

## Gold panner rescued after breaking leg

SHASTA DAM — A man who was injured while panning for gold west of here Tuesday was rescued by Shasta County sheriff's deputies and volunteers after he was spotted by the crew of a California Highway Patrol helicopter.

Sheriff's Capt. Gene Toten said Ted Schjoth, 42, of Pine Grove suffered a broken leg and was unable to return to his vehicle, which was parked about three miles away along Little Squaw Creek west of Shasta Dam.

Schjoth's relatives reported him missing at 7:15 p.m., more than five hours after he was supposed to return, Toten said.

Two sheriff's deputies and four members of the Shasta County Sheriff's Tracking Posse — a volunteer search group — combed the rugged area, aided by six of Schjoth's relatives.

Toten said a CHP helicopter based in Redding joined the search after the pilot decided it was safe to fly the helicopter at night.

"Most of the time they don't fly at night because of poor visibility," Toten said. "But because the moon lit things up pretty well, they decided to go up."

Jan Benton, who was flying as an observer with pilot Jim Hamilton, saw a fire along the creek at 11:20 p.m. and directed the foot searchers to Schjoth, according to the CHP.

Schjoth told his rescuers he fell off a 20-foot embankment several hours earlier, apparently breaking his leg, Toten said.

Because of the rugged terrain, Schjoth was carried for about 2½ hours on a litter to a location where the helicopter could land.

The man was flown to Mercy Medical Center in Redding, where he was listed in "satisfactory" condition today.

1980 gold panner rescued after a fall breaking his leg



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