



Locating Gold, Gems and Minerals

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Trails and Tales of UPI

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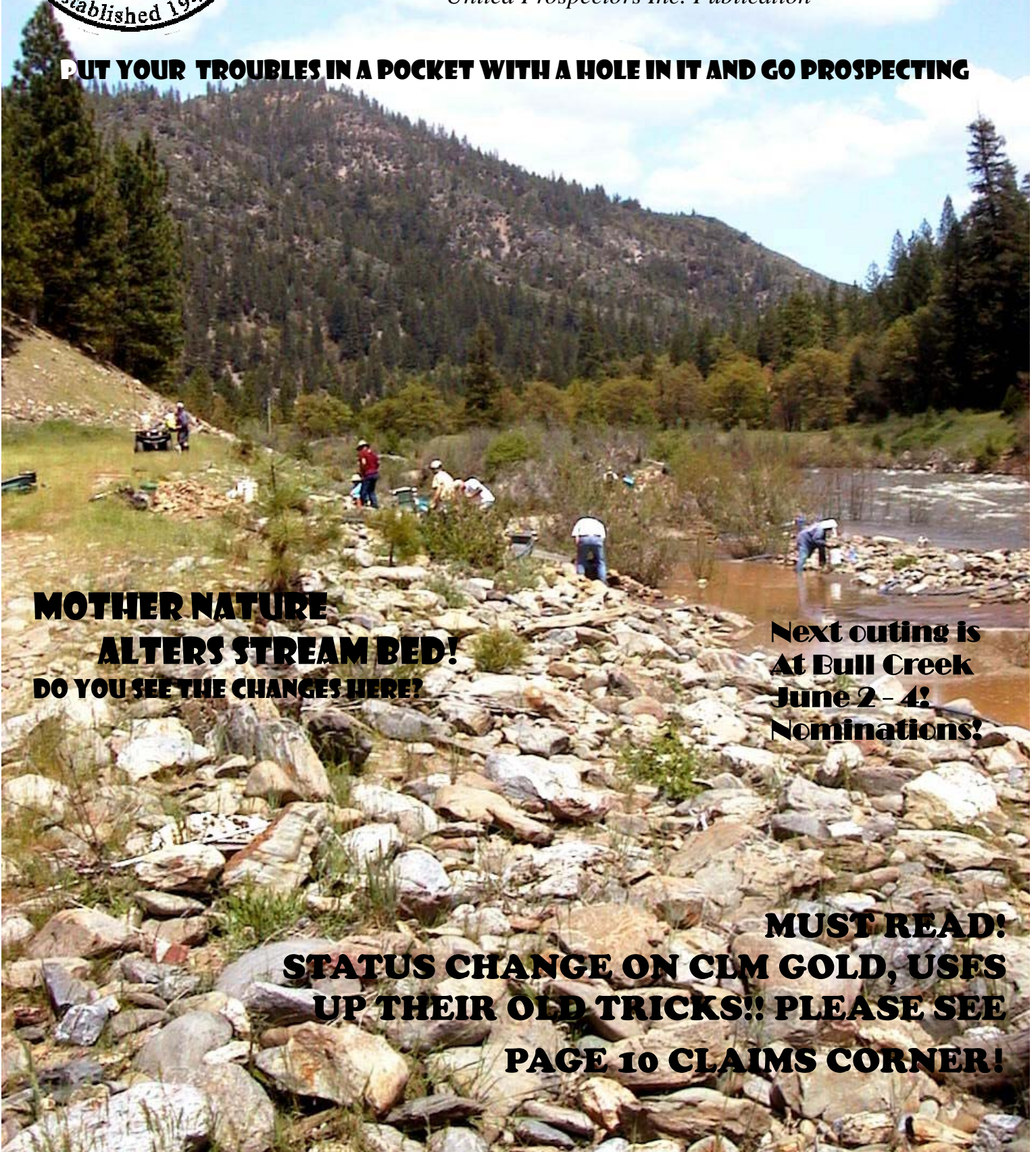
United Prospectors Inc. Publication

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

**MOTHER NATURE
ALTERS STREAM BED!
DO YOU SEE THE CHANGES HERE?**

**Next outing is
At Bull Creek
June 2 - 4!
Nominations!**

**MUST READ!
STATUS CHANGE ON CLM GOLD, USES
UP THEIR OLD TRICKS!! PLEASE SEE
PAGE 10 CLAIMS CORNER!**





UNITED PROSPECTORS INC.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Don Siegel
May 2006

PRESIDENT

Don Siegel

V. PRESIDENT

Tom Eastland

TREASURER

Samantha Wait

SECRETARY

Rita Perry

DIRECTORS

*Chet Chastain
Linda Doyle
Gerald Hurt
Steve Letlow
Bill Reboin
Christa Eastland
Aaron Matula
Wes Smith
Brenda Marsh*

EDITOR/PUBLISHER

CLUB HISTORIAN

Bill Reboin

EDITORS

Mark Weber

**ADVOCACY/
POLITICAL ACTION**

Gerald Hurt

CHAPTERS

Tom Eastland

CLAIMS

Chet Chastain

ETHICS/GRIEVANCE

Gerald Hurt

MEMBERSHIP

Linda Doyle

OUTING COORDINATOR

Christa Eastland

TECHNICAL ADVISOR

Steve Letlow

WAGON MASTER

Wes Smith

WAYS AND MEANS

Aaron Matula

WEB MASTER

Mark Weber

Hello to all. I just returned from the Twain outing, well rested, but not rich. Everyone found some gold, and the common dig members put all of their gold in one bottle and plan on raffling it off at the Bull Creek outing. While we are thinking about Bull Creek, get ready for a great outing with a lot of events planned. We will have another gold panning contest, as well as the regular potluck and raffle. The great chefs of the world are missing out on some fantastic food if the first two outings of the year are any hint of what's to come.

I know the rising gas prices are really putting a strain on all of our wallets and most of us will have to be selective on which trips we make, but Bull Creek is usually one of the top outings of the year. Don't forget to bring your extra mining gear, as we are having a swap and trade during the outing. I have heard from several members that are planning to get there early and stay after the weekend. Myself, I plan to arrive Friday and stay until Wednesday.

Gerald Hurt is heading up our election committee and will be waiting to hear from you on your nominations. With several positions open next year, now is your opportunity to have some say in how YOUR organization is run. I personally got involved because of the many rumors that were floating around, and decided to see if they were true. No the rumors were not based on fact. I have enjoyed every minute of my experience and believe that the board I am fortunate to serve with feels the same way. Driving home from a successful outing like the Twain outing is very rewarding. There are no special rewards or bonuses for serving, only being able to know that our organization is a great place to spend my time and energy. Step up and get involved.

Thanks to all the board members and members that make our organization special.
Don

THE OUTING

The outing was really great in all respects. There was a good turnout despite fuel prices and there were some pretty big rigs there as well. The weather was great, comfortably warm during the day and comfortably cool at night. We had some members present that I haven't seen in a while which is always great. We get to chat and see what has been going on in each other's lives. The UPI "connection" is a connection that does not stop. There are so many neat and interesting members with such a wide variety of interests other than just seeking the elusive Au. There is always something interesting to talk about at the end of the mining day. We had a couple of great campfire chats. (No restrictions yet.)



Just about to start.

The detector hunt was a great success. There were about fourteen par-

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Outing & Board Meeting Schedule 2006

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

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Wagon Master: Wes Smith, (925) 682-9059 or pacheocosmith@aol.com
Parliamentarian: Brenda Marsh, (916) 448-5847 or bluerosecompany@sbcglobal.net

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-foxchmash@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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UPI JOURNAL©
NEWSLETTER©

LOCATING GOLD GEMS AND MINERALS©
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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

May 6, 2006

President Don Siegel called meeting to order at 9:20 a.m.

Roll Call:

Officers Present: Don Siegel, President and Samantha Wait, Treasurer

Directors Present: Bill Reboin, Chet Chastain, Steve Letlow, Brenda Marsh, and Gerald Hurt

Directors and Officers Absent: Tom Eastland, Vice President; Rita Perry, Secretary; Christa Eastland, Aaron Matula, and Wes Smith.

Members Present: Beverly Paul, Terry Shoen, John and Cathy Meling, and Ralph Gragg

April Minutes was motioned by Chet Chastain and seconded by Steve Letlow to accept the minutes. Motion carried.

- **Treasurer, Samantha Wait:** The checkbook balance as of March 25, 2006, was \$10,749.31; total income \$3,248.00 which leaves a total of \$13,997.31. **Total Expenses: \$1,998.58.** May 5, 2006, Balanced Checkbook is \$12,008.73. Motion was made by Chet Chastain to accept the Treasurer's Report, Gerald Hurt seconded, and motion carried.
- **Membership, Linda Doyle:** We have 1 honorary, 60 life, 330 regular, 10 subscribers, with a total of 401 and that makes 761 family membership. Linda informed us that we would not have laminated membership cards anymore because of the time and expense. The new ones are not waterproof and will disintegrate in water. The membership card has the member's name, address, membership number, and expiration date on it. She also wanted to thank Carol for all the help she has given her.
- **Wagon Master, Wesley "Wes" Smith submitted by President Don Siegel:** Wes said the port-a-potty that was supposed to be delivered at Moccasin was apparently misplaced. He does not have an invoice to submit to Samantha and he will be following up with the company regarding this matter.
- **Outing Coordinator, Christa Eastland submitted by President Don Siegel:** A Metal Detector Hunt is scheduled for the Twain Outing. At Bull Creek a Swap Meet/Trade event is being planned. The potluck for Twain is scheduled at 5:00 p.m. At Genessee Outing another panning contest is planned.
- **Ways and Means, Aaron Matula submitted by President Don Siegel:** The last outing was very successful due to a panning contest, which we are planning to do for our next outing. We are out of t-shirts and hats. We need to order more. Sam said to call "A Better Design" in Greenville, CA for UPI logo items.
- **Political-Grievance, Gerald Hurt:** Gerald said that PLP wanted everyone to know that "negligible disturbance" does not mean no mining. We should be able to mine in certain situations. Notice of Intent is not required per se. The Forest Service needs to be notified if you are cutting down trees, etc. Coarse Gold will be informing the Forest Service District Ranger in Stanislaus County by letter that they will not be submitting a Notice of Intent. UPI will submit a Notice of Intent. As individuals you can decide how to proceed with the Notice of Intent. As of now, the Fish and Game rules for the Salmon River include the following: No dredging at all. Lawsuits are on going here. We need to be listed as part of the lawsuit so if we lose the right to use our claim, we can file for grievance for "theft of use of our claim" on the Salmon. Gerald will talk to PLP to confirm the situation. A motion was made by Chet Chastain and seconded by Bill Reboin to send a third check in the amount of \$500.00 to PLP. Apparently, the first two checks were lost or misplaced. Motion carried. Gerald is formalizing an ad-hoc committee for our upcoming elections. He is looking for more people to volunteer. Board positions to be filled are as follows: Vice President, Treasurer, Ways and Means, Technical Advisor, Wagon Master, and Chapters. Nominations were made at the last board meeting.
- **Editor/Publisher, Bill Reboin:** Bill has subscriber only picture guidebook almost completed. A member of UPI has been helping Bill in researching and archiving old files. Bill is hoping that the member will join the board officially. Bill needs to update his software/scanner due to hardware changes and updates. A motioned was made by Chet Chastain and seconded by Gerald Hurt to purchase new software and/or scanner up to \$500.00 that is compatible to current equipment. Motioned carried.
- **Chapters, Tom Eastland:** Tom was absent, no report.
- **Claims, Chet Chastain:** We need to change CLM GOLD page to official notification and post "dredge" restrictions on our website. The dates for restrictions are August 15 through October 15th for entire claim. We need to conform to this limited access period. This may be an issue because during this time frame, there may not be enough water then to operate at all. This could become a useless claim. We may need to do a mass mailing to notify the members like we did Oxbow. Members need to be informed by May 27th before dredging season. Bill suggested that if we could finish the newsletter by May 10 we could avoid a special mailing. Brenda Marsh made the motion, Samantha Wait seconded it and motion carried that to go with the escalated newsletter publication to avoid additional mailing cost. Chet said he would be spending between \$950 to \$1200 to pay our claim taxes and other expenses. The board previously approved these expenses. This includes travel, taxes, and filling out and filing paperwork.
- **Technical Advisor, Steve Letlow:** Power sluices are set up at common digs this weekend. Anyone can join in and share in the gold. "Screens" or spark arresters will be provided for all equipment too.
- **Treasurer, Samantha Wait: BILLS PRESENTED FOR PAYMENT.**

New Checkbook Balance 05/06/2006	\$ 12,008.73
Mark Weber, Website Hosting (2 years)	\$ 166.80
Samantha Wait, Postage	\$ 29.60
PLP re-issue, replace August 2005 check	\$ 500.00
TOTAL BILL	\$ 696.40
 New Checkbook Balance	 \$11,312.33

Motion was made by Chet Chastain and seconded by Gerald Hurt accept payment of the bills. Motion carried.

- **Unfinished Business:** Terms of Office were discussed earlier and the process is proceeding for this year's coming elections. The Board of Corporations told Don that only officers were needed for by-law changes and we are not required to send the changes to them.
- **New Business:** At the potluck today, Chet is accepting submissions for "how to locate a personal claim". Submissions will get a ticket for the 50/50 drawing from Chet. Gerald discussed the possibility of us reducing claims (Upper Bull Creek) by transitioning to reciprocating agreement with Coarse Gold Prospectors. He wants to discuss this at our next meeting. He would like some input from UPI members and the board. Gerald will provide a summary of compensation at the next board meeting. Gerald that that possibly two claims at Oxbow may be approved soon. He also wanted to reward David Elmer for his help in this matter. He will present this at the next board meeting. There was a continued discussion of rewarding our board members with free membership to merchandise. The concerns for this not enough members are stepping up to help. The discussion will continue at a later date. Keeping the board meetings short may help to encourage more participation.
- Chet made a motion; Sam seconded it to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 10:45 p.m.

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 - 05/10/06

New Members

<u>Name</u>	<u>City/State</u>
Gene Bianchi	San Jose, CA
Fred Bogdonoff	Yuba City, CA
Ed & Cyndy Burchard	Colfax, CA
Curtis Gibson	Susanville, CA
Yevett & Franklin Haven	Groveland, CA
Rick Herron	Milford, CA
Eric Johnson	Los Gatos, CA
Don & Margo Kazsuk	Atwater, CA
Phillip Kear	San Jose, CA
Richard Madgen	Merced, CA
Jennie Montoya	Stockton, CA
Caroline Pegueros	Milpitas, CA
Dino Saiz	Escalon, CA
Gordon Thomas	Santa Rosa, CA
Harry Whitehead	Las Vegas, NV
Scott Williams	Bakersfield, CA

Renewing Members

<u>Name</u>	<u>City/State</u>
Robert J. Anderson	Clovis, CA
Gary Anderson	Lodi, CA
Patrick Avilla	Placerville, CA
Ray Budowich	Coulterville, CA
Steve & Jean Dorman	Auburn, CA
William Eastland	Placerville, CA
Thomas Florence	Healdsburg, CA
Alvin W. Frink	Fairfield, CA
Neil Greiner	Rocklin, CA

Renewing Members Cont.

<u>Name</u>	<u>City/State</u>
Walter & Beverly Hills	Groveland, CA
Blair Johnson	Grand, CA
Dottie Leet	Sonoma, CA
Johnny R. Lewis	Quincy, CA
John Meling	Modesto, CA
Joel Orona	San Jose, CA
Douglas & Joy Parker	Castle Rock, WA
Merv Pate	Manteca, CA
Carl & Bernice Peterson	Arthur, ND
Terence Pippi	Healdsburg, CA
Mike Pivacek	Santa Clara, CA
Andy & Adele Rico	Nice, CA
Terry Schoen	Ripon, CA
James Silva	Ukiah, CA
Wesley & Marsha Smith	Pacheco, CA
Randol Thrasher	Atwater, CA
Norman Trainer	Marysville, CA
Samantha Wait	Stockton, CA
Stan Webster	San Jose, CA
John Wills	Los Molinos, CA

Members up for renewal . June 2006

Robert Alexander	Roy & Marti Dunston	Raymond Elmore
Joseph Farren	Karl Fielding	Deborah K Freestone
Vic & Esther Griffith	Gerald Hurt	James & Karen Haring
John & Judith Ann Hughey	Brenda Marsh	Don & Bev Kalmbach
Jack & Kay Lapham	Joe & Bille Owens	Mike & Gail McCann
Rod O'Conner	Dolores G. Simpson	Lorna & Don Paquette
Lance Schmidt	Mark E. Weber	Ted Stolling
Brian Trailer		Mike & Vicki Wells
John Williams		

Welcome aboard for another year of enjoyment with UPI, the small-scale miners advocate. We need to see you at the outings and the Board meetings to help us guide the organization the way you would like to see it go.



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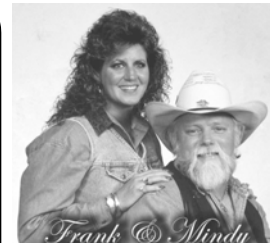
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(Continued from page 2) **The outing Cont.**

ticipants involved in the hunt. There was \$50.00 in coins buried/scattered to the wind and more than \$50.00 was recovered by a dollar and some cents. Good show folks.

Mother Nature moved the stream gravels and bed around pretty good by high water. A lot of the brush that has been present the past several years has been sent downstream. It opened the area up nicely. When first observed going down the hill from the camping area all that could be thought was goodness gracious the strength of the flowing water.

As dredging season hadn't opened yet the alternatives were sluicing, power sluicing, panning or dry washing. The overburden was to wet for dry washing and the river was still way to high to entertain the idea of dredging regardless if the season had opened or not.

Not only was the river high but also dirty. It was almost the color of the Sacramento River. There is lots of material being moved around and into the stream courses. This should be a good year for placer mining. There was flood gold found by those power sluicing and the possibility exists that when the water goes down bigger and heavier pieces of Au will be found lower in the overburden.

Chet and I walked upstream, almost to the upper boundary of the claim and there was evidence all over as to how high the water had risen. While we were checking



Check out the direction the rocks are oriented. Most of the oblong ones are all oriented the same direction. You can get an idea of how high the water got by checking the bank on the outside bend.

things out upstream something seemed odd, but I couldn't perceive what it was immediately. Then it became clear what the oddity was. All of the oblong shaped cobbles and small boulders were pointing the same direction. This was another indicator of the stream activity. There were places where stream gravels were pushed up on the bushes that were six plus feet high and pushed them over leaving the gravels holding them down. Quite interesting.

Saturday of course there was the potluck and the raffle in the evening. There was almost as many raffle prizes, as there were



members and guests present. After the usually great potluck and raffle there was a really good gathering around the campfire.

Speaking for myself I'm really looking forward to the rest of the years outings. Looking forward to seeing a bunch of you out there.

Big Victory in Small Words

Grievance/Advocacy

Gerald Hurt

What's in a word? Well, if you're an important political person your whole career can be gone with one mistake. In the mining community a little word like "shicer" means a claim that is yielding no returns. The word placer is Spanish for pleasure or 'plaga' a place where water deposits sand or gravel containing heavy metals or ore such as gold. So you see it is important to know words.

Let's talk about the word negligible. This word doesn't mean the same as "NO". Negligible surface disturbance means that we can take samples of the rocks, soil, or mineral specimens using hand tools; hand panning; or non motorized sluicing, using use of metal detectors, gold spears and other battery-operated devices for sensing the presence of minerals, and hand and battery-operated dry washers; may include use of small portable suction dredges, motorized dry washers not greater than 10 HP and motorized recirculating units not greater than 10 HP provided the activity results in no greater than negligible disturbance; may include occupancies limited to 14 days or less in a 90 day period. This word negligible in our mining community means a lot of activity and it is important to understand what your rights are while you are out enjoying your liberty.



So remember this word defined, "negligible", as you have just read, is the product of hard work by PLP, Public Lands for the People. Jerry Hobbs President of PLP is the engineer of a court victory that made it possible for these activities to be defined rather than being interpreted as "NO" activities at all. We need to thank him by joining PLP and writing our Congressmen and Senators. May your UPI gold pans always be full!

Tech Report

The Twain outing put another outing under our belt. We all had a great time as usual. I counted 9-power sluices setup and John Meling was working his sluice box. (I've never seen anybody work so hard. Up early in the morning, digging and quitting just before dark. (Probably found more gold than anybody else. Go John!)

Everybody was doing a good job complying with the Forest Service rules when it came to spark arrestors. Had to add a screen in just one motor. Our common dig was set up with three power sluices and seven-



(Continued on page 11)

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**IN MEMORY OF
Gene Reid**

Gene had been a long distance member of UPI since July 22, 1953, member number 826, and looking for the ever-elusive metal had been in his blood much longer. In his earlier life his father would take him and the rest of the family on weekend rides. There was always a gold pan in the car. This was when living in southern California.

Later on in life things drew Gene to other parts of our great Country including New Mexico, New York and Massachusetts. He joined UPI while in New York. During his many moves around the country he became somewhat disconnected with UPI and was able to get reconnected via the Internet. Gene's reconnection with UPI was in 1999. A short history of Gene, his wanderings, his gold seeking and re-connection with UPI was published that year.

It is with great sadness that it has to be announced that Gene passed away on January 27th of this year. We all hope and pray that Gene is in peace and has found his gold mine in the sky.

Albert Downey

Al was a long time member of UPI. Al spent his summers at the Twain RV Park so that he could be close to his personal claim on Rush Creek. While not on his claim he was always close to the UPI claim of Twain. Al assisted UPI in many ways. He watched over our claim as time provided. Moreover he assisted UPI members in any way he could including the loaning of mining equipment and the tutoring of those in need. Al signed up new members and helped in any way he could to promote UPI.

Al passed away in Blythe CA on January 27th of this year at the age of 67. Al will be missed as a UPI member that was always around Twain in the summer. He will be missed as someone who was always there to communicate with and be a friend.

Al was a great friend of UPI indeed and will certainly be missed by those of us that knew him and frequented the Twain claim. Thank you Al for all of your help.

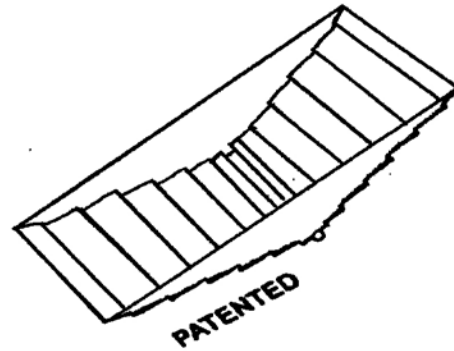
There will be a Celebration of Life for Al in mid-July at Twain. Al's many UPI friends are invited to contact his wife Denise by calling (801) 440-0157 or by writing to her at: P. O. Box 51, Twain, CA for more information.

Betty Greiner

Neil and Betty Greiner have been UPI members for many years. They were both active participants at the UPI outings and as donors to the UPI raffles in years past. As life goes on and we age, our desires and interests may change. Or though our interests and desires may not have changed there may be restrictions in life that prevent us from doing what we desire to do.

Though Neil and Betty have not been with us at the outings for a while, they have been with us in mind and spirit all along with their continued membership in the Organization. It is my sad duty to announce the passing of Betty. Betty passed away January 7 of this year. We will miss you.

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Bull Creek Outing!

Along with the Panning Contest, all UPI members and friends, gather up all those mining things laying around collecting dust in your garage and bring them to Bull Creek for the merchandise exchange / swap meet!

Steve Letlow and I are also planning a Sunday Breakfast, Pancakes, Biscuits & Gravy!

Christa Eastland
UPI Outing Coordinator





UPI ROLL CALL

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

May 5 - 7, 2006

1. John & Cathy Meling: Cathy went home with the large UPI gold nugget and John went home with a few bucks more than when he arrived by winning the 50/50 raffle as well as a nice crevicing tool made by Pioneer Mining Supplies, one of our advertisers/sponsors. Good show folks.
2. Samantha Wait: Sam won a black sand magnet and a pruning shears. Now she can cut the brush out of the way so she can get to that hot spot and secure enough concentrates to utilize the magnet.
3. Chet Chastain: The luck of the draw was on Chets side, of course he bought at least \$20.00 worth of raffle tickets. Chet won a gold pan, snipping sucker, goldstone necklace, 8" pry bar and a pair of Gordon Gloves.
4. Steve Letlow: Steve was the winner of the "square flash light".
5. Don Siegel: Our Organization President finally scored on the raffle, it has been a while; Don had the ticket that had the 1880 Morgan silver dollar attached to it.
6. Terry & Mike Schoen
7. Don & Bev Kalmbach: 18" pry bar.
8. Gerald Hurt
9. Ralph Gragg: Ralph grabbed a grab bag with a number of items in it and a set of safety glasses.
10. Chuck Ucker: Chuck won the great Grizzly Pan and sluice along with a green necklace donated by Jerry Randall.
11. Dave Zadwick and son Jason:: These fellows hit pretty good winning a pyrite necklace, Susan B. dollar, a quartz with gold necklace (donated by Jerry Randall) and a fire extinguisher donated by Armor Fire Protection.
12. Andy Patterson: Andy didn't do too shabby on the wins either- - Andy won a nice specimen box, folding shovel, 6" tweezers and a rainbow necklace.
13. Rick Niemi
14. Rich Andrews: Rich won the small UPI Nugget, and the really information California Mining Districts booklet.
15. Ryan & Tina O'halloran
16. Larry & Iris Biggs
17. Jerry Randall: Jerry won the really pretty Vanalite crystal.
18. Ron & Sharon Rowe: Sharon won a pair of safety glasses.
19. Eddie Aichens: Eddie won a pair of dredging gloves. They will most likely come in handy at Bull Creek.
20. Joel, Laura, Brittany and Ashley Orona: Ashley won a flash light. With all of her luck she should be playing the lottery.
21. Joel & Gloria Sul: Gloria must be the miner here- - she won a really nice prospectors hammer/pick and a screw extractor set. Joe won a fire extinguisher and a tub of licorice.
22. Bob Hanna
23. Bill Reboin: A Vulture folding pocket knife and a sharpening stone.

The EIC/Pub counts 34 members and guests at the potluck/raffle. A really good turnout. I'm sure it would have been better if fuel wasn't \$3.00/gal. plus and the high water. I found a couple of errors in the winners list provided and made the corrections in this column. If there are errors in this column spelling of you name or otherwise please speak up and let us know, and we'll make mention of the errors in issue 284. Hope I didn't miss anybody. - - - - Bill

Raffle Winners here and throughout this publication:



The two above photos are of the UPI Nugget winners with UPI President Don Siegel making the presentations. Left photo: Cathy Meling, winner of the big nugget. Right photo: Richard Andrews, winner of the small nugget.



Above: John Meling, winner of the 50/50 drawing.



PLP ANNOUNCES TWO BIG WINS **IN THE LEGAL ARENA**

Plaintiff Delores M. Stapp, Vice President of PLP, vs. the United States Department of the Interior and the Bureau of Land Management announce a settlement! With the help of our attorney David Young a settlement was reached and signed by all parties on 2-27-06.

This lawsuit was filed to clarify the new rule instituted by the BLM regarding "unnecessary or undue degradation" adopted in 2000 (but repealed in 2001) and various other provisions of the rules that are burdensome and were promulgated illegally.

The Settlement:

1. Under 43 CFR 3809, casual uses included activities reasonably incident to mineral exploration, mining, or mineral processing, ordinarily resulting in not greater than negligible disturbance of the public lands or resources. The use of the word "NO" in the regulatory definition of "Casual Use" is illustrative only, and the regulatory maximum for casual use is "Negligible" disturbance, not "NO" disturbance.

Generally, casual use:

a. Includes the collection of geochemical, rock, soil, or mineral specimens using hand tools; hand panning; or non-motorized sluicing, use of metal detectors, gold spears and other battery-operated devices for sensing the presence of mineral, and hand and battery-operated dry washers.

b. May include use of small portable suction dredges, motorized dry washers not greater than 10 HP, and motorized recirculating units not greater than 10 HP, provided the activity results in no greater than negligible disturbance;

c. May include occupancies limited to 14 days or less in a 90-day period;

d. Excludes the use of mechanized earth-moving equipment, truck mounted drilling equipment, chemicals, explosives, or the use of motorized vehicles in areas when designated as closed to "off-road vehicles." BLM, in any new road closure proceeding in the California Desert District that begins after the date of this settlement, will, in good faith and to the extent practicable, notify mining claimants of record who use the road being considered for closure for access to their mining claims, and will consider mineral resources in it decision whether to close the road.

2. For a mining or exploration operation involving an occupancy with no greater than negligible surface disturbance that does not qualify as casual use solely because of an occupancy of greater than 14 days in a 90-day period, the individual financial assurance required under 43 CFR 3809.552 will be the minimum estimated cost necessary to perform reclamation under the reclamation plan resulting from the occupancy, including the removal and disposition of any property left on the mine site. If such estimated cost resulting from such occupancy is minimal, BLM will require only a nominal financial assurance from that individual as long as that amount is sufficient to cover the estimated reclamation cost. When the operator requests that BLM release its financial assurance under 43 CFR 3809.590 following completion of reclamation and closure activities, BLM will process the request under the procedures of 43 CFR 3809.590 through 594 as "expeditiously" as practicable.

3. BLM will direct its California employees who review notices under 43 CFR 3809 to complete in as timely a manner as possible their review and other actions necessary to process a notice that may be submitted by the BLM reflecting an operation involving an occupancy that would result in no greater than negligible disturbance.

4. This Notice maybe extended for another two years by written notification!

5. BLM will inform its offices in the state of California of the terms of this settlement!

6. This Settlement Agreement is executed for the sole purpose of settling this litigation and it serves as a template for other small Miners in

the California Desert Mining Districts.

SISKIYOU REGIONAL EDUCATION PROJECT (SREP) vs., U. S.F.S. Linda Goodman, Regional Forester (Region 6) & Scott Conroy, Forest Supervisor, Siskiyou National Forest. Interveners were Robert & Lisa Barton & PLP's Gerald Hobbs. Waldo Mining District sued as an additional party and was included in Consolidation.

SREP alleged that the defendants failed to comply with the standards and guidelines contained in the Northwest Forest Plan & the Siskiyou National Forest Land Resource management Plan in conjunction with the management of suction dredge mining in the waterways of the Siskiyou National Forest. SREP sought an injunction prohibiting the USFS from authorizing or approving mineral operations in the Riparian Reserves or Supplemental Resource areas without an approved plan of operations and prohibiting the defendants and interveners from conducting any mining activities until they obtain an approved Plan of Operations from the U.S.F.S.

The Barton's & Waldo Mining District claimed that their rights under the 1872 Mining Law were being infringed upon. Suction dredging is a method of placer mining, which uses mechanical means to capture naturally occurring gold found moving through the stream system. As of 2001 there were approximately 580 placer mining claims in the Siskiyou National Forest!

Significant Disturbance vs. Disturbance was again addressed. It was determined that Suction Dredging did not create "Significant Disturbance" in the Riparian areas!

Jerry Hobbs, President of PLP, submitted considerable material to the Court and his request was granted for the remedial phase of this litigation. The Court used many of his arguments to sustain their final ruling that this case be dismissed.

The Court granted three of Hobbs's counter claims and five of his affirmative defenses. Magistrate Judge John P. Cooney recommended the following: It is recommended that Plaintiff's motion for summary judgment be denied, defendant's motion for summary judgment be granted, the Barton's & Waldo Mining District's motion to strike be denied as moot and a judgment be entered "dismissing this case"!

U.S. District Judge Michael R. Hogan then upheld what magistrate Judge Cooney found in this CASE.

THE COURT ON 3/29/06 DISMISSED THE CASE

All of the participants in this case did an admirable job and we are specially grateful to PLP's attorney, David Young, & PLP's Jerry Hobbs for doing their homework and presenting their findings in such a manner as to convince both judges that Waldo Mining, the Barton's and Jerry Hobbs were right and that the environmentalists from SREP were wrong!

ATTENTION

For all of you that have read through these accounts, it is most important to remind you that we are now facing another major challenge on Suction Dredging (Karuk vs. Ca. DFG) which will be even more damaging if those that want to get rid of the Prospectors and Small Miners prevail. Jerry Hobbs, President of PLP, & the new 49ers have intervened in this case. Jerry Hobbs has also filed a separate law suit challenging the California Department of Fish & Game for violations of the California Environmental Quality Act and California Administrative Procedures Act in promulgating their new settled regulations.

We are asking each one of you to immediately sit down and write a check to PLP's Legal Research Fund, which will allow us to continue paying our legal council for his on going work & support in your behalf.

PLP-LEGAL RESEARCH FUND
3700 SANTA CARLOTTA ST.

LA CRESCENTA, CA. 91214-1048

Walt Wegner

plpmemberalert@earthlink.net

UPI EIC/Pub highly recommends that if you as UPI Members want to continue to enjoy the benefits that UPI provides you with claim wise, that you open your checkbooks and donate to PLP. They are very instrumental in preserving our mining rights. Just joining PLP is a tremendous help. Better yet make your most generous donation. Thank you.

CLAIMS CORNER

Chet Chastain, Claims Manager

Twain was great. With the water that high it is easy to see where to put your dredge in when the season starts.

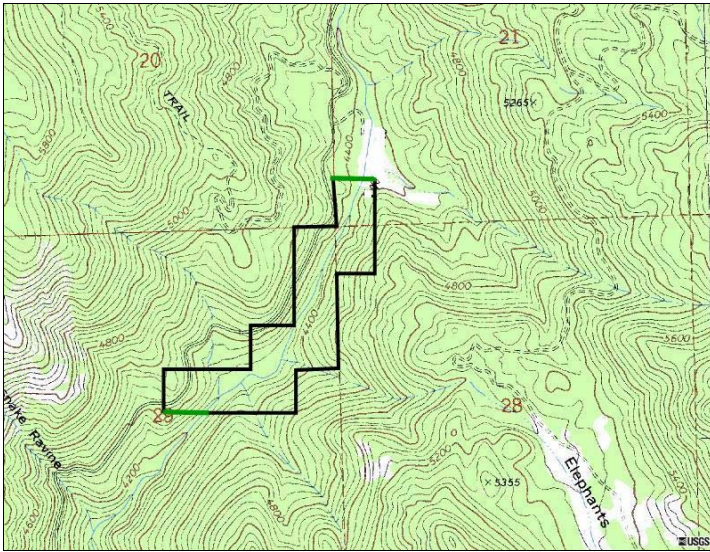
Speaking of dredging, our claim called CLM Gold falls within the Bucks Critical Aquatic Refuge. This requires that our dredging season for that claim be restricted to between August 15 and October 15. A new page will come out for the guide. Apparently the limited operating period is the result of the presence of the Mountain Yellow-legged Frog in that area.

I am going to Texas for a while and will miss the Bull Creek outing in June. When I get back I will proceed with the Affidavit of Assessment Work (AAW) forms and county tax payment for all of our claims. This process will culminate in our filing the Maintenance Rental Fee Payment form at the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). These three procedures will be documented and submitted for publication after the Bull Creek outing.

Here is the answer to the homework from issue #281 a few months ago:

LOCATING A CLAIM – Answer.

Try to make up the Item 4 entry for the claim just to the north of the one I did (see illustration below). Any member who brings the correct entry (and their membership card) will get one free 50/50 raffle ticket at the Twain outing May 5, 6 & 7th. Here is a hint: This claim is located in sections 21, 28 & 29 of Township 2S, Range 12E, Meridian MDM and there are six (6) entries. Don't worry about the order of the entries, just so you describe it with the fewest possible and still describe the entire claim. The southernmost entry will be the part that abuts the last entry of the previous example above (see the line that crosses the claim there?).

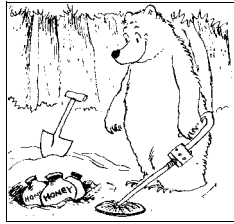


The northernmost entry will be the one in section 21.

- | | | | | |
|-------------------------|----------|-------|--------|---------|
| A.P. S1/2 SW1/4 NE1/4 | Sec. 29, | T 2S, | R 12E, | Mer MDM |
| A.P. SW1/4 SE1/4 NE1/4* | Sec. 29, | T 2S, | R 12E, | Mer MDM |
| A.P. N1/2 SE1/4 NE1/4* | Sec. 29, | T 2S, | R 12E, | Mer MDM |
| A.P. E1/2 NE1/4 NE1/4 | Sec. 29, | T 2S, | R 12E, | Mer MDM |
| A.P. NW1/4 NW1/4 NW1/4 | Sec. 28, | T 2S, | R 12E, | Mer MDM |
| A.P. SW1/4 SW1/4 SW1/4 | Sec. 21, | T 2S, | R 12E, | Mer MDM |
| | | | OR | |
| A.P. S1/2 SW1/4 NE1/4 | Sec. 29, | T 2S, | R 12E, | Mer MDM |
| A.P. W1/2 SE1/4 NE1/4* | Sec. 29, | T 2S, | R 12E, | Mer MDM |
| A.P. NE1/4 SE1/4 NE1/4* | Sec. 29, | T 2S, | R 12E, | Mer MDM |
| A.P. E1/2 NE1/4 NE1/4 | Sec. 29, | T 2S, | R 12E, | Mer MDM |
| A.P. NW1/4 NW1/4 NW1/4 | Sec. 28, | T 2S, | R 12E, | Mer MDM |

A.P. SW1/4 SW1/4 SW1/4 Sec. 21, T 2S, R 12E, Mer MDM

No one submitted anything at Twain so I guess the interest isn't there, so until next month, may your pan turn golden.



THE DETECTOR HUNT

The results of the detector hunt are as follows:

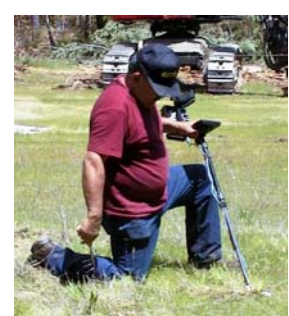
1. First place Larry Biggs. In addition to the hoard of coins that Larry found, he went home with a small gold nugget for his effort.
2. Second place Chet Chastain: Again there were a bunch of coins found by Chet. In addition to the coins found Chet won a classifier for his work.
3. Third place Dave Zadwick: Dave found a bunch of coins and for his efforts was rewarded with a nice flake of Au.
4. Fourth place was Ron Rowe: In addition to the coins retrieved, Ron received a plastic treasure scoop for his efforts.



Left is a picture of the winning participants in the detector hunt with UPI President Don Siegel, coordinator of the hunt at the far left. Left to right: Dave Zadwick, Ron Rowe, Chet Chastain and kneeling in front, Larry Biggs.

Great hunt guys, and well done.

HUNT PICTURES! Check out the intensity!!!



(Continued from page 6) **Tech Report Cont.**

bucket fillers. We found enough gold to do a seven bag of concentrates split. All of you folks that don't have the power equipment can always join in for a common operation and a split of the gold. We will definitely try something like that at each outing for those willing.

We had a great metal detecting hunt put on by Don Siegel. Don't forget Bull Creek outing coming up. Bring your used equipment you want to get rid of for our make shift swap meet. And bring your appetite for our Sunday morning Pancake Breakfast.

See ya at Bull Creek
Steve Letlow
UPI Technical Advisor

Bull Creek Outing

June 2 - 4

There are a couple of items of interest with this outing: Those of you that normally take Highway 120 out of Oakdale and continue toward Groveland and then head south to Bull should call the Highway Patrol to make sure the roads are open. I am told that there has been past weather related closures.

As indicated in a couple of other columns in this publication there will be a swap meet at the Bull Creek outing. Please be advised that this not the type of meet where you can set up booths and push your wares. *This is to be very informal and discrete. You have to have a special permit from the FS to set up booths and commercialize.*

Those of you that have frequented



Bull Creek in the past know how the FS "just happens" to give us a visit at any outing being held there checking for campfire permits, dredge permits etc.

Be sure and be there for the potluck and raffle, and the Sunday morning pancake breakfast!



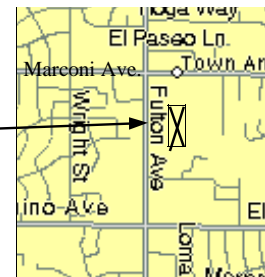
Left: Pictures of coins found during the detector hunt.

Below: A small group of Twain campers.



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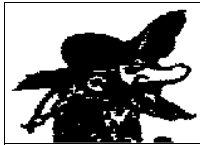
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The Raffle Cont. from page 8



Jes look at alla deez happi folks! Sorry folks this is the end of the raffle pics.



The Old Miner Sez: A lotta folks kain't unerstan how we be havin a lak o oil in our country: Well there be very simpul anser. We never bother ta check da oil. We jus didn know we waz gettin low. Da reazon be purely geografical: Our oil be located in Louisiana, Alaska, California, Oklahoma, Texas, Utah and Wyoming.
Our dipsticks be located in Washinton DC.



Left: Fools gold, mica, on the river sand. (Don't know if it'll show in black & white.
Right: Check the river out, high and moving. My estimate is that it was about 3 - 5 feet higher than we normally see it.



More of the outing!



Board Meeting

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Check out how the brush has been torn out by the river!

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.

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.

CLM GOLD CLAIM HAS USFS RESTRICTIONS !

I don't have a whole lot to say in this column this issue as it's really being rushed because of this time sensitive information that needs to get to all of you. It was said in Chet's column, Claims Corner, we just want to be sure that you see it. **"Speaking of dredging, our claim called CLM Gold falls within the Bucks Critical Aquatic Refuge. This requires that our dredging season for that claim be restricted to between August 15 and October 15. A new page will come out for the**



Bill Reboin, Ed/Pub and his pooch Samantha.

guide. Apparently the limited operating period is the result of the presence of the Mountain Yellow-legged Frog in that area."

POLITICS/POLITICIANS!

I saw an interesting commentary article in the Sunday, May 14, 2006 issue. It had to do with the state of politics at all levels, not just national, state or local. It somewhat mirrored an Old Miner Sez comment several issues ago regarding the Donkeys and the Elephants.

The commentary was written by James P. Pinkerton, a columnist for Newsday, in New York. Distributed by the Los Angeles Times-Washington Post News Service. The headline is "Real reform costs too much politically." A bolded quote from the article is "[T]he biggest problem of all is the accumulated arrogance of absolute power. There's only one cure for that deep soul-corruption: Take the power away."

How do you take the power away? You kick them out of office and put those there, into office, that will abide by the peoples will. There is the arrogance of Bush and others in his house that interpret the law as they see it, not the way it is written. On & on , not just Bush and Republicans, the Democrats as well. Some how one gets the feeling that these folks believe that they are above the law.

More Outing!

Looking for Paydirt!



The Potluck!



Left: Monument in memory of Joan Randall

The bar-b-que smoke is being generated by the big batch of burgers that Terry and Mike Schoen cooked up for the hungry miners.



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Gold Mine store is one of our advertisers. Please help them out in this search. Also remember to let them know when you shop at the store that you are a UPI member and saw their ad in the UPI newsletter.

Outings and Board meetings Cont.

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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SEE YOU AT THE NEXT OUTING!

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I HAVE READ AND FULLY UNDERSTAND THIS RELEASE AND MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

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

UPI Membership, C/O Linda Doyle
P. O. Box 1480
El Dorado, CA 95623