



Locating Gold, Gems and Minerals

*The official publication of the
Trails and Tales of UPI*

www. unitedprospectors.com

December 2008

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United Prospectors Inc. Publications ©©



HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!!

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

Hopefully everyone had a wonderful Holiday! UPI wishes everyone a healthy and prosperous New Year!!

UPI will be holding the first meeting of 2009 on January 10th in Manteca at:

ROUND TABLE PIZZA
253 SPRECKLES AVENUE
MANTECA CA
209-239-8100

Hope to see everyone there!



UNITED PROSPECTORS INC.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Don Siegel 2008

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Don Siegel

V. PRESIDENT

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Aaron Matula

SECRETARY

Rita Perry

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Sid Parrish
Chris "Kit" Perry
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Gerald Hurt, Temporary*

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ADVOCACY/

POLITICAL ACTION

Gerald Hurt

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Chet Chastain

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OUTING COORDINATOR

Christa Eastland

TECHNICAL ADVISOR

Chris "Kit" Perry

WAGON MASTER

Bob Azbill

WAYS AND MEANS

Sid Parrish

WEB MASTER

Mark Weber

Hi all and welcome to a new year, I know as always I am looking forward to the countless opportunities to get out and find the big nugget. I sure hope that you too will come out and join us. The 2009 year will bring some changes, and with your participation and feedback we can make this the best year yet. Your 2008 and 2009 board have put together some changes to the by-laws and with your approval we hope that we can stream line our organization a little. Look for the proposed changes in the next newsletter. Your vote of approval will take place at the first outing of 2009. And as for the outings we may look to put on a few less outings but hope to make them bigger and better. The targeted outings would be; Memorial weekend for Bull Creek, Genessee for the 4th of July, Twain for Labor Day, and Coulterville for the November (election) Thanksgiving outing. Now if we mix in some day trips and spontaneous get togethers we will have a full year. With the economy as tight as it is the right thing to do is cut back a little. We will continue to look for claims that will fit our groups needs and would love to hear your feedback and suggestions on making 2009 a golden year.

THE OUTING

For those of you that were there I don't have to tell you what a great job our organizing committee did in putting on a great dinner, detector hunt, and raffle. Christa, Georgia, and Denise did a lot of the planning, calling, and shopping. Countless others helped decorate and set up the hall. A special thanks to Cherylann at the Jefferies for letting us have our get together there. A few folks even got in a little mining.

I had the fortunate experience this past summer to meet a truly interesting and unique individual. He saw that I had been dredging and started up a conversation. Very pleasant and full of questions which I gladly answered, we talked for a great while. A few weeks later I ran into him again, he was out panning on his own, he had many more questions, but this time about our group. He had heard what a great group of folks we were and that anyone new into the mining world would find it a great and rewarding experience. He joined that day. It seemed that he was out walking the river most weekends and dropping by my camper every time I was out on the river myself. Well, he made it to our outing, at Coulterville. He found the biggest flake that I saw that weekend, but above that he made several new friends and was very happy to have attended. He sent me a very nice THANK YOU as well as a follow up phone call. If you did not meet him you missed out. It is with regret that I tell you that Joe Greno passed away a few weeks later while out at the same river that I met him at. He had spent the day before mining with one of his new found UPI friends. He passed peacefully while sleeping in his camper. Even though I did not know him for a long period of time, he will be missed.

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Outing & Board Meeting Schedule 2009

Please attend the board meetings as often as you can. They are an important part of the UPI organization and your input is appreciated and needed.

January 10, 2009: Round Table Pizza
Manteca 11:00am

Updates on Outings and Meetings after the January 10th meeting.

CONTACTING THE UPI BOARD

PRESIDENT Don Siegel President@unitedprospectors.com Phone: (209) 551-9802	VICE PRESIDENT Tom Eastland Vicepresident@unitedprospectors.com Phone: (925) 932-4288	TREASURER Aaron Matula Chapters@unitedprospectors.com Contact by Email
SECRETARY Rita Perry Secretary@unitedprospectors.com Phone: (530) 525-9987	WEBMASTER Mark Weber Webmaster@unitedprospectors.com Phone: (707) 449-4808	MEMBERSHIP Denise Matula Membership@unitedprospectors.com Contact by Email
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OUTING COORDINATOR Christa Eastland Outingcoordinator@unitedprospectors.com (925) 932-4288	WAYS AND MEANS Sid Parrish Waysandmeans@unitedprospectors.com (775)247-6330	TECHNICAL ADVISOR Kit Perry Technicaladvisor@unitedprospectors.com Phone: (530) 525-9987
WAGON MASTER Bob Azbill Wagonmaster@unitedprospectors.com Phone: (530) 409-4549	EDITOR CHAPTERS See Vice President	

VOLUNTEERS

Historian: Bill Reboin, (916) 362-3441
Asst. Claims, south:
Asst. Claims Plumas Co.: Johnny Lewis Jr., (530) 283-4787
Trifold: Cindy Siegel, (209) 551-9802 or cfs623@aol.com
Parliamentarian:
EIC/Pub Assistant: Cindy Siegel, (209) 551-9802 or cfs623@aol.com

Chapters

Please see Chapters above for contact information.
For Chapter meeting times please contact the representative indicated for your Chapter area.

Alameda County. *Currently open*

Auburn Chapter. *Currently open*

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; Bill Poore**, (559) 674-9756 or whp@netscape.com

Marin, Sonoma Counties. *Currently Open*

Sacramento County. *Currently 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 kitfoxchumash@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©**

The Family oriented small scale mining organization.
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NEWSLETTER©

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Denise Matula

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Don Siegel

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Attn: Insert title here

The UPI Newsletter (ISSN 1544-7774) is published 8-10 issues per year, during the normal mining season. An "Members Guidebook" is also published. Membership is \$45.00/year and includes first class mailing of the Newsletter and Members Guidebook in the United States, to all new members. New Lifetime Membership is \$450.00 and provides the same. Current Guidebooks are issued at the first of the year for new Regular and Life Memberships. For renewing and Life Memberships Guidebook update pages are a part of the newsletter printed so pages from the newsletter can be inserted into their Guidebook binder. ***Non-member, subscription only***, is \$35.00/year and includes first class mailing of the Newsletter and the non-member Guidebook, in the United States. It's a picture guide of our claims with no locations indicated. Foreign Membership is \$55.00/year and foreign Lifetime Membership is \$550.00. Foreign non-member subscription is \$45.00/year. Foreign Memberships are in U.S. dollars. Updated Guidebook pages are issued upon renewal of Membership/Subscription via the newsletter. Inserts will be provided as Guidebook information changes. Members or Non-member Subscribers purchasing Membership or Subscriptions understand that information contained in the UPI publications comes from many sources and information used is considered as reliable, however 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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*HFA = Held from above

BOARD NOTES

UNITED PROSPECTORS INC.

A Family Oriented Small Scale Mining and Prospecting Organization since 1947

President: Don Siegel, 2605 Dardanelle Dr., Modesto, CA 95355

Vice President: Tom Eastland, 172 Belle Ave., Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

Secretary: Rita Perry, P.O. Box 891, Yountville, CA 94599

Treasurer: Aaron Matula, 19131 Vaughn Ave., Castro Valley, CA 94546

Directors: Chet Chastain, Christa Eastland, Denise Matula, Sid Parrish, Bob Azbill, Chris Perry, and Gerald Hurt, temporary

November 8, 2008

Coulterville, California

Officers Present: President, Don Siegel; Vice President, Tom Eastland; Secretary, Rita Perry; Treasurer, Aaron Matula

Directors Present: Ways and Means, Sid Parrish; Technical Advisor, Chris Perry; Outing Coordinator, Christa Eastland; Membership, Denise Matula; Wagon Master, Bill Azbill

Directors Absent: Claims, Chet Chastain

Members Present: Georgia Azbill, Debbie and Terry Moore, Al Crane, Ron Coleman, Joe Greno, Steve Letlow, Bobby and Lisa Whitworth, Kevin Davis, Erick Kicki, Susie Parrish, Bill and Carol Eastland, Ralph Gregg, James Neeley, Mike Phillips, Michael Brikwedel, Leland Andrews, Nancy and Steve Foster, Darren Thomas

Minutes: Ron Coleman made a motion to accept the minutes and Chris Perry seconded. The motion carried.

Treasurer Aaron Matula: As of October 2008 the total balance was \$18,608.31 with withdrawals of \$1,192.02 in October, November we had a deposit of \$1,890.00, withdrawals of \$1,510.99 which left a balance in November 2008 of \$18,987.43.

Membership Denise Matula: Life members, 68; Other, 22; Regular, 371; Total Family Members, 461. We had a new life member sign up, David and Sonia Peterson of Gardenville, NV.

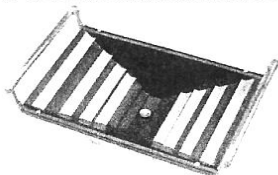
Wagon Master Bob Azbill: The bill to the port-a-potty was paid late because Bob did not receive the bill before the due date. He is speaking with the company trying to get this straightened out to prevent late charges accruing. He had to pay an emergency fee for the delivery of port-a-potties for the Coulterville Outing. He wasn't aware that members would be staying on the claim.

Outing Coordinator Christa Eastland: Christa explained there would be a detector hunt in the park at 12:00. She would also be having a Lucky Butt Contest that evening. Members and guest were suppose to arrive around 4:45p.m. so that votes could be submitted. Steve told everyone that we could vote all day.

Ways and Means Sid Parrish: Needs to submit a receipt for \$425.56 for refund and he also would like to be reimbursed for 98.6 miles one way for picking up donations. There is a new Keene Dealership opened in Coulterville, which is called Field and Trading. He is planning to donate \$200 and the owner also said if any UPI member comes in his store to purchase anything he would give them a discount. Sid will have a table set up to sell t-shirts, hats, and other UPI items.

Chapters, Tom Eastland: Tom said that he will be helping a new Chapter in Madera to get underway if they decide to have one. It was discussed that Chapters may enroll new members and forward the paperwork to membership to finish getting it processed. Denise stated that the most important thing is to make sure the paperwork is filled out completely and correctly. Emails are very important if members want to get online to look at the UPI website.

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**LECTURES, LESSONS,
& SEMINARS IN:**

**GOLD PANNING
METAL DETECTING**



Chapters, Chet Chastain presented by Don Siegel: Johnny All Staff will be helping with claims. Chet will be sending a check of \$227.89 to Aaron from what was left over from his budget. He submitted an Expense Report for Claims for period ending 12/31/2008. The year-to-date total was \$4,772.11 and had a budget of \$5000. Clippership and Salmon will be auctioned tonight. Chet will do a quick claim. Chet does need an Outing Schedule as soon as possible because he needs to submit NOIs. Also, individuals need to submit their own NOI. At Genessee it was also mentioned that in the river where members were mining an island was created when the water had receded it looked as if it was undercut. We need to be aware of what we are doing while mining.

(Continued on page 6)



Top row: Bob & Georgia Azbill, Donald & Adam Cox with Sid Parish in the middle, Tom & Christa Eastland



Bottom Row: Sid & Laurie Parish, Terry & Debbie Moore, Ken & Bobbie Sawyer

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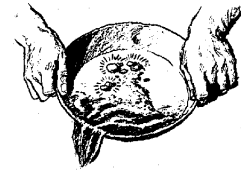
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Meeting Minutes cont'd from page 4:

Unfinished Business: At the Detector Hunt Steve had purchased Gold Miner Pins to be handed out to all of those that were participating in the hunt. Kit made a motion for the members to vote on whether to give Daniel Short our prior UPI President for service rendered life membership. Ron Coleman seconded the motion. It was open for discussion and voted on. There were 8 votes yes and 19 votes nay. It was also discussed that we should figure out a way to recognize our fellow officers and directors.

New Business: It was decided by the members and board at the meeting there will only be five outings for next year 2009. Memorial Day - Bull Creek, meeting; Fourth of July - Genessee, meeting; August - Bear River, no meeting; Labor Day or sometime in September - Twain, meeting; the final outing of the year Coulterville, meeting and 2010 election. President, Secretary, Wagon Master, and Technical Advisor will be up for election. It was also discussed getting a new claim maybe around Mariposa.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:39a.m.

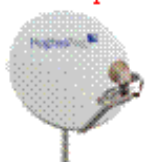


Georgia Azbill, Christa Eastland, Debbie Moore

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ROLL CALL COULTERVILLE OUTING

Bill & Carol Eastland	Michael Brickwedel
Alex Matula	Ton & Christa Eastland
Bob & Georgia Axbill	Graison Wolff
Aaron & Denise Matula	Jennifer Matula
Terry & Debbie Moore	Paul Diehn
Joe Sul	Gloria Sul
Cathy & John Meling	Sonny Sollecito
Joe Greno	Robert & Donna Temple
Art & Lucy Apodaca	Stan & Gail Webster
Donald & Adam Cox	Ross (Smokey) Smith
Lorrie Parrish	Ken Sawyer
Sid Parrish	Bobbie Sawyer
Susie Parrish	Brenda Marsh
Leland Andrews	Al Crane
Mike Phillips	Frank Hansen
Ken Liddle	Denise Mobley
James Deeley	Mike Anaoa
Dennis Mobley	Ed Ozga
Laurie Ozga	Kevin Davis
Ralph Gragg	Bobby Whitworth
Lisa Whitworth	Robert Perry
Ray & Bernice Budowich	Eric Kicki
Tony Alexander	Shirley Burk
Rosalie Sifton	Richard Owings
Robert Ramirez	Steve Letlow
Chris "Kit" Perry	Rita Perry
Ron Coleman	Sue Coleman
Don Siegel	Cindy Siegel

Pictures of the Raffle will be shown in the next newsletter.

Winners of the Lucky Butt contest were:

Joe Greno, Eric Kicki, Brenda Marsh and Ed Ozga

Thank you Christa and Georgia for organizing the Lucky Butt contest. It is always a hit at the potluck!!

50/50 Raffle Winner: Mike Ancona



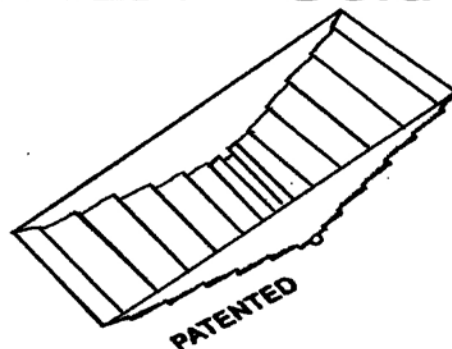
Metal Detecting Hunt November 2008 at Coulterville Park.

A lot of members turned out with their metal detectors to find the coins hidden in the park. The winners were announced at the Potluck held at the Hotel Jeffery. A good time was had by all and no one went away empty handed.



The old miner sez: Lookie thet elusive yelloh metal. Wooden it be grate ifin ya had sumpin like thet zinging yer tector?

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Winners of the Metal Detecting Hunt:

1. Eric Kicki—UPI bag and Wine
2. James Neeley— UPI Brass Coin
3. Smokey Smith - \$10
4. Tony—UPI Brass Coin
5. Lorrie Parish—\$20
6. Leland Andrews—\$20
7. Lorrie Parish—Shirt
8. Bobby Whitworth—Silver Round
9. Lorrie Parish—1 pwt gold
10. Bob—Silver dollar
11. Tony 3 PWT gold

Santa Clara Chapter News:

Everything is going well we are getting our panning demo equipment together for the Santa Clara County rock and mineral society show in April 17-19th 2009 at the Santa Clara Fair Grounds. They estimate over 2000 kids at this event. We are getting gold together for the demonstration but we need to get more sand and gravel to pan with. This is going to be a demonstration to get families interested in gold panning and the outdoors. We will be selling small pans with gold concentrates to help re-coop the money we have spent on this event and possibly some for the Chapter.

Mike Phillips, Santa Clara Chapter Chairman



Contra Costa Chapter News:

Hear 'ye, hear 'ye, hear 'ye the Contra Costa Chapter meetings will reconvene on January 15, 2009! We took a short break for the holidays and we're ready to get back to business. 2008 was an outstanding year for the Contra Costa Chapter. Our monthly meetings averaged 33 attendees! We had a lot of new faces to go with the returning veterans. We enjoyed lots of laughs, fun, and food and don't let me forget those awesome raffles. We meet the 3rd Thursday of each month and alternate between a meeting room at the First Baptist Church in North Concord and Gold Pan California in Concord (when the sun comes out). All in all it was a very good year for the Chapter and I'd like to give one last shout out to all of you that helped! We could not have accomplished any of it without your help!. We hope to see more of you at the upcoming meetings this year, but, I'm going to need your help with that. We send out emails reminding folks of upcoming Chapter meetings and events, however, the email list is becoming a little dated and several emails are starting to come back as undeliverable. If you are not receiving our emails and would like to join in the fun that Contra Costa Chapter has please send me your (or a friends) email address at OzMiner@msn.com or call me at 925-706-8193 and I will add you to the mailing list. You do not have to be in Contra Costa county to participate.

While it will be difficult to top 2008 we have many plans already for 2009 including monthly meetings, several BBQ potlucks, our 4th Annual Contra Costa Outing, gold recovery demonstrations, big raffles, panning contests, movie nights, and more! The January meeting will include a White Elephant gift exchange. Bring any new (or slightly used) wrapped gift (re-gifts encouraged) and join in the fun. There will also be a raffle (\$1.00 a ticket or 6 for \$5.00) with over \$500 in prizes and refreshments! Thanks for your support of UPI. Here's to a healthy and prosperous New Year with lots of gold in your pan, Ed Ozga, Contra Costa Chapter Chairman.



<<<<<< Shirley
takes home a cool
\$200+ dollar raffle.

Bobby presents
Dominic with a
whopping nugget >>>



<<<<<< 3rd Annual
BBQ Potluck Meeting
at Gold Pan California

Micki picking up her
1st place Nugget >>>>

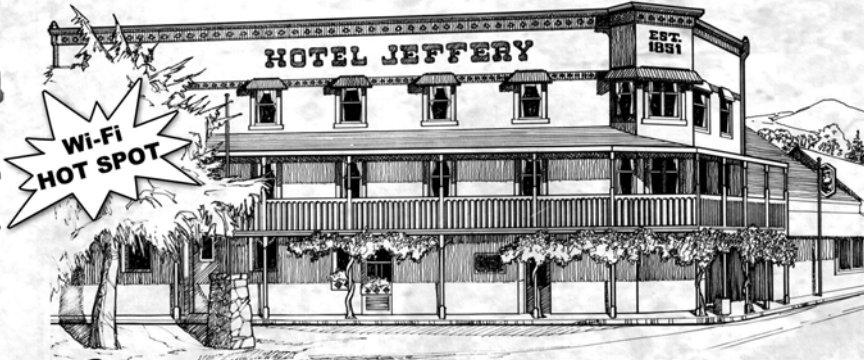


<<<<<< 3rd Annual
PiPi Valley Outing

Contra Costa Chapter
Meeting >>>>>>>



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Above: Rita Perry checking off voter names.

Bob Azbill casting his vote >>>>>>>



Above: Ken Liddle and Kathy Melling casting their votes while Georgia Azbill helps out.

The voting was a huge success, with many members casting their votes and others sending in their absentee ballots. Positions up for election were Vice President and Treasurer and five Directorships. Winners: VP = Ed Ozga, Treasurer = Aaron Matula
Directors: Steve Letlow, Jim Madden, Georgia Azbill, Ron Coleman, Mike Brickwedel



<<<<<<
Don Cox casting his vote while Adam looks on.

The old miner sez: Lets socit tooem!!!



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Cont'd from page 2:

If you want to arrive a week or several days before the outing, please go for it. If there are any exceptions, we'll let you know via the newsletter, or by email!

* **Indicates** that there is currently a Board meeting scheduled for the outing, however it may be subject to change after discussions at the first couple of Board Meetings in 2008. If you want your input heard on where and when Board Meetings should be held, be pre-

Terry Schoen
Area Supervisor



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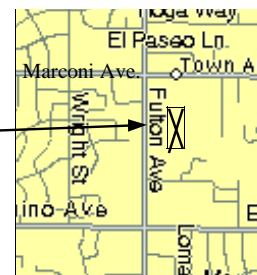


Members gathered at the bar after the Potluck and enjoyed good company, music and dancing.

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SEE YOU AT THE NEXT OUTING!

ISSUE # 302 6-8

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UNITED PROSPECTORS INC.
P. O. Box 278016
Sacramento, CA 95827-9998
Web site: www.unitedprospectors.com



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 one 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: (Please Print) _____ **Phone** (____) _____ **Age** _____

Address: _____ **E-mail Address:** _____

City: _____ **County** _____ **State:** _____ **Zip code:** _____

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 services 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 un-known 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 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:

(Please allow up to 4 weeks for processing.)

United Prospectors Inc.
P. O. Box 278016
Sacramento, CA 95827-9998
Attn: Membership

For UPI use only: Date _____
Member No: _____
Check # _____ \$ _____
Exp. Date: _____