



Locating Gold, Gems, and Minerals

The official publication of the
Trails and Tales of UPI

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2019 Coulterville Metal Detecting Hunt

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THE TRAILS AND TALES OF UPI®
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LOCATING GOLD GEMS AND
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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. **UNITED PROSPECTORS INC.**
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UNITED PROSPECTORS INC. FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Well it is a beginning of a new year and gold prices are soaring. Time to get off the couch and hit the claims to find some color. The creeks for the most part are running but there are a few that have little water coming through them with the lack of rain. This is a great time to get out and take advantage of what water there is before the bugs get bad and streams go dry. Vegetation is not too bad and snakes are not out yet. It never hurts to try a new area on the claims and try a new method of prospecting.

We will be holding an outing on the Genesee claims this year and there was a fire that went through the claim last year. There will be new signs and markers to be placed out and there will be plenty of new ground that was previously covered with brush and forest debris that will now be accessible to detectorists. Lots of opportunity and excitement to look forward to.

We plan on having a detector hunt at all the outings on Saturday and a potluck that night on overnight scheduled outings. Our Outings Coordinator has games and activities planned that will take place at these outings. If there is an activity that you would like to do, make sure to mention it to her and we will do what we can within reason to accommodate. With that said, I am looking forward to seeing all of you at the outings and out on the claims!

Cal Courtner,
UPI President



UPI 2020 OUTTING SCHEDULE

April 24th-26th

June 26th-28th

July 25th

Aug 21st—23rd

Oct 16th-18th

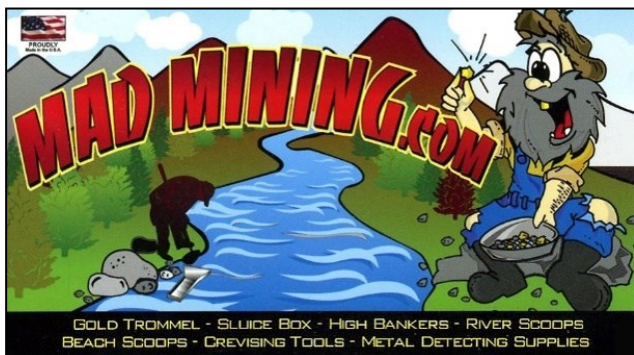
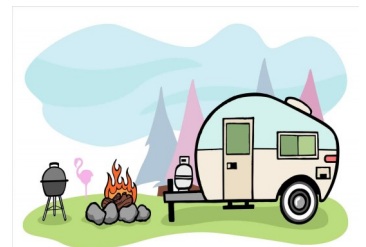
CANCELLED DUE TO COVID-19

Genesee Claim

Moccasin Creek (day trip)

Twain

Coulterville Pre-thanksgiving




*Wilson Brothers
Prospecting LLC*

Steven: (520) 358-0126
Preston: (520) 548-1665

PROSPECTING LLC

www.WBProspectingLLC.com

Central Valley Christmas Party

Christmas Parties are put together every year to celebrate a joyous reason for the season. Our Christmas party has a second reason... to win some gold . . . ultimately, anyway. As we also know, that includes the famous buffet, consisting of a mixture of appetizers, salads, main courses, and let's not forget, the yummy desserts collection.

Central Valley held their 3rd annual Christmas party on December 12, 2019. There were over 80 members who attended the party, along with the Current President, Cal Courtnier (*center*) and two previous Presidents, Don Siegel (*left*) and Ed Ozga (*right*). (*Pictured here.*)



nual Christmas party on December 12, 2019. There were over 80 members who attended the party, along with the Current President, Cal Courtnier (*center*) and two previous Presidents, Don Siegel (*left*) and Ed Ozga (*right*). (*Pictured here.*)

The setup of the party began in the early afternoon, and included Jim and Kathy McGann, Louie and Kathy Ettlin, John Lopez, Jerry and Colleen Campbell, Steve Morrissette and his beautiful Granddaughter, as well as, a few other wonderful members. (I apologize if I don't list you all.) The supplies were brought in the hall. Kathy Ettlin took charge as the designer of the table settings, with others following her lead. In the end, we had a beautiful set up, complete with the Chapter's Christmas center pieces, decorations, balloons and "snacking candies". (Many compliments were received that evening for the table displays.)

Our party began that evening at 6:30 p.m. Although most the attendees couldn't wait, and several participants entered the hall in anticipation of viewing the "goods" an hour early. (Gold and other prizes). Forming a line and waiting to purchase drawing tickets for the regular drawing and the 50/50. They were anxiously waiting for their complimentary bingo card to play for the free gold prizes. Within thirty minutes our buffet table was filling up. The food included Tri-tip, and Ham, in addition to salads, pastas, and vegetable platters. The tri-tip and ham was provided by the Chapter, and cooked by Jerry Campbell and Jim McGann. It became a challenge to hold back from sampling everything! The coffee was brewing, filling the hall with that full flavor roasted nut aroma Starbucks coffee is known for.

Just after the official start of the party began, our Veterans were asked to come to the front of the room so we could give special thanks for their service. Each member stated their name and branch of service. We do appreciate and value our Military and Veterans. Our recognition ended with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Jim McGann.

The buffet opened, and we all ate well. Some members (yes, I noticed) were rubbing their bellies from the meal just consumed. Others returning to the table for "one more helping" of their favorite.

Six bingo games were called that night. Gold nuggets were given out as prizes. All nuggets were over one gram. The final prize was well over 1.5 grams. Completing the evening with the familiar raffle drawing we hold every month in our meetings. The prizes consisting anywhere from gold nuggets to camping gear and more. We held a big-ticket drawing for a Keene Super Sluice equipped with upgraded Mini Max folding leg system (articulates 4 different positions - independently), won by one of our newest members, Josh.



One of the highlights of the evening was when Jim McGann was named 2019 Member of the Year. (Member of the year is not necessarily a UPI thing, it's something Central Valley chose to have every year.) Previous winners of this award include Steven Sherer for 2017 and Sid Calija for 2018. Members can win this award by participating in any chapter outings, volunteering time with set up of meetings, and donating cash or recycling cans/plastic to the Chapter. A special thank you to all members who have assisted in making our Chapter as fun and successful as it is. I wish everyone could win this award every year.



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.

Work in Progress.....

Will be updated next issue.

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. Other Membership News:

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.

Happy prospecting ,

Jim McGann

UPI Membership Director

jim.upimembership@gmail.com

Reminder:

California fire permits expire at the end of each year. You can get your 2020 fire permit by watching the video and taking a small quiz at the following site:

www.preventwildfireca.org/Campfires/



Snake River Products, LLC
www.snakeriverproducts.com

"Redefining Mining"

Kevin Bell
Partner
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Page 6

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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 Claim

Moccasin Creek (day trip)

Detector hunt and raffle only, no pot luck.

Twain

Coulterville Pre-thanksgiving



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 to host a gold panning contest on September 12, 2020. Details to come.

South Bay Chapter to hold metal detecting hunt in April / May 2020. Details to come.

GPAA Gold and Treasure Show March 14 & 15, 2020 in Sacramento, CA

NOTE: Show has been postponed until further notice. Will keep you updated on any new dates.

Location: McClellan Conference Center, 5411 Luce Avenue, McClellan Park, CA 95652

The panning zone is a show favorite. Some well-known names in the mining business will be there to teach the proper techniques to help you refine your panning skills. You keep the gold you find, and with over 3 ounces of gold, you don't want to miss this. Great fun for the whole family.

They will be giving away over \$5,000 in prizes daily. Gold prospecting trips, metal detectors, just to name a few. A raffle ticket is included with your paid admission, and more will be available for purchase.

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COULTERVILLE 2019 WINNERS



2020 UPI NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION



All members are encouraged to submit articles, recipes, lessons learned, news from other relevant clubs and pictures.



Send your submissions to Publisher.UPI@Gmail.com

UPI Board Meeting Minutes

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING JANUARY 11, 2020

January 11, 2020 – President called meeting to order at 11:21 a.m.

Roll Call -

Officers present: Cal Courtnier, President; John Lopez, Vice President; Joyce Smith, Treasurer; Lydia Hough, Secretary; Membership, Jim McGann; Editor-in-Chief, Kim Dessaussois; Sid Calija, Claims Manager; Colleen Campbell, Outings Coordinator.

Volunteers present: Gil Mink, South Bay Chapter Chair (via tele-con)

Volunteers absent: Bob Azbill, Wagon Master

Members present: Mike Hammond

Reading of the Minutes: Lydia read minutes from 10/19/19, motion was made to accept the minutes as read of the last meeting.

Treasurer: Joyce Smith reported the 12/31/19 balance was \$6,407.00 this does not include the deposit from the Coulterville ticket sales. A deposit of \$1,890.00 was made 1/11/2020 bringing the total balance to \$8,297.50. A motion was made and passed to accept the Treasurer's report presented.

Reports:

President – nothing to report

Vice Pres – nothing to report

Treasurer – reported as above

Secretary – shirts and hat sales are going well, need to announce availability. Gil to email the logo to Lydia, logo needs to be larger.

Editor-in-Chief – new editor to look at previous letters for reprinting of old articles.

Claims Manager – has receipts for gate paint at Moccasin and Tuolumne County filing. Sid is checking out other areas for new claims as well. Genesee 1 paperwork is completed, needs to be mailed with check. Claims markers need to be replaced on Genesee, Moccasin Creek, Bull Creek, Burnt Stumpy, Dry Diggings. Sid will check with one of our members to make new signs at a reasonable price.

Membership – still unraveling and updating old records. We have 254 active members, 3 life time members, 11 deceased members.

Outings Coordinator – nothing to report

Ways and Means – nothing to report

Wagon Master – outings dates to new business

Chapters:

Central Valley and South Bay Chapters are doing well. Central Valley Chapter will be planning outings to be announced for the upcoming year as well as a speed panning contest in September. South Bay Chapter is planning a metal detector hunt in April or May

Old Business:

Sid Calija, Claims - Need to do “Quick Claims” to transfer present claims from one person to another before July. Have 2-3 names per claim, use life members.

Cal, President - Ethics and Grievances – inappropriate behavior, comments, verbal or physical attacks are not tolerated. Chapter chairs and/or members are to take appropriate action at time of occurrence.

Lunch break from 12:19 pm through 1:02 pm

New Business: President Cal Courtnier swore in Kim Dessaussois as Editor-in-Chief. Members are encouraged to submit articles. Suggestions to go through previous newsletters for articles.

Jim – classes on how to read claim/topo maps, have a speaker give a brief description of how to read maps and GPS coordinates.

Joyce – Regarding turning in expenses: one expense sheet per check do not combine positions, ie Claims and Ways and Means receipt **must** accompany expense form. Budgets were set for the 2020 year. Food drive to start in April at the first outing and continue at chapter meetings.

2020 Outings Calendar:

April 24, 25, 26 ~~Bull Creek~~ Cancelled due to COVID-19, restrictions on public gatherings.

June 26, 27, 28 Genesee

July 25 Moccasin Creek – 1 day outing. Metal detector hunt at 10:00am

August 21, 22, 23 Twain

October 16, 17, 18 Coulterville – Pre-Thanksgiving potluck dinner at 5:00 pm on the 17th

Meeting adjourned at 2:31 pm



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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:____

Name: _____ Phone () _____

Address: _____ E-mail Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ County: _____ Zip code: _____ Country: _____

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:

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

Please allow 4 weeks for your application to be processed

Revised March 2015