

FALL 2024 NEWSLETTER

www.westernalaskaminerals.com



WESTERN ALASKA
MINERALS



In This Issue:

Illinois Creek History (1981-1998)

1

Local Hires, Community Relations, &
Health and Safety

2

2024 Exploration Program & WACG
or WAM?

3

Reawakening the Mineral Legacy of Illinois Creek: The History 1981-1998

The history of Western Alaska Copper & Gold / Western Alaska Minerals and the mineral exploration at Illinois Creek is more than 40 years in the making. Anaconda Copper Company first explored the district in the early 1980's, opening up the vision of a large-mineralized district with significant potential. Kit MARRS and his wife, Joan, were working for Anaconda in those years and led that first exploration team in their search for new mineral prospects in the area. Together, Kit and Joan have worked to advance the prospect off and on since those early days.

"When you work on something for this long, it becomes an integral part of your lives. Joan and I have a passion for what we do here and along with that, a sensitivity for what we are creating, both environmentally and culturally",

says Kit MARRS, "We know that not only does it affect our lives, but also understand that it both affects and can provide benefits to those living in the region." In 1995, USMX acquired the property and soon developed the first heap leach gold mine in Alaska, known as the Illinois Creek Mine. Many of the employees at Illinois Creek were from surrounding villages. A lot of people have good memories from working there or visiting during that time. The mine operated for approximately 18 months and then closed due to low gold prices, which were \$270/oz in 1997. The mine was reclaimed by the State of Alaska in 2005 and has been idle ever since.

At that point, the state mining claims became available and Kit, Joan and their good friend, Joe Piekenbrock, who had also worked on the project when it was a mine, re-staked the claims and began to form a partnership to advance the project around 2016.

Thus the story begins.



Local Hires

We had the good fortune to rehire seven workers and add one new cook from the local communities of Kaltag, Nulato, and Galena. The drilling contractor, More Core, also brought back one drill helper from Last Chance. It is a huge boost to the program to have the valuable workers returning season after season.

Community Relations

We are always proud to share our camp, and especially our crew, with visitors so that they can see and understand what a quality exploration program we have. This past summer, we had visitors from three of the local communities, Galena, Kaltag and Nulato. We were also able to present at these three villages' tribal council meetings. As our exploration work at Illinois Creek grows, we know that finding ways to involve our nearest neighbors will not only be key to our success, but also important in their economic development.

Health & Safety

- Personnel and contractors worked 1,848 accident free person-days over the 117 days that the camp was open.
- We want to give a shout-out to all our crew and especially to Morgan, Laura, Jarrod, and Ron who greatly contributed to an incident free season at the core shack by training the newer hands on core cutting, contributing to our safety meetings, communicating potential hazards to each other, keeping a clean workspace, and of course always wearing their Personal Protective Equipment.



Jarrod Charge said it best on why people come back to Illinois Creek:



"The people. They're all friendly. We all get along. This is a nice place to work. Nice environment."

2024 Exploration Program

In 2024, Western Alaska Minerals explored an 8km trend between the old Illinois Creek mine and our high-grade Waterpump Creek deposit. We drilled 13 holes totaling 4,230 meters at two new areas: Warm Springs and LH.

Warm Springs revealed a large zone with gold, copper, silver, lead, and zinc, similar to both the old mine and Waterpump Creek. At LH, we learned that silver might be deeper than expected, needing more study.

Ongoing environmental studies entail fish count, water testing, and archaeology studies. This ambitious program finished on time and within budget. We met our goals and uncovered promising areas for future exploration, continuing our commitment to responsible development of Alaska's mineral resources.



WACG or WAM?

Western Alaska Minerals (WAM) began as Western Alaska Copper & Gold (WAC&G), a private Alaskan corporation founded in 2010 by Kit and Joan Marrs. After 11 years of private operations, WAC&G sought public funding to expand exploration efforts. In November 2021, WAC&G decided to form a Canadian company and be listed on the TSX-V, the preferred stock exchange for junior exploration companies globally. The new name would be Western Alaska Minerals to reflect the company's broadened focus beyond copper and gold, as it added the high-grade silver, lead, and zinc discovery at Waterpump Creek. Functioning as a subsidiary of WAM, WAC&G proudly remains an Alaskan corporation, maintaining its role as the local Alaskan employer and operator.

We Are Both!





I learned how to make fry bread from my late grandma, and came to love baking.



TIFFANY

Western Alaska Minerals
c/o Uqaqti Consulting, LLC
PO BOX 74194
Fairbanks, AK 99707

