Locating Gold, Gems, and Minerals

The official publication of the

Trails and Tales of UPI

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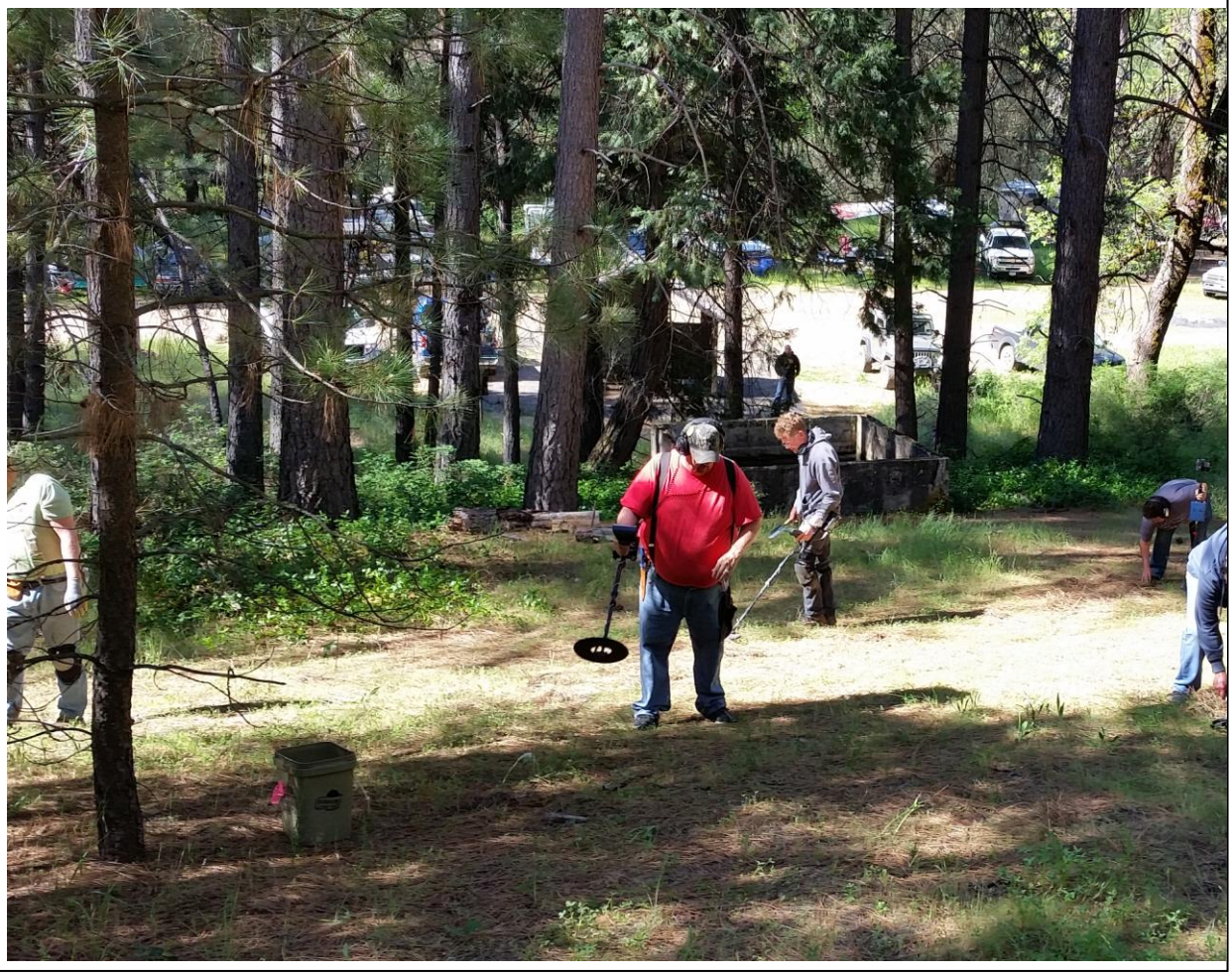

Metal Detecting at the Bull Creek Outing

THE 'OL MINER SAS

HOPE TO SEE 'YA AT DEM NEXT DAR OUTIN'

AT SPANISH CREEK JULY 2nd - 7th

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Advocacy/Political Action: 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 and Laurie Ozga (925) 706-8193 or OzMiner@msn.com
Technical Advisor: *Currently Open*
Wagonmaster: Bob Azbill (530) 409-4549 or Robert.azbill@iyahoo.com
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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*

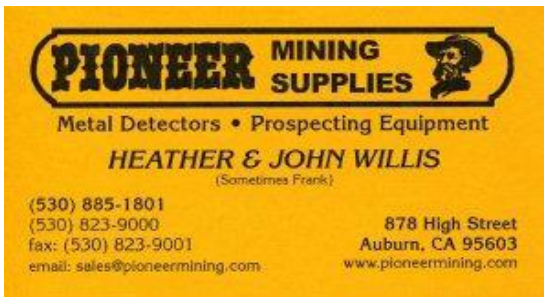
Sacramento County: *Currently open*

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.



The 'ol Miner sas put yer troubles in a pocket with a hole and go prospecting...

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UNITED PROSPECTORS INC.

MESSAGE FROM YOUR OFFICERS

President
Don Siegel

Hi all, thanks for the great turnout at Bull Creek. I had a great time, met some new members, and had one of the best pot lucks I can remember. The detector hunt went well and I believe folks enjoyed the tough terrain of the area behind the outhouse. Next time you're up there check around the hillside, there are several coins still buried up there. There was nice weather and the recent rains preceding the outing put plenty of water in the creek. Folks were able to sluice and pan with no issues. John Meling really put the creek to the test, 50 buckets, I believe, but, unfortunately, not a lot of success.

On the legal front, there are several things coming to a head. I encourage you to visit and support the sites that are working for us prospectors. The first one is change.org, a place to go often to see the latest bills and issues before congress and committees that your input could have an influence on. Log in, review the topics, and chime in where needed. So many of the issues need input from us, the citizens, this is your chance to be heard. The other site is AMRA. Shannon Poe and his group need support as they are major contributors to the legal fights that are in the courts now, for instance, Brandon Reinhart and the two miners from the Fresno area that were arrested for dredging without a permit. Shannon has also made donations to PLP, another soldier in the fight against those that want to keep us from pursuing our rights to mine for gold. UPI has in the past and will continue to support these groups to ensure that the fight is won.
Don

****

Vice President
Ed Ozga

Here we go again, just when you think things may be settling down a bit... **AMRA just issued a miners call to action to STOP CA Senate Bill 637**! We need your help to kill the bill in the Assembly! This bill has sadly passed a senate vote and must make its way through the assembly before making it to a floor vote. Now is the time to kill the bill in the assembly. SB637 is another layer of government and a scheme by those in Sacramento to require we purchase a permit (and more regulation) for pollution discharge for suction dredging from the CA Water Board. The issue on "pollutant discharge" has already been decided by the Supreme Court and SB637 is a way for the opposition to small mining in CA to ignore that.

We won the case in San Bernardino, so they immediately sit down with the environmental groups (The Sierra Fund) and try and pass another scheme to stop us. As you know, many of us have been going to Sacramento and testifying against this ridiculous bill. We applaud and thank those who have also gone to Sacramento and testified, or made their presence known but we need you to contact your Assembly person and tell them NO, do not vote on this bill.

Don't just read this, do something, find your Assembly person and contact them. Then send this info to everyone you can and tell them how important it is we stand up to this. If you want to be a small miner, pan in a creek, run a dredge or simply dig for gold, MAKE THE CALL. Sitting there doing nothing allows them to win. Many thanks to Dale Meyer and Chris Giorgi who created a website that makes it very, very easy to oppose this bill. Simply go to: http://www.stopsb637.org/ click on "California State Assembly Contacts" if you do not know who your assembly person is, and make the call or write a letter.

We cannot do this by ourselves folks, we need your help. Make the call or write a letter. We cannot make this any easier. If you do not make the call to oppose this bill, do not complain when mining is gone.

Hope to see 'ya at the next outing at Spanish Creek on July 2nd through 7th

May there be gold in your pan, Ed

Membership News

New Members!

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

Claude & Janet Wilson, Madera, CA
James Roderick, Santa Cruz, CA
Robin Lee Volpa James Town, CA
Perry Landes, Waterford, CA
David Campbell, Culver City, CA
Art Vallero, Pittsburg, CA
Bobby Fuentes, San Leandro, CA
Robert D. Roland, Egnar, CO
Franklin K. Bernard, Madera, 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.

To our Renewing members, a BIG Thank You! It's great to see so many friends stay active and continue to support this great club.

Other membership news:

May Outing! We had another great club outing at Bull Creek! It was good to see some new and old faces. There's nothing better than enjoying stories by the campfire and roasting marshmallows. Finding some color in your pan is nice too. I had a ton of fun at the metal detector hunt even beginners were finding their share. A few of our members went with our President, Don. to check out a possible new claim. I saw some good color and a picker when they got back from that adventure. Great job guys & gals!

Of course we had a fantastic pot luck dinner which even included frog legs and moose chili on Saturday. Afterword there was a raffle with some nice gold and other prizes. That night by the fire, I think we even got a response to some Big Foot calls, LOL. Nope, just our neighbors at the end of the camp. Hope to see you at the next outing!

Have a **change of address, e-mail** or contact info? Don't forget to send me your new information. Without a current mailing or e-mail address you might not get your newsletters or be able to enter the Members Only area on our website. 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
Fools-gold49@att.net

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that **Campfire Permits** are required for not only campfires, but, also barbeques and portable stoves on Federally controlled lands and private lands that are the property of another person?

Get you California Campfire Permit quickly and easily online at http://www.preventwildfireca.org/Campfire-Permit/

CAMPFIRE TIPS

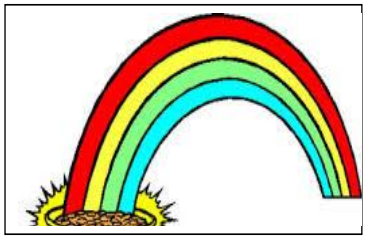
Get a Campfire Permit
Check the Local Fire Restrictions
Choose a Safe Location
Clear a Minimum of 10 Feet Around Your Fire
Have a Responsible Adult in Attendance
Extinguish Your Fire with the "Drown, Stir and Feel" Method

Contra Costa County Chapter News

Contra Costa Chapter Annual Metal Detecting Hunt was held Saturday, May 30th.

The hunt was held in Almondridge Park in Antioch, CA. This was the first time the hunt was only open to UPI members, and we had a total of 27 hunters. The Chapter donated $300 and we had a total of $570 in prizes! There was an awesome potluck lunch held immediately after the hunt. UPI Contra Costa Chapter supplied the the hot dogs, sausages, buns, and condiments and folks brought loads of delicious side dishes to share.

Many thanks to **Bobby Whitworth** for putting this all together. Also, a special shout-out to his assistant "planters" Edward Despins and Mike Castro who got up at the crack of dawn to help. And again, to Mike who hung around to BBQ for us! Hope more of you will be able to join us in our next hunt! Stay tuned, there may be another this year!

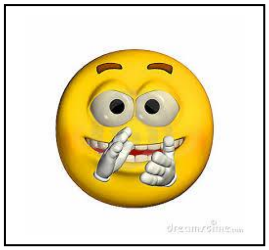


Contra Costa Chapter is Tripping

The UPI Contra Costa Chapter is Tripping...But, only for the day! As of the printing of this newsletter, on Saturday, **June 13, 2015**, we were headed on an adventure to the **Roaring Camp Mining Company** just above Jackson, CA http://www.roaringcampgold.com/ We look forward to spending a day of prospecting, adventure, comradery, and just plain fun! Stayed tuned and we'll let you know how it was.

THANKS SO MUCH

Who was that masked man that cleared all that brush at Moccasin Creek? Turns out it was our very own UPI member, Dan Repke. Many thanks to you Dan, we do appreciate all your hard work. It's volunteers like you that keep this great organization going. *Editor's note: If you know of a UPI member that deserves a round of applause, please send the information to me.*



UPCOMING EVENTS

2015 UPI Outing Schedule:

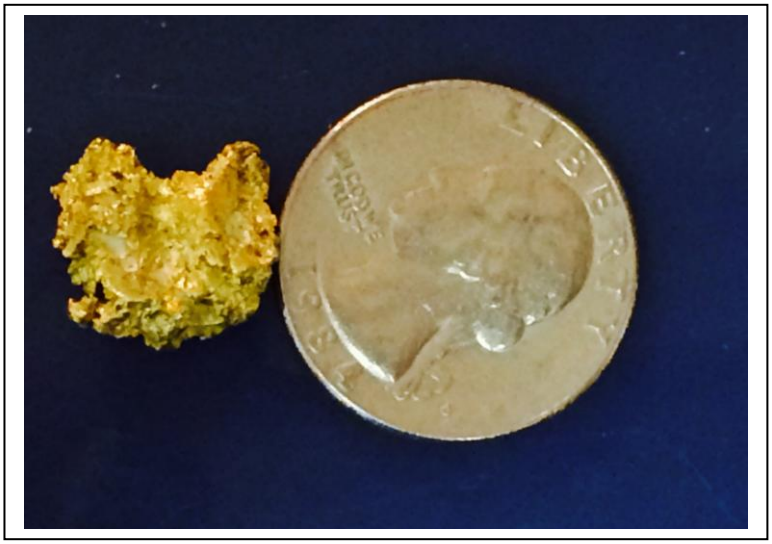
March 27th – 29th - Moccasin Creek (It was great!)
May 1st – 3rd - Bull Creek (It was great!)
July 2nd – 7th - Spanish Creek
August 27th-September 3rd Twain (Sponsored by Contra Costa Chapter)
October 16th – 18th - Coulterville Area/Pre-Thanksgiving Feed

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!
AUGUST 22nd and 23rd
DELTA GOLD DIGGERS IS HOSTING
GPAA GOLD SHOW IN SONORA, CA

Mother Load Fairgrounds, 2220 Southgate Dr., Sonora, CA

Saturday 10:00 am to 6:00 pm and Sunday 10:00 am to 4:00 pm
Over 150 Booths, plus Live Equipment and Panning Demonstrations

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



Plenty of Time Left to Win this Nugget!

Want to **win the beautiful 3.2 gram nugget**? There's still plenty of time! To have a chance, all you have to do is attend all or any of the UPI outings scheduled for this year. Each qualifying UPI member (includes adults and their spouses) who 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 in October 2015. Tickets will not be provided for attending the pre-Thanksgiving Coulterville area outing and you need not be present at the drawing to win.

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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Gold Panning & Fishing Supplies ~ Worms
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Bull Creek by Prospector Anonymous (Continued from April)

I've been doing a lot of thinking how to proceed with this 2015 report on Bull Creek. We really owe a lot of thanks to the men and women that served our country during the FDR administration (1933-1942) and those presently working for the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). Those people built the roads, trails, and campsites, etc., in our National Forests that we still use today.

I did some research and contacted the CCC legacy trying to find out any information about the Bull Creek area. I was contacted back by a person who didn't have a lot to say about the area, except that it was the main base of operations and where they got their mail.

Questions I'm interested in are:

When the CCC arrived at Bull Creek, what was the condition of the area?
What was the creek's path at that time? Any maps or photos?
Was it the present course of today?
Did they change the course of the creek to create the present campground?
Did they just come in and build a camping area and put up an outhouse?
How long did they stay at the campsite to work? I ask because up the road on Bull Creek is a very large area where you can camp. It looks like while they were in that general area they most likely built that camp for the several hundred CCC volunteers to stay.

This makes me think that any of the original hand thrown rocks from the 49'ers are now just part of the overall tailings that the drag line crew left behind. In other words, what I'm trying to say is, all of the rocks that are above the creek bed are just tailing rocks and not what most think are what the 49'ers came along and gutted from the creek and stacked.

Example, in the March 2015 ICMJ's Mining article, "Thinking Outside the Creek" (page 57), there's a gentleman standing in the middle of a dry creek bed, which happens to be right in the camp area of Bull Creek. He is pointing to the side of the creek and saying these are the rocks that the miners in the 1850's tossed out of the creek.

This is not necessarily true, because since that time period all those rocks have been moved around by different methods of mining and equipment. Who knows, if where he is standing, was actually the original path of the creek bed. Which means, just digging a very large deep hole next to the creek bed doesn't mean you are digging "Virgin Ground".

The article does cover some very good facts about the local area near Bull Creek and I suggest you read it. I would also recommend that you read the book titled Gold Seeker, Adventures of a Belgien Argonaut During the Gold Rush Years. although it outlines Perlots original life in the local Bull Creek area, it's too bad that not much in his words are said about Bull Creek, other than there were miners.

Now for a place for those that don't want to walk that far to find some color. Walk down to the start of the UPI lower claim, look up and you will see a sign "Tobis Toys", which is the start of the lower UPI claim. At this point you will see that
others have been digging around a very dead tree and you'll also see some shallow holes that surround this tree. In the past few years the creek has overflowed and been depositing "float gold" here.

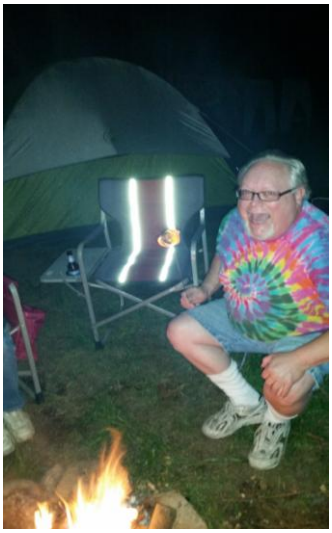
Also, because up until this last winter season, there was a blockage of logs and sand, so that would be a good area to sluice for gold.

Please don't dig up the tree, it collects the gold.

Well that's it for this 2015 Bull Creek article. Hope you all find some AU and later this year I'll give up some more spots to find that AU.

BULL CREEK OUTING - May 2015

We had a good turnout at Bull Creek, great weather, a fun detector hunt, and pot luck. Each night there were camp fires in several of the campsites making it fun to walk from camp to camp and visit. Each fire had its own personality. Saturday morning Don was up early planting the field for the detector hunt. A little more challenging, up on the side of the hill. There was coins, gold and a few goodies to make it interesting. We then got a group of folks together and drove over to scout a potential new claim. Everyone gathered up a bucket or two to take back to the water at Bull Creek. From the samples taken John Meling had the best results with a nice picker. Most folks had a few flakes for their trouble. John Meling liked his results enough to go back the next day. The picture shows the good results that he had. Note the artistic display that makes this little less than a gram look like much more than it is. Great job John! Overall a great outing. But more than that a great showing for the oldest mining organization.



BULL CREEK DRAWING WINNERS

Mike Roderick & Crazy

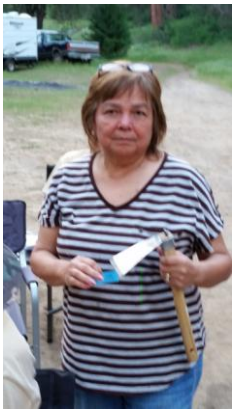
News Flash - Ozga Wins Gold!

The Ol' Miner sas congrats to all 'ya winers!

Dan Repke Picks up his Gold!

Janet Karrick

Athena Chermack Needed Help Holding All the Gold She Won!



Gloria Nichols

John Meling

BULL CREEK DRAWING WINNERS CONTINUED...

Richard Speidel

Jonnina, Richard's Better Half

Dolly Sauls

The Prez with Leo Mercado

Gill Mink

Dave Williams, Membership Director

BULL CREEK DRAWING WINNERS CONTINUED...

Way to Go Dennis Bruce!

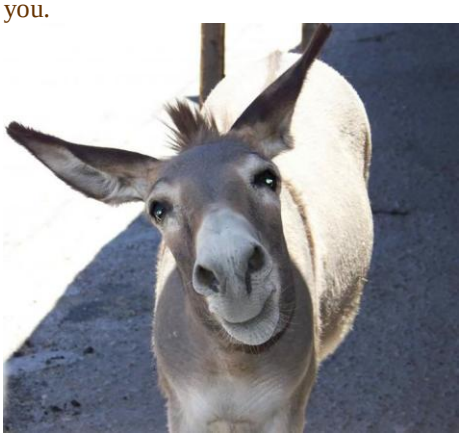
Paul Venker Sure Looks Happy With His New Gloves!

Mike Hammond, Membership Director

Dan Jordan

The 'Ol Miner sas congrats to **John Orr** fer the 50/50 dawing

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.



Check Out Public Lands For The People Website :
WWW.PLP2.ORG

Dedicated to Preserving The Rights of The Public To Access And Use Of Public Lands

MESSAGE FROM YOUR CLAIMS DIRECTOR

Most of you who know me, and know I've been working to keep Jim Madden's claims pursuits alive and ongoing for the entire UPI club. So far we've kept all of our claims and have not lost any of them. One thing that has happened recently is that we needed to re-file on some of our claims to remove some previous members that we haven't been able to contact for awhile. The claim names were changed slightly and we have all new CAMC numbers for the following claims - Spanish Creek 1, Twain 1, Genesee II, and Genesee IV. All of these claims were updated with new markers and posts last year when we re-filed on the claims. We have the exact same claims and acreage as always. The only things changed are the CAMC numbers and the names (slightly).

I've been working on updating the corner markers and posts as well. As will always be an issue within the mining community, our claim markers are continuously taken down, destroyed, maimed, or otherwise not present. This is just a way of life for claims and we try to be vigilant about keeping them marked as feasibly possible. I spoke with a member just the other day and he found our markers where they needed to be, so sometimes it's on the next hill over from where you are looking. If there are ever any concerns about not finding markers, please let me know right away and I'll try to remedy the situation. My cell number is 443-564-2865 and you can call me anytime. If I can't answer, please leave a message and I'll call back when I can. If you have any other questions or concerns, or need clarification, please call me as well. Let's continue to make this the best club out there as it is today.

There's another issue and some general guidance I'd like to throw out there for what it's worth. We recently had a member go to our Genesee III claim and they encountered a couple that claim it is their claim. The couple were nice to our member, but on the last day, they called the Sheriffs out to confront our member. So, maybe not as nice as they appear. It was non-confrontational, but it needs to be addressed.

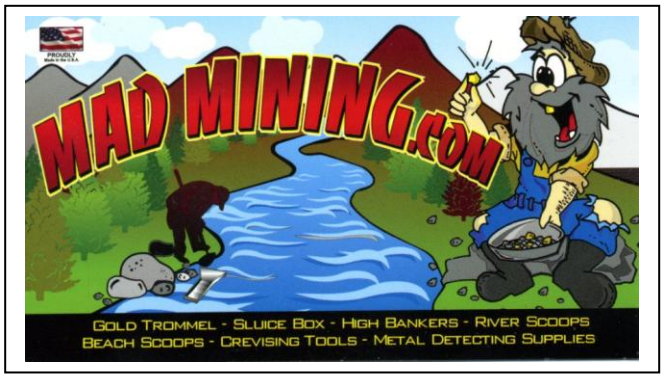
From what I gathered, it appears the couple provided the Sheriff with old and incorrect information, so based on what the sheriff knew, the couple did own our claim. In addition, according to their incorrect information, "we had let our other claims expire in that area". If the couple had done their research and due diligence and the sheriff had the correct information, they all would know that we are in the right and our Genesee III claim is still valid. I'm going to contact the sheriff and will personally deal with this very shortly. To be continued.....

Lesson learned and something to be mindful of... If you're out on any of our claims and are approached by any persons, or law enforcement, it doesn't need to lead to a confrontation, and it shouldn't. Gather as much information as to what the "problem" is, get their information, phone numbers, names, description of vehicle/license plate (if possible) and you can pass on my name and number to them as well (443-564-2865) . We will work to resolve the "problem". Everything we do with our claims and filings are all public information at BLM and such, so the information is out there if people are adept at doing their homework. Most of the time it's usually a miscommunication or some other misunderstanding.

I think that's it today. Please let me know if you have any questions, concerns, issues, or other thoughts I should be aware of. Thanks again, and let's get past this and find some good gold. (I'll also try to find the sheriff's current views on dredging up there - Last I heard they are on our side actually.)

Cheers,

Mike Hammond
UPI Claims Manager
443-564-2865



Members Bulletin

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

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

FOR SALE - FOLDING SLUICE BOX
$75.00

This folding Sluice fits into a back pack or a bucket. Only used once and is easy to set up. There's no brand name to reference. Dimensions: Open L-53.5", W- 6"(box), Folded: 20"x 11"
Contact: Dave Williams via e-mail at Fools-gold49@att.net

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 or (925) 706-8193 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. Please 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 other members.

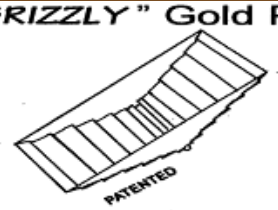
Do you have a personal short story you would like to share?

Do you have pictures you would like to share?

All of the above are welcome.

Laurie Ozga
925-706-8193
OzMiner@msn.com

"GRIZZLY" Gold Pan



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UNITED PROSPECTORS INC.
2401 E. Orangeburg Avenue,
Ste 675-237
Modesto, CA 95355
Web site: www. unitedprospectors.com

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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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_____ **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:

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

UPI Use Only
Rec'd: _____

Proc'd: _____

Number: _____