



# 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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**Coulterville 2017 pre-Thanksgiving Outing**



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**DIRECT ALL MAIL TO:**  
 United Prospectors Inc.  
 2401 E. Orangeburg Avenue, Ste 675-237  
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**Board Assistant:** Laurie Ozga (925) 706-8193 or OzMiner@msn.com  
**Historian:** Bill Reboin (916) 362-3441  
**Publication/Newsletter Assistants:** Cindy Siegel (209) 567-2370 or cfs623@aol.com  
 Laurie Ozga (925) 706-8193 or OzMiner@msn.com  
**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  
**Central Valley Chairperson:** Joyce Smith, (209) 815-1940 or CentralValleyUPI@gmail.com  
**South Bay Chairperson:** Gil Mink, (510) 449-2669 or UPI.South.Bay@comcast.net

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

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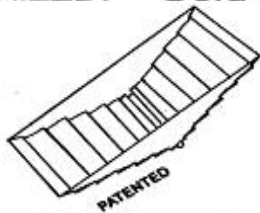
The UPI Newsletter (ISSN 1544-7774) is published 5-6 issues per year, during the normal mining season. A "Members Guidebook" is also published. Membership is \$45.00/year and includes first class mailing of the Newsletter and Members Guidebook in the United States, to all new members. New Lifetime Membership 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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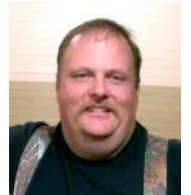
# UNITED PROSPECTORS INC. FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Hello, hope you all have a Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and that you have a great New Year with Gold in your pans.

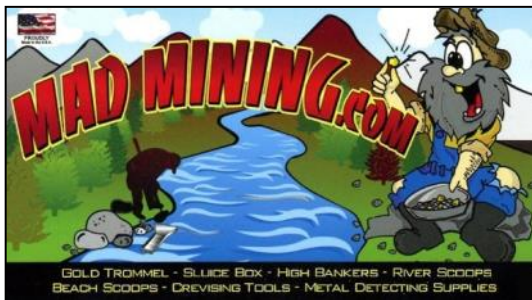
Before I go on, I'd like to give a special shout out to **Sid Calija**, our Claims Director. For those of you that don't know on October 24th Sid was involved in a severe rollover auto accident. Luckily Sid survived the crash, but, he sustained many injuries and our thoughts and prayers continue to go out to him and his family for a full recovery.

As most of you know this will be the **last message** from me as your President of UPI. Last May I announced that come the end of 2017 I would be **retiring** from the UPI Board of Directors. Laurie is also retiring from her volunteer position of Executive Assistant to the UPI Board of Directors and Volunteers. We have been volunteering with UPI in various positions for approximately 16 years and it's time for us to move to other things. As Lifetime members of UPI we do plan to remain active in UPI and look forward to participating in future activities.

Our new **President** is **Cal Courtnier**. Cal has been an active member of UPI for about 18 months and continues to play a key role in the success of the Central Valley Chapter (Stockton). Cal is a level headed, experienced prospector, and brings knowledge and experience with what works and doesn't work when it comes to running a club like ours. I am confident he will do a great job and thank him for stepping up to take over this key role so I can retire from the Board.



While Cal is new to the Board of Directors, the continuing Board is experienced, and my hope is they will rally to assist Cal with his success as our new President. Vice-President, John Lopez, continues for another year, as well as Dave Williams, Membership Director, Sid Calija, Claims Director, Aaron Matula, Treasurer, and Gil Mink, Editor/Publisher in Chief. The Secretary position is currently vacant, but we do have a volunteer, Lydia Hough, who will volunteer for now. Lydia could not officially be on ballot this past October because her year with UPI is not up until February. Again, like Cal, Lydia appears to be a very qualified individual. Also Joyce Smith continues to do a great job as the Chapter Chair of UPI **Central Valley Chapter** (Stockton) as well as **Gil Mink**, Chapter Chair, UPI **South Bay Chapter** (Fremont). I have also retired as the



## Reminder:

California fire permits expire at the end of each year. You can get your 2018 fire permit by watching the video and taking a small quiz at the following site:

[www.preventwildfireca.org/Campfires/](http://www.preventwildfireca.org/Campfires/)

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# Membership News

Here are our Newest members. Let's all give them a Big UPI welcome!

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

**Judy Corzine, Willits, CA**

**Sandy Thuiet, Lower Lake, CA**

**Adrian Brown, Long Beach, CA**

**Paul Antigua, Ceres, CA**

**Stacy Swithenbank, Hayward, CA**

**Lee J. Hahn, Alameda, CA**

**Mark Cook, Meadow Valley, CA**

**Jeff Myers, Greenville, CA**

**George & Nancy Thompson, Lincoln, 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 now have three active chapters and I encourage you to attend one of their meetings if you get the chance.

## **Renewing and returning members:**

It's awesome to see so many members renewing and staying active in the club. Your continued support of the UPI is what keeps our organization alive. Many thanks and remember, without you there'd be no club.

## **Other membership news:**

The October pre-Thanksgiving outing and pot luck was a great success. I think all had a good time and it was great to see familiar and new faces. Some folks were getting some mining in at Moccasin and after the metal detecting hunt I did a little detecting with Bob down by the creek. I think he wants his own detector now.

I want to personally thank everyone who donated canned goods. I'm not sure how many boxes we had but it took a whole crew to load it up. Great job UPI!!!

Also a Big thanks to our President Ed Ozga and all the folks who volunteered with set and clean up.

## **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.



Merry Christmas and have Happy New Year,

Dave Williams

UPI Membership Director

Fools-gold49@att.net



# FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

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**Chapter** (Concord). As of this writing the fate of the Contra Costa Chapter is still uncertain, what I do know is that we did have one heck of a good run and the many, many good memories and friendships Laurie and I formed with the Contra Costa Chapter will continue for a lifetime. See information in this newsletter regarding the Contra Costa Chapter celebration party to be held on Friday, January 19, 2018.

Our last outing of the year was held the weekend of October 20<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> in Coulterville, CA. This traditional **Pre-Thanksgiving Feed** was another huge success. The activities began on Saturday morning when many of us met at the towns Odd Fellow Hall to support the Rebecca's, the local women's group, in a great **pancake breakfast**. Off we went to the park for a fun time at the **metal detecting hunt** where prizes included gold nuggets, silver coins, mint sets, and more. Folks then proceeded to scout out our many claims in the area, while many of us attended the UPI **Board of Directors meeting** (see minutes in this newsletter). After the meeting, set up began for the evening festivities. Many thanks to the numerous volunteers who assisted with the set up and a special shout out to **Dan Repke** for another year of hauling tables and chairs back and forth from the VFW. Also, many thanks to **Cindy Siegel** and her staff of volunteers for another truly successful year running the kitchen and potluck dinner. We couldn't have done it without folks like you!

The Coulterville Area **Food Drive** was an amazing success. We literally filled a pickup truck with food and clothing which was donated to the Greely Hill Church for their distribution. Food and clothing were donated at Chapter meetings and the Coulterville Pre-Thanksgiving Feed and drawing tickets were distributed for donations. Congratulations to **Paul Harris** for winning a 1-year free membership to UPI and to **Ken Liddle** who won the .66 gold nugget. Many thanks to all the many contributors.



This year's **Pre-Thanksgiving dinner**, while hugely successful, did not come without any disappointment. Unfortunately, several individuals were left with no Turkey, Ham, and other items. Folks please, try to remember when it comes to the UPI potlucks please do not over take food until everyone has had a chance to go through line. We would much rather folks come back for seconds, than folks not get their share.

On a lighter note, those of you that had an opportunity to taste the homemade pecan pie can attest it was absolutely delicious! Many, many thanks to new member, **Savane Peters**, for a true highlight of the evening!

Post dinner activities included some very special presentations where I was pleased to present **Dan Repke**, with a free 2-year membership to UPI. It was a small thank you for all Dan continues to do for UPI, including hauling tables and chairs and claims clean-ups. I was also happy to present **Denise Downey** with a 2-year free membership to UPI for her many years as a caretaker of our Twain claim. Denise continues to serve as an asset to UPI recruiting new members who dare set foot on the Twain claim without a UPI membership. Also, I was able to present our Membership Director, **Dave Williams**, with a \$45.00 gift certificate to Taco Bell (yes, he likes it) for recognition of his continued support of UPI.



*(continued on page 7 "FROM YOUR PRESIDENT")*

# IMPORTANT NOTICE - PLEASE READ

The long outstanding issue of our **Genesee III** claim is over and the court awarded a 20 acre portion of our Genesee III claim to **top-filers, Terry and Suzy Barnes**.

The Genesee III 20 acre claim area awarded to the top-filers is located at the first pull-out BLM campground area and is located in the campground itself. The claim is currently marked by the top filers Terry and Suzy Barnes' claim markers and now goes by the name "Golden Eddie". You can still camp in this area as it is BLM land, however, **you are hereby notified that UPI no longer owns this 20 acre area and members can no longer prospect on this portion of our Genesee III claim.**

Any questions regarding identifying this 20 acre area can be addressed to Sid Calija, UPI Claims Director (see page 2 for contact information).



**FOR SALE:** Used 2" Keene Dredge (\$650.00) and Used Royal Dry Washer (\$350.00) from Jim Baggot's Estate. Questions and requests for pictures can be sent to Jim Courselle (408) 284-9174 (NO texting) or [jcmutt@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jcmutt@sbcglobal.net)

**FOR SALE:** New Gold Bug Pro Metal Detector by Fischer \$550.00. Contact: Dan Repke (209)874-4923 (NO texting)

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## YOU'RE INVITED TO CELEBRATE WITH THE CONTRA COSTA CHAPTER

Mark your calendars now and plan to attend the UPI Contra Costa Chapter Celebration to be held

**Friday evening, January, 19, 2018, in Concord, CA**

Food, Drinks, Drawing, White-Elephant Gift Exchange, and fun.

Further details will be provided soon.



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## SOUTH BAY CHAPTER METAL DETECTING HUNT

Plan to attend the very first UPI South Bay Chapter Metal Detecting Hunt

**Saturday, April, 14, 2018, in Fremont, CA**

Food, Drinks, copper, silver and gold prizes and more!

Further details will be provided.



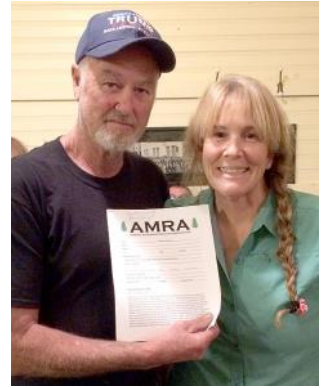
# FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

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Drawing prizes and other special drawings continued to enhance the evening of fun. Gold nuggets, sluice boxes and many other items were afforded to the lucky winners in the general drawing.



**Jennifer Stafford** was the very happy recipient of a 1-year Membership to AMRA. If you attended a UPI outing this year your name was entered into a special attendance drawing. One entry was provided for each outing that folks attended. This year's lucky winner was **Dolly Sauls**, who won a very cool **5 Oz Silver Bar**. Also, this year, \$1.00 drawing tickets were available at the outings for a chance to win a **Deluxe Gold Cube**. Congratulations go out to **Dave Williams** who won the Gold Cube. Way to go Dolly and Dave!



Laurie and I have been busy working to wrap up outstanding UPI issues before we turn things over to the new board in January and unfortunately, I have saved the bad news for last. Many of you are aware of the long standing issue of our **Genesee III** claim. The case is over and UPI has officially lost a 20 acre portion of our Genesee III claim to **top-filers, Terry and Suzy Barnes**. It's not that the top-filers won, it's that UPI lost. All of UPI's claims paperwork was in order and UPI legally owned the entire claim area. However, it all came down to the fact that our previous Claims Manager, Mike Hammond and President, Don Siegel, neglected to respond to the court timely and thus defaulted years ago. I feel terrible delivering this news, but, please know that when I took over as President, Laurie and I worked tirelessly to fix this, but, in the end, everything we did was for not, because UPI originally neglected to respond to the court timely.

This Genesee III 20 acre claim area the court awarded to the top-filers is located at the first pull-out BLM campground area and is located in the campground itself. The claim is currently marked by the top filers Terry and Suzy Barnes' claim markers. You can still camp in this area as it is BLM land, however, **I now need to ask that UPI members do not prospect on this portion of our Genesee III claim.** The **2018 UPI outing schedule** will be firmed up at the **Board of Directors Installation meeting** to be held January 13<sup>th</sup> in Manteca, CA. Meeting is open to all members and if you are interested in attending please **RSVP** to me by January 11<sup>th</sup> at OzMiner@msn.com or 925-706-8193. Once finalized, the 2018 outing scheduled will be announced in the next newsletter and also posted on the UPI Website.

I have truly enjoyed serving on the UPI Board of Directors and as the Contra Costa Chapter Chairman these many years. One last special shout out to my wife and best friend Laurie, who without, I don't think all these years would have been possible. Her vision, leadership, and tireless work provided much needed support to UPI these many years.

May there be gold in your pan, Ed Ozga, Outgoing UPI President

A graphic for JJ Emergency Roadside. It features three images of service vans: a silver pickup truck, a white van, and a white van with a red stripe. Below the images is the text "JJ EMERGENCY ROADSIDE" and "CA#477930". Underneath that is "24 Hours Jump Starts-Tire Changes-Lock outs-Fuel Delivery". At the bottom are contact details for JOEY and JIM, including phone numbers and email addresses.

**JJ EMERGENCY ROADSIDE** CA#477930  
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JIM - 209-715-0516 jim.jjroadservice@gmail.com Fax 209-888-5786

A graphic for Pioneer Mining Supplies. It features a logo with the text "PIONEER MINING SUPPLIES" and a small illustration of a person mining. Below the logo is the text "Metal Detectors • Prospecting Equipment" and "HEATHER & JOHN WILLIS (Sometimes Frank)". At the bottom are contact details including phone numbers and an email address.

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**January 2018**

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*All memberships are good for a period of 1 year and will expire on your anniversary date.*

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

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_ UPI Member # \_\_\_\_\_

(Renewal only)

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