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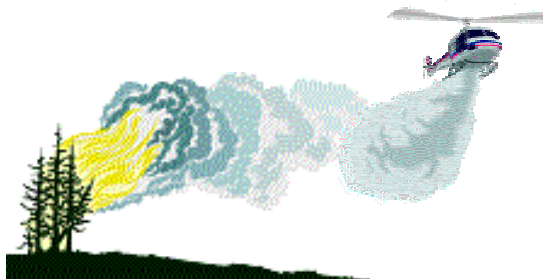


Is there article you'd like to read again but can't find your last issue of Skylines? Look on the web. Starting with our July issue, the Skylines will be included on our website at: <http://www.southskyline.org>

SSA membership is \$15.00. To become a member send dues to:
Ruth Waldhauer
Membership Chair
Box 400
La Honda, CA 94020.

PROTECTING OUR HOMES IN A WILDLAND FIRE

Join us on
FRIDAY OCTOBER 13
At the
SARATOGA SUMMIT FIRE STATION



The next South Skyline Association general meeting will feature a panel discussion with:

- Frank Lews, CDF Chief, recently retired after 50 years of service
- George Gray, Resource Ecologist, CA Department of Parks and Recreation, Santa Cruz
- Patrick Congdon, South Skyline Volunteer Fire and Rescue, Resource Manager for Santa Clara Open Space Authority
- Moderator: George Johnson, South Skyline Volunteer Fire and Rescue

When a wildland fire starts under average weather, terrain, and fuel conditions, CDF personnel assisted by the area volunteers are quite likely to handily contain the fire and save all homes with reasonable fire defense.

With worsening conditions, eventually even bulldozers and aerial water drops become ineffective and firefighters are forced to retreat. Some homes will be saved as the fire- storm sweeps over them, all depending upon the resources available and the level of home defenses.

Experts say that eventually we will have a major fire in the Skyline area.

We will explore fire history and scenarios for wildland fires here, how homes will be defended, and the role of prescribed burns in reducing the severity of fires. Also, an excellent detailed new booklet on home fire defense will be distributed.

Mark your calendar now!

Gather at 7:00 PM for coffee and dessert. Meeting will begin at 7:30 sharp.

Please bring a potluck dessert or finger food to share.



Meet Your Neighbors

In this issue we hear from two people who have been very active in the South Skyline mountain community for many years, Pat Congdon and Larry Hassett.

Pat Congdon

I've lived in the Skyline area for a little over sixteen years now. My wife Bernardette works as the Accounts Specialist for the Open Space District and we have two teenage sons, Joshua and Jeremy. I grew up in San Jose, not far from Coyote Creek and at the time, acres of orchards. Days were spent playing in these miniature forests and exploring the richness of the creek area. What I experienced there and help from my science minded father and preservationist mother, enriched my life and helped me to develop my land stewardship beliefs.

My involvement in parks and land management started over twenty-four years ago. I've worked for Santa Clara County Parks, San Mateo County Parks, Midpeninsula Open Space and now work as the Resource Manager for the Santa Clara County Open Space Authority. My interests in prescribed fire and cultural resource management have allowed me to work on many projects for National Parks and Forests, Bureau Of Land Management and Fish and Wildlife.

Being a volunteer for South Skyline Fire and Rescue and board member for SSA takes me back to the days when people worked together in their community. I'm not saying it doesn't happen in other places, but I know for a fact that if you need help on the hill, people will be there. In some ways our lives are busier than ever, but folks on Skyline find time to lend a hand. I've experienced their generosity on many occasions and it sure had an impact on my life. Beautiful sunsets, wide-open spaces, good neighbors, what a great place to live.

Larry Hassett

Born in Minnesota, but raised in San Carlos, my attraction to the Skyline area began when I was housesitting for Don and Elizabeth Aitken at their home on Russian Ridge while I was in college. After graduating from San Jose State University with a degree in Environmental Science, I married my high school sweetheart, Penny, and we started our search for land on which to build our dream house. Not exactly your "normal" house, our dream was to build a home with minimal energy impact, one that would be totally energy self-sufficient. We designed an earth-integrated (semi-buried) home that was entirely solar heated. The unique design was influenced by my travels around the mid-west looking at solar homes being built at the time.

We began construction in 1976 and moved in two years later. We did most of the construction ourselves. I was fortunate to have very supportive parents and worked part-time in the family hardware business. When completed, the home appeared in several newspaper articles and in Sunset magazine.

While we were building our home, we were also building our family. Eric was born while we lived in Palo Alto, but Emma, and our second son, Richard, were born during construction. Growing up in the country gave our kids the unique opportunity of being surrounded by open space, with chickens, ducks, geese, and goats for playmates.

As our home began to take shape, we were introduced to our Skyline neighbors as they came by to investigate this young couple who were building into the hillside. The community quickly embraced our family, and I started 20 years of involvement with the South Skyline Association, serving first as a board member, then President, and currently a retired board member and board watcher. I also became a member of the Volunteer Fire Department and spent 5 years responding to neighborhood emergencies. In 1995, we were on the receiving end of all that wonderful training, when we suffered a fire ourselves, just two weeks before Christmas. We were very grateful that the CDF and the Volunteers were able to save the structure and we were able to rebuild. We spent a year living in Woodside and were very happy to return to a renovated home.

In 1994, I expanded the family hardware business to a second store, Palo Alto Hardware. I have become involved with the business community there, serving on the Boards of the Palo Alto Chamber of Commerce, The Museum of American Heritage, Leadership Mid-Peninsula, and the Peninsula Conservation Center Foundation.

Finally an "empty-nester," Penny works as a substitute teacher, serves on the Board of Friends For Youth, a mentoring organization for "at risk" children, and volunteers at the Rosicrucian Egyptian Museum in San Jose.

Eric is a graduate of U.C. Davis and is currently working with us at Palo Alto Hardware. Emma just returned from a semester abroad studying in Ireland, and has returned to Seattle to finish her final year at Cornish College of the Arts. Richard will be a sophomore at U.C. Santa Barbara.

BROWN RECLUSE OR HOUSEHOLD FRIEND?



“You can learn to identify this poison spider with less than a minute's training!” So they say.

When I first arrived at Shingle Mill in the 1960's, I was warned to beware of rattlers, of Black Widows and to fear most of all the Brown Recluse spider, *Loxosceles reclusa* a.k.a Fiddle Back, for the violin shaped patch on its first body part to which the legs attach (*cephalothorax*). Why worry about the Brown Recluse? As its name indicates, it is not aggressive, prefers to hide in the woodshed and undisturbed corners. Reluctantly, it does bite if trapped between you and your bed sheet.

Brown Recluse venom is cytotoxic and hemolytic. The bite results in tissue destruction and failure of blood clotting. Less frequently, more severe reactions occur such as kidney failure, seizures and, rarely, death.

Two weeks ago, I saw two small, pale spiders dance out from under the kitchen closets on nimble, delicate legs. Each had a dark blotch on the back; but the eyes were too small to count without a magnifier. Better safe than sorry, I put an upside-down glass jar over them, slid a piece of paper under the jar, up-ended it, poured in rubbing alcohol, sealed it, and brought out my magnifying glass. Just like the Brown Recluse I saw at the Academy of Sciences last year, each had a single row of eyes on the forehead. A pair of eyes in the middle, and the two lateral sets could also be pairs, or are they triads? The Recluse has only six eyes in a single row of dyads. Most other spiders have eight eyes arranged in two rows of four.

It is not so easy to identify the Recluse after all! I sent my spiders to the Academy for identification.

Entomologist Richard Vetter's research at the University of California, Riverside has convinced him that there are no Brown Recluse spiders in California. He e-mailed me: "Misidentification of spiders as brown recluses is not uncommon...unsubstantiated reports have taken on the status of urban legend leading to over diagnosis and, therefore, inappropriate treatment. The undeserved infamy that this spider has achieved outside of its range is nothing short of mind boggling. The common name "brown recluse" refers specifically to one species of spider that lives in the south central Midwest U.S." One thing less to worry about?

Today the Academy verdict is in, Rick Vetter vindicated; my spiders are common household friends, Daddy Longlegs, *Pholcus phalangiodes*. Daddy is useful in catching mosquitoes or clothes moths, a harmless, beneficial tenant, to be welcomed in your and my home.

~ Eva Blum

WILD PIGS

MROSD & State Parks Starting Depredation

At the August meeting the MROSD board voted to approve their MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) with CA Department of Fish and Game, and to hire a contractor, Land Management & Resources Company, for \$15,000 for this fiscal year to take 75 pigs from the Long Ridge Open Space Preserve. This begins their three-year control program. Jodi Isaacs, Resources Manager at MROSD asked locals and SSA to provide information concerning current rooting and wallows to help in the placement of traps. MROSD is also searching for a species-specific contraceptive to control the wild pig population.

The contractor recently started trapping wild pigs, and some pigs were taken in the Route 9 corridor in the first week of trapping. State Parks regional headquarters in Santa Cruz now has an MOU for wild pig depredation in their parks, including Castle Rock and Portola Redwoods State Parks, and is about to start a depredation program. Meanwhile, local residents are taking pigs. A regional approach to wild pig reduction, though not coordinated, is gradually taking place.

Most notable testimony at the MROSD Board meeting was from our SSA community. Bryan Osborne read the letter from SSA urging action to control the wild pig population. Fifteen year old Jacob Osborne (son of Vicky DeMartini and Bryan Osborne) reported that the wild pigs had rooted and wallowed the creek below their home (near Portola Heights entrance) and in Peters Creek below the dam at Jikoji virtually eliminating the habitat of the endangered red-legged frog from these areas. The Board was very interested in this new information. It emphasized the need for them to proceed with depredation efforts. Letters by Ann Waldhauer and Eva Blum were presented concerning the change in behavior of the wild pigs with respect to humans. The pigs are getting used to humans and are increasing bold and aggressive. The pigs no longer bolt away from humans, a very dangerous situation for park visitors. These letters from locals again emphasized the need for MROSD to proceed with a control program.

The SSA community now needs to redouble its efforts via individual trapping and hunting to do its part in a regional wild pig control effort. Community traps may be borrowed from me. We now have a local person who you can hire to set up a trap on your property; see his ad in the classified section of this issue. Also, please keep reporting wild pig trapping and hunting results to me so we have a record of these actions, 408/867-9422.

~Dick Schwind

COMING SOON: SSA BOARD ELECTIONS

It is time to start thinking about nominees for the SSA Board Elections in January. If you have an interest in being nominated to run for a board position, or know of a willing candidate, please contact Larry Myers at 408-354-5830.



911 EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Members and neighbors are should check their County Emergency Response Notification System by phoning 911. State that there is not an emergency at this time, and ask what address is listed for their phone number. If not correct, at your request the operator will change the listing on their computer screen to one that accurately describes your location. Here in the Santa Cruz Mountains, a mailing address is often not the physical location of the home. Avoid calling at 911 at a busy time; the best times to call are weekday mornings very early, or mid-morning, or afternoons.

In my case my mailing address is three miles distant from my home. Had I suffered an emergency, the fire and rescue personnel would have gone to the mailing address that is a mailbox on Skyline. They would not have had any way of finding me to respond to an emergency call.

On May 27, 2000 a fire occurred at a residence on Star Hill Road in the Kings Mountain area and was reported to 911. At 911, the dispatcher contacted La Honda and Belmont fire departments, but the local Kings Mountain Volunteer Fire Department was not contacted in a prompt manner. This mistake was a costly one. The house, an historic one, was completely destroyed. Fortunately, no one was injured.



Calls from cell phones to 911 go to a California Highway Patrol (CHP) dispatch center. Calls go to Salinas unless they are rolled over to the Golden Gate office. Their computer screen shows that the call is made from a cellular phone but does not show where the call originates. You must tell the 911 operator where you are, including your county. This is very important here in the Santa Cruz Mountains since our area covers three counties. With your location explicitly described, your call can then be directed to the nearest dispatch center.

~ Ruth Waldhauer

SSA EQUESTRIANS AND BIKERS NEED TO BE CAREFUL

Earlier this year, my wife Vicki and I were bucked off our horses when a speeding mountain biker nearly collided with us while descending a narrow section of trail. My injuries were minor, however, Vicki was severely bruised, with back pains and stiffness for 2 months.

Prior to this, we had several close encounters with mountain bikers, but always managed to escape injury. The increasing popularity of this sport, coupled with more people, and fewer places to ride their mountain bikes, has attracted increasing numbers of bikers to the South Skyline region. What was once a safe, tranquil, nature experience for both equestrians and hikers, has become a test of nerves, as we brace ourselves for the possibility of a speeding cyclist coming around the next curve. If we remain silent, in time, we will be forced to take refuge in other areas where bicycle use is regulated, restricted, or prohibited.

Both Vicki and I have expressed our concerns at MROSD hearings concerning these issues, but were outnumbered by the large, organized bicycle groups. I'm not interested in seeing bicycles banned from South Skyline trails, because I enjoy mountain biking too, but I do think it's important to keep the trails safe for all users. Most mountain bikers are courteous and considerate; it's just the natural tendency to speed up when going downhill. Add to this, a narrow trail with blind turns, and you have an accident waiting to happen.

One simple measure to improve trail safety is to restrict bicycle traffic to the uphill direction on certain trails. MROSD will soon begin working on a use plan for their preserves. Our inputs could help shape the plan's outcome. To be effective in these efforts, I am beginning to keep records on trail locations involving equestrian - bicyclist incidents. If you had or have an incident, I would definitely like to hear about it. If you're an equestrian, and want to know what's happening, I'll be putting together a mailing list.

Contact Information
(408) 867-8846
svwrangler@yahoo.com

~ Bruce Rosenthal

Deer Tip: To protect fruit trees, place a spiral fence around each tree. Deer will not enter an area where they cannot turn around, but this fence allows enough room for weeding, fertilizing, spraying and harvesting.

LATE BLOOMERS GRACE SANTA CRUZ MOUNTAINS



The goldenrod genus *Solidago* is represented by up to 100 species in North America. This makes identification difficult, particularly in the northeast. Fortunately, geography and habitat, as well as morphology, may be used in plant identification. There are, at most, three species found in the Santa Cruz Mountains.

Goldenrods are perennial members of the sunflower family, Asteraceae. Locally, California goldenrod, *Solidago californica*, is the most prevalent. It grows 1-4 feet tall in colonies that spread from underground stems (rhizomes). Downy gray-green leaves are elongated, elliptical, narrow at the base, and tipped at the end. They become smaller as they go up the stem. Dozens of tiny yellow ray flowers grow in dense pyramid or wand-shaped spikes at the end of the stems – opening first at the base of each inflorescence. California goldenrod prefers dry slopes, woodland margins, and disturbed areas, such as roadsides. To the early Spanish, California goldenrod was called *oreja de liebra*, or jackrabbit's ear, in reference to its fuzzy leaves.

Meadow goldenrod (*S. canadensis* ssp *elongata*) also grows in colonies, 1-3 feet tall. Leaves are similar in shape to *S. californica*, but they are glabrous (nonhairy) and are the same size all the way up the stem. At the end of the stems, yellow flowers grow in panicles (branched inflorescences). *S. canadensis* is found occasionally in meadows, on ridges, and on brush-covered slopes.



canadensis

Western goldenrod (*Euthamia occidentalis*, formerly *Solidago occidentalis*) has narrow (linear-lanceolate), entire (smooth-edged) leaves. Members of *Euthamia* are collectively known as grass-leaved goldenrods. Yellow flowers grow in clusters, mixed with leaves, at the ends of long branches. *E. occidentalis* prefers moist locations along ditches, streams, and the edge of marshes.

Because goldenrods bloom late in the year (August to November) they are an important source of nectar, and are pollinated by bees, butterflies, and small wasps. Goldenrods have been used medicinally by old and new world cultures to treat a wide variety of ailments. The genus name comes from the Greek “to make whole.” The Ohlones externally applied a tea from California goldenrod leaves to treat burns and open sores.

References strongly disagree as to whether goldenrods induce hay fever symptoms. Curious locals who wish to know if they are susceptible are encouraged to employ self-experimentation.

~Sarah Schoen

“BARRICADE” YOUR HOME FOR FIRE SAFETY!

A promising new way to save a home in a firestorm has reached the market within the last couple years. “Barricade”, a polymer, is mixed with water as it is sprayed onto a building, automobile, etc., to create a thermal barrier that will protect against wildfire for about 24 hours. This is a much longer lifetime than the foam the fire trucks can spray. Pat Congdon, one of the fire and rescue volunteers, set up an impressive demonstration of it at the SSA July picnic.

An estimated product cost for protecting a typical Skyline residence is roughly \$1000. Although this is an expensive product, so is your home!

Immediately after the demonstration I ordered “Barricade” and the high flow rate special spray nozzle that goes with it. Delivery was very quick. We can get a group discount if there is enough interest. For more information, or to add your name to the group order list, contact Ruth Waldhauer, Membership Chairperson, at 650-948-1466, or waldhauer@batnet.com

~Dick Schwind

FUEL CELL SYSTEMS

Sanjiv Malhotra, Director of Business Development for H Power Corp., presented information at the August SSA board meeting on the fuel cell systems they produce. A fuel cell generates electricity from propane or natural gas safely and quietly by an electrochemical reaction. Excess heat from the process can be directed to heat house and/or water which increases the efficiency of the system. All present were impressed with the technology.

At this time a fuel cell system (cell, inverter, etc.) to serve the needs an off-grid household property costs about \$70,000. However, Sanjiv Malhotra said as production ramps up, the price should fall to about \$10,000. This would put a fuel cell installation competitive with an installation of solar panels, batteries, and inverters. H Power Corp. also produces system for those on the PG&E grid. Power generated beyond the demand of the individual homeowner can be sold back to PG&E. With a fuel cell system, mountain dwellers would no longer be faced with extended power interruptions when the winter storms hit. SSA will monitor developments. For those seeking more information please contact Ruth Waldhauer at waldhauer@batnet.com.

~ Ruth Waldhauer



CLOSE ENCOUNTER OF THE MOUNTAIN LION KIND

On the fourth of July I went biking in the Sierra Azule Open Space range around the rim of Lexington, up the fire trail to the helicopter pad. There was nobody else on the trails. After a rest, I started back down, turned a corner and saw what I took to be a large deer. The coloring was right, but the body type was all wrong. An instant later, I realized it was a mountain lion, a large one, around seven feet from head to tip of tail (really). It took a moment to shake off disbelief.

The lion started to run down the trail away from me, but then slowed and just sauntered, as if embarrassed to have been surprised into running. Again a feeling of disbelief that I was seeing a large cat walking at a slow gait, like in a National Geographic nature show on Africa. Next ensued a surreal cat and mouse game of me following the lion at about 150 feet, it rounding successive corners, me deciding whether to proceed or not, each time wondering if it might be waiting for me. This went on for about four or five corners. Occasionally it looked back at me, which didn't do much for my nerves. It was now late evening. I was getting a little concerned.

The lion and I reached a sharp downward turn. There it stood surveying the scene, then turned the corner out of sight. I was feeling furious, despairing, and close to panic. To return on my tracks meant going uphill, miles out of my way. So I went for it; flew down toward the corner, skidding and yelling to scare the lion off the road. Before rounding the turn, I lost my nerve, skidded to a dead halt, got off the bike, and crept gingerly around the corner. The lion was sitting there, about 30 feet away, looking at me with glittering eyes reflecting the ambient light. I remembered that the worst thing you can do is to turn your back and run. That would send a clear message that I was "prey," with possibly fatal consequences. I knew to look as big as possible and back away calmly (ha!). If it's aggressive, yell, make a lot of noise, throw rocks, brandish branches. Mountain Lions and other cats don't like the smell of humans and will attack us as a last resort.

Did I walk fearlessly past it? Hardly. I made an immediate and unconditional retreat. I held my bike up between the mountain lion and myself. Tactfully, but briskly, I stepped back around the corner. In the end, I had to return many miles up hill and down to the other exit. All the way back my mind conjured prides of threatening mountain lions in the fading light.

~Hunt Stoddard

For more information on Mountain Lions and what to do if you should encounter one, visit the California Department of Fish and Game website at <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/lion/>



Dog tracks (left) vs. Mountain Lion tracks (right)

SPUG QUARTERLY REPORT

Summer failed to bring the seasonal low for propane prices to where they were last year. This year's prices are about \$0.10/gallon higher than last year. Consider though that gasoline prices are far above what they were a year ago, and that pattern is true for propane. The open market price for propane is now about \$1.65/gallon. Thanks to the SPUG contract with Amerigas, our members benefit by paying less. The group price has been \$1.109/gallon in June, July, and August rising to \$1.199/gallon in September. The forecast from refineries for autumn and winter indicates further price increases for propane as much as an additional \$0.30/gallon by January, just as it is for gasoline.

For all updates on the current SPUG price check the SSA website at www.southskyline.org.

Members 55 years of age or older qualify for a 5% discount in addition to the low SPUG group price. Members are reminded that our contract with Amerigas specifies that bills be paid on time. Delinquent accounts can be removed from the SPUG group resulting in the individual paying the open market price for propane. Jeff at Amerigas offered to work with SPUG members who have budgeting problems.

For information about joining the Skyline Propane Users Group (SPUG), or for members wishing to have correct information on the Amerigas contract with us, please send a self-addressed stamped envelope with your request to Ruth Waldhauer, SSA Membership Chairperson, 22400 Skyline Boulevard, Box 35, La Honda, CA 94020. You may also use email (waldhauer@batnet.com) to request information.



VEGETABLE GARDENING IN THE MOUNTAINS

"If you want to be happy for a day, get married. If you want to be happy for a weekend, barbecue a pig. If you want to be happy for the rest of your life, become a vegetable gardener."

I have been vegetable gardening in the hills for over 25 years and have learned a lot during that period of time. One thing is certain, there are many microclimates up here, and there are tremendous differences in one's ability to achieve yield from one year to the next.

Our house is at 2350 feet, and we are on the east side of the ridge, so we do not get sun exposure in late afternoon. For a variety of reasons, I use cold frames for much of my crop. This extends the growing season, protects against predators, and conserves water. I have a garden going year round in spite of the climate. The summer garden is no problem, however, I start my winter garden in September and hope to have enough growing to get through January and February when I am unable to germinate anything. If there is a hard freeze I can lose everything, even though I do some passive solar in the cold frames. My approach to solar is to keep the plastic milk containers, fill them with water, paint them black, and place them strategically under the cold frames. If there is any sun, even on a cold day, you would be surprised at how warm these bottles get.

Because of relatively cool nights, even in the summer, I can grow lettuce year round, and I grow eight different varieties. The cold frames seem to prevent the lettuce from bolting. Tomatoes and squash are my main crops in the summer. I haven't had good luck with cucumbers, though I grow a few. The winter garden includes lettuce, spinach, broccoli, cabbage, chard, and cauliflower. Things like carrots, onions, and bok choy seem to cross seasons. My neighbor grows a great quantity of corn. I don't usually grow corn because it requires more space and lots of water. I have done potatoes but not recently.

There are many predators to deal with. Young sprouting veggies must be protected from the birds, which will eat everything. Until the last 2 years, gophers were a real menace, and I was battling one or two in the garden all the time. For some reason, I guess ecological, the gopher population in my area has been decimated. I have found that poisons are ineffective and use the MacCabee trap, which must be placed in a tunnel. Gophers are quite smart and will detect the trap and push dirt against it regularly. However, keep trying and you will usually succeed. A kinder gentler approach is to dig out all burrows and follow them to the edge of the garden. If you keep this up, the gopher will

usually move to better accommodations, although this approach can be devastating to your plantings.

Deer are a problem of course. Even though they can vault the fence, my German Shepherd is enough of a deterrent. Rabbits are so cute and so destructive. I regularly trap them and relocate them. Cold frames and chicken wire fencing will prevent rabbit damage.

Last year I had an attack of voles, small rodents who dig holes that are not closed like those of gophers. The holes are also about half the size of a gopher hole. The infestation was at the end of winter when my garden was the only edible thing in town. They ate until things started to grow again in the environment. My approaches were ineffective in controlling them. I think a good mouser cat would be the best solution.

Earwigs are the biggest insect problem. Since I do not use pesticides, I depend on the lizards to manage them. Earwigs will congregate under cardboard boxes and newspaper that allows one to do away with a bunch at a time.

Rich and Janet Lee have a horse and allow me to collect their stable sweepings for garden compost. Since this contains a lot of sawdust and straw in addition to the manure, I confess that I do add some 10-10-10 to this. Thus I am not a pure organic gardener.

One cannot underestimate the pleasure derived from picking something fresh from the garden and serving it at your next meal.

~Bill Fowkes

VOLUNTEER FIRE & RESCUE DEPARTMENTS - Recruiting New Volunteers



Most local people found enclosed with their last issue of the SSA 'Skylines' newsletter, a flyer appealing for volunteers for the four local volunteer fire and rescue companies, from Skylonda to Las Cumbres (Skylonda, Middleton Tract, South Skyline, and Las Cumbres). Nearly all departments are seriously understaffed.

Approximately 1%, or 5 people responded, and are in different phases of becoming recruits. THANK YOU! In a later issue we will feature these people as they become active volunteers.

It is NOT TOO LATE TO VOLUNTEER! We presently need four times as many recruits. If you need a flyer with all its initial information, call Ruth Waldhauer, Membership Chairperson, at 650-948-1466.

~Dick Schwind

Alma Fire Station and CDF Helicopter Saved A Great Win for Mountain Folk

Thanks to an angel, Silicon Valley entrepreneur Brian Hinman, the threatened loss of the Alma Fire Station and its CDF helicopter has been averted. The helicopter has been crucial to local fire control for our area. The State of California was notified that its lease would be terminated. Assemblyman Jim Cunneen led the fight to buy the land, and SSA participated by writing on behalf of our 300 members to

Governor Davis to support the land purchase. SSA also sent an email alert to members asking that they send personal letters, and many did. Because the land was so expensive, the state had trouble justifying the price. Then, Brian Hinman stepped in with his offer to buy the land and lease it back to the state for 99 years. Hinman asked that his helicopter have landing privileges at the station. Jim Cunneen's office is finalizing the details and will have a signing ceremony in the near future. Thanks to SSA members who wrote letters of support.

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE

Mountain Grown Apples 4 lbs. \$1.00
16765 Skyline Blvd., 408-354-1401
additional information at web site,
www.ghjtreefarm.com

Wood Stove "Franklin" style, almost new, with screen, doors & flue! \$175.00.
650-851-3181

Truck 1980 International Tara Pick-Up, runs, 4X4, diesel, 6cyl, w/shell, \$2500 OBO. Call Dale Johnson 408-354-1401

California Native Plant Society will have a sale of native plants at Hidden Villa on October 21, 10 am to 4 pm.
26870 Moody Road, Los Altos Hills.

SERVICES

Wild pig problem? Will set up community pig trap for you. Hourly charge. Dale Johnson
408-867-9422

Yerba Buena Native Plant Nursery And Tea Terrace
Nursery and beautiful demonstration Gardens are open 7 days, 9:00-5:00. Tea Terrace serves china pots of tea and scones on Saturday and Sunday. Reservations for Christmas Teas – lunch, and candlelight dinner in the Old Farmhouse – can be made by calling 851-1668. We especially welcome all Skyline neighbors and their guests. Call Kathy Crane 650- 851-1668.

FREE

Fire Fittings Convert 1 ½ inch pipe thread to fire thread. Blue reflectors included. South Skyline Fire & Rescue. George. 408-354-1401

Large Indoor Bird Cage 24"x24"x36", Free. Phone 408-354-1401

HELP WANTED

Part-time PE teacher and Aide needed at Lakeside Elementary School. PE teacher is 2 days a week. \$90/day if credentialed, \$12/hr if not. Aid is 19.5 hours a week. \$10/hr first 2 hours in daycare center, \$8.35, the last 2 hours as a tutor. Call 408-354-2372.

Policy on Classified Ads: Ads are free to SSA members. No continuing ads will be accepted. They must be resubmitted for each issue during the month before the deadline. Deadline dates are generally July 1, October 1, January 1, and April 1.

Skylines News Articles: The deadline for submitting articles for the next issue is December 15. Send all ads and articles to Ruth Waldhauer, Box 400 La Honda, CA 94020, or email waldhauer@batnet.com.

Skylines newsletter welcomes articles from all SSA members. We are always interested in articles about life in the South Skyline area. Do you have a particular interest in wildlife, or tips on dealing with critters in your garden, news about your child's school, or interesting mountain experiences to share? Or, do you have a topic you'd like to read about in Skylines? Send your articles or ideas to the address above.

SOUTH SKYLINE ASSOCIATION

Box 400, Star Route 2
La Honda, CA 94020

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Editor Patti Begley 408-867-3973
Copyediting & Proofreading:
Eva Blum, Ruth Waldhauer, Georgia Stigall

SSA CALENDAR

General Meeting October 13, 7:00 pm Saratoga Summit Fire Station
Business Meetings at 7:15 pm
Thurs. October 12 Bo Gimbal
Thurs. November 9 Georgia Stigall
Thurs. December 14 Ken Broome
(Call Pres. Larry Myers for directions.)