



Locating Gold, Gems, and Minerals

The official publication of the

Trails and Tales of UPI

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2014 UPI BOARD MEMBERS AND VOLUNTEERS

Left to Right: Mike Philips - Santa Clara Chapter Chairman; Debbie Moore - Outing Coordinator; Don Siegel - President; Bob Azbill - Wagonmaster; Aaron Matula - Treasurer; Sandy Cameron - Membership; Mike Hammond - Ways and Means/Asst. Claims Manager; Terry Moore - Outing Coordinator. Not pictured: Ed Ozga - Vice-President/Contra Costa Chapter Chairman; Ron Coleman - Claims Manager; Mark Weber - Webmaster; Cindy Siegel, Laurie Ozga, and Bill Reboin - Volunteers.

HOPE TA SEE YA AT DEM NEXT DAR OUTIN'
See inside for 2014 Outing Schedule

Miscellaneous Tidbits

Prospectors Say Drought Has Created California's 2nd Gold Rush

February 24, 2014 10:30 PM (credit CBS)

LYTLE CREEK (CBSLA.com) — Is 2014 a repeat of the great Gold Rush of 1849?

Prospectors in Southern California are heading to the hills, saying the severe drought has exposed gold that has never been touched by human hands. As water levels continue to drop more nooks and crannies are easier for these gold hunters to access.

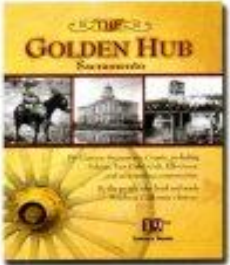


“A lot of time you would just see a husband. Now you’re seeing the whole family out,” said Kevin Hoagland, of the Gold Prospectors Association of America.

Prospectors at Lytle Creek, 60 miles from Los Angeles in San Bernardino County, pan for gold, using metal detectors and sluice boxes. CBS2/KCAL9 reporter Art Barron witnessed veteran prospector Jack Barber pull up large pieces of the precious metal.

Armed with simple equipment, anyone can look for gold as long as it’s not on someone’s property or violates an existing gold claim. Many amateur prospectors are joining in the search.

“While you may not make a fortune, it’s a great way to spend time with the family,” Hoagland said. He said beginners may find \$5 in gold, but if they’re lucky could take home as much as \$200 worth.



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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: *Chairperson; Michael Phillips, (408) 595-9121 or kitfoxchumash@yahoo.com*

Stanislaus County: *Currently open*

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



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MESSAGE FROM YOUR OFFICERS



**President
Don Siegel**

I want to thank all of those that were able to attend our first board meeting of the year. We paid our bills and settled some business to ensure that we continue to provide a fun experience for you and your family. We have an outing scheduled for March at one of our favorite claims. There will be a potluck and raffle on Saturday night. If there are enough board members in attendance we will conduct a short meeting on Saturday morning. Traditionally this time of year is great for camping with cool evenings and warm days. I will bring fire wood and we can enjoy the company of all the miners. There are always rooms available at the Jefferies Hotel or the 49er Motel in Coulterville and full hook ups are available at the Coulterville RV Park. There is also a restaurant in town with a small grocery store inside and a store that may have your mining needs, and don't forget the nightlife. There are several claims in the area and for the first time in many months there is water in the creeks for panning and in some cases a sluice. I think I will bury some coins across the road on the Jackass Creek side and put on a detector hunt on Saturday which is always a good time. Looking forward to seeing you all there!

Don Siegel





**Vice President
Ed Ozga**

Woo-Hoo, we got some rain! Not a lot, but, some rain is certainly better than none when you're working the claims! With summer approaching this is our biggest time of the year for new member sign-ups. I'd like to take a minute to welcome any new members to UPI. If you're new to UPI and have any questions, or just feel like chatting with a prospector, please feel free to give me a call at (925) 706-8193. Also, if you are in the Concord or San Jose area, make sure to check out the local Chapter meetings. The Contra Costa Chapter meetings are held in Concord on the third Thursday of the month. If you would like more information give me a holler at the number above or drop me a line at OzMiner@msn.com. Folks in the San Jose area can contact Mike Phillips at either (408) 595-9121 or kitfoxchumash@yahoo.com for meeting information in the San Jose area.

Also, a tip for new members. Don't get caught up in spending a fortune on every product out there to recover gold. You really only need a bucket, shovel, sluice, gold pan, and a good back to get you started. The rest will come in time. Take your time and do your research before buying. Network with UPI members and get their ideas on what products work for them. A good place to network is at UPI outings and Chapter meetings. And don't forget, with your new membership you now have access to the UPI Members Only area on the UPI website at www.Unitedprospectors.com. The Talk n' Trade area on our website is a great place to network with other UPI members and get information regarding UPI claims, gold recovery products, and more!

Hope to see 'ya at the first outing of the year at Moccasin Creek on the weekend of March 21st!

May there be gold in your pan, Ed

Santa Clara County Chapter News

Don wanted me to share this with the members. At the Fresno Gold show our group was showing off a new product that should help us with the EPA, Fish and Game, and U.S. Forestry Department. The product is called G-OIL and produced by Green Earth Technologies. G-OIL is 100 percent biodegradable synthetic oil that can be used for our mining equipment. It is non-toxic and will not contaminate water or soil. It is a bio based product made from animal fat and plants. It is actually better than most synthetic oils and also will not damage engines. It has been tested with NASCAR and the Le Mans racing circuit and it also has approval of the EPA and USDA. For more information visit the this website: <http://www.getg.com/G-OIL.php>. Mike



Contra Costa County Chapter News

Come one-come all for the annual UPI Contra Costa Chapter Metal Detecting Hunt to be held Saturday, March 29th at 10:00 am.

You do not need to be a UPI member to hunt

Hunt will be held at: Concord, CA - Park to be determined

There **will be a potluck lunch** held immediately after the hunt. UPI Contra Costa **Chapter will supply the hot dogs, sausages, buns, and condiments.** Please bring a side dish to share and your own drinks.

Price is: \$10.00 per hunter (please no big foots).

Lots of prizes! 100% Payback, Plus lot more!!

You must RSVP to Bobby Whitworth at 1031b@comcast.net (925) 586-6443. Please let Bobby know if you are hunting and/or staying for lunch and how many for lunch.

Hunt will go on weather permitting, however, we will notify you if the hunt must be postponed due to rain.



UPI BOARD MEETING MINUTES

February 8, 2014

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WELCOME: President, Don Siegel

ROLL CALL: Officers/Board Members: Don Siegel, President; Laurie Ozga, Proxy for Ed Ozga, Vice President; Aaron Matula, Treasurer; Sandy Cameron, Membership; Mike Hammond; Ways and Means/Assistant Claims Manager; and Terry and Debbie Moore, Outing Coordinators. **Members:** Bob Azbill, Wagonmaster; Mike Phillips, Santa Clara Chapter Chairman; Georgia Azbill, Denise Matula, Joyce Smith, Jim Baboaka, Dennis Moe, Cecilia Moe, Kenny Nichols, and Gloria Nichols. **Guest:** Ric Mora

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS: President, Don Siegel (*Editor's note: Thanks for hangin' in there Don!*) and Mike Hammond, Ways and Means/Assistant Claims Manager.

SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO JIM MADDEN: Special thanks went out to Jim Madden and his family for all Jim did for UPI. A unanimous vote was held to present Pam Madden with an Honorary Lifetime Membership to UPI.

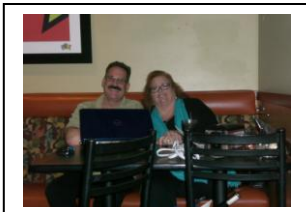
MINUTES: There were no previous minutes presented from 2013. (*Editor's note: While there has not been a Board meeting in a while and despite many personal obstacles the Board did a fine job keeping this organization going in 2013).*

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

TREASURER: Aaron reported that UPI has \$11,130.04 in bank. Discussions were held regarding gaps in check numbers for outstanding checks; reporting expenses for the year; the need to scan expense reports and receipts; UPI mailbox paid through 2015; and checks and balances for the improvement of recording dues versus raffles, etc. Also, all areas came in under 2013 budgets and membership expenses were sent in July. (*Editor's note: Thanks to members accepting electronic versions of the newsletters, UPI has seen a significant drop in costs. If you can help by receiving your newsletter on line, please drop an email to Sandy Cameron, Membership Director, at Membership@unitedprospectors.com*)

MEMBERSHIP: Sandy reported **309** active members (63 Lifetime; 4 Other; and 242 regular). UPI is averaging 6 new members and 10 renewals per month. Sandy has done an excellent job at bringing down the costs of membership by eliminating mailing labels, utilizing email for renewal notifications, eliminating return envelopes, and reducing mailing costs. Sandy asked that folks refer new and renewing members to UPI website to print full page membership application versus using the tri-fold, which is small and hard to read. Discussion were held to begin work on updating the UPI Guidebook.

WAGONMASTER: Bob discussed sticking with traditional dates for outings rather than new dates and also taking into consideration when water is available at certain claims. Bob presented the outing scheduled and it was approved. (*Editor's note: See listing of this year's outings on page 7 in this newsletter*). Brief discussions were held regarding the IMCJ Gold Prospecting and Mining Summit (April 5th and 6th, Placerville, CA) and The 2014 Gold and Treasure Expo (February 22nd and 23rd at the Fresno Fairgrounds).



LUNCH BREAK: Nugget raffle winners: Aaron, Gloria, and Mike Hammond (*Editor's note: Thanks to Ed for sending a nugget for the raffle*).

OUTING COORDINATORS: Terry and Debbie reported they purchased a White's 500D in good condition for a raffle this year. Also, discussions were held regarding how much folks liked the activities at Bull Creek last year.

EDITOR/PUBLISHER-IN-CHIEF: Vacant - Discussions were held regarding the desperate need for a volunteer to step up and manage the newsletter and also the need for folks to submit articles for the newsletter.

WAYS AND MEANS: UPI has a decent inventory of gold, sluice boxes, etc. for this year's raffles, although, money is allocated to shop Gold Show's, etc. Also, discussions were held regarding buying large tickets items for raffle, for instance Crac-Vac.

CHAPTERS: Joyce is still interested in starting a chapter in the Manteca area and scouting locations. UPI will provide prizes to kick-off first raffle. Also, Joyce is pursuing holding a detectors hunt as kick-off activity. Mike's group will have a booth at the Rock and Mineral Show, April 12th and 13th and also both Fresno shows. Ed's group has secured Bear River for their outing again this year and details will follow.

CLAIMS: Mike Hammond reported Jim's records in very good shape (*Editors note: God bless you Jim!*). Also, thanks to Pam for all her help in gathering and sorting through paperwork. The relinquishments are not all matched up yet, but Mike will take care of. Also, there are obviously claims with Jim's name on them that will eventually have to be taken care of.

NEW BUSINESS: Budgets for different areas were approved. Discussions were held regarding new t-shirts and hats. Also, discussed soliciting advertisers for donations/discounts.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

2014 UPI Outing Schedule:

March 21st – 24th - Moccasin Creek

May 16th – 19th - Bull Creek

July 2nd – 9th - Genesee

October 24th – 27th - Coulterville Area/Pre-Thanksgiving Feed



Calaveras Gem and Mineral Society Show



Saturday, March 22nd at 10:00 a.m.



Calaveras County Fair Grounds
101 Frogtown Road
Angels Camp, CA 95222



2014 Gold Prospecting and Mining Summit

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Saturday, April 5th from 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. and

Sunday, April 6th, 2014 from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

(Pre-registration available for hands on training on Friday and Monday)

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Further information at: www.ICMJ.com

Hope to see 'ya there!



Couple Finds \$10 Million In Gold Coins; Taxes Take Half

An anonymous couple in California's "gold country", named after the 1849 Gold Rush, found \$10 million in rare gold coins buried in cans on their property. Why stay anonymous? They don't want people digging on their property. After all, this is the biggest and best coin discovery in U.S. history. So said Davis Hall of [Professional Coin Grading Service](http://www.professionalcoingrading.com) which authenticated the find.

Walking their dog as usual, the couple noticed a rusty metal can sticking out of the ground. A little digging revealed over 1,400 rare and perfectly preserved U.S. gold coins dated from 1847 to 1894. Most were minted in nearby San Francisco. In \$5, \$10, and \$20 denominations. They add up to a face value of more than \$28,000, but their market value is likely over \$10 million.

It makes this the best treasure find ever. Approximately 90% of the coins will go up on Amazon.com's "Collectibles" site, according to Don Kagin, of [Kagin's, Inc.](http://www.kagins.com), who is assisting the anonymous owners. The couple said they plan to keep some of the coins and sell others, donating part of the proceeds to charity.

If you have a mailing address, email change, or wish to receive your newsletter electronically, please send your updated information to Sandy Cameron; Membership Director, at: Membership@unitedprospectors.com.

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Legacy Mine Pollution Meeting

On February 20th, the Sierra Fund with, local co sponsors, hosted an informational meeting to present to the public in Foresthill, information they had developed on the toxic minerals left behind by mining projects from World War 2 and back to the gold rush. Yes, in fact, there are some serious public health concerns relative to the toxic legacy of mining. We can all agree on that! However, there were some problems with some of the information presented, and how some of the information developed by The Sierra Fund is being misused to mislead the people and the California State Legislature. The impact of this information, and how it has been distributed has devastating effects on the miners, mining business, the service industries that support the miners, and the mining communities. As you can expect, very passionate members of the mining community expressed their feelings about the presentation on Mercury exposure.

The meeting was divided up into two topics, Dust and Fish. The second half of the meeting presentation was actually quite reasonable and stated well established facts. Dust from ore waste and tail piles, amplified by water bodies, moving or not, can present a concentration of deadly levels of toxic metals that can contaminate our watersheds and the animals that drink from it. The dust in the soil can be disturbed, think ATV's, and become inhaled by trail users in those areas. Consider the primary rider, and the guy and gal behind him creating an ever heavier cloud of toxic dust.

These sites should be identified and the public made aware of the possible health hazard. Remediation of the site may be necessary. The concern of the members was whether the studies and recommendations would be used to close trails and areas for other reasons than actual health hazards. Rich Weaver a hydrologist for the USFS made the presentation and suggested that there was no reason to suggest that the specific study area (The Marall Chrome Mine above Foresthill) was going to be closed to the public. I mentioned out loud "like the Clear Creek Recreation Area in San Benito County". This area was closed due to dust born asbestos concern, and only land owners and claim owners are allowed in the area. The local BLM ranger for that area is a radical environmentalist and opposes any mining in the area of his jurisdiction. There was a distinct level of distrust by the audience.

The Dust portion of the meeting was presented well, was informational, and the audience seemed to appreciate the facts and manner of the presentation.

The opening portion of the meeting, conducted by the consulting hydrologist for The Sierra Fund, Carrie Monahan, was pretty much the facts as we knew them. The early miners, not imagining anybody ever living here in the wide open frontier, abused the land in a manner that even most of us today would not agree with. Responsible mining with reclamation would be something any conservation minded miner would expect. I include myself in this group. For those who question the Supreme Court Decision to suspend hydraulic mining, without sumping the tails, would only have to look at the historical impact of that type of mining on the Sacramento Valley and the appropriateness of that moratorium. The pictures were striking!

The presentation then moved to the most contentious part of the meeting, and that is, on the impact of mercury from early mining and it's suggested impact today! At this point the audience, mostly miners and mining families, took great displeasure with the information being presented to what was supposed to be the uninformed community audience.

Since the moratorium on dredging and the very flawed and amateur mercury testing by Alpers in the Suction Dredging Environmental Impact Report, the miners have allied with great experts in the area of hydraulic study, marine toxic studies, and watershed geology. Numerous studies and reports have been gleaned for information that is directly contradictory to the information put forward by these Environmental Extremist organizations and individuals.

Unfortunately, the flawed studies by Alpers and the Sierra Fund Fish Consumption Survey are used by the Sierra Fund and other Extremist organizations to scare the pants off of citizens and the, less informed, members of the California State Legislature. An Environmental Quality Services company owner stated in the Suction Dredge EIR open hearings, "If Alpers presented this level of work to him, he would fire him and the State of California should be ashamed for including his work in the EIR". Monahan's presentation unfolded to the point where she

established that there were recommended levels of mercury intake for humans that should not be exceeded. She then listed the fish by their propensity to accrete mercury in their system by their feeding habits and their life span.

It does stand to reason, that fish that eat other fish, and other stream animals that ingest mercury from the food chain, are going to absorb and add that mercury into their system. Brown Trout, a vicious little guy, eat other fish and have higher levels of mercury, rainbow trout, not so much. Bass, a long living fish, have higher absorption. Tuna and Sharks, long lived, and top of the line predators are big mercury accumulators. Yes, all fish species in all waters absorb and have mercury in their systems, except the anchovies.

The presentation then lead to the standards established, and not sure by who, for how many fish various people, based on their age, sex, and pregnancy should be eaten over a period of time from various watersheds. Monahan then produced a survey, a very limited survey, of fisherman and how many fish they eat or feed their families from the various watersheds. Imagine that, as one audience member said, fisherman eat fish, and their families do also! The survey found that there were a high number of fisherman and their families who ingested an excessively high number of fish, exceeding the acceptable standards.

At this point, I found it necessary to ask loudly, and provide the answer loudly, with great force; So, were tissue samples done on any of the survey subjects to establish that they actually have absorbed the mercury that the survey would suggest. How many of them have demonstrated any neurological effects of mercury poisoning. Knowing that the moderator, a very forceful woman herself, Izzy Martin, would shut me down in a heartbeat, I continued on asking the questions they should be answering to adequately inform the audience.

I asked about where the mercury is in the fish, how about the skin and the liver, not so much in the flesh. How many incidents of mercury toxicity or neurological defect are recorded by the California Department of Health related to mercury ingestion from watershed fish in the Sierra Nevada, the answer is none. Probably because of the naturally occurring Selenium in the volcanic rocks dissolved into the water and food chain. Selenium is a mercury antagonist and like mercury and gold amalgamation, Selenium holds mercury harmless in fish and humans.

At about that time, Izzy had enough and asked me to tone it down, or leave the building. Imagine that, my community center, my town, No! I have to admit, I then took it to a more personal level, I expressed to her that she was my worst enemy, and she is my worst enemy. This woman is the darling of the environmental movement at our state Capitol and as is destructive as any other force against the logging, agriculture, and mining industries. I let her know, she has destroyed my mining business and the economy of my community, and we will no longer stand for it.

Well, I am not sorry. I will not apologize, I and many others in that room are mad as hell and we are not taking it any more. While we would rather, politely and professionally, like to make our case in a calm and reasoned debate, that has not worked. The damage is done. They have rolled over us and it's time for push back. They have mislead the community and the decision makers in our Capitol. We must take a stand and make it known, we are not letting it go, or are we?

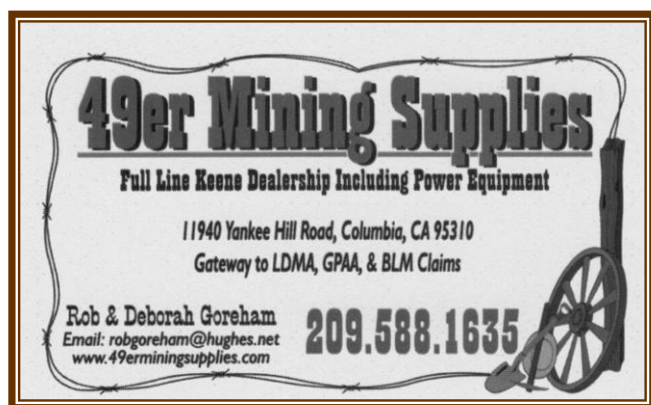
James Hutchings, Foresthill California

In Memory - Terry M. Schoen - Jan 4, 1941 - Feb 7, 2014

Terry was born in Modesto and was the founder and owner of Armor Fire Extinguisher Co. for 8 years. He retired in 1999 and continued to work until 2012 until he became a double leg amputee due to Diabetes. His work ethic was to take care of his customers 7 days a week. After medical retirement, he continued to disassemble fire extinguishers for recycling. He also could be seen around Ripon in his power chair collecting glass, metal, and plastics for recycling. Terry was a member of E. Clampus Vitus Chapters 58 & 69. A member of UPI, he also enjoyed Indian Casinos and going on road trips. He leaves behind his wife Lurea Joann Schoen of 51 years, his children Terry "Mike" Schoen II and Denise Sexton of Stockton and his brother Maynard Schoen of Florence, OR. Donations can be made to [American Diabetes Association](#) .

Members Bulletin

If anyone has anything they would like to list for sale in the newsletter please contact Cindy at cfs623@aol.com or call at 209-567-2370.



Dear Editor:

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 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. If you would 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 others besides mine.

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.

Cindy Siegel
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February 2014

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 one year and will expire on your anniversary date.

Membership Dues: (check your preference below) **Number of qualifying family members** _____

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_____ **Yes, I want to receive the newsletter 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:

UPI Use Only
Rec'd: _____

Proc'd: _____

Number: _____

United Prospectors Inc.
2401 E Orangeburg Avenue Ste 675-237
Modesto CA 95355

Please allow 4 weeks for your application to be processed

Revised January 2012