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December 2023 Volume 51, Number 12

THE ALASKA MINER

Journal of the Alaska Miners Association



**Convention 2023:
Breaking All Records!**



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Dear AMA Members and Friends,

This is such an amazing season for us, so filled with activities, gifts, and memories.

First there are the holidays to celebrate and to be thankful for our many blessings.

Then there's the joy and satisfaction of another great Anchorage annual convention in the books.

And there's the reality that in a few short weeks we will start another year in the never-ending adventure of Alaska mining!

First the thanks ...

I am incredibly thankful for the more than 1,250 miners and support companies who attended the convention, an all-time record! And thankful for the almost 150 companies who exhibited at our sold-out trade show.

If you attended, you know it's impossible to see and do and take in all of this biggest week in Alaska mining. There was so much to share from that incredible convention that there isn't room in this month's journal! So, watch for much more in the winter issue of The Alaska Miner magazine! Elsewhere in this Journal you'll see some of the highlights, including our 2023 AMA Award Honorees.

I'm thankful as well for our incredible convention committee, our team of volunteers, speakers, and presenters, and for our new board of directors who took office at the convention and for the next two years. Their dedication and guidance are critical to our success.

I hope you met Carin Currier, our



new projects and communications manager, at the convention! She technically hadn't even started work for us but pitched right in to help things run smoothly.

She's just settling into her new and significant role, to help us connect and communicate better with you, our members. Please reach out to her by email or phone and help us welcome her. She is a born-and-raised Alaskan who looks to tackle this key responsibility with her natural energy and great skills. Read more about her in this Journal.

If you haven't done so already, please also respond to our convention survey, to let us know what we can do better for 2024. We know we can always improve.

And now to the challenges ahead ...

As you read this, we are in the final days of the comment period on the EIS critical to construction of the Ambler Road. The final deadline is Dec. 22. There has been a vast amount of misinformation and negative comments regarding this project.

Please take five minutes from your busy holiday schedule to go online and offer your support for this critical project, which is important to the future not just

of the projects this road will open up, but to the future of mining in Alaska. Your voice is critical to this process.

There are three options for submitting comments:

■ Provide verbal comments at a Public Meeting/Hearing

■ Online: www.blm.gov/AmblerRoadEIS

■ Mail or hand deliver to: BLM Fairbanks District Office, ATTN: Ambler Road Scoping Comments, 222 University Ave., Fairbanks, AK 99709

Please also add a couple of key dates to your personal 2024 calendar:

■ March 26-29 we will return to Fairbanks for our first spring convention since before the pandemic. It'll be a great celebration of Alaska mining with special focus on the Interior.

■ Dec. 31 is our deadline for advertising in the 2024 Alaska Miners Handbook and Service Directory. Please contact our Publisher Lee Leschper for advertising in the Handbook (and our Journal and Alaska Miner Magazine) at Lee.Leschper@FireweedStrategies.com.

Contact Darlene Strickland (darlene@alaskaminers.org) for updates to your listings as well as renewing your membership (remember only current members are included)!

Please have a safe Merry Christmas and joyous New Year!

**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.

Advertising Rates and New Tips

For advertising information, or to submit news, story ideas and photos, call or email Lee Leschper at 907-957-6025 or Lee.Leschper@FireweedStrategies.com

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A Convention to Break All Records!



The 2023 AMA convention in Anchorage broke all records set by previous annual conventions. More than 1,250 attendees enjoyed a full week of sessions, speakers, trade show and awards banquet.

Our sold-out Trade Show included 146 exhibitors and booths representing all sectors of the industries within and supporting Alaska miners.

Our Core Shack and Prospectors Tent also set records, with more than 20 projects and prospects represented.

And thanks to your generosity, we set an all-time record for contributions to support Alaska Resource Education.

Plan now for our 2024 annual convention Nov. 5-8, 2024, as well as the spring 2024 biennial convention March 26-29 in Fairbanks!

Watch for much more about this year's convention in the Winter issue of your Alaska Miner Magazine.





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In Memoriam: Mike Barton

Mike Barton, who served twice as the commissioner of the Department of Transportation during the administrations of Alaska Gov. Walter J. Hickel and Gov. Frank Murkowski, passed away Nov. 21 after a long illness. He was a longtime resident of Juneau and an active supporter of the Alaska Miners Association.

Born in Lincoln, Neb., Barton's professional career began in 1959 when he joined the U.S. Forest Service as a research technician, while pursuing his education at the University of Michigan. In 1961, he earned a bachelor of science degree in forestry, followed by military service in the U.S. Army. He completed a master's in forest hydrology in 1965 at the University of Michigan.

Barton's career with the U.S. Forest Service included work as a watershed scientist on the Superior National Forest, as chief of the Water Quality Section in the Eastern Region and Deputy Forest Supervisor of the Ottawa National Forest in Minnesota.

In 1974, Barton moved to Washington, D.C., where he held various critical roles within the U.S. Forest Service including water rights and water quality specialist, program evaluation and system development specialist, and director of watershed management.

In 1979, Barton's work took him to Juneau, where he served as the Deputy Regional Forester for the Alaska Region. He rose to the position of Regional Forester in 1984, overseeing the vast Tongass and Chugach National Forests, covering 22 million acres.

Barton received numerous awards for his exceptional natural resource management skills. His role as team leader on the National Fisheries Task Force was instrumental in revitalizing and strengthening the Forest Service fisheries program.



Barton played a vital role in the restoration of Prince William Sound following the Exxon-Valdez oil spill. As a founding member of the Oil Spill Trustee Council, he represented the Secretary of Agriculture in efforts to mitigate environmental damage. He also served on the Federal Subsistence Board, which established

the subsistence program for federal lands in Alaska.

Beyond his government roles, Barton was deeply involved in other organizations including the Society of American Foresters, the Soil and Water Conservation Society of America, the American Forestry Association, the American Fisheries Society, the National Woodland Owners Association, Ducks Unlimited, the Rotary Club and the Little League Baseball Program.

He served on the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority for five years and chaired the group from 2013-15.

In 1994, Barton retired from the U.S. Forest Service and was named by Gov. Hickel to be commissioner of the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities. Barton was later named commissioner of DOT by Gov. Murkowski. His guiding motto throughout his career was, "Never pass up an opportunity to take on more responsibility."

In addition to being a Rotarian, Barton was a longtime member of the Capital City Republicans. His widow is Sharon Barton, a longtime Juneau civic leader.



Miners for Generations

See You in Anchorage for Our Annual Convention!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Complete Annual Convention Details!
- Graphite One Building Critical Priorities
- Faces of Mining: Jeremy Whitmore
- Wins, Losses on Federal Front

Looking for a past issue?

Issues of The Alaska Miner and The Alaska Miner Journal are available online at www.alaskaminers.org/monthly-journal.

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TIME IS RUNNING OUT!

Are you in the newest Alaska Book of Mining?

We're about to close out the Alaska Miner Association's 2024 annual directory, the **Alaska Miner Handbook and Service Directory**.

With more than 216 pages of current contact information for AMA members, support industries, state and federal agencies, history, and much more, this is truly the Bible of Alaska Mining!

Advertising deadline is December 31, 2023, and ONLY current members of AMA are included. **Contact us now to confirm your directory listings.** (It's also the perfect time to finalize your 2024 marketing in the Alaska Miner magazine and monthly Alaska Miner Journal!)

Thank you for your support of AMA and our publisher, Fireweed Strategies LLC, so we can continue to share the good news of mining in Alaska!

Contact Lee Leschper, publisher
Fireweed Strategies LLC, Anchorage, AK

Lee.Leschper@FireweedStrategies.com 907-957-6025



Carin Currier Joins AMA Staff

Carin Currier has joined AMA as our Projects and Communications Manager.

At the annual convention, before her first real day on the job, you probably met or saw Carin already hard at work helping our members!

“My first few weeks at AMA have been nothing short of exciting and I am so eager to learn more about the mining industry. Starting my job the week of our annual AMA convention was a perfect introduction to this industry and everyone I met was so incredibly kind and welcoming. This made my first convention so memorable and I am already looking forward to next year!”

Carin was born and raised in Anchorage and left to play soccer at Hamline University in Saint Paul, Minnesota. She graduated in May 2023 with her Business Management degree. While in Minnesota, Carin was a photographer for her athletic department and managed her soccer team’s social media accounts.

After graduating, Carin drove 3,500 miles back to Alaska where she spent the summer paving driveways for her dad’s company, Currier’s Asphalt Maintenance. She started at AMA in November of 2023, and she is so



excited to learn more about Alaska’s mining industry while working as the Projects and Communications Manager.

In her free time, Carin loves to hang out with her dog, Cooper, take photos of Alaska’s scenery, play soccer and go to the cabin with her family.

You can email Carin at carin@alaskaminers.org.

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A number of Alaska mining superstars were honored during the annual AMA Awards Banquet Nov. 9.

- Corporate Member of The Year: Frontier Supply
- Environmental Stewardship Award: Bartly Kleven (above left)
- Hard Hat Safety Award: Hecla Greens Creek Mine
- Rock Star of Public Service (new for 2023): Sam Reves
- Volunteer Member of The Year: Traci Hartz
- Chuck Hawley Lifetime Achievement Award: John Shively

We will provide detailed recognition of each honor in the next issue of The Alaska Miner Magazine.

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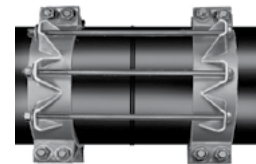
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Support of the AMA Convention not only helps us put on a fantastic event, but it is one of our largest fundraisers, meaning, support helps sustain our year-round mission. All the work we do — our comments and testimony, Action Alerts, advocacy events like Alaska Mining Day, Alaska Night at Roundup, Juneau Mining Forum, and the dozens of presentations

given throughout the year, and our social media presence — is possible through their support. Your generosity ensures we can advocate for Alaska's mining industry, and we couldn't be more grateful.

If you are appreciative of AMA's efforts throughout the year, please take the time to read the names of companies and individuals that make it all possible.

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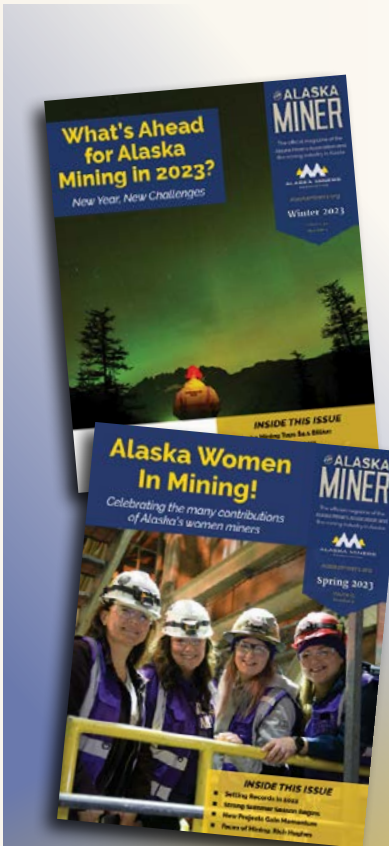
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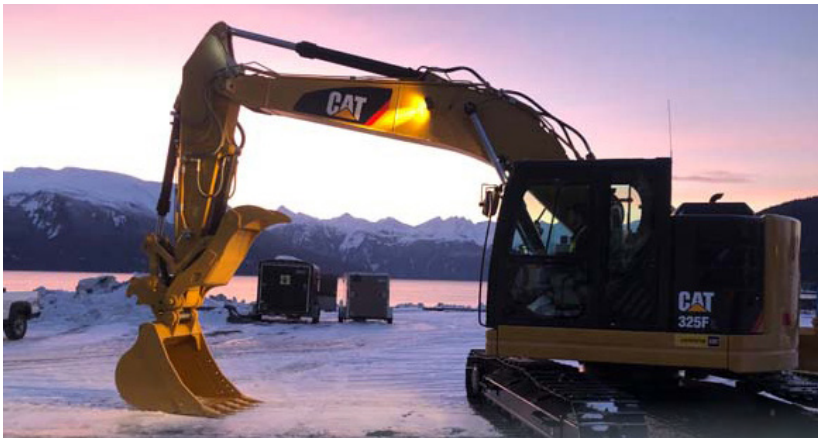


Congratulations to the Family of Our Newest Miner!



Photo Courtesy Taylor Burgh

Meet Alaska's newest miner! Conlan was born Nov. 14 to Alaska Resource Education's Taylor Burgh. Mom and baby are doing great!



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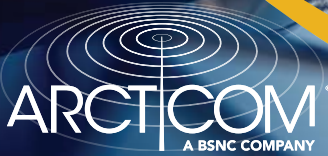
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We want to give a record-setting, sold-out biggest ever Thank You to all our 2023 Convention Trade Show Exhibitors!

The Trade Show is no doubt the foundation (literally, on the first floor) of our event, and the participation by our vendors brings a significant amount of revenue to the Association. They are the lifeblood of the industry's support needs for goods, services and expertise.

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We hope you also found that the booths have great swag, delicious food and maybe a Bloody Mary offering or two.

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- Sample Archive System, Inc.

- Samson Tug & Barge Co., Inc.
- Sandvik
- SLR International Corporation
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- SRK Consulting
- Stantec Consulting Services Inc.
- State of Alaska Division of Geological & Geophysical Surveys
- State of Alaska, DNR Division of Mining, Land & Water
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- Techline Alaska
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- Thyssen Mining Inc.
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- Triodetic Ltd
- TTT Environmental, LLC
- US Geological Survey
- Weir Minerals North America
- WSP
- Xerxes
- Zonge International Inc.

TABLE TOP VENDORS

- 49th Freight
- Advanced Supply Chain International, LLC
- AKHIRE, Inc.
- Alaska State Science and Engineering Fair
- Alpha Aviation LLC
- Baroid Industrial Drilling Products
- BGC Engineering, Inc.
- Cummins Inc.
- Desert Air Transport
- EnviroCon Systems
- IG Drilling
- Minto Development Corporation
- Momar, Inc.
- NASCO Industrial Services and Supply LLC (aka NISS)
- North of 60 Mining News
- Rain for Rent
- VIGNAL ABL USA Inc
- Women in Mining Alaska Branch

Honoring John Shively With a 'Family Photo'



When John Shively was honored with the Chuck Hawley Lifetime Achievement Award at this year's convention, all the AMA members who he and presenter Bill Jeffress have mentored gathered for this "family photo"!

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Thank you to the founding participants of the 2023 AMA Scavenger Hunt!



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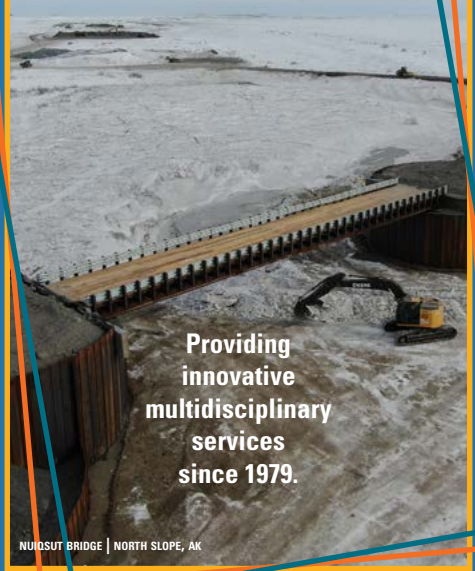
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Thank you to all the AMA corporate and individual members who joined or renewed their membership to the association in October. You make AMA possible!

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 Or have not yet renewed your membership?
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Alaska Mining Calendar

- **Jan. 24:** Alaska Night at Association of Mineral Exploration of British Columbia Roundup, Vancouver, BC; roundup.amebc.ca
- **Feb. 27:** Juneau Mining Forum hosted by AMA and AK Metal Mines, Baranof Hotel, Juneau
- **Feb. 27:** Legislative Reception hosted by AMA, Associated General Contractors, and Alaska Trucking Association
- **March 26-29:** AMA Biennial Spring Convention, Fairbank
- **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, 2024:** AMA's 85th Anniversary

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 www.alaskaminers.org for your local branch schedule
- Contact Jennifer, jennifer@alaskaminers.org, with any questions.

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