



Locating Gold, Gems and Minerals

The official publication of the

Trails and Tales of UPI

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April 2006

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PUT YOUR TROUBLES IN A POCKET WITH A HOLE IN IT AND GO PROSPECTING



Insert at left: Art and Lucy Apodaca pictured with the Ed/Pub on the front page as promised to anybody that brought blueberry cheesecake to the Pre-Thanksgiving outing.

**PREPARING FOR THE
PANNING CONTEST!**

**A GREAT TURNOUT
CONSIDERING
THE WEATHER!
(FORECAST)**



UNITED PROSPECTORS INC.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Don Siegel
April 2006

- PRESIDENT** *Don Siegel*
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- TREASURER** *Samantha Wait*
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- TECHNICAL ADVISOR** *Steve Letlow*
- WAGON MASTER** *Wes Smith*
- WAYS AND MEANS** *Aaron Matula*
- WEB MASTER** *Mark Weber*

By their nature, miners are a tough breed. The outing at Moccasin proved this to be true. There were 37 brave souls turned out for what started Friday as some of the hardest rain I have ever experienced. The weather forecasters did not help our cause by predicting rain all through the weekend. Well, Saturday turned out to be a very nice day and those taking a chance I believe had a great time.

Christa put on a panning contest and we had 19 participants. Gerald Hurt provided a very nice two-compartment tub for the actual panning. Steve Letlow pulls out the fastest time at 16 seconds.

While this was going on there were many members searching for the hidden wealth of Moccasin Creek. I don't believe that much was found in the way of color, the creek was at flood stage and the best gold has always been found on the opposite side in the slate or on the hillside.

As you can tell from my comments regarding the outing all had a good time. I encourage you to make your plans now for the next outing to be held at Twain. The water will be high and moving the gold around, and power sluicing will be the method of choice and several power sluices will put together for a group dig.

Did I mention the detector hunt, Christa is busy putting the last of the details together for a detector hunt down on the rivers edge in the sand and natural gravel's which should make for an interesting hunt?

The last thing I would like to talk about is this year's election. The board is currently putting together an election committee to collect nominations and assist with the elections. The board is your governing body and makes decisions that affect how your organization is run and how the future will turnout. I can only hope that you will come forward and help us make UPI a strong, fun and secure organization. Talk with your board to find out what you can do to get involved.

Don

THE OUTING

Yes indeed we had an outing. UPI waves a hand in praise to the hardy members that made their presence known at the first outing of the year, with very unpredictable weather conditions. My count was that there were 37 members and guests present for the outing, potluck and raffle. All of these great members will be covered in the roll call page of the newsletter. I was informed that there had been several other members there earlier in the day. So it was a great turn out.

Friday was one of those Oregon like days, partly sunny. The cloudy sky broke Friday evening. It rained, and rained and then it let lose. It wasn't just rain, it was a real downpour. As I set up at the Coulterville RV Park I'm not cognizant of what was experienced at the claim but I can tell you that the drainage ditch on the east side of the park was running high water, noisy. I was beginning to think of what the creek at the claim was sounding

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Outing & Board Meeting Schedule 2006

- May 5 - 7: Twain**, Board meeting at 9:00 AM Saturday, 5/6.
- June 2 - 4: Bull Creek**, Board meeting at 9:00 AM Saturday, 6/3.
- June 30 thru July 4: Genesee, at the original Genesee site**. Board meeting At 9:00 AM Saturday, 7/1.
- August 4, 5 & 6: Squirrel Creek**. No Board meeting,
Please go to the Bulletin Board page for the remaining schedule.

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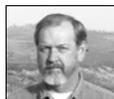
VOLUNTEERS

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.

Tom Eastland, Chapters Director, (925) 932-4288 or chapters@unitedprospectors.com



Alameda County, Chairperson; Steve Kleszyk, (925) 443-4993 or rattled88@aol.com
Meeting held at - - - Prospectors Claim Store
174 S. "K" Street
Livermore, CA

Auburn Chapter, including El Dorado, Nevada, Placer, Sutter and Yuba counties. Chairperson; Mark McDaniels, (530) 613-2654 or marksgold@sbcglobal.net



Contra Costa County, Chairperson; Ed Ozga, (925) 706-8193 or OzMiner@msn.com
Meeting held at - - - First Baptist Church Mansion
3033 Bonifacio St., Concord, CA

Fresno, Kings, Madera and Merced Counties, Chairperson; Harrold Lancaster, (559) 439-1117 or hskashmir@aol.com or Bill Poore, (559) 674-9756 or whp@netscape.com

Marin, Sonoma Counties, Chairperson; Brian Newhouse, (415) 898-8128 or bnewhouse3@verizon.net

Sacramento County, Open

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

Santa Clara County, Chairperson; Michael Phillips, (408) 595-9121 or kit-fochmash@yahoo.com
Please call for particulars.



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



In all cases please call the Chapter Chairperson for where and when for meetings.

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

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BOARD NOTES

Special note: The organization Secretary was unable to attend the Board Meeting/outing and there wasn't a micro-cassette recorder available to record the meeting. These minutes are formed from the memories of the Board Members present.

Board Meeting April 1, 2006

President Donald Siegel called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM

- It was agreed that we would forgo Roberts Rules for this meeting due to the small number of board members attending. Chet made the motion, Gerald with the second.
- Guests were introduced
- Board members present were Don Siegel, Tom Eastland, Bill Reboin. Chet Chastain, Christa Eastland, Gerald Hurt, Steve Letlow.
- Samantha Wait, Treasurer was not present; Don Siegel read the Treasurers Report. One bill was submitted for board approval and approved for payment to Chet Chastain for claims expenses in the amount of \$84.40.
- The events of the day, Saturday, were outlined with the panning contest from 1:00 to 4:00 with the potluck to follow. Raffle and announcing the panning winners to close out the day.
- The board discussed the need for forming the election committee and no final commitment was made. *It is the understanding of the EIC/Pub that Gerald Hurt, not being a candidate in this year's election, agreed to head up the election committee as spelled out in the bylaws.* The following points were brought up: the committees' duties are to collect data pass out the information as it is gathered and Gerald with Christa help will tentatively head the committee.
- Tom has been working on defining the duties of the various positions of the Board Members. The Ways and Means position is a priority this year as it is undefined. Each current position holder will put their thoughts down as to what they think their position involves assisting Tom Eastland in completing a binder defining all positions and their respective duties.
- We need to get upcoming elective positions posted in the newsletter.
- Chet will get a disc containing backup files on our claims and claim information to Bill. In the event we ever need to access this info and Chet is not available it will be on the corporate computer hard drives.
- Gerald explained to the board the current state of the lawsuits involving the Karuk Indians and the Dept. of Fish and Game. We will keep the board and membership up to speed on this issue as needed.
- It each individual's responsibility to obtain their own personal Notice of Intent to mine in Stanislaus National Forest. Without individual NOIs Chet would have to list all members' personal UPI database information with the Stanislaus National Forest office. This is not something that UPI will do. Moreover it is perhaps an illegal request/demand of the USFS to ask for this information. (EIC/Pub Note: UPI is working with PLP on getting this sorted out.)
- Bill explained to the board the problems with his personal computer and the UPI computer and the steps taken to correct the problems with each. A bill will be submitted at a future date for repairs to the UPI computer.
- Gerald motioned to adjourn and Bill second the motion at 11:00 AM.



The Board and Members. Breakfast at the Coulter Cafe

Would you believe somebody got a picture of the Ed/Pub. (In upper left pic.) Actually all of these pictures were taken by others. Thank you! Christa Eastland and another wonderful lady took them.

I flunked, I left the camera in the trailer.



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 04/08/06

<u>New Members</u>		<u>Renewing Members</u>	
<u>Name</u>	<u>City/State</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>City/State</u>
Herman Beard Jr.	Lemoore, CA	Jim Ambrose	Concord, CA
Gene Bianchi	San Jose, CA	Emillie Andresen	Stockton, CA
Victor Buttingnol	San Jose, CA	Les Baker	Apple Valley, CA
Scott & Sharon Clark	Fair Oaks, CA	Wayne Baker	Placerville, CA
Richard Cristofani	Elk Grove, CA	Ron & Susan Bassell	North, CA
William Denny	Mathis, TX	Allan R. Batchler	Prescott, AZ
Richard Giddens	Petaluma, CA	Barry Bernardi	Vallejo, CA
Jess Green	North, CA	Gerald Boyle	Folsom, CA
James Hayslip	Manteca, CA	Gene & Diana Clayton	Redding, CA
Robert Hoffman	Campbell, CA	Glen Conley	Visalia, CA
Douglas Jeffreys	Quincy, CA	Stephen & Karen De	Castro Valley, CA
Jim Jordan	Visalia, CA	David Dhont	Pleasant Hill, CA
James Kelly	Concord, CA	Bob Divine Jr.	Ridgecrest, CA
Charles Kriel	Sunnyvale, CA	Robert Divine Sr.	Red Bluff, CA
Thomas Lee	Vallejo, CA	Tom & Christa Eastland	Pleasant Hill, CA
Dan & Sharon Lohberger	Milpitas, CA	William & Nancy Greymont	Port, WI
Steven R. Morrisette	Sacramento, CA	Kenny Hall	Oakhurst, CA
David Murril	Rio Linda, CA	Kelly & Cathy Hall	Oakhurst, CA
Rick Niemi	Morgan Hill, CA	Robert Hana	Tehama, CA
Stephen Nordheim	San Jose, CA	Fred Heil	Modesto, CA
Jim Petersen	Lodi, CA	David Ingraham	Napa, CA
Jay Ramoz	Quincy, CA	Don & Mary Ann Ivers-Mejia	Sacramento, CA
Don & Linda Reed	Sacramento, CA	Wallace & Joan Jackson	Santa Clara, CA
Ken Sawyer	Fremont, CA	Bill Johnson	Elk Grove, CA
Carwin D. Slade	Mesa, AZ	Laith Leboa	Petaluma, CA
Walt Steever	San Jose, CA	John & Patricia Luporini	Livermore, CA
Clarence "Joe" Stewart	Saugus, CA	Bob Mapepes	Castro Valley, CA
		Daniel McCabe	Napa, CA
		Keith McRobert	Cochise, AZ

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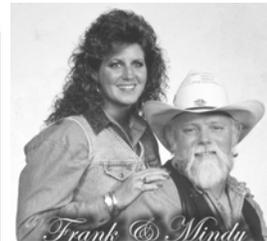
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(Continued from page 5) **Membership Cont.**

Renewing Members Cont.

Name	City/State
Larry Parsons	Janesville, CA
Clyde Pearson	Lodi, CA
Mike Phillips	San Jose, CA
Donald & Brenda Porter	Lucerne, CA
Anthony & Ethel Rinck	Millwood, GA
Ron & Sharon Rowe	Dayton, NV
Sam & Tenia Santangelo	Rescue, CA
Donald Siegel	Modesto, CA
Michael Simoskevitz	San Jose, CA
Jay Sims	Oroville, CA
Stan Smart	Stockton, CA
Ross Smith	Danville, CA
Carl Strange	LaGrange, CA
Randy & Janice Trumbauer	Lake Forest, CA
Gerald Vande Weg	Rohnert Park, CA
Greg Voisard	Coarsegold, CA
Patrica Yaros	Novato, CA
Richard Yoshida	Fresno, CA

Up for Renewal April '06

Robert J. Anderson	Gary Anderson	Patrick Avilla
Frank Baccelli	Robert Brannan	Dan Broers
Lee Brokaw	Ray Budowich	Robert Burger
Dave Cates	Alvin W. Frink	Alan Maxwell
Chas. A McMullen	Chas. P McMullen	Gerald Meecham

John Meling	Hank Miller	Douglas & Joy Parker
Merv Pate	Carl Petersen	Mike Pivacek
Andy & Adele Rico	Steve Shields	Wesley & Marsha Smith
Aron Starratt	Norman Trainer	Louis Venable
Fred Vizgaudis	Samantha Wait	John Wills

Up for Renewal May '06

Edward & Deanna Bailey	Herb Barryhill	James Black
Gary & Regina Black	Jim Bohannan	James Bonetti
Joe Bryant	A.B. & Grace Carter	Mark Chambers
Tom Chrisman	Tom Cochran	Brian Cox
Billy Crow	Martin Davis	Steve & Jean Dorman
William Eastland	Kenneth Evans	Thomas Florence
Neil & Betty Greiner	Vern & Nancy Hafner	Roy Harrison
Mike Hickman	Walter & Beverly Hills	Nancy Hiteshew
Steve Hicks	Arnold Hodge	Rick & Kathy Jeffries
Mark Johnson	Blair Johnston	Kerri Landry
Regis Lehrman	Jim McCual	Gary Meltzer
Rex Miller	Pat Milligan	Richard Mills
Bill & Carolyn Monaghan	Joel Orona	Susan Osterberg
Sid Parrish	Edgar Pate	Terence Pippi
Mario Robles	Bruce A. Rouse	Tracy Schoen
Randol Thrasher	Alexander Valentine	Royce Waataja
Stan Webster	Richard & Carol Worthington	Rod Zook

Welcome aboard for another year of enjoyment with UPI the small-scale miners advocate. We hope to see you at the outings and the Board meetings.

(Continued from page 2) **The outing Cont.**

like to those camping there. The weather was really great, it couldn't have been better if you don't like warm days and hot dry nights although Saturday wasn't all that bad. It was sunny and enjoyable almost all day, no heavy clothing required. I can't speak for Sunday, as I wasn't there.

Yes, Saturday turned out to be a pretty nice day. No rain and enough sun and mild breeze to dry things out a bit. There was some mining activity going on at the claim Not much though as the water was running quite high. There was one power-slucice set up going, no final reports on how they did, and there were several members trying out there panning skills. Several members reported small finds.

The big event of the day, not saying the raffle is no big thing, was the panning contest set up by Christa Eastland, our new Outing Coordinator. The contest ran several hours as contestants did their practice runs and their timed runs over and over.

The potluck was great as usual and was really appreciated. There were several entrées in the line up not usually seen at the potlucks. There were some really great tamales, a really great chili, seconds on that for me and other items that I can't name, none-the-less really good. Thank all of you for your great dishes.

Of course what is a UPI event without the raffle. There was a bunch of prizes and a bunch of winners. A campfire followed the raffle is all I can say as I was homebound a few minutes after the raffle was over. (With the unpredictable weather I didn't want to take the chance of staying over Saturday and having to possibly end up with wet canvas on the crank-up to care for when I got home.)

CLAIMS CORNER

Chet Chastain

A very important duty as your claims manager is to ensure the claims UPI has are managed. What if, for some reason, I cannot continue this duty? Our Vice-President Tom Eastland has asked all of the UPI Board Officers and Directors to document their positions. It would seem obvious that we directors know our duties and that everyone knows exactly what they are doing, right? Why are you laughing? When I took this position from Jerry Randall in May of 2001 I got a lot of coaching from him and from his wife Joan Randall. I thought they had an inexhaustible supply of knowledge and experience to draw on. They both had enough patience to walk me through the duties I took on. Including actually driving

me around to the BLM and county tax collector and recorders offices and introducing me to all the folks I would be dealing with. What if I am unable to handhold my replacement when my tenure ends?

I had planned to walk through the claim Location Notice this month. I still plan to do that, but now I plan to put it in a more structured form that can be used to guide a replacement

Claims Manager when I leave this post. In other words, when you read my article, you will know everything I know about that subject. If you wanted to become a UPI Director and take over this position, you will be able to use the articles as a reference for the position.

To bring you up to date – last month I wrote that the Notices of Intent and Plans of Operations (NOI/POO) have gone out to the host forests. I have files on my computer for each year. Each claim has its own NOI/POO template letter that includes all the information that does not change from

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year to year. For example, the claims' host forest, recorder document number, claim number, location information, directions to the claim and our intended equipment and camping use are static. In fact from year to year, the only things that change are the dates of the outings and the UPI Board names and addresses. Once the outing schedule is established and the election results are in, I can perform the following procedures;

NOI/POO Procedures

Once per year as early as possible – with outing schedule, board officer & director information, claims information and entity addresses. Board approval is needed by claim and entity.

At present UPI notifies the host entities (forests, bureaus, etc.) that UPI will or won't hold a planned gathering. This is done for each claim unless the involved entity has told us it is unnecessary. At present BLM has agreed to a long-term NOI for Moccasin Creek. It is at the Board's discretion that this controversial practice continues.

1. Copy the prior years documents to a new folder and rename folder with new year
2. Change all the outing dates and Board names and addresses
3. Add new claim documents and identify their host entities
4. Remove obsolete claims' NOI/POO documents
5. Adjust cover letters with new/old claims
6. Print out cover letters and NOI/POO documents
7. Duplicate Location Notices and claim maps from claim files
8. Assemble like entity documents and format envelopes for mailing
9. Mail documents via Certified mail with Return Receipt Requested
10. Make a backup CD for the archives and deliver it to the Secretary
11. Copy receipts for supplies and postage for expense reimbursement

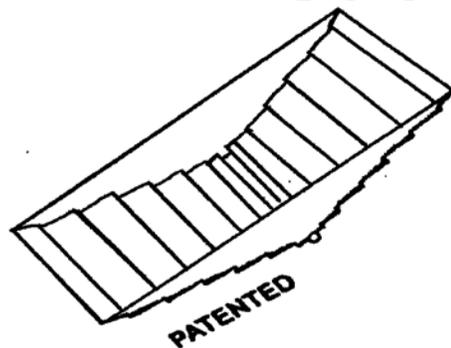
As responses come in from the host entities notify the Board of any adverse results that could affect the planned outings and/or member use of the claims. These may include withdrawn areas (like Oxbow), restrictive limits on use (like Moccasin Creek) or special procedures (like Bull Creek). Adjust and resend NOI/POO if needed, until host entities and Board are satisfied. In rare cases it may be necessary to quitclaim claims to mitigate overly restrictive and/or risky claim configurations (such as Clippership: too restrictive and Oxbow: withdrawn & across major river – too risky).

By law the entities must respond in some way within 15 days. Often the response is a request for more time or to wait until the snow melts, etc., etc. A non-response can be taken at the Board's discretion as an approval of the NOI/POO.



Saturday was a great day at Moccasin Creek

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Future NOI/POO battles may be fought. As small-scale prospectors our surface impact is not significant. By law UPI should not be required to notify host entities of our operations. These entities may argue that cumulative impact is significant given the approximately 400 members of UPI. The Board could decide to fight these battles on an entity-by-entity basis in the near future. It was planned that the Oxbow area would become our first battle. Filing NOI/POO is a surrender of our rights as citizens in the opinion of many members, including some on the Board.

The NOI and POO went out for 2006 shortly after the January Board meeting. At that meeting we adopted the 2006 outing schedule and swore in the Officers and Directors that were elected in 2005 at Bull Creek. As an elected Director the Board (and in particular the President) appoints the Directors to positions (such as Membership, Claims, Wagon-master, etc.). Typically an elected Director already knows what position needs filling and has already agreed to fill it. I myself am a Director and as such could be appointed to any of the Director positions. My experience makes it highly probable that I will fill the Claims Manager position. Hopefully these documentary articles will make us Directors more versatile and able to move among the positions.

Stanislaus National Forest responded to the NOI sent to them for the Bull Creek Claims. They reiterated their request for either a list

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UPI ROLL CALL

List of members and guests present at the Moccasin Creek outing,
Potluck and Raffle including the raffle results.

March 31 - April 2

1. Gerald Hurt: Gerald won a nice detector bag donated by John Meling
2. Tom and Christa Eastland: Christ won a huge hex head wrench set. Looks like it'll do everything but the work.
3. Richard Madson: Richard won a book on gold.
4. Don and Cindy Siegel
5. Art and Lucy Apodaca: Art and Lucy both won "grab bags" with miscellaneous items in them. Art was also the winner of the 50/50 drawing.
6. George Gonzales and Jennie Montoya
7. Sid and Lorrie Perrish: Lorrie went home with a nice Vanalite crystal.
8. Joel, Laura, Ashley and Brittany Orona: Ashley went home as the winner of the small UPI Nugget and an 8" sharpening stone. Brittany with a Vulture folding knife. The stone and the knife are together when needed.
9. Ken Sawyer
10. John and Kathy Meling: John had some hot tickets. He won a 12" pry bar, a Sacagawea dollar and a nice cigar box to make into a specimen box.
11. Dan, Cat, Grant and Daniel Borers: Dan won the big UPI Nugget and Kathleen pocked the Barlow knife.
12. Stan, Gail Richard and Bonnie Webster: Three of the four were winners. Gale won the Delta Ranger knife, Richard won a gold pan and a nice quartz crystal and Stan won pruning shears. Great item for Moccasin when the berry bushes come out.
13. Mike Phillips and son Bret and Dale Winkle: Looks like Bret stole the show here with a sniping sucker, screw extractor set and a seven vial display bag.
14. Bill Reboin: Bill went home with an Eisenhower dollar and a red crevicing tool.
15. Steve Letlow: Steve won a gold magnet. Great device when there are lots of black sands in your concentrates.
16. Terry Schoen
17. Ray Budowich
18. Joe and Gloria Sul: Joe won a 8" pry bar and a cigar/specimen box and Gloria won a tweezers, good for pulling gold out of cracks.
19. Ralph Gragg: Ralph went home with a brass bristled wire brush, good for cleaning steel items you don't want to scratch and some garden gloves.

The roll call sheet indicates that there were 37 hardy, happy members and guests for the events/outing on Saturday. A really great show considering the cranky weather. If I missed anybody or got your name misspelled please let me know and it'll be corrected. There was some really scrumptious food at the potluck. Thank all of you for your participation.



Upper left and near left: Nugget winners Ashley Orona and Dan Borers pictured with UPI President Don Siegel. The hand above and the hand to the left showing their nuggets.

The other shots- - preparing for the potluck and the potluck starting into full swing. An interesting observation was made at the potluck: Every time an elbow bent, a mouth flew open.

of all UPI members with their addresses (information the Board feels is private and difficult to maintain on an on-going basis) – or – the individuals who use the claims can send in their information according to their own sense of privacy.



This huge boulder broke loose from the hillside from all of the rain. How much Au might get washed in as well?

Individual members have sent in their own information for a few years now. This was decided by the Board to be the best solution to the request by Stanislaus NF to know who is prospecting on the Bull Creek claims. We

call it a Notice of Intent (or NOI) but in reality it is only an addendum to a blanket NOI I send to them once per year. Your addendum NOI gives them a chance to directly contact you with information they want you to have. They couch their response in the form of an approval for your operations. This is interpreted by some (if not most) members as an infringement upon their rights as citizens. Know that our “operations” are casual, non-significant surface disturbance and not subject to the requirements of Notice of Intent nor Plans of Operation. The NOI/POO paper trail was meant by the founders to be a means of establishing ownership (patenting) and to protect the land from being ravaged without intent of reclamation. You have read of superfund sights that will cost the taxpayer millions to clean up un-reclaimed leach fields and chemical dumps that will remain poisonous for hundreds of years to come. How can an individual with a pan, bucket, shovel and sluice box be put into that class? It is probable that UPI will dig in and fight any attempt by Stanislaus NF to require reclamation bonds and formal plans of operation. So far it has simply been a request for direct contact with our membership that uses the claims. The addendum NOI is the means to accommodate that request.

Our NOI to Plumas NF has been responded to as well. The CLM Gold claim, at the headwaters of Spanish Creek and Bean Creek, has been found to be within the Bucks Critical Aquatic Refuge as habitat for the Mountain Yellow-Legged Frog. This means that it is in a Limited Operation Period for dredging operations. This means that dredging can be done only between August 15 and October 15. I plan to recommend to the Board that the page describing this claim be updated to reflect this. This illustrates how important it is to get the NOI out early. If we had waited then some members may have started dredging in May at that claim. Now there is plenty of time to notify everyone before dredging season starts.

The POO sent to Six Rivers NF response came in very late. Right now the Salmon River claim is closed. This was as a result of a previous Resource Officer at the Orleans District Office requesting that all operations cease pending some study that never happened. Since then you have read about the Kuruk Tribe suite, our resultant victory and their follow-up strategy that resulted in Fish & Game changing the dredging season. They have not finished this battle yet. The response basically outlaws dredging on our claim because it is on the main stem of the Salmon River. The response basically outlaws dredging on our claim because it is on the main stem of the Salmon River.

Plumas NF has two District Offices that we deal with. The

Clippership claim NOI goes to the Feather River District Office in Oroville, CA. All the other Plumas NF NOI go to the Mt. Hogue District Office in Quincy. We finally got a response to our 2004 NOI for Clippership. It basically made about 1000 square feet of the claim available. Every other tree and ditch on the claim is marked off as an historic landmark. The Board adopted my recommendation to remove this claim from the UPI catalogue. We are investigating what strategies we can try in order to recover the use of Clippership.

The Oxbow claims (four in all) are within the El Dorado NF and the Tahoe NF. The Board adopted a strategy for these claims that made NOI unnecessary. Basically, when we located these claims we decided not to send in NOI so we could force a showdown regarding our small-scale status and rights. This battle continues behind the scenes. We lost two of the claims due to PL359 (withdrawn area) closure. Basically they said we were too close to the power-house and dam, but used some obsolete agricultural study area because BLM couldn't be held to answer for their obsolete maps. The remaining two claims are on the other side of the river. I am not willing (nor, I am sure, is most of the Board due to their voting for my recommendation) to make a claim available that is extremely dangerous to access. We (UPI) are a family oriented group. We can't have kids swimming across the American River with equipment just to poke around on shear cliffs. If you feel differently then you are welcome to run for a Board position and vote in the change.

I think that is enough for this article. NOI/POO are controversial. So are the actions the Board takes to mitigate their consequences. Yes, you have to file a NOI for Bull Creek. Maintaining a complete list of all members and their addresses is too difficult. Besides, who are we to give your information out? Yes, we have eliminated Clippership. How can we justify keeping it when most of the good prospects are restricted? Yes, we have given up Oxbow. Would you like to call someone's family and tell them their kid drowned trying to swim across the American River with mining equipment?

Till next month – don't forget to bring your answer and membership card to Twain (see last issue).



Father and son panning next to the boulder.



Above: This tree got uprooted by all of the high water in Moccasin. This would be a good place to start looking when the water goes down. It is at the head of an inside bend.



Political/Grievance

Gerald Hurt

Greetings Sample and Specimen Takers,

There are so many events that shape our prospecting community. Some times these events are hard to define because of those who want a political advantage. People are very sly on how the issue is presented. I mean who could begrudge a yellow-legged frog a place to live and how did that frog survive so many 49'ers over past 150+ years.

On our last outing near Coulterville at our claim called Moccasin I viewed the creek bed completely ravaged by torrential rain and high water. It looked to me as if it were a big "Cal-Hombre" (that's a big brother of "El-Nino"). Huge fifteen to twenty ton boulders have been rearranged in the creek bed like chess pieces in a chess game. All up and down the stream nothing is the same. What Congressman or Senator does the yellow-legged frog have to talk to, on a deal like that? Heck, were their any frogs that survived? Maybe we need another study; maybe we need to see the last study? You see some times it takes an act of God to get our attention. It is just like this Harbor business over the past few months. Some say it is a Trojan Horse and when they get in all hell will break loose. Others say it's a brilliant business move for America. You know, keep your friends close, but your enemies closer. Any way as you can see it has taken hundreds of thousands even millions of letters and phone calls to get this plan stopped in its tracks. That is how you get your side of the story out of the creek bed and onto their desk so to speak. It does work.

According to the Associated Press, Richard Pombo (R) California, and Jim Gibbons (R) Nevada who are the Committee Chairman for "Energy and Mineral Resources Subcommittee" want to rewrite our 1872 Mining Law. Because they "feel that these provisions are right for America, we're modernizing the 1872 Mining Law". I say it's because, this old law gives rights they cannot take away. So what do we tell them in D.C. on these issues that are so difficult to understand? It is very simple just tell them to stop destroying this great country. So in this time of turmoil and unrest please join in and write your congressmen about the way our 1872 Mining Law is being dismantled right in front of us.



Steve Letlow doing his thing during the panning contest. Steve was the Moccasin contest winner.

TWAIN OUTING

Outing Coordinator Christa Eastland

The panning contest at Moccasin was a success. We had a blast; it's just what we needed when the mining was sparse. I'm making a few changes; it would be fairer if everyone gets three tries. We will then pick the best time out of three. Thank you for your participation.

For the Twain outing, Don will host a detector hunt on the beach. It will be held May 6th, so bring your detectors and your scoops. First prize will be a gold nugget! Second, third, etc. will be determined at the outing. This should be good fun. Rain might play a part in this event.

I have a photo album that Marsha Smith and I have put together for UPI. It will be set out on a table for anyone to look through. Most of the pictures have duplicates. They'll be kept in an envelope with the album, if you would like one you may take it. Please help create our UPI photo

album and add a picture.

Steve Letlow your Technical Director would like to put on a Power Sluice demonstration for all the new members and kids. Don, Tom, and Wes will also have power sluices for common digs.



Panning Contest winners, right to left, first place on right: Steve Letlow, Don Siegel, Gerald Hurt. Christa Eastland, Outing coordinator on the left.

Chapter Activities

There's Gold at That There Meeting!

Contra Costa County, Ed Ozga

Did you know that the Contra Costa Chapter Meeting has gold? Yup, every month there's a raffle where gold and lots of other prizes are awarded. Here is UPI member Bobby Whitworth (left) with Ed Ozga, Contra Costa Chairman. Bobby was March's grand prize-winner of a whopping 4.7 gram Crystalline gold specimen as well as four other prizes. Jerry Zachery came in a close second picking up four prizes that night. Prizes also included two Crystalline specimens totaling 7.5 grams, 5 grams of nuggets, seven coins

and five other items. If you would like a piece of an upcoming raffle and/or want to enjoy some camaraderie or just want to come for the dessert we'd really like to have you there. The Chapter meets every third Thursday of the month at 7:00 PM in Concord. There are also videos, demonstrations, sharing of finds and lots of good 'ole story sharing. Please call Ed Ozga at 925-706-8193 for directions and remember that Chapter meetings are open to all, so please bring a friend. Look forward to seeing you there and may there be gold in your pan.

Ed.

Fresno Chapter

Bill Poore

There were nine people in total including guests: five members and four guests. The weather was good except for Saturday evening it was cold and windy and rained that night so we canceled the potluck and raffle as no one had a trailer large enough for all to fit in.

(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 10)

CHAPTERS

The people using the gold buddies next to the trailer are David Kerber, Harold Lancaster and Nancy Roberts. Judy Reitz was in the trailer taking care of her dog Carmen. With Charlie Brooks on the dry washer is Nick Burris there was another person with Charlie, Ron Fisher who had gone home as of the photos.



With me on the other dry washer is Don Lobach. All who were there found some gold and had a good time. Those who missed the chapter meeting missed out on a good time.

Member renews after several year sabbatical, Cptbill heard from:
Linda:

I rather doubt if there is a chapter near here! **HERE!** Being, So. Texas... I live 40 miles NW, of Corpus Christi, TX. Although, I am a **full time** Prospector and Treasure Hunter (TH'er).. They kind of go together! I am out in the field for months at a time and I generally cover, NM., AZ., No./So. Ca., Nv., etc...



This year I will be heading into No. CA. (Mother Lode Country) to do some **Micron Gold** Recovery! I am building the recovery machine
(Continued on page 12)



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(Continued from page 11)

Member Cont.

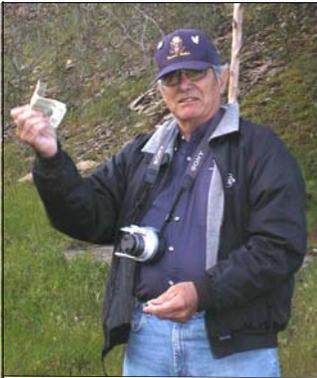
here and I am about finished! I hope to be in the field around later April early May! I am enclosing a scan of my traveling rig! "Bugs" is driving!
Cptbil & Bugs
William Denny



THANK YOU ALL!

As you have probably seen, there have been many contributions to this issue of the newsletter, including a number of pics. As your EIC/Pub I really appreciate the input. Yes I put the newsletter together and have lines and connections for obtaining news of events that both positively and negatively affect us as small-scale miners, "Sample and Specimen Takers". However another important facet of news that is necessary to the organization is what is happening on a local level, what off shoot outings are occurring. Are members finding any Au or other items of interest. All of this comes from you, member, chairperson, Board Member what have you.

Thank you again for making this your newsletter.
Bill



Art Apodaca, winner of the 50/50



Gerald about the PLP Raffle



Moccasin Monument



Saturday Morning



Saturday Afternoon



A little hodge-podge of everything here: High water mining, the panning contest, setting up for the potluck, you name it.



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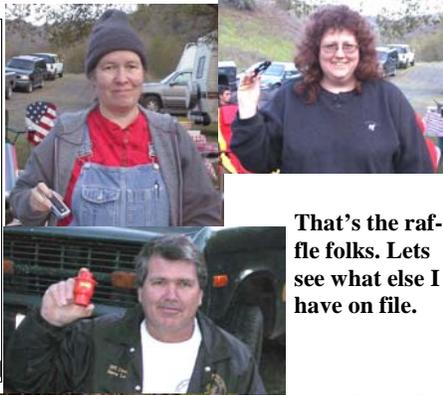
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That's the raffle folks. Lets see what else I have on file.



Well there ya be. High fast water and a leisurely panning contest!

POTPOURRI

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS OF INTEREST ©

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Your responses to this column and the newsletter in general may play a part in the content of the newsletter and the way I vote as a Director. Please feel free to contact me.

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



Bill Reboin, Ed/Pub and his pooch Samantha.

WHO IS, WHAT IS?

Who is, what is, the United States Forest Service? A big bunch of Civil Servants and Bureaucrats? Most likely all educated in liberal arts schools, where in the educators have never been out of school. They owe their comfortable standard of living to us the taxpayer. Oh, forgot the good retirement benefits and health plans as well.

How many times over the course of the last few years have rules changes made by the FS been overturned in Court, or rules set in Congress for the FS to turn around and rewrite/misapply them again to try and circumvent Court and Congress rulings? Perhaps they should be held in contempt, or for that matter just jailed. How many times have miners and other forest users been unlawfully harassed, intimidated or cited by FS personnel that either don't know the law or are misusing the law? Many times. How much has it cost these innocent people to clear themselves of FS abuse? Thousands.

Where are our federal legislators while this entire thing is going on? I don't know about you, but I get at least five pieces of mail each week from this that and the next organization that is soliciting for money to get the attention of our federal representatives on one issue or another. It makes me think where are our reps? Why are they not paying attention to these things? It also makes me wonder if, we the people, have been writing or communication with our reps, and letting them know our feelings and needs. Our responsibility.



Following is some excerpts from information received from Western Slope

No Fee Coalition (WSNFC) on 04/09/06: A brief history- - - "Not surprisingly, public outrage over the (Fee Demo) program has only grown over time. That became obvious in Congress, where attempts to renew Fee Demo stalled- - until Rep. Ralph Regula pulled the kind of move so adored by disgraced lobbyist Jack Abramoff and cronies. Late in 2004 Regula, an Ohio Republican, succeeded in "earmarking" the FLREA (Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act) by attaching it to (a) huge spending bill. As a result, the law has never faced its own House vote, or any Senate vote at all."

"Sleazy or not, squeezing the law into existence still required certain compromises, including new restrictions for federal land agencies. According to the FLREA, fees can no longer be charged "solely for parking, undesignated parking, or picnicking along roads or trail sides. They can't be levied for "general access" without special authorization, or for through traffic if there is no use of "facilities and services." Pretty cut and dried!

This is the first known case to go to court under the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (FLREA) (AKA Recreation Access Tax or RAT), which replaced a much-despised Fee Demo. (A couple of articles

on Fee Demo have been in this newsletter in the past.)

A lady was cited by a FS Officer for parking her car in an unimproved area of the forest to do some hiking in the forest. (Unimproved= no facilities of any kind.) Needless to say, this lady being a legal secretary is taking this through the court system. At the initial hearing the FS tried to get the case thrown out on a legal technicality, (emphasis added, apparently they figured they didn't have a leg to stand on.) but the judge refused the attempt. Could it be they're afraid that they may be loosing a potentially illegal "cash cow?"

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (Excerpts from WSNFC release)
April 14, 2006

"FOREST SERVICE REPORT REVEALS THAT 75% OF FEE SITES ARE NOT IN COMPLIANCE WITH FEDERAL LAW" "AGENCY DATA CONFIRMS SURVEY FINDINGS BY FEE OPPONENTS"

" Documents provided by the Forest Service to the U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee and recently released to the public have confirmed that the vast majority of fee sites on National Forests may not be in compliance with the new Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (FLREA). Of 1,339 sites that are located within agency-designated "High Impact Recreation Areas," 981 are Standard Amenity Fee sites that are required to have six minimum amenities in order to qualify for fees."

"The Forest Service documents reveal that 739 of those-a full 75%-do not have all of the amenities the law specifies. In addition, 627 sites-47% of the total-have never been previously reported to Congress as fee sites, but have not been subjected to the public participation process that the FLREA requires for newly instituted fees."

During a hearing on 10/26/05; "During the hearing, Craig quizzed Rey;" (Mark Rey, Undersecretary of Agriculture) "about HIRA (High Intensity Recreational Area) "fees, saying," "I believe the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act prohibited the BLM and the U.S. Forest Service from charging entrance fees or for charging people to walk, drive, or ride through lands. Can you tell me how your Department concluded that the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act permitted the creation of high-intensity recreation areas and how it is they seem to be willing to ignore Section 803(d)(1) that prohibits the Department from charging for certain things? "



Do we want to continue to have the rights granted to us by the Mining Law. It appears that we do. If we do want to continue to have these rights we need to take responsibility for them and fight for them. We need to watch all fronts and act when something fishy comes into play. Contact PLP if you are a member, or contact the UPI Board so they can contact PLP. Write you representatives, make your presence known.



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Outings and Board meetings Cont.

Sept. 1 - 4: Bull Creek. Tentative depending on stream conditions. Board meeting at 9:00 AM Saturday, 9/2.

Oct. 6 - 8: Spanish Creek. Elections, be there. Board meeting at 9:00 AM Saturday, 10/7.

Nov. 10, 11 & 12: Coulterville 7th annual Pre-Thanksgiving. Board meeting at 9:00 AM Saturday, 11/1.

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