



# Locating Gold, Gems, and Minerals

The official publication of the

## Trails and Tales of UPI

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

February 2016

No. 338 Vol. 2-16

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THE 'OL MINER SAS SE ENSID FER  
DAR 2016 OUTIN' SKIDUAL 'AN HOW  
'YA 'CIN WIN THIS 'ER POWER SLUICE



## CONTACTING THE UPI BOARD

**DIRECT ALL MAIL TO:**  
 United Prospectors Inc.  
 2401 E. Orangeburg Avenue, Ste 675-237  
 Modesto, CA 95355

<b>PRESIDENT</b> <b>Don Siegel</b> President@unitedprospectors.com	<b>VICE PRESIDENT</b> <b>Ed Ozga</b> OzMiner@msn.com (925) 706-8193	<b>TREASURER</b> <b>Aaron Matula</b> Treasurer@unitedprospectors.com
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<b>CLAIMS MANAGER</b> <b>Mike Hammond</b> MJH75@aol.com (443) 564-2865	<b>OUTING COORDINATOR</b> Vacant	<b>WAYS &amp; MEANS</b> Vacant

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**Advocacy/Political Action:** Laurie Ozga (925) 706-8193 or OzMiner@msn.com  
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**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.**

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

**San Joaquin County:** Coming soon - Watch newsletter for announcement

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

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**THE TRAILS AND TALES OF UPI©**  
 The Family oriented small scale mining organization.

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**LOCATING GOLD GEMS AND MINERALS©**

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 Production of Guidebook - *Cindy Siegel*  
 Subscriptions/Membership/Circulation - *Dave Williams*  
 UPI Business *Don Siegel*

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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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## LATEST NEWS

### **One Person Can Make a Difference - Support Brandon Rinehart to the Supreme Court <http://peoplevrinehart.org/>**

In San Bernardino Superior Court, Judge Gilbert Ochoa candidly admitted that the mining community is being denied justice in his own courtroom by deferring a decision on the CEQA case. In what amounts to a judicial ole', Judge Ochoa is kicking the can down the road **until the California Supreme Court rules on the Brandon Rinehart case.**

*From Attorney James Buchal: This morning (Editor note: 01/20/16) was the scheduled time for Judge Ochoa to hear and rule upon CEQA and Administrative Procedure Act challenges to the Department's FSEIR on suction dredging, as well as the time set for a hearing on a motion for summary judgment (and the Department's counter-motion for judgment on the pleadings) concerning the question whether AB 120 and SB 1018 were unconstitutional for violation of the "one subject" rule in the California Constitution.*

*The hearing was delayed because the Judge was in the process of preparing his tentative ruling (poor quality camera copy attached—I'm still at the airport): he would not decide anything; everything would be stayed pending a ruling in People v. Rinehart. I was given the opportunity to contest the tentative ruling, and pointed out to the Judge that while there was some limited overlap between the federal preemption issues and the CEQA arguments, the "one subject" case had nothing to do with People v. Rinehart.*

*I explained that we were in the process of getting water quality permits or waivers, but even if we got them, the unconstitutional provisions of AB 120 and SB 1018 would still require certifications about birds, noise, wildlife and historical/cultural issues, such that we could not get suction dredging permits even to run under the restrictive 2012 regulations. Striking down AB 120 and SB 1018 would remove all legal obstacles (other than water quality certifications) to the Department's issuance of permits under the 2012 regulations without regard to any federal preemption issues. I was interrupted in mid-argument as I then strayed into the merits of the CEQA baseline argument (which also has nothing to do with federal preemption).*

*At the end of the hearing, after hearing from the Department, which reversed its earlier position that we needed to decide these issues, I said that of course the Department and Tribe were happy for delay, that justice delayed is justice denied, and this was unfair. The Judge remarked that he agreed with my last observation, it was unfair, but there was nothing he could do about it.*

*Whether or not a federal court will recognize the extraordinary nature of our treatment in the California courts as, in substance, a concerted effort to frustrate federal civil mining rights, remains to be seen. This morning's developments are certainly more evidence in support of that position.*

James L. Buchal, Murphy & Buchal LLP





# UNITED PROSPECTORS INC.

## IMPORTANT MESSAGES FROM YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Back Row: Ed Ozga, Vice President; Middle Row: Dave Williams, Membership Director; Mike Hammond, Claims Director; Dolly Sauls, Secretary; Aaron Matula, Treasurer; and Bob Azbill, Wagonmaster; Front Row: Laurie Ozga, Publisher/Editor-in-Chief; and Don Siegel, President

## **STATUS OF UPI**

Some of you reading this will say "here we go again, I'm so tired of hearing this...", well, please know, we are tired of saying it. The new year is upon us and will prove to be an important year for the future of our organization.

Do you enjoy this organization as much as we do? Do you like going to the outings and participating in the activities? Do you like the idea of having over 1200 acres of property available to you to prospect for a mere \$45.00 a year?

How about the camaraderie of the camp outs, sharing stories by the camp fire, trading special recipes at the pot-lucks, not to mention winning gold at the drawings?

Are you aware that we are currently the longest surviving family oriented small scale mining organization in existence? However, awesome as that sounds, unfortunately, we are currently facing a time when UPIs very own future is at stake.

Most of us have served in our Board positions for well over the normal 2 year reign which we originally signed up for. With that said, many of us are seriously considering not renewing our hold on those positions. In our defense, some of us have served long over our time and while we did a great job and kept this Organization going, when we signed up, it was not for life...

Our By-Laws dictate that we maintain a board of directors (not that we could operate without one), so filling the Board positions is extremely important. If there are no new folks to fill those positions in the future, one can only surmise that UPI is in danger of non-existence. So with all that said, those of you that value this organization, the way we do, please find some time to step up and volunteer for 2-years to keep this great organization going.

There are immediate opening for Outing Coordinator and Ways and Means. Come the end of this year, there will be openings for Vice President, Treasurer, Publisher/Editor-in-Chief, Membership Director, Claims Manager, and Wagonmaster. If and it's a big if, the following positions can remain filled for the following year, there will then be a need for a new President and Secretary.

Some folks have served in these positions for longer than 10 years and understandably deserve a break...Most positions require small amounts of time, but, we will be honest that some take quite a bit of time. However, all come with the opportunity to contribute to a historical, fun, and truly unique organization.

Please feel free to call Don or any board member and find out about the different duties required of the positions.

Please keep in mind, you must have been a member in good standing for at least 1 year and board members get free membership for the length of their term.

## Messages From Your Board - Continued

### Questions About On-line Sign Up & Renewals

As many of you know the board has been asked repeatedly to look into accepting credit card payments on-line or the possible use of PayPal for new memberships and renewals.

We recently took a closer look into this topic and discussed various challenges with our Webmaster. Offering online payments would be a nice "convenience" but, we first have to look at the inner workings of the organization, and our efforts to keep costs to a minimum.

In this day and age, it is common for folks to think of online payments as routine for all transactions, but as we found, each transaction would come with a 2.9% fee plus \$0.30. That cost would have to be absorbed by our non-profit organization. Then there is the ever-present risk of online identity theft that could open the organization up to an expensive risk that we are not equipped to repel or litigate. PayPal was in the news just last August with stories of concerns over security vulnerability issues.

Another concern is that online payments would not ensure that we have the SIGNED renewal/release form on file for each affected member. Also we would have to come up with new processes to confirm payments and match them to members before sending out new packets and membership cards. To accommodate such a process would require multiple changes to the website and additional cost for web security. This is beyond our current means and level of expertise.

In summary, the cost, security risk, time, and size of our organization currently can't support a change of this kind.

We can't tell you enough how much we appreciate your ideas and suggestions, so please keep them coming. While, we, the Board, administratively keep the organization going, we are all responsible for its continued success.

# Messages From Your Board - Continued

## IMPORTANT REMINDERS

As a UPI member you have access to over 1200 acres of UPI claims, so there is room for everyone. However, please keep in mind that every person working a UPI claim must have a UPI membership. The only time a guest is permitted to work a UPI claim is during a scheduled outing and only when assisting you. Guests must sign a Guest Release of Liability and Assumption of All Risks, a copy of which is available in you Membership Claims and Rules Guide Book or at our UPI website.

We do welcome and encourage guests to attend monthly Chapter meetings. This gives folks a good opportunity to meet UPI members and get an insight to our organization to see if they are interested in joining.

And lastly, remember, the more dirt you dig, the more gold you'll get, but, please remember to be respectful. Fill your holes and leave the land and vegetation as you found it.

Have fun out there!

Respectively, the UPI Board of Directors and Volunteers

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### **Patti's Big Papa by Ben Castricone PhD**

It was a dark and stormy night (always wanted to start a story like that or in a gold mine far away, the evil empire of the department of California Fish and Game, battles the heroic rebel alliance of UPI and PLP).

I purchased 10 bags of Jackpot Gold from Felix's Paydirt. I belong to his gold club, so I get a bag a month. In the year 2013 and 2014 I won 1 oz. gold nuggets. This year was nothing.

Patti buys two bags of jackpot gold, opens one of them up and low and behold she wins the Big Papa! A 2.8 oz gold nugget!

She sends her picture to Felix, now she's on all his publicity. She is now famous, and I become the goat, relegated to the far reaches of our back yard, where I now have to process my concentrates.

However, our 10 day trip to Australia to hunt for gold will be the ultimate battle. Revenge should be sweet, as I have two Minelabs, a Gpx 4500 and a Sdc 2300 and she has only a Sdc 2300... To be continued...



# Membership News

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

**Don Reed, Littlerock, CA**  
**David Hill, Fresno, CA**  
**Leon Athas, Modesto, CA**

**Larry Frechow, Fresno, CA**  
**Thomas & Sabrina Chisholm, Modesto, CA**  
**Joyce Lindahl, Twain, 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 had 15 members renew in January. Thank you for your continued support of UPI. It's always great to see so many friends stay active and continue to support our organization.

## Other membership news:

When renewing you membership, you must fill out and sign a new application each year.

- If you check the box for electronic newsletters and notifications, you will receive your newsletter electronically and also two e-mail reminders when your membership is due. One, 30 days prior to and another the day of your expiration, if it lapses.

Also, if you 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 have access to the UPI website. So, drop me an E-mail, find me at an outing or Chapter meeting, or send me a note via regular mail.



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Thanks for your support,

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**UPI Membership Director**  
[Fools-gold49@att.net](mailto:Fools-gold49@att.net)

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## Reminder:

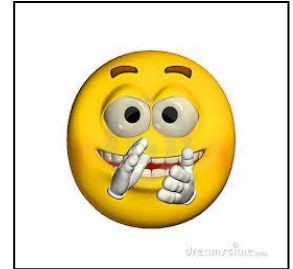
California fire permits expire at the end of each year. You can get your 2016 fire permit by watching the video and taking a small quiz at the following site:

<http://www.preventwildfireca.org/Campfires/>



# THANKS SO MUCH

This month's shout out goes out to **Joyce Smith and Dolly Sauls**. Joyce has been an active member of UPI for many years. In 2015, unable to fill our Board Secretary position, Joyce stepped up and agreed to help us out until the position could be filled permanently. We truly appreciate Joyce stepping up to help us in our time of need and for being such an active member of UPI for all these years. Fast forward to 2016 and many thanks go out to Dolly for volunteering to take over the Secretary role for the 2 year term. Thanks again Joyce and Dolly, it's volunteers like you that keep this great organization going. (Pictured left, Joyce and pictured right, Dolly)



*Editor's note: If you know of a UPI member that deserves a round of applause, please send the information to the Publisher/Editor-In-Chief.*

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## 2016 UPI Outing Schedule:

April 8th - 10th - Moccasin Creek

May 6th - 8th - Bull Creek

June 23rd - 30th - Spanish Creek

October 14th - 16th - Coulterville Area/Pre-Thanksgiving Feed

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## T-SHIRTS ARE IN!

T-Shirts are \$10.00 each (and any additional mailing costs if necessary). You can reserve a shirt to pick up at a Contra Costa Chapter Meeting or UPI outing or shirt(s) can be mailed to you.

Contact Laurie Ozga at 925-706-8193 or OzMiner@msn.com



The 'ol Miner sas, try to be the person yer 'ol dog thinks you is.





WIN THIS!



Want to win this self-contained 12-volt recirculating Mini Power Sluice? To have a chance, all you have to do is attend any 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 Mini Power Sluice. The more outings you attend, the more tickets/chances you will receive. All those that received tickets for attending the outings this year will then be entered in a drawing to win the Mini Power Sluice. The drawing will be held at the pre-Thanksgiving Coulterville area outing in October. Tickets will not be provided for attending the pre-Thanksgiving Coulterville area outing and you need not be present to win.

This self-contained Mini Power Sluice comes with a folding heavy-duty vinyl water reservoir to conserve storage space and an 1100-gallon per hour recirculating water pump that can be run from any auto or motorcycle battery (battery not included). Includes stainless steel adjustable legs and stand with self-leveling feet and stainless steel classifying screens. The sluice box is lined with the new "Hi Low" molded rubber riffle, great for fine gold recovery. There is also a smaller pre-riffle for checking contents for values without having to remove the lower larger riffle. Lightweight and requires no tools for quick and easy set up. Dimensions: 36" long x 15" wide x 40" in height. Weight 16 lb.

Hope to see you at an outing and good luck!

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**FUNNY**

The clerk asked me, "Cash, check, or charge?" after ringing up my purchase. As I fumbled through my wallet, she noticed a remote control for a television set in my purse.

"Do you always carry your TV remote?" she asked.  
"No," I replied. "But my husband refused to come shopping with me, so I figured this was the most evil thing I could do to him today!"



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

January 23, 2016 - President called meeting to order at 11:35 a.m.

### **Roll Call –**

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

Directors present: Dave Williams, Membership; Mike Hammond, Claims Manager; and Laurie Ozga, Publisher/Editor-in-Chief

Volunteer's Present: Bob Azbill, Wagon Master

Members present: Denise Matula and Georgia Azbill

Vice President, Ed Ozga, swore in Don Siegel as President, Dolores "Dolly" Sauls as Secretary, and Laurie Ozga as Editor/Publisher-In-Chief.

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

**Treasurer** – Aaron reported there is \$3,176.39 in the bank. A motion was made and passed to accept the proposed budget for 2016. A motion was made and passed to pay the outstanding bills. The treasurer was congratulated on how good the budget report looks.

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

**Chapter** – Ed reported that Joyce will start up a “UPI Central Valley” Chapter in Stockton, CA. Meeting room located at the American Legion Building . This chapter will meet every 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the Month (*Editor's note: Since the Board meeting date was confirmed to 2nd Wednesday of each Month*). First Chapter meeting will be announced. Board and Contra Costa Chapter committed to supporting Central Valley Chapter kick-off with membership attendance, first meetings "rent", and raffle prizes. Prize donations will also be solicited from attendees for first meeting.

**Membership** – Dave reported we have 250 total active members that includes 64 life, 182 regular, and 4 advertisers. We were at 400 members 6 years ago. We had 53 new members join in 2015. We do not have a count of how many of the new members were “Free Membership.” Estimation is no more than 10 (4 Sonora, 2 AMRA and 2 ?) There was a discussion to keep track of how many of Free Memberships actually renew their membership. Discussion was held regarding if we want to do Sonora Gold Show Membership Drive again this year. In addition, Ed proposed for us to do a membership drive at the ICMJ Placerville Gold Show on April 16th and 17th of this year. Don will call Sally about reserving a booth for the Placerville Gold Show and he'll talk to Jay about reserving a booth for the Sonora Gold Show. (*Editor's note: Post meeting, ICMJ Placerville*)



*show is full and we are on waiting list. Our booth at Sonora Gold Show is confirmed).* UPI placed an ad in the ICMJ which, to date, has resulted in 2 new and 3 prospective memberships. For the cost of the ad it did not seem beneficial to renew the ad in ICMJ. A suggestion was made to put an ad in our newsletter that we're in the ICMJ! Emails sent to members to remind them it's time to renew 30 days prior to expiration date is working well. Dave and Mark were congratulated on what a good job they are doing with membership emails.

**Ways and Means** – Don reported he will try and purchase an ounce of gold. We have one gold cube remaining and one mini power sluice to use for attendance raffle. Don will purchase items at the Las Vegas Gold Show.

**Publisher/Editor-in-Chief** – Laurie again requested that members submit articles and pictures for newsletter. Don suggested removing the inactive chapters from the newsletter.

**Wagon Master** – Bob created and presented a 2016 outings schedule that did not overlap with AMRA's outings and GPAA Gold Shows. A motion was made and passed to accept the 4 UPI outing dates proposed for 2016:

- (1) Moccasin Creek – March 25th -27th (*Editor's note: Post Board meeting, Moccasin Creek outing was moved to March 8th to 10th due to Easter Holiday.*)
- (2) Bull Creek – May 6th-8th
- (3) Spanish Creek – June 23rd-30th
- (4) Coulterville Pre-Thanksgiving Feed – October 14th -16th

**Secretary** – Dolores was present, no report. She and Laurie took notes.

**Claims** – No new business. Mike reported that everything is paid.

Question was raised: "Has the Genesee claim taxes been paid?" Mike responded "Yes." A motion was made to drop "Willie's Dream" claim because of access issues. Mike suggested there is no reason to drop it now because we are paid up until August 31, 2016. He also suggested we consider selling or donating it. Motion to drop "Willie's Dream" was tabled to Coulterville meeting.

**Old Business** – Mike reported the IRS status change has been completed. There was a discussion regarding what to do with the "watch" won at a PLP raffle. Guide book suggested changes have been made by Mike and Dave and will be reviewed for suggested changes by Laurie and Ed. It will be returned to Dave and then to Don for final approval prior to publishing. At this time, UPI will propose no changes to the By-Laws. Board was reminded that all donations from UPI require Board approval.

**New Business** – No discussion.

Meeting adjourned at 2:25 p.m.

# Members Bulletin



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

## FOR SALE

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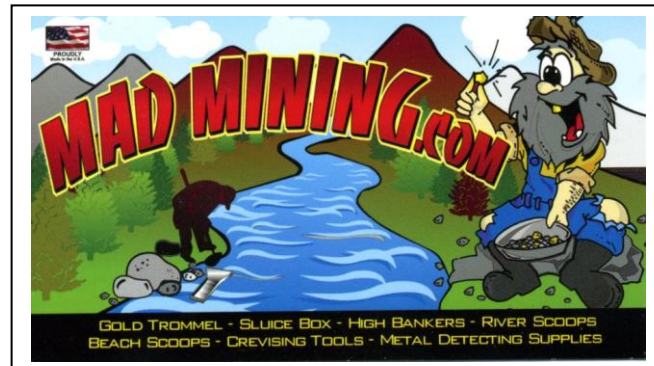
Includes: Sluice Box 12" x 42"; Jet 2.5" x 1.25" thread; Dredge Hose, 2.5" x 10 ft.; Dredge Pressure Hose 1.25" x 10 ft; Highbanker Pressure 1.25" x 40 ft



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



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**Shannon Poe**  
 President/CEO  
[shannonp@americanminingrights.com](mailto:shannonp@americanminingrights.com)  
[americanminingrights.com](http://americanminingrights.com)

# Members Bulletin Continued

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

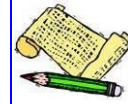
## NEWS JUST IN!

Now is your chance to ask Prospector Anonymous questions yourself!

You can reach Prospector Anonymous at the following email:

**prospectoranonymous@yahoo.com**

Get your questions in now before it's too late!



## 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 the area. Know what to do by having your PLP Orange Card with you. Contact Laurie Ozga at [OzMiner@msn.com](mailto:OzMiner@msn.com) or (925) 706-8193 if you don't have this card.

Laurie Ozga

**FOR SALE:** LDMA Lifetime Membership only \$2,000.00. Regular price is over \$4,000.00. I have had this membership since the 80's and can't use it anymore. Contact Art at: [Gldfind1@gmail.com](mailto:Gldfind1@gmail.com) or 209-761- 3533.



## FOR SALE

Two inch used Proline dredge. Equipped with GXH50 motor (low hours) and 10 ft hose. Needs foot valve.

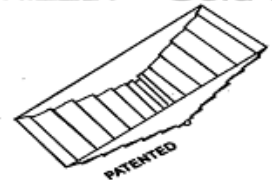
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For more information contact Don Siegel at (209) 401-7040

**ALL PROCEEDS TO BE DONATED TO UPI!**



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**HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL AT THE NEXT OUTING**





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**ISSUE #338-2-16**  
**February 2016**

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: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_ UPI Member # \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Renewal only)

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

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

Please allow 4 weeks for your application to be processed

Revised March 2015