



Locating Gold, Gems, and Minerals

The official publication of the
Trails and Tales of UPI

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**Newly Remodeled for 2018
Moccasin Creek Claim**

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

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UNITED PROSPECTORS INC.

FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

I just want to say thank you to all the members that came out to the Bull Creek outings. The weather cooperated and the outings were well attended without incident. It was a great opportunity for me to meet new members. The metal detector hunt under the oak tree turned up several buckets of trash along with nearly every coin and prize placed out. GOOD JOB! I understand that some members found some nice pieces of gold as well. We even had a nice specimen piece found at the Burnt Stumpy claim just up the road.



Sid and I were able to put up a new claim marker sign on the Lower Bull Creek Claim. The trail had been brush-cut, so access was not too bad. It starts about ½ mile below the main campground. The few crevices we worked yielded gold flakes and fines- so it is still out there for the taking.

We are getting closer to the Twain outing on August 3rd, 4th and 5th. I for one am looking forward to it. I anticipate this one to be a big outing. We will have

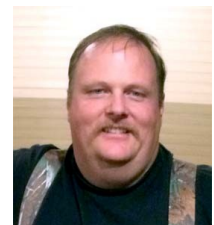
the metal detector hunt on Saturday morning, so please let me know if you are going to hunt and make sure to bring your detector with extra batteries. The fee for the hunt is \$10 and it all goes into the prizes for that hunt. Remember, if it goes “BEEP” pick it up and turn it in. The potluck will be held Saturday evening followed by the raffle. If you have an extra table to loan for the dinner it would be greatly appreciated. There will be lots of great prizes and plenty of nuggets. Prize donations are always welcome. Equipment raffle tickets for the Deluxe Blue Bowl Kit will be available at the outing and attendance will be taken for the outing attendance prize (3.08g nugget) in October in Coulterville.



We have been asked to hold a booth at the Delta Gold Diggers Gold and Outdoor Show in Sonora. It is held on August 18th and 19th we will need people to help with the booth and they are requesting volunteers to help with the show if you are able to do so.



Cal Courtner
UPI President



Membership News

Here are our Newest members. Let's all give them a Big UPI welcome!

On behalf of the Officers, Directors and current Membership I'd like to welcome and acknowledge our newest members.

Mark K. Woltmon, San Juan Bautista, CA

Kathleen Ettlin, Fremont, CA

Raymond Jordon, Quincy, CA

Matthew Ekstrom, Pinole, CA

David Herrick, Ione, CA

Shannon Sales, Rail Road Flat, CA

Gary & Joneva Moors, Tehachapi, CA

Bill Hornbrook, Vacaville, CA

Trevor McConnell, Palo Alto, CA

David S. Morris, Silver Springs, CA

Patrick Extrum Sr., Antioch, CA

Time Muse, Gallatin Gateway, MT

Edwarde La Francis Sr., Coulterville, CA

Harry Clark, Paradise, CA

You've joined an outstanding, fun bunch of gold and gem seekers. We look forward to meeting you in person, at an outing and on the claims. We have two active chapters and I encourage you to attend one of their meetings if you get the chance.

Renewing and returning members:

Your continued support of the UPI is what keeps our organization alive. I'm looking forward to seeing you at the outings. Many thanks and remember, without you there'd be no club.

Reminders:

- When renewing your membership, you must fill out and sign a new application each year.
- If you check the box for electronic news letters and notifications, you will get two e-mail reminders when your membership is due. One, 30 days prior to and another the day of expiration, if it lapses. You will also receive e-mail notifications when the newsletters are available on line.
- Have a Change of Address, E-mail or contact info? Please send me your new information. Without a current mailing or e-mail address you might not get your newsletters or other notifications. Drop me an E-mail, find me at an outing or send me a note via regular mail.

Dave Williams
UPI Membership Director
Fools-gold49@att.net



Reminder:

California fire permits expire at the end of each year. You can get your 2018 fire permit by watching the video and taking a small quiz at the following site:

www.preventwildfire.ca



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Claim Updates

By: Cal Courtier

The Moccasin Creek claim was inaccessible to us for several months after this years heavy rainfall that washed out several sections of HWY 49. The highway is now open but the parking situation at the claim has changed. As you can see from the aerial photo, the creek is much wider after eroding the wall of fill material that made the large parking area. It is reduced by approximately 40%. The southern fork of the entry road is now a drop off just as it starts to curve around. I am not sure that a travel trailer can make it in and out any more. Before you take it up there, make sure to take a look at it first.



Moccasin Creek at Big Jackass Creek 2017



Moccasin Creek at Big Jackass Creek 2018

I was surprised to see how destructive the high flows had been. All the more distressing was the recent digging taking place in the newly eroded section of the parking area. It is obviously all fill material, judging from the slabs of concrete, from when they put the highway in. **There is no gold in it. Please refrain from digging in it.** If you see others digging in the eroded wall, please stop them before there is no parking at all. If you are digging down by the creek behind the wall, toss our rocks against it.

The shale wall has been scoured down and took most of the loose material with it. The few trees and bushes down by the water have been washed away along with most of their root mats. The rock tailing piles on the west side of the creek had a lot of erosion along the bank and removed much of them exposing new material but they are **very unstable** and just clinging to the cliff by mud. Working directly under them would be unwise and should be avoided until they can be removed.

Gold was brought in with the flood waters but is difficult to find. Best reports are on the upper end at the confluence of Jackass Creek and Moccasin Creek as well as along the shale wall. The heart of the creek had been mobilized with the high waters and any gold in it will be sitting on the bedrock bottom and in cracks.



UPI Board Meeting Minutes

June 5, 2018

June 5, 2018 – President called meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Roll Call -

Officers Present: Cal Courtnier, President; John Lopez, Vice President; Lydia Hough, Secretary; Aaron Matula, Treasurer (via telecon)

Directors Present: Sid Calija, Claims Manager; Dave Williams, Membership; Gil Mink, Publisher/ Editor-in-Chief (via telecon)

Volunteers: Bob Azbill, Wagon Master (via telecon); Joyce Smith, Central Valley Chapter, Ed & Laurie Ozga

President - Cal Courtnier presented itemized bill for expenses covering outing prizes, IOOF hall rental for Coulterville October meeting. Dave Williams-motion to reimburse to Cal, 2nd by Lydia; motion passed.

Vice President – nothing to report

Secretary – nothing to report

Treasurer – bank balance \$7,211.38. Banks are requiring cash deposits to be made by account holder only, check deposits are not a problem as checks can be traced. Suggestion of changing banks to be tabled until after October elections.

Ways and Means – nothing to report

Publisher/Editor-in-Chief – No expenses to report. Newsletter to be out after June Bull Creek outing, it's to include highlights of both Bull Creek outings as well as reminders of the Twain and Coulterville outings. Newsletter to be expanded to 8 – 12 pages as necessary. Add articles were suggested as in previous newsletters as needed.

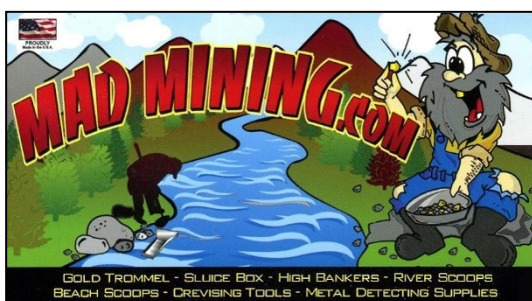
Wagon Master – nothing to report

Claims Manager – Completing forms on following claims: Susie Q, Susie Q1, Burnt Stumpe, and Genesee 1, 2 and 4. Need to take Ron Allen Coleman off Susie Q, he is no longer a member. File for the “claims amendment” paperwork to drop Barnes portion of Genesee 3 and the “boulder area” down stream, as well as changing names on other claims. Amended claims would less expensive than filing new claims, do amendments as necessary to have 2 names on each claim. Sid will mail claims forms for signatures and contact attorney to provide a form for claim holders to sign in the event of one holder passing away so claim will not go into escrow. The Moccasin claim has had half of the camp area washed away as well as a portion of the road leading down to the camp from the highway, pictures will be made available for the newsletter. Highways 120 and 132 are open to Bull Creek and Moccasin. Road is still closed from Coulterville to Bear Valley. Jim Johnson found a .8 gram nugget with his detector at Moccasin, positive news for future trips.

Old Business –

- Delta Gold Diggers Gold & Outdoor Festival is being held August 18-19, 2018. Have not had word if they will be providing a booth. Joyce Smith has volunteered to be in the booth, but more are needed.
- Claims guide book – update maps, driving directions and general points of reference and have outlines on TOPO maps. Dave, Gil and Cal to work on this.

(continued on page 7 “UPI - Board Meeting”)



UPI Board Meeting Minutes

continued from page 6

New Business –

- Dave Williams created an official “Outings Sign-in” sheet, no more yellow sheets of paper.
- Discussion of donations from vendors was brought up. The by-laws have guidelines on this topic and the by-laws will be followed. Members are not to solicit outside donations for chapters, they are however allowed to make purchases from any vendor they see fit with chapter funds. A members personal donation is acceptable. It was suggested that any large ticket items be purchased at gold shows to help support our vendors.
- Claim fees under the new fee schedule will be approximately \$75.00 per page, total should not go over \$4,500.00. Sid is to go forward with renewals and name changes as discussed.
- Shirts, hats and lapel pins – previous order \$759.30 for 72 shirts. It is suggested to stay with previous vendor to avoid new set up fees. Dave made motion up to \$1,000.00 be spent to order shirts, Lydia 2nd – motion passed. Stay with gray/black and black/goldenrod color schemes. Joyce to check her sources for hats. It was suggested that Oriental Trading might be an inexpensive vendor for pins, this is tabled until the next board meeting. It is determined that the secretary will be responsible for taking shirts (and hats) to meetings and outings.
- UPI decals – 20 on hand. Cal motioned to spend \$250.00 for 150 decals. Lydia 2nd, 0 opposed. Use previous vendor to avoid set up fees.
- Mail box – keep as is with Mail Box Etc. as they forward mail on a regular basis. Only cost is postage.
- Canned food Drive to start with July meeting, 1 ticket for every 2 non-perishable items. Prize will be a gold nugget. Drawing to be held in October at the Coulterville Pre-Thanksgiving outing.
- Outings – very important to have RSVP's in order to have enough items for prizes and drawings as well as sufficient porta-potty's.
- Next board meeting will be at Coulterville in October unless enough board members attend the Twain outing for a forum.
- Laurie suggested Cal to send an email to the members prior to the Twain outing to remind them of the outing etc.
- Vests for board members – Lydia to check on fabric and pattern.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m. (approximate)



2018 UPI OUTING SCHEDULE

August 3rd – 5th Twain
October 19th -21st Coulterville Pre-Thanksgiving Feed

Please be sure to **RSVP** to our Wagonmaster, Bob Azbill
Robert.azbill@yahoo.com or 530-409-4549
so that we can know how many folks to expect.



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July 2018

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All memberships are good for a period of 1 year and will expire on your anniversary date.

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I AM 18 YEARS OR OLDER AND HAVE READ AND FULLY UNDERSTAND THIS RELEASE AND MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____ UPI Member # _____

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Please mail this completed (signed and dated) application along with your check/money order to:

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Please allow 4 weeks for your application to be processed

Revised March 2015