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August 2024 Volume 52, Number 8



**ALASKA MINERS
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THE ALASKA MINER

Journal of the Alaska Miners Association

Happy 85th Birthday, AMA!



**Thank you for celebrating with us!
See more photos on Page 4.**



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A Message from the Executive Director

Dear AMA Members and Friends,

I can't believe I am having to already write about summer in past tense.

An amazing summer it has been, full of events and travel and more than a few surprises.

There is joy in being busy and working for industry success, even if it does cut into fishing time!

Last month we were able to represent Alaska at the Montana Mining Association Annual Convention. I joined my colleagues from Mining Minnesota, Idaho Mining Association, and Wyoming Mining Association to present on our challenges and opportunities in common. It's always surprising yet humbling that every state is facing the same challenges when it comes to exploring, developing, and operating mining sites. We will again join these organizations and all of our western state mining association partners next month at MinExpo, to highlight the domestic mining industry.

On the national front, we are getting some long overdue attention on the ridiculous amount of time required to get a mine permitted and into production in the United States. Recently S&P Global investigated the time to develop mines in our country. The U.S. has the second longest mine development times in the world, at almost 29 years on average from first discovery to first production. Only Zambia takes longer.

We've been living this for sad reality for decades, but the new attention on mineral demand and their sources may finally be awakening the rest of America. If anything, it is encouraging to see an uptick in attention to our industry.

In that vein, the U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee has introduced bipartisan permitting reform legislation. A lot of great provisions are included for hardrock and energy permitting.



As recently stated in an opinion piece by National Mining Association President Rich Nolan: "Made in America means Mined in America." Let's hope the decision makers are finally ready to act.

It's a good reminder again that Elections Matter!

It's especially true this year with dozens of Alaska legislative races, our Congressional seat, and the Presidential election on our ballot. Not to mention two ballot measures, one to repeal ranked choice voting and one that is titled minimum wage but has dangerous provisions about employee requirements and the ability to educate your workforce on political issues.

During this election season Karen Matthias from Alaska Metal Mines and I will hold mining industry briefings around the state, in which we take the time to talk with candidates about the economic benefits of mining, the environmental and safety

regulatory regime, and other important topics. We have also asked all candidates to submit a profile of their priorities for Alaska and thoughts on Alaska mining, which will be featured in the fall issue of the Alaska Miner magazine.

This will also be a big year for our political action committee, AMAPAC, which works to ensure that candidates who share our mining values are elected to the Alaska Legislature this fall. Campaigning is challenging and expensive, and pro-mining candidates need our support.

We have a busy fall ahead, which we've kicked off with the 85th Anniversary of your Alaska Miner Association on August 4. Incorporated in 1939, AMA is older than our state and we are continuing every day with the same simple mission: protecting Alaska mining families. I am so grateful for the dozens of members and businesses who highlighted our anniversary on their social media pages, wrote articles and tributes, and attended our Anchorage event.

At the event, we watched the video produced at our 80th anniversary five years ago, where we interviewed many AMA members about our industry, association, and overall landscape of mining in Alaska. It was enjoyable to watch and observe the successes we've seen, but it was also a reminder that our work is never done.

We're looking forward and thick in planning for our AMA Annual Convention November 4-8 at the Dena'ina Center in Anchorage. We are expecting this will be one of our largest events, if not the largest, ever.

Remember when summer was our quiet time? Me either. I hope you have a wonderful last few weeks, and we'll see you very soon!

**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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Celebrating AMA's 85th Anniversary!



Happy Birthday to us!

On Aug. 4, we celebrated the 85th anniversary of the founding of your Alaska Miners Association!

We were established to advocate for the interests of miners and the mining industry in Alaska, in response to the challenges faced by miners as new Federal labor regulations threatened to add “one-size-fits-all” rules to Alaska miners who were already dealing with rugged terrain, remote locations and the demands of mining operations in harsh climates.

Mining is, has been and always will be a cornerstone of Alaska’s economy, from the first gold discoveries in the 19th century, to the 21st century future of critical minerals.

AMA continues serving three core missions:

- Advocate, in Alaska and in Washington, D.C., respectfully and armed with facts, relentlessly standing up for the truth of responsible Alaska mining.
- Educate, keeping our members aware of both challenges to our industry, as well as the newest cutting edge approaches in technology, safety and management.
- Network, connecting our members large and small, into the great wonderful family we are!

AMA has been a cornerstone of the mining industry in Alaska since its inception in 1939. Its role in advocating for miners, promoting responsible practices, supporting



Luther Hess, here at a mine site near Livengood, was the first president of AMA in 1939.

education and professional development, contributing to community development, enhancing safety, and preserving mining history underscores its value. We continue to play a crucial role in shaping the future of mining in Alaska, ensuring the industry remains a vital part of the state’s economy while adhering to modern standards of environmental and social responsibility.

Join us in looking back and giving thanks for the foresight of our founders, as well as the determination and dedication of our board, officers and members today.

And we’re just getting started!

Heather Nelson,
We'll Miss You!



Heather Nelson, Hecla Greens Creek Community Affairs & Engagement Specialist, has accepted a position with a mining company in Nevada close to her family.


For four years, Heather has been a dynamic addition to our mining family. She has jumped in to help ensure success at every available opportunity, be it community events in Juneau, AMA communications, planning for large statewide campaigns, and so much more.

Heather brings smiles to everyone's faces she is with. Heather, we wish you the best in your new adventure, and we hope we see you again early and often!

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In Memoriam: Fred Parady

Former Alaska Miners Association Executive Director Fred Parady III passed away unexpectedly on Sunday, June 16, 2024. Fred was AMA executive director from November 2011 to May 2012.

He was born on July 19, 1955, on Loring Air Force Base in Aroostook County, Maine, to Fred Parady Jr. and Jeannine Marie Parady. He spent his childhood living with his parents and two sisters on air force bases in the U.S. and overseas, before graduating as student body president and valedictorian at Lewis and Clark High School in Spokane, Wash.

Fred was a lover of life with a voracious appetite for knowledge and a photographic memory: from the Latin names of plants to the biographical details of everyone he met.

He graduated from the University of Idaho in 1978 with a B.S. in range resources before going on to receive an M.S. in land rehabilitation from Montana State University in 1981. Fred launched a successful career in mineland reclamation and mine health and safety that took him from Butte, Mont., to Wyoming, where his four daughters were born. While in Rock Springs, Wyo., Fred began his political career, serving in the Wyoming State Legislature. He married Dr. Lisa Skiles Parady and they built a strong family and political life together. Fred eventually served as the Speaker of the House and later as the Chair of the Wyoming Republican State Party. In these roles, he imagined and executed policies that would leave lasting impact on the lives of Wyomingites. Twenty years later, the legacy of his efforts remains strong.

In 2007, Fred and Lisa moved north to Utqiavik, Alaska, shortly thereafter their daughter Kaycee was born. Fred, Lisa, and Kaycee eventually made Juneau, Alaska, their adopted hometown. Fred thrived living at the foot



of the Mendenhall Glacier. He served as Alaska's Deputy Commissioner of Commerce for several years, absorbing vast amounts of knowledge about Alaska's communities, industries, and ecosystems. Fred delighted in supporting Lisa and Kaycee's love of the outdoors and animals as well as Kaycee's many academic and extracurricular activities.

He was a devoted father who could never say "no" to his daughters' request for another pet or adventure. In a true act of love, he recently even attended a Taylor Swift concert with Kaycee.

At the time of his death, Fred was the Executive Vice President of Huna Totem Corporation. Through this and other positions he held in Alaska, Fred made an undeniable difference in the state. He loved his work, but most of all he loved his family. Fred adored his wife and daughters and told everyone he met about them: from coworkers to taxi drivers. He was wonderfully emotionally expressive and known to cry at the drop of a hat when it came to his love for his family.

Fred is survived by his wife, Lisa Skiles Parady; daughters, Sarah (Chris Montville), Katelyn (Peter O'Dowd), Annalise and Kaycee Parady; grandchildren, Max and Marissa (Parady O'Dowd) and Imogen and Oscar (Montville); sisters, Kathie Heilsberg and Nancy (Darryl) Marcus; sister-in-law, Barb Robinson (Mark Miller); brother-in-law, Dave (Kerri) Phillips; and many nieces, nephews and friends.

In lieu of flowers, the family welcomes donations made in Fred's memory to the Juneau Animal Rescue or any organization that honors Fred's lasting legacy.



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Celebrating Juneau Gold Rush Days!



Photos Courtesy Juneau Gold Rush Days

Juneau Gold Rush Days 2024 was a huge success, bringing together thousands of Alaskans and visitors in June to celebrate our mining and lumber industry traditions and heritage. Alaska Metal Mines had a popular booth where kids could make a pet rock and operate a remote-controlled excavator while their parents tested their knowledge of Alaska mining with a tablet game.





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Book your Trade Show Booth! The Trade Show runs Tuesday to Thursday and is the best way to

reach Alaska's mining industry to showcase your products and services. Keynote Luncheons and other networking events are held in the Trade Show to ensure maximum exposure.

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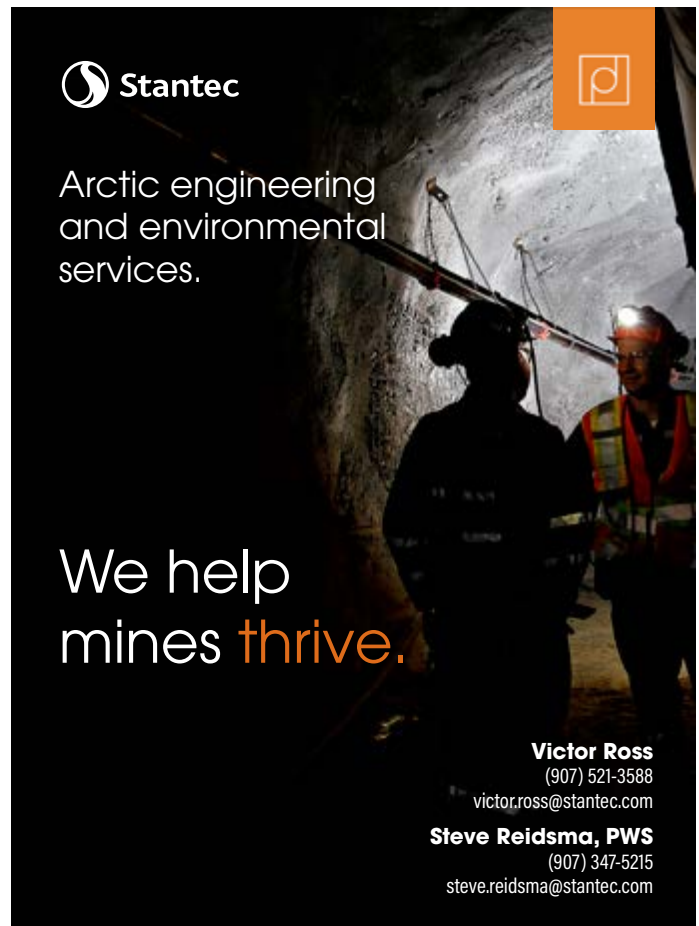


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Executive Director Deantha Skibinski represented the Alaska Miners Association on a panel at the recent Montana Mining Association Convention, discussing issues common to the mining industry in western states.



We Need You at Mining Day at the State Fair on Aug. 17!



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It's been a busy summer for Alaska Resource Education, using the break in classes to hold several fun events to help fund ARE's core mission educating Alaska young people on resource education. This included highly-successful Coal Classic golf tournaments in Anchorage and Fairbanks.

ARE is also excited to announce the award of a \$20,000 grant from Wells Fargo in support of educational outreach in the communities of Naknek and Kotzebue during the 2024-25 school year. Last fall, through an initial grant from Wells Fargo, ARE's STEM Educator traveled to Naknek to teach high schoolers, middle schoolers, and upper elementary students (left) about energy sources that help keep our communities up and running while focusing on electricity and its applications throughout their lives.

This coming school year, the team looks forward to returning to Naknek, and adding a trip to Kotzebue to teach additional interactive lessons.

This partnership with Wells Fargo allows ARE to reach more students across Alaska, especially those in rural communities who do not have as much access to these learning opportunities.



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

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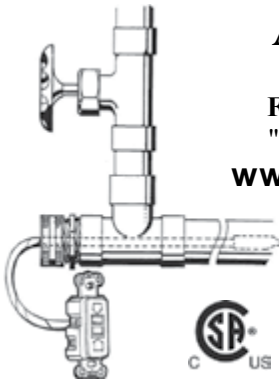
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- **Aug. 17:** Mining Day at the Alaska State Fair, Palmer
- **Sept. 24-26:** MineEXPO International, Las Vegas, Nev.; www.minexpo.com
- **Nov. 4-7:** Annual Convention and Trade Show, Anchorage
- **Dec. 2-6:** American Exploration & Mining Association Annual Meeting, Location TBD

AMA Branch Meetings

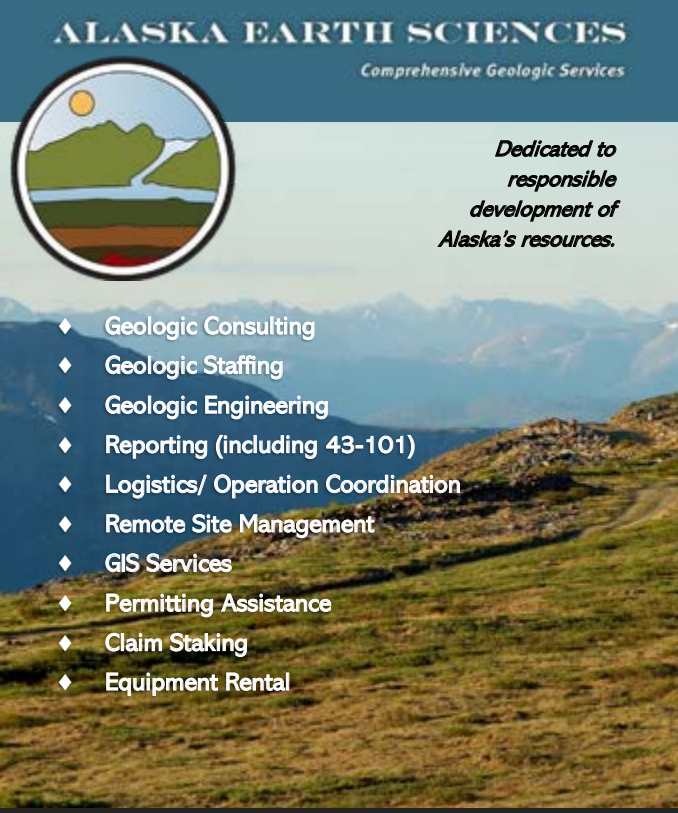
- AMA's eight statewide branches hold meetings either weekly or monthly throughout the year, featuring roundtables of agency updates elected officials, and presentations. Branches frequently break for summer - please visit AMA's website to see the most up to date information on branch meetings.
- AMA Statewide Zooms are adjourned for the summer!



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