



Locating Gold, Gems, and Minerals

The official publication of the

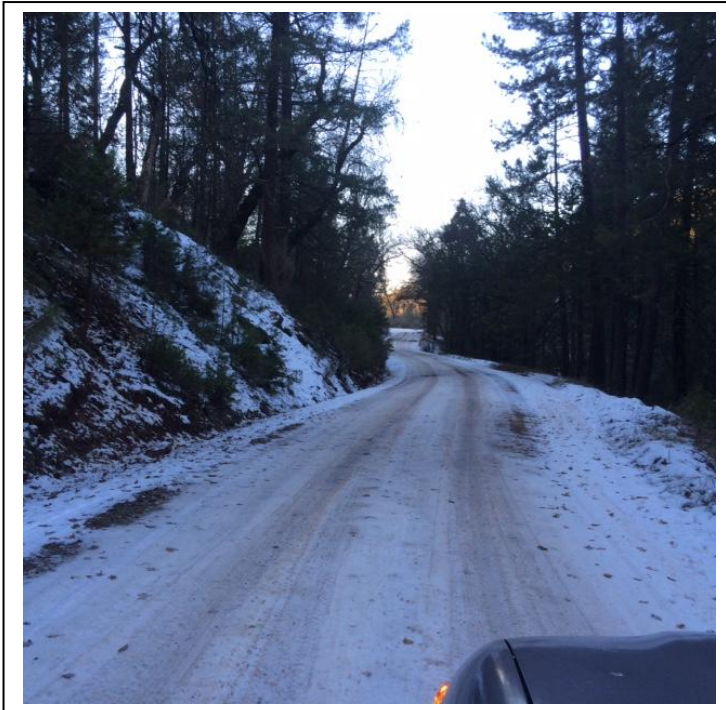
Trails and Tales of UPI

www.Unitedprospectors.com

January 2016

No. 337 Vol. 1-16

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A Beautiful New Year's Day at Bull Creek. FYI, the water is flowing!



**Hope your Holidays were Merry and your
New Year is Bright**

**THE 'OL MINER SAS THE DEM
DAR OUTIN' SKIDUAL WILL BE AVAIL
ON-LIN IN FEB AN NXT NEWLETER**



CONTACTING THE UPI BOARD

DIRECT ALL MAIL TO:

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<p style="text-align: center;">CLAIMS MANAGER Mike Hammond MJH75@aol.com (443) 564-2865</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">OUTING COORDINATOR Vacant</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">WAYS & MEANS Vacant</p>

VOLUNTEERS

Advocacy/Political Action: Laurie Ozga (925) 706-8193 or OzMiner@msn.com
Historian: Bill Reboin (916) 362-3441
Publication/Newsletter Assistants: Cindy Siegel (209) 567-2370 or cfs623@aol.com and Laurie Ozga (925) 706-8193 or OzMiner@msn.com
Technical Advisor: *Currently Open*
Wagonmaster: Bob Azbill (530) 409-4549 or Robert.azbill@yahoo.com
Webmaster: Mark Weber (707) 449-4808 or mark.weber@sbcglobal.net

CHAPTERS

Contact the chapter chairperson for meeting information.

Alameda County: *Currently open*

Auburn Chapter: *Currently open*

Contra Costa County: *Chairperson; Ed Ozga, (925) 706-8193 or OzMiner@msn.com*

Fresno, Kings, Madera and Merced Counties: *Currently Open*

Marin, Sonoma Counties: *Currently open*

Sacramento County: *Currently open*

San Joaquin County: *Currently open*

Santa Clara County: *Currently open*

Stanislaus County: *Currently open*

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

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LOCATING GOLD GEMS AND MINERALS©

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 Production of Guidebook - *Cindy Siegel*
 Subscriptions/Membership/Circulation -
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 UPI Business *Don Siegel*


Direct all mail to:

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The UPI Newsletter (ISSN 1544-7774) is published 5-6 issues per year, during the normal mining season. A "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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UNITED PROSPECTORS INC.

MESSAGE FROM YOUR OFFICERS



**President
Don Siegel**

Hello everyone, I hope you all had a great holiday season. As we head into a new year, we will face even more challenges than the previous year. We are currently under attack from EPA, USFS, and Fish and Game. The most important thing you can do is to educate yourself on the issues and your rights. You can keep yourself up to speed by visiting the websites of the organizations that are fighting for our freedoms. I know it's not always easy, there's a lot of information out there, but, folks like AMRA, Western Mining Alliance, and PLP are fighting the fight and need our support. AMRA is a good place to start. AMRA has a website and a facebook page, with postings almost every day.

Within our own organization we face challenges as well. For the past 10 years we have operated with little or no change to our board. Don't get me wrong I enjoy leading the organization and it has been a fantastic learning experience. However, when you look at organizations like ours you normally should see that there is a constant change of board members, which not only helps to bring new ideas but, also creates new energy. As we work our way into 2016 we, as a board, will be looking at some changes. I don't have any idea what all those will include, but, we hope to find a way to create a situation that will benefit everyone.



See you soon,
Don

+++++

Hello all, hope you all had a Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and that you have a great New Year ahead of you.



**Vice President
Ed Ozga**

The Coulterville pre-Thanksgiving Feed was just fantastic! Once again we had a great turnout. I'm sure all that were able to make it had a good time and will tell you that folks really did a great job on the pot-luck dinner. The turkeys and ham supplied by UPI were delicious and the pumpkin pies were lined up as far as the eye could see. I truly enjoy the camaraderie of all the outings, especially this one.

Do me a favor. Take a minute and think back to all the good times you've had with UPI. Whether it was sitting around the campfire, eating pumpkin pie, finding that elusive yellow metal, or winning it in a drawing, I think you can say you had a great time.

Now, stop and think for a minute, what if that were all over? What if there was no UPI? What if there was no campfire, no camaraderie at UPI outings, and worse, no drawings!

A board member recently remarked to me, "You know when I signed up, I didn't know it was for life". This is just an example of the many issues that need to be addressed as we move into yet another year of pretty much the same board members having to keep UPI alive.

You can give me a holler at 925-706-8193 or OzMiner@msn.com.

May there be gold in your pan, Ed.

PLP 2015 YEAR-END SUMMARY

Public Lands for the People have accomplished a lot this year and we are looking forward to more gains for our rights in 2016. Let's review the past year:

On January 12, 2015 Judge Ochoa ruled in PLP's favor regarding Federal Preemption, overriding the State's blanket prohibition on suction dredge mining. Here is what the court ruled:

On their motions for summary adjudication the Court finds there is no triable issue of material fact on the issue of Federal Preemption and that as a matter of law and in actual fact that the States extraordinary scheme of requiring permits and then refusing to issue them whether and or being unable to issue permits for years stands as an obstacle to the accomplishment of the full purposes and objectives of Congress under Granite Rock and a de facto ban Material facts 1 5 Kimble Material Facts 1 6 PLP.

This was a major win; however, the Judge did not give us injunctive relief due to the pending California Supreme Court review of the Rinehart case. Judge Ochoa had previously relied heavily on the Rinehart case for guidance in his court. Meanwhile, the State has continued to cite miners in light of the Judge's ruling.

PLP then teamed up with The New 49er's and WMA to file for a permanent injunction against the State. Judge Ochoa denied that injunction and we are appealing. We are headed back to court on January 20, 2016 for oral arguments on our other causes of action regarding the EIR process and the 2012 California dredging regulations. We would hope the court does the right thing and throws out those regulations and the whole EIR. This case is important because what happens in California tends to affect other states.

PLP's Northern Director, Clark Pearson, has been working with the Federal Defenders office to defend John Godfrey, who was cited for, God forbid, running a sluice box in a stream. The New 49ers legal fund helped with an Amicus Brief at the district court level. So far, we have gotten 3 of the 5 counts reversed and dismissed. PLP is currently in the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals representing Mr. Godfrey to have the last two remaining counts reversed on due process grounds. This case will help all miners in the western United States on the key issues of State and Federal Clean Water Act exemptions and on the due process afforded a miner.

PLP is working with the Public Defender's office in California's Nevada County to defend a dredger who was cited for dredging without a permit. We are optimistic this case will be dismissed in 2016. The most exciting news is that we have teamed up with the Minerals & Mining Advisory Council to get all mining districts up and operational. To that end, we have a whopper of a Federal mining bill ready to be delivered to the House floor. This bill, titled "Minerals and Mining Regulatory Reform Act - A Clear Path Respecting Mining Rights" can be read by going to www.mmacusa.org. We think you are really going to like this bill. Also, we encourage all miners to find their bylaws and organize their traditional Mining Districts. For assistance you can contact Scott Harn at the ICMJ at (831) 479-1500 or Clark Pearson with MMAC/PLP at (530) 273-0420.

PLP takes pride in knowing we are actually involved in court proceedings defending miners and actively involved in legislation that will keep us from having to defend our granted rights in court in the future.

Thank you for your continued support! We could not do what we do without the mining community on our side. And remember, let's take it back and KEEP IT! Walt Wegner, President PLP

Membership News

Hello UPI!

On behalf of the Officers, Directors, and current Membership I'd like to acknowledge and welcome our newest UPI Members:

David Taylor, Discovery Bay, CA
Dennis Grudzielanek, Rohnert Park, CA
Louie Ettlin, Fremont, CA
Robert Hahn, Reno, NV

Wes Palade, Paradise, CA
Steven Sherer, Rancho Cordova, CA
Bob Frew, El Dorado Hills, CA

You've joined an outstanding fun bunch of gold and gem seekers. We look forward to meeting you in person at an outing and on the claims.

A BIG Thank You to our renewing members! It's great to see so many friends stay active and continue to support this great club.

Other membership news:

Happy New Year UPI!

Time sure does fly by and we are already into 2016. I hope all of you had a great Christmas and a safe ringing in of the New Year.

I'm looking forward to the board meeting in January. There's much to talk about and plan for this year's events. You know our club can't function without volunteers. So if you have time and would like to help out, just contact myself or another board member. We'll be glad to talk to you about what you can do to help this great club keep going.

Reminder: Do you have a Change of Address, E-mail, or Contact Info? If so, please send me your new information. Without a current mailing or e-mail address you might not get your newsletters or have access to the UPI website. So, drop me an E-mail, find me at an outing or Chapter meeting, or send me a note via regular mail.

Thanks for your support,

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

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Reminder:

California fire permits expired at the end of the year. You can get your 2016 fire permit by watching the video and taking a small quiz at the following site:

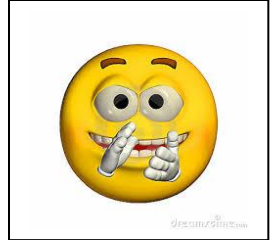
<http://www.preventwildfireca.org/Campfires/>

THANKS SO MUCH

This month's shout out goes out to **Ed Ozga**. Aside from being the Publisher/Editor-in-Chief's best friend, Ed has been an active lifetime member of UPI for the past 16 years. Ed wears two UPI hats, one as Vice-President of UPI and the other as the Contra Costa County Chapter Chairman. Ed has held both these positions for many, many years and his contributions to UPI are countless. So let's give Ed a round of applause this month to let him know that we truly appreciate all he has done and continues to do for UPI.

Thanks again Ed, it's volunteers like you that keep this great organization going.

Editor's note: If you know of a UPI member that deserves a round of applause, please send the information to the Publisher/Editor-In-Chief.

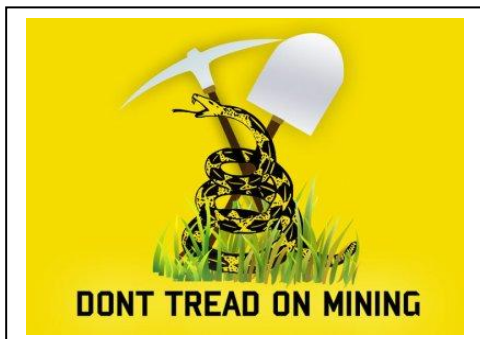


2015 UPI Outing Schedule:
Watch this space and the UPI website for the upcoming 2016 schedule.

T-SHIRTS ARE IN!

T-Shirts are \$10.00 each (and any additional mailing costs if necessary). You can reserve a shirt to pick up at a Contra Costa Chapter Meeting or shirt(s) can be mailed to you.

Contact Laurie Ozga at 925-706-8193 or OzMiner@msn.com



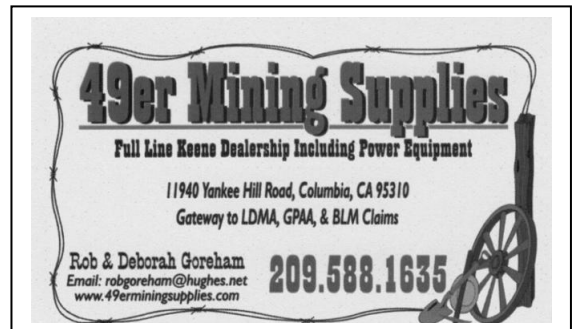
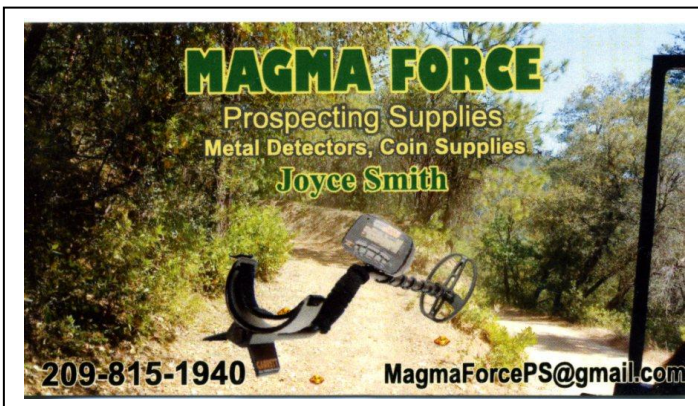
The 'ol Miner sas, try to be the person yer 'ol dog thinks you is.



And the Winner is!



The wait is over and the lucky ticket for **the beautiful 3.2 gram nugget** was drawn on Saturday, October, 17, 2015, at the pre-Thanksgiving Coulterville area outing. Each qualifying UPI member (included adults and their spouses) who attended an UPI outing in 2015 was entered into the drawing. The more outings they attended, the more entries they had in the drawing. Note tickets were not provided for attending the pre-Thanksgiving Coulterville area outing and the winner did not need to be present at the drawing to win. Thanks to all of you that had the opportunity to support the outings this year and congratulations to UPI member, **Joyce Smith**, whose lucky ticket from the Moccasin Creek outing was pulled. Joyce is pictured above with UPI Vice President, Ed Ozga.



If you have a mailing address, email change, or wish to receive your newsletter electronically, please send your updated information to Dave Williams; Membership Director, Membership@unitedprospectors.com.

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COULTERVILLE PRE-THANKSGIVING OUTING

October 2015

By Dave Williams

Those birds came out great and Dinner was fantastic! It was great to see so many members at the Coulterville Dinner in October. I want to thank everyone for bringing something and for helping with the setup, final preparations in the kitchen, and of course the cleanup at the end.

The Drawing after dinner was huge! It was fun to watch so many prizes being given out. Our canned food drive was a great success as well. Thanks to all who donated both prizes and canned/dry food products Hope to see you there again next year! .



The Ol' Miner says congrats to all 'ya winners!



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

October 17, 2015 - President called meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

Roll Call – Officers present: Don Siegel, President , Ed Ozga, Vice President, and Aaron Matula; Treasurer

Officers absent: Joyce Smith, Secretary

Directors present: Dave Williams, Membership; Mike Hammond, Claims Manager; and Laurie Ozga, Editor/Publisher-in-Chief

Directors absent: Steve Letlow, Outing Coordinator

Volunteer present: Cindy Siegel

Members present: Rick and Dolly Sauls, Janet Karrick, Kenny and Gloria Nichols, LaDonna and Jess Bagwell, Casey Smith, Russ Strickland, Paul Harris, Brandy Williams, Glenn Frisbie, Daniel Short, Sid and Lorrie Parrish, and Kathy Dean,

Motion was made and passed to accept the minutes of the last meeting.

Treasurer – Aaron reported there was \$2,200.00 in bank. A motion was made and passed to pay the outstanding bills.

Vice President – Ed had nothing to report.

Chapter – Ed reported that Contra Costa chapter is doing well and has an outing planned for this year. (*Editor's note: 2015*). If someone wants to start a chapter we'll help them get started.

Membership – Dave reported we have 259 members, 65 life, 190 regular and 4 other. Membership is at the same level that it was at this time last year. Sonora drive brought in 12 new members, 3 renewals and 2 memberships were donated to the show raffle. There were 16 new memberships received in September (including one recruited at Sonora). Highest month for renewals was in March.

Ways and Means – Don reported prize locker is empty as of today. There is some small gold left and two Gold Cubes. T-shirts available for \$10

Editor/Publisher-in-Chief – It was recommended that a budget be created for the Newsletter to cover the cost of production and mailing. Also, requested that members submit articles and pictures for newsletter.

Secretary – Joyce was not present, no report. (*Editor's note: Laurie volunteered to take minutes*).

Claims – Mike reported that UPI has all the claims that we had last year and is currently looking at a new claim. The issue regarding the Barnes' claim to our Genesse II claim is still outstanding and there is a court date scheduled in February. He reminded members to help keep claims clean and report any excessive garbage clean up needed to him. He also reminded members that we added Burnt Stumpy (20 acre) claim last year.

Old Business – No discussion.

New Business – If available, Don will reserve the same hall for the Coulterville pre-Thanksgiving feed next October on the same weekend as the Rebecca's pancake breakfast. There was a discussion regarding the possibility of raising the cost of dues and of doing fundraisers. Motion was made and passed to table these discussions until January meeting when we will have operating costs available. Dave reported that we are in the process of updating the Claims Guide.

Meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

Members Bulletin



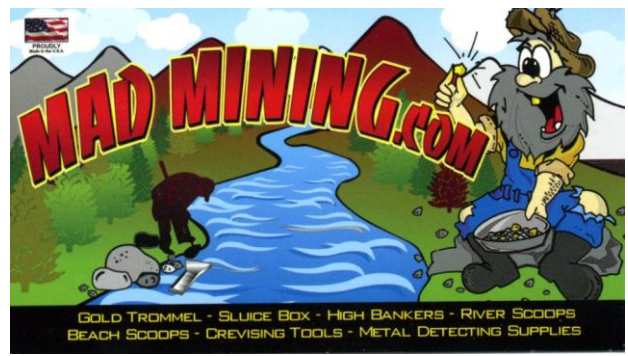
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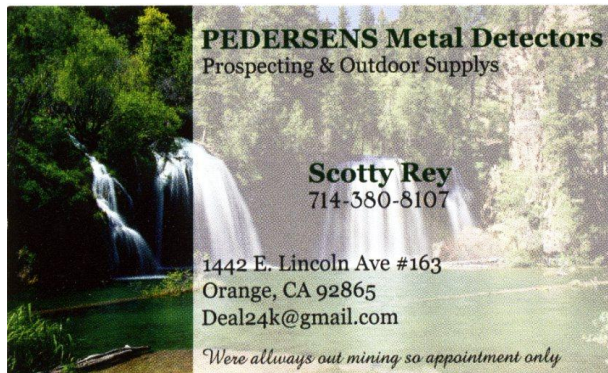
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 them out. Thank
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Members Bulletin Continued

If anyone has anything they would like to list for sale in the newsletter please contact Laurie Ozga at OzMiner@msn.com or at 925-706-8193.

NEWS JUST IN!

Now is your chance to ask Prospector Anonymous questions yourself!

You can reach Prospector Anonymous at the following email:

prospectoranonymous@yahoo.com

Get your questions in now before it's too late!

First annual UPI Board meeting is January 23, 2016 in Manteca, CA. Contact Editor for further details.

FOR SALE: LDMA Lifetime Membership only \$2,000.00. Regular price is over \$4,000.00. I have had this membership since the 80's and can't use it anymore. Contact Art at: Gldfind1@gmail.com or 209-761- 3533.



Dear Members:

While pursuing your outdoor endeavors you may be challenged by a representative of a governmental agency or public servant regarding the legality of your activity in the area. Know what to do by having your PLP Orange Card with you. Contact Laurie Ozga at OzMiner@msn.com or (925) 706-8193 if you don't have this card.

Laurie Ozga



Dear Prospectors:

The Lake Don Pedro Gold Chain Lions Club wishes to thank your members for contributing over 340 items of canned and packaged foods to our annual Christmas food and toy give away to needy families in our area.

Your donation is very much appreciated.



Sincerely yours,

Ellie Daste
Club Secretary

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HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL AT THE NEXT OUTING





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ISSUE #337-1-16

January 2016

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

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____ UPI Member # _____
(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