



# Locating Gold, Gems, and Minerals

The official publication of the

Trails and Tales of UPI

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

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**Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas,  
and Happy New Year from UPI**

# CONTACTING THE UPI BOARD

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Contact the chapter chairperson for meeting information.

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**Central Valley County Chairperson:** Joyce Smith, (209) 815-1940 or CentralValleyUPI@gmail.com

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



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 Production of Guidebook - *Cindy Siegel*  
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# UNITED PROSPECTORS INC.

## FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Hello, hope you all have a Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and that you have a great New Year ahead of you.

The Coulterville pre-Thanksgiving Feed was just fantastic! Once again we had a great turnout. I'm sure all that were able to make it had a good time and will tell you that folks really did a great job on the pot-luck dinner. The turkeys and ham supplied by UPI were delicious and the sides and deserts were lined up as far as the eye could see. I truly enjoy the camaraderie of all the outings, especially this one.

If you haven't heard yet, our President, Don Siegel, announced his retirement as UPI President at the Coulterville outing. On behalf of myself, Laurie (Executive Assistant to the President and Vice-President), and all UPI members I want to sincerely thank Don for his service to UPI. Don served as UPI president for approximately 13 years and it's just time for a change. Good news is Don will remain active in UPI, so you'll still meet up with him on the rivers and outings. Also, as a benefit to UPI and all small miners, Don will not only be pursuing activities with American Mining Rights Association (AMRA), but, also with Mining Districts. The rights of miners are something that Don has always been passionate about and we know he'll add a lot of value in those areas.

As the current Vice President, I have assumed the position as President for the remainder of Don's term and plan to continue UPI on a positive path.

Our season is winding down and luckily those that looked did get some gold this year. The outings sure were a lot of fun. If you didn't make it to any, I suggest you carve out some time and try to make it next year. Bob, our Wagonmaster, will be announcing the schedule early next year. I truly enjoy the camaraderie of outings, especially swapping stories around the campfire. I, like you, am hoping to see some good rain this year. That will certainly help us out in our search for the elusive yellow metal next year.

Give me a holler if you have any questions or just want to talk, 925-706-8193 or OzMiner@msn.com.

May there be gold in your pan, Ed.

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# BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

October 15, 2016 - President called meeting to order at 1:11p.m.

## Roll Call

**Officers present:** Don Siegel, President; Ed Ozga, Vice President; Aaron Matula, Treasurer; and Dolores Sauls, Secretary

**Directors present:** Dave Williams, Membership; and Laurie Ozga, Publisher/Editor-in-Chief.

**Volunteers Present:** Bob Azbill, Wagon Master; Joyce Smith, Central Valley Chapter Chair; and Cindy Siegel

**Members Present:** John Lopez, Kenny and Gloria Nichols, Rick Sauls, Georgia Azbill, Bobby Whitworth, Mike Hammond, Roger Fields, Ken Cotner, Tina and Gil Mink, Kathy Dees, and Mike Castro,

**Reading of the minutes** – Motion was made and passed to accept the minutes of the last meeting.

**Treasurer** – Aaron reported there is \$1,787.17 in the bank. A motion was made and passed to pay the outstanding bills.

**Vice President** – Ed had nothing to report.

**Chapter** – Ed reported the new UPI Central Valley Chapter in Stockton, CA is going well and is picking up more and more members. We would like to bring Gil Mink online by next year as South Bay Chapter Chair. Gil still needs someone to help him with new Chapter.

Special shout out to Contra Costa Chapter for collecting over 400 food items for Coulterville Food Bank.

Suggestion was made maybe next year instead of food do Toys for Tots. Another suggestion was to clean up a specific area. Don said Forest Rangers have not responded to our request to clean up a specific area. Discussion was held about advertising our Club and Chapter Meetings on Radio. We need more information before we can consider this proposal.

**Membership** – Dave reported we have 265 total active members which include 64 Life, 197 Regular, and 4 Advertisers. We lost two Life Members, although one is survived by spouse and will continue in active status. We gained five new members from Sonora Gold Show, including the two memberships donated to the main drawing. Eleven new members have joined through the new UPI Central Valley Chapter (*Editor's note: Way to go Central Valley!*).

Current supplies on hand should last well into next year, pending any Guidebook updates. Current expenses of \$35.37 are for mailings only. October 6, 2016, membership deposit was \$585.00.

**Ways and Means** – Don reported we have one Gold Cube remaining and a couple sluice boxes to use for attendance raffle. We'll need to buy more prizes and gold.

**Publisher/Editor-in-Chief** – Gil Mink will become our new Publisher/Editor-in-Chief beginning in January 2017. Suggestion was made to please email stories and photos to Editor to place in Newsletter. Editor needs help in filling in Newsletter. Newsletter is UPI's biggest expense besides claims. We print about 200 Newsletters and mail out approximately 160 to members. We also place a copy of the Newsletter in New Member Packets, and extras are used at Gold Shows, Chapter meetings, etc.

**Outings** – The 2017 outing schedule will be finalized at the January Board meeting. President said we will be looking at other group outing schedules and Gold Shows so we don't overlap them. Fewer conflicts will result in a better turn out for UPI Outings. Laurie suggested that we get schedules prior to January Board Meeting so board members can review prior to January meeting. Also, suggestion was made to take a closer look at Holiday Schedule for any conflicts.

**Wagon Master** – Bob reported the Port-A-Potties were delivered for this outing. Has a check to cover the cost and also has one additional check remaining.

**Secretary** – Dolores was present, and took Roll Call. She and Laurie took notes.

Continued on page 7 "BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING".



## Thomas (Tom) Lutrel

Oct. 22, 1946 - Oct. 17, 2016

It is with great sadness that we tell you of the death of our friend, Tom Lutrel. A longtime member of UPI, Tom was one of the original founding members of the UPI, Contra Costa Chapter almost 15 years ago. Tom was one of the reason that our Chapter was so successful, because for all those years he was able to provide us the meeting space. There were a couple of times that we almost lost our meeting space, but, Tom always went to bat for us to keep the meeting space. Tom and his wife Linda regularly attended the Contra Costa Chapter meetings and outings and Tom ran the Contra Costa Chapter dollar drawing. We are extremely pleased that Linda plans to continue with our group and look forward to seeing her at our Chapter meetings.

Tom is survived by his wife of 47 years, Linda Lutrel, his daughter Leanna & Buck Stealman, Son Richard & Amy Lutrel, Grandchildren Jacob & Robert Stealman, Sarah & Brianna Lutrel.

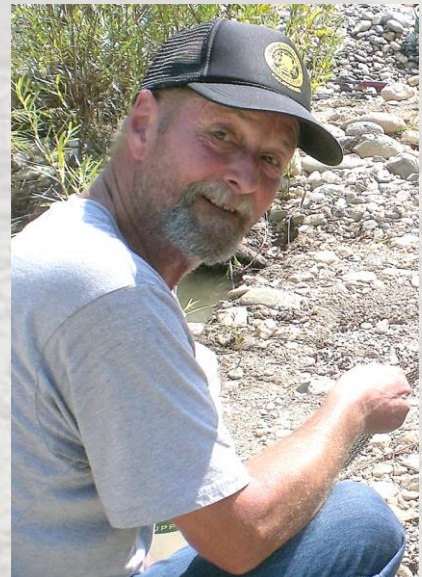


## Jim Baggott

March 30, 1949 - Nov. 21, 2016

Prior to his career as a San Jose police officer, Jim was a highly decorated Vietnam veteran who served as a U.S. Navy Helicopter Gunnersmate (door gunner). Upon his return, he joined the San Jose Police Dept. and served for 21 years until a back injury forced his retirement in Oct. 1993. Jim was an avid golfer, outdoorsman, and owner of a custom cabinet business for many years in Morgan Hill. Most recently, he and his wife Jocelan traveled around the west coast as amateur gold miners belonging to several prospecting clubs including UPI and Gold Hounds.

Jim is survived by his loving wife Jocelan Sinclair; sister Sharon Bryant and family; daughter Krista Erwig and family; and son Brian Baggott and family.



# Membership News

Hey UPI, let's give a Big welcome to our newest members!

On behalf of the Officers, Directors, and current Membership I'd like to welcome and acknowledge our newest members.

**Eric Buriel, Stockton, CA**  
**Brian M. Beadles, Quincy, CA**  
**Mark Thompson, Paradise, CA**  
**Troy Pittman, Ceres, CA**  
**Cindi Harrington, Antioch, CA**  
**Scott Johnson, Quincy, CA**

**David Secord, Lakeport, CA**  
**Jim Eastland, Pine Grove, CA**  
**Jim Johnson, Lodi, CA**  
**Kimberly Dessaussois, Antioch, CA**  
**Michael Kohler, Quincy, CA**

You've joined an outstanding, fun bunch of gold and gem seekers. We look forward to meeting you in person at an outing and on the claims. We have two active chapters and I encourage you to attend one of their meetings if you get the chance.

And let's not forget our renewing and returning members. Without your continued support of UPI there'd be no club. It's always great to see so many friends stay active and continue to support our organization.

## **Other membership news:**

The Coulterville outing was a big hit. Lots of folks came out to metal detect in the morning hunt. The Board meeting followed with good discussions and reports. Then of course it was Turkey Time! A lot of good food was on that table and the turkey was fabulous. Looked like there was plenty for all. I even forced a little dessert down.

After dinner the raffle got going. There were so many prizes... by the end I think the turkey was kicking in and I was getting tired. But not too tired to hear my number called for the last Nugget! Woohooo!

I was deeply saddened to hear the UPI Family lost two of our good friends recently, Tom Lutrel and James Baggott. To their families, I offer my condolences and prayers. They were both wonderful people and will be missed by all.

The rain is finally here and the leaves are all but gone from the trees. The cold is setting in and the New Year will soon be here. Hope you all stay safe and warm this holiday season. Merry Christmas!

## **Reminders:**

- When renewing your membership, you must fill out and sign a new application each year.
- If you check the box for electronic news letters and notifications, you will get two e-mail reminders when your membership is due. One, 30 days prior to and another the day of expiration, if it lapses. You will also receive e-mail notifications when the newsletters are available on line.
- Have a Change of Address, E-mail or contact info? Please send me your new information. Without a current mailing or e-mail address you might not get your newsletters or other notifications. 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](mailto:Fools-gold49@att.net)

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

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**Claims** – Sid Calija was not present. Ed stated that taxes, BLM, and County Recordings are done for ALL Claims, except the county recordings for Plumas County, which will be done shortly. There are still funds available from monies allocated for upcoming Quit Claims. Don and Sid are looking at another claim. The property boundaries are wild and scenic. If acquired, this claim will be called Don's Diggings.

**Old Business** – Discussion was held regarding the outstanding issue of the Barnes' claim to our Genesee III claim. There is a court date scheduled in December 2016. The dispute still continues and UPI is continuing to address. UPI Members are asked to continue to refrain from prospecting on this claim until further notice. It was suggested that members prospect in the middle or top part of the claim.

The Non Profit Raffle Permit acquired was good for Sonora Gold Show in August only. Raffle Permit Expired September 1<sup>st</sup>. A new request will be submitted for a one-year permit. There was a discussion about obtaining a new smaller storage unit after quarter ends due to cost of \$211 a quarter for current storage unit.

**New Business** – The "Watch" did not sell at the Sonora Gold Show. Discussion still continues as to what to do with the watch. Don announced he would be retiring as UPI President and in accordance with the By-Laws Ed will be filling in for now. Many thanks to Don for his dedication and years of service to UPI.

**Meeting adjourned at 2:14 p.m.**

Our first meeting of the New Year will be held at the following location:

**Mountain Mike's Pizza Manteca**

1120 N. Main St

Manteca, CA 95336

**Phone:** 209-823-1166

January 14, 2016 11:00am-2:00pm

We will be swearing in officers and directors, planning 2017's budget and outing schedule and there will be other topics too

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### **December 2016**

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 Membership is open to anyone interested, 18 years or older. One membership includes a spouse & children under the age of 18.  
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