



Locating Gold, Gems, and Minerals

The official publication of the

Trails and Tales of UPI

www.Unitedprospectors.com

March 2017 No. 342 Vol. 1-17

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FREE GOLD AVAILABLE!

Looks like a big year for gold. Here is a high water picture of the Twain Bridge by our Feather River Twain claim. With all the high waters moving things around, there should be some big nuggets uncovered. Get out there soon before somebody else gets them, but, don't forget to bring a buddy and be safe out there!

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

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Technical Advisor: *Currently Open*
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Webmaster: Mark Weber (707) 449-4808 or mark.weber@sbcglobal.net

CHAPTERS

Contact the chapter chairperson for meeting information.

Contra Costa County Chairperson: Ed Ozga, (925) 706-8193 or OzMiner@msn.com
Central Valley Chairperson: Joyce Smith, (209) 815-1940 or CentralValleyUPI@gmail.com
South Bay Chairperson: Gil Mink, (510) 449-2669 or UPI.South.Bay@comcast.net

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

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 The Family oriented small scale mining organization.
 UPI JOURNAL©/ NEWSLETTER©
 LOCATING GOLD GEMS AND MINERALS©

Publisher/Editor-in-Chief - *Gil Mink*
 Production of Guidebook - *Dave Williams*
 Subscriptions/Membership/Circulation - *Dave Williams*
 UPI Business - *Ed Ozga*

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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. FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Hi all, there's a new sheriff in town and I'm excited about this coming year. I'd like to welcome the new board members, John Lopez, Vice President; Sid Calija, Claims Manager; and Gil Mink, Publisher/Editor-in-Chief. Also, many thanks to our returning board members, Aaron Matula, Treasurer; Dolly Sauls, Secretary; Dave Williams, Membership Director. Also, a special shout out to our long time volunteers, Bob Azbill, Wagonmaster; Mark Weber; Webmaster; and can't forget Laurie who continues day in and day out assisting wherever she can to hold UPI together. Without all these folks stepping up to help out, we would not be the organization that we are today. I look forward to working with each and every one of them to wrap up some important outstanding issues as well as moving us forward into another good year.

If you thought I forgot you Joyce Smith, Central Valley Chapter Chairman, you are mistaken! You are doing a fantastic job with the Central Valley Chapter. Your chapter continues to grow every month and you have done a great job implementing new and exciting activities, as well as recruiting new UPI members.

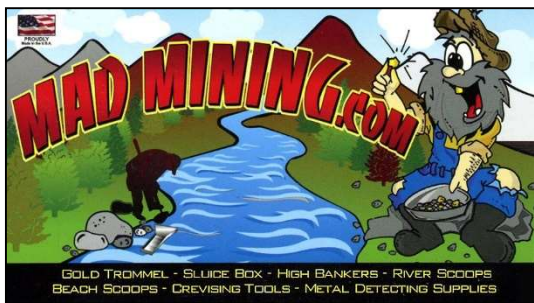
Speaking of new UPI members, welcome! I look forward to meeting you at a Chapter meeting, UPI scheduled outing, or out on a claim. In the meantime, if I can assist you with anything, give me a call at 925-706-8193.

Also, for those of you that have not heard Gil Mink is the new South Bay Chapter Chairman and will soon begin chapter meetings in Fremont, CA. I hope many of you will come to the kick off meeting to support the new chapter.

The 2017 UPI Outing Schedule is located in this newsletter. Also, see the article regarding this year's attendance drawing prize. We are planning activities for each outing and look forward to seeing many of you at the outings this year.

The first scheduled outing is at our Moccasin Creek claim the weekend of April 7th to 9th. Please be sure to RSVP to our Wagonmaster, Bob Azbill, at Robert.azbill@yahoo.com or 530-409-4549 so that we can know how many folks to expect.

Hope to see you at the Moccasin Creek outing! May there be gold in your pan, Ed Ozga, UPI President



Reminder:
California fire permits expire at the end of each year. You can get your 2017 fire permit by watching the video and taking a small quiz at the following site:
<http://www.preventwildfireca.org/Campfires/>

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING



From left to right: Bob Azbill, Wagon Master; Ed Ozga, President; Dolly Sauls, Secretary; John Lopez, Vice President; Joyce Smith, Central Valley Chapter Chair; Sid Calija, Claims Director; Dave Williams, Membership Director; and Gil Mink, Publisher/Editor-in-Chief

January 14, 2017 - President called meeting to order at 11:35 a.m.

Roll Call

Officers Present: Ed Ozga, President; John Lopez, Vice President; and Dolores Sauls, Secretary

Officer Absent: Aaron Matula, Treasurer

Directors Present: Dave Williams, Membership; Sid Calija, Claims Manager; and Gil Mink, Publisher/Editor-in-Chief

Volunteer's Present: Bob Azbill, Wagon Master; Joyce Smith Central Valley Chapter Chair; Laurie Ozga, Board Assistant

Members Present: Don Siegel, Georgia Azbill, Tina Mink, Mike Hammond, Louie Atkin, and Mark White

Swearing In – President, Ed Ozga, swore in new Officers and Directors: John Lopez as Vice President, Sid Calija as Claims Manager, Gil Mink as Publisher/Editor-In-Chief, and Dave Williams as Membership Director.

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

Treasurer – Laurie Ozga reported for Aaron. There is \$3,883.98 in the bank. A motion was made and passed to accept the Treasurers report as presented. A motion was made and passed to pay the outstanding bills.

Vice President – Ed introduced new Vice President, John Lopez, and said that John would be working with Gil Mink on starting new Chapter in Fremont.

Chapters – Ed continued to discuss Gil Mink starting up a new Chapter in Fremont, CA. First Chapter meeting will be announced at a later date. Board committed to supporting the new Fremont Chapter kick-off with \$200.00 for raffle prizes.

Membership – Dave reported we have 268 total active members that include 65 Life, 199 Regular, and 4 Advertisers. Current supplies on hand should last, pending any Guidebooks Updates. Laurie congratulated Dave on what a good job he is doing with membership.

(continued on page 10 "BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING")

Membership News

Happy New Year UPI! I'd like to start off 2017 with a shout out to our New members. Please join me in giving them a Big UPI welcome! On behalf of the Officers, Directors and current Membership I'd like to welcome and acknowledge our newest members.

Dennis Scharosch, Sacramento, CA
Diana Duffy, Palo Alto, CA
Lydia Hough, Valley Springs, CA
Jennifer Stafford, San Leandro, CA
Kathy & Jim Madsen, Valley Springs, CA

Donald Hatchett, La Grange, CA
Joseph Jolivette, Stockton, CA
George Newell, Carson City, NV
Larry Foerder, Napa, 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. We have two active chapters and one on the way and I encourage you to attend one of their meetings if you get the chance.

Let's not forget our renewing and returning members. We had many renewing members these last couple months. It's always great to see so many friends stay active and continue to support our organization. Without your continued support of UPI there'd be no club and I thank you.

Other membership news:

Speaking of a new year, the Board meeting in January was a great kick off to the new year. We have several new board members, some position changes and some incumbents. All were sworn in and eager to help continue to keep our club active and fun. Thank you for stepping up.

Well the rain is still coming down and every river has high fast moving water. This should make for some good prospecting this year, but it can also make for some sketchy situations. Let's all be mindful of possible changing river conditions, including flash floods or just quick rising waters. It doesn't have to be raining where you are for changes to occur. So keep watch of the weather and be careful out there.

Reminders:

- When renewing your membership, you must fill out and sign a new application each year.
- If you check the box for electronic news letters and notifications, you will get two e-mail reminders when your membership is due. One, 30 days prior to and another the day of expiration, if it lapses. You will also receive e-mail notifications when the newsletters are available on line.
- Have a Change of Address, E-mail or contact info? Please send me your new information. Without a current mailing or e-mail address you might not get your newsletters or other notifications. Drop me an E-mail, find me at an outing or send me a note via regular mail.



Thanks for your support,

Dave Williams

UPI Membership Director
Fools-gold49@att.net



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2016 COULTERVILLE OUTING



Delicious main dishes



Canned food drive table



Yummy deserts



Olive monster



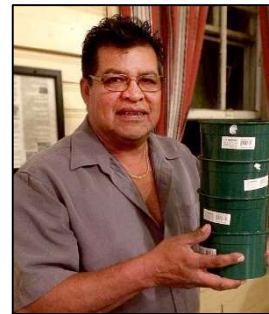
Jerry Soucy



Rob Perry



Darrell Rose



Sid Calija



Aaron Matula



Joyce Smith



Rick Sauls



Ronnie Fields



Cathy Dees



Stan Webster



Bobby Whitworth



Cathy Meling



Dolly Sauls



Dave Martinez



Mike Castro

2016 COULTERVILLE OUTING CONTINUED



Bob Azbill



Maggie Bruce



Paula Roderick



Laurie Ozga, Ed Ozga, and Mike Hammond



Just what I always wanted.



Don Siegel and Dave Williams



Don Siegel and Gretchen Tong



Don Siegel and Cal Courtnier



Don Siegel and Robert Marsh



Don Siegel and Georgia Azbill



Don Siegel and John Lopez



Ed Ozga

Happy Prospecting



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2017 ATTENDANCE PRIZE



5 oz. Silver Bar front and back

Want to win this 5 oz. Prospector Silver Bar? To have a chance, all you have to do is attend any of three qualifying UPI outings scheduled for this year. Each qualifying UPI member (includes adults and their spouses) to attend an outing will receive a ticket for a chance to win this 5 oz. Prospector Silver Bar. The more outings you attend, the more tickets/chances you will receive. All those that received tickets for attending the outings this year will then be entered in a drawing to win the 5 oz. Prospector Silver Bar. The drawing will be held at the pre-Thanksgiving Coulterville area outing in October. Tickets will not be provided for attending the pre-Thanksgiving Coulterville area outing and you need not be present to win.

Check out the 2017 Outing Schedule in this newsletter and get them on your calendars. Hope to see you at an outing and good luck!

Arthur (Art) Apodaca

1934 - 2016

Arthur "Art" "Chachi" Villa Apodaca was born in Oceanside, CA. He passed away peacefully on December 20, 2016 at his home in Merced at the age of 82. Art attended Hopeton School and various California schools before joining the U.S. Army where he served his country loyally for 6 years. The last two which he served in the National Guard where he received an honorable discharge. During the remaining years of his life he worked as a Machinist for Tri Valley Cannery. He owned and operated his own business of at Whites Electronics of California for over 40 years under the name of A & L Enterprises. He also belonged to many clubs including United Prospectors Inc., American Legion Post #83, Lost Dutchman's Mining Association, and Gateway Coin Club all of which he remained active in to his passing year.



His hobbies included gold prospecting, metal detecting, treasure hunting, and camping and hiking with his family, friends, and club members. He maintained being physically active and fit throughout his life always with his loving wife Lucy at his side. His family could write a book about his life and will never forget his countless activities, zest for life, loving all he knew, and of course his sense of humor.

He is survived by his wife Lucy Apodaca of 49 years, and numerous family members.

2017 OUTING SCHEDULE

For better planning and costs savings, please RSVP to Bob Azbill, UPI Wagonmaster at 530-409-4549 or Robert.azbill@yahoo.com at least two weeks prior to a scheduled outing and let Bob know how many folks are attending. THANKS!

April 7th - 9th	Moccasin Creek UPI Pot luck and drawing on Saturday evening.
June 22nd - 28th	Twain Pot luck and drawing on Saturday evening.
September 15th - 17th	Bull Creek Pot luck and drawing on Saturday evening.
October 20th - 22nd	Coulterville Area Annual Pre-Thanksgiving Feed Saturday afternoon Board meeting Potluck and drawing on Saturday evening.

SEIGEL SPEECHLESS



The UPI Board of Directors and Volunteers recently rendered UPI President, Don Siegel, speechless and that's a first! At the January 14, 2017, UPI Board meeting the Board was happy to present Mr. and Mrs. Don Siegel with a Lifetime Membership to UPI. If you hadn't heard, Don retired as UPI President last October after serving an intense 13 years as our President. Don will remain active with UPI while pursuing new activities with AMRA and Mining Districts. Behind every good man is usually a good woman, so many thanks to Don **and** Cindy for all you did. We did appreciate it!

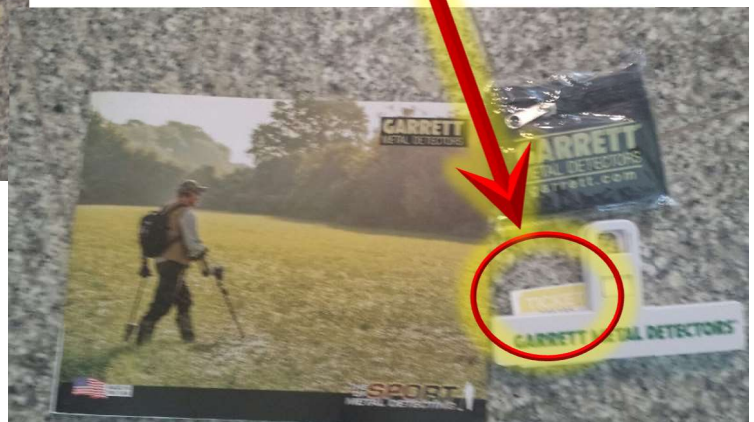
UPI Central Valley Chapter Metal Detecting Hunt April 15, 2017

The hunt will be in Lodi, CA at an, as yet, unknown location. Sign-in time is 10:30am. Hunt starts at 11:00am. After the hunt there will be lunch, prizes, and a 50/50 drawing. Entrance fee in **\$15.00** which includes your choice of either a Turkey Burger, a Hamburger, a Hot Dog, or a Polish Dog. Lunch also includes water and a variety of chips. Side dishes are welcome!!! We all love potlucks! BYOD if you more than water to drink. Entrance fee **must be paid by March 31st**.

The first 25 people who register to metal detect and pay by March 20, 2017, will receive a digging apron, magnifier glass, bag clip and a drawing ticket for a **special prize!**



**Drawing
Ticket!!!**



The 25th through 50th person who register to metal detect and pay by March 20, 2017, will receive a coin pouch, bag clip and a drawing ticket for a **special prize!**

CONTACT: Darrell Rose (209) 507-3739 or Joyce Smith (209) 815-1940

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

continued from page 4

Ways and Means – Ed reported he and Don will be cleaning out the current UPI storage locker and moving it to a smaller locker near Ed. Next board meeting Ed will report on what we need to buy to use for the 2017 outing prizes.

Publisher/Editor-in-Chief – Gil reported first newsletter sent out! He requested that members submit articles and pictures for newsletter. Laurie congratulated Gil on a job well done!

Wagon Master – Bob created and presented a proposed 2017 outings schedule considering GPAA Gold Shows and related outings we are aware of. After discussion a motion was made and passed to accept the following four UPI outing dates for 2017:

- (1) Moccasin Creek – April 7th -9th
- (2) Twain – June 22nd – June 28th
- (3) Bull Creek – September 15th – 17th
- (4) Coulterville Pre-Thanksgiving Feed – October 20th -22nd

Bob reported he has no outstanding bills. Port-A-Potties are expensive. To help keep cost down he suggested that members RSVP to him at least 2 weeks prior to an outing using email or phone call. Bob has two checks and was provided two more for Port-A-Pottie payments.

Secretary – Dolores and Laurie took notes. Laurie will continue to review Board Meeting Minutes prior to submitting to Publisher/Editor-in-Chief for publication in the newsletter.

Claims – Sid reported that as previously agreed we dropped “Willie’s Dream” claim because of locked gate and access issues. He also would like for members to let him know of any claims they are aware of to file on. UPI currently has 22 claims and looking into expanding.

Old Business – Discussion was held regarding the outstanding issue of the Barnes’ claim to our Genesee III claim. The court date scheduled for December 2016 was moved to February 2017. The dispute still continues and UPI is continuing to address. A motion was made and passed to look into trading the “Watch” for gold to be used for outing prizes. Proposal was made to table acquiring a 2017 Non Profit Raffle Permit until further research is completed. A motion was made and passed to sell “Squirrel Creek” claim.

New Business – UPI awarded Don and Cindy Siegel a Life Time Membership for many years of service to UPI. Ed reported we have a 5oz Silver bar for the 2017 Attendance Drawing. Members will receive a ticket for each UPI outing attended and Silver Bar will be awarded at the Coulterville Outing. Decision was made to change banks so it is convenient for board members to make deposits. A decision was reached to once again recruit members at the Delta Gold Digger Gold show in Sonora, August 19th and 20th. Our booth at Sonora Gold show will be “Free” if we can supply volunteers to help with set-up and tear-down. Ed will contact Chapters for volunteers. A motion was made and passed to offer same membership deal as last year at the Sonora Gold Show. New members that sign up will receive an extra 3 months of membership for a total of 15 months. This also applies to any current member that renews their membership at the Sonora Gold Show. Discussion was held into possibly moving current mailbox. Further research is being done. Joyce, Central Valley Chapter Chair, will be providing additional information on upcoming “Swap Meet” for March.

Meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

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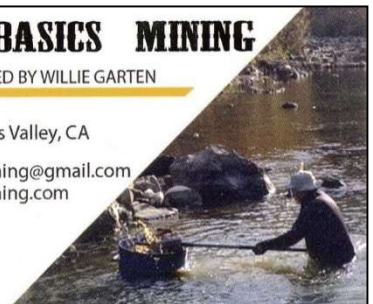
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UPI Contra Costa Chapter 12th Annual Outing at Bear River

Mark your calendar now and sign-up to attend the **12th Annual UPI Contra Costa Chapter Outing at Bear River** private campground area. Our last 11 annual outings have been a roaring success and this year's outing will be no exception! Outing is **Thursday, May 18th to Wednesday the 24th (6 nights)** and cost is **\$35.00** and must be paid in advance.

The Contra Costa Chapter is providing:

- **FREE fun!**
- Prospecting for **FREE** gold
- **FREE** morning coffee
- **FREE** daily attendance drawings (all day-everyday!) including gold nuggets!
- Friday morning **FREE** breakfast
- Duck races (\$1.00 a duck, winner takes all)
TBD BY WEATHER & VOLUNTEERS
- **FREE BINGO** for gold, Friday at 7:00 p.m. with **FREE** popcorn
- **FREE** activities for the kids
- Saturday metal detecting hunt (10 a.m.) (\$10.00 entry fee - **you must be pre-registered** - contact Laurie)
- Poker tournament
- Saturday **FREE** Lucky Duck drawing
- Equipment Drawing available **TBD**
- Other **FREE** games and prizes
- Saturday night potluck (5:00 p.m.), followed by big drawing - **Donations for the Saturday night drawing are greatly appreciated.**

Private campground area, however, normal campground rules still apply (e.g., quiet hours, **dogs remain leashed**). **No ATV's or motorized mining equipment is allowed.** Also, absolutely **no drones and/or hoverboards will be allowed into the campground!**

Spots will go quick. **Please RSVP ASAP to OzMiner@msn.com.**

Looking forward to seeing you there. **Please call or email with questions.** May there be gold in your pan, Ed and Laurie Ozga, UPI Contra Costa Chapter, 925-706-8193.

Bear River Campground:

<http://www.placer.ca.gov/departments/facility/parks/parks-content/parks/bear-river-park-campground>

UPI South Bay Chapter

Yes, that's correct, you read it right. The planning is done, the room is reserved, the drawings are ready, the sweets and coffee will be ready, so all we need is you to join us for the **first**:

UPI South Bay Chapter Meeting
April 6th at 6:30 p.m.
Mission Valley Church
40546 Mission Blvd., Fremont, CA

Big drawing planned includes Gold Nuggets and lots more! Please bring a snack to share or something to donate to kick off the first drawing. It's not mandatory, but, it will make our first meeting that much more fun.

You do not need to be a UPI member to attend, so bring a friend!

Contact: Gil Mink, UPI South Bay Chapter Chairman: 510-449-2669 or UPI.South.Bay@comcast.net

Meets 1st Thursday of the Month



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ISSUE #342-1-17
March 2017

Membership is open to anyone interested, 18 years or older. One membership includes a spouse & children under the age of 18.
All memberships are good for a period of 1 year and will expire on your anniversary date.

Membership Dues: (check your preference below) Number of qualifying family members _____

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I hereby apply for membership/renewal with United Prospectors, Inc. ("United Prospectors"). I understand that United Prospectors and its agents do not provide goods or services for my activities including, for example, mining equipment or supplies, lodging, transportation, food service, etc. United Prospectors is not liable for any negligent or willful act or failure to act by providers of such goods or services during my activities. I acknowledge that there may be certain risks involved with activities as a member including, but not limited to, rugged or uneven terrain, uncertain or unpredictable river currents, physical exertion for which I am not prepared, other unknown forces of nature, high altitude, accident or illness without access to means of rapid evacuation or availability of medical supplies, the adequacy of medical attention once provided, or negligence on the part of United Prospectors. I HEREBY AGREE TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR MY OWN WELFARE AND ACCEPT ANY AND ALL RISKS OF UNANTICIPATED EVENTS, ILLNESS, INJURY, EMOTIONAL TRAUMA, OR DEATH. I acknowledge that the cost of United Prospectors memberships is based upon participants executing this Release of Liability. Therefore, as lawful consideration for being permitted to participate as a member, I hereby RELEASE AND DISCHARGE FOREVER UNITED PROSPECTORS FROM AND AGAINST ANY AND ALL LIABILITY ARISING FROM MY MEMBERSHIP OR MY ACTIVITIES AS A MEMBER. I agree that this release shall be legally binding upon me personally, all members of my family and all minors traveling with me, my heirs, successors, assigns, and legal representatives, it being my intention to fully assume all the risk associated with my activities as a member and to release United Prospectors from any and all liabilities to the maximum extent permitted by law.

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

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____ UPI Member # _____
 (Renewal only)

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

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Please allow 4 weeks for your application to be processed

Revised March 2015