



# *Mining History News*

Quarterly Newsletter of the Mining History Association

## **Mining History and the Mining Industry: Solid Ground?**

A friend, learning of my presidency with the Mining History Association, asked about my previous work in the mining industry. She and others are sometimes under the impression that MHA is a subunit of one of the professional mining associations. As I explained our independent status as a nonprofit membership organization (and shared that I had never worked in mining), it reminded me of the periodic questions we receive about the relationship between MHA and the mining industry.

Although we maintain no direct connection to the mineral extractive industries, we do benefit from many informal relationships across our two sectors. Many of our conferences include tours of active mining sites or historic sites on company property, with owner/operators waiving fees and/or providing expert staff as tour guides. Local firms often provide cash sponsorship for a meal or other components of a meeting in their district. And, of course, an important percentage of our membership is comprised of individuals either employed by, or retired from, a mining-related industry. This all reflects an implied acknowledgement that today's "mining" will be tomorrow's "mining history."

This can, however, present some challenges for our Association. Stepping out of the industry itself, we seek to preserve, explore, and share the complex and complicated history of mining in North America. There is no single "truth" about this history, no simple determinist narrative of its direction and outcomes, and certainly no easy assessment of whether mining is "good" or "bad." Rather, the substance of our conferences, our journal, our newsletter, and even our social media

content, all seek to tease out these varying threads and present them for open discussion and debate, and to use them to educate and inform.

This encourages us to remain attentive of any pro-industry bias (either conscious or unconscious) which may creep into our discourse. Yes, it's true that "if it can't be grown, it must be mined." But our work as historians neither asks nor requires us to be apologists or advocates of an ever-expanding industry with centuries of complicated history. In fact, it demands that we strive to be objective and equally expansive in the topics we engage – everything from company "biographies" to lasting environmental disasters, from the engineering of new extractive technologies to their impact on living wages and dangerous working conditions, and from the rise and fall of a specific district to its role in the push/pull of mass migration across our continent and the entire world. There is also a central irony across our two sectors that ongoing mining activity is often the largest threat to the preservation of historic sites from earlier eras.

The Mining History Association attracts a wide and varying membership. While some have a connection to the industries whose histories we study, most simply recognize the overarching impact that mining has had on industrial history, labor unionism, economic development, immigration, and the millions of individuals touched in some way by the output of mines over the centuries. While there are many aspects of this history to celebrate and promote, objectivity, self-awareness and conscious assessment of our own attitudes will help to deepen and enrich the outcomes of our collaborative work to come.

# Welcome to the 2017 MHA Conference in Fairbanks, Alaska

## INTRODUCTION

This year, the MHA is heading north to Fairbanks, Alaska, the first time our organization has been hosted in the Frontier State. The city of Fairbanks is intimately tied with mining history. Fairbanks was founded in 1901 as a supply post for miners en route to the Yukon fields, but gold discoveries close by transformed the fledgling settlement into the principal supply city for the interior, a function that it continues to serve today. The Fairbanks region saw the working of placer and lode gold deposits at small and large scales, with many aspects of mining still visible on the landscape.

The University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) campus is our conference venue for registration, accommodations, paper sessions, and the Saturday lunch. Situated on an elevated ridge, the campus offers stunning views of the Alaska Range on a clear day. Free shuttle services are available for transport around the campus, and buses also connect the campus to downtown and the Fairbanks airport.

This conference intends to offer up some unique Alaskan experiences, including a Friday banquet in an Alaskan roadhouse. We are delighted to include a unique site associated with the Fairbanks Exploration (F.E.) Company, a subsidiary of U.S. Smelting, Refining and Mining Company that conducted large scale dredging in the Fairbanks area between the 1920s and 1960s. Following the Saturday paper sessions, we will visit to the F.E. Machine Shop, constructed to maintain dredging operations, and where equipment remains intact.

The conference has two all-day tour options for Sunday. The first option involves a tour of the Fort Knox open pit gold mine and a visit to the Permafrost Tunnel, where the bones of Pleistocene-age megafauna can be spotted in the walls. The second option involves a visit to the Permafrost Tunnel and F.E. Company Dredge #3, and the F.E.

Company's Chatanika Gold Camp. Both options include a visit to a unique collection of Pleistocene mega-fauna, recovered by a mining operator working the area's gravel deposits.

We have a second day of full-day tours for those able to stay an extra day. For those up for a long bus-ride, we offer a tour to the Pogo Mine, an active underground gold operation. And for those up for a hike, we offer a tour out to key historic lode mines in the Fairbanks District (this will require that you have access to a car). Book your tickets, pack your boots, and see you up North!

Note that a light breakfast is included with the paper sessions for Friday and Saturday, and is included within the registration fee. On these days, a breakfast buffet will be set up in the Reichardt building outside of the Pearl Berry Boyd lecture hall. For Sunday, those wishing to have breakfast on the UAF campus can do so at an additional charge to the tour costs. Be sure to tick this option on the registration form as reservations must be made in advance. Sunday breakfast will be at Dine 49 in the Wood Center.

## ACCOMMODATIONS

Our accommodations will be at the University of Alaska Fairbanks campus dormitories. The rooms are simple, but do come with a choice of sleeping options that range from a single bed with a bathroom and shower down the hall to a two-bedroom apartment complete with a lounge room, kitchen (with basic utensils), and bathroom. All rooms come furnished with a chair, desk, and single bed(s). This is not a full service hotel where the staff will make your bed, but sheets and towels are provided. There is free Wi-Fi on campus. Laundry facilities are also included (you will have to purchase the detergent and do it yourself). Coffee makers are available only in the apartment units.

Room costs vary by arrangement:

Skarland Hall: “Traditional Style.” Single bed, bathroom down hall: \$38 per night. [<https://uaf.edu/reslife/hall/skarland/>]

Wickersham Hall: “Suite Style.” One bed, bathroom shared with another room: \$65 per night, or Double: Two beds, bathroom shared with another room: \$106 per night [<https://uaf.edu/reslife/hall/wickersham/>]

Cutler Apartments: “Apartment Style.” Two bedroom apartment (two beds per room), coffee maker: \$132 per night for the apartment. (So, if you team up with another person, that would equate to \$66 each, or with three other people, \$33 each, but one person in this group would still be responsible for the booking.)  
[<https://uaf.edu/reslife/hall/cutler/>]

Different room options also mean different locations on campus. Skarland Hall and the Cutler Apartments are located next to the Reichardt Building, where conference paper sessions will take place. Wickersham Hall is located farther east in the main campus quad, about 0.4 miles from Reichardt Building.

**Rooms will be able to be booked between March 1 and May 1. We will have a block of rooms booked for at least a day either side of the conference dates for those wanting to spend more time in the Fairbanks area.**

### Booking your Rooms

All bookings will be made online from the UAF Department of Residence Life webpage. Reservations can only be made after March 1, and through the Residence Life homepage (<https://uaf.edu/reslife/>), where you will see the “Summer Guests” tab from the menu at upper right. Note, you will select the rooms under Individual-Academic, and when entering your primary contact information, write **MHA Conference** for the query “Please indicate your reason for staying at UAF?”). This will allow conference services to better track our bookings. More details will be posted on the MHA website when this system becomes activated.

If you would prefer to stay for the conference in a full service hotel, Fairbanks has numerous options. However, do note that the UAF campus is located on the west side of town, about 3 miles from downtown proper.

### Food Service on Campus

The UAF campus is situated on a hill west of downtown Fairbanks. Information on restaurants in the vicinity of campus will be provided with the conference packet, but recognize that the nearest restaurants to campus will require walking about a 1/2 mile. As stated above, a buffet breakfast will be provided at the conference venue (Pearl Berry Boyd lecture hall in the Reichardt Building) on Friday and Saturday, from 7:00-8:30 a.m. in the interest of reducing travel time and allowing papers to start on time. Those staying on campus can also opt for a Sunday breakfast at Dine 49 (again from 7:00-8:30 am), located at the Wood Center in the main campus quad. Advanced reservations for Sunday breakfast are required, and come at an additional charge to the tour (if wanting this, please check the box on the registration form).

For coffee etc., outside of these times, Arctic Java, also located in the Wood Center, offers grab-to-go items ranging from fruit to pastries and sandwiches.

### TRANSPORTATION

#### Getting to Fairbanks by Air

Fairbanks International Airport (FAI) is serviced by three major domestic carriers (*Alaska*, *Delta*, and *United*) and an international carrier (*Condor*) that offers seasonal service from Frankfurt. The Fairbanks Airport is located south and approximately four miles distant from the UAF campus. A cab ride from the Fairbanks terminal to the UAF campus costs about \$20. The cheaper option, which will set you back \$1.50, is to take the *Metropolitan Area Commuter System* (MACS) Yellow Line bus. Yellow Line buses depart the airport at 12 past the hour, with service beginning at 7:12am and the last bus departing at 6:12pm. (There is, however, no service at 1:12 pm. The bus runs a more limited schedule on Saturday, and does

not run Sunday). The ride to the UAF campus takes approximately 15 minutes. [For more information, see <http://www.fairbanks-alaska.com/fairbanks-buses.htm#fares>]

### **Getting to Fairbanks by Other Means**

Driving to Fairbanks from the lower 48 states is an ambitious trek (the distance from northern Montana being 2,300 miles), but driving to Fairbanks from Anchorage will allow you to bookend the conference with a scenic trip past the entrance to Denali National Park. Fairbanks is 360 miles from Anchorage (approximately a 6 hour drive), and can be reached by car, bus, or train. Note that you may experience delays on the highways due to perpetual summer roadwork.

#### By Train

The *Alaska Railroad* runs daily service between Anchorage and Fairbanks. Northbound and southbound trips on the “Denali Star” depart at 8:00 am and arrive respectively in Fairbanks and Anchorage 12 hours later. You will be traveling in peak tourist season, so tickets are pricier—a one way trip on the economy class will set you back \$237. See the Alaska Railroad website for details <http://alaskatrain.com>.

#### By Bus

The *Alaska Shuttle* runs daily service between Anchorage and Fairbanks. Leaving Anchorage at 7:00 am, and arriving in Fairbanks after 4:00 pm. Fares cost \$99. See the Alaska Shuttle website for details. [www.alaskashuttle.com/parks.htm](http://www.alaskashuttle.com/parks.htm)

#### By Car

Several car rental and RV rental agencies operate in Anchorage but book in advance because rentals go quickly. Make sure to inquire about taking the car on gravel roads. Many rental companies do not allow their cars to be driven on unpaved roads.

Consider visiting the Usibelli Mine on the way up or down. This mine, located in Healy (north of Denali), is Alaska’s only operating coal mine. Tours are free but must be booked in advance.

For car travel, always keep in mind that the distance between destinations is often considerable and that Alaska also has a low population density. This translates to patchy cell phone coverage and long distances between road services. So, be sure to pack snacks and water, and take opportunities to keep the car fueled up rather than testing the limits of the gas tank.

Also purchase a copy of *The Milepost*. This excellent road companion provides detailed log each of the highways in the state, as well as land and ferry routes to Alaska. Highway logs include descriptions of towns and businesses along each route (sometimes with brief historical notes), in addition to noting rest areas, scenic viewing points, and other points of interest.

### **Additional Considerations**

#### Daylight Hours

Fairbanks has almost 22 hours of daylight in mid-June. The curtains in hotel and dorm rooms may not block out all of the light, so pack a sleep mask to cover your eyes if you need the dark.

#### Temperatures

Fairbanks temperatures in mid June range from the 50s to 70s. The days are typically warm and dry, but pack a sweatshirt or two and a raincoat in case of inclement weather.

#### Bugs

Alaskans joke that the state bird is the mosquito (it is actually the ptarmigan). You’ll find the cities and the UAF campus essentially free of this pest, but the situation can change when you are out in the woods. When going on one of the expeditions, wear a hat and long pants, and take along a long-sleeve shirt. You’ll find a range of mosquito repellants available in the stores, both Deet laden and Deet free. If selecting the former, purchase ones with 20% to 40% Deet--anything less just makes the mosquitoes angry.



## A BRIEF HISTORY OF FAIRBANKS

The city of Fairbanks is located in the heart of Alaska's interior, 358 miles north of Anchorage on the Parks Highway and 2,305 miles northwest of Seattle. Fairbanks is Alaska's second largest city (population 32,000) and part of the Fairbanks-North Star Borough (population 99,000). The town's history dates to 1901 when Captain E.T. Barnette established a trading post along the Chena River several miles upstream from the confluence of the Chena and Tanana rivers. In July 1902, Felix Pedro, an Italian prospector, discovered gold about 16 miles north of Barnette's trading post. The rush that followed brought hundreds of stampedeers to the area. Barnette convinced local miners to name the gold camp "Fairbanks," after U.S. Senator Charles W. Fairbanks of Indiana who became vice president of the U.S. under Theodore Roosevelt. The town was incorporated in 1903, the same year a post office was established, the Northern Commercial Company opened a branch store, and Fairbanks became the headquarters for the Third Judicial District of Alaska. A bank opened in 1904 as the population swelled to 5,000 people. The military built a trail (which became the Richardson Highway) connecting the town to an all-weather port at Valdez. During the next two decades Fairbanks served as the supply hub for expanding mining operations in the interior.

Gold mining in the Fairbanks district began with open cut methods (including shoveling gold-bearing gravels into sluicing boxes) and drift mining (sinking shafts to bedrock and tunneling to follow the pay streaks). The placers in the area are generally deep with gravel from a few feet to a hundred feet or more in depth covered by silt (locally called muck) up to as much as 200 feet deep. Most of the muck and gravel are permanently frozen. Fortunes were made from drift mining with production peaking at nearly \$10 million in 1909. As the rich streambeds were exhausted, production dwindled to around \$3 million by 1920 and Fairbanks was on the verge of becoming a ghost town. The first significant lode gold discovery occurred in 1908, and lode production began in 1911 on the Rhoads-Hall or Cleary Hill mine.

That mine produced over 280,000 ounces of gold before it was closed by the War Act of 1942. Other lode discoveries also were made in the 1910s. It appeared that lode production would surpass placer gold until World War I put the competition between "quartz men" and "gum boot men" on hold. Post war inflation, lack of equipment, capital and skilled labor in the 1920s retarded the revival of the lode industry, although many abandoned lode claims were re-staked during the 1930s.

Placer mining around Fairbanks experienced resurgence in the 1920s, driven by the opening of the Alaska Agricultural College and School of Mines (now the University of Alaska Fairbanks) in 1922, completion of the Alaska Railroad from Seward to Fairbanks in 1923, and construction of the Davidson Ditch, which brought large volumes of water 90 miles to enable large-scale mining activity. The introduction of huge dredges by the Fairbanks Exploration (FE) Company in the 1920s boosted placer mining by maximizing economies of scale and accessing deeply buried gold deposits. As Alaska's largest city, Fairbanks was the service and supply center for interior mining in the 1920s and 1930s.

Although mining was largely suspended during World War II, the construction of a major military base, Ladd Field (now Fort Wainwright), helped the city survive the war years. Placer mining resumed after the war, but tapered off in the postwar era as the fixed price of gold and higher operating costs cut into profits, resulting in the shutdown of large dredging operations in the 1960s. Lode development languished after World War II until 1972 when the price of gold was allowed to float on the free market. Fairbanks area miners invested over \$25 million in lode prospecting between 1975 and 1985 with little return until by City Gold introduced heap leaching in the late-1980s. Gold grades previously too low to be considered viable suddenly became profitable, and City Gold produced over 19,000 ounces of gold before decommissioning its mine in 1990. In 1987, lode gold was rediscovered on an old prospect on Gilmore Dome on what is now the Fort Knox Gold Mine. Mining resumed on the

prospect in 1996, which has become Alaska's largest gold producer. Innovations in geochemical and geophysical methods of prospecting and a State of Alaska program in the 1990s using airborne geophysical surveys to attract exploration spurred mineral prospecting for lode deposits at a record pace resulting in a second Alaska gold rush. These activities increased known lode reserves from less than one million ounces to over eleven million ounces worth an estimated \$3.5 billion dollars in 1997 prices.

In recent decades, placer and lode mining have played a significant role in the Fairbanks economy, along with military bases, oil development, the growth of the University of Alaska, and tourism. Over time, the Fairbanks district has been the largest gold producing district in Alaska. By 1995, the district had produced 8,022,434 troy ounces of placer gold and 304,548 troy ounces of lode gold. The large open pit lode mine Fort Knox located north of Fairbanks is one of the largest non-government employers in the area. Today, Fairbanks is the transportation and supply hub of the mining industry in interior Alaska. A number of tourist sites commemorate Fairbanks' mining history, including: Pioneer Park, the Chena Pump House, Chatanika Gold Camp, Eldorado Gold Mine, Gold Dredge No. 8, Ester Gold Camp, and the Davidson Ditch (located north of Fairbanks).

### READING AND REFERENCES

Terrence Cole, *Crooked Past: The History of a Frontier Mining Camp, Fairbanks, Alaska*, University of Alaska Press, Fairbanks, 1991.

Charles Caldwell Hawley, *Wesley Earl Dunkle, Alaska's Flying Miner*, University Press of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado, 2003.

Lael Morgan, *Good Time Girls of the Alaska-Yukon Gold Rush*, Epicenter Press, Fairbanks/Seattle, 1998.

Clark C. Spence, *Northern Gold Fleet: Twentieth Century Gold Dredging in Alaska*, University of Illinois Press, Urbana, 1961.

Catherine Holder Spude, Robin Mills, Karl Gurke and Robert Sprague, *Eldorado! The Archaeology of Gold Mining in the Far North*, University of Nebraska Press and the Society for Historic Archaeology, 2011.

### CONFERENCE EVENTS

#### **Thursday, Visit to Alaska and Polar Regions Collections & Archives, UAF Campus, 12:30 (Limited to 20)**

The University of Alaska Fairbanks opened in 1922 as the "Alaska Agricultural College and School of Mines." Like other mining schools, the college library became well stocked with mining textbooks and periodicals. The university archives also became a repository for a range of mining-related collections, including company records, historical photographs of mining operations, and film archives. The archive staff will provide interested researchers will a tour of the facilities and a highlight of some of the mining collections. Tour begins outside the Rasmuson Library on the UAF campus main quad.

#### **Thursday Opening Reception: Alaska Mining Hall of Fame, 5:00**

Our opening reception will be at the Alaska Mining Hall of Fame, located at 825 1st Avenue in downtown Fairbanks. The museum was founded in 2013, and for the purpose of honoring Alaska's mining pioneers. Inductees include famed mineral discoverers to educators, geologists, engineers, as well as those engaged in the legal profession. The building itself is a historic structure, constructed in 1908 to serve as an Odd Fellows Hall.

Our reception will be catered, and you can wander about the exhibit space to learn about Alaska's mining inductees. Its location in downtown Fairbanks also means you can walk from here to other downtown sights. Limited return shuttle service to the UAF campus will be provided. Check the website for further details regarding times and pick-up locations.

**Friday Evening: Awards Banquet:  
Ivory Jacks, 6:00**

Our banquet venue offers a take on the Alaska roadhouse, an institution historically serving a critical function as way stations for those en route to the gold fields. Ivory Jacks is a newer rendition, with miscellaneous sports and Elvis memorabilia, no linen tablecloths, and a great atmosphere. The venue is located 7.5 miles from the UAF campus; shuttles will be provided.

**Saturday Afternoon Tour:  
F.E. Company Machine Shop, 3:30**

We are delighted to offer a visit to the F. E. Company Machine Shop following the Saturday luncheon. The U.S. Smelting, Refining & Mining Company constructed this facility in 1927 to support the company's extensive operations throughout the Fairbanks District, making both repairs and tools for the various dredges. When operations closed in 1964, the company left items in place. All of the equipment, including industrial lathes and large-scale welding equipment were left in the condition they were when they turned them off. Workers' clothing still hangs in the lockers, the shelves remain stocked with miscellaneous tools and equipment, and the belt-driven machinery still runs. John Reeves, owner of the machine shop, will be there to explain what is stored and operated there. This is a rare opportunity to see a different facet of mining operations; the site is not otherwise open to the public. The tour will depart from the Wood Center following the General Meeting.

**SUNDAY FIELD TRIPS**

We have two Sunday tour options. Tour #1 includes a visit to the F. E. Company Dredge #3 in Chatanika, and affiliated placer mining sites. Tour #2 will visit the Fort Knox Gold Mine, an active open-pit mining operation, where we will tour both the workings and the milling facility. Both tours also include visits to the Permafrost Tunnel and a look at the private collection of Pleistocene-age mega fauna recovered from a local placer mine—two rather unique experiences. The **Permafrost Tunnel** was built by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers during the 1960s as a research facility.

Dug into permanently frozen ground, the tunnel has not only become an important climate change research site, but also features many conditions that historic underground drift miners would experience. The **private collection** of John Reeves, includes the largest collection of Pleistocene mega-fossils stored in Alaska. There will be an opportunity for some gold panning on his property and, for interested researchers, an opportunity to see some of his extensive collection of F. E. Company records.

**Tour #1: Chatanika Dredge and the Permafrost Tunnel**

From the UAF campus, we will travel by bus to Dredge #3 situated in the northeastern corner of the Fairbanks Mining District, and one of eight bucketline stacker dredges that the United States Smelting, Refining, and Mining Company had in operation from 1927-1963. The drive out will include a visit at the Pedro monument, commemorating the discovery of gold in the Fairbanks area by Felix Pedro in 1902, and a stop at Cleary Summit, the principal lode mining area of the Fairbanks District. Patricia Piersol and Jane Haigh, the owners of Dredge #3, will lead a tour of the dredge, which is about 300 meters west of the Steese Highway. We will then go to the nearby Chatanika Gold Camp, the original facility built by the USSR&M Company to house and feed its employees, where the owner will provide a brief tour. After lunch, we will visit the Permafrost Tunnel and the collection of Pleistocene fossils (see description above).

**Tour #2: Permafrost Tunnel and Fort Knox Gold Mine (Limited to 35 people)**

From the UAF campus, we will visit the Permafrost Tunnel, and the private collection of Pleistocene fossils (see description above). We will then head to the Fort Knox Gold Mine, via the Steese Highway, making a stop at the Pedro monument, commemorating Felix Pedro's gold discovery in 1902. The Fort Knox Mine is an active open pit operation located in the vicinity of Cleary Summit. The mine works a low-grade ore body (with less than one gram of gold per ton), and since 2011, its production record now makes this mine the single

largest gold producer in the state. The tour will take in a visit to the open pit as well as a tour of onsite processing facilities, that include a mill processing 2,800 tons an hour, and a heap leaching operation.

### MONDAY FIELD TRIPS

For those able to spend more time visiting interior Alaska, we have an additional complement of full-day tour options for Monday.

#### **Tour #3: Pogo Mine (Limited to 30 people)**

In 1994, the Teck-Cominco Corporation discovered a rich hard-rock gold deposit about 70 miles southeast of Fairbanks and 35 miles northwest of Delta Junction. It was placed into production in 2005 by Sumitomo Metal and Mining and is currently one of Alaska's largest gold mines (sometimes the largest depending on the year). Gold at Pogo is mined with underground mining technologies and deploys state-of-the-art environmental monitoring and the latest in mining technologies. It is truly a mine worth seeing. A 56-mile-long road was built into the mine site from the Richardson Highway prior to production. The tour is limited to 30 people. We will start early in the morning (7:00 AM) and get to the mine around 12 Noon. Then after a 3 hour tour, where all aspects of the mining will be seen, we will return to Fairbanks around 8:00 PM. It will be a long day. A lunch will

be served at the mine. This tour is limited to 30 people, and must have 20 people to run (note: tour fees will be refunded if trip is cancelled).

#### **Tour #4 Lode Mines of the Fairbanks District (self driving tour + hiking)**

The Fairbanks region is dotted with the remnants of historic lode gold mines, and although some are today a little off the beaten path, the preservation is remarkable. This tour includes a visit to some of the key properties in the two centers of lode mining: Pedro and Ester Domes. Sites in the Pedro Dome vicinity include the Hi Yu Mill, a 10-stamp mill in operation through the 1930s and still largely intact, with the majority of crushing and recovery equipment in place. In Ester Dome, we will visit the Grant Mill as well as the Clipper Mine, where we have an opportunity to venture underground. This small-scale mine remains in private ownership (the original family house stands beside the adit entrance). Although no longer in operation, the mine has an interesting history that included adaptive use for research during the Cold War. This is a full day tour (heading out at 8:30 AM and returning to the UAF Campus by 4:30 PM) that will require traveling some unsealed, backcountry roads, and hiking up to a half mile to reach sites. We recommend car pooling and taking a high clearance vehicle. Boxed lunch included.



Fort Knox Gold Mine



**MINING HISTORY ASSOCIATION  
Annual Meeting, June 15-19, 2017, University of Alaska Fairbanks Campus**

**Registration Desk:**

Thursday: 12:00 pm-4:00 pm, Moore-Bartlett-Skarland Hall Lobby  
 Friday: 7:00 am-3:00 pm, Reichardt Building in Boyd Lecture Hall foyer.  
 Saturday 7:00 am-11:00 pm, Reichardt Building in Boyd Lecture Hall foyer.

**All Paper Sessions at Pearl Barry Boyd Lecture Hall, Reichardt Building, UAF Campus****Thursday June 15**

12:30--3:30 Mining History materials, Special Collections, University of Alaska-Fairbanks Library (registration for tour of the archives required)  
 1:00 MHA Board Meeting, Conference Room, Hess Recreation Center (Moore-Bartlett-Skarland Hall Complex)  
 5:00 Opening Reception, Alaska Mining Hall of Fame (catered)

**Friday June 16**

7:00-8:30 Breakfast buffet available at conference venue

8:00-8:15 Welcome and what to expect from the conference (Paul White)

8:15-9:30 **Session 1: Fairbanks and Alaska Mining**  
**Jane Haigh**, *Survey of the Development of Mining in the Fairbanks Area*  
**John Baeten**, *The Technology, Mining Methods, and Landscape of the Fairbanks Mining District*  
**Robert Spude**, *Fairbanks Assayer G. E. Beraud and 88 Tons of Gold*

9:30-9:45 Break

9:45-11:00 **Session 2: Mining and the Media**  
**Jeremy Mouat**, *When the Medium was the Message: Mining Journals and Journalists, 1880-1920*  
**Brian Leech**, *Digging's Degree of Difficulty: the Changing Portrayal of Mining Labor in Movies and Games*  
**Tetiana Soviak**, *Real Man's Work as Entertainment: Spike TV's Coal*

11:00-12:15 **Session 3: Mining History in Worldwide Context**  
**Greg Drew**, *Captain Bagot's Mine: The History of the Kapunda Mine, South Australia, 1844-1878*  
**Sharon Carter Jenkins**, *The History and Heritage of Iron Mining on the Canigou Mountain, South Eastern Pyrenees*  
**Rudy Davison**, *Murder and Mayhem at the Cashin Mine in Paradox Valley, Colorado*

12:15-1:45 Lunch (on your own)

1:45-3:00 **Session 4: Mining History: New Sources and Perspectives**  
**Terry Reynolds**, *Owe My Soul?: Company Stores on the Michigan Iron Ranges*  
**Alexia Sober**, *Regarding the Mine Landscape as an Artifact*  
**Eric Nystrom**, *Witnessing the Development of the Mining West: Finding History in Court Records*

3:00-3:15 Break

3:15-4:30 **Session 5: Gold and Copper Miners**  
**Stephen Hart**, *Gold Rush and Copper Boom: In Georgia and Tennessee?*  
**Jennifer Hildebrand and John Callan**, *Historic Chinese Placer Mining: The History, Techniques, and Application of Archaeology in American Canyon*  
**William Hawes**, *Braden Copper Co.: Early Days at the Southern End of the Kennecott Empire*

6:00-8:00 MHA Awards Banquet -- Ivory Jacks Roadhouse

**Saturday June 17**

- 7:00-8:30 Breakfast buffet available at conference venue
- 8:00-9:15 **Session 6: Alaska: Milling and Mining Camp Life**  
**Andrew Higgs**, *The First Stamp Mills of Fairbanks, 1910-1912*  
**Paul White**, *Broken Ore, Broken Bodies: The Wear and Tear of Mill Work on Alaska's Gold Miners*  
**Rolfe Buzzell**, *Women in the Sunrise Mining Camp, 1895-1901*
- 9:15-9:30 Break
- 9:30-10:45 **Session 7: Mining, Science, and Travel**  
**Patrick R. Anthony**, *Alexander von Humboldt as Technical Theorist: How Mining Shaped His Cartography and Plant Geography*  
**Catherine Holder Spude**, *Mining, Tourism and the Twentieth Century Middle Class*  
**Nic Haygarth**, *Robert Sticht of Mount Lyell: Fragile Genius or Faded Liability?*
- 10:45-11:00 Break
- 11:00-12:15 **Session 8: Labor, Capital, and Technology**  
**Michael Camp**, *The United Mine Workers of America and Jimmy Carter's Energy Policy*  
**William W. Culver**, *Financing the Mines: Early Industrial Capitalism at Harvey Hill, Quebec, 1847-1881*  
**Adam Romero**, *Beyond the Mother Lode: Synthetic Cyanide and the Chemicalization of California Gold Mining (1886-1905)*
- 12:30-2:00 **Presidential Luncheon** at Dine 49, Woods Hall, UAF Campus  
*Passing of the Presidential Pick: Erik Nordberg*, MHA President 2016-17  
**Peter Maciulaitis**, MHA President, 2017-18  
 Presidential Lecture
- 2:00-2:15 **MHA 2018 Presentation:** Deadwood and the Black Hills
- 2:20-3:15 **MHA Business Meeting** at Dine 49, Wood Center, UAF Campus.
- 3:30-5:30 **F.E. Company Machine Shop Tour** Buses depart from outside of the Wood Center.  
  
 Dinner on your own in Fairbanks

**Sunday June 18****FIELD TRIPS REQUIRE PRE-REGISTRATION**

- 8:30 Field Trip #1 **Chatanika Gold Dredge and the Permafrost Tunnel**  
 All day tour. Bus will depart Wood Center at 8:30 am. Lunch provided.
- 8:30 Field Trip #2 **Permafrost Tunnel and Fort Knox Gold Mine**  
 All day tour, led by Tom Bundtzen. Bus will depart Wood Center at 8:30 am. Lunch provided.

**Monday, June 19****FIELD TRIPS REQUIRE PRE-REGISTRATION**

- 7:00 Field Trip #3 **Pogo Mine**  
 All day tour, led by Tom Bundtzen. Bus will depart Wood Center at 7:00 am. Lunch provided.
- 8:30 Field Trip #4 **Lode Mines of the Fairbanks District**  
 All-day tour, led by Paul White. Drive your own vehicle, box lunch provided. Tour will proceed as a convoy, and depart from the Wood Center. Bring boots as some hiking required. Clipper Mine

### MHA Conference Registration Form – Fairbanks, Alaska, June 15-19, 2017

Your name (for badge): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Spouse/Partner Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/State/Zip/Country \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email/Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Please list me in the conference packet

I am a current MHA member

	Cost per person	No. Attending	Total Per Event
<b>Conference Registration:</b> (Breakfast included Fri & Sat)			
Members	\$70	_____	_____
Non-members	\$80	_____	_____
Spouse/Partner/Children	\$30	_____	_____
Student with school ID	\$50	_____	_____
<b>Thursday, June 15:</b>			
*UAF Archives (must pre-register)	Free	_____	_____
Opening Reception	\$20	_____	_____
<b>Friday, June 16</b>			
Awards Banquet, at Ivory Jacks	\$30	_____	_____
<b>Saturday, June 17</b>			
Presidential Luncheon	\$25	_____	_____
Tour of F. E. Company Machine Shop	\$15	_____	_____
<b>Sunday, June 18</b>			
Field Trip #1. Chatanika Dredge & Permafrost Tunnel	\$45	_____	_____
*Field Trip #2 Permafrost Tunnel & Fort Knox Mine	\$45	_____	_____
Breakfast option (at Dine 49, 7:00 am)	\$15	_____	_____
<b>Monday, June 19</b>			
*Field Trip #3 Pogo Mine	\$75	_____	_____
Field Trip #4 Fairbanks Lode Mines	\$20	_____	_____
<b>TOTAL COST</b>			<b>0</b> _____

Mail completed registration form and payment to:  
 Jay Fell  
 480 South Marion Parkway, # 203A  
 Denver, CO 80209

Make checks payable to:  
**Mining History Association**  
 (Payment in U.S. dollars.  
 Credit cards not accepted)

\*Space is limited and assigned on a first to sign up basis (refer newsletter for specific tour caps).  
**BOOK EARLY TO SECURE YOUR PLACE ON LIMITED TOURS.**  
**REGISTRATIONS RECEIVED AFTER JUNE 1 WILL BE CHARGED AT THE NON-MEMBER RATE.**  
 For additional conference information, [www.mininghistoryassociation.org](http://www.mininghistoryassociation.org) or [pjwhite2@alaska.edu](mailto:pjwhite2@alaska.edu)

*Mining History Association*  
323 Daniels Place  
Cañon City, CO 81212

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## Upcoming Events

### **2017 Business History Conference**

30 March - April 2 2017

Denver, CO

### **2017 Organization of American Historians**

6-9 April 2017

New Orleans, LA

### **2017 Society for Industrial Archeology**

18-21 May 2017

Houston, TX

### **2017 MHA Conference**

15-19 June 2017

Fairbanks, AK

Complete information in the Spring Newsletter

### **2018 Mining History Association Conference**

7-10 June 2018

Deadwood, SD

The **Mining History Association** is an organization of individuals interested in the history of mining and metallurgy.

**[www.mininghistoryassociation.org](http://www.mininghistoryassociation.org)**

*The Mining History News* is published quarterly by the for the members of the MHA. Submissions for the newsletter are encouraged and should be sent to Nathan Delaney, **[nathan.delaney@case.edu](mailto:nathan.delaney@case.edu)**.

Deadlines:      Spring issue: February 15th  
                     Summer issue: June 15th  
                     Fall issue: August 15th  
                     Winter issue: November 15th

Change of Address: Please send all address changes to Diane Dudley, Membership Chair, at the address above.