aug. 4:** AMA's 85th Anniversary
- **Nov. 4-7:** Annual Convention and Trade Show, Anchorage

AMA Branch Meetings

- AMA Statewide Branch meetings have resumed! These meetings are held biweekly on Zoom. For meeting schedule and Zoom link, visit www.alaskaminers.org
- AMA local branches are meeting in person. Contact your branch chair or visit alaskaminers.org for your local branch schedule
- Contact Jennifer, jennifer@alaskaminers.org, with any questions.

Anchorage Branch Meetings

- Meeting dates are biweekly on the off weeks of the statewide Zooms. Meetings will be at noon at Gallo's Mexican Restaurant (upstairs) located at 8615 Old Seward Highway.
- Meeting dates are March 21, April 11, April 25, May 9 and May 25.

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