



# *Locating Gold, Gems and Minerals*

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

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

2009 August

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## **SUCTION DREDGING OUTLAWED IN CALIFORNIA SB670 SIGNED BY THE GOVERNOR!**





# UNITED PROSPECTORS INC. MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

**Don Siegel  
2009**

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*Mark Weber*

Hello everyone, I hope everyone is doing well. As you all know now the governor has signed into law SB670. This law stops all dredging in the state until an environmental impact is completed. It is unfortunate that the folks that wanted dredging stopped in one area of the state had to resort to these tactics to get what they wanted. The bill was pushed through with such great urgency that many of the bills supporters were not aware of the widespread effect it will have on many small economies throughout the gold country. Anytime that the words salmon and endangered are thrown in together the interest is high. So what does that mean for our future? Short term, not much, but I believe that we can still enjoy the outdoors, and our outings. We will maintain our claims, and will keep a close eye out for good claims that come up for sale during these uncertain times for miners. The biggest thing is we will continue to support those that are in the fight to get the dredging opened up again. It will happen but it is going to take a little time, so please hang in there.

As we go forward we may call for your help or support in this fight for our rights. With the signing of the SB670 I have received many calls with questions regarding UPIs response to anyone being cited while on our claims. PLEASE NOTE, YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR ACTIONS, UPI IN NO WAY CON-DONES DREDGING DURING THIS FIGHT AND YOU ARE ACTING AS AN INDIVIDUAL IF YOU CHOSE TO DREDGE. Fish and Game as well as any law enforcement officer will cite you, up to \$1000 and the possibility of jail time. This is a great time to join PLP, they are fighting as we speak to turn SB670 around.

See you all at Twain.

## VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hope you are enjoying the summer and have had a chance to get some gold. While the news is not good and **SB 670, Anti Suction Dredging Legislation was passed into law**, there is the good news that many folks in UPI rock! I can't say enough about those of you that stepped up in opposition of this Bill. To Tireless Warrior, Four Horse, Three Horse, Calling Horse, Diane, Lisa, Cindy, our volunteer envelope stuffers, and the rest of you that hit the streets in opposition of SB 670, thanks for all your hard work. For those that were able to help by sending letters, making calls, and having orange postcards signed, my hats off to you. Of the 7,171 letters and orange postcards to the Governor in opposition of SB 670, over 25% can be traced directly to UPI members! And finally, in regards to Don Siegel and his unwavering decision making and support, I ask you all to vote Siegel in 2009!

To those of you that couldn't help, I only hope that it was for reasons more than that you don't think this bill won't affect you because you don't dredge. SB 670 will set precedence for all mining in California, so please don't think that it does not involve you, it affects all of us. Please, next time you are asked to help, do what you can to assist.

Also, there were times when things were moving very quickly and decisions were made to email UPI members to get the word out immediately. Using the current email addresses on file, 36 emails were returned undeliverable. If you have changed your email address since joining UPI or have since gotten an email address, please notify our Membership Director, Georgia Azbill at [Membership@unitedprospectors.com](mailto:Membership@unitedprospectors.com). Please note that email addresses are not shared outside of UPI.

**Hope to see you at Twain. May There Be Gold In Your Pan, Ed Ozga.**

### In This Issue

Presidents Message - - - - 2	Legal Notice - - - - - None
Advocacy - - - - - - - - - -	Membership - - - - - 5&6
Board Notes - - - - 4 & 11	Mining Issues - throughout
Bulletin Board - - - - - 15	Next outings - - - - - -2
Chapters/Associates - - 7,8,9	Passings - - - - - - None
Claims - - - - - - - - - -	Pictures - - - - - - - - - throughout
Contacting UPI - - - - - 3	Potpourri - - - - - - - - - 13&14
Education - - - - - - - - - -	Roll Call - - - - - - - - - -
Events - - - - - - - - - - All over	Story - - - - - - - - - - - None
Guidebook changes - - -	Tech Report - - - - - - - - -
History - - - - - - - - - - None	The Outing - - - - - - - - - -

### Outing & Board Meeting Schedule 2009

September 4-11 Twain  
Meeting & Potluck Saturday September 5

November 13-15 Coulterville  
Meeting & Potluck Saturday September 5

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.

## CONTACTING THE UPI BOARD

<b>PRESIDENT</b> <b>Don Siegel</b> President@unitedprospectors.com Phone: (209) 551-9802	<b>VICE PRESIDENT</b> <b>Ed Ozga</b> Vicepresident@unitedprospectors.com Phone: (925) 706-8193	<b>TREASURER</b> <b>Aaron Matula</b> Chapters@unitedprospectors.com Contact by Email
<b>SECRETARY</b> <b>Rita Perry</b> Secretary@unitedprospectors.com Phone: (530) 525-9987	<b>WEBMASTER</b> <b>Mark Weber</b> Webmaster@unitedprospectors.com Phone: (707) 449-4808	<b>MEMBERSHIP</b> <b>Georgia Azbill</b> Membership@unitedprospectors.com Phone: (530) 644-5365
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<b>WAGON MASTER</b> <b>Bob Azbill</b> Wagonmaster@unitedprospectors.com Phone: (530) 644-5365	<b>EDITOR</b> <b>CHAPTERS</b>  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, Currently Open

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©

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Mark E. Weber

Subscriptions/Membership/Circulation

Georgia Azbill

UPI Business

Don Siegel

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**Modesto CA 95355**  
**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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\*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:

## NO MEETING HELD AT GENESEE: NO BOARD NOTES.

Frequently Asked Questions—Suction Dredging  
SB670 (Affects Current Permit Holders)  
Updated August 11, 2009

### Why is suction dredging now illegal in California?

SB 670 (Wiggins) was enacted on August 6, placing a prohibition on the use of vacuum or suction dredge equipment in any California river, stream or lake, regardless of whether the operator has an existing permit issued by the Department of Fish and Game (DFG). The moratorium does not apply to suction dredging operations performed for the regular maintenance of energy or water supply management infrastructure, flood control, or navigational purposes.

### When does the moratorium go into effect?

The moratorium went into effect on August 6, 2009. SB 670 contained an urgency clause, putting it into effect immediately upon enactment.

### Who is affected by the moratorium?

The moratorium affects both individuals and companies that use vacuums or other suction dredging equipment for instream mining in any California river, stream or lake. The ban does not affect suction dredging operations performed for the regular maintenance of energy or water supply management infrastructure, flood control, or navigational purposes are not included in the ban.

### What if I already have a suction dredge permit issued by DFG?

SB 670 prohibits all instream suction dredging mining, even if the operator has a permit previously issued by DFG.

### Can I get a refund of fees paid for my suction dredge permit?

DFG can only issue refunds if authorized to do so by law. SB670 does not provide this authority, nor does any other provision of law. DFG is therefore prohibited from providing refunds for 2009 suction dredge permit fees.

### When will the ban be lifted?

The ban will remain in effect under SB670 until three things occur: (1) DFG completes a court-ordered environmental review of its permitting program; (2) DFG updates the existing regulations governing the program as necessary; and (3) the updated regulations take effect. The court-ordered environmental review required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) is currently underway and DFG expects to complete the effort, including any updates to the existing regulations, by late summer 2011.

### When will the EIR be completed?

DFG is preparing a Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to conduct the court-ordered review. DFG estimates at this point that it will complete and certify the Subsequent EIR (and updates to the existing regulation, if necessary) after a series of public meetings and other opportunities for public comment and review by late summer 2011. The environmental review and regulation processes are governed by the California Environmental Quality Act and the Administrative Procedures Act, respectively. The time line is driven by the requirements of these laws.

### Why is this process going to take so long?

DFG has already begun the environmental review necessary to analyze the current regulations; this was last done in 1994. The review process will be complex and lengthy given the statewide scope of the analysis and the time that has passed since the last review. In addition to the detailed written analysis prepared by DFG in coordination with the State Water Board, the review process will also include several opportunities for public involvement, both via public meetings and through solicitation of written comments and suggestions. Initial public meetings to discuss the scope of the environmental analysis are currently being planned for November 2009 in Fresno, Sacramento and Redding. Additional details, including time and place of the meetings, will be posted on the DFG Web site, [www.dfg.ca.gov](http://www.dfg.ca.gov) as they become available.

### What is DFG doing to notify suction dredge permit holders about the ban?

DFG staff is notifying current permit holders by mail and will contact suction dredge operators in the field as opportunities arise. Information about the moratorium is available at DFG license counters and at the DFG Web site, [www.dfg.ca.gov](http://www.dfg.ca.gov). DFG has also issued a press release and is working with the media to make information about the new law widely available.

*Continued page 12*

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## 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.*

### New Members 6/22/2009-8/20/2009

<u>Name</u>	<u>City/State</u>	
Dan Ritter	Concord	CA
Mike Marinaccio	Roseville	CA
Scott W Stern	San Jose	CA
William Joe Carter	Wilton	CA
Dale & Margaret Fryxell	Brentwood	CA
Christopher Fryxell	Brentwood	CA
Robert McCord	San Jose	CA
Matt Smart	Stockton	CA
Terry Hughes	MoorPark	CA
Rick Walker	Oakly	CA
Russell Beasley	Aromas	CA
George Duicu	San Jose	CA
David W Roark	San Jose	CA
Jack Fransworth	Orangevale	CA
Kevin Mullaney	Aromas	CA
Allen Friend	Spring Garden	CA
Berton Friend	Spring Garden	CA

### Renewing Members 6/22/2009-8/21/2009

<u>Name</u>	<u>City/State</u>	
Pete Dryer	Twain	CA
EBSCO Industries, Inc	Birmingham	AL
Fossickers	Seattle	WA
Robert J Anderson	Clovis	CA
Gregory E Davis	Tempe	AZ
Emilie Andresen	Stockton	CA

Neil Greiner	Rocklin	CA
Michael & Gail McCann	Paradise	CA
Edward Bailey	Auberry	CA
Allen Sorenson	Santa Maria	CA
Rod Zook	Stockton	CA
Rex Miller	Patterson	CA
Jim Bohannon	Denair	CA
Stanley & Gail Webster	San Jose	CA
Mark E Weber	Vacaville	CA
Ted Stolting	Fernley	CA
Vic & Esther Griffith	Greenville	CA
Larry & Iris Biggs	Dayton	NV
Joe W Rowell	Strathmore	CA
Ivan & Diane Perkins	Brentwood	CA
Roy & Marti Dunston	Coulterville	CA
Nancy HitesheW	Vallejo	CA
Ralph & Beth Caldwell	Diablo	CA
Patrick Avilla	Placerville	CA
Gerald Hurt	Hanford	CA
Keith Kemp	Kanab	UT
Paul Sprenkle	Clovis	CA
Chuck Ucker	Rio Vista	CA
Tim & Kathi Obole	San Dimas	CA
Steve & Jean Dorman	Auburn	CA
Douglas Murray	Altaville	CA
Randol Thrasher	Atwater	CA
James Black	Toledo	OR
Terence Pippi	Healdsburg	CA
Anthony Alexander	La Grange	CA
Dean Fallen	Reno	NV
Merv Pate	Manteca	CA
Edgar Pate	Clovis	CA

*(Continued on page 6)*



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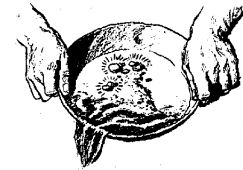
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Continued from page 5:

Brian Traylor	Hanford	CA
James Silva	Ukiah	CA
Christopher Gee	Fairfield	CA
Harold Lancaster	Fresno	CA
Jeffrey Schall	Livermore	CA
Jim Petersen	Salinas	CA
Beth Farmer	Hayward	CA
Randy Marble	Quincy	CA
Keith Lysak	Fremont	CA
Robert Marsh	So. San Francisco	CA
Michael Brickwedel	Campbell	CA
Ronald & Janice Johansen	Fresno	CA
Bennett & Jennifer Lacher	Camino	CA
Bob & Jeanne Williams	Paradise	CA
Mike Larsen	Martinez	CA
Robert & Donna Temple	Modesto	CA
Gary Phillips	Marysville	CA
Paul Diehn	Fremont	CA
Howard Scoggins	Winton	CA
Jess Bagwell	Antioch	CA
Bill & Fawn Like	Vallejo	CA
Janet Miller	Blairsden	CA
David Williams	Oakley	CA
Douglas Brown	Santa Clara	CA

**Members Up For Renewal 9/30/2009-12/31/2009**

Al Reynolds, Howard Hughes, Robert Burger, Mark Johnson, Bruce Chapman, David Kerber, Dennis Mathews, Becky & David Ferrin, Ron Coleman, Walter Block, Patrick Mums, Jerry Waggoner, Robert McGill, Kevin Swisher, George & Trish Deslover, Paul Pagni, Dean & Kristy Jean Wolf, Dennis & Trish Magby, Bill & Carol Bowman, James West, Dennis Smith, James Hammond, Aaron & Denise Matula, Phil & Shirley Coney, Jeffrey Schall, Kenneth Nordheim, Michael Valderama, Tim Conley, William & Virginia Bitz, Jerrel McBrayer, Brian Davis, James & Marlene Coursele, Raymond Romeo, Derek & Cynthia Onstein, William Gomez, Joseph Krantz, Joseph Dostal, Kenneth O'Brien, Wayne Yakura, Ken & Betty Letsinger, John Ljuba, Tom Lutrel, Gary V Nunes, Ken Austin, Robert Proehl, Robert, Urbins, John Churchill, Gary & Cecelia Crane, Roy Virchow, Robert Perry, Sluice Box, Pioneer Mining, Gold Mine, Mother Lode Gold Hounds, WPMAPMB 1193, Hi Desert Gold Diggers, East Oregon Mining Assoc., Shasta Miners & Prosp. Assoc, Erwin & Nancy Powell, Leland & Nina Brown, Robert Williams, Nancie Barker, Ralph & Joanne Gragg, Jon & Linda Evers, Steven & Kathryn Doyle, Al & Jane Bates, Donald & Brenda Porter, Will & Marilyn Lindsley, Art Basso, Ron & Susan Bassell, Georgia Murray, Dwaine Pierzina, George Murray, Dwaine Pierzina, George Friel, Rick Neet, James Lewis, James Madden, Thomas S Silva, Larry Stone, Allen Smith, Bill Sorenson, James Neeley, George Lancaster, Vern & Holli Travers/Daniels.

**Membership Director:** Georgia Azbill

Hello fellow prospectors and club members. I hope this summer season has found you thoroughly enjoying the great outdoors and of course finding gold and other treasures to add

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to your collections. Membership has been busy welcoming back renewing members and old friends and signing up many new members, some of whom hail from Hawaii to Utah and parts in between. I sometimes have an opportunity to talk to our new members & it is a joy to hear their interesting stories. Be safe out there and good luck to you all.

**WagonMaster Report:** Bob Azbill

The potties for the Genesee 4<sup>th</sup> of July outing were a little difficult to track down. However, after much research and many calls I was able to arrange to get potties for the outing. There was to be a hitch and that was that because of all their other commitments for the 4<sup>th</sup> and parades etc. the company could not deliver them. If we were to have potties we needed to pick them up. I drove up to Portola and picked up the potties on Friday the 3<sup>rd</sup> and delivered them to the claim myself. These were the Cadillac of porta potties mounted on a trailer and having flush toilets and water at the sink, paper towels and even a solar light in the ceiling. The members in attendance were impressed and made great use of them. I had arranged for the company to pick up the potties at the Taylorsville park where they had several other potties so I had asked around to see who could volunteer to pull them from the claim to Taylorsville park and I was told Ed Ozga stepped up to do so. Thank you Ed. I didn't really want to have to drive back up there just to move the potties. So again I thank you. I finally received the bill and sent off the check to pay for them. I will submit it to Aaron soon along with some other paperwork. The potties for Twain were ordered about two weeks ago and verified last week. We will not have to do the delivery our self this time. Although I did not do any prospecting myself at Genesee this outing, I saw some really nice gold being found by different methods and members. From all accounts, it was a great outing. The weather was beautiful and there were no fires anywhere near the claim. I am told that there were a number of phone calls to Don S. regarding the potties at Genesee telling him how much everyone liked the flush potty and the sink with water. I will be calling the potty company to see if we can get those potties at Twain. If at all possible I would like to see that happen. With the passing of SB 670; the Twain outing this year will be the first in memory that there will not be the drone of dredge motors lulling the Membership to sleep for the afternoon siesta. I am sure there will be Power Sluices in action and some Metal Detectors beeping around. The spirit of the miners can not be squashed by the simple stroke of a pen. Good Luck and may you always see the gold in your friends around you as well as in your pan.

CONTRA COSTA CHAPTER :

PIPI VALLEY OUTING

Many folks arrived on Thursday. Others dribbled in Friday and Saturday. The weekend was warm and sunny and the river just right for swimming. Not everyone was out mining as there were some forget me nots again this year. Last year a missing foot valve hose and this year a threaded fitting for venturi hose. Searching the truck, I could not find my screen. Had looked at it 5 or 6 times in the front of the garage and made a note to toss it in. Sunday it was still sitting in the same place in the garage. I popped in some miners moss to compensate. As I arrived Ivan and Diane were at the only phone in the canyon and one of the dredgers was on line looking for a new pulley for his air pump, the old one disintegrated.

There were a few dredges out on the river already, Al and his future son in law were down stream about 30 ft from where I set up. They came up with some nice gold from that spot. Theo was out working a spot downstream along the bank and had a nice showing of gold. I set up in the same spot as last year. Cleaning out all the sand that flowed in over the winter I hit bedrock quickly then started expanding the hole.

Saturday morning I walked upstream, hooked and released 9 or 10 trout that were in the 5 inch range.

Back at the diggings a 3 ft black rock sat on the edge of the hole I kept it in sight all the time as there would be a point where it was going to slide. The river slowly washed material from under it and I saw a shiny chrome object soon it became apparent that it was a hubcap. I was more interested in the bedrock so I ignored it until it finally slid out. Very nice it turned out to be a Chevrolet hubcap with a rusted ring on the inside. The red Chevy paint was still intact. It was also filled with rusty crusted sand and gravel. Ivan said it was from the 1940's or 50's. Ended up with a very nice bit of gold and a gold pan full of black sand that I need to screen and run in my blue bowl. The black rock eventually slid down, it was kind of pyramid shaped and proved to be a difficult task rolling it back.

Back at camp before the evening activities started we passed a card around for Rachel Dunn whose sister passed away last week. Ed and Laurie hosted a metal detector hunt. Lisa, Laurie, and Diane hid quite a bit which was quite difficult as they could not dig any holes but there was just enough loose dirt and pine leaves to make good hiding places. We turned up metal planes, hot wheels, and other items. When the buzzer went off it was clear that there was much more out there than recovered. Another round of detecting, I switched from my MXT to the old trusty Whites 6000 and did much better as I was no longer digging the deep targets. There were quite a few marked penny's the finders received some very nice slabed coins as well as nice silver dimes that Bobby donated.

Saturday potluck produced quite a variety of food and all of it was good and very filling. The evening meeting and raffle went off and we had a lot of donated prizes including the chrome hubcap filled with rusty crusty sand and gravel. They asked why I did not want to keep it, too much stuff in my garage. Several people wanted it, Brenda and Theo bantered about who would be first at the table to claim the hubcap. Theo's ticket came up first he got the

Continued to next column:



*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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**PIPI VALLEY CONTINUED:**

hubcap. When Brenda's ticket was drawn she yelled out white elephant and Theo hid the hubcap. I hope to find out at the next meeting about the contents as Theo thinks that there is gold in that that hubcap. LOL. Other big winners included LaDonna with a 2.4 gram nugget and Bobby with a handcrafted rocker box donated by the Perkins. The evening drew to a close and everyone went their separate ways.

Sunday on the way home, Laurie is driving down the road and spots Ed's truck on the side. The cargo bar on the back of the trailer broke loose and had been dragging by a strap down the road with their new generator tied on and not a scratch on it. Bobby stopped and helped Ed get it in the truck.

Everyone had a good time at the outing, even the bees. Ed is talking about getting a group together for another trip up to Bear River.

Jim Madden

For pictures see page 8

GENESEE OUTING JULY 2009 ↓



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**SANTA CLARA CHAPTER: Mike Phillips:**

Our Chapter event on April 17-19<sup>th</sup> at the Western Regional Rock and Mineral at the Santa Clara County Fair was a great hit. We were so busy over the 3 days teaching adults and kids how to gold pan. The event promoter requested our group to attend next year. The 3 eight foot panning troughs I built and the 3 demo troughs that were built by one of our members were just perfect to handle the crowds. There were approx 4700 attendees and out of that total 2300 kids. Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Indian guides, and several schools from all over the county attended. We also attended the 2009 USGS open house on May 15-17<sup>th</sup>. The U.S. Geological Survey asked our Chapter to help teach gold panning at their event. Several of our chapter members came and volunteered at this event. The USGS had only 3 small panning troughs. So we brought our 8 ft troughs and the USGS was so happy that we were able to handle the crowds. The USGS estimated upwards to 10,000 visitors that braved the heat to attend

The 3 day event. The USGS staff, exhibitors and volunteers commented on the enthusiasm of the United Prospectors Volunteers and were very appreciative of all our help. Our booth was so successful that they want us at the end of all the exhibits since we were the biggest draw and was pulling the crowds away from the other exhibits.

**Santa Clara Chapter Memorial Weekend Outing:  
BAGBY Merced River**

The outing was a success we had a great time dredging with our chapter members. Water level was good, gold was good and the food was great. Each night was a pot luck. Our neighbors and their alarm clocks were in and out of our camp. (Camp Turkeys) But we did have 2 un-invited guests that decided to get onto the garbage and look into Joe Sul's car but no damage was done. (IE. 2 Bears)

**Santa Clara Chapter Santa Clara County Fair:**

A fundraiser booth was set up at the fair from July 30 through August 2. Kids and adults were able to pan for gold and look for gemstones. Everyone had a good time.

Thank you to Contra Costa and Santa Clara Chapters for contributing to the UPI newsletter. It gives everyone an opportunity to hear about all the good times and worthwhile projects the chapter members are doing. If anyone out there wants to start a chapter or wants to contribute their outing events please contact UPI and we will get your information into the newsletter.



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**ROLL CALL: Genesee Outing July 2009:**

Chuck Liening, Kathleen Liening, Bob Liening, Diane Nelson (guest), David and Sonia Peterson, Bob and Cindy McGill, Portagee Jim—James Silva, Rich Palmi, James Neeley, Mike McCaabe, Anne McCabe, Dan McCabe, Erica Hansen, Frank Hansen, Sandra Hansen, Chase too, Ryan Graham, Mark and Lisa Weber, Sue Coleman, Ron Coleman, Paul Diehn, Bill Reboin, Ron Rowe, D. Papp, Jennifer Matula, Alex Matula, Aaron Matula, Denise Matula, Mike Ancona, Kirth and Kim, Al and Jane Bates, Jim Coursele, Marlene Coursele, Joe Sul, Gloria Sul, Donny Cox, Adam Cox, Sonny Sollecito, Gloria Nichols, Ken Nichols, Susie Parrish, Sid Parrish, Lorrie Parrish, Glenn Firskie, Lauraurie Ozga, Ed Ozga.

**RAFFLE PRIZE WINNERS:**

Mark Weber—Pinpointer  
 Chuck Liening—Trinity pan  
 Adam Cox— rocks/mineral books  
 Mike Ocanda—Grizzly pan  
 Lori Ozgood—Knife  
 Donny Cox— Clay B Gone  
 Sonia Peterson—Wine(pro prospector)



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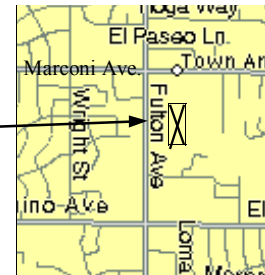
**Raffle Prize Winners continued:**

Susie Parrish—Classifier  
 Detrick Papp—Dave McCracken Book  
 Don Cox—Sniffer bottle, black pan  
 Jim Silva—Alaskan coated Quartz  
 Denise Matula—Agate  
 Adam Cox—Crowbar/sniffer bottle  
 Paul Diehn—Obsidian knife  
 Ron Coleman—Successful dredging VHS tape  
 Chuck Liening—Agate  
 Gloria Nichols—Coulterville Night stay  
 Denise Matula—Sniffer bottle, vials, knife  
 Bill Reboin—Nugget  
 Chuck Liening—Shovel  
 Lori Ozgood—water proof necklace, booklet, ?  
 Chuck Liening—Where to find Gold Book  
 Richaard Palmi—Fanny pack, sniffer bottle

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Continued from page 10: **Raffle Prize Winners**

- Mike Ocanda—Fanny pack, camo beanie
- Jim Silva—Shovel
- Robert Miguel—Barefoot Wine
- Jim Courselle—UPI Patch & Pin
- Susie Parrish—Magnifying glass, ?
- Al Bates—Ghiradeli Chocolate fudge, Cash for gold kit
- Bill Reboin—Sniffer bottle, waterproof necklace
- Ron Coleman—Grizzly Pan
- Paul Diehn—Coulterville Night Stay
- Ron Rowe—Gold recovery kit (Cash for Gold)
- Lori Ozgood—UPI Patch, pin, magnifying glass
- Sonia Peterson—Flashlight
- Jim Courselle—Grizzly Pan
- Dan McCabe—Shovel, Cash for Gold
- Bill Reboin—Obsidian Knife
- Jim Silva—Vial of gold
- Joe Sul—Nugget
- Al Bates—Nugget
- David Peterson—Nugget
- Jim Silva—Sluice
- James Niely—Nugget
- Ron Coleman—Quartz & Gold Nugget

50/50 Winner: Sonia Peterson \$77.00

Nugget Necklace—Jim Coarselle  
Nugget—Chuck Liening

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### WAYS N MEANS REPORT: Mike Brickwedel

When I took off to attend the last outing at Genesee I stopped by Twain camp ground and met a whole bunch of other UPI'ers. We had an ice cream social. Imagine that! You might ask what do or are you suppose to do at an ice cream social? Eat everything that is there before everyone else does. I never saw so many adults go wild over ice cream and there was watermelon too. It was real eventful and to boot I was all over that claim and found some real rich diggings and I learned how to catch those little weasel craw dads. Not to keen on the eating of them, but real fun to catch.

**Genesee raffle event:** It was real great to see everyone that made it out to the Genesee outing and being my first time there I did find some real nice gold with my dredge. I hope that all enjoyed the pot luck and the raffle. I wish to thank all who showed up and brought those terrific pot luck dishes and for letting me eat first. It was mentioned that I'm a slow eater, um. And a special thanks to Don Siegel and Sid Parrish and his wife Lorrie. Also, Ed Ozga and his wife Laurie for coming out and getting the word and the alert out for all of us to get involved on the current bill SB670. Gosh, I almost forgot about seeing Bob Azbil who was able to show up with the portables. All of that help made it easier on the directors. Everyone did a great job. I wish to thank our vendors and members alike that donated items for the raffle. Take care. M.Brick



*Continued from page 4:* **Frequently Asked Questions Suction Dredging:**

**Is there a “grace period”?**

The urgency clause in the bill put the moratorium into effect immediately. DFG wardens are authorized to issue citations to anyone found violating the law.

**What are the legal consequences of suction dredging now that the moratorium is in effect?**

A violation of the law is a misdemeanor, punishable by up to \$1,000 in fines and/or six months in jail.

**Why has DFG stopped selling suction dredge permits?**

Consistent with the moratorium DFG has ceased issuing suction dredge permits. DFG is also currently subject to a court order prohibiting the issuance of suction dredge permits. (*Leon Hillman et al. v. California Dept. of Fish and Game et al.*, Super. Ct. Alameda County, 2009, Case No. RG09-434444.) The court order prohibits DFG from spending any money from the California State General Fund to issue suction dredge permits.

**Will permits be sold again in the future?**

Permits may be sold again in the future if: 1) the prohibition on suction dredging is lifted; and 2) the *Hillman* lawsuit is no longer pending or until further order is issued by the court.

**If I already have a permit, is it still valid?**

SB670 prohibits all instream suction dredging mining, even if the operator has a permit previously issued by DFG.

**Can I legally use suction dredge equipment on private property?**

SB670 (Wiggins) as signed into law by the Governor prohibits instream suction dredge mining in any river stream, or lake within California. The prohibition applies regardless of whether the river, stream, or lake is on private property.

**Can I leave my equipment in the water, as long as I’m not using it?**

No. Vacuum or suction dredge equipment must be removed from the water pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 5653, subdivision (d). This provision of the Fish and Game Code makes it illegal to possess a vacuum or suction dredge in areas, or in or within 100 yards of waters that are closed to the use of vacuum or suction dredges. Because SB670 prohibits instream suction dredge mining in any river, stream, or lake in California, suction dredge equipment must be removed from the water even if the equipment is not in use.

**How soon do I need to get me equipment out of the water?**

SB670 (Wiggins) took effect on August 6, 2009, and the related legal obligation to remove vacuum or suction dredge equipment from the water took effect the same day. It is currently unlawful under the Fish and Game Code to possess any vacuum or suction dredge equipment in or within 100 yards of any river, stream, or lake in California. Any person in possession of such equipment in or within 100 yards of any river, stream, or lake must remove that equipment from the water immediately.

**What can I do if I see prohibited instream suction dredge mining?**

Call Cal-Tip at 1-888-334-2258.

**Where can I find more information about this in the future?**

Additional information can be found at [www.dfg.ca.gov](http://www.dfg.ca.gov).

**Thank you Laurie for all your help and diligence in getting this information! It is very helpful for everyone!!!**

**Pictures from Genesee Outing:**



# POTPOURRI

## MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS OF INTEREST©

*Views and opinions expressed in this column are the personal viewpoint of the EIC/Pub, and may or may not have bearing on, or any relationship toward the goals, purposes, policies, programs of United Prospectors Inc. It is news.*



Bill Reboin, EIC/Pub  
and his pooch Samantha.

### SENATE BILL 670 Wiggins Inconsistent/Intent?

Boy, the mining community surrounding Twain is in a buzz over SB 670 and it subsequently becoming law. We UPI members here at Twain have heard all kinds of stories from miners up and down the river from Quincy to Caribou Corner. We have had our own thoughts as well. There have been about 14 UPI members around Twain for about the last week and a half to two weeks. All were curious about what is going on. Since the close down four miners have left the Twain area and are headed for OR, WA or ID to pursue dredging, others are following. There were 16 people at our potluck, guests and non-members, on the 8<sup>th</sup>, it was great as usual.

On to the business at hand that we all want to know about. In a communication with Ed Ozga it was suggested that I write something up about the situation and I agreed. I spent several hours yesterday and a couple today searching on the internet for information about the status and the effect of SB 670. From the DFG Website: In-stream vacuum/suction dredging was officially shut down on August 6<sup>th</sup>. As a result of the laws passage a moratorium was declared denying the use of suction/vacuum dredging or the issuance of any new permits. From one of the official DF & G notices posted on their website- - "*The new law, SB 670 (Wiggins), prohibits the use of vacuum or other suction dredging equipment for in stream mining in any California river, stream or lake.*" The notice continues with- - "The restrictions on in-stream vacuum or suction dredge mining imposed by SB 670 remain in effect until DFG completes a court ordered environmental review of its suction dredge permitting program and updates, as necessary, existing DFG regulations governing the program. The court-ordered environmental review required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) is currently underway, and DFG expects to complete that effort and adopt changes to the existing regulations, if necessary, by summer of 2011."

So here is where we stand from DFG's prospective. 1) Current permit holders permits are declared null and void with no provision in the law for providing a refund for the permit you hold. 2) No permits will be issued from 8/6/09 forward, by court order. The court order will remain in effect as long as the *Hillman* lawsuit (Leon Hillman et al. v. California Dept. of Fish and Game) is pending or until further order of the Court. 3) "A violation of the ban on in-stream suction dredge mining is a misdemeanor, punishable by up to a \$1000.00 in fines and six months in jail."

The above DFG information would lead a common sense person to perceive that panning, hand sluicing and power sluicing are all OK to perform, that the only prohibition on recreational/small scale mining is "*in-stream vacuum/suction dredging.*" Quote and italicized above from one or more of the DFG data sheets from their website.

Then we look at the State law, SB 670, and we have a conflict in what is legal and what is not. (See 3d below) We all know that power sluicing is not a suction/vacuum dredging activity, or an in-stream activity. So what is the intent of the law?

The following information is quoted in part(s), pertinent information only, not all of the legal mumbo jumbo, XX = not pertinent, from a copy of the bill (SB 670) obtained from the California government website, Senate Bill 670, Chapter 62, signed by the Governor August 5, 2009.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows: (emphasis added, What People?)

SECTION 1. Section 5653.1 is added to the Fish and Game Code to read:

*continued to page 14:*

**Continued from page 13: SENATE BILL 670-Wiggins by: Bill Reboin**

5653.1. (a) XX

(b) Notwithstanding Section 5653, the use of any vacuum or suction dredge equipment in any river, stream or lake of this state is prohibited until the director certifies to the Secretary of State that all of the following have occurred:

- (1) XX                      Outlined above
- (2) XX                      “            “
- (3) XX                      “            “

(c) The Legislature finds and declares that this section, as added during the 2009-10 Regular Session, applies **solely** to vacuum and suction dredging activities conducted for in-stream mining purposes. XX- - - -

(d) *This section does not prohibit or restrict non-motorized recreational mining activities, including panning for gold.*

I hope that this fills in the blanks for you. Please remember that you are responsible for your chosen mining activities on UPI holdings not UPI.

All of us UPI members staying up here at Twain RV Park and on the claim certainly hope that this turn of events doesn't dull your thirst for getting out and turning some dirt and participating in the camaraderie at the Twain outing over Labor Day. We have some ideas such as teaming up for some hand powered bucket line or dragline dredging competition. Then there is metal detecting in close local hydraulic tailings or abandoned structures up in the north hills.

This article would not be complete without reminding you dredgers, is hand or power sluicing next and then panning, and all miners that this is a serious threat not only to our avocation but to the sick economy of the State. Its affects have already been seen. You need to change your position in space and time from effect to cause. How can you do this? Support PLP, Public Lands for the People. See their website at [www.PLP2.org](http://www.PLP2.org) and at least join. PLP is the miner's advocate that has been and will be fighting this issue for us. This takes money for legal fees, travel expenses and attorneys. Please support them with as much as you can possibly afford. Can you afford not to support them? I think not.

See you Labor Day!  
Bill Reboin, Life Member

---

**Email sent to UPI President by Dave Mack:**

Dear Don Siegel:

As most of you have probably heard by now, Governor Schwarzenegger has signed Senate Bill 670 into law which has placed a statewide moratorium on suction dredging in California until the Department of Fish & Game (DFG) completes an updated Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

As we are not very good at sitting around complaining, we are immediately implementing a 3-Pronged Solution for California

Suction Dredgers. You can read more about our plans in this special Mid-August newsletter. To see our Mid-August newsletter just follow the link below:

<http://www.goldgold.com/newsletterlatest.htm>

For those of you who are not yet members, please consider the special half-price offer on Associate Membership that we are

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All the best,  
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