



Locating Gold, Gems and Minerals

The official publication of the

Trails and Tales of UPI

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May 2011

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United Prospectors Inc. Publications ©



*2011 BILLY
GOAT CLAIM*

**HOPE TA SEE YA AT DA NEXT DEM
DAR OUTING!**

May 20-22

Bull Creek



UNITED PROSPECTORS INC. MESSAGE FROM YOUR OFFICERS



President

Hi all. Hope you all survived the tough winter. BUT spring is here and it is time to get out of the house and hit the creek banks. I went out today, this whole weekend actually. The weather got better as the weekend progressed and the gold was less as the weekend progressed. I had the opportunity to do some booming with Jim Madden and found it to be very cool. The spray from the splashing water (and of course I have to lay in the mud). The use of a good sluice box allowed us to capture the finest of fines. Jim and another friend have found a spot below an old mill site (the specs are lost from the milling of the ore) and are in the process of exploring the area.

The Bull Creek outing is in a few weeks, and I am looking forward to seeing you all at the campsite. I visited the area today and found only a few trees down in the camping area, and there were 10 camping rigs there today with plenty of room for more. I cleared the trail of a few down small trees and limbs all the way to the top of the trail. There is plenty of water, but not a flood as some folks are hearing. The water is cold but normal for this creek. Do plan for a fun time. No shortage of firewood!!

Meeting Saturday morning potluck **Saturday evening. SEE YA THERE** Don



Maxwell Creek just above Coulterville.



Vice President

Hi all, the winter seemed long, but now it's already hot! What happened to spring? Well the long hard winter brought lots of high water and that's a good thing for gold miners. The gold should be plenty ripe for the taking. It's time to get serious about mining, dust off the equipment, and get it ready for the Bull Creek outing this month. We've got a great raffle planned and hope to see you there.

For those of you that missed the ICMJ gold show at Placerville, you really missed a good time. There was a lot to see, and had a great time visiting with old friends. For those of you that couldn't make it, I highly recommend that you go if it's there again next year. Also, for those of you interested, I've been hitting the stripped bass hard on the Delta lately.

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.

MAY THERE BE GOLD IN YOUR PAN, Ed Ozga.

UPCOMING UPI OUTINGS

May 20-22 Bull Creek June 24-July 5 Genesse Nov. 11-13 Coulterville

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<p style="text-align: center;">WAYS & MEANS Don Siegel Information at top.</p>		

VOLUNTEERS

Advocacy/Political Action: Jim Madden (650) 589-8081 or UPI.gold@yahoo.com
and Laurie Ozga (925) 706-8193 or OzMiner@msn.com

Historian: Bill Reboin (916) 362-3441

Newsletter Editor: Linda Moore (707) 552-2393 or bellmusic4u@sbcglobal.net

Publication Assistant: Cindy Siegel (209) 551-9802 or cfs623@aol.com

Technical Advisor: Chris "Kit" Perry (530) 525-9987 technicaladvisor@unitedprospectors.com

Wagonmaster: Bob Azbill (530) 644-5365 or gazbill@internet49.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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United Prospectors Inc.

2401 E. Orangeburg Avenue Ste 675-237

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NOTE FROM YOUR EDITOR

If you see a picture you would like to have, email me with a description of the picture and your name and address. I will be happy to email or snail mail it to you.

-YOUR INPUT NEEDED-

I am looking for your camp side recipes, stories of your outings, club information, items for sale, etc. Please contact me with your information and input.

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Bellmusic4u@sbcglobal.net (707) 552-2393

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Ze ole miner sez a quote from Oscar Wilde:
"Always forgive your enemies; nothing annoys them so much."

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"If you cannot convince them, confuse them."

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Contra Costa County Chapter News

Mark your calendar now and sign-up to attend the **6th Annual Contra Costa Chapter Outing**. Our last five annual outings have been a roaring success and this years outing has some extra special activities planned. Activities include a metal detector hunt including Indian head and steel pennies, Liberty and Buffalo nickels, silver dimes, and who knows what else! There's 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 the weekend of September 16th, 17th, 18th (out by 19th). Motor homes and trailers are allowed (over 30' not recommended). This is dry camping, there are outhouse style potties, and no hook-ups are available. The charge for the weekend is \$20.00 or \$5.00 for Saturday use and you must have a reservation to attend. Please contact me 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.



May there be gold in your pan, Ed Ozga, Contra Costa Chapter Chairman

Santa Clara County Chapter News

We had our chapter fund raiser last weekend at the San Jose Rock and Mineral show. There was a small turn out this year for the 3 day event but the chapter still did good. We had 411 Panners visit our \$1.00 panning booth. Some left with gold, others with polished gem stones or both. They had a great time and experience. We had several children with disabilities and even one young lady that was blind, and she was able to distinguish a polished gem stone from an ordinary rock by touch. The crowd made so many great comments about our organization that they asked the San Jose Rock and Mineral club to make sure we are invited to the next show. Don Cox, Mike Phillips, Debbie and Terry Moore, Rick Mora, Steve Nordheim, Leland Andrews, and Dale Winkle worked the booth. We will also be putting on a gold panning booth at the Almaden Mining Museum for their gold rush days July 30th.

Here are some pictures of the event.

Mike Phillips, Santa Clara County Chapter Chairman



JEST FER FUN!!!

NEW QUESTION OF THE MONTH

How many words can you make from the word **CONGLOMERATE** (*Con-Glaum-er-et*)

DEFINITION: A sedimentary rock consisting of rounded, water-worn pebbles or boulders cemented into a solid mass.

RULES: 4+ letters, no plurals slang or proper nouns used. We found 59 words in 15 minutes. All words verified with the Oxford dictionary.





Jim Madden

Assistant Claims Manager Report

Last weekend Don Siegel and I were out driving around from Groveland up Hwy 140 and down to the UPI and Course gold claims. Everywhere we drove there were trees that had fallen. The storm that took down these trees was the same one that Steve Barnett reported on. Looking across the hills you could see hundreds of dead trees that got caught up in the fire that went through the area a few years ago. Many are still standing with no foliage and most of the bark gone. Heavy rains and high winds brought down many oak and pine trees and it seems like a good many of them fell across the roads. The CCC and others have been up in the area quite busy clearing the roads of the downed trees. Don and I hoisted 4 or 5 4ft oak logs into the back of his truck. No lack of firewood up there.

In Groveland where I have a house a large branch broke on one of the oak trees and put three holes in the neighbors garage roof. The tree trimmers are still busy doing clean up in the area in Pine Mountain Lake and Groveland. I got up

there a couple of weeks after the storm but had so much cleanup work to do I was unable to get out to take pictures of the creeks.

In Pine Mountain Lake they have a campground and Big Creek cuts through it. There is gold in the creek and I hope to get the time to test it. Downstream is a small dam that is no longer in use, beyond that is a lot of jumbled bedrock. We can mine there the same as any other place in CA. There is always someone panning, sluicing, or power sluicing the stream.

Don and I did fairly well booming on one of the claims. We also collected some nice vug hole quartz from one of the winzes of a mine. I already have most of that crushed to 1/4 inch and the the finer particles (about half a gallon) I ran on my wave table and found gold. Of course you need a 100 power microscope to see it.

The gold is waiting to be found out there. Those rains moved a lot of material into the streams I am expecting a banner year

for mining.

From Wikipedia

Vugs are small to medium-sized cavities inside [rock](#) that may be formed through a variety of processes. Most commonly cracks and fissures opened by tectonic activity ([folding](#) and [faulting](#)) are partially filled by [quartz](#), [calcite](#), and other secondary [minerals](#). Open spaces within ancient collapse [breccias](#) are another important source of vugs. Vugs may also result when mineral [crystals](#) or fossils inside a rock matrix are later removed through erosion or dissolution processes, leaving behind irregular voids. The inner surfaces of such vugs are often coated with a crystal [druse](#). Fine crystals are often found in vugs where the open space allows the free development of external crystal form. The term vug is not applied to veins and fissures that have become completely filled, but may be applied to any small cavities within such veins. [Geodes](#) are a common vug formed [rock](#), although that term is usually reserved for more rounded crystal-lined cavities in [sedimentary rocks](#) and ancient [lavas](#).^[1]



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	SHIPPING/HANDLING							\$5.00
							TOTAL	

SEE YOU AT THE NEXT OUTING!

Membership Report

New Members as of:

3/31/11

Bruce Wilson	Greenville, CA
Carl F. Basuino Jr.	La Grange, CA
David and Diane Glovin	Campbell, CA
Don Riley	Foresthill, CA
Edwin E. Naylor Jr.	San Jose, CA
Geary Wilson	Visalia, CA
James Breznik	Castro Valley, CA
John Basuino	Hayward, CA
Neil Cervenka	Turlock, CA
Nick Minoff	James Town, RI
Rich Young	Foster City, CA
Richard Regan	Scotts Valley, CA
Richard Gerstner Jr.	Rancho Cordova, CA
Ron and Debbie Oliver	Anderson, CA
Russell Tait Jr.	Columbia, CA
Theodore Klocker	Sun Valley, NV

4/30/11

Barry Hosier	Danville, CA
Donna Vargas	Lathrop, CA
Joe Bonilla	Dayton, NV
Kenneth Bassett	Lodi, CA
Pieter Van Hattem	Kelseyville, CA

Renewing Members as of:

3/31/11

Al Simoni	Concord, CA
Anthony Follett	Newhall, CA
Bob Divine, Jr.	Ridgecrest, CA
Bob Howard	Clovis, CA
Chuck & Rose Kriel	Sunnyvale, CA
Clarence (Joe) Stewart	Saugus, CA
Dan & Sarah Lohberger	Milpitas, CA
Daniel McCabe	Napa, CA
David and Tina Valdez	Modesto, CA
Greg Voisard	Oakhurst, CA
James & Henriette Hardy	Susanville, CA
Joe & Gloria Sul	Campbell, CA
John LeJeal	Sacramento, CA
Keith Waisanen	Vallejo, CA
Ken & Bobbie Sawyer	Fremont, CA
Kenny Hall	Oakhurst, CA
Les & Jackie Rossi	Rescue, CA
Michael M. Hashimoto	Martinez, CA
Randy Deblauw	Santa Maria, CA
Robert McGill	Quincy CA
Robert A. Shaw	Modesto, CA
Ron Anderson	Hayward, CA
Ron & Sharon Rowe	Dayton, NV
Steve Bava	Antioch, CA
Wayne Baker	Folsom, CA

Up for Renewal As of 3/31/11

Charlie Cox	Santa Rosa, CA
Craig Hines	San Francisco, CA
Dennis & Leona Ottenhoff	Rancho Cordova, CA
Edward Peck	Yreka, CA
Eric Roth	Vacaville, CA
Jim Jordan	Visalia, CA
Matt Cottrell	Rough and Ready, CA
Patrick Dunno	Los Gatos, CA

Ric Mora
Tom Williams
Tomas Lemus

San Jose, CA
Placerville, CA
Porterville, CA

Up for Renewal As of 4/30/2011

Billy L Stanford	Waterford, CA
Darrell Christian	Loyalton, CA
Dave Hoffmann	Litchfield, CA
Dennis & Pat Mobley	Copperopolis, CA
Doug Lindquist	Sonora, CA
Gary West	Pleasant Hill, CA
John Dickenson Jr.	Waterford, CA
Jose Bautista	Ceres, CA
Lonnie & Michele Swartout	Red Bluff, CA
Mark Weiss	Redwood City, CA
Paul Venker	Concord, CA
Richard & Leilani Otenhoff	Citrus Heights, CA
Samuel Brown	San Jose, CA
Steve Bridgman	Hughson, CA
Theron Palmer	Manteca, CA
Tom Schopper	Sparks, NV

Up for Renewal as of 5/31/2011

Al Harris	Chico, CA
Claude & Linda Moore	Vallejo, CA
Danny Sommers	San Jose, CA
Darryl Cook	Palmdale, CA
David Norman	Mariposa, CA
Edgar Pate	Clovis, CA
Gregory E. Davis	Tempe, AZ
Jim Ambrose	Concord, CA
Jay Bromley	Ukiah, CA
John Rusmisl	Hayward, CA
Julio & Ashley Ramos	Jamestown, CA
Kim L. Farmer	Columbia, CA
Leonard Benziger	Delhi, CA
Mario Lewarne	Sun Valley, NV
Mike Castro	Oakley, CA
Mike Marchetti	Oakley, CA
Nancy Hiteshow	Vallejo, CA
Neil Greiner	Rocklin, CA
Patrick Avilla	Placerville, CA
Paul Vela	Corte Madera, CA
Pierre Lessard	Sacramento, CA
Randol Thrasher	Atwater, CA
Richard & Jonnina Speidel	Alamo, CA
Rick Selifa	Stockton, CA
Rodney & Micki Knudtson	Concord, CA
Stan Smart	Stockton, CA
Steve Alban	Palo Alto, CA
Theodore Marcelja	Tracy, CA
Tom & Christa Eastland	Pleasant Hill, CA
Walter & Beverly Hills	Atwater, CA
Will Lewarne	Sun Valley, NV

Letters To The Editor



This winter we have had some terrific rainstorms, today was the worst rainstorm that I have seen in the 15 years. Maxwell creek was as high as I have ever seen it in the 17 years I have lived here. The water is roaring and rushing down the creeks. At Jackass Creek, down near the Moccasin claim, the water is terrifically deep.

Down at the Moccasin generator plant for the Hetch Hetchy Moccasin Creek is tunneled. There is a dam that has a tunnel underneath the San Francisco water supply. Upstream from this dam is another smaller dam that has railroad ties sticking up at an angle to collect the trash so it does not flow into the second dam or into the lake. The water was flowing so high and fast it was flowing over the top of the debris catchers and the top of the second dam with the tunnel and into the Hetch Hetchy water supply.

It was quite a violent storm, to date we have had a measured 53" of water that is washing more gold down the hills for us.

At the bridge here in Coulterville, Maxwell creek was about 80 ft wide. Down by the Potasi Mill site upstream from the Billy Goat claim Blacks Creek was over 100 ft wide. Ray Budowich and I have been driving around looking at these things hoping we will find more gold this summer and have more gold in our pan.

Steven Barnett

UPI lifetime member living in Coulterville



The ole miner quotes Mark Twain by sayin :
"There is nothing so annoying as two people talking when you are busy interrupting."



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