



Locating Gold, Gems, and Minerals

The official publication of the

Trails and Tales of UPI

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**"GREAT TIME" at
the Annual Contra Costa Chapter
Metal Detecting Hunt
and Potluck Lunch held on April 12th in Concord**

HOPE TA SEE YA AT DEM NEXT DAR OUTIN' - MAY 16th

Miscellaneous Tidbits

BEAR REMOVAL SERVICE

A man in northern Minnesota woke up one morning to find a bear on his roof. He looked in the Yellow Pages, and sure enough, there was an ad for "Up North Bear Removers." He called the number listed and the bear remover said he'd be over within an hour.

The bear remover arrived, and got out of his van. He had a ladder, a baseball bat, a 12 gauge shotgun, and a mean looking, heavily scarred old pit bull. "What are you going to do?" the homeowner asked. "I'm going to put this ladder up against the roof, then I'm going to go up there, and knock the bear off the roof with this baseball bat. When the bear falls off the roof, the pit bull is trained to grab his testicles, and not let go. The bear will then be subdued enough for me to put him in the cage in the back of the van."

He then handed the shotgun to the homeowner. "What's the shotgun for?" the homeowner asked. "If the bear knocks me off the roof, you shoot the dog."

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HANGMAN'S TREE BAR - Historical Bottles Found In Placerville Mud

Scaffolding and workers have been all around the Herrick and Hangman's Tree buildings, 301 and 305 Main Street, for months, but the owners, Tim and Sue Taylor, are taking their time and paying as they go. The restoration of the historic buildings is the goal of the couple that purchased them in April of 2012. The first focus has been to restore the structural integrity of the buildings.

Another project that is underway is excavating the crawlspace under the Hangman's Tree building and that has turned out to be unexpectedly interesting. "We're going very slowly because the mud underneath is full of old bottles" said Taylor. "We want to go about 3 feet down to where we can see wooden planks, maybe from when it was a hay barn, but with all the bottles we're finding, we're being very painstaking."

A bottle collector looked at some of the bottles the Taylors have found. "He told us that there were two major floods in Placerville. In the layer of mud you can see where the rainwater washed over it and about a foot above it, there is another waterline. There are a lot of bottles embedded in the mud with such a variety of styles," said Taylor. The antique bottles are stored off-site for safe-keeping, but Taylor said they found a Coke bottle with "Placerville" stamped on it.

This is a partial representation of an article written by staff writer Wendy Schultz and was featured in the February 19, 2014, issue of the Mountain Democrat, Placerville.



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VOLUNTEERS

Advocacy/Political Action: Laurie Ozga (925) 706-8193 or OzMiner@msn.com
Historian: Bill Reboin - Miner1808@hotmail.com
Publication/Newsletter Assistants: Cindy Siegel (209) 567-2370 or cfs623@aol.com and Laurie Ozga (925) 706-8193 or OzMiner@msn.com
Technical Advisor: *Currently Open*
Wagonmaster: Bob Azbill (530) 409-4549 or Robert.azbill@yahoo.com
Webmaster: Mark Weber (707) 449-4808 or mark.weber@sbcglobal.net

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: *Chairperson; Michael Phillips, (408) 595-9121 or kitfoxchumash@yahoo.com*

Stanislaus County: *Currently open*

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



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MESSAGE FROM YOUR OFFICERS



**President
Don Siegel**

We had perfect weather and water in the creek and I thought we might have a better turn out for the first outing of the year. Overall the group had a great time, detecting, panning, sluicing, and relaxing. The potluck was fantastic as usual, with the raffle to top off the evening. With gold, a sluice box, and flying gloves it was a good finish to the festivities. The campfire, always my favorite part of the evening, lasted well into the night.

Now let's get ready for Bull Creek. Water will not be an issue. Recent storms and the late snow will keep Bull flowing into the summer. I have already heard from many folks that are planning to make this outing. We are going to make every effort to come up with some activities. Detector hunts are easy to put together, but I need to hear from you to know if there is enough interest. Call or email me if you want me to put something together. We will have gold, some cool tools, 1 or 2 sluice boxes, as well the usual fun stuff for the raffle Saturday evening. We also have a dry washer and a recirculating sluice we will be selling tickets for that will be raffled at the Coulterville outing.

In addition, I have an AMRA membership (\$200 value) that will really expand your mining territory. For those of you that don't know what AMRA is, it is a fund raising organization. By selling memberships, they raise money for the many legal battles we face. As well as taking on issues personally, Shannon, who heads up AMRA, has close ties to PLP and many other organizations and is always looking for a good fight. Our rights to use public lands has been under attack for a long time now. I am tired of it, Shannon's tired of it, and I hope you're tired of it. A \$200 dollar donation gets you access to 2000 acres many of which are in the Coulterville area and expanding as we speak to Arizona and Northern California. For more information on AMRA and all the work they are doing go to <http://americanminingrights.com/>.

Look forward to seeing all of you out and about. Don

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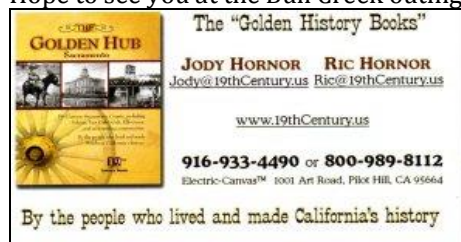
**Vice President
Ed Ozga**

As a UPI member you have access to over 1200 acres of UPI claims, however, please keep in mind that every person working a UPI claim must have a UPI membership. Each UPI membership is a family membership that includes spouses and children under 18 years of age. Guests are allowed to work UPI claims during scheduled UPI outings only. If you are bringing a guest to a scheduled outing and they plan to prospect, they can only assist you with your prospecting activities. Also, the guest must sign a Guest Release of Liability and Assumption of All Risks, a copy of which is available in your UPI Members Claims and Rules Guide Book or at our UPI website at www.unitedprospectors.com.

Be sure to carry your UPI Membership Card when prospecting on UPI claims. If for any reason you cannot locate your membership card, please contact Sandy Cameron, Membership Director at Membership@unitedprospectors.com or call me at 925-706-8193 and we can help you to get a replacement card.

Remember, if you are approached by a law enforcement officer while prospecting, we do not encourage confronting the individual. However, it is important that you gather the information listed on your PLP Orange Card.

Hope to see you at the Bull Creek outing and may there be gold in your pan, Ed Ozga.



Santa Clara County Chapter News

Santa Clara Chapter is busy as usual educating the public on gold prospecting and getting families out of the cities and enjoying the great outdoors. We recently had a gold panning booth at the Santa Clara Rock and Mineral show the weekend of April 12-14th. On May 17th we will be off to the State Bonitoite mine to hunt for the rare Bonitoite. June 14th we will be participating at the Almaden Quicksilver Mining museum in San Jose, CA which will include a Play Like A Miner event. This is a fun event that is set up for kids to come and play. Then the Chapter is having an outing at Briceburg on June 28th. Then on July 31st- Aug. 3rd the Santa Clara Chapter will have a gold panning educational booth at the Santa Clara County Fair. Our members will then be off to Nevada on September 27th for the big Rye Patch Metal Detector hunt on a 100 acre hunt field. We did this hunt last year and we were just blown away on how large the field was and the size of the tokens you had to find. The main prize tokens were no bigger than 3/8 square and placed one per acre. Only 40 out of 100 Targets were found. One of our members, Rick Mora, came home with the grand prize of a half ounce specimen nugget. We have a new teaching aid for prospecting on how to read a river. You can see our working interactive river model at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rrm6Q1oeu3U>.



Contra Costa County Chapter News

Sign-up now to attend the **9th Annual Contra Costa Chapter Outing**. Our last eight annual outings have been a roaring success and this years' outing has some extra special activities planned. Activities include a metal detector hunt including gold coins, cash, and prizes; free morning coffee; prizes all day; bingo for gold; a spaghetti feed, and more surprises! There's also winner take all duck races (yes ducks), raffles, and special activities planned for the kids.

This year we have the entire private group campsite reserved at Bear River in Placer County, CA for **7 Nights** from **Thursday, September 18th to Thursday the 25th**. Motor homes and trailers are allowed (over 30' not recommended) and there are also great tent sites! This is dry camping, there are outhouse style potties, and no hook-ups are available. Shopping is nearby.

The charge for the week (or weekend only) is \$30.00 or \$10.00 for Saturday use and you must have a reservation to attend. Please contact Laurie at OzMiner@msn.com or 925-706-8193 to reserve a spot. This is a gated campground, with no gate keeper, so you need to make a reservation, because you will need the combination.

Sign up now because reservations will go quick! Please note that all reservations must be paid in advance.

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

Today and tomorrow, as millions of Americans celebrate yet another peaceful reaffirmation of faith in our system of governance and our beloved Republic, I reflect upon that which we are celebrating, who is celebrating what, and whether or not our founding fathers would be celebrating.

Truly, we can celebrate how peacefully we transfer and/or re-affirm political power in this nation. If one ignores the Civil War, no one in the world has done it so well and for so long. It was, after all, Lincoln's election, which triggered secession. That did not end so peacefully. However, the Union prevailed and we marched on through history, elections and inaugurations, pretty much without a hick-up, regardless of the issues. Then again, I wonder...

Not since 1861, has this nation been so deeply divided on so many issues. Even during Vietnam, we had presidents winning by landslides. As bloody as the civil rights struggle was in the South, the nation, as a whole, was overwhelmingly supportive of the civil rights movement, something many of today's Black leaders conveniently forget. However, today, on almost every social, political and economic issue, Americans are evenly and deeply divided.

From before the Revolution to a half century afterwards, all of our founding fathers wrote, many extensively, on what were and remained viewed as the "basics" of governance for a free people in a representative republic. For 200 years, the entire world has studied their words and admonitions. True, the world has changed since September 17, 1787, but not the principles of good governance.

A nation still cannot long spend more than it earns and produces. Government cannot long take from the earners, give to the non-earners, and survive. It consumes the earners and destroys the nation's wealth. Public debt still destroys the value of currency and that is a mathematical certainty. Debt is a tax in itself and it enslaves the taxpayer. Once a nation's debt exceeds its ability to repay it, its economy is doomed. All of our founders warned against deficit spending and public debt.

Our basic freedoms and rights as human beings, a minimal list of which is enumerated in the Bill of Rights, have, until recently, weathered the centuries unscathed. Our basic freedoms were too precious and too hard won to be traded for temporary safety and security, we agreed. They have been expanded and extended more than they have been limited. Indeed, the Bill of Rights has remained nearly sacrosanct, and interestingly, those rights are interdependent. How can one enjoy the 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, & 9th Amendments without the 1st? How does one enjoy the 1st, 3d, 4th, 9th & 10th Amendments without the 2nd? How does one enjoy the 6th Amendment without the 1st, 4th & 5th? I could go on, but the Amendments' interdependence is no accident. It is a logical absolute. The founders knew that too...

Small, limited and even passive government was universally accepted as the only safe government for free men throughout most of our history. Indeed, our founders preached that government and freedom were antithetical. Rugged individualism were the by-words. Men were better off fending for themselves, rather than trading personal sovereignty for government regulation and largesse. People would nearly starve to death, rather than take a handout. Bet they do not teach that in school anymore. The Great Depression brought breath-taking changes in the role of government, however, but even as late as 1960, we only had eight cabinet posts and that included the Post Master General. That would soon change.

External circumstances and technology forced us to deviate from our founders' warnings about large standing armies and entangling alliances. Even so, a hefty portion of Americans still have some isolationism left in their marrow and still view military spending a necessary evil, and it is. However today, the immensity of evil demands we maintain a force to protect our freedom and our economy globally. Freedom without food and prosperity can be a difficult proposition. Moreover, everyone's freedom and prosperity is interdependent in this small world. Therefore, today, with a half dozen potential, even likely, nuclear enemies, not to mention global terrorism, our military demands are greater than ever.

So where are we on this 56th Inauguration Day? We are \$1.4 Trillion dollars in debt and committed to \$22 Trillion in debt by 2016. We have at least \$150 Trillion in un-financed demands, which are mathematically impossible to pay. In the last 12 years, we have witnessed Congress and the last two presidents make unprecedented, joint, frontal assaults on nine of the ten amendments in the Bill of Rights, all in the name of public safety and security. Government is gargantuan. It regulates everything we do from cradle to grave. We have fifteen cabinet posts with agencies everywhere. We have social programs that feed, clothe, house, medicate and transport half the nation and paid for by the other half. Production of critical natural resources are arbitrarily and obtusely thwarted at every turn. Government employees are so numerous that they constitute a significant voting block. Indeed, the number of federal employees, today, exceeds the US population 1787. Our military has been reduced to such low numbers and funding, that our military and foreign policy options are nearly down to nuclear war or do nothing. By 2016, we will face nuclear, Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Pakistan, Iran, China, India, North Korea and Islamic terrorists with several nations developing global and nuclear navies for the first time in history.

What have we done? In light of these circumstances and crisis, what does the man, raising his hand today, propose? Will our founding fathers forgive him or us? Will the Republic and we survive to forgive you Mr. President? Will our kids survive and forgive us?

Respectfully,

Mike Steele
An ordinary citizen
Midway, Georgia



MOCCASIN CREEK OUTING - RAFFLE WINNERS



Lori Dibrowa - Geode



Dan Repke - 18" Pry Bar & Rock



Theo Marcelja - Tow Strap/Ties



Janet Karrick - Blue Pan



Larry Douglas - PLP Mug



Dave Williams-Gloves & Knee Pads



Bob Ovitt - 1/4" Classifier, LED Flashlight, 2' Shovel, & Geode



Ralph Gragg, Nugget, Cargo Net, & Utility Knife



Dan Jordan - Bungee Cords & .6 Gram Nugget



John Meling - Cable Lock & 1.1 Gram Flake



Al Simoni - 2' Royal Sluice, Panning Tub, & .3 Nugget



Alex Dibrowa - .4 & .5 Nuggets

2014 UPI Outing Schedule:

May 16th – 19th - Bull Creek

July 2nd – 9th - Genesee

October 24th – 27th - Coulterville
Area/Pre-Thanksgiving Feed



Saturday, August 23rd 10:00AM - 6:00PM

Sunday, August 24th 10:00AM - 4:00PM

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Recipe of the Month

A GOOD BOWL OF RED - Submitted by Georgia Azbill

3-4 lbs CHUCK ROAST, trimmed of excess fat and cut into 1" cubes
4 slices of BACON cut into 1" pieces
FLOUR in a gallon Zip Lock bag
1 large medium diced ONION
1 bottle BEER
32 oz BEEF BROTH
16 oz TOMATO PASTE
16 oz TOMATO SAUCE
3-4 tablespoons CHILI POWDER (suck as New Mexico)
Can also add powered Ancho Chili (available in produce or Mexican food section)
1/2 teaspoon ground RED PEPPER
2 tablespoon crushed GARLIC
2 teaspoon ground CUMIN
1 tablespoon OREGANO
SALT AND PEPPER to taste



BROWN bacon pieces in a heavy pot or dutch oven bacon. Remove bacon from pan and save. Dredge beef cubes in flour and brown in batches in the bacon drippings (add small amount of olive or vegetable oil if needed); removing each batch when browned. Then add chili powders and ground red pepper to dutch over, stirring continuously for just 2 or 3 minutes. Add the tomato paste and stir into the chili powders.

Put the browned beef cubes and bacon back into the pan and add the rest of the seasonings and stir well.

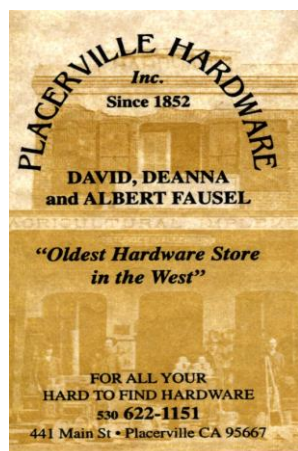
Stir in the liquids (beer, beef broth, and tomato sauce)

Bring to a rolling boil and then turn down and simmer on low uncovered for approximately 2 hours, stirring occasionally.

Makes about 8 servings

This is good with grated cheddar or jack cheese and chopped red onion on top with tortillas on the side.

If you want to thicken the chili gravy, use a little corn masa.



If you have a mailing address, email change, or wish to receive your newsletter electronically, please send your updated information to Sandy Cameron; Membership Director, at: Membership@unitedprospectors.com.



A LITTLE BIT ABOUT PLACERVILLE AND "THE HANGMAN'S TREE TAVERN"

Submitted by Georgia Azbill

The history of Placerville began with the rush for gold to California in the 1840's. The highly publicized discovery of gold in the tailrace section at Sutter's Mill in Coloma in 1848 resulted in the migration of thousands of fortune seekers to Northern California in the mid 1840's. The town of Placerville was named after the placer deposits found in the river bed between Spanish Ravine and the town plaza. During the gold rush, Placerville became an important supply center for the surrounding mining camps.

Placerville was also known as "Hangtown" in its' early days. Although many stories exist on how this name was acquired, the most famous story involved a colorful event that occurred in January of 1849.

A gambler named Lopez gained a lot of attention for his big winnings at a local saloon. After he retired for the evening, several men tried to overpower him. Lopez fought back, and with the help of others, the robbers were captured. During their flogging, three of the robbers were also accused of being wanted for a murder and robbery.

With no more evidence than that, a short 30 minute trial took place and a unanimous guilty verdict was given. The crowd demanded the men be sentenced to "death by hanging" and the rest was history. The famous hanging tree once stood in Elstner's Hay Yard, next to Jackass Inn. Today, the original stump from the old tree remains in the cellar of "The Hangman's Tree Tavern" on historic Main Street in Placerville.

This is the same Hangman's Tree Tavern that is being restored by Tim and Sue Taylor, where in layers of mud in the cellar they recently had the excitement of finding many fully intact antique glass bottles.

UPDATED MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

MEMBERS DUE FOR RENEWAL

David Furry – Groveland, CA
Teresa Homen – Turlock, CA
Jeffrey Bargas – Modesto, CA
Mike Eidsness – Madera, CA
Peter Lancestremere – Menlo Park, CA
Laura Rochford – Mt. View, CA

NEW MEMBERS

Robert Hollenhorst – Hughson, CA
John Sutter – Sunnyvale, CA
Bruce McGuy – San Jose, CA
Gerald Johnson - Modesto, CA
Joshua Rickert – Susanville, CA
Mike Bacon – Hollister, CA
Dale Martin – Pittsburg, CA
James Babaoka – Stockton, CA
David Martinez – Oakland, CA
Mike Johnson – Napa, CA
Jeffrey Brady – Napa, CA
Bryan Smith – Salida, CA
Thomas Benzler – Concord, CA
Edward Littrell – Dixon, CA
Dean Childress – San Jose, CA
Phillip Cocciantie – Rancho Cordova, CA
Rick Sauls – Modesto, CA
Tim Beltz – Lodi, CA

new members continued;

Dean Fallen – Reno, NV
Janet Karrick – Livermore, CA

RENEWED MEMBERS

Louis Casterson-Pleasanton, Jim Baggott-Hollister, Bob Ovitt-Discovery Bay, Dennis Matthews-Fresno, Mark Chambers-Sparks, Robert McGill-Quincy, John Larribeau-San Jose, Jim Wisor-Fernley, Lance Schmidt-Oakley, Ralph Gragg-Concord, Richard Infantino-San Jose, Frank Madsen-Novato, Ed and Cindy Burchard-Colfax, Joe Stewart-Saugus, Art and Lucy Apodaca-Merced, Ken Whitted-Columbia, Kenneth Nordheim-San Jose, Denise Downey-Twain, Leo Mercado-Oakley, Larry Douglas-Pleasant Hill, Ivan and Diane Perkins-Brentwood, Stanley Webster-San Jose, Dennis Moe-Manteca, Tony Arredondo-Columbia, Gary West-Pleasant Hill, Wayne Bootten-San Juan Bautista, Gregory Davis-Tempe, Steven DeWaide-San Jose, Warren VanSant-San Jose, William Vaughn-Columbia, Tom and Keren Murphy-Susanville, Ronald LaBarr-Oakdale, Michael Wright-Modesto, Paul Venker-Concord, Jon and Joyce Petri-Napa, Edward Despins-Concord

MOCCASIN CREEK - METAL DETECTING HUNT



Mike Brickwedel - \$5.00 Bill



Janet Karrick



Dave Williams - Nugget



Paula Roderick - \$10.00 Bill

MOCCASIN CREEK - ROLL CALL

Bob Ovitt
Theo Marcelja
Janet Karrick
Daniel Repke
Michael Brickwedel
Paula Roderick
Mike Roderick
Dan Jordan
Ralph Gragg

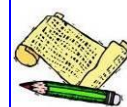
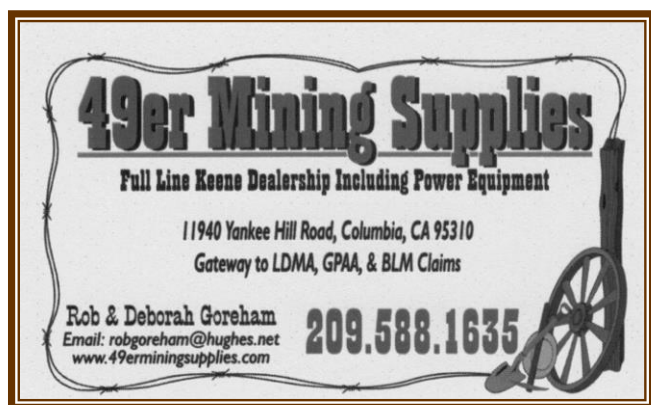
Lori Dibrowa
Alex Dibrowa
John Meling
Al Simoni
Larry Douglas
Robin Lee-Raney
David Williams
Brandy Williams
Don Siegel



Don Siegel with 50/50 winner Bob Ovitt!

Members Bulletin Board

If anyone has anything they would like to list for sale in the newsletter please contact Cindy at cfs623@aol.com or call at 209-567-2370.



Dear Editor:

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:

Do you have anything you want to share?

If you have a personal short story, pictures from an outing, interesting articles, letters, adventures, favorite recipes, short stories, etc., please forward them to share. They will be entered in an upcoming newsletter for all UPI members to enjoy! Anything to do with gold prospecting will be most appreciated. Let's share those great finds and experiences!

Judy Farrow
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HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL AT THE NEXT OUTING!



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All memberships are good for a period of one year and will expire on your anniversary date.

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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 January 2012