



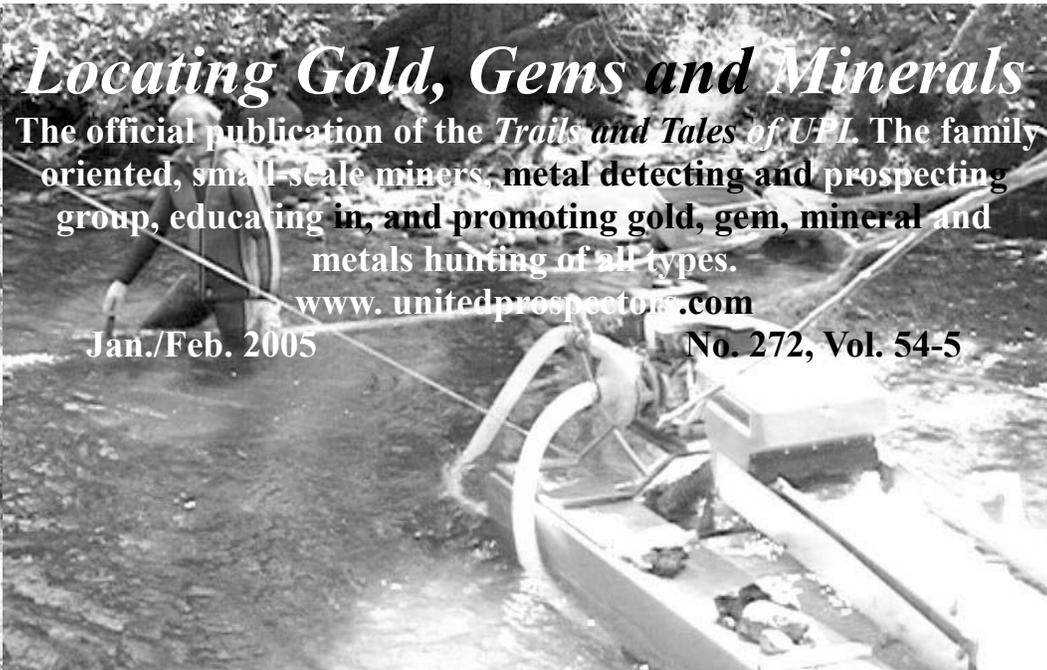
# Locating Gold, Gems and Minerals

The official publication of the *Trails and Tales of UPI*. The family oriented, small scale miners, metal detecting and prospecting group, educating in, and promoting gold, gem, mineral and metals hunting of all types.

[www.unitedprospectors.com](http://www.unitedprospectors.com)

Jan./Feb. 2005

No. 272, Vol. 54-5



## *Your 2005 Board of Directors!*

*Front row, left to right:* Rita Perry, Samantha Wait, Brenda Marsh, Linda Doyle, Gerald Hurt.  
*Rear, left to right:* Beverly Paul, Auditor, Chet Chastain, Steve Letlow, Don Siegel, Bill Reboin Tom Eastland. Please refer to pages 2 & 3 for the members respective positions on the board.

**UPI BEGINS ITS 58TH YEAR OF CONTINUOUS OPERATION!**



# UNITED PROSPECTORS INC.

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

### Don Siegel

### January/February 2005

**PRESIDENT**  
*Don Siegel*

**V. PRESIDENT**  
*Tom Eastland*

**TREASURER**  
*Samantha Wait*

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*Rita Perry*

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*Chet Chastain  
Linda Doyle  
Gerald Hurt  
Steve Letlow  
Bill Reboin  
Brenda Marsh*

**EDITOR/PUBLISHER**  
**CLUB HISTORIAN**  
*Bill Reboin*

**EDITORS**  
*Mark Weber*

**ADVOCACY/  
POLITICAL ACTION**  
*Gerald Hurt*

**CHAPTERS**  
*Tom Eastland*

**CLAIMS**  
*Chet Chastain*

**ETHICS/GRIEVANCE**  
*Gerald Hurt*

**MEMBERSHIP**  
*Linda Doyle*

**OUTING COORDINATOR**  
*Brenda Marsh*

**TECHNICAL ADVISOR**  
*Steve Letlow*

**WAGON MASTER**  
*HFA by Steve Letlow, Open*

**WAYS AND MEANS**  
*HFA by Don Siegel, Open*

**WEB MASTER**  
*Mark Weber*

Hello and welcome to the first edition of the UPI newsletter for 2005. As Daniel Short Jr. decided to relinquish his position as President of UPI and pursue other interests, I assumed the Presidency of the organization, by being elected Vice-President in the October 2004 elections, and by the vacating of the past President, per the By-laws. Daniel served UPI with the organization as his first priority for several years. I want to thank Daniel for his service and guidance of the organization. Daniel was the first UPI member I had any contact with and I will always remember that day.

2005 looks to be an exciting year, with the addition of additional claims, and a new Board of Directors here to make your UPI experience a fun and rewarding one. With the large amount of rainfall we have had this year, we anticipate, Mother Nature will have washed more GOLD into UPI claims for your mining enjoyment.

The board has met and is looking at all the Forest Service maneuvering and has concluded that our best move is a wait and see position. This is in concert with another small miners organization that has performed certain specific actions to test the Forest Service. It is, however, important that you the membership do what you can to best prepare yourself for any action that the officials may take in the future, against you or your mining organization (UPI). Please read all the information provided in our newsletters, and understand what the issues are.

Joining PLP (Public Land for the People) will also give you an advantage in the event an enforcement officer approaches you and accuses you of violating rules/laws. All of this should not scare you away, knowing your rights and protecting them is what this is all about. Know your rights and protect your freedom from oppression.

### Some of what is in this issue of the newsletter!

Outing news generally begins in this frame. Since there has been no outing since the fifth annual UPI Pre-Thanksgiving outing in November and that was covered in issue 271, Nov./Dec. Some of what you will find in this newsletter follows:

New members of the organization will be receiving complete printed Guidebooks. Re-newing members will find updated pages for their Guidebook in this issue. Remember last year we told you to keep your Guidebooks and that changes would be by way of the newsletter? You just insert the pages where they belong. This was done to cut down on publication and mailing costs so that there would be more in the kitty for claim maintenance fees, taxes and other fees associated with owning/retaining claims.

OK, you'll find the updates in this issue. The updates are pages 9-16 of this publication only. These are not valid page numbers for the Guidebook. If you didn't keep your last issue you can download and print the new Guidebook from the members only area of the website if you have a computer and your e-mail address is registered with the Membership Director. Otherwise if you need a new Guidebook one can be obtained from Membership for the cost of printing and mailing, this is around \$5.00.

You'll also find that the e-mail addresses for the officers and directors have been changed as well. This new information is found on page three "Contacting UPI". Please use these new addresses for your communication with the various board members.

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### Tentative Schedule for 2005

- April 9 & 10** - Oxbow (pending permission)
- June 4 & 5** - Bull Creek
- July 1 thru 4** - Genesee@ Babcock Crossing
- Aug. 12 - 14** - Spanish Creek/Clm Gold
- Sept. 9-11** - Greenhorn Creek plus more
- Oct. 8 & 9** - Bull Creek
- Nov. 5 & 6** - Coulterville - 6th annual pre-Thanksgiving outing/feed

## CONTACTING UPI

### PRESIDENT

**Don Siegel**  
2605 Dardanelle Drive  
Modesto, CA 95355  
President@unitedprospectors.com  
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### VICE PRESIDENT

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### TREASURER

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### MEMBERSHIP

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UPI Membership C/O Linda Doyle  
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Phone: (530) 295-8116

### DIRECTORS

**Claims Manager:** Chet Chastain, E-mail: ClaimsManager@unitedprospectors.com  
**Chapters Manager:** Tom Eastland, (925) 932-4288, E-mail: Chapters@unitedprospectors.com  
**Ethics and Grievance/Political/Advocacy:** Gerald Hurt, (559) 587-0611, E-mail: GrievancePolitical@unitedprospectors.com  
**Historian/Ed/Pub:** Bill Reboin, (916) 362-3441, E-mail: EditorInChief@unitedprospectors.com  
**Outing Coordinator:** Brenda Marsh, (916) 448-5847, E-mail: OutingCoordinator@unitedprospectors.com  
**Technical Adviser:** Steve Letlow, (209) 986-6276, E-mail: upitech@direcway.com  
**Ways and Means:** Open, HFA by Don Siegel, see President  
**Wagon Master:** Open, HFS by Steve Letlow, see Technical Advisor

### VOLUNTEERS

**Asst. Claims:** Ray Budowich, PO Box 367, Coulterville, CA  
**Asst. Claims Plumas Co.:** Johnny Lewis Jr., (530) 283-4787

## Chapters

For Chapter meeting times please contact the representative indicated for your Chapter area. For information or volunteer work on area Chapters listed as open, please contact:

**Tom Eastland, Chapters Chairperson.** Please see Contra Costa Co. below for contact information.

**Alameda County, Chairperson; Steve Kleszyk, (925) 443-4993 or ratled88@aol.com**  
*Meeting held at - - - Prospectors Claim Store*  
174 S. "K" Street  
Livermore, CA

**Contra Costa County, Chairperson; Tom Eastland, (925) 932-4288 or chapters@unitedprospectors.com**  
*Meeting held at - - - First Baptist Church Mansion*  
3033 Bonifacio St.  
Concord, CA



**Madera County, Chairperson; Open**

**Sacramento County, Chairperson; Open**

**San Joaquin County, Chairperson; Steve Letlow, (209) 986-6276 or upitech@direcway.com**  
Call Steve for when and where. It is understood that meetings will be held at Terry Schoens shop.

**Santa Clara County, Chairperson; Open**

**Stanislaus County, Chairperson: Don Siegel, (209) 551-9802 or dps0736@aol.com**  
Call for particulars



*The old miner sez:* Regarten da curent debacle wit da FS an otherz it look like they gotta be a line drawn inna sand an sez nuf is nuf. It gonna take all partizapaten!

## UNITED PROSPECTORS INC. (UPI)© THE TRAILS AND TALES OF UPI©

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UPI JOURNAL/©  
NEWSLETTER©

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Publisher/Editor-in-Chief  
Advertising

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Editor of Guidebook, Asst. Editor of newsletter  
Mark E. Weber  
Subscriptions/Membership/Circulation  
Linda Doyle

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EditorInChief@unitedprospectors.com

The UPI Newsletter (ISSN 1544-7774) is published 8-10 issues per year, during the normal mining season, with an annual "Members Guidebook". Membership is \$35.00/year and includes first class mailing of the Newsletter and Members Guidebook in the United States, and use of our claims any time they wish, as limited by local governing agencies. Lifetime Membership is \$350.00 and provides the same. Current Guidebooks are issued at the first of the year for Life Memberships, and upon renewal for annual Memberships. *Non-member, subscription only*, is \$25.00/year and includes first class mailing of the Newsletter and the non-member Guidebook, issued upon renewal, in the United States, a picture guide of our claims with no locations indicated. Foreign Membership is \$45.00/year and foreign Lifetime Membership is \$450.00. Foreign non-member subscription is \$35.00/year. Foreign Memberships are in U.S. dollars. Updated Guidebooks are issued upon renewal of Membership/Subscription. Inserts will be provided as Guidebook information changes. Membership or Non-member Subscribers purchase Membership or Subscriptions understanding that information contained in the UPI publications come from many sources and information used is considered as reliable, however the UPI Officers, Directors and Editors do not guarantee its authenticity, nor do we assume liability for its use or correctness.

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UPI encourages submission of articles of all kinds related to the trials and tribulations and experiences of small scale miners, opinion pieces, cartoons and poems. Unsolicited e-mail submissions become the property of UPI to use as they wish. Submissions in writing, accompanied by a self addressed stamped envelope will be returned to the sender if not used.

UNITED PROSPECTORS INC. PROSPECTOR  
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# BOARD NOTES

January 22, 2005

Treasurer Samantha Wait called meeting to order 10:00 a.m.

**Roll Call:**

**Officers Present:** Don Siegel, President; Tom Eastland, Vice President; Samantha Wait, Treasurer; Rita Perry, Secretary.

**Directors Present:** Bill Reboin, Chet Chastain, Brenda Marsh, Steve Letlow, Tom Eastland (dual role), Don Siegel (dual role), Linda Doyle, and Gerald Hurt.

**Directors Absent:** Director Editor, vacant.

**Members Present:** Chris Perry, Christa Eastland, Beverly Paul, and Mark Weber.

Don Siegel, was sworn in as Vice President, but with the resignation of Daniel Short, Jr., he became President. Steve Letlow, Samantha Wait, and Brenda Marsh were sworn in as Directors. Don Siegel assumed the roll of President and nominated Tom Eastland as Vice President, was seconded and motion carried.

Minutes were read and Samantha Wait wanted to make a change as to the spelling to the last name of Rick and Sue Niemeyer.

Motion was made by Chet Chastain and seconded by Samantha Wait to accept the minutes from our last meeting. Motion carried.

- **Treasurer, Samantha Wait:** The checkbook balance from October through December, yearend; October 6, 2004 was \$8,327.30 and December year-end checkbook balance is \$8,262.99. As of January 21, 2005 the new checkbook balance is \$9,258.99. The books were audited and found in balance. Motion was made and seconded to accept the report. Motion carried. Samantha Wait will be changing Account Codes for the following year and also, to have Tom Eastland and Bill Reboin to sign checks, motion was made by Chet Chastain and seconded by Gerald Hurt, motion carried.
- **Membership, Linda Doyle:** As of January 21, 2005, we have 1 honorary member, 55 life members, 336 regular members, and 6 subscribers, a total of 398 members, which is a total 752 family members.
- **Wagon Master, Steve Letlow:** Steve is in a voluntary position to be the Wagon Master until this position is filled. Steve has a schedule made out for this year. Oxbow is the first one and Don Siegel, Tom Eastland, and Steve Letlow will speak to the Ranger Station regarding this outing and regarding the port-a-potties. Second outing will be a week after dredging season opens, which will be a week after Memorial Day Weekend will be at Bull Creek. Genesee Outing at Babcock Crossing in July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup>. August 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, and 14<sup>th</sup> will be Spanish Creek/BLM. September 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> will be at Squirrel Creek. October 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> will be at Bull Creek. November 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> is the Annual Thanksgiving Feast in Coulterville.
- **Outing Coordinator, Brenda Marsh:** Nothing at this time.
- **Ways and Means, Don Siegel:** Samantha Wait submitted a Ways and Means inventory report. President Don Siegel would like to see an improvement on prizes to be given out at the raffles and not just a moneymaker. Suggestions were made to having the winner of a ticket draw the next number in the series instead of Directors drawing the numbers. He would like to see the members more involved with the raffle. A motion was made, seconded and motioned carried for Don Siegel, or whoever the Ways and Means Director may be, could sell any obsolete item and use the money to purchase more raffle prizes.
- **Political-Grievance, Gerald Hurt:** Bill Reboin handed out some information regarding the Indian Tribe filing suit to stop mining on Salmon, Klamath, and Scott Rivers. Gerald Hurt handed out a sample letter that could be used to withdraw Notice of Intent from the Forest Service. Chet Chastain will continue to send a Notice of Intent for UPI and the members will do so as well.
- **Editor/Publisher, Bill Reboin:** Wanted to verify that everyone received the E-mail regarding Daniel Short, Jr.'s resignation.
- **Chapters, Tom Eastland:** We have two active chapters, San Joaquin and Contra Costa. He would like to see more Chapters become active.
- **Claims, Chet Chastain:** We now have 90 acres on Squirrel Creek. This will be released later in the year. The taxes were paid on all claims. He wants to continue to take steps and procedures to protect all claims.
- **Web Master, Mark Weber:** He wants to update information on the website as accurate as possible. He would like to update maps. He said we have 45 members who have accessed the Talk n Trade.
- **Treasurer, Samantha Wait:** Financial Report F/Y 2003-2004  
 Total Assets \$16,260.20  
 Total Liability \$14,079.62  
 Open Balance \$ 9,258.99

BILLS PRESENTED FOR PAYMENT.

|                                        |           |
|----------------------------------------|-----------|
| A&A Portables, Coulterville            | \$ 100.81 |
| Derald Smith, Postage                  | \$ 17.29  |
| Gerald Hurt, Hotel Expense Jerry Hobbs | \$ 270.66 |
| Tom and Christa Eastland, Ham          | \$ 28.06  |
| Linda Doyle, Postage and Supplies      | \$ 194.31 |
| Samantha Wait, Supplies                | \$ 196.53 |
| Chet Chastain, Claims                  | \$ 869.22 |
| Bill Reboin, Publications              | \$ 316.61 |
| Don Siegel, Detector Hunt              | \$ 29.53  |

TOTAL BILL \$2,023.02



We had a really great Board meeting at Brenda's home. Samantha Wait, Treasurer starting things in motion.

(Continued on page 8)

## NEW MEMBERS AND RENEWING MEMBERSHIPS

*This section is devoted to acknowledging and welcoming all new members and those renewing!*

*Welcome aboard for a year of fun.*

Information is from 12/2/04 through 1/21/05

### New Members

| <u>Name</u>               | <u>City/State</u> |
|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Gene & Diana Clayton      | Redding, CA       |
| Calvin Cooper             | Fallon, NV        |
| Richard Giddens           | Petaluma, CA      |
| Scott Hills               | Fair Oaks, CA     |
| Randy & Glenette Huckabay | Madara, CA        |
| David Ingra ham           | Napa, CA          |
| Michael Kelly             | Sacramento, CA    |
| James Madden              | San Bruno, CA     |
| Mike Phillips             | San Jose, CA      |
| Robert Spurlock           | Visalia, CA       |

### Renewing Members

| <u>Name</u>             | <u>City/State</u> |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Art & Lucy Apodaca      | Merced, CA        |
| Jim & Carolyn Appleby   | Oakley, CA        |
| Nancie Barker           | Morgan Hill, CA   |
| Art Basso               | Burbank, CA       |
| Al & Jane Bates         | Silver, NV        |
| Clayton E. Borchers     | Tracy, CA         |
| Charles Brooks          | Madera, CA        |
| Leland & Nina Brown     | Elk Grove, CA     |
| Mark & Debbie Buhl      | Turlock, CA       |
| Jim & Kirsten Collins   | Vacaville, CA     |
| William Cook            | Sebastopol, CA    |
| Vernon & Marie Crabtree | Santa Rosa, CA    |
| Gregory E. Davis        | Tempe, AZ         |
| Steven & Kathryn Doyle  | Loomis, CA        |
| Don Driver              | French, Camp, CA  |

### Renewing (Cont.)

| <u>Name</u>              | <u>City/State</u> |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Jon & Linda Evers        | Yorba Linda, CA   |
| Richard & Thurlie Fish   | Vacaville, CA     |
| Darrell Fullerton        | Sacramento, CA    |
| Ralph & Jeanne Gragg     | Concord, CA       |
| Lee Greer                | Vacaville, CA     |
| William & Nancy Greymont | Port, WI          |
| Jim Gribben              | Bakersfield, CA   |
| Wallace & Joan Jackson   | Santa Clara, CA   |
| Bill Johnson             | Elk Grove, CA     |
| James Kelly              | Concord, CA       |
| Martin & Isabel Kelly    | San Leandro, CA   |
| Ed & Leah Kolstad        | Carmichael, CA    |
| Jeff Kyle                | Pleasant Hill, CA |
| Steve Letlow             | Stockton, CA      |
| Jim Lewis                | Somis, CA         |
| Will & Marilyn Lindsley  | Concord, CA       |
| Ray & Audrey Maddalena   | Modesto, CA       |
| Stan & Jan Makiney       | Placerville, CA   |
| Bob Mappes               | Castro Valley, CA |
| Richard & Joyce Mason    | Pollock Pines, CA |
| Curtis Moser             | Hayward, CA       |
| Georgia Murray           | American, CA      |
| Charles & Ethel Muttart  | Cloverdale, CA    |
| Bob & Betty Myers        | Oroville, CA      |
| Michael O'Boyle          | Madera, CA        |
| Al & Hulda Onyika        | Fallon, NV        |
| Andy & Kathy Patterson   | Santa Clara, CA   |
| Beverly Paul             | Folsom, CA        |
| Don Porter               | Lucerne, CA       |
| Erwin & Nancy Powell     | Rogue River, OR   |
| Anthony & Ethel Rinck    | Millwood, GA      |
| Ed Rogina                | Santa Rosa, CA    |
| Larry Schaumburg         | Portland, OR      |
| Robert & Phyllis Terry   | Anderson, CA      |
| Stan & Elaine Tout       | Arcadia, CA       |

(Continued on page 6)



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(Continued from page 5) **MEMBERSHIP**  
**Renewing cont.**

| <u>Name</u>              | <u>City/State</u> |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Randy & Janice Trumbauer | Lake Forest, CA   |
| Gerald Vande Weg         | Rohnert Park, CA  |
| Ray & Rachel Villasenor  | Vacaville, CA     |
| Thomas Williams          | Livermore, CA     |
| Robert Williams          | Paradise, CA      |
| Joseph Wisinger          | Paradise, CA      |
| Martin R. Wockenfuss     | Cloverdale, CA    |
| Dave Zadwick             | Pleasanton, CA    |
| Michael Zastawny         | Santa Cruz, CA    |

*Welcome aboard for another year of enjoyment with UPI the small-scale miners advocate. Lets see you at the scheduled outings and the potluck and raffles. It's always a great time for all on top of finding that elusive yellow metal, Au.*

*It's really nice to see the renewals year after year. There are a number of you that I have never had the pleasure of meeting, only know you by name. Come on by one of the outings and lets get acquainted. Bill Ed/Pub*

**Members up for renew 03/05**

|                 |                 |                         |
|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| Anton Bell      | Barry Bernardi  | Gerald Boyle            |
| Brian Coughlin  | David Dhont     | Bob Divine              |
| Leon Farrell    | James Hammond   | Willie Hammond Sr.      |
| Douglas Murray  | Richard Nystrom | Clyde Pearson           |
| Anthony Pizzola | Jim Poindexter  | Jack Reider             |
| Robert Schuster | Ray Serna       | Ross Smith              |
| Harris H. Sweet | Gaylan Walters  | Gerald & Kim Williamson |
| Richard Yoshida |                 |                         |

**Members up for renew 04/05**

|                         |                        |                        |
|-------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Gary Anderson           | Robert J. Anderson     | Patrick Avilla         |
| Scott Blum              | Dan Broers             | Lee Brokaw             |
| Ray Budowich            | Robert Burger          | Dave Cates             |
| Patrick Connell         | Bill & Mary Ann Cutts  | George & Pat DeSloover |
| Adrian & Maureen Dyette | Allen & Gloria Freitas |                        |

**Up for renew 04/05 Cont.**

|                         |                      |                       |
|-------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Dino & Carol Giovannoni | Allen Laviolette     | Alan Maxwell          |
| Charles A. McMullen     | Charles P. McMullen  |                       |
| Dennis & Pat Mobley     | Douglas & Joy Parker |                       |
| Carl Peterson           | Mike Pivacek         | Wesley & Marsha Smith |
| Phillip Smith           | Aron Starratt        | Clifford L. Sweatt    |
| Norman Trainer          | John Wills           |                       |

OK folks getting close to that time of the year again. Time to break out the mining equipment. I can't speak for you, but I tell you I'm sure looking forward to getting out in the woods with you.

Please make sure that you get your renewal in on time so that there is no lapse in your newsletters and that you can join in the fun of the new year. Word has it that there is new claims later in the year. Hot dog!



**Pictures:** Oxbow 2004. Hopefully our first outing of the year.



# GOLD MINE

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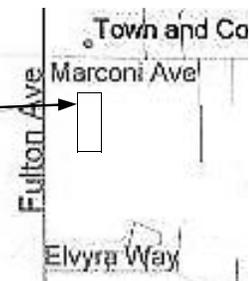
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**Bruce & Mary Hampton  
Owners**

**Ace Smithart  
Manager**



# Mining Holds Keys to Self-sufficiency

By Paula Easley

Alaska is a great place for elephant hunting. While hundreds have been observed, they aren't easily accessible. Sometimes natural or artificial barriers can prevent exploring their habitat and seeing them up close. Some elephants even have names: Pebble, Pogo, Donlin, Red Dog, A-J, Prudhoe, Kennecott, Greens Creek, Kuparuk, Quartz Hill.

Financial barriers can also be erected. Senator John Kerry recently vowed to impose a \$600 million fee on mining operations, and use the revenues to foster tourism in our national parks. (He didn't ask how many career-mining people would rather be nature interpreters, or the like.) Economists had analyzed a similar fee proposal that projected western states would lose 44,000 mining jobs. In Nevada alone, the

hard-rock mining fee would eliminate 20 percent of the industry, further exacerbating the national trade imbalance.

How big an issue is this? When you consider that, statistically, every U.S.



*This miners shack has been around since the turn of the last century and is still in use by the current claimant..*

resident uses 45,524 pounds of new minerals each year (U.S. Geological Survey), it's pretty big. Just estimate the weight of mineral-based items in your home, including the plumbing, cars, boats, and the house itself. What about planes, trains, buildings, medical services, roads, etc., used periodically? Like mining or not, minerals are vitally important personal necessities. They are critical components of America's economic foundation. So are jobs.

What happened to rare earth minerals is an unfortunate example of shortsighted thinking. The world's largest known deposit is in the Mojave Desert between Barstow, California, and Las Vegas, Nevada. These materials have enormous potential for advancing 21st century technology.

Samarium and neodymium are used to produce super magnets that reduce the weight and size of electric motors by 50 percent. With miniature motors, we can manufacture pollution-free cars. Lanthium increases lighting's energy efficiency by up to 50 percent. Europium produces the red color on television screens. Rare earth minerals are used in catalytic converters, computers, and other high-tech applications.

Fifteen years ago, California was the number one producer of rare earth minerals. Today, we import them from the People's Republic of China. Why? The Feinstein-Miller California Desert Wilderness Act placed the deposit off limits.

A similar action occurred in California's Lucerne Valley, the West's largest producing area for cement and limestone products, regulated out of business for some "endangered" weeds. Limestone is used in antacids, toothpaste, rubber, plastics, paints, crayons, and medicines, and for making steel and glass, for refining sugar, for purifying water, and for controlling air pollution.

One would think such uses of the earth's diverse mineral endowment would merit a higher priority than preserving noxious weeds. Weeds can be transplanted. Minerals can't. No one knows what minerals we have, since tens of millions of public acres have been designated inaccessible, without studying their resource potential. Typically, 5,000 mining claims must be evaluated to find a single valuable mine. That's why protecting access is so critical.

We can't predict the future, the stability of foreign suppliers, or the impacts of supply disruptions on the United States. We've learned from experience, though, that resources locked away by the

environmental protection frenzy, stay locked away.

On the energy front, today's quandary is whether record oil prices will motivate Congress to over-rule environmental opposition, and allow exploration in a small fraction of ANWR. Alaska's natural gas and coal could also help offset national power generation shortages. If other states were allowed to produce their public land resources, the employment impacts, alone, would be phenomenal.

The National Defense Council Foundation monitors issues affecting energy and strategic minerals. Its president recently told Congress (March 4, 2004 [testimony](#)) that environmentalist legal challenges, at every step in the permitting process, make companies wary of ever starting up, even with all permits in hand. This uncertainty drives companies offshore, but leadership and common-sense policies can change this. Alaska's leaders are on the right track.

All the mining ever done has used less than a fraction of 1 percent of Earth's surface. The land and the materials can be used again, and again. Environmental rules guiding development are in place. So, why aren't we committed to making the United States more self-sufficient?

Paula Easley is vice chair of the Nationwide Public Projects Coalition, president of the Alaska Land Rights Coalition, and a board member of Alaska's Resource Development Council. E-mail her at [paulaeasley@yahoo.com](mailto:paulaeasley@yahoo.com).



*The miner and his wife in front of the shack. Notice the name of the structure.*

## HAVE YOU HUGGED A MINER TODAY!

By Ray Haynes, Republican Assemblyman from Murrieta, CA

Your car. Your desk. Your computer. Your pots and pans. The road outside. Your lunch. What do these things have in common? All of them involved disturbing the land and the "exploitation" of mineral resources in their creation. Anything around you that contains metal, plastic or rubber comes directly from mining and oil-drilling operations somewhere in the world. Anything that is wood, paper or food was either logged or harvested.

Almost everything we have comes from mining, drilling, logging and farming, and yet these industries are increasingly under attack from NIMBY's, regulators and environmentalists.

The public opinion of these industries is now such that if you were to poll people on the least respected careers, you'd wind up with loggers, miners, and oil men right down at the bottom of the list with lawyers, telemarketers and, of course, politicians. Farmers and ranchers continue

*(Continued on page 8)*

(Continued from page 4) **Board meeting continued.**

|                       |            |
|-----------------------|------------|
| Linda Doyle, Deposit  | \$ 420.00  |
| New Checkbook Balance | \$7,655.97 |

Motion was made by Chet Chastain and seconded by Gerald Hurt to accept the financial report and pay the bills. Motion carried.

- **Unfinished Business:** Still want to do a survey for the members to suggest which claims they prefer for the outings. Release \$500.00 to Jerry Hobbs for Legal fees; leaving a balance of \$1,500 for a later date.
- **New Business:** First outing at Oxbow will have High Bankers present for a common dig. Plan to have 8 board meetings starting in March. March 12<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 will be the next board meeting. Will continue to discuss increase in dues mid-year. Budgets will be set for committees.

Meeting adjourned at 5:07 p.m.



This is your Board at work! A lot of discussion, thoughts and plans were looked at and decisions made concerning UPI direction in view of the current Forest Service shenanigans.



**The old miner sez:** I you ain't hugged a miner today ya need ta fine one an do it. Memmer we make it posserbble fer da nice thins we got.



(Continued from page 7) **Hugged- -**

to have a pretty high level of public support as occupations, but their industries are bearing the brunt of some of the newest rounds of regulations and NIMBY attacks.

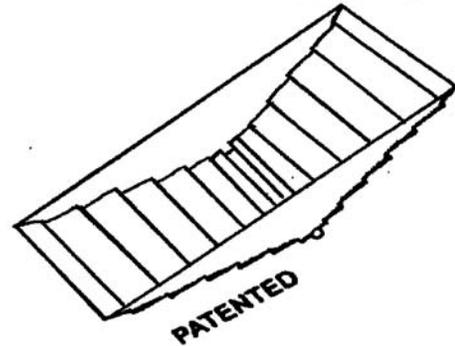
While nobody wants a repeat of the massive pollution caused by some of the older mining techniques, and nobody likes to look at a clear-cut forest or an oil rig, these industries have developed much less intrusive, much more environmentally sensitive methods of extraction, but are still haunted by attacks based on images from long discarded practices.

The regulatory system and local opposition groups have made it nearly impossible for any new mining or logging operations to exist in California, even when our society desperately needs new supplies of wood, gravel and petroleum-based products. Even when all environmental regulations can be adhered to, local opposition can scare a county or city into rejecting a necessary project.

Even farmers, who have maintained a high level of support amongst the population, have started to feel the pressure of activists and regulators. It always astounds me when people move to a rural area (like much of my district) and then complain about the sights and smells and flies of agricultural operations.

Diaries have been all but chased out of Southern California by angry neighbors and air and water regulators. Other livestock operations

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are being harassed by similar complaints. What was once a thriving industry in Artesia, Chino and other parts of our area is now virtually non-existent. Even simple farming operations are under attack for use of compost in the growing process and because of "fugitive dust" concerns caused by the plowing and harvesting of fields.

Farmers now fear allowing their lands to fallow out of concern that it will become habitat for some allegedly endangered critter and they'll be forbidden from replanting here in the future.

These are all messy industries, but they are all necessary. We have made great strides over the years in making them less polluting and less impactful on the natural environment and even visually on neighbors nearby. But the increasing costs of the decreasing availability of these resources in our county are costing all of us. High concrete, steel and lumber costs are driving up the prices of new schools, homes and roads by the billions of dollars collectively, and will continue to increase as long as we don't start producing more of these products domestically.

It is time to stop attacking loggers and miners and oil drillers and farmers. Stop accusing them of raping the earth. Stop making their livelihoods more difficult. Start appreciating the benefits we enjoy as a result of their labor and industries. Next time you see a miner walking down the street, don't turn your nose up at him. In fact we'd all be better off if you gave him a hug instead.

(Continued on page 17)

***THIS PUBLICATION IS DEDICATED TO ALL OF THE VOLUNTEERS OF THE  
UNITED PROSPECTORS INC. WHO HAVE KEPT A DREAM ALIVE AND  
WELL FOR OVER 58 YEARS.***

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## **LOCATING GOLD GEMS AND MINERALS ©**



***Published Since 1947***

**Issued by United Prospectors Inc., an organization dedicated to:**

**Promoting mineral exploration of all types**

**Encouraging family oriented opportunities in prospecting and allied earth sciences**

**Providing information on mineral locations and instructions on prospecting and recovery methods**

**Collecting and studying mineral specimens**

**Encouraging the study of the history of the United States especially related to the great emigration to the west and the gold rushes**

---

**We currently have claims available on seven waterways in California, for a total of 1300 acres. Claims are located in Sierra County, Plumas County, Siskiyou County, Mariposa County, and Tuolumne county. Most are RV accessible. We are actively searching for more claims.**

---

**Our Board of Directors and appointed committees are volunteers. We also have volunteers to assist at the newly formed UPI County Chapters in California and hope to form new chapters in other states.**

**UPI PUBLICATION 01-31-05  
PUBLISHED AND EDITED BY BILL REBOIN AND MARK WEBER**

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**Others that have contributed to this years publication, whose help is greatly appreciated, and it couldn't have been done without their contributions large or small are; Chet Chastain, and a number of past and present Officers, Directors, and members of the club.**

**ISSN 1544-7774**



# UPI OFFICERS



**President: Don Siegel.** Those of you that know me know that I truly love mining, and finding gold while mining is icing on the cake. The excitement of camping out and spending some time with my mining friends really makes the outings something to look forward to, and UPI gives us the opportunity to do it all.

I am looking forward to serving as President in this great organization and hope that all of you too will take the opportunity to get involved. As we jump into 2005 we face many obstacles. It is going to take all of our memberships involvement to hold onto our rights as miners. Above all we want to keep it fun and educational for everyone so we can all enjoy UPI and all it has to offer.

I don't claim to be an expert but will gladly help anyone interested, and look forward to meeting and working with new people at any time. Please introduce your self and lets go mining.



**Vice President: Tom Eastland.** I was born in Sacramento, California, and I have family history in the great California Gold rush.

My great grandfather, John Henry Young worked the Malakoff Diggings, hydro mining, in the early 1900's.

My wife Christa and I joined UPI approximately 4 years ago. We have made many friends, and had some great times together. It's not just the Gold, it's the fun times, times that Gold can not buy, times that you spend with your friends, looking for that "Gold Stuff" !

So, come along, lets spend some time together, get involved, and lets go Gold mining ! Can you Dig it ?



**Treasurer: Samantha Wait.** To all of you members old and new, I can't believe we have seen another exciting year come to pass. The UPI family is continuing to grow leaps and bounds. We have met some amazing newcomers, from far away, as well as here in our own locale. The friendships keep growing in outstanding numbers, as do the exciting stories we have all shared together. This is what UPI is all about. By the way, who said that they have found the largest au??

It has taken all of us as a "family of friends" working together to make sure that all of the outings are a success. Our dedication and determination to provide our Organization and its' members with the excellence beyond our grasp, is amazing. A true circle of friendship!

I hope next year will be just as exciting, with new members joining, the possibility of new claims to be added, and a Board that is very interactive with all of you. Keep a diggin' and have fun!



**Secretary: Rita Perry.** I was born and raised in Arkansas and in 1988 I moved to California. Luckily, I met my husband. Approximately four years ago we became involved with gold prospecting. I am honored to be the new secretary for such a wonderful organization. I hope that I will be able to come up with ideas to promote the club; to help it gain new memberships and encourage people to enjoy such a family oriented activity.

Rita Perry

# DIRECTORS



**Editor-in-Chief, Publisher, Historian: Bill Reboin.** It has been a pleasure to serve this great group of people for the last term, and I look forward to serving for another term.

This year's goal is to see us, Officials and members become more involved in the political arena and saving our 1872 Mining Law right to mine. We have taken a step in that direction by joining an organization named Public Lands for the People. We will also be reaching out to other organizations similar to ours, and trying to form a large coalition of small miners so we all have more political clout. I'm hoping that I can get help in this arena.

Welcome aboard to everybody, and let's make this a great year for outing activities and expansion.



## DIRECTORS, Cont.



**Claims Manager: Chet Chastain.** My most important goal as Claims Manager is to preserve our claims. This involves ensuring that they remain within the rules and regulations of the governmental entities we deal with regarding claims. This also involves ensuring that our members adhere to their responsibilities as well. While we have a right to extract minerals and to stay on the claims while doing so, we do not have "ownership" of the land. It is public land and it is up to us to preserve it as an environment suitable to its original occupants. My message to you is to leave it as you found it and to the best of your ability leave it capable of supporting wildlife, both plant and animal.

OK - I am off the soapbox now, so lets find some GOLD!



**Membership: Linda Doyle.** I am looking forward to another term as a Board member in UPI. I enjoyed my tenure as Political Advocate and am looking forward to being your Membership Chair.

As a family, we enjoy being members of UPI and always look forward to the outings, prospecting our claims and meeting new people. I would like to see more youngsters at the outings and will assist in promoting participation. The children are our future and our future is in the hands of our children. Let us explore, educate and promote our recreational activities with our children and pass them on.

My goal is to have an adventure, give an education and having fun ... and I embrace it.



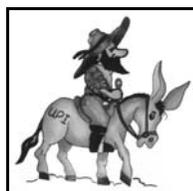
**Technical Advisor: Steve Letlow.** It has been fun being a part of UPI for the last 5 years. I look forward to serving as Technical Advisor for the club. As long as I've been around, the friendliness of the members has been great. I'll do whatever I can to see the club continue to grow. The outings and chapter meetings are great places to meet new friends and to see your ole diggin buddies. Finding some gold is good too.



**Chapters Director: Currently Open.** Position is currently being covered by Tom Eastland, Vice President.



**Outing Coordinator: Brenda Marsh.** I am happy to be a part of the UPI board this year. As outing coordinator, I hope to make each and every outing enjoyable for all attendees. I want to continue our tradition of potluck dinners and get-togethers. In addition, I want to plan some fun activities for children and adults. Suggestions are always welcome too, especially any activities to help UPI members get to know each other better. Volunteers to show new members "how to pan, dredge, et cetera" are also welcome. See you at the outings!



**Ways & Means: Currently Open.** Position currently being covered by Don Siegel, President



## DIRECTORS, Cont.



**Grievance/Political: Gerald Hurt.** Hi. My name is Gerald Hurt. My wife Cheryl and I have been active with the organization for almost two years. I have accepted the position of Political Director to help inform the members of current laws and pending legislation that effect our freedom of activities. My goal is to help every member know their legislative representatives. There are five people who help steer the course of legislation. At the federal level both congress and senate pass laws which change our mining rights. At the state level it is our assembly and senate that determine the restrictions of our activities. At the local level the county Board of Supervisors wield enormous influence concern-

ing our pursuits. Your goal is to get to know them. In any event make it your responsibility to know how to address all government official while on a UPI or personal outing.

## COMMITTEE APPOINTEES



**Webmaster / Assistant Editor: Mark Weber.** I have been a camper all my life, but I didn't discover gold mining until the spring of 2000. My membership with UPI started in 2001 as a Father's Day gift from my family. I enjoyed the outings, potlucks, raffles, meeting and making new friends, camping in new places, and finding real gold in real streams so much, that I couldn't resist the urge to get more involved in the club as an Editor. Now I am also enjoying the role of Webmaster and I look forward to meeting more of our members, finding more gold, and hope that my work contributes to the benefit of UPI and it's members.



**Editor: Derald Smith.** I have been a member of UPI since 1999 and really enjoy our organization.

In the few years since I joined UPI, there have been considerable growth and improvement in activities. I am privileged to be a part of the future expansion of the club and look forward to interacting with as many members as possible.

Again, bountiful prospecting!

Derald Smith



**Claims Asst. South: Ray Budowich.** I'm a retired salesman from the bay area. I have been a member of UPI for six years, and I truly enjoy holding the position of Assist. Claims. I have been mining for 30+ years, starting with panning, then to dredging and now "sniping" which I thoroughly enjoy, and it is my endeavor to find more and productive claims for, and promote for UPI. (Note: Ray located the Bull Creek claims, and they have produced nice gold.)

I love walking the creeks in the Mother Lode looking for that precious metal and being in communication with Mother Nature, sometimes lucky sometimes not. There's lots of gold out there, but you need to go after it. See ya at the next dig. Maybe you'll show me that big nugget.



**Claims Asst. North.: Johnny Lewis, Jr.** I have been an outdoors person most of my life, hunting, hiking, and fishing. I got into gold mining several years ago and have enjoyed it ever since. I have been a member of UPI for about 4 years and I am looking forward to the new season. What I like about UPI is the claims are very accessible, with plenty of RV parking and camping sites. It is a very family oriented club which is very important to me and my family. We have made many good friends with the club and that is a plus, too. We hope to be members for life! Happy Prospecting!

## WHO TO CALL FOR INFORMATION

| <u>Title/Name</u>                                 | <u>Telephone</u> | <u>E-mail Address</u>                    |
|---------------------------------------------------|------------------|------------------------------------------|
| <b>PRESIDENT: Don Siegel</b>                      | (209) 551-9802   | President@unitedprospectors.com          |
| <b>VICE PRESIDENT: Tom Eastland</b>               | (925) 932-4288   | VicePresident@unitedprospectors.com      |
| <b>TREASURER: Samantha Wait</b>                   | (209) 931-4279   | Treasurer@unitedprospectors.com          |
| <b>SECRETARY: Rita Perry</b>                      | (707) 995-2041   | Secretary@unitedprospectors.com          |
| <b>EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: Bill Reboin</b>               | (916) 362-3441   | EditorInChief@unitedprospectors.com      |
| <b>EDITOR: Currently Open</b>                     |                  |                                          |
| <b>ASSIST. EDITOR: Mark Weber</b>                 | (707) 449-4808   | Webmaster@unitedprospectors.com          |
| <b>CLAIMS MANAGER: Chet Chastain</b>              | N/A              | ClaimsManager@unitedprospectors.com      |
| <b>ASST. CLAIMS MGR. North: Johnny Lewis, Jr.</b> | (530) 283-4787   | JLewisEnt@yahoo.com                      |
| <b>ASST. CLAIMS MGR. North: Ray Budowich</b>      | N/A              | PO Box 367, Coulterville, CA 95311       |
| <b>AUDITOR: Beverly Paul</b>                      |                  |                                          |
| <b>CHAPTERS: Tom Eastland</b>                     | (925) 932-4288   | Chapters@unitedprospectors.com           |
| <b>CLUB HISTORIAN: Bill Reboin</b>                | (916) 362-3441   | EditorInChief@unitedprospectors.com      |
| <b>ELECTION: Dennis Mobley</b>                    | (209) 475-0436   | dnpmobley@earthlink.net                  |
| <b>GRIEVANCE/POLITICAL: Gerald Hurt</b>           | (559) 587-0611   | GrievancePolitical@unitedprospectors.com |
| <b>LIBRARIAN: Vacant</b>                          |                  |                                          |
| <b>MEMBERSHIP: Linda Doyle</b>                    | (530) 295-8116   | Membership@unitedprospectors.com         |
| <b>OUTING COORDINATOR: Brenda Marsh</b>           | (916) 447-8205   | OutingCoordinator@unitedprospectors.com  |
| <b>TECHNICAL ADVISOR: Steve Letlow</b>            | (209) 986-6276   | TechnicalAdvisor@unitedprospectors.com   |
| <b>WAGON MASTER: Steve Letlow</b>                 | (209) 986-6276   | Wagonmaster@unitedprospectors.com        |
| <b>WAYS &amp; MEANS: Don Siegel</b>               | (209) 551-9802   | WaysAndMeans@unitedprospectors.com       |
| <b>WEBMASTER: Mark Weber</b>                      | (707) 449-4808   | Webmaster@unitedprospectors.com          |

# UPI Chapters

Need more information? Contact our Chapters Director  
Tom Eastland at (925) 932-4288, or Chapters@unitedprospectors.com

**Alameda County, Chairperson; Steve Kleszyk**  
(925) 443-4993 or ratled88@aol.com

**Stanislaus County, Chairperson; Don Siegel**  
(209) 551-9802, President@unitedprospectors.com



Contra Costa County Chapter

**Contra Costa County, Chairperson; Tom Eastland**  
(925) 932-4288 VicePresident@unitedprospectors.com



Sacramento County Chapter

**Sacramento County, Chairperson; Currently Vacant**



San Joaquin County Chapter

**San Joaquin County, Chairperson; Steve Letlow**  
(209) 986-6276, TechnicalAdvisor@unitedprospectors.com

*Note: As you can see there are no meeting times and/or place indicated in all cases. Most Chapters have a set time and place for the meeting, however these do change depending on a number of factors.*

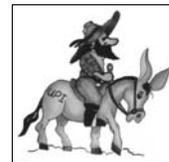
*If you are not associated with a chapter as yet and desire an association please call or e-mail the representatives to get the specifics. The meetings are fun!*



Chapter Meeting on one of the Claims



**The old miner sez:** Be dere to da chaper meetens da be fun an eddycational. Day also goot way to be wid other members ifin ya cain't beed to da outins!



# Schedule of Outings for 2005

**April 9 & 10**

**Oxbow**, open mining area on the middle fork of the American River. *Tentative, pending OK from USFS.*

**June 4 & 5**

**Bull Creek Outing**  
(Notice of Intent required for mining)

**July 1, 2, 3, & 4**

**Genesee Outing**

**August 12, 13, & 14**

**Spanish Creek / CLM Gold Outing**

**September 9, 10, & 11**

**Greenhorn Creek** (tentative)

**October 8 & 9**

**Bull Creek Outing**  
(Notice of Intent required for mining)

**November 5 & 6**

**Coulterville Outing, the sixth annual UPI pre-Thanksgiving feed**

*If you want to arrive a week or several days before the outing, please go for it. If there are any exceptions, we'll let you know via the newsletter, or by e-mail!*



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Claims

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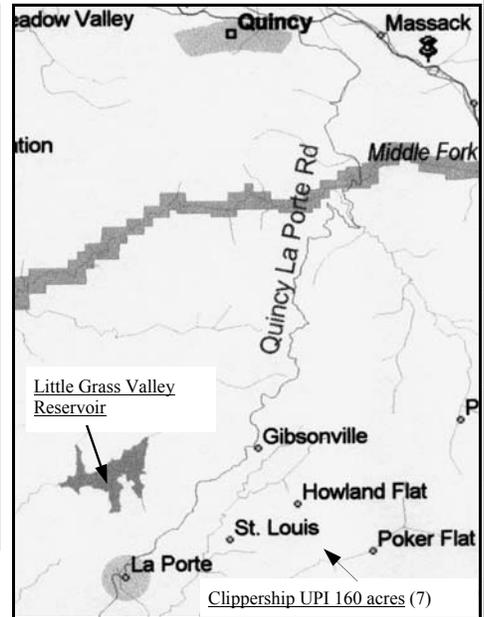
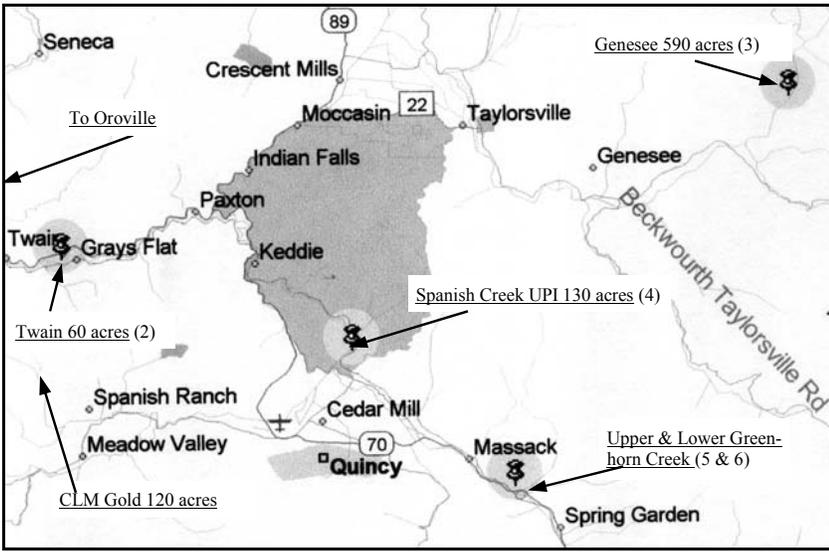
Home

Be sure to visit us online at [WWW.UNITEDPROSPECTORS.COM](http://WWW.UNITEDPROSPECTORS.COM)

The website was completely re-designed in 2003 by the previous Webmaster, Rod Earnest, and will undergo regular updating by our new Webmaster, Mark Weber. Look here often for updates, news and information.

The members area is password protected, and each member in good standing can have their own custom password to the site, as long as they register their e-mail address with the Membership Director. The user name and passwords are case sensitive so be sure you distinguish between capital letters and lower case letters.

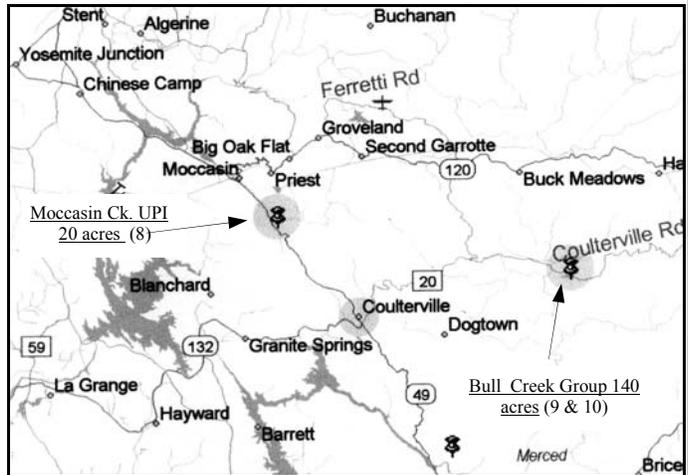
# GENERAL LOCATION MAPS



Note: All maps on this page are oriented with the top of the map being north.

All maps on this page are general location only and serve only for you to locate the claims generally on your road maps. The individual claim pages will give you specific directions from specific points, be they in close by towns, geographical landmarks, road signs, what have you. Some sort of permanent marker from which you can find your way to the specific claim (s).

The numbers that appear in parenthesis, ( ), on the individual maps, refer to the map of the State of California below, thus giving you an idea where the claims lay in the state.



UPI has claims on seven waterways in California for a total of 1300 acres. The figure of the state to the left indicates the generalized claim locations. (There are four sites in the Quincy area).

(Continued from page 8) **Hugged**

Ed. Note: Murrieta is in Riverside Co. Southern California. This article by Assemblyman Haynes is not indigenous to his area. This is going on all over California and many other western states for that matter. The population in general needs to be re-educated by the mining and harvesting community to the fact that if they desire to have the nicer things of life then they must provide for them to be produced. This is a fact the regulators and the environmentalists ignore in their education of the public, and that desire to see land locked up against such activity. They don't teach them if it can't be, than they can't have.

As I have said many times in the past: If it isn't mined or harvested it doesn't exist in your daily life.

---

**Ed/Pub note:** For those of you not up on your UPI history, UPI was founded by Jack Douglas along with others in 1947. The following story is from a book published in 1944 by Jack. UPI was incorporated in 1949, 100 years after the great California Gold Rush.

## The Lost Tub Placer Mine

"From Gold in Placer" by Jack Douglas, 1944

There are two stories about this mine. I shall tell both of them, and then give you some information as to at to what you would find there today. (Remember this is 1944)

Originally this tale was told to me by an Indian near Fort Mojave where I was placering. I have heard it a number of times since then, and the stories are much alike.

About 1885, a white man became a squaw man in the Mojave Indian tribe. He was with them a couple of years in an Indian village near Fort Mojave on the Colorado River. He prevailed on his wife's brother to tell him where the Indians obtained the nugget gold that they had. The Indian agreed but said they could not make the trip until it snowed, for it was a long distance, and they would have to have water.

After waiting three years, it snowed in that place, and the two of them set out on the long trip; their trip was to the south and to what is now called the Turtle Mountains. The story goes on that on top of a plateau they found gold nuggets scattered in the gravel, and after gathering a quantity of them, they returned to the Indian village.

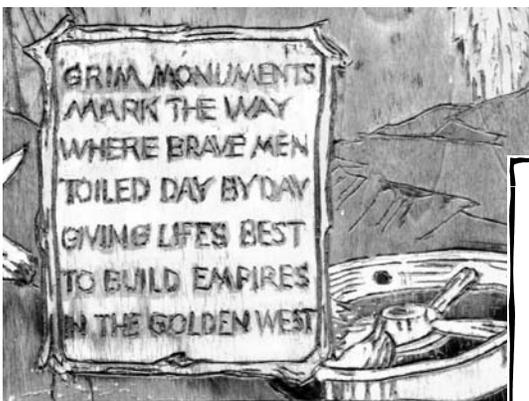
The squaw man wrote to a friend of his in the East and told him about finding the gold. The easterner came out and the two of them, claiming it was a business trip, left the Indians and went to a station called Homer on the Sante Fe Railroad. They obtained a team of mules and a wagon, and, loading it with water and supplies, they set out for the placer ground. Evidently they had no trouble finding it or the gold.

They set to work gathering up the rich pay dirt on top of the ground, panning it out in a tub of water. It was so rich that they only tried to get the larger nuggets, leaving the smaller particles in the tub. Like all persons not familiar with the desert, they did not conserve their water, and at the end of the second day they found there was not enough water to give their mules a drink. Leaving their tub and the fine gold there, they took their sack of nuggets to the wagon and started back to Homer as fast as the mules could be made to go.

Darkness came and they lost their direction. The next day they continued going in a northerly direction, but without any water for them or the mules, it was slow going. For three days they kept on, but mules and men were about ready to give up when they saw in the distance a string of telephone poles. Hardly able to crawl, they at last arrived at a section house and were taken care of. When they were able to talk, the first thing they asked about was their bag of gold. It was found on the wagon intact, and when weighed amounted to fourteen thousand dollars.

The news started a gold rush in that district, but their wagon tracks had been covered by the drifting sand and could not be traced. When the squaw man and the easterner were able to get out, they had a very hazy idea of where it was. The squaw man was still sick. He returned to his tribe where he died soon after. His partner continued to hunt but was never able to locate the placer ground.

In another version of this story, that an old Mexican in the Old Woman Mountains told me, it was not a section house on the main line of the railroad where they arrived with the bag of gold, but a place on a branch line. Also, the gold was in a gulch on the north end of the Turtle Range, which sounds more reasonable, for there are not any plateaus of any size in this range of hills.



## In Loving Memory Of Phyllis Frink

It is sad to have to convey that the loving wife of Alvin Frink passed away on December 7, 2004, after a long-term illness. Alvin and Phyllis were married for 20 years and shared a good life and did well together.

It is always hard to find the words to say when a fellow member passes on, but we always know that there is a good reason for it. We trust that Phyllis is happy and comfortable.

## RAYS WHIG BUTTON

In talking to Ray tonight about his Whig button we came up with this. Remember in issue 271, the Whigs ceased existence in 1854, thus making the button at least 150 years old. 1854 is 5 years after the Great California Gold Rush began.

The Whigs were a political party. Well there wasn't too much politicking going on in California at that time. All of that was going on, on the eastern side of the country. All they were doing out here was looking for gold lying on the ground. Could it be that a member of the Whig party or a supporter that decided to try their luck at finding some of that elusive yellow metal out here?

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## DON'T LAUGH!

This can still be done today in California, finding gold lying on the ground that is. I have done it, and so have panning partners, on a favorite little stream of ours. My nephew who had done some panning but had never found any gold wanted me to show him my favorite stream. I said OK.

It's about a mile hike from where you can park and fairly rough hiking to get to where there is good panning and hand sluicing on this stream. Once we got on the stream I told my nephew to keep a sharp eye peeled for gold sitting on the bedrock. Myself, and friends familiar with this stream have found it a number of times. We had walked maybe 100 feet on this stretch of bedrock to a point where we had to climb over some boulders to continue. I spotted a picker on the downstream side of one of the boulders and continued over. When my nephew got over I asked him if he saw the picker? What's a picker? Go back and look around those boulders. Well he found his first piece of gold and it was a picker. He caught the fever just like I did back in '86 when I found my first piece of gold.

This is an interesting stream. During the rainy season because of the topography and the geophysical make up of the area the water level of the stream fluctuates rapidly. High water level indicators along the stream show that in heavy precipitation years the water level gets 10 – 12 feet higher in stretches than in a normal precipitation year. I have observed the stream rise a foot after 15 or 20 minutes of a hard rain once the surrounding country material has been wetted to the saturation point. I have also observed it drop almost as fast. One has to believe that it is these rapid fluctuations in stream level that leaves Au sitting on the bedrock for you to pick up. There are several places on this stream where this has occurred time and again.

## PROSPECTING

If you find a waterway that produces work it, work it, work it. Do this up stream and down stream. Locate the areas that produce and locate the areas that don't produce. Do it, do it, do it, until you are sure of what is what. While you are doing this, given that the general stream characteristics are the same, you need to observe why would this section be producing and this section not producing. You need to observe the obvious. You need to observe and perceive the stream in high, normal and low water years, meaning you need to be out there when it is raining or the spring thaw. Is this area that produces down stream of a feeder? Is this area that doesn't produce downstream from some possible major trap? Does the stream produce above the possible major trap? If it does then the next step is check out the possible major trap. Do what you have to do within the limits of the law, rules and regulations of the area and check out this possible major trap. This could be your glory hole.

Now I have got myself salivating over this area again, especially with the precipitation we have been having. It is rugged, primitive, beautiful and accessible only by backpacking your equipment in. Truthfully I haven't been to this site for a couple of years at least. Looks like it is getting time to go back up there and see what changes have taken place. The crevices need to be re-worked; the holes in the bedrock that resulted from decomposing quartz veins need to be checked for re-depositing and normal stream debris re-distribution needs to be checked.

## ISN'T LIFE INTERESTING?

Interestingly enough I wrote the two preceding articles on December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2004. I was getting ready for this edition of the newsletter, which because of the lack of outing input, the last outing being in November, other forms of newsletter input must be generated.

I doubt that I'll reveal the location of the referenced stream soon as a friend of mine and I spent many weekends and accumulated many vehicle and backpacking miles checking out a variety of stories that we had heard about this area where gold could be picked up off the bedrock. As indicated in the previous article I haven't been to this stream for at least two years.

Why haven't I been to this stream for at least two years? Getting into the stream required demands on the body that made it unpleasant to do so. I was thinking about this unpleasantness when writing the previous articles. Though I wanted to go in there again it was too unpleasant physically. I chocked it up to "getting old", old age, bad back, as I have had back problems since 1957 and the symptoms were all similar. I could only dream about how I wanted to go in there again.

Isn't life interesting? Within two weeks of writing the article, after many years (35 years) of not going to or trusting doctors because of misdiagnoses in the past. Without going into details, I was in a position where I had no choice but to go to a doctor. I was in the hospital the following day. I went, and thank goodness I did. I am now here with the realization that similarities are not identities, and I will be visiting this stream again this year.

Did the quest of Au have something to do with this? Perhaps.

## FOR YOUR READING ENJOYMENT

Winter reading/entertainment: To help us get through the winter, which gives us very little daylight for searching for GOLD. . . . here is a list of books as I found them on library shelves. They are not listed in any priority.

I did so enjoy these that I suggest that you try them. I know there are many good books written about the Gold /rush of '49. Please enjoy.  
Steve Barnett,  
Member

Mother Lode Memories: A pictorial history of the Mother Lode. ISBN 0-913548-70-7

Gold Seeker: Adventures of a Belgian Argonaut during the gold rush years. ISBN 0-300-01966-3

The Age of Gold: Covers the adventures of Mr. & Mrs. Freemont, and California politics after 1850. Covers the politics of the cross country railroad, Stanford, Brannon, Ralston plus others involved in the railroad. ISBN 0-385-50612-8.

Bacon and Beans from a Gold Pan: Downeville area prior to WW 2. ISBN 0-944194-13-3.

Sixteen Months at the Gold Diggings: Author Daniel Woods, purchased

(Continued on page 19)



Yours truly with the big smile and a co-finder in the background picking the elusive yellow metal out of the sluice and putting it in the vial. It was a good day!



# UPI BULLETIN BOARD



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UPI Classified ad Space is available to members FREE

(Continued from page 18) **Reading Enjoyment**

at a Mother Lode area museum.

They Saw the Elephant: Women in the Gold Rush. ISBN 0-8061-2473-3.

Dear Charlie Letters: Recorded everyday life of a young 1854 miner. ISBN 0-914330-22-5.

Gold Rush Tales: ISBN 0-914330-22-5

In Search of Gold: The Alaska Journals of Horace S. Conger. ISBN 0-9653428-0-8.

This is about half of the list of reading that Steve has provided. The remainder of the list will appear in another issue of the newsletter.

## MEMBER PARTICIPATION!

UPI and I as your elected Editor-in-Chief/Publisher encourage your input to the newsletter. It is your newsletter, not the Boards, not mine. Yes it conveys the Board and the Organization activities, that is one of its purposes. We also do our best with the time that we as volunteers to keep you informed of current affairs that affect and or enhance our status as small-scale miners. (Yes we are a small-scale miners organization, not recreationalists, campers clubbers, what have you.) It is also at your disposal to publish your adventures as a member/miner while seeking Au, detecting, looking for rare, semi-precious or precious minerals/elements, or the publishing of plans for homemade equipment and or ideas you may have. It is also available for publishing of geo-technical studies or equipment studies you may have done, or studies/information

that you have compiled that communicate vital information that is important to the organization and the membership.

As Historian for the organization and possessing a great majority of the prior publications of the organization it is apparent that there was high member input to the organizations publications in the past. This was a successful action in the past that for some reason was abandoned. It should be a successful action in the present if re-implemented. So lets see what you can do.

There are also currently several positions open for Directorships. It is really important that all of the Directorships be filled. Having unfilled positions puts additional work on those that are holding Board positions to insure that all functions of the Corporation are fulfilled. Moreover the more of the Board positions that are filled the better represented the organization as a whole is represented at the Board meetings.

With all of the current illegal rule changing by the Forest Service going on and the various litigation, you need to step up, be heard, contribute to the motion, be a leader, not just a follower. Now is the time for all miners to come to the aid of their fellow miners. There are those entities out there that do not want us to have. What we have in the 1872 Mining Law are certain freedoms to mine. There are those that don't want us to have those freedoms. Remember freedoms are not a given, you have to fight for them, for if you don't fight for them you will most likely loose them. Join the fight, join the Board.

## FYI, Newsletter Frequency

There have been several queries as to where is the newsletter, I didn't get one last month. During the off season the newsletter is published every other month. This is generally Nov/Dec, Jan/Feb, Mar/April. Then it is generally published each month following the outing scheduled for the month.



*The old miner sez:* Here's ta seein gold in yer pan an a smile on yer face an seeing yer at the outins an seein ya at the Board meetins.

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ISSUE # 272

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