Locating Gold, Gems, and Minerals

The official publication of the

Trails and Tales of UPI

www.Unitedprospectors.com

August 2015 No. 335 Vol. 4-15

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Pot Luck Dinner at Spanish Creek Outing

THE 'OL MINER SAS
HOPE TO SEE 'YA AT DEM NEXT DAR OUTIN'
AT TWAIN ON AUGUST 27th - SEPTEMBER 3rd

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Advocacy/Political Action: Laurie Ozga (925) 706-8193 or OzMiner@msn.com
Historian: Bill Reboin (916) 362-3441
Publication/Newsletter Assistants: Cindy Siegel (209) 567-2370 or cfs623@aol.com and Laurie Ozga (925) 706-8193 or OzMiner@msn.com
Technical Advisor: *Currently Open*
Wagonmaster: Bob Azbill (530) 409-4549 or Robert.azbill@yahoo.com
Webmaster: Mark Weber (707) 449-4808 or mark.weber@sbcglobal.net

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Contact the chapter chairperson for meeting information.

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Marin, Sonoma Counties: *Currently open*

Sacramento County: *Currently open*

San Joaquin County: *Currently open*

Santa Clara County: *Currently open*

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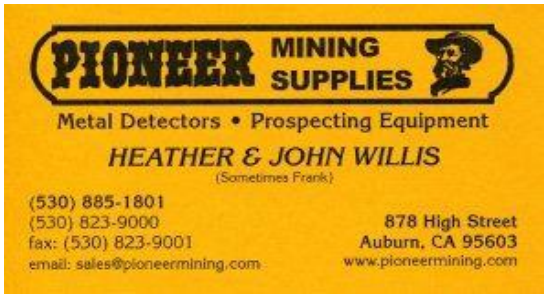
Please contact the UPI Vice President if you are interested in starting a chapter in your area.



The 'ol Miner sas put yer troubles in a pocket with a hole and go prospecting...

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MESSAGE FROM YOUR OFFICERS

President
Don Siegel

Well, I say Spanish Creek is a keeper! Several members went out, including myself and found gold, and although I did not spend a lot of time prospecting I felt the amount I got for the time invested was worth the effort. There is so much space there to explore, and most of the area holds gold. The potluck was the usual, Fantastic. Ten of us took a little tour of a couple of the surrounding claims. Ben and Patty brought their detectors along and used them at Greenhorn Creek. They found 2 nuggets both larger than 2 grams! It's out there, just got to get after it!

Those that got their detectors out had good time in a challenging hunt. I continue to change it up a little each time to keep it interesting. Don't miss the next outing, to be held at our Twain claim. There is a large open space for trailers, motor homes, tents.

If you have not heard there is a gold show coming up on August 22nd and 23rd. Delta Gold Diggers are the sponsor and have offered us a booth. Last year's show was a great success, with two buildings of vendors. There will be food vendors outside as well as several detector hunts throughout the weekend. There will be raffles and give aways as well.

Hope to see you out there!

Don

****

Vice President
Ed Ozga

Hello all, this year is moving by quickly and this coming outing at Twain will be our last outing of the year before our pre-Thanksgiving outing at Coulterville in October. This coming outing at Twain will be your last chance to pick up a ticket and be entered in the drawing for the beautiful 3.2 gram gold nugget (see page 7 for further details). Also, the Contra Costa Chapter has volunteered to host this outing and they have some extra special activities planned (see page 5 for further details). So, don't delay and sign-up today for the Twain outing, we promise it will be a great time!

As I said, this year is moving all too quickly, so it also means that elections are right around the corner. Voting will take place at the Coulterville pre-Thanksgiving outing. The positions open for election this year include President, Secretary, Outing Coordinator, and Publisher/Editor in Chief.

If you or anyone you know is interested in stepping up for these positions, please give me a holler and we can discuss the different duties involved. To run for election, a member must have been a UPI member in good standing for at least 1 year and also accept the nomination. In addition, we are always looking to start up local chapters in your areas. So again, if you or anyone you know is interested in starting a local chapter, give me a holler so that we can discuss.

Hope to see 'ya at the next outing at Twain from 8/27/15 thru 9/3/15. Give me a call if you have any questions, 925-706-8193

May there be gold in your pan, Ed.

Membership News

New Members!

On behalf of the Officers, Directors, and current Membership I'd like to welcome and acknowledge our newest UPI Member:

Frank Church, Tracy, CA

You've joined an outstanding fun bunch of likeminded gold and gem seekers. We look forward to meeting you in person at an outing and on the claims.

A BIG Thank You to our Renewing members! It's great to see so many friends stay active and continue to support this great club.

Have a **change of address, e-mail** or **contact info**? Don't forget to send me your new information. Without a current mailing or e-mail address you might not get your newsletters or be able to enter the Members Only area on our website. So drop me an e-mail, find me at an outing, or send me a note via regular mail.

Thanks for your support,
Dave Williams
UPI Membership Director
Fools-gold49@att.net

THE WAIT IS OVER!!

Our new shipment of T-Shirts are in. Order or reserve yours today! T-Shirts are $10.00 each (and any additional mailing costs if needed). You can reserve your shirts today to pick up at the August Contra Costa Chapter Meeting, the August 27th Twain outing, or the pre-Thanksgiving outing at Coulterville. Shirts can also be mailed to you. Contact Laurie Ozga at 925-706-8193 or OzMiner@msn.com to order your shirts today!

Contra Costa County Chapter News

Contra Costa Chapter 10th Annual Outing.

Sign-up now to attend the **10th Annual Contra Costa Chapter Outing to be held 8/27 to 9/3.** Our last nine annual outings have been a roaring success and this year's outing has some extra special activities planned. Activities include a metal detector hunt including coins, cash, and prizes; free morning coffee; prizes all day; free spaghetti dinner; free bingo for gold; and surprises! There's also drawings to enter and special activities planned for the kids.

The pot-luck and raffle will be held on Saturday night and we ask that you please bring a donation to the raffle.

As many of you know, for years our annual outing has been held in the private group campsite at Bear River in Placer County, CA. This year we are doing something different and taking our outing on the road to the UPI claim at Twain, CA. If you don't already know, all UPI claims, including Twain, are located on BLM land. There is plenty of space for motor homes and trailers as well as great tent sites! This is dry camping, there will be outhouse style potties, and no hook-ups are available. Shopping is nearby.

There is NO charge for the week (or weekend only), however, so that we can plan activities, we ask that you please RSVP by answering the few questions below.

Please contact Laurie Ozga, UPI Volunteer, at OzMiner@msn.com or 925-706-8193 with any questions.

Remember, this is a UPI claim and while guests are welcome, they must first complete a Guest Release of Liability Form prior to engaging in any prospecting activities. Release forms will be available at the outing.

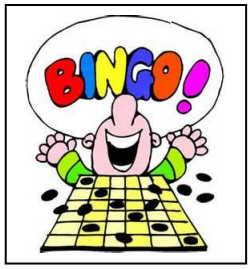
May there be gold in your pan, Ed Ozga, UPI Contra Costa Chapter Chairman, 925-706-8193/OzMiner@msn.com.

Please RSVP to OzMiner@msn.com and answer the following questions.

1. How many adults & kids (I need ages of kids (approximate is okay))?

2. Are you attending the free Friday night spaghetti feed and how many are in your party?

3. Are you or anyone else in your party metal detecting in Saturday's hunt (Note, cost is $10.00 and you must be preregistered to hunt)?



Contra Costa Chapter Trip To Roaring Camp

The UPI Contra Costa Chapter Trip to Roaring Camp on June 13th was a roaring success! **Roaring Camp Mining Company** is located just above Jackson, CA http://www.roaringcampgold.com/ We absolutely recommend spending a day (or week) of prospecting, adventure, comradery, and just plain fun! We know we can't wait to do it again! Turn to page 13 to read of one prospectors account of the day!

THANKS SO MUCH

This month's round of applause goes out to Bill Reboin. Bill has served as a UPI volunteer for many years. Bill was previously the UPI Publisher/Editor in Chief for many years and currently serves as the UPI Historian. Many thanks to you Bill, we do appreciate all your hard work. If Bill's name sounds familiar, maybe it's because UPI honored him a few years back by naming one of our claims after him. Bill doesn't stay in one place for long, but, he is currently at the Twain claim, so if you have a chance, stop by and say hello. Thanks again Bill, it's volunteers like you that keep this great organization going.

Editor's note: If you know of a UPI member that deserves a round of applause, please send the information to me.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

2015 UPI Outing Schedule:

August 27th-September 3rd Twain (Sponsored by Contra Costa Chapter)
October 16th – 18th - Coulterville Area/Pre-Thanksgiving Feed

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR!
AUGUST 22nd and 23rd
DELTA GOLD DIGGERS IS HOSTING
GPAA GOLD SHOW IN SONORA, CA

Mother Load Fairgrounds, 2220 Southgate Dr., Sonora, CA

Saturday 10:00 am to 6:00 pm and Sunday 10:00 am to 4:00 pm
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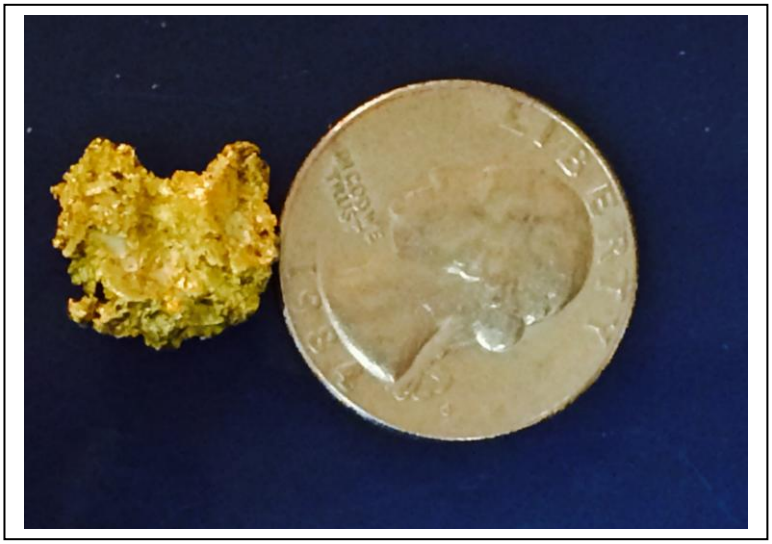
The 'ol Miner sas, try to be the person yer 'ol dog thinks you is.



Only One Outing Left to Win this Nugget!

Time is running out to **win this beautiful 3.2 gram nugget.** There's only one outing left this year to get a chance to win! To have a chance, all you have to have done is attend all or any of the UPI outings scheduled for this year. Each qualifying UPI member (includes adults and their spouses) who attend an outing will receive a ticket for a chance to win this nugget. The more outings you attend, the more tickets you will receive. All those that received tickets for attending the outings this year will then be entered into a drawing to win the nugget. The raffle will be held at the pre-Thanksgiving Coulterville area outing in October 2015. Tickets will not be provided for attending the pre-Thanksgiving Coulterville area outing and you need not be present at the drawing to win.

If you have a mailing address, email change, or wish to receive your newsletter electronically, please send your updated information to Dave Williams; *Membership Director,* Membership@unitedprospectors.com.

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More on Bull Creek by Prospector Anonymous - 2015

This time of the year Bull Creek seems to dry up. No water, it gets real hot, and the bugs show up which makes it a good time to go crevicing and check out the creek's path. Also, not many people are out there so you'll most likely be the only one. At this time you should be aware that the water, if any left, will pool up and might be flowing enough for you to pan out testing material. As I said earlier, a good time to do some crevicing and check out area's that you couldn't get to when the water was flowing higher. I've found the most gold in the middle of the creek. Bring some classifiers so that you can bring home a lighter bucket of cons. I've seen other UPI members use a dry washer and do well enough for the effort. If the material is wet you can spread out the material on a plastic tarp and it will dry enough for you to run it through the dry washer. The gravel bars and anywhere you see that gravel and black sands collect is a good place to run just the first few inches on top for the float gold.

There is a creek on the other side of Bull Creek, located across from the back campsites where UPI usually has it's pot luck dinner. It has some chunky quartz that lays out near the edge during very high water entering . If you walk up the creek bed it does seem to disappear, but it is under all of the overburden as you walk up the creek. This creek comes from the Soapstone Ridge area and I've always wanted to check it out, but don't recommend doing it alone. It gets very steep and narrow as you get about 1/4 mile up. Never checked for any color there.

Montgomery Creek dumps out into Bull Creek at the start of UPI's middle claim. It dries up early, which makes it so you can hike upstream. Yes! it has been dredged all the way up past where the creek splits. There is a better way to get up where the creek splits. I mention this because if you hike up above the creek on the main branch about 100 yards you'll notice this giant tree has fallen across the creek. If you climb over it and from that point on you'll notice that all the rocks are covered with moss and it looks like this section of the creek hasn't been dredged. I've walked up and test panned as I went and I didn't find any color, but, I only dug test holes of only about a foot or so deep. What's so cool about this place is that every rock is moss covered, which says that they haven't been moved for a long time. I've hiked up this part of the creek for at least a 1/2 mile and it tells me to come back for another visit before I give up on it. (A footnote here: I've been told to stay out of Montgomery Gulch area by an older UPI member and every time I ask why, I never get any answer, except stay out.) A few things I do know why is mountain lions, bears, big rattlesnakes, and an occasional marijuana grower. Oh, and swarms of ladybugs. Not sure if you need a ladybug license to collect them for nurseries, but, they do sell for about $25.00 a pound!

The best way into that area is to hike out of Bull Creek main camp and turn right. Walk onto the road about 50 yards and you'll notice what appears to be an old logging road on your left. The forest department put some old logs and a dirt berm to keep ATV's and other off road trucks out. This is your starting point into Montgomery Gulch. The path may be overgrown in places, so you might bring something to whack the overgrowth with. The trail isn't steep and has views of the creek below as you're hiking in. There is a spot that the trail passes some cliff faces that have quartz veins with large pockets to probe into. This is the halfway point and from there you will be walking a slight downhill into where at the end of trail you'll see a white post as a claim maker with the old Calif. Mining claim number which, last I looked, was vacant for file. Remember this point of reference for on the way back. It's the trail to the left on the way out. From here you hike up the main stream about 100 yards and you will see the downed tree over the creek. I'm sure some old miners lived up there way back when too. It's real wild up there, so you should try to con an old gold buddy to go with you.

You should pack enough water or stash containers of water along the way. Bring a buddy, food (just in case), and a walking stick. Bring very little mining gear for your first time, proper clothing, and boots. Leave the cell phone back at camp and bring a real compass. The rest is up to you. One last thing, the local bedrock in that creek has natural silver stringers running through them. Although, it would take the whole mountain to make enough to get 2 days pay. Be careful and good luck!

Anonymous Prospector 2015

SPANISH CREEK OUTING - JULY 2015

By Dave Williams, Membership Director

The Spanish Creek, 4th of July outing was a blast! This was my first time staying at the Spanish Creek claim. While I had visited there about 5 years ago, I was amazed at the size of the camping area and length of this claim. The road gets a little rough and there were some 'whoop de doos ', but some of our members managed to get their bigger trailers in.

The weather was hot with temps reaching up to 104 degrees one day. There was plenty of water and as the days heated up, the deep pools offered a great place to swim and a refreshing cool down. We even had rain for a couple of hours one night that helped cool things off and keep the dust down. There were plenty of Crawdads there too and I enjoyed watching some of our members catching them and of course eating them. Thanks to the Rodericks for an awesome feast!

I found a little bit of gold sluicing and a little more sniping in the bedrock up stream. I'm going to have to make some modifications to my sucker tube. My shoulder was feeling the pain after a few hours, LOL. Other members found some nice gold downstream too.

Don, our President, put together another great metal detector hunt Saturday morning. The area was big and we could all spread out. There were all kinds of targets in the field including a wide assortment of shell casings and old tree tags. I did find my share of coins and some gold too. Others found their share, way more than me. Guess they were more in tune with their detectors (Beep Beep Whiiiiiine!)

Another great pot luck dinner was held Saturday night, with tri tip, BBQ chicken, potato salad, and so much more, thank you everyone! Afterwards was a raffle with gold and many other prizes. I really enjoyed myself and think everyone else did too. Hope to see you at the next outing!

SPANISH CREEK DRAWING WINNERS

The Prez and Joan Van Housin

Ed Despins Wins Gold!

The Ol' Miner sas congrats to all 'ya winers!

Cheryl Bruce

Jay Bromley

Dave Williams, Membership Director

SPANISH CREEK DRAWING WINNERS CONTINUED...

Rick Sauls

Bill Reboin

Dolly Sauls

The Prez with Gene Bianchi

Patti Yamine

Craig Van Housin

Lucky Winner!

BULL CREEK DRAWING WINNERS CONTINUED...

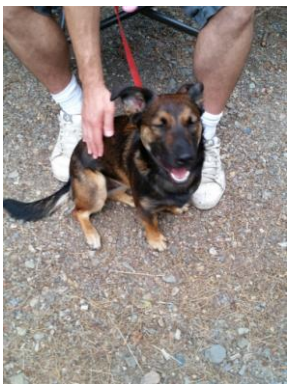
Mike Hammond, nice gloves! And, congratulations on winning the AMRA Membership!!

Wonder if Athena Chermack used this to celebrate all the other prizes she one!

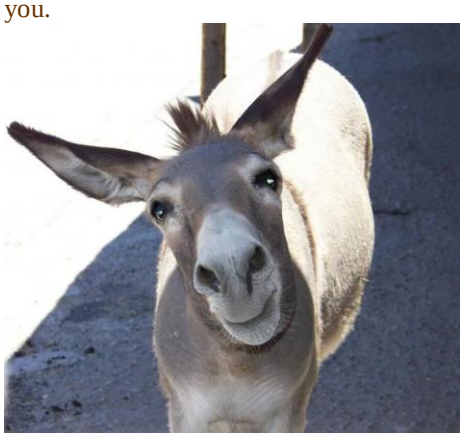
Ben Castricone

Paula Roderick

The 'Ol Miner sas congrats to **Athena** fer also winin the 50/50 dawing



Any misspellings, grammatical errors, and/or misinformation are intentionally placed in this Newsletter for the amusement of those who enjoy pointing them out. Thank you.



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Dedicated to Preserving The Rights of The Public To Access And Use Of Public Lands

A TRIP TO ROARING CAMP by Mike Brickwedel

This is a bucket list place to go for the day and many were there for longer than a few or weeks. It is worth the price to do the day use on Saturday 10am to 10pm. After you are trucked in and asked to get the spiel with the tour, say no. It's a long 30 min or more drive down and the tour is more time on your dollar to spend doing what you came for. A lot of members attended this event and we saw some other UPI people down in camp that had been there for a week or more. Great place for the kids to swim, swim, and swim.

Once there at the bottom on the river they have most everything pretty close by. If you want to try panning, sluicing, or bring dirt down to the river to pan from their old river channel, it's all close enough to get to and you don't have to waste your time running around and getting all worn out from point A and so forth. The piles of dirt for the panning booth were right there by the panning tubs. They had pans and buckets and screens, but we all brought our own. Some went to the panning booth and some did their panning down by the river and had the right idea to get in the water to cool off. The material in the pile was dug up from their pay layer about 40' down to bedrock they said. It's not classified down much, so if you do find a nugget it could be a biggin. When trying to pan this kind of material I watched one of the local old prospectors and he had a pair of rubber coated gloves and he really worked that stuff through the screen that he had so to really break up the clay in the old channel material. This guy most likely did pretty good, because he was there all darn day.

I did some panning. Then, because the day was getting on, I took a bunch of dirt and classified it down , filled my bucket, hid my stuff, and off I went to explore this place. The old channel above camp is for your use in a certain area. I used my MD21 hand held metal detector and it set off all kinds of targets and I thought for sure I had a bonanza. Went down to pan it out and yes, very small specks and there were many. Same results at the panning pile. I did check out up river about 1 1/2 miles and there are some more parts of the old river channel you can dig in and same results in size of gold. (Note here, that up or down river you can highbank and use a sluice to work the other gold channels that I sampled and the gravel bars), you just can't use the sluice or highbanker to run the material for the panning booth and not from the old in camp river channel. I did see an old cabin up river, hidden off the main trail and a mine shaft that seems to be active at this time. Spooky too.

A lot of areas to work and not much has been worked of late. Oh, and some big fish too! Browns and pike. The dinner which starts around 6pm. with some fried bread that happens to be a secret concoction and is more like a hush puppy. Then around 8pm they have everything ready to eat. I won't go into great details as to what was served up, but it was just the right stuff after a long day of running around doing or trying to do it all.

So here are some details of cost and such: One day, 10am to 10pm and Saturday night dinner without discount is $90.00. One day, same time and Sat night with club members or group is $60.00 They load up your gear and truck you down and they have special rules to keep you safe. For the day use your private transportation is in a special parking lot for its safety. Day use with a group aren't allowed to bring motorized equipment. Bring your own beer or wine, if you want. Although, they will sell you anything you didn't pack down. Also, this time of year bring your swimming gear, sunscreen, and fishing stuff. Bring a change of clothes and shoes (showers available). Also, they sell their own dirt bags of the river channel material. Enjoy Mike.

Members Bulletin

FOR SALE - SHAKER TABLE
For more information, contact Don Siegel at 209-401-7040

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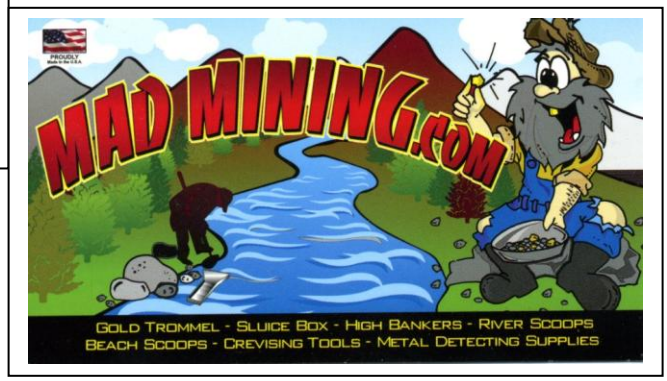

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Members Bulletin Continued

If anyone has anything they would like to list for sale in the newsletter please contact Laurie Ozga at OzMiner@msn.com or at 925-706-8193.

Another Roaring Good Time!

We had such a great time on the last trip, that folks want more!

Joyce Smith, UPI Secretary and Contra Costa Chapter member, is organizing another trip to Roaring Camp.

On **Saturday, August 15, 2015**, join in on an adventure to the **Roaring Camp Mining Company** just above Jackson, CA
http://www.roaringcampgold.com/

When: Saturday, 8/15/15
Time: 10:00 am
Cost: $60.00 (includes discount)

The $60.00 fee includes a full day of prospecting, dinner (steak, potato, vegetable, desert, etc.), and for those that are still able, dancing will follow.

There are 10 or 12 spots left. You can **call Joyce directly at 209-815-1940** for further details.

NOTE FROM YOUR EDITOR:

I would really appreciate any input you may have for the newsletter. Please send articles, letters, adventures, recipes, short stories, etc. Anything you would like to share with the UPI members it would be much appreciated. Anything to do with gold prospecting so we can share your thoughts with other members.

Do you have a personal short story you would like to share?

Do you have pictures you would like to share?

All of the above are welcome.

Laurie Ozga
925-706-8193
OzMiner@msn.com

Dear Members:

While pursuing your outdoor endeavors you may be challenged by a representative of a governmental agency or public servant regarding the legality of your activity in their area. Know what to do by having your PLP Orange Card with you. Contact Laurie Ozga at OzMiner@msn.com or (925) 706-8193 if you don't have this card.

Laurie Ozga

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ISSUE #335-4-15
August 2015

Membership is open to anyone interested, 18 years or older. One membership includes a spouse & children under the age of 18.
All memberships are good for a period of 1 year and will expire on your anniversary date.

Membership Dues: (check your preference below) Number of qualifying family members _____

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_____ **Yes**, I want to receive the newsletter and renewal reminders electronically. If you checked yes, please make sure you have included an email address above.

I herby apply for membership/renewal with United Prospectors, Inc. ("United Prospectors"). I understand that United Prospectors and its agents do not provide goods or services for my activities including, for example, mining equipment or supplies, lodging, transportation, food service, etc. United Prospectors is not liable for any negligent or willful act or failure to act by providers of such goods or services during my activities. I acknowledge that there may be certain risks involved with activities as a member including, but not limited to, rugged or uneven terrain, uncertain or unpredictable river currents, physical exertion for which I am not prepared, other unknown forces of nature, high altitude, accident or illness without access to means of rapid evacuation or availability of medical supplies, the adequacy of medical attention once provided, or negligence on the part of United Prospectors. I HEREBY AGREE TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR MY OWN WELFARE AND ACCEPT ANY AND ALL RISKS OF UNANTICIPATED EVENTS, ILLNESS, INJURY, EMOTIONAL TRAUMA, OR DEATH. I acknowledge that the cost of United Prospectors memberships is based upon participants executing this Release of Liability. Therefore, as lawful consideration for being permitted to participate as a member, I hereby RELEASE AND DISCHARGE FOREVER UNITED PROSPECTORS FROM AND AGAINST ANY AND ALL LIABILITY ARISING FROM MY MEMBERSHIP OR MY ACTIVITIES AS A MEMBER. I agree that this release shall be legally binding upon me personally, all members of my family and all minors traveling with me, my heirs, successors, assigns, and legal representatives, it being my intention to fully assume all the risk associated with my activities as a member and to release United Prospectors from any and all liabilities to the maximum extent permitted by law.

I AM 18 YEARS OR OLDER AND HAVE READ AND FULLY UNDERSTAND THIS RELEASE AND MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

SIGNATURE_____ DATE_____ UPI Member #_____
(Renewal only)

Please mail this completed (signed and dated) application along with your check/money order to:

United Prospectors Inc.
2401 E Orangeburg Avenue Ste 675-237
Modesto CA 95355

Please allow 4 weeks for your application to be processed

Revised March 2015