



UNITED PROSPECTORS INCORPORATED

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May 2004

No. 266, Vol. 48-4

United Prospectors Inc. Publication ©

Opener at Oxbow Sets a Record !

Attention: 500 + more acres coming soon!



This nugget was found at
the outing by member
Steve Letlow

*Acquaintances rekindled, friends
made, gold found and great weather!
What more could you ask for?*



UNITED PROSPECTORS INC.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Daniel Short Jr.

May 2004

PRESIDENT
Daniel Short Jr.

V. PRESIDENT
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WAYS & MEANS
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WAGON MASTER
Steve Letlow

CHAPTERS
Tom Eastland

WEB MASTER
Open

Wow! What an outing at Oxbow. Over 85 members and guests attended. Gold was found in all areas. There were even two of us (yours truly & the wagon master) that found nuggets. I found my nugget by panning and Steve Letlow our wagon master found his nugget with his high banker. We had to have a weigh off of the nuggets to see whose nugget was largest. My nugget was chunky and Steve's was flat. I thought for sure I had the bigger of the two and bragging rights. Unfortunately Steve had his trusty electronic scale and he weighed both nuggets and his nugget out weighed mine. My hat off to Steve or should I say I tip my gold pan to Steve for having bragging rights at the outing, for having the largest nugget

At the Bull Creek outing there will be an old fashion miners swap meet. So bring your old gold pans, sucker bottles, shovels, Picks, rocker boxes, sluice boxes, high bankers, dredges, and mining or camping equipment that you might be able to swap or sell. You might want to bring a table or tarp to put your equipment on. It should be fun. If you have any questions please contact Kathy Short at (209) 969-5299.

The potluck was a huge success as the wind did not blow that evening. And to top things off we had a great raffle. After the raffle we were able to build a large campfire. There were at least 40 of us that gathered around the campfire to exchange our gold stories for the day.

We conducted an inspection on motors for spark arresters during the outing. We had thirteen motors running, and five of them did not have spark arresters. This is very alarming to The Board. It is alarming because the rules and mining regulations have been overlooked. Please be advised if you are doing any mining on any UPI claim you must have an approved spark arrester on your engine. If you do not follow the UPI mining rules and regulations, and a law enforcement officer or ranger writes you up for this violation we could loose our mining claims. You may also face loosing your UPI membership if any board member finds you mining on our claims with out a spark arrester. So please go down to any mining supply shop or lawn mower shop and get the appropriately approved equipment. We will be checking engines for spark arresters at Bull Creek.

Daniel Short Jr. , President

Michael "Mick" Cooney

With great sorrow, UPI announces the passing away of Michael "Mick" Cooney at age 82. Mick and his spouse Winifred have been members of UPI since 1973. Thirty plus years. Mick passed away on March 4, 2004.

Mick was a cowboy, a rancher, a businessman, a gold panner and a past Director of United Prospectors Inc. Mick enjoyed gold panning, traveling, flying his plane and was western history buff. Now Mick is mining the gold mine in the sky.

Mick was a friend with many UPI members, especially with Joan and Jerry Randall, Tom and Phyllis Malicki and Annie and Jerry Bowen.

It is always a sad time when this sort of news has to be put in the newsletter, as we always like to think that we can meet on the claims, camp, do our thing and be ourselves forever.

We will all miss you Mick.

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Partial Outing Schedule

June 5 & 6: Bull Creek, be sure to file Notice of Intent if dredging.
July 1 thru 4: Twain, this is a Memorial outing in memory of Joan Randall.
July 31 & Aug. 1: Genesee, this could prove exciting.
Aug. 27, 28 & 29: Location to be announced.
October 9 & 10: Bull Creek, be sure you have filed your NOI.

CONTACTING UPI

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WEBMASTER

OPEN
Please see page 11

MEMBERSHIP

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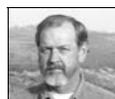
Chapters

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

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

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

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



Madera County, Chairperson; Open

Sacramento County, Chairperson; Open

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

Santa Clara County, Chairperson; Open

Stanislaus County, Chairperson: Don Siegel, (209) 551-9802 or dps0736@aol.com
Meeting held at - - - Dons home, call for particulars



The old miner sez: Daz be skquesez fer Madera Co. havin no chaper chair wit onle 7 memers. But der ain't no ekskuses fer Sacermeno n Sana Clairie Cos. wit 29 n 26 memers spectivly. Come on folks, speak up, sport yer local chaper n yer club. Tom, ll hep ya!

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

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

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

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BOARD NOTES

Board of Directors Meeting

April 3, 2004

President Daniel Short Jr. called the meeting to order at 9:20 a.m.

Roll Call:

Officers Present: Daniel Short, President; Rita Perry, Secretary.

Directors Present: Bill Reboin, Chet Chastain, Kathy Short, Linda Doyle, Steve Letlow, Tom Eastland, Don Siegel.

Directors Absent: Ray Hughes, Samantha Wait, and Derald Smith

Committee Member: Gerald Hurt

Members Present: No Members

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

- **Treasurer, Samantha Wait presented by President, Daniel Short, Jr.:** The checkbook balance as of January 10, 2004 was \$8,269.01, the Income was \$4,605.31 and total expenses were \$4,352.28, which left a new checkbook balance of \$8,522.04. Motion was made and seconded to accept the report. Motion carried.
- **Membership, Linda Doyle:** As of March 29, 2004, we have a total of 421 members, which includes 52 life members, 1 honorary member, 12 subscribers, and 356 regular members. This leaves a total of 807 family members. Lost 42 members as of December.
- **Wagon Master, Steve Letlow:** Received only verbal approval for the Oxbow Outing., has requested a written letter.
- **Outing Coordinator, Kathy Short:** Horseshoe tossing contest at 1:00 p.m., \$2.00 fee to play. A silver round will be presented to the first place winner, also a second and third prize will be presented. The Bull Creek Outing will have a Miner's Swap Meet.
- **Editor, Derald Smith:** Is residing in Texas at this time, until further notice. He will try to make the next meeting.
- **Ways and Means, Tom Eastland:** Approval for the jackets and vests were discussed. We have five gift certificates and we bought a sizeable amount of silver coins for raffle prizes. Our raffle prizes will sustain us for the rest of the year and part of next year.
- **Political-Grievance, Gerald Hurt:** Nothing other than to continue to write articles.
- **Technical Advisor, Don Siegel:** Nothing to report, except to advise new members where they should be digging and what they should be doing in the wrong time of the year. Offers up equipment for trial use anytime, give him a call. Would like to start printing written instructions on different types of equipment for new members and also some history of mining. Considering setting this up on the web site.
- **Editor/Publisher, Bill Reboin:** He changed the format of the front page of the newsletter. He still needs help gaining new advertisers. Discussed the possibility of charging less for business card size ads in the newsletter and have more on a page to increase advertising.
- **Chapters, Vacant:** Ray Hughes will take over the position for now. Tom Eastland is considering taking over the position.
- **Claims, Chet Chastain:** Would like to purchase two more claims at the North Fork of the Feathers and on Rush Creek. To buy the claims would be to give the owner three lifetime memberships, plus expenses incurred this year 2004. All mining equipment must have spark arresters and oil absorbent pads for refueling. We have PLP cards for members to fill out, if Forest Service or other land management services are harassing them.
- **Treasure, Samantha Wait:** BILLS PRESENTED FOR PAYMENT.

Publications	Newsletters, Postage, PLP Renewal Fee, Handbook printing and postage	\$1,412.04
Ways and Means	Raffles	\$ 379.00
Office Supplies	Membership, postage supplies and stamps, case of paper, printing	\$ 300.44
Administration	Ink cartridges and supplies	\$ 93.04
Linda Doyle	Trifolds	\$ 83.76
	TOTAL BILL	\$2,268.28

- Motion was made by Kathy Short and seconded by Linda Doyle to pay the bills. Motion carried.
- **Unfinished Business:** No unfinished business.

New Business: Considering advertising in other gold club newsletters. Increasing membership dues to \$40.00 or \$45.00. Relinquishing the original Genesee Claim. E-mails were received from concerned members regarding publications of the newsletter and relinquishing lifetime memberships. The newsletter will stipulate that is personal statements not UPI statements regarding the political/grievance and editorials. President Daniel Short, Jr. is proposing changing the Bylaws regarding lifetime memberships and doing away with honorary members. He would also like to change the election procedure of this club. He needs an Election Committee Person. He would like to eliminate this position and have the Board run the elections.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.
Rita Perry



The old miner sez: Woo weee! Were da outin a bigun or what? Beed like thar was peopolz comin outa da woodwerk. A real gold rush o sorts.

A few of the raffle winners!



NEW MEMBERS AND RENEWING MEMBERSHIPS

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

Welcome aboard for a year of fun.

Information is from 3/15/04 thru 5/10/04

New Members

<u>Name</u>	<u>City/State</u>
James Black	Fremont, CA
Dean Broers	San Jose, CA
Lee Brokaw	Modesto, CA
Dave Cates	Modesto, CA
Patrick Connell	Mather, CA
Michael and Beth De Lellis	Sonora, CA
Paul George	Lodi, CA
Willie Hammond Sr.	Los Banos, CA
Arnold Hodge	La Grange, CA
Charles P. McMullen	Modesto, CA
Charles A. McMullen	Modesto, CA
Gary Moore	Modesto, CA
Douglas Murray	Altaville, CA
Sid Parrish	Morgan Hill, CA
Mike Pivacek	Santa Clara, CA
Aaron Starratt	San Jose, CA
Clifford Sweatt	Yerington, NV
Randol Thrasher	Atwater, CA

Renewing Members

<u>Name</u>	<u>City/State</u>
Gary Anderson	Lodi, CA
Robert J. Anderson	Clovis, CA
Patrick Avilla	Placerville, CA

Name

Barry Bernardi
 Scott Blum
 Ray Budowich
 Robert Burger
 A.B. and Grace Carter
 Doug Chenelle
 Bob Christensen
 Brian Cox
 Bill and Mary Ann Cutts
 William Eastland
 Allen and Gloria Freitas
 Dino and Carol Giovannoni
 Ray and Yoshiko Hughes
 Sid Lanier
 Allen Laviolette
 Alan Maxwell
 Rex Miler
 Douglas and Joy Parker
 Carl Peterson
 Jack Reider
 Wesley and Marsha Smith
 Norman Trainer
 Daniel and Samantha Wait
 Gaylan Walters
 Stan Webster
 John Witts

City/State

Vallejo, CA
 Quincy, CA
 Coulterville, CA
 Berkeley, CA
 National City, CA
 Vallejo, CA
 Oakley, CA
 Visalia, CA
 Tracy, CA
 Placerville, CA
 Modesto, CA
 Manteca, CA
 Campbell, CA
 Coarsegold, CA
 San Diego, CA
 Rough & Ready, CA
 Patterson, CA
 Alamo, CA
 Arthur, ND
 Stockton, CA
 Pacheco, CA
 Marysville, CA
 Stockton, CA
 Napa, CA
 San Jose, CA
 Los Molinos, CA

Members up for renewal in June

Ron Barrett	Shaun Beattie
Dan Blake	Dan Coates
John S. Cook Sr.	Sean Cox
Russell Dunn	Roy and Marti Dunston

(Continued on page 8)



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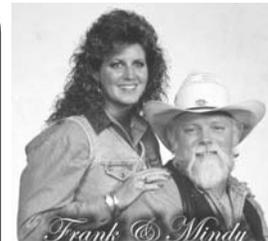
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The Outing!



The weather was great, though windy in the afternoons. Not too warm during the day and not too cool at night. We had a camp fire Friday and Saturday night. They lasted until about 10:30 both evenings. *Two right:* Friday and right Saturday evenings. *Lower left:* Getting the circle set for the potluck, and right the chow line. A raffle winner to the far right.



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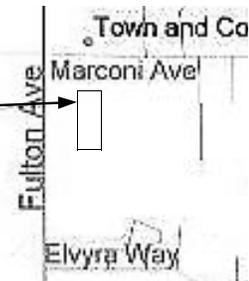
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Bruce & Mary Hampton
Owners

Ace Smithart
Manager





UPI ROLL CALL

List of members and guests present at the Outing, Potluck and Raffle including the raffle results.

Oxbow Outing April 3 & 4

1. Bill Reboin. Lucky Bill won the Oxbow Outing first prize, a Large Gold Nugget. He also won UPI coasters and a 1963 Dime, gold plated.
2. Ron and Susan Basell . Ron won an Amethyst/w Prospector.
3. Stan, Richard & Gail Webster. Stan won a 1922 Peace Dollar. Gail won Third Prize of the Horseshoe Throwing Contest.
4. Darrell Kidd. Darrell won a Estwing-Pick Hammer.
5. Bill and Carol Eastland. Carol won a large Quartz Rock and Pruning Shears.
6. Daniel and Kathy Short, Jr. Kathy won a Vanadinite Rock.
7. Tom and Christa Eastland. Christa won a Grizzly Gold Kit, Marble Clock, and a 12" pry bar.
8. Don Siegel. Don won a Black Light.
9. Bobby and Lisa Wentworth. Bobby won a Large Brown Geode.
10. Steve Letlow. Steve won a Blue Geode.
11. Dennis and Pat Mobley. Dennis won a Sand Dollar and Pat won a Coffee Filter Holder.
12. Arnold Thompson, Markie, Michael, and Felecia. Markie won a Hex Key Set.
13. Jim Blake, Nancy Hiteshaw and Anthony. Jim won a Sacagawea Dollar.
14. Jerry Randall. Jerry won a 3 Piece Brush Set.
15. Ivan and Diane Perkins and Nick Steiner. Ivan won a Large Folding Knife and Diane won a Spring Clip.
16. Gerald and Cheryl Hurt. Cheryl won a 4lb SledgeHammer.
17. Mike, Linda, Michelle, Laura, Rachel, and Daleen Doyle. Mike won a Vulture Knife and a Mattox Pick.
18. Ken Liddle. Ken won an 18" Pry Bar.
19. Al and Hulda Onyika. Al won a Claw Hammer and Hulda won a Snuffer Bottle.
20. Cody and Rex Miller. Cody Miller won a Dust Pan.
21. Don and Beverly Kalmbach. Beverly won an 8" Pry Bar.
22. Chet Chastain. Chet won a JFK Half Dollar, Plated and an 8" Sharpening Stone.
23. Ben and Jim Conrad. Jim won Dinner Plates.
24. Carl Stange. Carl won a Coffee Mug.
25. Dino and Carol Giovanni. Carol won First Prize of the Horseshoe Throwing Contest.
26. Al and Gloria Freitas. Gloria won Second Prize of the Horseshoe Throwing Contest.
27. Mark Weber
28. Charlie and Barbara Brown.
29. Henry and Irene Henry.
30. Bob and Jeanne Williams.
31. Larry and Iris Biggs.
32. Brenda Marsh.
33. Beverly Paul.
34. Chris "Kit" and Rita Perry.
35. Bruce Chapman.
36. Dave Zadwick and Andy Patterson.
37. Wayne and Theron Baker with granddaughters, Alyssa and Lauren White.
38. Steve Cuttwright.
39. Mark McDaniel.
40. Ed and Laurie Ozga.
41. Richard and Carol Worthington.
42. Terry Shoen
43. Bill Johnson and Friend Judy.
44. Jim and Benjamin Conrad
45. Aaron, Denise, Jennifer & Alex Matula



The nugget winner Bill Reboin your Ed/Pub on the left with Dan Short the Club President.

Well somewhere in the sorting out of paperwork, or maybe just an inability to count there is two less count here than on the rough paper-work. Regardless, it was really nice to see all of you. If somehow you were missed we apologize.

There were other winners as well! There was going to be a horseshoe pitching contest, but the rocky terrain prohibited setting the posts. This being the case there was another skill game played, don't know the name of it, somehow I missed it. None-the-less the winners are pictured to the right, and are named above in the roll call..



Right: Picture at Pioneer Mining Supply, left to right: Dennis Robnett a new UPI life member, Mindy and Frank Sullivan.



Below: Picture at the Goldmine with Ace Smithart, manager of the store.

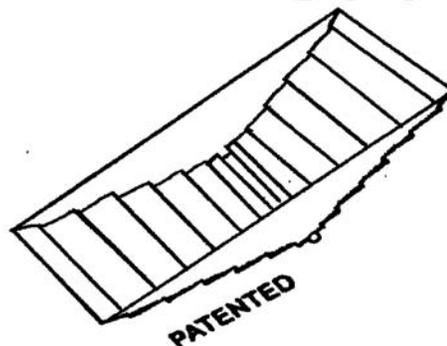


Both of these businesses are strong supporters of UPI. Do your part and support them by purchasing your mining tools and supplies from them.

Need to get a picture of "Doc" and his shop as well. (Grizzly gold pan, far right.)

Remember this a reciprocating thing. If you don't support our advertisers we may lose them. We lost one advertiser this year as it was felt by the advertiser that there wasn't enough support from the membership.

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(Continued from page 5) **MEMBERSHIP up for renewal in June**

Steve and Jill Ewing
Karl Fierling
Mark Gibbons
Johnathon Griggsby
Gerald Hurt
Darrel Kitchen
Brenda Marsh
Mike and Gail McCann
Mike Murray
Joe Owens
Donald Siegel
Jesus Venegas
Roy and Marsha Williams

James Ferguson
Marvin Gaydosh
Vic and Ester Griffith
Odie House Jr.
Don and Bev Kalmbach
Thomas Lee
Bill McCallister
Tom and Barbara Molloy
Rod O'Connor
CeCe and Dale Pierce
Ted Stolling
Mark E. Weber

OK folks there are 500 plus new acres coming up for you to mine on in July. Re-up now and don't miss out!

Raffle Winners!



Left: Tom and Christa Eastland, 33rd Anniversary celebrated at Oxbow! (I didn't think either one was over 29)

We do want to thank everyone at the Oxbow outing for the wonderful anniversary surprise! 33 years! It gets better every year! That cake was 35 lbs., and we can't tell you how many calories we ate. You all made great memories for us. And we've many great friends with UPI.

The weather was good, a little windy at times. The gold was typically good for Oxbow. Steve found the largest nugget; Daniel was second with another good size nugget. I would like to think that we only scratched the surface of Oxbow. There is a lot of gold to be found there, and more good times to come. So, lets keep the positive spirit going, plan outings, have fun, and go mining! It's all in how you dig it!

Tom, Christa & Howard

POTPOURRI

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS OF INTEREST ©

Views and opinions expressed in this column are the personal viewpoint of the Editor/Publisher, and have no bearing on, nor do they have any relationship toward, the goals, purposes, policies, programs of United Prospectors Inc. though they may play a part as indicated by your responses. This is my playground!

Some may like it, some may not. I hope it starts you thinking, taking responsibility, and enjoying life and livingness.

Issue 265 Response

A member brought this to my attention and it is really appreciated, thank you: Issue 265 may have hit some members as being rather heavy in the rafter article, questionable in the reason for the Bartsch article and the reason for the picture of USFS personnel depicted as a SWAT team.

Due to space and time constraints I was unable to connect full thoughts to the stories and the picture. My mistake and this will be kept in mind in this publication and all future publications. Say it all or don't say it, save it for later.

I believe that the rafter story was self-explanatory and further comment is not necessary. However there does appear elsewhere in this issue some additional commentary related to rafters, and events that took place at the Oxbow outing involving regulatory agencies.

The Bartsch story: A true story of public lands taken away from public use. Charging a fee for just parking and walking in a National Forest. This is an experiment the government has going on. What do we pay taxes for if not to enjoy National Forests set aside for our enjoyment? Walking in the forest that we own, what is wrong with that? Bartsch got busted for parking and walking in a National Forest that he wasn't willing to pay additional fees for to just to be there and exist. He got busted for being and existing in a forest that you I and everybody else has been paying for, for years. Why must he pay more regardless of the fee, \$5.00 I believe? He has already paid enough through taxes assessed. This is the point. This is why he took the stand of civil disobedience.

History says civil disobedience is those activities, which lead to the founding of this country and its Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States of America. These documents guarantee all citizens of this Country the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness as well as freedom from oppression from without and within. It appears that these rights are being continually taken little by little. Do you ever feel oppressed?

The Ranger picture: This was related to a government taking activity wherein a family that has had a patented claim for years and has been maintaining the road into it for years, as allowed by law, were told they could no longer do so. This action essentially denies them the use of their land. This is a story in of itself and too big for the newsletter.

My thought when inserting the Ranger picture was that you would relate it too the seemingly ever-increasing oppression surrounding the lawful activity we pursue, and the Bartsch stand. The good guy is too often the target of the acts of omission and commission of others that the government in its great wisdom and power fails to control.

The intention of the articles and the picture was, and is to bring awareness levels of Club members up to what is going on with respect to the continual losses of rights we have invested in. To get them active in protecting our rights from the special interests that would like to see us loose them. It appears that small-scale miners need to unite and become a special interest to protect our lawful activity. Is there agreement on this?

The newsletter is the main line of communication between the Board, member activities at the outings and the members at large and other activities that are pro or con to our avocation. Without input one can only guess what is wanted and needed in the publication. I received a number



Bill Reboin, Ed/Pub and his pooch Samantha.

of responses from the membership and the greater majority was positive. Thank you! It is your Club and your newsletter. It is my desire and responsibility to present too you that which you desire.

The membership is the Club. The Board invites your active participation in all facets of governing the Club and its activities. Attend the Board Meetings have your say. Read the newsletter have your say. Step up and say I want to help, or I want to see this. Moreover say enough is enough. Do you want to have to resort to buying bags of salted sand to pan in the kitchen sink to find the element we seek. How can you do this? By participating.

Please keep your comments/input flowing. Ed/Pub

“GOVERNING AUTHORITIES?”

As usual when it comes to government, the left hand usually doesn't know what the right hand is doing 90% of the time, unless there is a big time bust going down. Here we were at Oxbow enjoying ourselves, using facilities provided for the use of the general public, paid for through taxes paid by the general public. Officials of the National Forest Service located in Foresthill, CA, the governing authorities in this case, granted us use of the public facility, for our activity. (The following is second hand information; I personally did not talk to the Authorities/Officials so I'm not going to detail when I can't.) First off a DF & G Warden whom visited us last year, visited again this year. A member asked the Warden if he could open another of the six toilet facilities there, as the one that was open was getting unfriendly. The Warden left shortly after that.

A short while later, a USFS Law Enforcement Officer arrived and requested to speak to the person in charge. In the course of the discussion, with the Club President, this Official stated that we were breaking several rules, but he wasn't going to bust us for it reportedly in an adversarial tone.



(No assembly permit, and not supplying porta-potties.) When told that we had permission to be there and use the facilities his response was that he doesn't report to Foresthill, the permission grantor. When asked

to supply the rules numbers/specifics he could or would not supply them. When asked for a business card he couldn't supply one, “he couldn't afford them.” I'm told that he claimed that the local Rangers installed all of the facilities themselves, and that they were responsible for the pumping and cleanliness of the facilities. There's nothing wrong with this, they need to earn their keep just like the rest of us do. The odd part of it is, I'm told, that he tried to make it sound like the Rangers paid for it all personally and were personally responsible for paying to have them serviced, pumped and kept clean/sanitary. Strange!

The hoard of rafters that invaded us, issue 265, didn't supply porta-potties. At that time there was a single facility. There are now six. The only reason I can envision the need for six at this site is to handle the regular hoard of rafters that offload there several times a week, during rafting season, for their trip through the Ruck-a-Chuky rapids downstream from Oxbow. Why are we told that we are breaking rules and need porta-potties when facilities exist? Why are we told we need an assembly permit when we have pre-arranged permission to assemble?

MORE OF OXBOW!



Left: Jerry Randall; Jerry was there with a slick new truck and a fifth wheel rig. Man that thing was better outfitted than a lot of apartments and you can take it with you! Got me thinking!



Right: Another happy raffle winner, note all of the smiling faces!



Left: Raffle winner wins a big multi-slot tray for future pot-lucks!



OXBOW OUTING! APRIL 3 & 4

Was this an event or what? Event you bet. I had trouble after 20, as that's all of the fingers and toes I have, but I counted 89 in attendance for the first outing of the year. There may have been some missed that came and left before the potluck. This is by far the largest turnout I recall for an outing since I became your Ed/Pub. (June of '99) It would be nice to see more big turnouts like this, this season.

I would have to guess a lot of members really looked forward to this outing, I for one did. The last outing was November first last year, that's five months ago. That's a long time for a body to get a bad case of cabin fever. Not only that, it is always more fun to be with friends and seeing them when you're communicating with them. Yes there is the good old USPS, the phone and e-mail, use them all myself, but being up front there is 1000% more gratifying. Don't you just love seeing the smile prior to the handshake and or hug that you get on the first time of seeing a friend after months have passed? My guess is there are many UPI Members that have made friends with other members through meeting at the outings or perhaps just on the claims. These friendships will most likely go on for a lifetime, mining or not. They lead to other common interests as well that will hold us together in our pursuit of life and livingness as individuals. Isn't that what we all are looking for?



It was wonderful to see long time members, short time members and new members all together feeling each other out. It was great to see the teamwork, members helping members moving set-ups in the pursuit of the elusive yellow metal. It was wonderful seeing individuals toughing it out by themselves. It was a great outing!

Was there gold found? You bet there was. Club Wagon Master, Steve Letlow found the heaviest piece that I am aware of. Club President, Daniel Short; found the most interesting piece that I am aware of. Rough estimation is that each of these pieces were in the half dw. (penny weight) range, perhaps more. Story has it that Dan found the nugget in

one pan out of a dig that Kathy, his wife, et al had been doing.



Needless to say he lost possession of the nugget, and I wasn't even able to get a picture of it. There were other members I know of that found Au as well, quantities are not known. From reports shared with you in the past in past newsletters, we all know that Oxbow has the ability to produce.

Oxbow by its nature of being mostly created by man does not follow the rules of reading a streambed for the location of Au. Currently man put a majority of the gravels present there. They are transported gravels from a dredging process done to clear reservoir sediments and to create an embankment that will wash away at high water events creating clean stream gravels for fish spawning. This being the case should you hit the layer placed that was from the bottom of the reservoir, you might hit it big! There are also areas that appear to be perhaps nature deposited, many, many years ago, which can produce as well. These areas are reported to be higher than the 100-year flood line by the governing "authorities", thus off limits.

Oxbow is an all public access area, open to all kinds of legitimate public use. This being the case and it not being a UPI claim we need to make sure that we do not exceed what is permissible. Conversely even on our claims, members must be sure that they do not exceed the limits of our "notice of intent" and follow dredging rules and fill holes. This is a legal document filed with the local governing authorities explaining



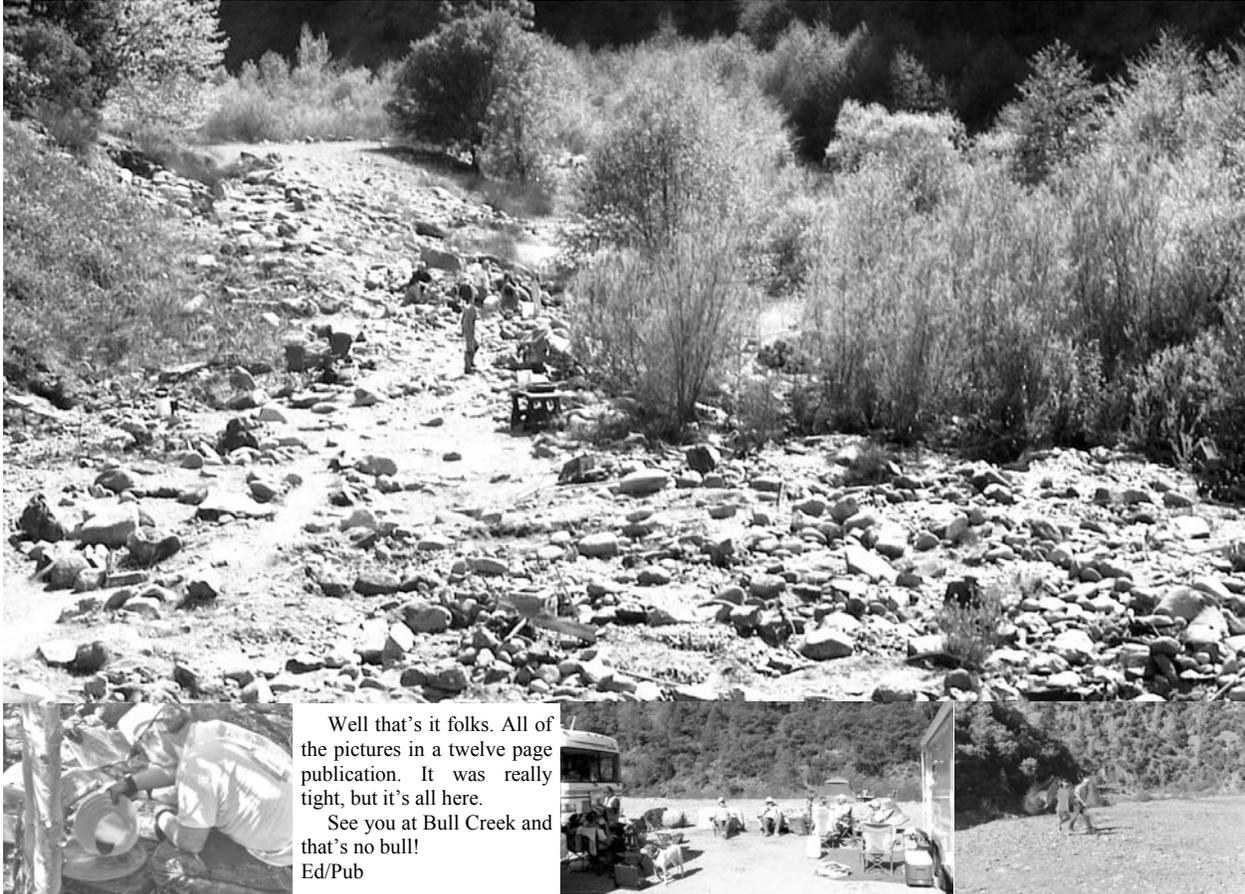
what we will be doing on the claim. The governing authorities hold us to that document. The "Mining Rules" in our "Guidebook" spell out what you can and cannot, and must do on our claims.



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Well that's it folks. All of the pictures in a twelve page publication. It was really tight, but it's all here. See you at Bull Creek and that's no bull!
Ed/Pub

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