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## SSA Mountain Barn Dance

**Saturday October 20 7:00 - 11:00 PM**  
**Las Cumbres Community Center**

Join the South Skyline Association in this fun evening of country dance to live music for the whole family. Dances will include squares, circles, contras and others. All are easily learned, and will be both taught quickly and called.

Our caller and dance-mistress, Odette Foster, has many years experience in calling square and contra dances for community get-togethers. "I particularly enjoy calling community dances, for folks who are friends and neighbors but who don't usually dance together. It's a pleasure to help people of different ages have fun together. I get a kick out of watching the dancers enjoy the music and each other's playfulness."

Most dances will be done with partners but it is not necessary to come with a partner. Dancers should wear comfortable clothes and flat-soled shoes, preferably with leather soles.



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Bring a potluck dessert.

SSA will provide cider, coffee, tea, and soft drinks.

We request a \$5 donation to go to the caller and band.

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### Directions to Las Cumbres:

The Las Cumbres entrance is located on Skyline Blvd, between Highway 9 and Black Rd. (5.5 miles south of Highway 9; 1.5 miles north of Black Rd.) Look for a small Las Cumbres sign and turn into the entrance on the west side of Skyline Blvd. Follow the road just past the long row of mailboxes and into the Community Center parking lot on the right. Look for SSA signs.

Parking is limited, so please consider carpooling,  
and please leave your pets at home.

## Drug Production Awareness Class to be Presented By Bureau of Narcotics Enforcement

The Bureau of Narcotics Enforcement (BNE), California Department of Justice will present a Class on Drug Production awareness.

**When:** Wednesday, November 7 at 7:00 PM.  
**Where:** Lakeside School, 19621 Black Rd, Los Gatos (additional parking at tree farm next door)

Methamphetamine (Meth) production will be stressed. This is a commonly produced drug in the Santa Cruz Mountains and production of this drug is very polluting and extremely dangerous in many ways. Marijuana production will also be covered.

Problems from meth labs include fire/explosion, armed guards or booby traps, nerve gas, and cancer causing chemicals. Landowners can lose their property by fire or government seizure if prior knowledge can be proven. A landowner can be billed for clean up of toxic dumps.

Slides will be shown and apparatus from actual drug labs will be displayed. The class is primarily aimed at landowners, property managers and people who travel in rural places. Emphasis will be on what to look for, possible dangers, how to react, and who to call. This information could save property, health, and lives.

CDF FIRE FIGHTERS INVITE  
South Skyline and Kings Mountain Residents  
to  
**Community Emergency Response Team  
(CERT) TRAINING**

Information Night & Pre-registration at  
CDF Saratoga Summit Fire Station  
**Saturday October 13  
7:30-8:30 pm**

Training Dates at CDF Saratoga Summit Fire Station  
**November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 17<sup>th</sup>  
9:30 am to 6:00 pm**

For More Information See Enclosed Flyer

## SPUG Quarterly Report

On August 7, 2001, Governor David signed AB 426. This bill permanently exempts from sales tax, propane that is used for a primary residence and for agricultural purposes. A qualified residence is a customer's primary residence that is NOT serviced by gas mains and pipes, and has a tank equal to or greater than 30 gallons. In order for a "qualified" individual to purchase tax exempt propane they must complete a Certificate of Exemption. Amerigas mailed forms to customers. If you did not receive one, phone Amerigas at 1-800-660-1252.

Recent SPUG prices compared with the two previous years are:

	1999	2000	2001
July	\$0.909	\$1.109	\$1.199
August	\$0.909	\$1.109	\$1.099
Sept	\$0.949	\$1.109	\$1.099

Prices are subject to changes each Friday. Reported in *Skylines* are usually prices for the first week of the month. See [www.southskyline.org](http://www.southskyline.org) for recent updates. Members 55 years of age or older qualify for a 5% discount in addition to the SPUG group price. Our SPUG rate is based on automatic regular route deliveries on a keep-full basis, not "will call" service.

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.

## SSA Seeks Nominees For Board

Being on the Board of the SSA isn't such hard work. Each month members drive to a different beautiful secluded home along Skyline, share news and views with their neighbors, partake of wine and cheese, and make weighty decisions. If you like to keep up on what's happening down the road, at the County level, or with MROSD, you might want to join this lively group.

Nominations are being accepted for 2002 Board membership. They will try to find folks who represent all areas of the South Skyline. Call Larry Myers 408-354-5830 if you are interested.

## Attention San Mateo County Residents

San Mateo County Environmental Health Services Division sent a letter to some residents and to SSA describing their attempt to update their records of all septic systems and water wells in the Coastal Zone (Pescadero, Pacifica, Half Moon Bay, and all unincorporated San Mateo County areas). In this letter they ask residents to schedule an appointment for a member of the Division's staff to come to the property and locate the resident's water well and septic system using a Global Positioning System. The stated goal of this project is for the Division to construct a digital map of wells and septic systems to allow a more efficient evaluation of the health of creeks and streams and to protect residents from potential groundwater contamination. Furthermore, the letter threatened: "If I haven't heard from you in 15 days, our staff will locate your septic system and well when .... in your area."

Steve Hartsell, a program manager in the Health Services Agency was contacted. There are two relatively new programs being conducted. The above letter relates to a study by an associate of his in the department, which is the result of a \$250,000 grant from the Coastal Conservancy. County officials definitely do not have the authority to enter your property for this study. The considerable reaction to this letter has caused a rewrite, which is in progress.

The second program involves a relatively new section of the County ordinances (Section 4.84.110) on septic systems providing for regular inspections every three years of the roughly 4000 septic systems in the county. Their inspection is not an internal inspection of the tank and system, but external, looking for leakage into watercourses or onto neighbor's property. While the ordinance allows for forced inspection, to date the program has asked parties to participate. If leakage problems are found, the landowner must repair the system. Inspections started in 1999 on the coast side, and have now progressed to LaHonda. Steve Hartsell stated that about 80% of the Pescadero residents contacted have freely participated in the program.

Independently we learned that other residents question whether the effort will lead to metering and charging for water use, or are fearful that the county will "red tag" a home whose septic system or well does not meet standards, and force them off their property as not fit for occupation.

SSA has invited Mr. Hartsell to its Board meeting October 11 to better explain the two programs, their merits, and consequences. More will be reported in future *Skylines*.

*~Dick Schwind & Ruth Waldhauer*

## Hantavirus on the Ridge

In a recent trapping survey in the Skyline area by Santa Clara County Vector Control, a deer mouse tested positive for Hantavirus.

The number of wood rats and deer mice in the sample survey was small so the total numbers of animals in our area infected is not known, but one positive test should heighten our awareness for taking precautions to avoid contracting the disease.

Hantavirus or Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome (HPS) is a virus carried in our area by deer mice and possibly wood rats (one confirmed sample in south Santa Clara County). Based on case studies that I've read, the primary mode of virus transmission is when fresh rodent urine, droppings or nesting material are stirred up, releasing the virus into the air within a closed environment and someone works or remains in that environment for an extended period of time. According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the first signs of sickness (especially fever and muscle aches) appear 1 to 5 weeks after exposure, followed by shortness of breath. Prevention is the key and recommendations can be found at the CDC web site:

[www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/hanta/hps/index.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/hanta/hps/index.htm)

*~Pat Congdon*

## There May Be a Way to Improve Telephone Service

Having trouble getting on line, faxing or just a lot of static? I have spoken to Pacific Bell and there is a possibility that we may be able to get improved service if we band together. This would not be ISDN or DSL, but just a clean line that would allow higher speed connections and less static.

Contact Joe Davis at 650-948-6424 or e-mail to [Fixphoneproblems@aol.com](mailto:Fixphoneproblems@aol.com)

# Take a Hike . . .

## Alpine Pond



In our last issue I wrote about Borel Hill in the Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve. Another very easy trail to take in this park is around Alpine Pond.

A one-mile trail surrounds this quiet pond ringed with cattails, and offers a unique opportunity to watch birds and study other pond wildlife.

This trail is also accessible to wheelchairs and baby strollers.

Overlooking Alpine Pond is the David C. Daniels Nature Center, which features imaginative displays that both children and adults can enjoy. The nature center presents information about the environment at Alpine Pond and the surrounding Skyline Ridge Open Space Preserve. Stop by to take a look at pond dwellers, snakes and more.

The nature center is open to the public on weekends from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., until mid-November, and then re-opens in March. To find out about current activities at the nature center, phone the District office at 650-691-1200.

During the week, elementary school classes visit the nature center as part of the District's environmental education program, *Spaces and Species: Exploring Natural Communities*. For more information about the program and scheduling a field trip, call the District office at 650-691-1200.

**Location:** The parking area is located at the intersection of Skyline Boulevard and Alpine Road. Equestrian parking is also available. Walk through the pedestrian tunnel to Alpine Pond.

**Hours:** The preserve is open from dawn until one half-hour after sunset.

~Patti Begley

We would like to hear from others about favorite walks in the Santa Cruz Mountains. Send us your articles or suggested trails to Skylines Editor 26160 Highway 9, Los Gatos, CA 95033, or email: [SkylinesEditor@earthlink.net](mailto:SkylinesEditor@earthlink.net)

## Honeysuckles Wind Along Santa Cruz Mountains

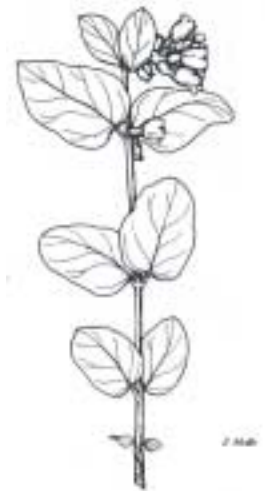
In any forest/jungle ecosystem are the vines. These plants grow along the ground, or use larger plants for support, reaching for that open spot of sunlight. Falling into this niche in the Santa Cruz Mountains are two members of the Honeysuckle family – *Caprifoliaceae*.



California, or hairy, honeysuckle (*Lonicera hispidula*), has long brown to reddish brown, twisted, fuzzy stems like gardening twine. When supported, plants may grow up to 20 feet long. Elliptical, hairy leaves grow opposite from the stem. The last leaf pair is fused perfoliate) just before the flowers. From May to July, pink, irregular, trumpet-shaped flowers grow in clusters. They have five petals – four upper and one lower - and protruding yellow stamen.

From September to December, round, green berries ripen to a translucent tomato red. Inside, seeds are yellow orange with a jelly coating. Fruits are edible, but foul tasting, and best left as food for birds.

Creeping snowberry, or trip vine (*Symphoricarpos mollis*) also has long, fuzzy stems. However, it rarely leaves the ground, growing up to 18 inches high. Leaves are opposite, and elliptical to round. Year round, most distinguishing from honeysuckle is the presence of a few leaves with side notches. In addition, leaves are thinner, with shorter hairs. Flowers grow in short clusters from April to June. They are also pink, but bell-shaped. In the late summer and fall, berries are solid white. (Note: another species, common snowberry (*S. albus*) grows as a bush 2-5 feet high, and has similar, but larger flowers and white berries.)



Both California honeysuckle and the snowberries are dependent on birds. Hummingbirds pollinate the flowers. Other species of birds disperse the seeds, either after eating the fruit, or when the pulp sticks to their feet.

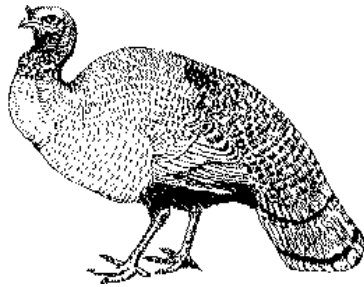
~Sarah Schoen

# Wild Turkey

## An Introduced Species

There is a lot of folklore surrounding the Wild Turkey; first Thanksgiving, turkey shoots and Benjamin Franklin's choice for the national bird. Wild Turkeys are native to the Eastern and Midwestern parts of the country. They are not native to California. In the East, native populations were greatly depleted in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century due to habitat destruction and over hunting, but have been reintroduced to their native lands. According to David Sibley's *Guide to Birds*, birds of mixed ancestry have been widely introduced beyond their natural range and are now found further north and much further west than ever before.

*Meleagris gallopavo* in scientific circles, is truly a magnificent bird when seen close up. Some of its feathers are beautifully mottled in brown and buff; others are striped in dark brown and white. The males are particularly stunning when strutting their stuff with full tail up and fanned, face wattle swelled up and humming gutturally to attract one or more mates. These are not small birds. Beak to tail, our turkeys range from 37" (50" wingspan) for females, to 46" (64" wingspan) for males. While they don't weigh as much as their domestic counterparts, the males average 16 pounds and the females about 9.



Their main habitat is in woods, mountain forests and wooded swamps. According to Kenn Kaufman's *Lives of North American Birds*, depending on the part of the country, they are also found in pine-oak forest, chaparral and arid grasslands. They are usually found near some type of oak, as acorns are a favorite food. Therefore, we see them all over the place. One family has a whole flock of turkeys, one tom with his harem of females and several adolescents that slowly meander through the "wash" behind a cluster of homes. Periodically, they come up on the deck for a better view, with one brave soul venturing onto the roof as look out. Most of their diet consists of what can be found on the ground: berries, leaves, grasses, roots, bulbs.

Springtime brings thoughts of love (lust?!?) for the turkeys and after all the display and mating, the female scratches a nest on the ground and lines it with grass and leaves. She lays 8-15 eggs, white to pale buff and dotted with reddish brown. Since females sometimes share the same male, there may be more than one female's eggs in one nest. It seems as if just one female gets the incubation and nursery duty. Incubation takes about 25-31 days. The little downy chicks are pretty self-sufficient. They can feed themselves almost immediately, can fly short distances at 1-2 weeks and are full-grown in several months.

~Freddy Howell



## A Time for Reflection

With Thanksgiving soon upon us, and the shock of recent events in our country, many have paused to reflect on the blessings we often take for granted. Among those things we have to be thankful for is the opportunity to live in this lovely mountain place.

Janet Schwind is currently working on a history of the area, and contributed this poem written by Ridgway Rowley, publisher of the Palo Alto Weekly in 1891.

### Our Valley

A vale, outstretching like the main,  
Its billowy waves of growing grain  
    'Twixt mountain shores held beating  
A summer breeze soft creeping on,  
Whilst April skies restrain the sun  
    From a too ardent greeting.

A cottage white, 'neath boughs of green,  
Yea! In the distance still, I wean,  
    I hear the lowing cattle  
I see a matron, grave, yet fair,  
With ruddy children playing there,  
    In miniature, life's battle.

With Heaven above, earth's calm below,  
A fitting place for age to grow  
    In grace and in believing,  
As through the live oak's spreading limbs  
Arise the Sabbath morning hymns,  
    In praise of One redeeming.



## California Fire Foundation Accepting Donations For Fallen Firefighter Families

For those in the fire service, the attacks on New York's World Trade Center and the Pentagon in Washington carried a special stab of agony, as news reports revealed that hundreds of our fellow firefighters perished when the World Trade Center towers crumbled into rubble. California Professional Firefighters has received hundreds of inquiries from firefighters and the general public about what they can do to help the families of these selfless public servants.

To help ensure that the families of fallen firefighters get the support they need, CPF has already established the California Fire Foundation. In these extraordinary times, CPF is making this foundation a vehicle through which our members and the general public can help those who have sacrificed so much.

CPF is today distributing a letter to all 28,000 of its members asking that they make contributions to the Foundation in solidarity with their fallen brothers and sisters. In addition, FireStar Productions has produced a 30-second public service announcement to get the word out to the public about how it can help the families of fallen firefighters.

All contributions received by the foundation will be bundled together and sent to the families of the firefighters who sacrificed their lives to protect the public during this monstrous attack. Every dollar of these tax-deductible contributions will be used to help the families of these heroes.

Checks can be made payable to the California Fire Foundation, and can be addressed as follows:

California Fire Foundation  
c/o California Professional Firefighters  
1780 Creekside Oaks, Suite 200  
Sacramento, CA 95833  
Tax ID # 68-0118991

Donations may also be made by credit card by calling our toll-free number, 1-800-890-3213. You can also visit our web site <http://www.cpf.org>.

*~George Johnson*

## Lakeside Students Raise Over \$2000 For American Red Cross

Two fourth graders from Lakeside Elementary school, Nathan and Deanna Devlin, decided to do something to help the victims and families devastated by the events at the World Trade Center. They put out the word to the other students that they were collecting money for the American Red Cross disaster relief efforts, and the other children enthusiastically joined in the cause.

On Friday September 28 a representative from the American Red Cross came to the school assembly to accept the donations. Nathan and Deanna wheeled out a red wagon heavily loaded with rolls of coins and a large bag of bills totaling \$2017.56. This money will go towards providing food and shelter for those made homeless by the tragic events of September 11. We are very proud of our children and their families and how they opened their hearts to those in need.

*~Patti Begley*

*Contributions can be made to the American Red Cross by visiting [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org). Contributions may also be sent to your local American Red Cross chapter or to the American Red Cross, P.O. Box 37243, Washington, DC 20013.*

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## Funds Help Local Fire and Rescue Volunteers

South Skyline Fire and Rescue Volunteers thank all who have responded to their request for funds. We will be able to purchase protective wild land fire apparel and some necessary tools.

If you sent a contribution and have not received an acknowledgement and thank you, please contact Victoria DeMartini at 650-948-3578.

# SSA July General Meeting

The SSA General Meeting held in July 2001 at Ami and Dick Jaqua's, which featured a Geology presentation and an Emergency Preparedness Fair, was well attended, informative and fun. Photos of the event are shown below.

Below left: The American Red Cross was a popular booth.



Below right: Kings Mountain Emergency Preparedness-Kids and other volunteers demonstrate their method of cribbing and levering to release a person trapped under debris.



See more photos at [www.southskylines.org](http://www.southskylines.org)

**The SSA and the South Skyline Emergency Preparedness Committee thank the many helpers** who contributed to the success of the Emergency Preparedness Fair: Our generous hosts, Ami and Dick Jaqua; the Director of KMEP Pat Wurster with Marty Phelps, his capable daughter Emily and her friends of the KMEP-KIDS; Brigade Chief Peter Yaninek, Captains Vince Pena, Steve Hernandez and CDF staff of Saratoga Summit and Battalion Chief Rick Swan and Captain Michael Cummings of the Skylonda Fire Brigade and their group of Fire Fighters. For his help and advise we thank Pat Congdon of the South Skyline Fire & Rescue. Our appreciation goes to the South Skyline Fire & Rescue Volunteers; The Bay Area Chapter of the Red Cross and, in particular; Sherry Lee, Andrea Scharf, and Jane Gruba. We are grateful to Mike Dempsey, of the Langley Hill Quarry who donated a 500 lb rock; Mike Sapp, Special Events Coordinator for REI, San Jose, and REI Specialist Markus Schwab. Sherry Niswander and Tom Anderson, Anderson-Niswander Construction; "Fire-Safe" Roofing Contractor; to our public health nurse, Judith Watson, who volunteered to be on call, our thanks. And thanks are due to the Los Altos Rod & Gun Club, thank you all! Last, but not least, we are grateful to the Board of SSA for shepherding the Fair.





## CLASSIFIED ADS



### FOR SALE

#### **Very Used Redwood:**

Approximately 1000 board feet of 20+- year-old redwood, mostly 2X4. Weathered, nail holes, some kinda busted, all in pretty bad shape. I don't know what it is good for, but I can't see just burning it. Any reasonable offer considered. Ted 650-747-0907

**Woodstove:** Steel-plate! By Foster! Very heavy, air-tight!. \$295 650-851-3181

**10 ft UHF/VHF Yagi TV Antenna,** like new, \$50.  
Contact: Joe Davis 650-948-6426

### FREE

**Fire Fittings:** Convert 1 1/2 inch pipe thread to fire thread. Blue reflectors included. South Skyline Fire & Rescue. George. 408-354-1401

### FOR RENT

#### **Pond cottage for rent:**

Highway 9 near # 35 ( West-Skyline) 15 minutes from Saratoga. Two room cottage in a meadow ringed with trees in the middle of a 600-acre reserve. Bedroom with sliding doors onto small deck, full bath, pantry, kitchen, gas stove, refrigerator, large living room w/ fireplace, built-in bookshelves, huge window. Rooms are heated with built-in wall heaters (propane, delivered). Privacy, security gate, all the down-wood for fireplace you can cut. One year lease. Security Deposit. References. Country Savvy. 408-867-1722 evenings.

### WANTED

**Anyone who has a "surger"** and is willing/able to embroider SSEP on the vests of graduates of Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training. Please contact Irene Long at 831 338-0554.

### WANTED

**Assistance with horse feeding and cleaning** needed in Skyline/Crazy Pete's area! Mon - Fri morning feeding and cleaning for 2 horses and 2 to 3 ponies. Please contact Rosemary -650-851-5690 or [Rosemary.Broome@alza.com](mailto:Rosemary.Broome@alza.com)

**Wanted: Dream Cat** Sabretooth Tigger went to cat heaven. A good home awaits his successor. Prefer an in- and out-door female cat between one and two years. Good mouser or ratter. Hoping for a long haired Siamese. Will be attended by Dr. Janet Lowery at Mid-Peninsula Animal Hospital. Call 408-867-1722

**Part time helper** for maintenance and farm work. Please call Joe Davis at 650-948-6426

**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 July1, October 1, January 1, and April 1.

**Skylines News Articles:** The deadline for submitting articles for the next issue is December 16, 2001.

**Send all ads and articles to:** Patti Begley 26160 Highway 9, Los Gatos, CA 95033, or [SkylinesEditor@earthlink.net](mailto:SkylinesEditor@earthlink.net)

## SOUTH SKYLINE ASSOCIATION

Box 400, Star Route 2  
La Honda, CA 94020

President Larry Myers 408-354-5830  
Editor Patti Begley 408-867-3973

### SSA CALENDAR

General Meeting October 20, 7:00 pm Barn Dance at Las Cumbres

Business Meetings at 7:15 pm

Thurs. October 11 - Larry Meyers

Sat. November 10 Retreat - Dick Schwind

Thurs December 13 – Georgia Stigall

(Call Larry Meyers for location and directions)