



Locating Gold, Gems, and Minerals

The official publication of the

Trails and Tales of UPI

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You will be missed Russ Tait!

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UNITED PROSPECTORS INC. FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

It would seem this year was a bust for the outing schedule. We tried everything we could to keep the outings going this year and no luck! We did manage to pull off a day trip with the Central Valley Chapter to Moccasin this summer and Joyce (Chapter Leader), put on an amazing raffle with some beautiful gold nuggets. Additionally, a small group of us braved the heat and smoke at Twain in August. Some gold was found, and distancing was no problem with the few members that were able to attend. There was not enough attendance to hold the metal detector hunt, but the raffle was a lot of fun. There were plenty of crawdads to be had out of the river as well, just had to watch your toes.



It would appear the Corona virus and all the restrictions that come with it may be with us for a while still and changes will have to be made to the outing itinerary and schedule to accommodate for next year. There may be several day trips incorporated into the schedule such as: a trip to one of the claims, scouting for a new claim or possibly a Saturday at Roaring Camp day pile. Even with the restrictions there will be plenty of opportunities to find some gold and play in the water. I for one have made the best out of the lockdown and this has ben a great year for my gold recovery. I have had several opportunities to try out some new mining equipment with mixed results and several trips I stuck to the basics and did quite well.



got it. He genuinely cared for his fellow prospector. Russ Tait

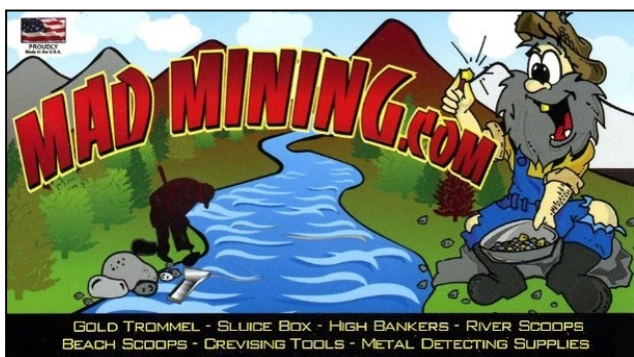
Cal Courtnier
UPI President

One thing I have learned over the years and this year was no exception is to take the time to sit down and listen to the old timers that have been prospecting all their life. There is a lot of knowledge that has been learned and usually earned the hard way over the years. Many of these fine folks are happy to tell you the stories of the gold they pulled out from where and how and what it took to get to it. Sometimes it is the little things they say in a joke or offhanded comment that can lead you to a great payday. Sadly, we lost one of those old timers this past year. Longtime member, Russ Tait, lost his battle with cancer this last May. He was warm and inviting and would gladly show you how to use ANY piece of mining equipment. He helped make many a rookie prospector into a better minor. He used to help the club by putting on panning demonstrations at the outings.

When the presentation was over, and answer every question and demonstrate what you learned to



he would hang around they make you him to make sure you will be deeply missed.




*Wilson Brothers
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PROSPECTING LLC

www.WBProspectingLLC.com



OFFICIAL UPI BALLOT - 2020

Ballots must be received at the address below by December 18, 2020 or turned in to a current board member prior to that date.

OFFICER POSITIONS UP FOR ELECTION:

Vice President: _____ John Lopez (Incumbent)
_____ Sid Calija

Write In: _____

Treasurer: _____ - Joyce Smith

Write In: _____

DIRECTOR POSITIONS UP FOR ELECTION:

Claims Director: _____ Louie Ettin

Write In: _____

Membership Director: _____ Jim McGann

Write In: _____

Outing Coordinator: _____ Colleen Campbell

Write In: _____

Ways and Means: Write In: _____

A write in candidate must have been a member in good Standing for the past year and have accepted the nomination.

Absentee ballots must be received by December 18, 2020 at:

**United Prospectors Inc.
C/O James A. McGann Sr.
P.O. Box 693284
Stockton, CA 95269-3284**

YOUR SIGNATURE: _____

PRINT YOUR NAME: _____

YOUR UPI MEMBER NUMBER: _____

Celebrating July 4th at the California Gem Mine

This has been something on my bucket list for about 5 years now. On July 4th, my friend and I took a trip to the California Gem Mine to hunt for some of those rare, and beautiful benitoite gems. For those of you that have never heard of them, they are California's gemstone. They are quite rare, and are more expensive than diamonds. They range from clear to dark blue in color. They are only found in the hills of this one specific area, about fifteen miles west of Coalinga, California.

Upon arrival, we were given instruction, and shown how to identify the gems using a black light. After that, they turned us loose on their dirt pile. We basically dug in a pile of dirt and rocks. Using a screen to shake the dirt off, the rocks were then submerged in a series of three tubs of water to remove the remaining dirt from the rocks. Once they were free of dirt and debris, they were inspected under a black light, and if there was a glow to any of the rocks in your screen, they were placed in a plastic bag for you to take home. Staff was available to answer any questions we had. It was a lot of fun. A lot of people made this a family outing including Grandma and Grandpa. Fun for all ages. For lunch, under the shade of an old oak tree, we ate our lunch while admiring the beauty of the rolling hills and meandering creek running next to the property. I met all sorts of people from many different areas. The owner, Dave Schreiner and his son, John, run the place. They are both very friendly and informative.

After speaking with Dave for a while, he gave me a tour of the place. I was educated on some of the history here. It was built by the Masons in 1940. There are several buildings that served as housing for inmates that were sent there to build the road through the canyon using only shovels and dynamite. The Warden had his own residence across the street, perched on top of a hill looking down on the inmates' housing. Unfortunately, the Warden's house was recently lost in a wildfire. Most of the inmate buildings are still intact. Dave is working diligently to restore and/or renovate them currently.

I recommend this outing to anyone interested. It is only a 2-hour drive, closer than most of our gold claims. Dave is hoping to add additional days during the week for the public to mine, other than just Saturdays as it is available currently. Make sure you call ahead of time to reserve a spot. And to my surprise, Dave mentioned that he had buckets of gold paydirt in the office available for purchase. They came directly from a working gold mine. When I asked what the name of the mine was, he answered "Roaring Camp." I was really surprised to hear that they had Roaring Camp paydirt. Small world.

If you are interested give John a call at 559-297-4096. It is \$100.00 per adult per day. Currently open on Saturdays. The Harris Ranch Hotel is close by for lodging. It makes for a nice mini vacation.



Upcoming Events

2020 UPI OUTING SCHEDULE



April 24th-26th

June 26th-28th

July 25th

Aug 21st—23rd

Oct 16th-18th

Bull-Creek (Cancelled due to COVID-19)

Genesee Cancelled

Moccasin Creek (day trip)

Detector hunt and raffle only, no pot luck.

Twain

Coulterville Cancelled



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

Central Valley Chapter no upcoming events scheduled at this time.

South Bay Chapter no upcoming events scheduled at this time.

No Upcoming Events to report.

**** Note:**

The annual Coulterville Pre-Thanksgiving Event will not be held this year due to safety concerns related to Covid 19. The decision to cancel this outing was made in an effort to protect the health and welfare of our members. Taking into consideration the risks involved in holding the pot luck, it is best that we cancel the event for 2020.

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Fighting for your right to mine

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President/CEO

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2020 UPI NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION

ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS:

All members are encouraged to submit articles, recipes, lessons learned, stories about recent adventures, news from other relevant clubs and pictures to the Publisher for inclusion in the next UPI newsletter. Readers enjoy reading about what other prospectors are up to. Let's keep the newsletter informative and interesting by sending in your stories.

I am looking forward to hearing from you!

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me via email listed above or by calling (925) 7278088.

*Kim Dessaussois
Editor / Publisher*





UNITED PROSPECTORS INC.
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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 1 year and will expire on your anniversary date.

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

Annual Membership \$45.00/year: New ___ Renewal ___ Lifetime Membership \$450.00: ___ Foreign Countries \$55.00/year: ___

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____ Yes, I want to receive the newsletter and renewal reminders electronically. If you checked yes, please make sure you have included an email address above.

I hereby 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:

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Please allow 4 weeks for your application to be processed

Revised March 2015