



UNITED

**PROSPECTORS
INC.**



Locating Gold Gems and Minerals. The official Publication of the *Trails and Tales of UPI*. A family oriented prospecting group promoting gold, gem and mineral hunting of all types. Visit our web site at www.unitedprospectors.com

January/February 2001

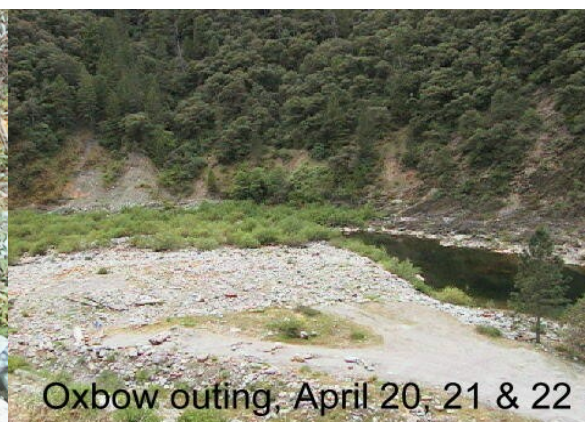
No. 237, Vol 17-2



Happy Gold Year, may you find lots of Au!!



Coulterville outing March 23, 24 & 25

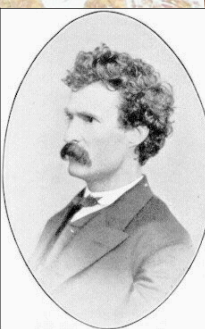


Oxbow outing, April 20, 21 & 22



Left: Boy with a frog at Calaveras County fair.

Right: Portrait of Mark Twain, whom wrote many stories on his observations of people and events.



Calaveras County Fair, Frog Jump Jubilee, May 17 through 20. UPI will have a membership booth there if our application is accepted.



Tobi's Toy/ Ryans Rapids outing, June 1, 2 & 3



Genesee outing, July 6, 7 & 8

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PRESIDENT
Daniel Short Jr.

V. PRESIDENT
Ray Hughes

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Patty Mobley

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Chet Chastain
Rod Earnest
Bill Reboin
Don Riley
Don Scalise
Keith Swett
Bob Williams

EDITOR/PUBLISHER
Bill Reboin

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POLITICAL ACTION**
Chet Chastain

WEB MASTER
Rod Earnest

CLAIMS
Keith Swett

MEMBERSHIP
Don Riley

WAGON MASTER
Bob Williams

WAYS & MEANS

TECH. ADVISOR
Don Scalise



Daniel Short Jr.

UNITED PROSPECTORS INC.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

January/February 2001

Welcome to the New Year, 2001. As you know last year was very busy one for all of us on the board. It takes a lot of time in trying to make sure things are running right, and every one of the members that comes to the outings are enjoying themselves. We are improving on the newsletter every month with new ideas, thanks to Bills efforts. The website is also being improved on in a timely fashion by Rod. The membership is growing and we are blessed with Don Riley and the fine job he is doing. I can't thank my board enough for making my job as President so much easier then some of the other organizations I belonged to, and presided over in the past. This board is the best.

This brings me to want to thank the one person, Charlie Brown, whom has given me a lot of encouragement and advice as to how to conduct myself as President of United Prospectors. As some of you know Charlie served on the board as a director and worked his way up to president of United Prospectors. He served as president for two years and served us well. He took a couple of years off from the board but when I called upon him to help fill one of the director's positions he said yes. This is a good sign of a member that cares about United Prospectors. I want to thank Charlie for all of the help that he has given the board and me. I hope there are other members in the club that will try to step up and help United Prospectors in any form they can, like Charlie has done. Also Barbara Brown his beautiful and devoted wife has also served us well in keeping the audit on the books at the end of the year. Thank you both.

We are looking at more new claims in the Foresthill area and one in Tuolumne country, so we could have some more new claims to add to our growing family of claims. If anyone knows of any claims that may be good gold producers please call our new claims manger Keith Swett (530) 668-7911. Keith will be putting together a claims committee, if you are interested give him a call. See you all at COULTERVILLE, March 23, 24 & 25, and make sure you get your camping spots reserved early. Call Frank Shannon at (209) 878-3988 to make your reservations. There will be some free camping in other areas but it is very limited.



AIN'T THAT PURRTY!!!!

OK folks it's getting on to that time of year again. You need to get them pans out and thoroughly degrease them and get ready for the first scheduled outing of the year!

Coulterville
March 23, 24, & 25

Call Frank, number above and reserve a space.

CONTACTING UPI

PRESIDENT UPI	MEMBERSHIP	NEWSLETTER	WEBMASTER
Daniel Short Jr. 4723 Mossbrook Lane Stockton, CA 95206 E-mail dshort1874@aol.com Phone (209) 234-1114	Don Riley P.O. Box 757 Foresthill, CA 95631 E-mail driley@foothill.net Phone (530) 367-4119	Bill Reboin 3927 South Port Drive Sacramento, CA 95826 E-mail warebo@telocity.com Phone (916) 362-3441	Rod Earnest 1003 Maxwell Street Healdsburg CA 95448 E-mail earnest@jps.net Phone (707) 433-8674

BOARD MEMBERS AND DIRECTORS

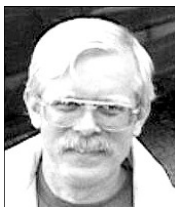
Advertising: Bill Reboin—(916) 362-3441
Advocacy/Political Action: Chet Chastain—(209) 474-0766
Claims: Keith Swett—(530) 668-7911
Editor/Publisher: Bill Reboin —(916) 362-3441
Ethics & Grievance:
Membership: Don Riley—(530) 367-4119
Publicity:

Secretary: Patty Mobley—(209) 475-0436
Technical Advisor: Don Scalise— (916) 485-2611
Treasurer: Leland Brown— (916) 685-9868
Wagon master: Bob Williams—(530) 872-0192
Vice President: Ray Hughes—(408) 374-8115
Ways and Means:

VOLUNTEERS

Club Historian: Jerry Bowen — Voice/Fax (707) 448-4797
Shows & Education: Marilee Riley— (530) 367-4119

Asst. Claims: Ray Budowich— PO Box 367, Coulterville, CA, 95331
Asst. Claims: Ross “Smokey” Smith



Political Advocacy Chet Chastain

(actual e-mail sent to) Dear Chairman Hanson & members of the House Committee on Resources:

I represent the membership of United Prospectors Inc., a recreational club with members throughout central and northern California. My constituents and I have some problems with Mr. Clinton's recent actions regarding public lands.

Many members are getting up in age and cannot pack their belongings into wilderness areas without roads. This means that Mr. Clinton has limited our club membership to folks that can hike into back-country. I do not feel he has the right to tell us who can be accepted as members of UPI.

Some of our existing members are disabled. By eliminating roads Mr. Clinton has violated (in my humble opinion) the American Disabilities Act. Who is he, an assumedly public servant to tell my disabled friends that they can no longer enjoy our wilderness areas.

Finally California was made a Republic before joining the United States. This legacy involved my ancestors who came from back east to mine gold. Many of the roads Mr. Clinton is eliminating follow the trails established by our forefathers. This is what I consider our legacy. I ask you to consider how California achieved statehood. You cannot ignore where we came from. Mr. Clinton would erase my humble legacy to replace it with his own. I object to this.

Thank you for representing me and my fellow club members in this matter.
Chet Chastain
UPI Political Advocate

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BOARD NOTES

Board of Directors meeting January 6, 2001

Board of Directors meeting January 6, 2001.

President Daniel Short Jr. called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.

Introduction of new secretary Pat Mobley, Sworn in and given vest and Directors handbook.

Roll Call:

Officers Present: Daniel Short, Ray Hughes, Pat Mobley and Leland Brown Treasurer

Directors Present: Don Riley, Bill Reboin, Don Scalise, Chet Chastain, and Rod Earnest.

Directors absent: Bob Williams

Members Present: Keith Swett and Dennis Mobley

A motion was made and seconded, that the minutes be accepted as presented, the motion was carried.

- **Treasurer, Leland Brown:** Check balance as of 11/1/00 \$1,498.88, Maximizer account \$3,152.38 (which was closed and added to checking account) Checkbook balance as of 12/31/00 \$7,121.83.
Bills were presented and approved for payment.
- **Membership, Don Riley:** Regular members 250, Life members 42, Honorary members 2, Complimentary members 13 and Advertisers 6.
- **Wagon Master, Bob Williams:** Bob was absent. Schedule in the new handbook will be corrected due to missing information. There will be an outing April 20-22 at Oxbow. Bill will put the information in the newsletter.
- **Editor/Publisher, Bill Reboin:** Communication with Australia & Canada and talking of a reciprocal agreement. Looking into ways to make the newsletter easier to publish and also looking for help with obtaining advertisers.
- **Ways and Means:** Report from Dan and Leland for the year 2000 there was \$2,295.00 taken in from the raffles. The possibility of adding a second nugget to the raffles was discussed. This nugget would be half the size.
- **Political Advocacy, Chet Chastain:** Discussion of 58 million acres that was taken by our government. Chet said that Bush was going to try and reverse this action. Bill said all interested persons should file an ADA claim.
- **Technical advisor, Don Scalise:** Don will be setting up instruction classes at the outings. He will submit an article to be put in the newsletter.
- **Web Master, Rod Earnest:** Addition of Application on Web site has recruited new members; it's doing its job. Rod has created a base for each of the claims that are identical but needs information to complete some of the sites. He has also updated the History page on the Web site. And, the password for access to the member page will be changing soon.
- **Education/Shows, Marilee Riley:** The board has approved a booth at the Calaveras County Frog Jump. Provided we are accepted. There will be prospecting equipment on display and vials of gold for sale. This will be great exposure for the club and may bring in some new members.
- **Unfinished Business:** There will be no participation at the other fairs. The club has obtained a resale permit. The new handbooks are printed and will be mailed out shortly.

- **New Business:** Advertiser rates were voted on and accepted. The cost of membership will increase to \$35.00 starting next year. This will help us keep up with the cost to mail the newsletter. The club now has a Claims Manager. Keith Swett has accepted the job and has an exceptional background and education, which will be very beneficial to the club.



The 2001 Officers and Directors for UPI. *From left to right kneeling:* Don Scalise, Director: Daniel Short Jr., President: Don Riley, Director: Patty Mobley, Secretary: Bill Reboin, Director: *From left to right standing:* Ray Hughes, Vice President: Chet Chastain, Director: Keith Swett, Director: Leland Brown, Treasurer: Rod Earnest, Director

NEW MEMBERS & RENEWAL MEMBERSHIPS

THIS SECTION IS DEVOTED TO ACKNOWLEDGING AND WELCOMING ALL NEW MEMBERS AND RENEWING MEMBERSHIPS

This section will appear in publications when we have new memberships or renewing memberships to report.

New memberships and renewal memberships as of 1/18/2001

NEW MEMBERS

<u>Name</u>	<u>City/state</u>
Bert Haines	Coulterville, CA
Lawrence Kuehn	Modesto, CA
Steven Waterfall	Petaluma, CA
Charles Mellor	Rio Linda, CA
Jon & Cathy Nissen	N. Highlands, CA
Aron Starratt	Soquel, CA
Craig Nordmeyer	Reno, NV
Paul Leuzinger	Cobb, CA
Vern Wright	Catheys Valley, CA
Ken Leuzinger	Middletown, CA
Nathan Strack	Los Angeles, CA

RENEWING MEMBERS

<u>Name</u>	<u>City/state</u>
Vera Short	Olympia, WA
Dick & Jane Grumley	Oxnard, CA
R. J. Hana	Los Molinos, CA
Henry & Irene Henry	Santa Rosa, CA
Valgene Shultz	Suisun, CA
Thomas & Edith Kurt	Big River, CA
Robert Miller	Nevada City, CA
Mark & Mimi Davis	Penn Valley, CA
Don Baldwin	Concord, CA
Lindsey Burgess	Concord, CA
Howard & Helen Doughty	Santa Rosa, CA
Margaret Heeter	Morgan Hill, CA
Rick & Sue Niemeyer	Hemet, CA
Phil Croyle	Paradise, CA
Martin Wockenfuss	Cloverdale, CA
David Dhont	Walnut Creek, CA
Jim & Kirsten Collins	Vacaville, CA
Jack & Rose Coleman	Modesto, CA
Jack Kindt	Ukiah, CA
Robert & Phyllis Terry	Anderson, CA
Mick & Winnie Cooney	Bull Head City, CA
Will & Marylyn Lindsey	Concord, CA
Jeff Kyle	Pleasant Hill, CA
Ben & Donna Noble	Oroville, CA
Gary & Helga Garner	Grass Valley, CA
Ray & Rachel Villasenor	Vacaville, CA
Paul Turover	Petaluma, CA
Darrell Fullerton	Sacramento, CA
Richard & Elizabeth Karren	San Jose, CA
Wallace & Joan Jackson	Santa Clara, CA
Anna Squier	Cloverdale, CA
Mavis Knupfer	Cloverdale, CA
Erwin & Nancy Powell	Rogue River, OR
Russell & Erma Mitchell	Durham, CA
Bob & Glenda Gully	W. Sacto., CA
Rick Hussey	Sacramento, CA
Gregory Davis	Tempe, AZ
Charles & Wilma Clark	Roseville, CA
Carl & Bernadine Peterson	Rio Linda, CA
Steven & Jackie Hand	Woodland, CA
Nancie Barker	Palo Alto, CA
Vernon & Marie Crabtree	Santa Rosa, CA

NEW LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Randy Hunter	Palo Alto, CA
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RENEWING MEMBERS

Bernard Grabowski	Rancho Cordova, CA
Richard & Joyce Mason	Pollock Pines, CA
Christopher Colvin	San Jose, CA
Craig & Debra Cahoon	Cottonwood, CA
Robert Irwin	Colusa, CA
Al & Jane Bates	Columbia, CA
Richard & Thurlie Fish	Vacaville, CA
Jim Saare	Davis, CA
Don & Marilee Riley	Foresthill, CA
Bill Reboin	Sacramento, CA
Ernie Sanchez	Castro Valley, CA
Georgia Murray	American Cyn, CA
Mark & Carrie McAdoo	Grass Valley, CA
Ray & Joyce Harvell	Santa Rosa, CA
George & Valerie Gardner	Concord, CA
Bob & Betty Meyers	Oroville, CA
Ross & Marilyn Smith	Danville, CA
Clarence & Geraldine Klein	Carmichael, CA
Leland & Nina Brown	Elk Grove, CA
Ron & Susan Bassell	N. Highlands, CA
T. L. Curry	Manteca, CA
Curtis Moser	Hayward, CA
Lee Greer	Vacaville, CA
Keith Swett	Woodland, CA
Steven & Katherine Doyle	Loomis, CA
Robert Williams	Paradise, CA
Art & Lucy Apodaca	Merced, CA
Doug & Sharon Sessions	Lakeport, CA
Chris Benbrook	Lodi, CA
Bill Johnson	Sacramento, CA
Johnny Lewis	Anderson, CA
Jack & Wren Maliciki	Vacaville, CA
Robert Mull	Loomis, CA
Seymour & Bernice Gessler	Santa Rosa, CA
Troy Bell	San Diego, CA
Daniel Short	Stockton, CA

(cont on page 6)

(Cont from page 5)

RENEWING MEMBERS (CONT)

Name	City/state
Kevin Renz	Geyserville, CA
Gene & Elenor Moore	Greenville, CA
Dale Nix	Antioch, CA
Ray & Audrey Maddelena	Modesto, CA
Terry Schoen	Ripon, CA
Bill & Chris Drennan	Lucerne, CA
Don & Brenda Porter	Lucerne, CA
Stan & Jan Kakinney	Placerville, CA
Charles & Ethel Muttart	Cloverdale, CA
Harvey & Mattie Brookshire	Redding, CA
Art Basso	Burbank, CA
Garry Hojan	Brentwood, CA
Glen & Alice McPeak	Penryn, CA
John & Lisa Ljuba	Vallejo, CA
Hal & Eve Rising	Redding, CA
Gerry Anderson	Sacramento, CA
Don & Annie Robinson	Foresthill, CA
Jim & Carolyn Appleby	Oakley, CA
Joseph Wisinger	Paradise, CA
Tom & Christa Eastland	Pleasant Hill, CA
Randy & Janice Trumbauer	Lake Forest, CA
Gordon & Jackie Wieczorek	Quincy, CA
Ed and Leah Kolstad	Carmichael, CA
Dottie Leet	Sonoma, CA
Stan & Elaine Tout	Arcadia, CA
Jack & Nancy Bradley	Napa, CA
Dwight & Lois Wilson	Citrus Heights, CA
Rod & Linda Earnest	Healdsburg, CA
Ray & Yoshiko Hughes	Campbell, CA

Welcome aboard for another year of UPI fun for the tenderfoots and the sourdoughs. We have some new and exciting things planned for the year. and we hope that they are up to your expectations as a club member. We anticipate acquiring additional claims with better possibilities for your acquiring more of that elusive yellow metal, Au that is. And of course there will be the Saturday night potluck dinners, which are rave, and the raffle at each Club scheduled outing. **NEWS !!!** May even have a new claim in time for the Coulterville outing. Wouldn't that be nice. We are also looking at a couple of possibilities on Big Jackass Creek that look good for the club.

The editor /publisher chose 1/18/2001 for the cut off on membership reporting. He is excited to see the activity to date and hopes that we continue at the present pace for the next several months. If your name has not appeared in this issue and you



The old miner sez: Hot diggity, wez got new members comin in, an we gotz sourdoughs comin back an we dun drove the 'crats outin office. Now may-bes wez kin get summo our lant bak and get into sum minnin widout big brudder breatin downt r neks!

expected it to, please let me know so that you can be recognized along with everybody else in the next issue of the newsletter.

POTPOURRI

THE EDITOR/PUBLISHER PLAYGROUND

Great news - - - UPI has a new Claims Manager/Director, Keith Swett. Keith has been a member of the club almost two years, it's nice to see new members get involved with the operation of the club.



Bill Reboin
Editor/Publisher

Keith should be an asset to the club. His education and work experience should help him tremendously in evaluating potential claim sites and in handling the extremely important paperwork of maintaining the legal integrity of our claims. Please welcome Keith aboard and lend him assistance as you can. There is a lot of work in maintaining and locating claims.

Ross "Smokey" Smith another of our members will be assisting Keith as well as Ray Budowich. Ross is a geologist which will help in locating new claims for the club.

Life member Steve Barnett, Coulterville, CA was in the hospital for a little repair and tune-up work. Steve is reported to be doing well. Give Steve a shout or a letter and wish him well. Steve along with Ray Budowich keep their eyes and ears open for claims sites in the Coulterville area for us.

More From Australia

Since the last newsletter, issue # 236, I have been in more communication with Bendigo Prospectors. Inc. They mostly metal detect there for Au, and the Minelab detector is the most popular. They also use larger search coils, up to 48" coils dragged behind quads etc.

The following is a quote from, Peter, my contact
(Cont on page 8)

Trailer Hitches • U-Haul • Brake Controls

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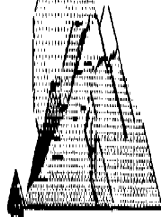
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U.S. Forest Service v. Detectorists

A problem which we had assumed was settled has reared its head again and it is a problem that even the most complacent detector user & recreational gold hunter needs to pay attention to. While centered in Oregon it can & will be applied nationwide because national forests are nation wide.

In the early 90s sweeping reforms were instituted as concerning uses on public lands among which were mining uses. This action was entitled the Northwest Forest Plan (NWFP). Not satisfied with the changes made in response to the (NWFP) by the federal land management agencies certain environmental groups went to court to have more stringent requirements placed on mineral operations & prospecting in the form of the filing of Plans of Operations (POs) for each activity. Rather than pursue a defense in court the land management agencies agreed to require a PO for every mineral or prospecting operation within a riparian area. The U.S. Forest Service took that requirement to the extreme seeming to indicate that even a detectorist or weekend recreational gold panners would need a mining PO in order to indulge their sport. I use the word "seeming" because so far no one including MLRC has been able to get a direct answer to this question; does the ruling apply to the detectorist or recreational gold panners?

MLRC strongly supports the use of proper POs to prevent degradation of public lands and there are in place very good regulations to provide this protection (36 CFR 228. et. seq.). Clear language defines when a PO will be required, that being where there is significant surface

resource disturbance. It is very important to understand that laws from which regulations are promulgated are set by the Legislature or nationally, Congress, and it is the duty of courts or agencies to interpret those laws, not make new law. It would appear however that at least in certain National Forests within Oregon the USFS is trying to stretch gold mining regulations designed to promote mining, while reasonably protecting the environment, to serve the purposes of both radical environmentalists & archaeologists who desire to see detectorists & recreational gold hunters removed from public lands.

Robert & Lisa Barton Grants Pass OR, along with others, has been involved in trying to get clarification from the USFS, in particular, Siskiyou National Forest, as to statements made by agency employees at a public hearing now named the "Waldo Meeting". In that meeting these employees stated that POs would also apply to metal detecting & gold panning apparently covering even those people who engage in these activities simply as a hobby. In reply to a letter of inquiry as well as an appeal considering their mining claims filed by the Barton's Linda Goodman, USFS Appeal Reviewing Officer, Portland Or. stated that all min-



ing claims within a riparian area are required to have a PO. She used as a basis for her statement the Northwest Forest Plan & the settlement between the land management agencies & the environmentalists. Relying on these and completely foregoing the language in 36 CFR 228 et seq., especially section 228.4 is, in our opinion, usurping established regulatory language and guidelines.

36 CFR 228.4 defines when a PO shall be implemented. First there must be significant disturbance of surface resources. "Significant" has a distinct meaning in legal terms and is spelled out both in the section & the USFS Manual, which is the

guideline the agency should use. 228.4 uses such as mechanized earth-moving equipment. The USFS Manual defines significant resource disturbance as actions which take a time longer than natural disturbance to heal. Ms. Goodman chose to ignore this language and apply terms not codified in regulation. Therefore, in our opinion, she overstepped her authority as an Appeal Reviewing Officer and in a very serious manner.

As to metal detecting & recreational gold hunting such as panning it does not take a great deal of thought to determine these activities could not by any stretch of the imagination be required to need a mining PO. The searching for specimens for private collection by the general public is



a specific privilege granted on public lands. The question necessarily arises, are rock hounds now prohibited from collecting in riparian areas without a mining PO? How about fishing, camping & rafting which are also surface resource disturbances?

This is a critical situation for detectorists & recreational gold hunters as well as rock hounds. MLRC will file another letter, this time to Ms. Goodman. As soon as we receive an answer we will pass that information along to you.

Ron Stockman

MLRC

Ed/Pub note: If the above information is disconcerting to you, as it well should be, you, as an individual, need to start taking responsibility and doing something about it. The club can't do it all. Gripping and belly-aching about it does nothing. (Cont on page 8)

MEMBERS: PLEASE CUT THE BELOW SCHEDULE OUT AND PASTE IT IN YOUR HANDBOOK

Schedule of Outings and Special Events

March 23, 24 & 25

Coulterville outing

April 20, 21 & 22

Oxbow, open mining area on the middle fork of the American River

May 17 through 20

Calaveras County Fair (Frog Jump Jubilee)

June 1, 2, & 3

Tobi's Toy & Ryan's Rapids outing

July 6, 7 & 8

Genesee Outing

August 3, 4 & 5

Spanish Creek UPI outing

August 31, September 1, 2 & 3

Twain outing

October 12, 13 & 14

Tobi's Toy & Ryan's Rapids outing

November 9, 10, & 11

Coulterville outing, the second annual UPI pre-Thanksgiving feed

(Cont from page 7) **Ed/Pub note:**

You need to get busy writing your elected representatives and encourage them to put these people in line. Inform your friends also. The more letters the representatives get the more attention the problem will get. The position of the USFS personnel is to follow and enforce the law, not make the law as they see it. It is not their, USFS, to follow the wishes and whims of environmental extremists and tree huggers.

(Cont from page 6)

MORE POTPOURRI

More from Australia- -

and counterpart "I just got home from our monthly committee meeting, and good news, I told them that we had been corresponding and that we would be welcome to come and visit you any time, and we decided to send you an Honorary Membership so that if any of your members do visit they can come along to our meetings or outing as members, not just visitors."

Here's a couple of photographs that I have received from Peter of some of their gold finds and using the big , big search coil.

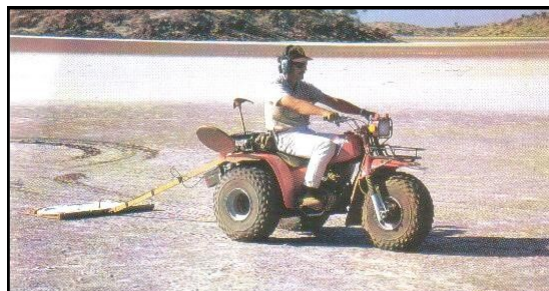
With the Boards permission I am also perusing a reciprocal agreement with Bendigo Prospectors. We are broadening our horizons as a club.



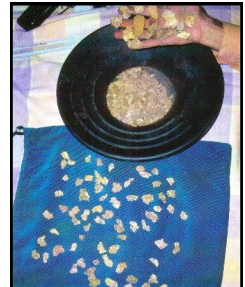
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**Samantha
MANAGER**





Dragging a search coil behind an ATV



Does this whet your whistle? It does mine!





Terry Schoen

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The old miner sez: Goot golly, we dun got da lan grabbers outa office, now wez needs to get da new boyz n gorils to make changez.

The picture to the right is of Frank and Mindy Sullivan, owners of **Pioneer Mining Supplies**. Frank and Mindy are great supporters of UPI and the mining community in general. Return the support by visiting their store in Auburn and adding to your mining supplies.



Hello Oxbow,
here we come
to relieve you
of that yellor
metal!!!!



In the process of putting together the 2001 Handbook the Ed/Pub got a couple of files mixed up and it was not caught until after the new Handbook was printed. As such if you cut and paste "Oxbow" below onto the lower half of page 22 of your new Handbook you will have directions to the April 20, 21 & 22 outing at this site. Ed/Pub

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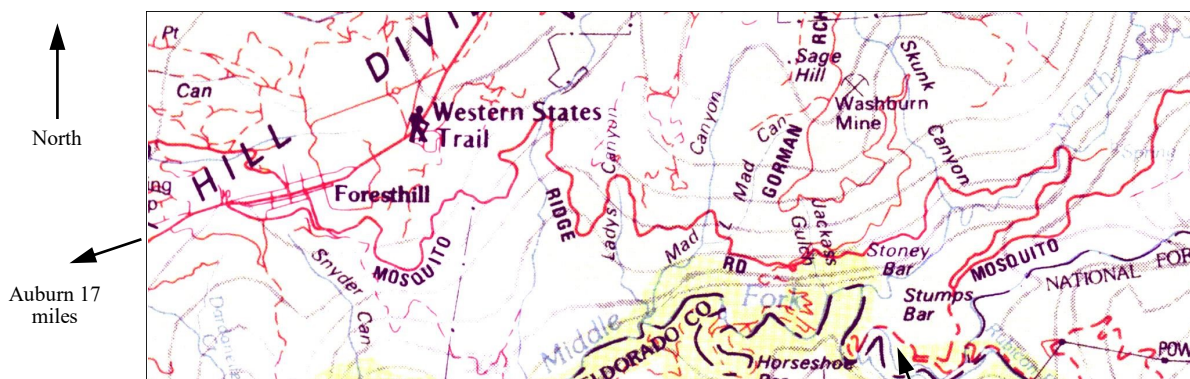
943 Lincoln Way
Auburn, CA 95603

OXBOW OPEN MINING AREA

Oxbow is an open mining area on the middle fork of the American River. Oxbow is a mile or so below the confluence of the middle fork of the American and the Rubicon Rivers. The entire area is known for its placer gold production. It is downhill/downstream from Michigan Bluff.

From Sacramento take I 80 to Auburn, follow the signs to Foresthill. From Auburn to Foresthill is about 17 miles. When getting into Foresthill there will be a large market on your right. From here you need to keep your eyes open for a Beacon gas station, on your right, you turn right just past the Beacon Station onto Mosquito Ridge Road. Set your odometer here to "zero", or note your mileage.

At about mile 9.4 from the Beacon Station, after crossing a long bridge that sweeps to the right, and the road climbing up-hill for a bit, turn right on Forest Service Road #23 toward Blacksmith Flat. A steep down hill follows, if loaded heavy use low gears. At mile 11.6 turn right on FS Road 23-02. A sign says "River Access." At mile 12.2 you come to a "Y". Take the second road that is marked "River Access." On your left is an area marked "Day Use Only" that is large enough to accommodate several rigs. UPI will obtain FS permission to camp here for the outing.



Sunglasses

By Ross W. "Smokey" Smith (Member UPI)

Sunglasses can make you look cool, weird, or mysterious. They also can hide some serious wrinkles. But are they of any use to the Practical Prospector??

Absolutely, and all of us should consider wearing them whenever we are out of doors. First and foremost, they protect the eyes. Can you even imagine being a prospector without your eyes? Of course not! Flying chips of rock, branches, brambles, dust and debris, and accidents are all part of the prospector's life. We need to protect our precious eyes from these and other damage.

Among "other damage" is the energy from the sun. The sun emits energy in the form of waves, or rays. These waves are

called the Spectrum, and range from very short rays to very long rays. The very small part of the Spectrum that our eyes react to is the Light Spectrum, and ranges through the colors of the rainbow. The shorter rays are the blues, and the longer rays are the red. All colors that we can see are in this narrow range. However, there are many other rays emitted by the sun. The shorter rays go from the blue that we can see through ultraviolet then x-rays and then even shorter rays that have different names. The longer rays go from the red that we can see through infrared and then even longer waves that have different names. It is the shorter rays, the Ultraviolet, that cause us to need sunglasses. Because of the construction of our eyes, the lens (the clear part) passes a broad range of rays than the imaging nerves of the eye can sense. This causes problems because the ability of the eye to exclude bright light only senses the Light Spectrum. Ultraviolet energy is outside the Light Spectrum and is not sensed. Thus the eye remains wide open, and the nerves become damaged by the "brightness". Also, portions of the short waves, the ultraviolet, are absorbed

by the lens of the eye. In a similar fashion to glass turning purple in the intense desert sun (from ultraviolet energy), the lens of the eye slowly becomes damaged, and this can result in cataracts and even eventual blindness.

So how do you stop this damage? You purchase and wear good quality sunglasses that are designed to stop the ultraviolet energy from damaging your eyes. The glass (or plastic) absorbs or reflects the ultraviolet, but permits the colors of the Light Spectrum to pass through to the eyes.

A further purpose of the sunglasses is to reduce the intensity of the Light Spectrum that is passing through to your eyes. The eyes have an astonishing ability to

accept just the right amount of light for maximum effect. The iris, immediately behind the lens, opens or closes to adjust the amount of light

passing through to the sensing nerves in the eye. However, in very strong light the iris may be unable to close sufficiently to reduce the incoming light to a comfortable level. So sunglasses are designed with varying "density" to reduce incoming light. High density reduces the light substantially, and low density reduces light slightly. Most commercial glasses are mid-range density to accommodate widely varying conditions. By reducing the incoming light the muscles of the eye do not have to work so hard, and thus saves you from headaches and eyestrain.

Sunglasses are known as "band pass" filters. In other words, the glass passes only certain wavelengths, or colors, and excludes all else. The filtering ability is not highly precise, so nearby colors will also come through, but at a substantially reduced level. So, for example, sunglasses with red lenses will pass light that is red in color, or nearly red in color (i.e., a little orange), but reduce all other colors to very low levels. Green lenses will pass light that is green in color, or nearly green in color (i.e., a little blue and a

little yellow will also pass), but all other colors will be greatly reduced. Understanding this, you will realize that wearing yellow (or gold) lenses will make yellow (or gold) stand out! "Shooting glasses" have pretty good yellow lenses. What better way to help you spot the elusive metal, especially when it is in the water!

Light from the sun is emitted as rays that move in all directions—up/down, left/right, and all directions in between. The direction of an individual wave is known as its "polarization". When the rays hit a horizontal surface (such as water) the reflected light becomes mostly horizontally polarized. Our goal is to see into the water, and not be distracted by the reflections from the surface of the water. So we wear lenses that are "polarized" in a direction that shuts out the horizontal waves but accepts the others. Sunglasses can also be "polarized" by cutting very thin and close-spaced lines on the surface of the glass. These are so small they can only be seen under strong magnification. However this is a highly developed technique, and the cost to produce polarized glasses is quite low. It is well worth the cost. You can tell if a pair of glasses is polarized by holding them away from the face and rotating them clockwise or counterclockwise, especially while looking at a water surface from a distance. Polarized lenses will have differing amounts of light depending on the angle of rotation. With regular lenses there will be no change in brightness.

So why do we want sunglasses? To protect the eyes from physical damage, to protect them from light damage, to enhance the colors we want to see and diminish those we don't want to see, and to permit us to see through the surface glare (reflections) of water. All this to find that elusive glint of the precious metal. Expect to pay about \$75 and up for good quality glasses. My recommendation is top brand names, and always avoid the cheap imports. Happy hunting! Smokey.





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UPI OUTING SCHEDULE

Coulterville, March 23, 24, & 25

Oxbow, open mining area, Middle Fork of the American River, April 20, 21, & 22

Special event- - - Calaveras County Fair(Frog Jump Jubilee) May 17 thru 20 (provisional on fair acceptance)

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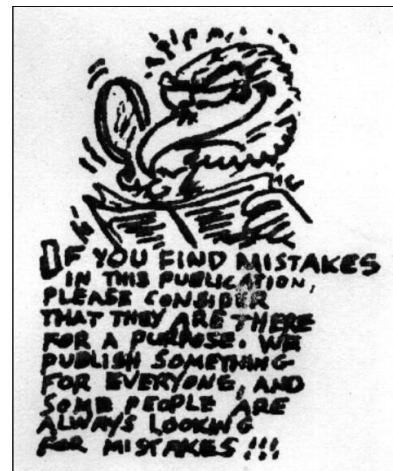
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