# Red Dog-Suvisi

# Message from the General Manager

By Henri Letient



We're half way through 2015 already! And so far, so good! You have all put in a tremendous effort to ensure that we all go home safe and healthy every day. Our safety performance has

much improved. All the safety programs we have put in place, such as housekeeping audits and Safety Team ideas, are well entrenched across the property and I believe these initiatives are truly effective in keeping safety on everyone's mind.

Production has been going well, despite some challenges. Concentrate production

of both zinc and lead is above plan. We've had a couple of setbacks with poor weather in Q1. Yet, we are managing to keep up with ore production. Maintenance is making great strides in improving our reliability. The 13-Week Work Control program is well underway and we are seeing a much improved performance in meeting our planned work. This requires support by all departments and demonstrates that we are a team working towards a common goal – safe and efficient production.

The site is busy with all the usual spring/ summer activities. The freshet came and went, and water discharge started on time and has been going well, in full compliance. The shipping season is underway. Many projects are starting up. Exploration drills are busy drilling. We are conducting our annual operations update visits to the villages and are looking forward to being in your communities this summer. It will be a busy season, as always. Let's focus on getting it all done safely.

We have put a lot of effort in the past two years to improve our performance and ensure we create a safe working environment. Each one of you was called upon to do your part and the results clearly demonstrate that you answered the call. Thank you! Let's keep that momentum going and have a great year with every one going home safe and healthy every day!

## Clean Water in Red Dog Creek Improves Fish Populations By Johanna Solatas



Bons Pond catch-and-relocate fishing for Arctic grayling.

Did you know? Since mining operations began at Red Dog in 1989, water management and treatment has actually IMPROVED downstream water quality over historic natural conditions. It's true! Ten years after the mine opened, fish began using areas of Red Dog Creek where they once could not survive. Why? Because concentrations of cadmium, lead and zinc in the water of the mainstem of Red Dog Creek were LOWER than they were prior to Red Dog mining. In addition, multiple years of aquatic surveys have shown that aquatic productivity has INCREASED, meaning more fish since the mine started operating.

How is this possible? Red Dog Mine operates under some of the most stringent permit limits in the US. Red Dog has state-of-the-art water treatment systems, where dissolved metals are removed until extremely low levels are reached (even lower than drinking water limits). Therefore, cadmium, lead, and zinc concentrations are now lower than they were before mining even started.

Bons Pond was completed in 1988 to provide drinking water at the mine, and also for operational activities. Bons Pond now flows into Buddy Creek and then into the Ikalukrok Creek. Prior to construction of the dam, there were no fish present in Bons Creek due to a series of impassable waterfalls and chutes in bedrock about 1 km downstream of the dam.

Continued on page 4

## Annual Visits Kick-off at Buckland



The first operation update and community visit of 2015 was a wonderful success thanks to Buckland, AK!

The people of Buckland received Red Dog employees with a warm welcome and home cooked caribou soup, fried bread, smelt, seal meat and blueberry delight. We look forward to visiting the remaining 10 villages this summer and fall!

Red Dog Engagement Team:

Wayne Hall, Manager, Community & Public Relations Verna Westlake, Community Relations Coordinator Brianna Kirk, Community Relations Summer Intern D'Anne Hamilton, Human Resources Personnel Coordinator Gary Gregg, Mill Trainer David Nolton, Mill Operator Betsy Friedlander, Exploration Gillian Quigley, Leader Social Responsibility, Teck Vancouver Tiffany Scott, NANA

### Red Dog Internships Create Experienced Workers By Dee Hamilton

Lawrence "Chuckie" Jones' first exposure to the Red Dog Mine was as part of a 2007 Career Awareness group visiting Red Dog when he was in high school. Today, Chuckie is no longer a novice, at work or at school. He is heading into his junior year in Mechanical Engineering at the University of Alaska, Anchorage and his second summer internship at Red Dog. He's also worked in the Heavy Equipment Shop and Human Resources here in the past.

This year, Chuckie is updating the preventative maintenance program for equipment in the Maintenance Department, which requires a clear understanding of how things work mechanically. "We don't treat him like an intern. We count him as another engineer," said one of Chuckie's supervisors, Team Leader Reliability, Scott Hawkins. "He has to have an understanding of how things work mechanically, developing equipment maintenance strategies in an industrial setting. We're counting the days until he graduates."

The young man from Buckland likes the work he's doing. "These are great guys. I've really learned from them. "

Chuckie is one of two Mechanical Engineering Interns in the Maintenance Department. The other is Ezra Adams of Noatak, who is performing condition monitoring or vibration analysis, in his third summer internship.

When the mine opened 26 years ago, Shareholder engineering interns were just a dream. "Today, nurturing engineers into



mining careers, and courting them as they decide which direction they want to pursue, is extremely important for helping us achieve NANA and Teck's vision for Red Dog," said Henri Letient, General Manager, Teck Alaska Incorporated.

There are a total of five interns at Red Dog this summer. For more information about internships at the Red Dog Mine, contact Personnel Officer, D'Anne Hamilton at 907-754-5861.

## Suvisi (Sü-vĭ-see) in the lñupiaq language means:

"What are the many people doing?"

# Noise Now Means Better Education Later

By Mike Skeeters



Trainer Mike Skeeters (standing) Employees left to right: Dan Young, Jr., Mill Mechanic, Sigwien Riley, Electrician Quinn Schaeffer, Electrician, Mike Curtis, Electrician Travis Clark, Mill Mechanic, Sam Ballot, Mill Mechanic, Also in the classroom but not in photo: Ivan Luther, Heavy Duty Mechanic Apprentice

I'm sure you have already seen or heard the work going on in the Maintenance Training Classroom. We have talked for many years about making improvements to our training facility and now it is finally happening. While we are at it, we are moving the Maintenance Training offices next door to the classroom to make space for the H.E. Planners here in our old office.

Today, we have twenty-four Apprentices on role. These employees spend at least 144 hours — probably closer to 200 hours — each year doing classroom studies. We also use our classroom for Task Training for Confined Space, Fall Protection, Light Vehicle Safety, Forklift, Rigging, Safe Track, and various other training courses.

Our old classroom had an open ceiling that allowed outside noise to interfere with our training efforts. The newly remodeled classroom will have a suspended ceiling, 11'6" high. Not only will this high ceiling lend a roomier feel to the classroom, it will help eliminate noise from the hallway and reduce dust that seems to accumulate in that area.

We will "turn" the classroom around by moving the television from the south wall to the north wall of the room. Electrical connections and data ports are being installed to accommodate the power and computer needs in the area.

Fire techs will relocate the sprinklers and electricians will install the new lighting. The newly installed dry wall will get a coat of paint and the floor will be refinished. It is a team effort from all involved.

Special thanks go out to Will Clark, Craig Taylor, and Scott Hathorn who have done the bulk of the work. Also, thanks to Dan Dodge, who planned and directed the work on the remodel.

With new furniture, including desks, tables, and chairs, rounding out our remodeling project, we hope to provide an atmosphere more conducive to learning for our Apprentices and other employees here at Red Dog.

# Community Relations "Springs" Into Action

Spring is an exciting time at Red Dog. It's always wonderful to receive longer daylight hours and warmer temperatures after a cold and dark winter. It is also an important time for our operations as we begin preparation for our shipping season.

The Community Relations department is actively engaged with local communities during this time — from viewing the breakup of the Wulik River watershed to working in partnership with the Subsistence Committee in preparation for the year's shipping season — there is much to do.

Going up in a helicopter to view the breakup of the rivers and streams enables local residents to receive a bird's-eye view of the Wulik watershed as it transitions from frozen to free flowing over the span of about a week. These participants gain understanding on how the rivers and creeks naturally break up as the weather warms.

The Red Dog Subsistence Committee is a partnership that has been in place as long as the mine has been in operation. The Committee is made up of local hunters and trappers living in close proximity to the mine, NANA representatives and Teck personnel. The committee meets on a quarterly basis and usually has special meetings in the spring to discuss upcoming Red Dog shipping season activities.

These are just a few examples of Red Dog working with local communities and groups during the exciting time of Spring Breakup.



Subsistence Committee Member of Kivalina, Lowell Sage Sr., viewing spring breakup conditions.

## Continued from page 1 Clean Water in Red Dog Creek Improves Fish Populations



"Give a man a fish and he has food for a day. Teach a man to fish and he has to buy bamboo rods, graphite reels, monofilament lines, neoprene waders, creels, tackleboxes, lures, flies, spinners, worm rigs, slip sinkers, offset hooks, gore-tex hats, 20 pocket vests, fish finders, depth sounders, radar, boats, trailers, global positioning systems and coolers." - Unknown

A self-sustaining population of grayling one of the most beautiful freshwater fish of Alaska — was established in Bons Pond in 1994 and 1995 by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. The most striking physical features are the fish's large, sail-like dorsal back fin and colorful body markings. In 2003, the Bons Pond grayling population had grown to 6,773 fish greater than 200 mm long. Although fishing is not technically allowed at Red Dog, anyone who has a current Alaska fishing license can "catch-and-relocate" Bons Pond with single barbless or crimped barb hooks and lures. When caught, the fish are immediately transported safely downstream of the waterfall, so they can continue their lives in the rivers surrounding Red Dog. If you would like to participate in this fun catch-and-relocate project, we are always looking for volunteers that like to fish. The only requirement is an Alaska fishing license. If you are interested in participating this summer, contact the Environmental Department below.

#### **Chris Eckert**

Senior Environmental Coordinator Chris.Eckert@teck.com 907-754-5139

## Billie Lee Joins Red Dog Safety & Health Team

As a young girl, Billie developed an interest in the health and safety of people when her parents became a part of the local fire department and EMS team in Kotzebue where she grew up. She remembers hearing the tone-out call for all responders to respond to an emergency and watching her parents leave in the middle of the night. She understood that her parents may be entering unsafe situations, oftentimes, in winter months with temperatures at 30 degrees below zero, or in a snow storm. Billie knew she wanted to be part of a team that would work to limit hazards to the people around her. "Everyone going home safe and healthy every day", is a core value at Red Dog Operations. What it means to Billie is, "we are one big family here at Red Dog and working alongside the men and woman here really brings into perspective that we are, our 'brother's keepers', in a sense. We want to make sure that we go home in the same shape we came to work, if not better. I am proud to be a part of such a positive team and given the chance to actually get out in the field, working first hand with the crews that are doing the laborious work. Being a part of production done safely not only impacts the mine site, but it has an effect on our families at home also."



## Red Dog Teaches Teachers about Alaska's Natural Resources





Jake Kuchta, Mine Engineer (2nd from left) and Ryan Sherman, Mine Operator (right)

Red Dog hosted its 3rd Alaska Resource Education (ARE) and Northwest Arctic Borough School District (NWABSD) Rock n' Roll course in Q2. ARE's Education Manager and 17 teachers from the local NWABSD arrived in April for a 2-night stay, site tours and course work. Ten out of eleven of our villages were represented. Through ARE's "Rock and Roll Around Alaska" course, teachers learn about Alaska's natural resources and how to teach their students about those resources. In addition, the



Jose Rios, Powerhouse Supervisor, mine-a-pie

teachers experience Red Dog's unique, remote community camp life, interact with mining professionals and tour the mine and port site. They take their first-hand experience back to their villages and classrooms to share this experience.

"We are so thankful for the continued support from Red Dog to help us as we strive to meet our mission of teaching students about Alaska's natural resources" - Beki Kelley, ARE Education Manager



Ken Ahrens, Mill General Foreman 'mine-a- pie' with teachers

"This is a great program! It was awesome to hear from so many people at Red Dog. I loved listening to their stories and what they do at Red Dog." - NWABSD Teacher

"Red Dog supports education in our region. Teachers have a direct influence on our youth and we're pleased to have our school district and ARE working in partnership with us for the benefit of our students." - Verna Westlake, Red Dog Community Relations Coordinator & ARE Board Member

## Healthy Children in Namibia

from UNICEF "Zinc & Health" April Newsletter © UNICEF



HEW providing health information to an expecting mother.

In 2012, Teck provided funding to UNICEF (United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund) for the pilot project in Opuwo, with the goal of training 34 Health Extension Workers (HEW) to provide basic health care services to children under the age of five in regions of Namibia.

HEWs measure a baby's arm, check heartbeats and listen to breathing to reduce mortality of children under five becoming ill from preventable diseases such as malaria, measles or diarrhea. HEWs also



provide vaccinations, health advice to parents and dispense free medication such as polio drops and vitamins. The two-year pilot project was so successful that in 2013, Namibia's Ministry of Health Committed \$18 million to scale-up the HEW project across the country.

HEWs are no longer volunteers and now receive a government salary for their work. Today there are approximately 1,500 HEWs in 11 regions providing the basic health care services helping to reduce child mortality.

Visit: bit.ly/1LOaTxo

## Vicki Garoutte Joins Our Anchorage Office



Please welcome Vicki Garoutte—our new Administrative Assistant in the Anchorage office Finance Department to the Red Dog family!

Vicki came to us from NANA Management Services where she worked in various capacities over the years, including customer service, accounting and general office administration.

In her free time, Vicki enjoys spending time with her husband, Harold, her children and grandchildren. Harold has worked for NANA for almost 26 years. Vicki has become fond of Chucky Cheese and Bouncy Bears, and enjoys going to concerts with her daughter, picking berries and smoking fish.

When you stop in at the Anchorage office, Vicki will greet you with a smile and her pleasant personality.

#### Text-to-Join

**Red Dog Newsletter** 

Text **REDDOGMINE** to 22828 to get started.

Message and data rates may apply.

Join our mailing list. Online www.reddogalaska.com/subscribe

## For Current Job Vacancies (or opportunities)

Please go to www.teck.com and/or www.nana.com and apply on-line. (Paper applications or letters of interest are no longer accepted.)

# Quyaana

Thank you, to all who contributed to our newsletter.

To submit topic ideas or an article about your work, a coworker spotlight, a special project or life at Red Dog, contact verna.westlake@teck.com or communityrelationsRDOG@teck.com

Red Dog Operations | Teck Alaska Incorporated | 3105 Lakeshore Drive - Building A, Suite 101 - Anchorage, AK 99517 Phone: 907-754-5168 | Email: reddog.info@teck.com | Website: www.reddogalaska.com