



# Locating Gold, Gems, and Minerals

The official publication of the

## Trails and Tales of UPI

[www.Unitedprospectors.com](http://www.Unitedprospectors.com)

June 2014

No. 330 Vol. 5-14

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**"GREAT TIME" at the  
Bull Creek Claim - May 2014**

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**HOPE TA SEE YA AT DEM NEXT DAR OUTIN' @ GENESEE**

# BULL CREEK WINNERS



see page 10 for more pics...

Ed Ozga -  
Mike Hammond -  
Dale Martin -  
Alex Dibrowa -  
Lori Dibrowa -  
Dave Williams -  
Dan Jordan -  
Paulette Martin -  
John Larribeau -  
Paula Roderick -

2.0 Nugget & Indian Figure on Amethyst  
1.2 Nugget, .2 Nugget, .1 Nugget, Maddox, UPI cord w/rope, Soaker Hose  
.7 Nugget, .6 Nugget  
14" Pioneer, Finishing Pan, #12 Classifier  
.1 Nugget  
.1 Nugget, Pack Shovel, & Bamboo Mat  
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## 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*

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# UNITED PROSPECTORS INC.

## MESSAGE FROM YOUR OFFICERS



**President  
Don Siegel**

Hi all, hope things are well with you and your family. Well the Bull Creek outing was fun for those that were able to attend, but our attendance is way down with only 16 folks finding their way to the claims. We had perfect weather, with a great potluck, and fun raffle. Now if this low attendance continues it makes it very hard as a board to put good outings together. The Genesee outing is coming up and I am hoping to see a lot of you out there. The creek on this claim is fed by a reservoir and the northern part of the state is not as severely impacted by the drought as we are here in the center of the state, so water is available. Come on out, there will be some cool raffle prizes including lots of gold and a sluice box or two.

AMRA and PLP are very busy fighting the fight to restore dredging as well as holding meetings with our forest service officials regarding road closures. As claim owners we are to be allowed access to our mining claims, and at this time many claims are gated. With all that said there is a need for funds. Our UPI board has sent PLP a donation (\$1,000) to aid in the fight. Anyone that has worked in the court system knows how the costs can add up, so now is the time to pitch in and help. Any amount will help.

Look forward to seeing all of you out and about. Don



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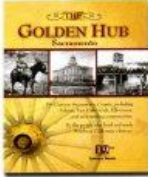
Lucky for me I was able to make it to the outing at Bull Creek last month. There was a very small turnout, but was still a lot of fun. When I showed up at the outing Don asked if I was interested in going to look at a new claim and I said you bet! About six of us went to check it out. We drove about 15 minutes from Bull Creek and stopped at the claim. It was a dry creek on bedrock AWESOME and although no water that was ok. Dave and I loaded three buckets of dirt, ran it through a sluice and found some fine gold. Don was lucky and pulled a few pickers. Sure hope to pick up this claim in the near future. If you were not at the outing you missed out and we hope to see you the next time.



**Vice President  
Ed Ozga**

The year is moving quickly and this coming outing at Genesee is our last outing of the summer. The Coulterville pre-Thanksgiving outing will be upon us before we know it. Voting will take place at Coulterville for Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, Publisher/Editor in Chief, as well as Membership, Claims, and Ways and Means Directors. As you can see, we are in serious need of folks to step up and help. If you can help out your organization, give me a call and we can discuss the different duties involved. Without volunteers, this organization would not have survived since 1947.

Hope to see you at the Genesee outing and may there be gold in your pan, Ed  
(925)706-8193.



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**Update from AMRA, American Mining Rights Association**  
**Web: [americanminingrights.com](http://americanminingrights.com)**

Greetings UPI,

Recently, we met with Congressman Jeff Denham's office and shortly after that meeting, we met with Congressman Tom McClintock's office over the gates (28 so far) installed on the perimeter of the rim fire burn area which is blocking thousands of miners as well as public land users from their lands and claims. This land encompasses over 265,000 acres of public lands. Both have agreed to take on this issue on behalf of the miners and public land users. We applaud both men for listening to us, and working with us on a resolution.

As most of you probably know, we sent a very detailed demand letter to Supervisor Skalski on March 26th demanding answers and access, such as (these are not all the questions):

Why is tax payer money being spent on gates to lock us out of our lands?

How are the federal funds being allocated for the fire remediation and how specifically are they being spent.....down to the dollar?

How many gates have been installed, why, and how many more along with their exact locations are going to be installed and for what purpose?

If it is under the guise of "safety" explain in detail what safety issues are exposed.

Why are millions being spent on trucking in boulders to line miles of public lands blocking access to claims, mining areas and camping areas?

What safety issues are raised by leaving an open meadow for people to camp in or blocking access to a creek for the purpose of mining? (continued on page 7)

## **Contra Costa County Chapter News**

Sign-up now to attend the **9th Annual Contra Costa Chapter Outing**. Our last eight annual outings have been a roaring success and this years' outing has some extra special activities planned. Activities include a metal detector hunt including gold coins, cash, and prizes; free morning coffee; prizes all day; bingo for gold; a spaghetti feed, and more surprises! There's also winner take all duck races (yes ducks), raffles, and special activities planned for the kids.

This year we have the entire private group campsite reserved at Bear River in Placer County, CA for **7 Nights from Thursday, September 18th to Thursday the 25th**. Motor homes and trailers are allowed (over 30' not recommended) and there are also great tent sites! This is dry camping, there are outhouse style potties, and no hook-ups are available. Shopping is nearby.

The charge for the week (or weekend only) is \$30.00 or \$10.00 for Saturday use and you must have a reservation to attend. Please contact Laurie at [OzMiner@msn.com](mailto:OzMiner@msn.com) or 925-706-8193 to reserve a spot. This is a gated campground, with no gate keeper, so you need to make a reservation, because you will need the combination.

Sign up now because reservations will go quick! Please note that all reservations must be paid in advance.

May there be gold in your pan, Ed Ozga, UPI Contra Costa Chapter Chairman,  
[925-706-8193/OzMiner@msn.com](mailto:925-706-8193/OzMiner@msn.com).

## From our Claims Director, Mike Hammond

Howdy everyone. The weather is turning great for prospectors of all areas and ages. Although we are experiencing drought conditions all throughout California, this is huge for us gold seekers. Rivers and streams otherwise too deep and swift are reduced down to trickles, revealing areas that haven't been worked in years. I'm not sure about all of you, but for most weekends from now till the first snow, you'll only be able to find me on many of our claims and rivers close by. I'm planning trips to the hills past Coulterville, Genesee, Bull Creek, Moccasin, the Yuba, the American, Bear River, and beyond! I've always been a treasure seeker, metal detectorist, avid arrow head collector and mineral hunter, gold prospector, miner, and always on the lookout for treasure of all types. I've been fortunate to get to many amazing places searching for those treasures: the beaches of Hawaii, Vietnam, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Georgia, Delaware, Texas, Nevada, California, and many other places.

The Bull Creek outing was a great time. There were campfires every night which folks gathered around telling tales of gold, adventures, and other extraordinary events. I was able to meet many UPI members and get some good prospecting in as well and found some good color in my pan. The Covered Dish on Saturday had a great array of amazing food. The raffle was full of nuggets, sluice boxes, tools, coins, even a potted sunflower plant. The weather was perfect and the water was flowing in the creek that let many sluice boxes reveal their gold. There was even a human-powered washplant-highbanker combo. With Bull Creek being such a fun time, I'm definitely looking forward to our June outing to Genesee and hope to see many people there!

UPI is an amazing group with all types of diverse people and experiences. I've been very fortunate to meet a multitude of those people, each having their own stories and friendly attitudes towards all. One such person who I only knew for a short time, but who instilled a lot of great advice and hints on life was Jim Madden. Even with his passing, time has shown that his spirit, his ingenuity and passion, his caring, and amazing circle of friends and tremendously close family continuously shows was a great person he was.

There are big plans of growing UPI in the near future. We are getting ready to file on a new claim in the Coulterville area. Initial diggings and prospecting is showing great potential for the claim and the area. Just several buckets revealed a multitude of fines, several flakes, and even a small nugget! That was just for an hour or couple of easy digging. The bedrock in the test areas was only about 6-8" deep, and although it was a dry creek, there was plenty of shade. This area has a lot of promise, and even is located very near to where Tom and Cindy Massie recently filed a claim of their own. Hopefully, we'll have it claimed and the information and directions sent out soon. If you get out to our claims and see anything or have anything you want to share, please contact me. Even if you get out and find some gold and just want to share your stories. I'm in the process of keeping our claims current and a great place for everyone to use. Until then... get out there, enjoy the weather, the nature, the people, and find your own share of the AU!

Cheers, Mike





**update from AMRA, American Mining Rights Association article continued from pg 5;**

What safety issues are raised by leaving an open meadow for people to camp in or blocking access to a creek for the purpose of mining?

Why is federal law (mining act of 1866 and 1872) being violated in denying access to valid claim owners? Why is the ADA (American's with Disabilities Act) being violated by placing boulders blocking handicap access to mining claims and camping areas?

There are three options for the USFS and this issue.

- 1) They provide ALL claim owners and public land users with keys to the gates.
- 2) The gates are removed by USFS.
- 3) The gates are removed by someone else.....

She (as a public employee) has elected to ignore the people and our letter so we took it to the next level....Congressional investigation and involvement. In both meetings, we were told there are many, many people who are complaining about this and it would be nice to partner up with these groups, we are going to try. The two Congressmen are setting up a one-on-one meeting with AMRA and Supervisor Skalski so she can answer our questions and address our demands in person. This is slated for some time within the next two weeks and we will keep you posted. AMRA does not give up, we don't back down and we will achieve the results.....ACCESS TO OUR LANDS AND CLAIMS PERIOD.

AMRA has decided to represent (at no cost to him) a man's case where the USFS is trying to nullify his claim he has owned since 1971. They have threatened, harassed and intimidated this man for over 5 years. In a meeting just last week, USFS told him that he does not have Riparian rights and is abusing the water (it's actually a spring) on his claim. They stated "there was an amendment passed overturning that". Um, no, there wasn't and it has been decided by the Supreme Court of the United States. They want this man's claim....badly. For what reason? We do not know yet, but I'm sure it will lead to someone, or some politician making money off of the land. We are going to fight for this man, even though he is not a member of AMRA, it is the right thing to do.

We are still working with the miner's in Idaho and the over intrusive EPA issue's over there as well as many other issues.

AMRA will be speaking at the suction dredge regulation public meeting in Sacramento on June 11<sup>th</sup> and we strongly urge everyone to attend in support of small miners. Information on when and where, along with the proposed regulations.....which are utterly absurd can be found here: <http://americanminingrights.com/dfg-meeting-over-newly-proposed-suction-dredge-regulations-june-5th-in-sacramento/>

We wanted to urge everyone to support PLP as well, they need funds to continue with the case here in California and they are running low on funds. If you have any questions, we can be reached at: [shannonp@americanminingrights.com](mailto:shannonp@americanminingrights.com)

## 2014 UPI Outing Schedule:

July 2<sup>nd</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> - Genesee

October 24<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> - Coulterville  
Area/Pre-Thanksgiving Feed



Saturday, August 23<sup>rd</sup> 10:00AM - 6:00PM

Sunday, August 24<sup>th</sup> 10:00AM - 4:00PM

**Mother Lode Fairground**

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Your entries will be judged by the public and 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place will win a gold nugget!

Please send in a picture of each entry with a description of what it is and how it's used along with your entry fee. Set up will be Friday, August 22<sup>nd</sup> after 1:00 p.m.

Public voting will end at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, August 24<sup>th</sup> and winners will be announced and prizes presented on Sunday, August 24<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m.



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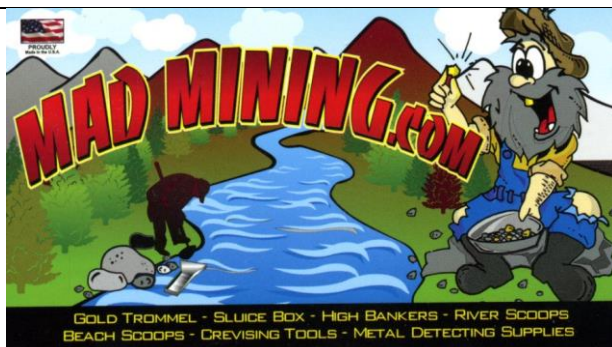
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 Rand Dill – Corte Mader  
 Ron Boley – Sonora  
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 Ray and Karen Briese – Mariposa  
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 Randy Marble – Quincy  
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 Jess and LaDonna Bagwell – Oakley  
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 Lonnie Miles – Altaville

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 Greg Voisard – Oakhurst  
 Ken Azevedo – Willets  
 Edgar Pate – Clovis  
 Dennis Mobley – Copperopolis  
 Jack Siehl – Yankee Hill



## BULL CREEK WINNERS



## Other Folks that Came

Dan Repke

Dan Short

Mike Roderick

Kevin White

# Members Bulletin Board

If anyone has anything they would like to list for sale in the newsletter please contact Cindy at [cfs623@aol.com](mailto:cfs623@aol.com) or call at 209-567-2370.

**Dear UPI,**

**Thank you very much for the Honorary Lifetime Membership to UPI. I was very touched by this.**

**Jim really loved being part of your group and I think he would be moved by your kindness to me.**

**I miss you all and hope to see you at a future outing.**

**Pam Madden**



**Dear Editor:**

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 their area. Know what to do by having your PLP Orange Card with you. Contact Laurie Ozga at [OzMiner@msn.com](mailto:OzMiner@msn.com) if you don't have this card.

Laurie Ozga

## NOTE FROM YOUR EDITOR:

Do you have anything you want to share?

If you have a personal short story, pictures from an outing, interesting articles, letters, adventures, favorite recipes, short stories, etc., please forward them to share. They will be entered in an upcoming newsletter for all UPI members to enjoy! Anything to do with gold prospecting will be most appreciated. Let's share those great finds and experiences!

Judy Farrow  
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**HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL AT THE NEXT OUTING!**





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## **ISSUE #330-5-14**

### **June 2014**

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

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Rec'd: \_\_\_\_\_  
Proc'd: \_\_\_\_\_  
Number: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Please allow 4 weeks for your application to be processed

Revised January 2012