



Locating Gold, Gems and Minerals

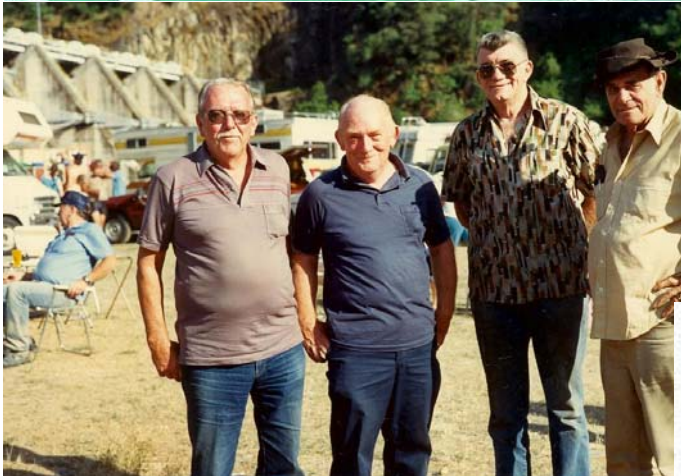
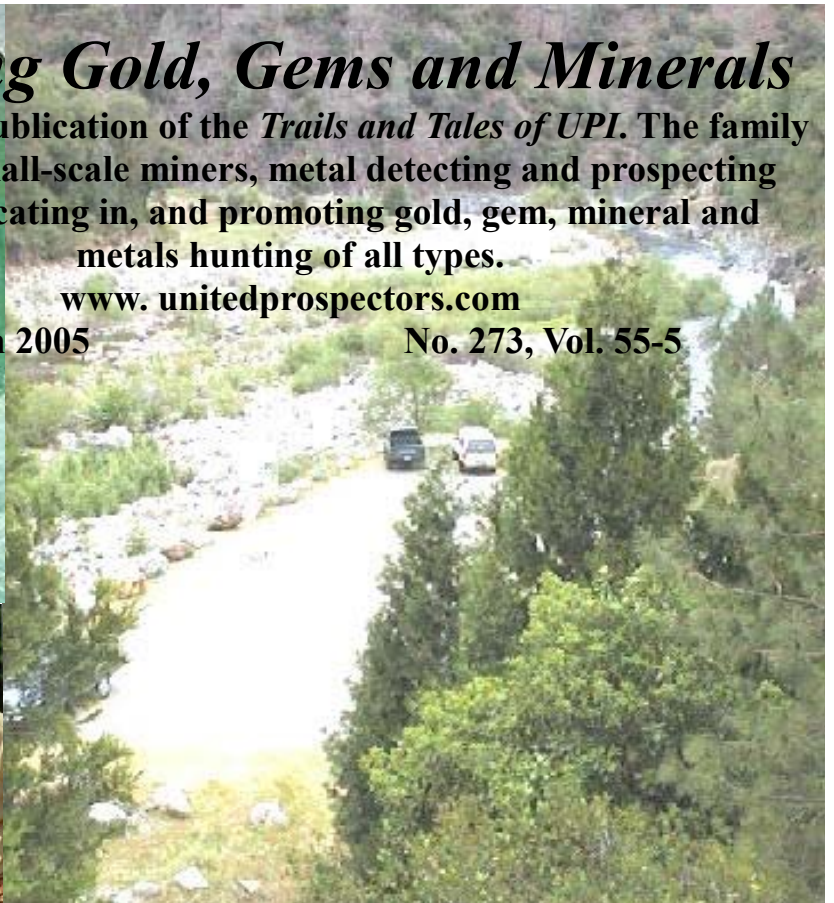
The official publication of the *Trails and Tales of UPI*. The family oriented, small-scale miners, metal detecting and prospecting group, educating in, and promoting gold, gem, mineral and metals hunting of all types.

www.unitedprospectors.com

March 2005

No. 273, Vol. 55-5

Oxbow Gold



First outing of the year is Oxbow!

April 9 & 10

Must read announcement on page 7

Pictures from upper left, clockwise: (All Oxbow) (1) Nice colors found last year or year before last. (2) Oxbow in 2000. (3) Aerial view of Oxbow in the '50's ?? (4) Oxbow, 1987 outing. (5) Members in '87, left to right: Mike Cooney, Ben, Carl (The Perpetrator) Peterson and Joe Burns.

Several years ago there was a story in the newsletter about how the potluck came about. Carl was the person responsible for this tradition that carries on today.

Joe Burns, passed away a few years back but was the President of the organization for a number of years as well as holding other hats at the same time. Had it not been for Joe's persistence we might not be today.



UNITED PROSPECTORS INC.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Don Siegel
March 2005

PRESIDENT
Don Siegel

V. PRESIDENT
Tom Eastland

TREASURER
Samantha Wait

SECRETARY
Rita Perry

DIRECTORS
*Chet Chastain
Linda Doyle
Gerald Hurt
Steve Letlow
Bill Reboin
Brenda Marsh
Aaron Matula*

**EDITOR/PUBLISHER
CLUB HISTORIAN**
Bill Reboin

EDITORS
Mark Weber

**ADVOCACY/
POLITICAL ACTION**
Gerald Hurt

CHAPTERS
Tom Eastland

CLAIMS
Chet Chastain

ETHICS/GRIEVANCE
Gerald Hurt

MEMBERSHIP
Linda Doyle

OUTING COORDINATOR
Brenda Marsh

TECHNICAL ADVISOR
Steve Letlow

WAGON MASTER
HFA by Steve Letlow, Open

WAYS AND MEANS
Aaron Matula

WEB MASTER
Mark Weber

As we head into the 2005 mining season we have hopefully come to a solution that will close out all problems with our first outing of the year which is usually held at Oxbow. (Please see page 7 for additional information.) Additionally we will be making some changes in how we do our business. With our rising costs, the continuing confront with the Forest Service and challenges from all sorts of environmental groups, we find it necessary to raise your annual dues so we may combat these obstacles. Your new Board of Directors has made the commitment to insure that your mining experiences offer you the opportunity to find a little gold, enjoy the great outdoors, and make life long friends.

We will be upgrading our raffles and fund raising activities with the addition of Aaron Matula, as our Ways and Means Director. Welcome aboard Aaron. We will offer some non-mining fun and games at outings thanks to our Outing Coordinator, Brenda Marsh. At your request you have the opportunity to increase your mining skills with the help of our Technical Advisor Steve Letlow. Steve is a knowledgeable miner. Our Webmaster Mark Weber is continually improving our website, and its safety for your enjoyment. Linda Doyle is doing a wonderful job of managing our membership files, mailing out the membership cards and claims guides as well as raising a family and operating her own business.

WOW. With approximately 1650 acres of active mining claims Chet Chastain, Claims Manager, has stayed very busy the past few years improving our holdings and continues to have his ear to the ground looking for more opportunities. Chet and a couple of other Board Members may have presented us with a real gold mine. Samantha Wait has put together a finance committee to plan our budget and insure our future ability to operate our non-profit organization. And if all of this is not enough we have Bill Reboin recording our history and putting together a newsletter that any organization would be proud of.

All of the current board members want to hear from you with new ideas and suggestions. We look forward to your involvement in making UPI all that you expect it to be.

Greetings UPI Members,

Now is the time to get out your spring mining equipment and get ready for another good season. Last year we had rumblings of big government intrusion into our mining community and I suspect this year will be no different. With the Lex-Wagner victory we can't expect the opposition to just lie down. They are well funded and highly dedicated to the extinction of our prospecting.

On February 5, 2005 we had another victory it was called the McClure decision. McClure saw no reason to file an NOI or notify the district ranger while working on his claim because, filing his claim was all the notice he needed to give. His case was dismissed by the district court. My Forest Ranger handbook states, "There is no reason to contact the Forest Service during exploration or after filing a claim", unless we plan to use a back hoe or cut down trees as in the Lex-Wagner decision.

So load-up and get ready for Oxbow. The future is not written so be ready to make it. All I ever wanted to do was go GOLD MINING.

Gerald George, Hurt
Grievance/Political Director



The old miner sez: Well folk it be time ta git out da tools an git on wit da program. Standin fer da 1872 Mining Law.

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Tentative Schedule for 2005

April 9 & 10 - Oxbow
June 4 & 5 - Bull Creek
July 1 thru 4 - Genesee@ Babcock Crossing
Aug. 12 - 14 - Spanish Creek/Clm Gold
Sept. 9-11 - Greenhorn Creek plus more
Oct. 8 & 9 - Bull Creek
Nov. 5 & 6 - Coulterville - 6th annual pre-Thanksgiving outing/feed

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Ways and Means: Aaron Matula, (510) 733-3253 or Aaron_Matula@prodigy.net
Wagon Master: Open, HFS by Steve Letlow, see Technical Advisor

VOLUNTEERS

Asst. Claims: Ray Budowich, PO Box 367, Coulterville, CA
Asst. Claims Plumas Co.: Johnny Lewis Jr., (530) 283-4787

Chapters

For Chapter meeting times please contact the representative indicated for your Chapter area. For information or volunteer work on area Chapters listed as open, please contact:

Tom Eastland, Chapters Chairperson. Please see Contra Costa Co. below for contact information.

Alameda County, Chairperson; Steve Kleszyk, (925) 443-4993 or ratled88@aol.com
Meeting held at - - - Prospectors Claim Store
174 S. "K" Street
Livermore, CA

Contra Costa County, Chairperson; Tom Eastland, (925) 932-4288 or chapters@unitedprospectors.com
Meeting held at - - - First Baptist Church Mansion
3033 Bonifacio St.
Concord, CA



Madera County, Chairperson; Open

Sacramento County, Chairperson; Open

San Joaquin County, Chairperson; Steve Letlow, (209) 986-6276 or upitech@direcway.com
Call Steve for when and where. It is understood that meetings will be held at Terry Schoens shop.

Santa Clara County, Chairperson; Open

Stanislaus County, Chairperson: Don Siegel, (209) 551-9802 or dps0736@aol.com
Call for particulars



The old miner sez: Regarten da curent debacle wit da FS an otherz it look like they gotta be a line drawn inna sand an sez nuf is nuf. It gonna take all partizapaten!

UNITED PROSPECTORS INC. (UPI)© THE TRAILS AND TALES OF UPI©

The Family oriented small scale mining organization
UPI JOURNAL/©
NEWSLETTER©

LOCATING GOLD GEMS AND MINERALS©
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The UPI Newsletter (ISSN 1544-7774) is published 8-10 issues per year, during the normal mining season, with an annual "Members Guidebook". Membership is \$35.00/year and includes first class mailing of the Newsletter and Members Guidebook in the United States, and use of our claims any time they wish, as limited by local governing agencies. Lifetime Membership is \$350.00 and provides the same. Current Guidebooks are issued at the first of the year for Life Memberships, and upon renewal for annual Memberships. **Non-member, subscription only**, is \$25.00/year and includes first class mailing of the Newsletter and the non-member Guidebook, issued upon renewal, in the United States, a picture guide of our claims with no locations indicated. Foreign Membership is \$45.00/year and foreign Lifetime Membership is \$450.00. Foreign non-member subscription is \$35.00/year. Foreign Memberships are in U.S. dollars. Updated Guidebooks are issued upon renewal of Membership/Subscription. Inserts will be provided as Guidebook information changes. Membership or Non-member Subscribers purchase Membership or Subscriptions understanding that information contained in the UPI publications come from many sources and information used is considered as reliable, however the UPI Officers, Directors and Editors do not guarantee its authenticity, nor do we assume liability for its use or correctness.

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UPI encourages submission of articles of all kinds related to the trials and tribulations and experiences of small scale miners, opinion pieces, cartoons and poems. Unsolicited e-mail submissions become the property of UPI to use as they wish. Submissions in writing, accompanied by a self addressed stamped envelope will be returned to the sender if not used.

UNITED PROSPECTORS INC. PROSPECTOR
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BOARD NOTES

President Don Siegel called meeting to order at 10:07 a.m.

Roll Call:

Officers Present: Don Siegel, President; Tom Eastland, Vice President; Samantha Wait, Treasurer; Rita Perry, Secretary.

Directors Present: Bill Reboin, Chet Chastain, Brenda Marsh, Steve Letlow, Tom Eastland (dual role), Don Siegel (dual role), Linda Doyle, Gerald Hurt, and Aaron Matula.

Members Present: Chris Perry, Christa Eastland, Beverly Paul, Aaron Matula and Mark Weber.

Minutes were read and changes are as followed:

September 9th, 10th, and 11th Outing will be at Greenhorn.

Steve said that on the survey on the web page 4 to 6 outings got the biggest number out of the percentage of 100 responding people.

Gerald Hurt handed out a sample letter that could be used to withdraw Notice of Intent signatures from the Forest Service.

Motion was made by Linda Doyle and seconded by Chet Chastain to accept the minutes from our last meeting. Motion carried.

- **Treasurer, Samantha Wait:** The checkbook balance as of January 21, 2005 is \$9,258.99; total revenue \$1,516.00 which leaves a total of \$10,774.99. Administration Expenses: \$807.66; Claims Expense: \$869.22; Legal Fees & Taxes Expense: \$500.00; Publication Expense: \$1,090.51; Ways & Means Expense: \$29.53; Total Expenses \$3,296.92. March 11, 2005 Balanced Checkbook is \$7,478.07. Motion was made by Chet Chastain and seconded by Linda Doyle to accept the treasurer report and motion carried.
- **Membership, Linda Doyle:** She has been working on the totals of comparing 2003 to 2004 as to non-renewing members. 2003 we had 125 that did not renew, 2004 we had 128 members. Will be working with Chet in writing a letter to the non-renewing members a letter by mid-April at this point 253.
- **Wagon Master, Steve Letlow:** We had a sit down with the Forest Service in Forest Hill to get our permission for the Oxbow Outing. Gerald will be explaining this. We are still trying to get Oxbow and Chet will explain this. All six bathroom-facilities were open last weekend March 5, 2005 and he wants us to be aware of this when we go April 9th to see if all the facilities will be open or just two that he requested. There will be no mining at Oxbow according to the Forest Service, but we can have the Outing there.
- **Outing Coordinator, Brenda Marsh:** Tom and Christa volunteered a panning tray, and is hoping to set that up and other than that has not made any other plans. She is looking at possibly doing survivor skills and doing a 1-2 hour presentation for adults and children at these different outings. Have instructional presentations regarding panning, sluicing, dredging, etc. Also, there was discussion regarding lapel pins for members. Rita and Samantha will not be at the Oxbow Outing.
- **Ways and Means, Don Siegel:** Ways and Means has been a position that he has carried for a while and there has not been any activity in that position except for to talk to a few people in regards to a few people in taking over the position. He spoke to Aaron several times and he has expressed an interest in taking the position. Aaron Matula was appointed and sworn in as Ways and Means Director.
- **Political-Grievance, Gerald Hurt:** Steve Letlow, Tom Eastland, and Gerald Hurt went to speak to the Forest Service regarding the Outing at Oxbow. They spoke to the Forest Ranger Mo Tebbe. We can not mine at Oxbow. Gerald is asking in writing from the Forest Service the regulations to cite for metal extraction. After speaking with the Forest Service, they went to the BLM and looked at their maps regarding filing some claims.
- **Editor/Publisher, Bill Reboin:** Bill will be changing the fliers to read UPI as an Organization not a club.
- **Chapters, Tom Eastland:** We have a couple of changes. Steve Kleszyk wanted to drop the position as Chapter Chairman but changed his mind and decided to stay as Chapter Chairman. Contra Costa has elected a new Chapter Chairman, Ed
- **Claims, Chet Chastain:** Chet filed claims at No name; No name 1, 2, 3, and 4. President Don Siegel will address the members at the Oxbow Outing regarding these claims.
- **Web Master, Mark Weber:** ADDR is a web-hosting provider. I paid for last years bill this year because it was due last July 1st and was never paid, fortunately for us they did not take the website down. We were not contacted regarding the bill.
- **Technical Advisor, Steve Letlow:** Nothing at this time.
- **Treasurer, Samantha Wait:** BILLS PRESENTED FOR PAYMENT.

Chet Chastain, Claims	\$ 959.16
Mark Weber	\$ 161.46

TOTAL BILL	\$1,120.62
------------	------------

New Checkbook Balance	\$6,357.45
-----------------------	------------

Motion was made by Chet Chastain and seconded by Brenda Marsh to accept the financial report and pay the bills. Motion carried.

New Budget was discussed and accepted.

- **Unfinished Business:** Still want to do a survey for the members to suggest which claims they prefer for the outings.
- **New Business:** Discussion was held regarding paying rental fees early at \$100.00 instead of the increased fee of \$125.00, but will be discussed at the following meeting. Discussion was continued regarding an increase in dues. Motion was made, seconded, and carried to increase dues. Chet made a motion to change the by-laws to read as organization not club.

Meeting adjourned at 3:57 p.m.

NEW MEMBERS AND RENEWING MEMBERSHIPS

This section is devoted to acknowledging and welcoming all new members and those renewing!

Welcome aboard for a year of fun.

Information is from 01/21/05 through 03/19/05

New Members

<u>Name</u>	<u>City/State</u>
Steven & Naomi Boswell	Fresno, CA
Glen Conley	Visalia, CA
Stephen De Nobriga	Castro Valley, CA
Robert Devine Sr.	Red Bluff, CA
Dean Fallen	Reno, NY
Kenny Hall	Oakhurst, CA
James Hamera	Gustine, CA
John Holden	Rescue, CA
Jeff Jones	Antioch, CA
Laith Leboa	Petaluma, CA
Keith McRobert	Cochise, AZ
Skip Potter	Modesto, CA
Ron & Sharon Rowe	Dayton, NV
Sam & Tenia Santangelo	Rescue, CA
Jay Sims	Oroville, CA
Tim Springer	Oroville, CA
Howard Waldron Jr.	Anderson, CA

Renewing Members

<u>Name</u>	<u>City/State</u>
Clyde Pearson	Lodi, CA
Jim Ambrose	Concord, CA
Patrick Avilla	Placerville, CA
Wayne Baker	Placerville, CA
Les Baker	Apple Valley, CA
Allen R. Batchler	Prescott, AZ
Barry Bernardi	Vallejo, CA
Gerald Boyle	Folsom, CA

Renewing (Cont.)

<u>Name</u>	<u>City/State</u>
Harvey & Mattie Brookshire	Redding, CA
John Caldwell	Oakdale, CA
Ralph Caldwell	Diablo, CA
David Dhont	Pleasant Hill, CA
Bob Devine Jr.	Ridgecrest, CA
Albert & Denise Downey	Twain, CA
Tom & Christa Eastland	Pleasant Hill, CA
Seymour Gessler	Santa Rosa, CA
Fred Heil	Modesto, CA
Dotti Leet	Sonoma, CA
John & Patricia Luporini	Livermore, CA
Aaron & Denise Matula	Castro Valley, CA
Mark McDaniel	Auburn, CA
Ralph Miller Jr.	Yuba City, CA
Gene & Eleanor Moore	Greenville, CA
Douglas Murray	Altaville, CA
Rick & Sue Niemeyer	Hemet, CA
Mike Pivacek	Santa Clara, CA
Ray & Helen Powell	Altaville, CA
Robert Schuster	San Jose, CA
Ray Serna	Merced, CA
Stan Smart	Stockton, CA
Ross Smith	Danville, CA
Clifford L. Sweatt	Yerington, NV
Harris H. Swett	Hemet, CA
Keith Swett	Squaw Valley, CA
Bill Westcott	San Leandro, CA
John Wills	Los Molinos, CA
Jesse Ybarra	Gilroy, CA
Richard Yoshida	Fresno, CA

Up for Renewal on 05/31/05

Edward & Deanna Baoley	James Black
Jim Bohannon	A.B. & Grace Carter
Mark Chambers	Doug Chenelle

(Continued on page 6)



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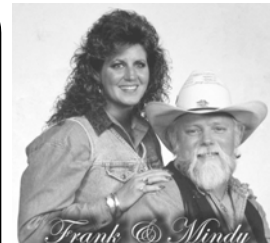
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(Continued from page 5)

Up for Renewal

Brian Cox
Michael & Beth De Lellis
James & Agnes Forshey
Bill & Judy Gimple
Robert Hana
Duel Jones
Regis Lehrman
Lonnie Miles
Pat Milligan
Sid Parrish
James Shephard
Randol Thrasher
Stan Webster
Rod Zook

Shane Cox
William Eastland
Paul George
Neil & Betty Greiner
Arnold Hodge
Kerri Landry
Jim McCaul
Rex Miller
Gary Moore
Terence Pippi
Bob Thibault
Albert R. Tornquist
Richard & Carol Wothington

Welcome aboard for another year of enjoyment with UPI the small-scale miners advocate. Lets see you at the scheduled outings and the potluck and raffles. It's always a great time for all on top of finding that elusive yellow metal, Au.

It's really nice to see the renewals year after year. There are a number of you that I have never had the pleasure of meeting, only know you by name. Come on by one of the outings and lets get acquainted. Bill Ed/Pub

NOTICE OF DUES INCREASE

The last increase of dues for UPI was in 2001. Since that time we have added just short of 1200 acres to our inventory. The added acreage and claims, have increased the overhead and maintenance cost for the claims. At the same time, there have been increases in all other costs associated with operating the organization.

Over the past year the Board has taken steps to lower the cost of operation. We are unable to find further ways to decrease our costs. This being the case, the board finds it necessary to increase the annual dues to maintain and improve the health of the organization. Therefore effective June 1, 2005, all annual dues, due on that date forward will increase to \$45.00 per year. Lifetime dues will increase to \$450.00.

If your anniversary date is after June 1, you can save by renewing before June 1 with no change in your anniversary date.

Editor-in-Chief/Publisher
For the Board of Directors

OK folks getting close to that time of the year again, time to break out the mining equipment. I can't speak for you, but I tell you I'm sure looking forward to getting out in the woods with you.

Please make sure that you get your renewal in on time so that there is no lapse in your newsletters and that you can join in the fun of the new year. Word has it that there is new claims later in the year. Hot dog!

**JUST A LITTLE HUMOR TO HELP TO
EASE THE PAIN OF YOUR NEXT TRIP TO
THE GAS PUMP- - -**

Think a gallon of gas is expensive? This makes one think, and also puts things in perspective:

- Diet Snapple: 16 oz. \$1.29 - - - - \$10.32/gallon
- Lipton Ice Tea: 16 oz. \$1.19 - - - - \$9.52/gallon
- Gatorade: 20 oz. \$1.59 - - - - \$10.18/gallon
- Ocean Spray: 16 oz. \$1.25 - - - - \$10.00/gallon
- Brake fluid: 12 oz. \$3.15 - - - - \$33.60/gallon
- Vick's Nyquil: 6oz. \$8.35 - - - - \$178.13/gallon
- Pepto Bismol: 4 oz. \$3.85 - - - - \$123.20/gallon
- Whiteout: 7 oz. \$1.39 - - - - \$25.42/gallon
- Scope: 1.5 oz. \$0.99 - - - - \$84.48/gallon

This is the real kicker- - -

Evian water: 9 oz. \$1.49 - - - - \$21.19/gallon?! \$21.19 for water- - and the buyers don't even know the source. Evian spelled backwards is Naive.

(Continued on page 8)

GOLD MINE

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**Bruce & Mary Hampton
Owners**

**Ace Smithart
Manager**



OXBOW CLAIMS RELEASE

THIS IS MUST READ AND FOLLOW

The map entitled "Oxbow UPI with restrictions" is in effect until May 10, 2005. Due to the proximity to the power house and the dam it was necessary to file this portion under the "PL359" restriction. PL359 is basically a release of BLM liability regarding the possibility of limited mineral extraction.

In this particular case, it has to do with the restrictions of digging around the dam and powerhouse. We obviously do not want to undermine these structures. ***Under PL359 no mining can take place for the first 60 days after filing with BLM.*** We filed on March 10, 2005; therefore the 60-day window will lapse on May 9, 2005. Please observe the restriction by not panning, digging or otherwise disturbing this area. You should find temporary signs and other indications of the area being discussed if you attend the Oxbow outing April 9 and 10, 2005. There will be a meeting Saturday morning, the ninth, to discuss various things related to these new claims. ***The official release of the portion of the claims that we can mine on is the meeting, at 9:00 am Saturday morning, April 9th.***

Chet Chastain
Claims Manager.

Please see the two maps below of the new claims at Oxbow. We can mine everywhere except the shaded area, indicated in the ***restricted area map***, within the regulation limits (such as dredging season, etc.). The shaded area actually appears as the area that is devoid of any kind of markings at all and is the area that we have been normally mining for the past number of years. The other map shows the entire claim area, again the shaded area, though nor shown, is possibly subject to some restrictions as determined by BLM. We'll know about this on May 9th.

A little history: UPI has been meeting and mining at Oxbow since 1986 that I am aware of, and have documentation of. As it is understood there was a withdrawal of the area in 1953. Without doing a whole bunch of research it would have to be thought that it perhaps had something to do with the construction of the dam and powerhouse. The area was released in 1963. What does this indicate? Not being an expert on this stuff I don't know.

As long as I have been your Ed/Pub, since 1999, it has been my understanding that we have had to request permission from the FS to camp/assemble at Oxbow, but mining was OK, it was an open area. (Reference

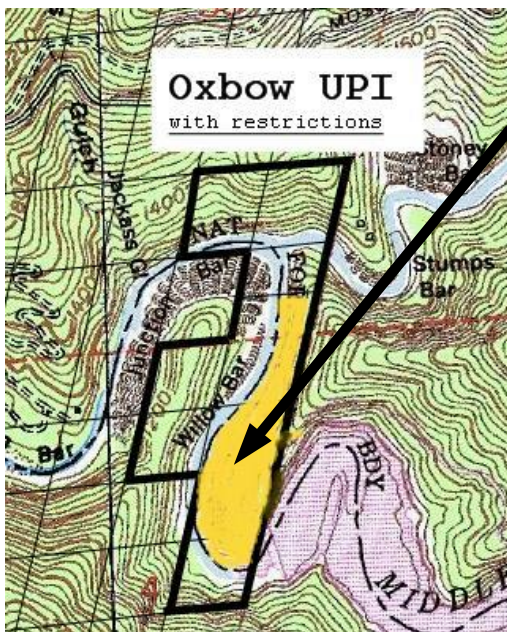
the last five years Guidebooks.) Current information indicates that not only was Oxbow an open area to mining, but an open area to claim. Which is exactly what UPI did with information obtained from BLM after a meeting with the FS people at the Foresthill office of USFS to obtain permission to camp at the site. It is OK to camp, but Tahoe National Forest denied the right to mine. Looks like we may have trumped them, the FS, we'll see how this plays out.

It is understood that by me once the PL359 process is satisfied, if BLM doesn't place stringent restrictions on mining what we know as Oxbow, the shaded area, the Forest Service cannot prevent us from mining there. If they try the burden is on them, they must site the laws/rules. Of late they haven't been very successful in restricting mining/camping on legal claims. They lost Lex-Waggener late last year, and just recently lost the McClure case, a Salmon River dredger. In both of these cases, PLP played a part in helping the defendants win their cases brought on by the FS in an effort to circumvent/nullify the Mining Law of 1872. Both of these cases have set precedence.

These are our first claim filings in which UPI is not going to file either a NOI (Notice of Intent) or a POO (Plan of Operations) prior to exercising our claim/deed to the mineral rights. Another FS act to try and control the miner(s) that is not a requirement of the Mining Law of 1872. The only time a NOI needs to be filed is if there is going to be significant surface disturbance, tree cutting and or the use of earth motorized moving equipment. (Back hoe, bull dozer etc.) And only if there is going to be a really significant surface disturbance does a POO need to be filed.

It should be expected that we may be visited by the Forest Service over the course of the outing. They have visited the last two outings. Last year they were a little pushy. So be prepared, as it is probably a good chance that they will be there and try to stop mining activities on our claims. ***We will not be mining on the restricted area.*** We will be mining only on our legal claims. There will be no tree cutting, use of motorized earth moving equipment hence no significant surface disturbance. No need for a NOI, though they may argue this and threaten. The best thing to do in this case is to be pleasant with them and comply with their wishes. In doing so be sure to get their name, badge number, whom they represent and a copy of the rules/laws that it is alleged we/you are breaking. If they cannot supply you with a copy of the rule/law, politely request that they write them on the slip of paper you happen to have in your pack. This information will go to PLP ***At all times be polite and remember we are a small-scale mining organization, not a club.***

If you don't know your rights, you loose them. We are taking a stand to try and protect our rights so we don't loose them.



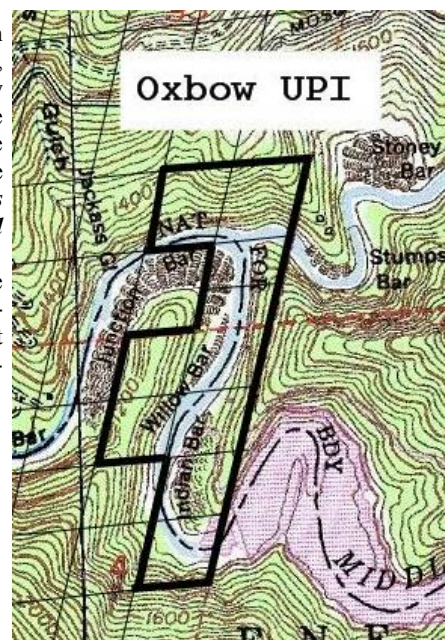
Left: The restricted area map. We cannot mine in any way on the area that is void of all markings, where we have historically mined. It is currently **restricted by the FS**. This is the area that we have mined historically. We must wait for the PL359 process to run and see its outcome before we may be able to mine it. ***It is strictly off limits to any kind of mining over the outing and until the PL359 time is up.***

You can mine anywhere else within the borders of the claim map. You will have to perhaps do some boulder hopping or wading to get to these parts of the claim that are open to mining.

Right: The unrestricted claims.



The old miner sez: Les git out der an find lotsa dat ellusive yeller metal an rekindle da frenships.



(Continued from page 6) **GAS PUMP** ----

So - - The next time you're at the pump, be glad your car doesn't run on water, Scope, Whiteout, or God forbid Pepto Bismal or Nyquil.

This article was in a Merced newspaper. It is about one of our members out detecting.

Merced retiree Art Apodaca spent some of his Thursday searching for buried treasure on a deserted piece of Lake Yosemite beach.

Since beginning his hobby in 1969, Apodaca has found all manner of trinkets and treasures in his scanning travels, including a Derringer pistol, jewelry, coins, and countless soda can pull-tabs. It has been near the pier at Lake Yosemite, though, where Apodaca has made some of his most poignant finds: Wedding bands, thrown from the structure, were once very much in evidence. Mostly, though, it is the soda can pull tabs, which set off Apodaca's metal detector.

Apodaca is philosophical about the process though, noting, hunters



have to find "a thousand of these" (pull tabs) before they find something of value.

Sun-Star photo by George MacDonald.

Subject: Death Valley

Bill & Carol, Christa and I went to Death Valley Sunday morning. We caught up with Bill & Carol in Bishop. Camped at a beautiful place, Tuttle Creek. This is a BLM camp in the town of Lone Pine. At the base of Mt. Whitney, the vistas were unbelievable. The next morning, Monday, it was so windy that we did not want to go outside. Bill & I tried to pan, but it was so cold that my fingers could hardly hold my gold pan.

We then went into Death Valley Park; it was very pleasant, 70 to 80's. We camped at Furnace Creek camp. On our way to Scotties Castle, we were following this truck, as we got a little closer Christa noticed a UPI sticker on the back window of the pickup truck. They stopped so we also stopped to see who it was. It was Leland and Nina Brown. What a small world.

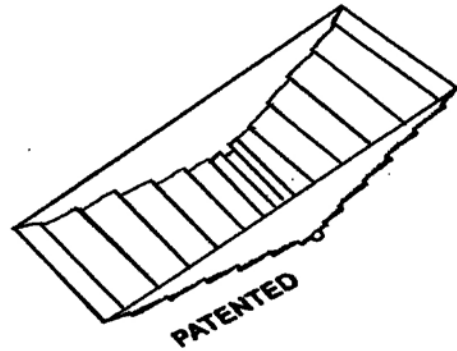
Death Valley had a record amount of rain, the most in 50 years. The flowers were all in bloom, and everything was green, yellow, and purple. If you have the time, go now! It is beautiful!

Tom & Christa



The old miner sez: Yez eree Bob, iz memers da firs time I seed da desert blum. It dang neer nok me sox off.

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A couple of pictures of mining at Oxbow in 2004.



INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT GOLD

In 1799 a 12-year-old boy named Conrad Reed is believed to have found one of the very first gold nuggets in the United States. His family used it as a doorstop until a jeweler bought it for \$3.50. Not a bad price, considering it weighed 17 pounds and was actually worth about \$4,000 at the time.

The average gold content in the earth's crystal rocks is about 0.005 parts per million (ppm) and in seawater at about 0.000012 ppm.

Do you know what one atom of gold weighs? One atom of gold weighs a whopping 0.00000000000000000000000032705 grams!

Did you know that one (1) gram of gold contains 305,760,000,000,000,000 atoms of gold!

Did you know that one (1) ounce of pure gold contains 9,510,200,000,000,000,000 gold atoms!

250,000,000 atoms of gold placed side-by-side would make a line approximately one inch long!

At a price of \$270 per troy ounce, it would take 350,000,000,000,000,000 atoms of gold to equal a value of 1 cent!

Gold can be worked into a layer measuring 1 millionth of an inch.

One ounce of gold can be stretched into a wire more than 40 miles long!

There are certain acid and alkaline compounds that will dissolve gold. The best known is *aqua regia*, a potent combination of hydrochloric and nitric acids.

The total amount of gold ever mined is approximately 3.8 billion ounces. More than half of that has been mined since 1850.

If all the gold mined over the last 6,000 years were gathered and melted down, it would form a cube with sides of no more than 20 yards.

Gold is completely recyclable. In fact, nearly all of the gold found during the past 6,000 years is still in use. Think about it, the gold in your wedding band or watch could have been mined by the ancient Egyptians, plundered from the Incas, or panned out by one of the original 49'ers - you never know!

Gold is a good conductor of electricity and is the most malleable and ductile of all metals. Gold's most important use is in computers, weaponry and aerospace. It is used where consistent, reliable performance under all conditions is essential. The electronics industry has tried to find substitute metals and alloys, but gold's exceptional resistance to corrosion and tarnish is still unequaled. This durability accounts for the almost perfect condition of coins and artifacts fashioned from it thousands of years ago.



The old miner sez: Yepree thar be gold I them thar hills. Les git it.



Henry Henry

With a heavy heart it is necessary to announce the passing away of Henry. Henry passed away on March 11, 2005. Henry was a member of UPI for a couple of decades at least, I am told. I know Henry was well liked by all members that knew him. We'll all miss him.

Henry seemed to live for mining and was always a willing teacher for those new to the field. Henry held at least one position in UPI and that was of Wagon Master. At every outing that Henry was at he always had the signs and arrows set up and the firewood stacked for the evening fires. Henry was also really active in GPAA and went to Alaska almost every year. He always got there early and helped get things set up for the big digs up there.

Henry was also an innovator. He designed the Henry Henry "Poop Tube", a mining devise and consulted with manufactures occasionally, and with members on how to better design their equipment and or make it work more efficiently. Henry had a nose for Au. Never once at our outings did I see him skunked and he usually did good on the find. He would instruct others on how and where to look if asked.

My guess is that Henry is at that big gold mine now smiling at us and giving us little hints to help us. That was Henry Henry. We will all miss him.

On page 7 you will find one of the last pictures of Henry at an outing. This is from last years outing at Oxbow. Charlie Brown is immediately in front and to the right of Henry. Lower left pictures Henry standing in front of the fire.

Bull Creek following Oxbow. June 4 & 5

A few pictures of Bull



A nice nugget was found in the crevice the Bill has his feet in.



POTPOURRI

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS OF INTEREST©

Views and opinions expressed in this column are the personal viewpoint of the Editor/Publisher, and have no bearing on, nor do they have any relationship to the goals, purposes, policies, programs of United Prospectors Inc., though they may influence the way I vote.

This is my playground! Some may like it, some may not. I hope it starts you thinking, taking responsibility for the organization you belong to, and enjoying life and livingness.

Goodness Gracious!

Hear I am sitting in front of this confangled machine with blanks in my thought processes. I have been 19 days since I have had a full day off with no interruptions or previous commitments for only me. Between UPI commitments, this publication and overseeing the member Guidebook, the general public edition of both the newsletter and the Guidebook plus the job that provides the income on which to live, I feel zapped. Blah, pooped, unmotivated, don't want to do anything.

The preceding is untrue to the degree that I have a lot that could be printed in this column, but I have reservations about doing so, as it may upset some of you. I will do my best to be purely objective and present the facts without any HE & R (Human Emotions and Reactions), so that I do not instill HE & R from you, as I may have done in the past.

Those of you that are long time organization participants, and you that have been participants over the past several years have seen as presented in this publication and other mining oriented publications, an increased effort by the United States Forest Service (USFS), by what ever means, to shut down small-scale mining operations such as ours.

For those of you that are new to the organization, United Prospectors Inc., the small scale miners advocate, you need to know and understand: For whatever unstated reason, the USFS appears bent on closing down small scale groups and individuals from mining the public land as provided by the Mining Law of 1872. The more involved I get in this current situation, the more I have to believe that in looking at what is coming down from the local USFS Supervisors/Chiefs, and some of their superiors as well, they appear not to know the law. It appears that they do not know what the laws, rules and regulations with respect to mining are. They have subjected miners, you might even call it harassment, to rules and regulations that miners are specifically exempt from. They site the miner and the miner has to appear in court. This is where you need to know and understand these rules and regulations to maintain your freedom and the right to mine. Yes UPI is learning them, it is a matter of necessity for survival.

Is it really the fact that the rangers out in the field, that are to enforce the law, do not know the law? Perhaps. We don't know for sure. Perhaps it is that the field rangers are taking illegal orders from superiors. Or perhaps a combination of both. We don't know. It is alleged, that Jack Blackwell the Head Ranger over District 5, which includes California, has issued a memo that a suction dredge is to be considered motorized earth moving equipment. Who is Jack Blackwell other than a Ranger in



Bill Reboin, Ed/Pub and his pooch Samantha.

charge of a lot of area? A civil servant hired to uphold the law, not make the law. He can make his recommendations, but he has no authority to make law, which he has allegedly done by issuing the alleged memo that a suction dredge is to be considered as earth moving equipment.

Lets dissect this a little bit. First off the USFS only has control over surface disturbance in "our forests". Suction dredging is not a surface disturbance activity. It is a subsurface disturbance activity, where-in subsurface waterway materials are moved from one position on the streambed to another, usually within about 20 feet of each other. During the process the materials are directed through a classifying/separation process to separate out high specific gravity materials, gold for one, from the lower specific gravity materials, the streambed sand and gravels.

Two: The State of California Department of Fish and Game (DF & G) is the legal entity that issues standard suction dredge permits in the State of California, not the USFS. DF & G has established what, when, where, how and why you can suction dredge in all of the California waterways and hydrological units with minimal deleterious effects to the waterway bio and the hydrological unit. Moreover the DF & G has established that by following the terms of the Standard Suction Dredge Permit, that the waterway habitat is enhanced.

Suction dredging done by the terms of the permit, loosens naturally compacted, caused by water flow, stream gravels, and loosely redeposits them in the streambed. This enhances the creation of spawning beds of various specie of fish by loosening up the gravels so that they may create a spawning bed, a place to lay their eggs. Also, suction dredging done by the terms of the permit does not allow undermining of stream banks whereupon with a high water event the surface will not be disturbed and cave in changing the surface structure.

So what position does this put the USFS in, what is their real intent? From their activities one has to believe that there may well be a conspiracy within in the USFS to close down small-scale mining by intimidation. This done by threatening miners that are operating within the confines of the various regulations, and citing them with a non-applicable rule/law so they have to appear in court. This was the case with two recent cases that we all should be well aware of. The USFS lost those cases because both of the defendants choose to fight for their rights. Might it be that the USFS is hoping that miners caught in that situation might just appear in court, pay their fine and cease and desist, give up? One might have to think that, especially with the CFR 228 hanky panky going on. (If you desire back issues with information on CFR 228 they can be down loaded from the members only area of the website. Or you can request that the Ed/Pub print you an issue. The cost for this would be \$5.00)

See you at Oxbow!!!

From the Outing Coordinator

"Activities planned this year will include a series of educational sessions on prospector survival skills" at each outing". Here is the agenda to date:

April Outing, Oxbow: DEMO OF PANNING / PROSPECTING SKILLS

2nd Outing, Bull Creek: BASIC FIRST AID FOR THE PROSPECTOR

3rd Outing, Genesee: HOW TO BUILD A SHELTER

Members who are interested in these sessions, either to attend or to volunteer to help, are encouraged to contact Brenda, the Outing Coordinator. Please find contact information on page three of the newsletter. Attendance and interest will determine if we continue these sessions.



We invited this young fellow, who has some association with the FS after he labored all day on the out house at oxbow in '03, to the potluck.

Brenda



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UPI Needs a Volunteer

UPI needs a member with at least one years membership behind them to fill the Directorship of the Wagon Master.

Duties include ordering porta potties for the outings, and posting the paper plates you always see directing you to the site. Requires removal also.

Please contact President Siegel or VP Eastland. Phone numbers and e-mail addresses are on page three of this publication.

Thank you for volunteering!

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SEE YOU AT THE NEXT OUTING!

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I HAVE READ AND FULLY UNDERSTAND THIS RELEASE AND MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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