

Mining

Times



Message from the President:

With the year coming to a close, it is a pleasure to reflect on MMA accomplishments over this past year. First, all major hard rock producers are now members of the MMA. Both their monetary contribution and involvement in board and committee meetings is paramount to the mission of the MMA as we continue to protect and promote the mining industry in our great state. It is exciting to see several producer, associate and individual members involved in board and committee meetings. They have really made a great effort this past year as is communicated in this publication. Now that we have a membership committee actively working to increase associate and individual memberships, I am confident that our association is poised to grow. A big Thank You to all of you that have volunteered your time to the MMA.

We have a new office at the Colonial just in time for the upcoming legislative session and Debbie Shea is prepared to represent the MMA again this session. Debbie has spent much time this past year sorting through all the information from committee and board meetings and then communicating this information to the appropriate stakeholders. Her hard work is appreciated. We also have a new assistant, Laura Feist, to assist Debbie with the administrative work. We look forward to her contribution.

Message from the Executive Director:

2010 has been a year of change and growth within the Montana Mining Association. We have a new office location, new staff member and new promotional display to tell our story. We published our fourth annual Montana Mining Magazine in May with a distribution of over 2500 copies. Our two day annual meeting was held in May at Fairmont Hot Springs with guest speakers from the Colorado/Utah area addressing the many safety and health issues before us.

MMA has participated in the Montana Tech Mine Design Operation and Closure Conference, Numeric Nutrient Standards Group, PLPU meetings, the Mood of Montana Voter Poll sponsored by Montana Chamber of Commerce, and WETA activities.

MMA committees have been actively engaged throughout the year serving our membership and advancing the mining industry. We have seen a measured increase in our membership due to the positive activity of committee work within the association. We are educated, revitalized and energized;

Mining in Montana, in many ways, is driving the economy of the state as mineral prices and production continue to be positive. We look for continued success and growth in 2011.

On behalf of the Montana Mining Association I extend to all of our members best wishes for prosperity and good health in the New Year. 

What's new with the MMA?



New office: The Montana Mining Association has returned to the Colonial Red Lion. Our new address is 2301 Colonial Drive, Suite 3A. Come by and see us.

New Assistant: The Montana Mining Association is pleased to welcome Assistant Laura Feist to our office. Laura and her husband Steven and children Morgan and Joseph moved to Helena from Great Falls in February of 2010. Laura brings to the MMA a wide range of experience and talent and we welcome her contribution.

New Mining Display: After months of research and planning by board members and assistance from the Bureau of Mines and Geology at the Montana Tech campus, the Montana Mining Association unveiled its new display at the Northwest Mining Association convention in Spokane Washington. Our plan is to re introduce the MMA in many such forums over the next year promoting Montana and the Montana Mining Association.

Northwest Mining Convention

By Robin McCulloch

The NWMA convention started with the MMA new display. The set-up was accomplished in less than 15 minutes and was easily transported by two people, including the magazines and candy. Tear down was completed in less than five minutes. It was a great improvement.

The tenor of the convention was very different from previous gatherings including last year (according to Gene Nelson). The attendees were younger (40-50) as opposed to three years ago and had more industry representation. The trade show had more displays/companies that supplied an exploring and development mineral industry rather than that of past years — a reclaiming and retreating industry. The interest of the attendees was in opportunities, investment, and the future rather than government, regulations and survival.

I gave my talk on the state of mining in Montana with as much optimism and enthusiasm as possible. Post-presentation questions were still on the cyanide ban but not as severe as before. I told them that we didn't need cyanide like Nevada as our gold was big and chunky. They asked if the governor supported mining and I answered yes and referenced the poll that showed Montanans in general also did. I received one comment, as before, that when we permitted Rock Creek or Montanore, they would return to Montana for investment.

I returned to the booth after the talk and Debbie Shea and I fielded questions for 2 ½ days from crowds of interested people until the trade show closed. The magazines moved well and the booth was continuously busy with attendees. Many patiently waited in the aisle to talk to us. We continued to field questions right up to and including tear down on Friday.

There was an interest in MMA membership, contacts with our mines for potential sales and promises to come to Butte in the winter months to review my files and look for properties to explore.

I believe the Northwest Mining Convention was a successful investment of time and effort.

Committee activity:



Legislative and Environmental Committees: The MMA will once again have an active presence during the legislative session. Our Legislative and Environmental Committees have been active throughout the year and are proposing legislation to modify the Metal Mine Reclamation Act to providing better coordination with the Montana Environmental Policy Act. In addition we participate in the DEQ sponsored Nutrient Work Group and are active members in Public Land for Public Use . Look for Legislative weekly updates on our Web site www.montanamining.org.



Safety and Health Committee: Our Safety and Health Committee continues its good work to promote safety and best practices throughout the Montana Mining Industry. Through monthly meetings the committee assists and educates MMA members regarding mine safety and collaborates on training opportunities. Next May the MMA will honor distinguished members with safety awards.

Membership Committee: The MMA has recently resurrected our membership committee. The direction of the committee is to promote membership in the MMA through various forums while defining the opportunities and advantages of being a member.

The Montana Mining Association would like to thank the many members who have volunteered their time and energy to serve on these very important committees. Your contribution is immeasurable.

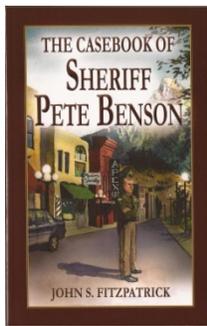
Montanans Back Resolution to Stop Fed Monuments Designation

100-year-old law threatens Montana's economy

With a stroke of a presidential pen, millions of acres of federal land were taken out of productive use and set aside as a "National Monument" during the last days of the Clinton administration. Montana ranchers, employers, rural schools and individuals, through a new coalition, are supporting a legislative resolution to oppose the creation of more Monuments without adequate public input.

Sen. Alan Olson of Roundup will introduce a [resolution](#) during the 2011 legislative session that urges the federal government to refrain from

using the century-old "Antiquities Act" or the planning process to restrict more federal lands or minerals from development, beyond the current acreage that is already off-limits – approximately 25 percent of the 31 million acres of federal lands in Montana. The resolution notes that "responsible use and development of those resources [on federal lands] by oil and gas production, coal and hard rock mines, timber harvest, farms, and ranches add to the well-being of Montana's rural communities by providing jobs and educational benefits to her citizens." Montana's economy, especially in small rural communities, depends upon natural resource industries for jobs and revenues. As the resolution notes, Montana receives significant royalty revenues from development of federal minerals, in addition to production and property taxes. Those revenues support "local government needs and local schools...including the University system, offsetting the need for higher taxes and tuition costs on its citizens." Sen. Olson will introduce the resolution in the 2011 legislative session, and expects it will have widespread support.



The Casebook of Sheriff Pete Benson

MMA Board member John Fitzpatrick, author of *Sherlock Holmes: The Montana Chronicles*, has come up with another book that prominently features mining in its plot. *The Casebook of Sheriff Pete Benson* is fiction about a small-town sheriff in western Montana. The town and its crazy characters figure as prominently as the sheriff, so there is humor along with the crime-solving stories. Readers will enjoy getting to know this community and its citizens. The Casebook of Sheriff Pete Benson is a great read with royalties going to local food banks

Ted Antonioli

Self employed Exploration geologist and MMA member Ted Antonioli was appointed to the Western Montana Resource Advisory Council (RAC). RAC is an official federal advisory committee that provides advice and recommendations on all aspects of public land management to the Bureau of Land Management's Butte, Missoula and Dillon Field Offices. Congratulations to Ted, RAC will be well served by his appointment.

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