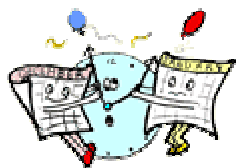


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It's time...  
to renew your SSA  
Membership for 2004.  
An application is enclosed.

## SSA General Meeting January 23, 2004 CDF Saratoga Summit Fire Station

### Atmospheric Wonders

Light, Color, Fire, and Ice in the Sky

Speaker – Joe Jordan

Refreshments 7:00 pm  
Board Election Followed By  
"Atmospheric Wonders" 7:30 pm

*Bring a potluck dessert.  
SSA will provide hot beverages and  
soft drinks.*

Join us for an evening with Joe Jordan (AKA Cosmic Joe): NASA researcher, teacher, astronomer, and renewable energy advocate. Observe and learn about physics in the environment, with beautiful pictures and interesting stories about aerial phenomena from the common to the exotic, ranging from rainbows, haloes, and sundogs to glories, mirages, the "mother-of-pearl", or "nacreous" clouds, and the green flash.

Joe will also give us an update on the Mars and Cassini probes. The rovers Spirit and Opportunity are scheduled to arrive at Mars this month (January 2004), and the Cassini probe is nearing its rendezvous with the Saturn moon Titan.

Weather and time permitting, Cosmic Joe will lead us in a bit of science-based stargazing. If you have them, **bring along binoculars and/or a small telescope** for this portion of the evening.

Joe Jordan currently works for NASA/Ames and most recently has been involved in the search for planets around other stars. He also teaches Astronomy & Physics in Nature classes throughout the country.

Joe is also looking for participants for a trip he is leading to Iceland in February 2004. See details on page 10.

*General Meetings are open to all Skyline residents. Please join us for this fun event.*

*The CDF Saratoga Summit Fire Station is located on Skyline Blvd. approximately 1 mile north of the intersection of Skyline and Highway 9.*



## SSA Board Elections

The annual SSA Board Elections will take place at the SSA General Meeting on January 23 at 7:30 pm. (See page 1.) Board members whose terms are up in January 2004 and are running again are **Dick Schwind, Ruth Waldhauer, Bo Gimbal, Ken Broome and Bill Prince.**

### New Candidates

A new candidate on the roster is **Jamie Kerr.** Jamie was born and raised on Martinez Road in Skylonda and graduated from Woodside High School. His parents met in the mid-1950s when they were teachers in Pescadero. His father also coached football there. From there, they settled at Skylonda and started a family. When the children were older, Mom taught at Los Altos High.

Jamie studied business at Foothill College, and became a part owner of the Zebra Copy stores on the West Coast. After selling his interest there, he and his brother Andy bought Alice's Restaurant and the Mountain Terrace 16 months ago, and have been busily revitalizing these local establishments at "The Corners" of Skyline Boulevard and Woodside Road. He and his wife Rose have two children; Matthew age 3 1/2 and Meghan age 1 1/2. Jamie says, "It is very important to be active in the community and to know your neighbors."

Another candidate is **Judi Lovell.** Judi lives in the Indian Rock area near Skyline and Highway 9. She is a past SSA President, and has served on the board for many years. We are very fortunate that she has volunteered to work on the board again.

### Thanks to Outgoing Board Members

Two board members, **Sharon Peters** and **Bill Fowkes**, have decided not to run for another term. Sharon was Treasurer for many years, and Bill served as Vice-President. They have both worked hard for the SSA Board for many years, and we thank them very much for their time and efforts.

## New Board Member

SSA Board member **Kurt Heiner** is unable to complete his two-year term and has submitted his resignation. At the December SSA Board meeting **Judy Grote** was appointed to fill the remainder of Kurt's term. Judy moved to the Alpine-Portola Redwood State Park area in 1985 with her husband Ingemar Persson. Her interests are the State Parks, Emergency Preparedness, and government efficiency with regard to Planning and Building. Currently, she is the President of the Castle Rock and Portola Redwood State Park Foundation Board and Secretary of the South Skyline Emergency Preparedness group.

Welcome to Judy, and many thanks to Kurt for his contributions to the board over the last year.

## What is Your SSA Board Doing?

In the last quarter, the SSA Board of Directors has taken action on the following items.

- A committee drafted the membership questionnaire, brought it before the Board, and then wrote numerous revisions, resulting in the final draft, which will be sent to members.
- A committee began looking at potential sites for a community center and drew up an engineering report for one possibility.
- Negotiations began with a wireless ISP to bring high-speed Internet to the first Skyline neighborhood.
- Recruiting efforts continued for the South Skyline Volunteer Fire and Rescue.
- Negotiations with Amerigas stabilized the SPUG price in the West Hwy 9 neighborhood.
- Made final arrangements for the October General Meeting (Square Dance). Arrangements were made for the program for the January General meeting; nominations for the Board election were gathered. Preliminary decisions were made about the program for the April meeting.

Visitors are welcome to all board meetings; please check the website for meeting dates. Meeting minutes and agendas are also on [www.southskyline.org](http://www.southskyline.org).

~Kristen Smith, SSA Secretary

## SSA Treasurer's Report

Credits (Income):	
Membership	\$6997.00
Interest & Other Income	<u>844.27</u>
Total Credits:	\$7841.27
Debits (Expenses):	
Newsletters & Postage	\$2371.50
General Meetings & Speakers	1796.47
Website & all other expenses	<u>2423.77</u>
Total Debits:	\$6591.74
Bank Balance (checking & savings)	\$21,008.24

Submitted by Sharon Peters, Treasurer

## SPUG Quarterly Report

Skyline Propane Users Group (SPUG) was formed as a benefit for SSA members. For information about joining the SPUG, or for members wishing to have current information on the Amerigas contract with SPUG, 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.

Prices are subject to changes as frequently as wholesale prices change. Reported here 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 cent/gallon discount on the SPUG group price. Our SPUG rate is based on automatic regular route deliveries on a keep-full basis, not "will call" service.

Recent SPUG prices for members served by the San Jose Amerigas are:

September	\$1.129/gallon
October	1.129
November	1.159
December	1.249
January	1.319

Members who are served out of the Scotts Valley Amerigas are charged about six cents/gallon more than the prices listed above due to the additional cost of transporting the propane from the refinery to Scotts Valley.

*~Ruth Waldhauer*

### Create a New Skylines Logo

The Skylines staff is interested in considering a new logo for the Skylines banner. We like the mountains and trees of our current skyline graphic but feel it might be time for a new, improved and updated artwork.

We invite our Skylines readers to submit one or more entries for our "Create a New Skyline Challenge".

Entries should be in black and white, and at least 2" high by 7.5" wide. (Entries can be larger but will be reduced to this size to fit the newsletter.)

Send entries by mail or electronically to:  
Patti Begley  
26160 Highway 9  
Los Gatos, CA 95033  
Email: [Skylineseditor@earthlink.net](mailto:Skylineseditor@earthlink.net)

## South Skyline Story Takes Form

Research for the South Skyline local history is almost finished, and principal writer Janet Schwind has nearly finished a first draft of the text. Historical photos and maps will be included in the book, which we expect to be about 250 pages long. A look at the table of contents shows the form the book is taking:

### The SOUTH SKYLINE STORY

1. Beginnings
  - Geology
  - Ohlone People
  - Spaniards and Mexicans
2. Timber Cutters
3. Early Roadbuilders
4. Early Settlers -- A Legacy of Names
5. Life on the Ranch
6. Lords of the Hill
7. Boulevard Builders
8. Movers in the Motor Age
9. Commuters and Communities
10. Communes
11. Modern Agriculture
12. Conservationists
13. What Might Have Been

Recent research has focused on the communes of the 1960's and 1970's with interviews of notables and notorious of that lively period.

The Finance Committee of the Skyline Historical Society is in the process of budgeting for publication of the book and would like to determine how many to print. **When you fill out your SSA membership form, please take a minute to answer the questions about the history project.**

*~Ann Waldhauer*



### A New Years' Toast

When winter rains pound through the trees at night  
May your power stay on and your lights burn bright;  
When cold raging winds over mountain tops blow  
May your family stay warm and your SPUG rates low;  
When wild pigs rut in the garden and raccoons get in the trash  
May the beauty of nature touch you and  
Poison oak not give you a rash.

*~Patti Begley*

# High Speed Internet Access In The Skyline Area

## Broadband Internet

You may recall we surveyed SSA membership for interest in broadband Internet access for the SSA area. We received nearly 170 responses. Roughly 50% of the respondents were looking for broadband for between \$40 and \$60 per month, and another 35% were willing to pay between \$60 and \$80 per month. The remaining 15% were not price sensitive. We then started talking to several broadband service providers in the area. To make a long story short, there are only three technologies available today that are viable: DSL, fixed wireless, and satellite. There are some other technologies that might be available in another one to five years that we did not consider.

## Satellite

Satellite can work for many people, but it has several drawbacks. First, it is not inexpensive; the monthly costs are typically \$80 per month or higher, plus the initial equipment costs upwards of \$650. Satellite also suffers from high latency (the time it takes for the signal to travel back and forth to a satellite orbiting at 23,000 miles). Satellite also seems to “drop out” during periods of high moisture, and lastly, the speed is not quite up to DSL speeds.

## DSL

DSL is now available to residents in the Las Cumbres & Oak Ridge Road area. Verizon serves this area, and starting in December 2003, they decided to make the infrastructure upgrades to make this service available in this area. Unfortunately, this is only a tiny fraction of the SSA area, and it does not help anyone living more than a couple of miles from Las Cumbres. Verizon is charging around \$35 per month for this service. We have tried to get SBC interested in doing similar upgrades to other areas of SSA. Unfortunately, they have been unwilling to make the necessary upgrades. We expect that SBC will not invest in the necessary upgrades in our lifetimes.

## Fixed Wireless

The remaining choice is fixed wireless. The advantage of fixed wireless is that the infrastructure is low cost, and that it can be deployed almost anywhere relatively quickly. We have been able to locate three fixed wireless vendors that could serve our area: Hilltop Internet (<http://www.hilltopinternet.com/>), Gatespeed Internet (<http://www.gatespeed.com/>), and Bull Pen Wireless (<http://www.bullpenwireless.com/>). Gatespeed has an access point on Black Mountain already, but has a mixed record for service. They are also on the expensive side (\$99/month), for relatively low bandwidth

(256K bps). You can upgrade to 512K bps bandwidth or 1M bps with prices of \$199/month and \$299/month respectively.

Initial equipment cost is \$399. The price structure for Gatespeed is well outside of our search criteria. We have also talked to Bull Pen Wireless. It is unclear that they would be willing to deploy in our area unless we could provide them a list of 30+ users in a given area. Reviewing the locations of all the survey respondents, that might work in a couple of areas, but would leave large areas of SSA without service. If Bull Pen could deploy their service in our area, they would charge an initial setup fee of \$299, and \$59/month for the 256K bps service. They also offer higher bandwidth options of 512K bps and 1M bps for \$99/month and \$199/month respectively. This is marginally within our search criteria for their low speed service. It should be noted that the 256K bps service is on the low end of DSL speeds. Finally, we talked to Hilltop Internet. They are the smallest of all the vendors that we surveyed, but are operated by people living on the mountain. Their initial setup fee is \$395, which is moderate. Their monthly service fee is \$49.95, which is in the middle of our search criteria. The bandwidth they promise is 1M bps download and 230K bps upload. Finally, they are willing to deploy if we can present clusters of 4 or more users.

There is clearly some risk involved in choosing Hilltop Internet. Hilltop is the smallest of all the vendors we have reviewed. However, they are also willing to deploy in an area that is clearly challenging or just plain unattractive to all the other broadband vendors we have reviewed. If you agree, you can contact the SSA broadband Internet committee at [broadband@southskyline.org](mailto:broadband@southskyline.org). We will assemble the clusters as best we can, and get back to you with deployment information.

~ Bill Prince



Skyliners enjoyed the traditional music of Harmon's Peak at the SSA Barn Dance in October 2003.

## South Coast Citizens Council For Emergency Preparedness Receives Grant

Various localized groups/organizations on the South Coast with a stake in public safety have been continuously working on emergency preparedness plans within their communities. Each group has been developing plans addressing their community's specific needs.

The South Coast Disaster Advisory Council has received a FEMA grant that is to be used to form a Citizens' Council on Emergency Preparedness for the South Coast. The goal of this newly forming group is to develop a focus on emergency preparedness for the South Coast as a whole, building upon the work done by the communities of Pescadero, La Honda, Loma Mar, San Gregorio, Portola Park-Middleton Tract, and Skylonda.

As a larger group, we can build a stronger network to rely on during an emergency, can seek additional grants for Community Emergency Response Training (CERT), and educate our community members about preparing and dealing with emergencies, increasing the effectiveness of our response.

*~Ken Broome*

### Mountain Blood Drive March 10, 2004

Lakeside Elementary School will be hosting a Blood Drive for mountain residents with the American Red Cross from 1:30 PM to 7 PM on March 10, 2004. It will be held in the new Multi-Purpose / Lakeside Community Building, at the Lakeside Elementary school located at 19621 Black Rd., Los Gatos.

As the date approaches, beginning about mid January, the office staff will be taking calls to set appointments with callers. The phone number is: (408) 354-2372. You may also schedule an appointment around mid January on the Red Cross website at: [www.GiveLife.org](http://www.GiveLife.org).

Blood is needed on a continual basis, and this is your chance to help save someone's life. Type 0- is in particular demand since it is the "universal donor type" that can be given to those of any blood type, yet a person of this blood type can receive red blood cells from only 7% of the population. All blood types are needed, and if you are 0-, it is doubly important for you to donate.

**Please mark your calendars to call for an appointment starting in mid January.** If you have any questions, please call Peggy McRoberts at: (408) 354-5530. Give the gift of life. Give blood on March 10th!

## Emergency Preparedness: New CERT Class

CITIZEN EMERGENCY RESPONSE TRAINING (CERT) FOR THE SOUTH COAST: 20 hours that can help you become better prepared in case of an emergency. 20 hours that could save lives.

Following a major disaster the small communities within the South Coast are often isolated from other parts of the county. Communication and electrical outages can make it impossible to reach 911. Official first responders such as fire officials, sheriff's officers, and medical personnel may have to overcome downed trees, live wires, mudslides, washed out roads, and flooding in order to respond. Emergency response requests increase so dramatically during an emergency that the demand cannot always be met. Often community members become the first responders to hazardous situations including fire, flooding, fallen trees, downed electrical wires, and mudslides. This is where CERT trained volunteers come in.

FEMA administers the Citizen Corps program, which includes "Citizens Emergency Response Team" training, to help communities become better prepared to respond to local emergencies. The recently formed South Coast Citizen Corps Council is offering this 20-hour course, which is open to residents of the South Coast (from Skyline to the Santa Cruz County line) starting January 31, 2004. This training will meet FEMA requirements, while providing information specific to the needs of the South Coast.

Training modules include:

- Emergency Preparedness
- Fire Safety
- Emergency Medical
- Light Search & Rescue
- CERT organization
- Disaster Psychology
- Terrorism

CERT training will be held at the Loma Mar Fire Station from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Dates for the four sessions are 1/31, 2/14, 2/28, 3/6 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Attendance at all four sessions is mandatory in order to be certified.

COST: FREE Space is limited

Lunch: Participants to provide their own

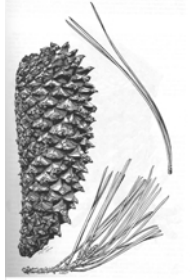
Additionally, First Aid/CPR courses will be offered as well as HAM Radio licensing options.

For more information or to sign up, see <http://www.lahondafire.org> or call Monique Hodgkinson 650-879-9033 or Lary Lawson 879-0933.

*~Judy Grote*

## Knobcone Pines are Ready to Burn

Knobcone pines (*Pinus attenuata*) are the most widely distributed closed cone pines in California. They are uniquely adapted to fire ecology.



Knobcones are fast maturing, short-lived trees. At maturity, they stand 20 to 40 feet tall, and 1-2 feet across at the base. With age, trees change from single to multi trunks, and bark changes from brown to gray. Three needled leaves are stiff and yellow-green, 4 to 7 inches long. Cones start forming at age 10 to 12 years. Eventually, the trunks and major

branches are covered with knobby, asymmetrical cones 3 to 6 inches long and twice as long as they are wide. In the absence of fire, trees live 50 to less than 100 years.

Knobcones are dependent on fire for reproduction. Like most pines, cones mature in two years. However, they remain closed and on the tree until exposure to high temperatures, usually from a fire. The cone scales are sealed with a hard resin. Exposure to heat melts and may vaporize the resin, allowing the cones to open.

Knobcones have reduced competition from other plants by growing in infertile, acidic soil such as serpentine, marine sand deposits, or granitic sand. The trees are drought tolerant with deep roots, growing where other trees cannot. Temporarily after a fire, soil becomes more basic, and phosphorus and nitrogen levels and sunlight increase, allowing seeds to germinate. Seeds begin to be released in one to twelve hours, and can continue for a few years. The small seeds have one-inch wings, aiding in wind dispersal. They germinate well into the rainy season from February through March.

The trees themselves are designed to burn. The wood is not fire resistant, and lower branches grow near the ground. In dense stands, branches of neighboring trees are interlocking. The open, multi-trunked growth of mature trees encourages crown fires.

The cones, on the other hand, are fire resistant. Seeds with wings that are singed by fire do not disperse as far as those that remain untouched. As cones remain attached for years, and trees continue to grow, trunks and branches can start to grow over the cones, and knobcones can become "trees that swallow their cones". Cones can remain viable for 60 years.

Knobcones can also disperse seeds to a lesser extent without fire. Exposure to long, hot, dry spells may also melt the resin. In addition, foraging by gray squirrels may allow a few seeds to go unnoticed and germinate if conditions are favorable.

Knobcones are found sporadically from southwestern Oregon to Baja California below 6,000 feet. Locally, knobcones grow in small stands in Castle Rock Park, and on their namesake Pine Mountain in Big Basin. Where the ranges overlap at Ano Nuevo and Waddell Creek, knobcones can hybridize with Monterey pines (*Pinus radiata*). The offspring are intermediate between the two parents.

~Sarah Schoen

## Preventive Application for Sudden Oak Death Approved

The fight against Sudden Oak Death (SOD) is on! Thanks to the efforts of lead scientists Drs. Matteo Garbelotto and David Rizzo who discovered that a brown algae-type fungus, *Phytophthora ramorum*, causes sudden oak death, we now have a treatment. It is a combination of a phosphatide, brand name Agri-Fos, mixed with an organosilicate carrier, Pentra-Bark that helps absorption of the chemical over a period of about six months. On October 1 this combination was approved for preventive application on oak and tanoak trees. Arborists in our area are now trained in its application. Research continues on its effectiveness against *P. ramorum* infestation in citrus and avocado and other important agricultural/horticultural crops.

Agri-Fos has been used for years as a fertilizer and is not toxic to humans. It is phytotoxic (will turn leaves brown). Foliar and bark spray of Agri-Fos requires protection of surrounding vegetation. A simple tarp over nearby bushes and ornamentals will do the trick. There are two main methods of application against *P. ramorum* in oak trees. Easiest and least expensive is spraying the bark up to a height of six to nine feet. According to the scientists this works only on oak. The second method, bark injection at the lower trunk, avoids the problem of phytotoxicity altogether. Tanoak requires bark injection, as it does not respond to simple spraying. Though most susceptible and despite its name, it does not belong to the oak family (*Quercus*); but is a *Lithocarpus*.

Another caution: browning of leaves and even death of the affected tree does not necessarily mean it has been attacked by *P. ramorum* and would benefit by Agri-Fos treatment. There are other diseases with the same symptoms, root-rot for one. Cheaper than treatment is diagnosis. A technician from the office of your County's Agricultural Commissioner will test your tree for free.

Treatment, mainly preventive and the earlier the more effective, is recommended primarily for trees near homes, major traffic or close to California bay laurel, the major vector of *P. ramorum*. Clearly, it is not possible to spray or inject vast tracts of diseased oak; the fight is not over, but there is light at the end of the tunnel.

~Eva Blum

## The Avian Housing Market

It's January and love is in the air. No, I don't have my months or my seasons wrong. January is truly the time when many birds start their mating rituals and courting flights. They are also looking for housing for their family that will arrive in the spring. All species have different housing needs and while the view might not be important, the neighborhood and amenities certainly are. A "gourmet kitchen" in the form of a great feeding station with sunflower seed, peanuts and suet would make chickadees and titmice put in an offer immediately. Add to that a "swimming pool" in the form of a birdbath, fountain or pond and you'll be sure to start a bidding war. The bedrooms are most important for birds. Some birds, like Great Horned Owls, build their nests high up in the trees. Jays and robins prefer lower trees and shrubs. Others, like the California Towhees, build closer to the ground. We always have a pair in our Ceanothus by the propane tank. California Quail line hollows under a bush or next to a log with fine grasses for their nests. Chickadees, titmice, nuthatches and woodpeckers are all cavity nesters so they're looking for holes in an old oak tree or, better yet, one of those single-family houses attached to a tree, fence or house.

A birdhouse or nesting box is a great way to attract these wonderful parents, but not all boxes are good for all species. The size of the box and the size of the hole, as well as placement will determine who will move in. Plain rather than decorated are usually more successful but ones with natural decorations such as pinecones and moss can serve both the birds and the aesthetic eye. Nest boxes should not have perches. Perches allow predators such as House Sparrows, starlings and jays to perch at the hole. Cavity nesters have no need for perches. When choosing an "avian housing unit", the following amenities are very important: Ventilation – usually holes or slits under the roof; Drainage holes in the bottom – these can be added later; Cleanout – last year's nest needs to be cleaned out. A general guideline for placement has acceptable housing sheltered from the worst of the sun and rain, approximately 5' to 10' off the ground and usually mounted on a post, tree or fence.

You, too, can do your part to increase affordable housing in the area, put up a nest box and enjoy watching the next generation.



~Freddy Howell



## A Community Center... If You Want One!

The idea of a South Skyline Community Center is not a new one. It has been batted about since the early days of the SSA. The time to act is now. It is up to SSA members to decide whether or not to go forward! To this end a question will be submitted to members in a survey they will receive shortly.

Kings Mountain (KMA) has a Community Center that has been put to good use. It began with an idea that came to a few fellows as they played poker in the back of the Red Pump, now The Mountain House. They had just returned from helping to put out a neighborhood fire, saying how much a regular firefighting unit was needed. It took eight years to build. Volunteer work crews gave up every weekend until the Community Center was built. It is now the Fire Station for the Volunteer Fire Fighters and Brigade programs and training, and the KM Emergency Kids. It provides space, among others, for wreath making, exercise classes, yoga, Garden Club and Arts Fair meetings. Residents say the Community Center is the heart of the community.

Clearly this is a serious commitment and a big effort, worth undertaking only if it meets a real need in our own community. Would a Community Center benefit Skyline residents and their families? Outlined below are a few uses to which a Community Center might be put.

There could be classes and activities for children and adults: play groups for the little ones, sports, art, music, dance, and hobby clubs for the older ones. There could be special events as well as ongoing get-togethers, community meetings, musical groups, concerts, theater, and specialty training such as CPR, First Aid, CERT and other emergency preparedness skills. It could be a swap center, a place to store emergency equipment. Local artists could exhibit their work. Displays of objects from the old days could enhance its appeal.

Such a center should be self-supporting by renting out space to service clubs, church groups, and urban property owner's associations that appreciate a location in a nearby rural setting with access to Open Space. The only limits are our own inventiveness! As a Community Center its success will depend on active and ongoing interest and participation. Tell us what you want!

~Eva Blum

**SSA Members will soon receive surveys in the mail.** The information from the surveys will help the SSA Board understand the interests and concerns of the Skyline Community. Members are encouraged to complete and return the surveys so that the board can better represent its members.

# Mountain Schools are Looking for Community Support

The financial crisis in the local school districts is not going away soon, even if the economy improves. Ours is a crisis perpetuated by state and federal funding systems that were not designed to meet the needs of small, rural schools. (The large La Honda/Pescadero District has the smallest student population in San Mateo County: 365 students.)

Pescadero High School worked successfully to graduate 100% of its students (all 15 of them!) in June 2002. Federal "No Child Left Behind" legislation requires that schools show progress in graduation rates. You can't go up from 100%, so PHS, where scores went up, may face federal sanctions imposed on failing schools.

I'm not kidding.

On the state level, reclassification of the rural schools has occurred in the SSA area from a "Revenue Limit" district to a "Basic Aid" district, because district property tax revenue is greater than what the state would pay us per child. Since our local schools are now Basic Aid, we're entitled to keep more of our property taxes to pay for schools. Unfortunately, because we are so close to the margin, we are actually losing supplemental money the state would have made up. La Honda Elementary has lost \$35,000--a teacher's salary--in revenue from this reclassification alone. That math makes my head spin. The new Governor has already begun floating the idea of cutting more from the schools' budget. The community support is vital.

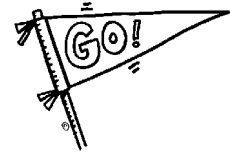
A Brown University report confirms our challenge: "While many rural schools and school districts offer an intimacy in education which suburban and urban districts may envy, they often face critical fiscal and resource challenges. These challenges often threaten the continued viability of entire

communities. Strengthening education in these communities is a vital tool for securing their future."

Maybe we're not so different from other communities, after all. Yes, we're small, rural, and somewhat unconventional--but we help our neighbors, we love our children, and we value their education.

Please help by donating to your local school whether you have children in these schools or not. All children are our future.

Pescadero Education Foundation  
PO Box 663  
Pescadero CA 94060  
650/879-0332



La Honda Educational Foundation  
PO Box 225  
La Honda CA 94020

Lakeside School Community Foundation  
19621 Black Rd.  
Los Gatos, CA 95033  
408-354-2372  
Wish List Web Site:  
<http://www.grantsforkids.org/>

Montebello Elementary School Foundation  
15101 Montebello Road  
Cupertino CA 95014

*~Ruth Waldhauer*

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## We Can All Help Our Schools

It's unfortunate, but all schools have to get very creative to find ways to raise money to provide enrichment programs, supplies and equipment for their students that aren't provided by state funding. This includes such things as special school assemblies, art, music, physical education, languages and more.

In our small mountain schools, the parents are getting tapped out financially and time-wise. (There are only so many tubs of cookie dough, and boxes of wrapping paper that one family can buy!) Many parents and grandparents are already volunteering on the playgrounds, in the classrooms, gardens, and sports programs. More help from the community would make so much difference in the quality of our schools, and would help keep the mountain children from going elsewhere for their education.

When you don't have school aged children, it is hard to know what is going on in the schools and it's hard to know what you can do to help. Here are some ideas:

- Participate in the local school fundraisers.
- Donate items or services to school auctions and classrooms.
- School Foundations love to receive checks!
- If you have a special skill or knowledge that you would like to share with the children, the schools would love to hear from you. Volunteers can be used on an ongoing basis, or for just a one-time program.
- Many companies will match any donation made by their employees; does your company offer matching funds?

On page 9 are some local fundraisers coming up soon.

*~ Patti Begley*



# Mountain School Events



## Wine Tasting Fundraiser

La Honda Education Foundation  
Saturday, January 24, 4:00- 7:00 pm



Come and appreciate great local wines paired with delicious food and live music all in a beautiful redwood setting.

Built on a foundation of fine wines from Thomas Fogarty Winery, Woodside Vineyards and Bonny Doon Vineyards, the custom-designed wine list also features a set of superb wines produced by a local winemaking family, including a Pinot Noir grown on the slopes of La Honda's Mindego Hill and a Shiraz from Monterey County. Each wine is paired with gourmet foods especially selected for that wine. In addition we'll have live music by local musicians David Elias and Mary Pitchford. All this takes place at the Mountain Terrace; a quaint mountain lodge nestled amongst majestic California redwoods and oaks.

Save the date: January 24, 4pm-7pm, at the Mountain Terrace, 17285 Skyline Boulevard, in Woodside. All proceeds go to the LHEF (La Honda Educational Foundation) and benefit La Honda area schools. Advance tickets may be purchased for \$25 per person. Reservations by January 20 are recommended. Call (650) 747-0372.



### Lakeside Wish List

For a look at what kinds of items are needed at Lakeside Elementary School, go see their wish list at: <http://www.grantsforkids.org/>

## Montebello Hike-A-Thon Sunday, January 25 10:00 am

Join us in our Hike-A-Thon to benefit Montebello Elementary School. Hike at the top of beautiful Montebello Ridge and enjoy a BBQ after the hike. Call (408) 867-3062 for details and registration.

Montebello School is a small public school located in the hills west of Cupertino. There are 44 students in the diverse study body, in Kindergarten through sixth grade. This one school District encompasses Montebello Road, Stevens Canyon, and part of Skyline Boulevard. The local community supports the school with events such as the Hike-A-Thon to supplement state funding and offer supportive and enriching programs such as music, art, low student/teacher ratio, technology and more.



## Recycle for Lakeside Elementary School

Throughout the month of January

The kids at Lakeside School are collecting cans and bottles that have "California Redemption Value". They are raising money to buy equipment for their new gym/multipurpose building.

Take your recycling to the school at 19621 Black Rd. Or, if you live too far from the school, but would like to contribute during the January recycling drive, call and we will pick up! Call Patti Begley at (408) 867-3973.

Another way to help is to drop off your recycling all year long at SLV Redemption Center on Hwy 9 in Boulder Creek, or Bay Area Recycling Center on E. McGlinchy Ln. in Campbell, and ask for the money to be donated to Lakeside School.

## South Skyline Association

Box 400, Star Route 2  
La Honda, CA 94020

### Skylines Is Published Once A Quarter

*Skylines* invites individuals to submit articles and artwork.

**Policy on Classified Ads:** Ads are free to SSA members. No continuing ads will be accepted. They must be resubmitted for each issue. Deadline date for ads for the April issue will be March 23, 2004.

**Skylines News Articles:** The deadline for submitting articles for the next issue is March 15, 2004.

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

We reserve the right to edit all submissions. We assume no responsibility for omissions, incorrect information or personal opinions.

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## CLASSIFIED ADS

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### FOR SALE

**Truck:** 1964 GMC 4x4. Runs, but extra rough. ¾ ton Fleetside 'yard truck'. \$675  
650-851-3181

**Bricks:** Red Common type; used. 3 - 4000. Some odd-size and fire type bricks too. \$.35 each, or best offer. Trade for guitar, audio gear, mixer, power-amp, cabinets? 650-851-3181

### WANTED

**Pet caretaker** in my home: I have a variety of pets that need care when I am out of town. Requires 1 time a day for about 1 hour. 2.5 miles from Saratoga Gap.  
Lynne Penek-Holden [lpenek@svpal.org](mailto:lpenek@svpal.org)

**Pet Care Co-op:** Interested in forming a pet care cooperative for future pet care needs? Contact me and I will organize it. Lynne Penek-Holden  
[lpenek@svpal.org](mailto:lpenek@svpal.org)

### SERVICES

**Personal Housekeeping:** Honest, Reliable, Thorough, Flexible. 17 years exp. Call Debbie evenings 408-267-8122

**Alice's Restaurant**  
Four Corners on Skyline  
Come meet the new owners  
(650) 851-0303  
8:30AM-9:00PM daily;  
7:00PM (Tuesday)  
Gourmet dinners from our chef, Ruffino  
Full breakfast and luncheon menu  
Personable and knowledgeable Maitre D'

**The Mountain Terrace** (formerly Skywood Chateau and Boulevard Bar and Grill) Charming and rustic atmosphere uniquely suited to your special occasion. Now available for private events, the Mountain Terrace will open to the public for Sunday brunch in mid-January. For information, call (650) 851-1606

### **Search for the Northern Lights of Iceland**

Joe Jordan, the SSA speaker for the January General Meeting, is looking for participants for a trip he is leading to Iceland, February 20-26, 2004, focusing on the aurora borealis ("northern lights") as well as on the bright future for renewable energy, which Iceland is helping to realize with their great geothermal power resources and their plans for becoming the world's first hydrogen economy. The group will go into hot springs, visit glaciers and geysers, and revel in the remarkable scenery of this exotic locale. For more information, go to  
<http://www.sky-power.org>

### **SSA Calendar**

**General Meeting** – January 23,  
7:00 pm at CDF Summit Fire Station  
**Business Meetings at 7:15 pm:**  
Thurs. Jan 15 – Dick Schwind  
Thurs. Feb 19 – Ruth Waldhauer  
Thurs. Mar 18 – Patti Begley  
Thurs. April 15 – Kris Smith  
(Call Dick Schwind for location and directions)  
President Dick Schwind 408-867-9422  
Editor Patti Begley 408-867-3973