



Locating Gold, Gems, and Minerals

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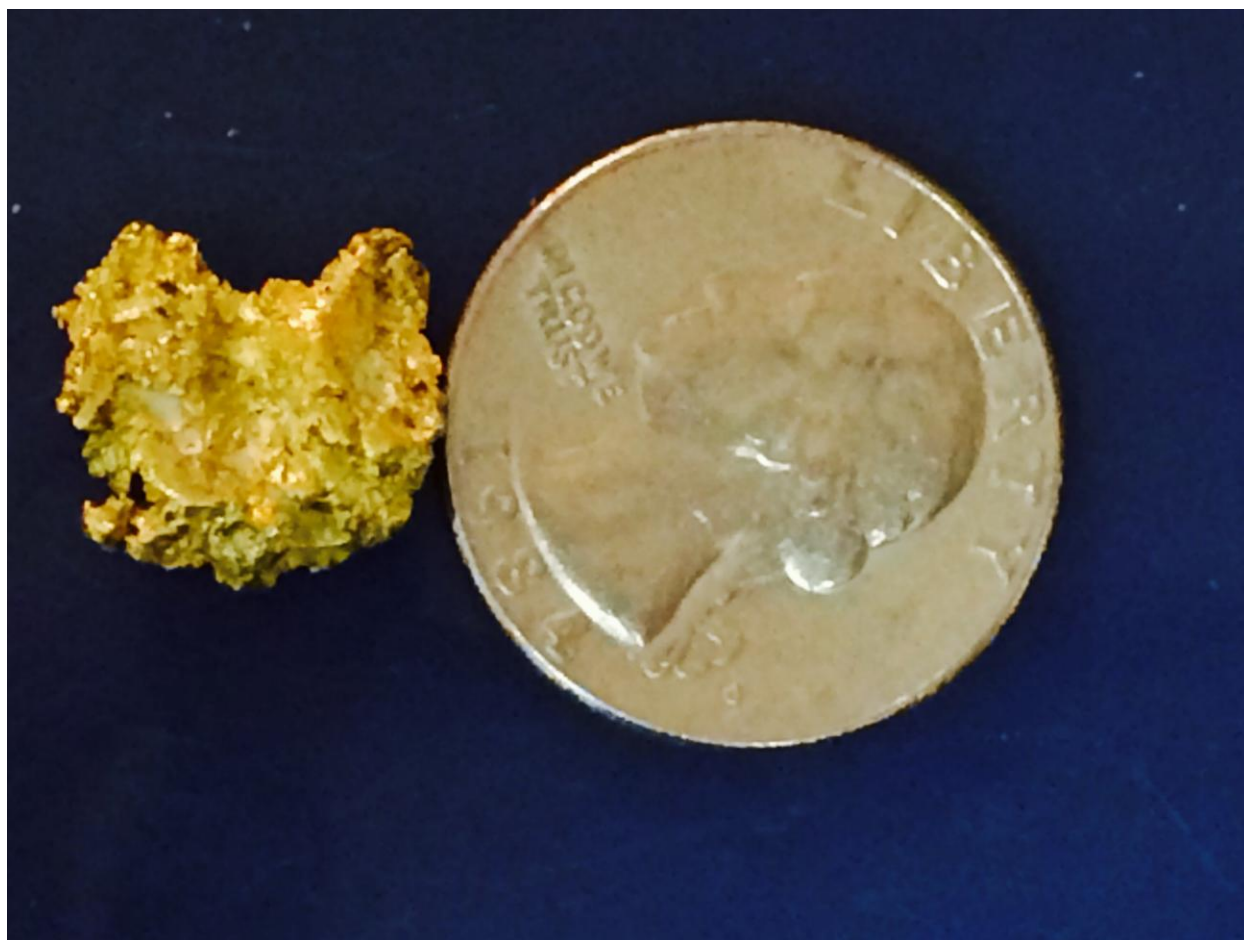
Trails and Tales of UPI

www.Unitedprospectors.com

March 2015

No. 332 Vol. 1-15

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**SEE INSIDE FOR THE 2015 OUTING SCHEDULE
AND HOW YOU CAN WIN THIS NUGGET!**

HOPE TA SEE YA AT DEM NEXT DAR OUTIN'

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CHAPTERS

Contact the chapter chairperson for meeting information.

Alameda County: *Currently open*

Auburn Chapter: *Currently open*

Contra Costa County: *Chairperson; Ed Ozga, (925) 706-8193 or OzMiner@msn.com*

Fresno, Kings, Madera and Merced Counties: *Currently Open*

Marin, Sonoma Counties: *Currently open*

Sacramento County: *Currently open*

San Joaquin County: *Currently open*

Santa Clara County: *Currently open*

Stanislaus County: *Currently open*

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

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

The Family oriented small scale mining organization.

UPI JOURNAL/© NEWSLETTER© **LOCATING GOLD GEMS AND MINERALS©**

Publisher/Editor-in-Chief - *Laurie Ozga*

Production of Guidebook - *Cindy Siegel*

Subscriptions/Membership/Circulation -

Dave Williams

UPI Business *Don Siegel*

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United Prospectors Inc.

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Modesto, CA 95355

The UPI Newsletter (ISSN 1544-7774) is published 5-6 issues per year, during the normal mining season. A "Members Guidebook" is also published. Membership is \$45.00/year and includes first class mailing of the Newsletter and Members Guidebook in the United States, to all new members. New Lifetime Membership is \$450.00 and provides the same. Current Guidebooks are issued at the first of the year for new Regular and Life Memberships. For renewing and Life Memberships Guidebook update pages are a part of the newsletter printed so pages from the newsletter can be inserted into their Guidebook binder. **Non-member, subscription only**, is \$35.00/year and includes first class mailing of the Newsletter and the non-member Guidebook, in the United States. It's a picture guide of our claims with no locations indicated. Foreign Membership is \$55.00/year and foreign Lifetime Membership is \$550.00. Foreign non-member subscription is \$45.00/year. Foreign Memberships are in U.S. dollars. Updated Guidebook pages are issued upon renewal of Membership/Subscription via the newsletter. Inserts will be provided as Guidebook information changes. Members or Non-member Subscribers purchasing Membership or Subscriptions understand that information contained in the UPI publications comes from many sources and information used is considered as reliable, however UPI Officers, Directors, and Editors do not guarantee its authenticity, nor do we assume liability for its use or correctness.

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FROM OUR CLAIMS DIRECTOR

So the rain is finally in the area, at least for a few days. The next weekend is looking great, with weather in the 70's again already. I know I'm making plans to be out all weekend again. PLP has been doing good things with the fight and progression on bringing back dredging across California. Although we have seen great strides, there is still more to do and helping out those fighting for our rights is still important. Keep supporting PLP as much as you can, they still need us to keep the momentum going.

A couple of weeks ago, the weather was remarkable and I "hosted" a small mini-outing at the last minute. I posted it at the Talk-N-Trade area on our UPI website. For an impromptu trip, we had a good turn-out. We based camped at our Moccasin Creek claim and ventured out to a couple of our different claims in the area. I brought out a small trammel and we also had a power sluice running off the same water pump. Everyone found some decent AU on that trip and a couple folks also discovered some crystallized quartz, finding several specimens, even as big as the size of a finger. Our claims are well-stocked with AU, but don't overlook all of the other great things that may be on our claims. I've run across old ruins, homestead sites, mining camp remains, and other great indications of prior activities. Our new claim has indications of past activities, with a lot of parts to be discovered. Venture out and let us know what you find out there.

I'm looking forward to our UPI outings for 2015. We have decided to go to some areas different from last year. Our claims continue to provide great access to mining areas as well as camping areas. Our new claim - Burnt Stumpy - has show some great color and I've never been skunked in the couple of times I've been there. We've cut steps into the small hillside it takes to get to the creek bed, so access is better than ever. Our club is going in a good direction. We've had our initial board meeting and a lot of good things are coming from it. We are focusing on updating our information on the website, our claims, and other areas that need some focus. Over the past few years I've been involved in this great club, I've seen many great things about UPI. This club is about its members, the camaraderie that it has built amongst miners, the friendships that have been created, the experiences and adventures that awaits for everyone involved. I've met many people from all walks of life that now get together due to our common quest for prospecting and finding those elusive things in life, all while acquiring great memories and experiencing the great folks that keep this club going. UPI has been around for many decades and I hope to be around to see it pass the century mark.

See ya on the river or out in the hills!
Mike
Claims Director



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UNITED PROSPECTORS INC.

MESSAGE FROM YOUR OFFICERS



**President
Don Siegel**

Hi all, welcome to 2015. We are all looking forward to a fun new mining year. There have been several events in recent months that will hopefully open up mining opportunities. Brandon Reinhardt won his case and currently the court case has been published. This means that future court cases regarding the legality of dredging will use this case as precedent, and should help continue to move things in our favor.

There is a movement currently to gather the leaders of all mining groups together for the sole purpose of creating a communication network. The way things happen now it could be several weeks before notice of an important legislation or court rulings filters down to our level, not allowing most of us to either have sufficient time or no time to comment.

In a unrelated event, a few folks I know were in the forest recently preparing to do a little mining, when they were approached by two UFS officers. For no apparent reason the officers asked the miners what they were doing in "their" forest and to please show their ID. They then asked for their membership card for the AMRA claim they were planning on working. When one of them did not have it on their person the officer asked them to go get it and followed them to their vehicle. There are several issues with this, the biggest is that there is absolutely no reason for UFS to ask for ID. They have no jurisdiction over who is and who isn't allowed on any mining claim, this would be a civil matter. Currently the officers are under investigation. If this happens to you, you should, as with any officer, show them respect and be sure to get the information listed on your PLP orange card (contact Laurie Ozga at OzMiner@msn.com if you need an orange card).

Don



Not a lot of rain, but, some rain is certainly better than none when you're working the claims! I've heard some reports that our claims are producing some nice gold this year. When you are out prospecting, please be mindful of your surroundings. Try to partner up to go out, but, if you plan to go by yourself, be sure to let someone where you are headed.



**Vice President
Ed Ozga**

With summer approaching this is our biggest time of the year for new member sign-ups. I'd like to take a minute to welcome any new members to UPI. If you're new to UPI and have any questions, or just feel like chatting with a prospector, please feel free to give me a call at (925) 706-8193.

Want to **win the beautiful 3.2 gram nugget** pictured on the front cover? To have a chance, all you have to do is attend some of the UPI outings scheduled for this year. Each qualifying UPI member (includes adults and their spouses) to 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 raffle to win the nugget. The raffle will be held at the pre-Thanksgiving Coulterville area outing. Tickets will not be provided for attending the pre-Thanksgiving Coulterville area outing and you need not be present at the drawing to win.

Hope to see 'ya at the first outing of the year at Moccasin Creek on the weekend of March 27th! UPI will be supplying the **hot dogs and hamburgers** for the pot-luck at this outing. Please **RSVP** to me at OzMiner@msn.com by Sunday, March 22nd, so that we can get a head count on how many supplies to buy.

May there be gold in your pan, Ed



Membership News

We have some New Members! On behalf of the Officers, Directors, and current Membership I'd like to welcome and acknowledge our newest UPI Members: **Gene & Kari Murphy, Reno, NV and Mike Yankin, Beckswourth, 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. We also have a new Lifetime Member: **Robert Guadiola.** Thanks Robert for choosing to become a Lifetime member and for continuously supporting the UPI.

Other membership news:

Future renewal notices - In a continued effort to help save on club expenses, we will soon start sending out renewal notices electronically to members via e-mail. This will be strictly voluntary. I know everyone does not have e-mail and some may still prefer to get a hard copy reminder. Our membership/renewal application has been amended in order for members to let me know their preference.

Change of Address, E-mail or contact info? – If you've moved or changed your email address, don't forget to send me your new information. Without a current address you might not get your newsletters. 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

Contra Costa County Chapter News

Come one-come all for the annual UPI Contra Costa Chapter Metal Detecting Hunt to be held Saturday, March 30th at 10:00 am.

Open to UPI members and immediate family only.

Hunt will be held in: - Contra Costa County - Park to be determined

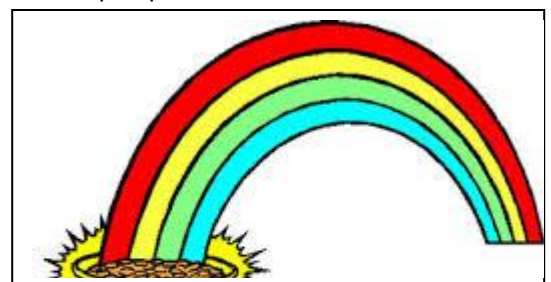
There **will be a potluck lunch** held immediately after the hunt. UPI Contra Costa **Chapter will supply the hot dogs, sausages, buns, and condiments.** Please bring a side dish to share and your own drinks.

Price is: \$10.00 per hunter (please no big foots).

Lots of prizes! 100% Payback, Plus lot more!!

You must RSVP to Bobby Whitworth at (925) 586-6443. Please let Bobby know if you are hunting and/or staying for lunch and how many for lunch.

Hunt will go on weather permitting, however, we will notify you if the hunt must be postponed due to rain.



UPI BOARD MEETING MINUTES

October 15, 2014

=====

WELCOME: President, Don Siegel

ROLL CALL: Officers/Board Members: Don Siegel, President; Ed Ozga, Vice President; Aaron Matula, Treasurer; Mike Hammond, Ways and Means/Assistant Claims Manager; and Terry and Debbie Moore, Outing Coordinators. **Members:** Bob & Georgia Azbill, Laurie Ozga, Irene Ahlstrom, Dale & Paulette Martin, Mike Phillips, Mike Brickwedel, John Orr, Dave Williams, Kenny & Gloria Nichols, Bob & Anita Cutting, Janet Karrick, Rick & Dolly Sauls, Dean Childress, Dick Geren, Joyce Smith, John Lopez, Mike Castro, Peggy O'Farrell, Roger & Ronayne Fields, Alex Dibrows, Ken Liddle, Dennis, Wendell, & Maggie Bruce, Glenn Frisbie, & Rob Perry.

MINUTES: Motion was made and passed to accept the minutes from previous meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

TREASURER: Aaron reported that UPI has \$2,858 in the bank. No outstanding bills were presented. Aaron indicated he felt membership was down a bit. Aaron also indicated that while budgets have worked in the past, they may need to be adjusted this year to bring account up and he will bring up at next board meeting. *(Editor's note: Thanks to members accepting electronic versions of the newsletters, UPI has seen a significant drop in costs. If you can help by receiving your newsletter on line, please drop an email to Dave Williams, Membership Director, at Membership@unitedprospectors.com)*

MEMBERSHIP: No report available.

WAGONMASTER: Bob reported the port-a-potties had been delivered to the Moccasin Creek claim for the weekend.

OUTING COORDINATORS: Nothing new to report. Have guessing game for tonight's festivities.

WAYS AND MEANS: Don reported we have 16 gold nuggets, small pans for the kids, two pin pointers, three sluice boxes, etc. and are in good shape for next year's raffles. Also, Don received the appraisal for the watch that UPI won in the PLP raffle. The watch was appraised for \$4,000 and need to think about ideas of what to do with the watch. The idea of an auction was presented with no decision made.

PUBLISHER/EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: Still vacant. Thanks to Cindy, Laurie, and Judy we were able to put newsletters out in 2014. Laurie asked who has pictures from last outing (e.g., Genesee) and Mike H. will provide to Laurie.

CHAPTERS: No news to report, status quo.

CLAIMS: Hammond reported again that Jim had a lot of things in order and that it wasn't too hard to take over the position. There is still clean-up to do. There are still some older members that are no longer around whose names are associated with our claims. Had to re-file on five claims this year to remove some old names. Normally filing cost are about \$2,000 to \$3,000, but, this year an approximate \$5,000 additional will be spent to keep our claims. Those additional costs will not be needed in the future. Budget should be okay for next year, but, will need an additional \$800, or so to publish some names out. Hammond provided maps and directions to new Burnt Stumpy claim that is 5-6 miles from Bull Creek claim *(Editor's note: If you have not received, directions will be provided in the next newsletter. If you need before then, please contact Laurie at 925-706-8193 or OzMiner@msn.com and we'll get those to you)*. Dispute continues over Genesee claim and UPI is continuing to address. Stay tuned, as Hammond will soon be soliciting volunteers to help with the maintenance of the claims this year.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Don raised the issue of unpaid bills and motion was passed to pay all unpaid bills. Issues were again raised regarding the ability to pay new and renewal membership dues directly on-line and discussed at length. Discussion encompassed tax issues, PayPal fees, and additional time required of UPI volunteers to monitor, etc. Issue was tabled for January meeting. Question was raised if members could renew for longer than 1 year at a time and the answer was yes (e.g., \$90.00 for 2-years, \$120.00 for 3- years). Discussion was held regarding ways to expedite mail from Modesto P.O. Box to Membership Director. Also, some discussion was held regarding some severe delays in renewals these past couple of years, and Dave's ideas on how to turn those around.

NEW BUSINESS: Don is hopeful that members will be able to provide some ideas for this year's outings. Coulterville pre-Thanksgiving outing is scheduled for October 16th - 18th, with pre-Thanksgiving feed on Saturday, October 17th.

October 15, 2014 - UPI Board Meeting



UPCOMING EVENTS



2014 UPI Outing Schedule:

March 27th – 29th - Moccasin Creek

May 1st – 3rd - Bull Creek

July 2nd – 7th - Spanish Creek

September 11th-13th Twain

October 16th – 18th - Coulterville Area/Pre-Thanksgiving Feed

GPAA Gold and Treasure Expo

April 25 - 26, 2015

South Point Casino
9777 Las Vegas Blvd.
Exhibit Hall C/D



DONT TREAD ON MINING



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

2015 GPAA Gold & Treasure Show Schedule

<u>2015 Mesa AZ Gold Show</u>	Mesa, AZ	<i>Feb 28, 2015 - Mar 01, 2015</i>
<u>2015 Stockton CA Gold Show</u>	Stockton, CA	<i>Mar 07, 2015 - Mar 08, 2015</i>
<u>2015 Portland OR Gold Show</u>	Portland, OR	<i>Mar 28, 2015 - Mar 29, 2015</i>
<u>2015 Boise ID Gold Show</u>	Boise, ID	<i>Apr 11, 2015 - Apr 12, 2015</i>
<u>2015 Las Vegas NV Gold Show</u>	Las Vegas, NV	<i>Apr 25, 2015 - Apr 26, 2015</i>
<u>2015 Denver CO Gold Show</u>	Denver, CO	<i>May 16, 2015 - May 17, 2015</i>
<u>2015 Charlotte NC Gold Show</u>	Charlotte, NC	<i>May 30, 2015 - May 31, 2015</i>
<u>2015 Knoxville TN Gold Show</u>	Knoxville, TN	<i>Jun 06, 2015 - Jun 07, 2015</i>



James "Jim" T. Babaoka- April 9, 1955 - December 24, 2014

Jim, a dedicated husband, son, father, grandfather, and civil engineer for the state of California fought a valiant battle with cancer. He was born in Japan, attended A.A. Stagg High School in Stockton, CA and graduated from Cal Poly SLO. Jim was an avid prospector, hunter, fisherman, and soccer player with a knack for teaching others. He was a proud member of UPI, Delta Gold Diggers, and GPAA. Jim is survived and will be sorely missed by his loving wife Marian, his children, family, and friends (especially his BFF and miner partner, Joyce).

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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Dave Runs His Blue Bowl

Hello UPI, I was running my blue bowl the other day and had mentioned my activity to our Claims Director, Mike Hammond. He recently got his hands on a Blue Bowl at our Coulterville, pre-Thanksgiving raffle. Never using one before, Mike had some questions about how I set up and run mine. That has inspired me to write a little something for everyone.

Now I've heard stories about people using the bowl once or twice and giving up on it. I also know there are some videos on the web that can be helpful. Pioneer Mining in Auburn, CA is the actual home of the famous Blue Bowl concentrator. They have a great WEB page with the basics, <http://www.pioneermining.com/> What I've done is break down my process and come up with some basic do's and don'ts to hopefully help you in your fine gold recovery. Speaking of which lets start out with what the thing is and what it does. What is it? It's a bowl and it's blue. Enough said? Oh you want more... OK just kidding.

What does it do? While the previous is true, the bowl is designed to use centrifugal force by way of water movement to separate black sands and lighter materials from fine gold. But what does that mean? In short, water pressure spins the water in the bowl. The bowl has a uniquely shaped cone in the middle with a hole on top of the cone. As the water spins it creates a whirlpool effect and with the cone it creates a vortex. This spins the lighter materials to the center and up the cone and out through the hole. The gold being heavier remains in the bowl, usually at the base of the cone.



My set up is very similar to the web page instructions. I have it set up as a recirculating system, in a large tote/storage tub. I use a 750 GPH Bilge pump with some PVC and a water control valve.

Now the instructional video shows a pile of gold and the black sands just washing away. I don't know about the rest of you but if I have that much gold, I would've panned and bottled it already. What I'm using it for is to recover the fine gold that I refuse to chase around the pan with my snuffer bottle while at the river. That said you'll need a few more items to process your material. For me they include: Panning tub & gold pans, 3 Classifiers (smallest being 30 mesh), turkey baster, a spoon, and my snuffer bottle.

First I get started by setting up the bowl. Filling the tub with water, making sure the bowl is *level*, adding a couple drops of dishwasher *rinse agent* (to stop that pesky gold from floating) and make sure it's running good. Key points are to make sure you have *enough water* and that the *bowl is level*.

When new to using the Blue Bowl, I tried different sized materials based on the recommended classifiers. I found it best to only run material that fits through the 30 mesh classifier. So to start out, you guessed it, I classify my material. I put my pan in a tub of water, stack my 3 classifiers up smallest on the bottom and biggest on top. Then start feeding my concentrates, shaking and twisting and shaking... Wow getting dizzy! I do this until the pan is about half full. **Note:** Do Not let any oversize material fall into or get mixed with your 30 mesh classified material. This will result in a piece of gravel rolling around your bowl that will knock your fine gold around and send it out with the lighter material.

With my classified material in the pan I start the water flowing in the bowl. I generally keep the water flow rate to where the water is 1/8 inch from the rim of the bowl. I feed material using a teaspoon. Slowly lower the spoon into the flow of water on the outside edge, letting the water wash the material off the spoon. I don't mean to say it takes 5 minutes, but I never just dump it. I put in 3 spoonful's in about each minute. You'll see the material form a spiral, with the lighter material running towards the center, eventually up and out. The heavier material slowly makes its way to the center and rests at the base of the cone.

..."But what's the turkey baster for?"... Oh that, well at times the material will load up in the bowl. Sometimes on the edge or just a spot in the bowl where heavier material has built up. When this occurs, I fill the baster with water from the tub and use to gently put extra pressure on the non-moving material. This spreads the material out and lets the water continue to move it around. Just make sure you don't move the material around the cone. You want to keep that nice and settled.

As I repeat this process, I watch for bigger pieces of gold. Most times they will not move towards the center but stay right where they land. The finer pieces will move to the center and form a ring around the base of the cone. Now if I'm seeing a lot of gold, I will stop adding material, wait for the lighter material to be removed and shut down the water. After the water settles I get my snuffer bottle and *get all I can see*, including going around the base of the cone. Then I will start the water up again and continue on. I prefer the slower feed method to ensure the gold has a chance to settle and move to the cones edge.

Sometimes it may take a few minutes for the lighter material to clear. During this time I go back to the panning tub and pan out each classifier of material one by one, going back and adding material to the bowl in between pans or as needed. This helps me to see what size gold I'm getting from an area too. I've been surprised more than once to find a nice flake that didn't go through a 20 mesh. For the most part I run the bowl during the first part of winter for a day or two. I save up my black sands throughout the year then have fun seeing gold I may have forgot I even found.

At the end of the run I will have all my fines in my snuffer bottle. There may still be a little black sand, so I'll put it in a small clean up pan and do some taps and swirls to get the last of it cleared.

So to summarize:

Do:

- Make sure you have enough water to run the bowl.
- Use a rinse agent to stop floating gold.
- Ensure your bowl is level.
- Feed the bowl slow and steady.
- Stop and get what you can see.

Don't:

- Let larger gravels into your classified material.
- Use the baster on the material at the base of the cone.

I hope this helps new folks and maybe even spark ideas for those already well-practiced.

Happy Prospecting!
Dave Williams

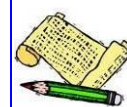
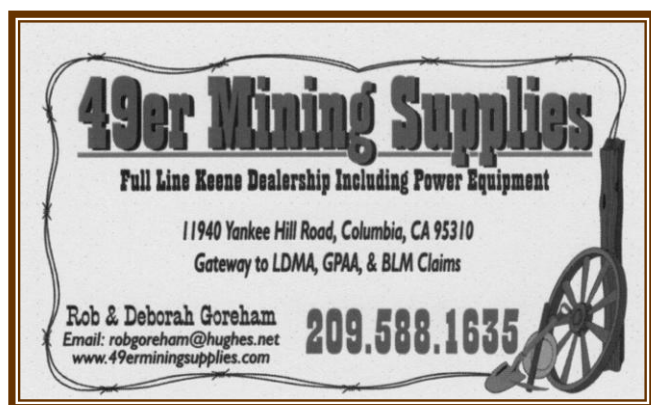
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EXERCISE FOR PEOPLE OVER 60

Begin by standing on a comfortable surface, where you have plenty of room at each side. With a 5-lb potato bag in each hand, extend your arms straight out from your sides and hold them there as long as you can. Try to reach a full minute, and then relax. Each day you'll find that you can hold this position for just a bit longer. After a couple of weeks, move up to 10-lb potato bags. Then try 50-lb potato bags and eventually try to get to where you can lift a 100-lb potato bag in each hand and hold your arms straight for more than a full minute. After you feel confident at that level, put a potato in each bag.

Members Bulletin

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.



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 if you don't have this card.

Laurie Ozga

NOTE FROM YOUR EDITOR:

I would really appreciate any input you may have for the newsletter. If you would 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 others besides mine.

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
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OzMiner@msn.com



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Shannon Poe
President/CEO
shannonp@americanminingrights.com
americanminingrights.com

HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL AT THE NEXT OUTING!





UNITED PROSPECTORS INC.
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ISSUE #332-1-15

March 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** _____

Annual Membership \$45.00/year: New _____ **Renewal** _____ **Lifetime Membership \$450.00:** _____ **Foreign Countries \$55.00/year:** _____

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City: _____ **State:** _____ **County:** _____ **Zip code:** _____ **Country:** _____

_____ **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:

UPI Use Only
Rec'd: _____

Proc'd: _____

Number: _____

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