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## It's time...



**to renew your SSA Membership.**  
See the Membership Application  
included in this newsletter.

## SSA General Meeting

Friday, January 28

7:00 pm - Refreshments

7:30 pm - Board Election and Amendment of SSA Bylaws,  
followed by the featured presentation

CDF Saratoga Summit Fire Station  
12900 Skyline Blvd.

*Bring a dessert.*

*SSA will provide hot beverages and soft drinks.*

## Oil Bearing Rocks in the Santa Cruz Mountains

**Speaker: Richard Stanley**

Join us for an evening with Richard Stanley from U.S. Geological Survey, for a discussion and slide show of the subsurface geology of these mountains as it applies to petroleum deposits and historical oil wells scattered around the area.



Approximate area of oil-bearing sandstone intrusions in Santa Cruz Mudstone and Monterey Formation

### Directions:

*The CDF Saratoga Summit Fire Station is located on the west side of Skyline Blvd. approximately 1 mile north of the intersection of Skyline and Highway 9. You may need to park along the road so a flashlight is advisable.*



## Quarterly Report

Skyline Propane Users group (SPUG) was formed as a benefit for SSA members in 1994. The contract with Amerigas was renewed in 1999 and again in May of 2004 for another five years. For information about joining SPUG, or for members wishing to have current information on the Amerigas contract, 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.

SPUG prices are subject to change as frequently as wholesale prices change. Reported here are prices for the first week of the month. See <http://www.southskyline.org/> for recent updates.

Recent SPUG prices are:

October	\$1.43/gallon
November	1.68
December	1.68
January	1.68

The wholesale price for propane has risen just as gasoline has. The open market price is significantly higher than our SPUG rate. Conserve!

Jay Stevens, Amerigas Marketing Manager for central California, informed me that Amerigas moved two of the Customer Relations Representatives, Cassie and Lucy, and the administrative functions to Los Banos as well as the Modesto and Fresno administrative functions. This enabled Amerigas to take advantage of an upgraded facility with a much-improved telecommunications system and computer system. This should improve the on-hold time drastically. Perhaps you noticed the new and improved format on recent invoices.

Jesse Gamino and the rest of the crew remain at the San Jose office. The office is still open to the public with Ryan handling customer service while supporting Jesse and crew.

Jay Stevens also is directing his staff to add SPUG identification to the second address line of the invoice to let our members know that the rate charged for propane is our special SPUG rate.

~~Ruth Waldhauer

## What Is Your SSA Board Doing?

In the last quarter, the SSA Board of Directors has taken action on the following items, many of which you will see addressed in articles in the current issue:

- Discussed ways to address the motorcycle problems in the SSA area: speeding, noise, and increase in fatal accidents. Attended local meetings to participate in letting the law enforcement agencies know how the residents feel and to find out what plans for action there are, planning for hosting a meeting of a local action committee and CHP officials in the spring.
- Acted on a citizen's concern about CalTrans dumping of road construction debris on the roadsides, found out it was slated for turn-out paving.
- Looked at the best ways to organize a clean-up effort along Skyline in the Russian Ridge area, contacting the appropriate authorities to sanction it.
- Kept in contact with Amerigas, who now will be tagging SPUG members' invoices to identify them to keep billing correct.
- Improved the SSA website, which now has a Community Bulletin Board.
- Stayed informed about public land issues, especially the progress of the MROSD expansion.
- Kept abreast of business items such as:
  - Ongoing arrangements for programs, venues, insurance, refreshments, and wrap-up for the general meetings.
  - Organizing "Ghosts in the Vineyard" in October, and the upcoming January 28 program.
  - Publishing Skyline's newsletter with articles pertinent to the SSA area in diverse subjects.
  - Locating nominees for the Board seats which will be vacant in 2005, creating a Budget for 2005.
  - Investigating insurance needs of the organization.
  - Updating the bylaws.

Visitors are welcome at Board meetings; please check the website for meeting dates.

~~Kris Smith, SSA Secretary

**The SSA Board is in need of an insurance consultant** who can guide us in finding the right insurance for our association. If there is a member with those skills who can help, please contact Larry Myers at 408-354-5830 or email: [LLMyers@aol.com](mailto:LLMyers@aol.com)

# SSA Board Elections

The annual SSA Board Elections will take place at the SSA General Meeting on January 28 at 7:30 pm. (See page 1.) There are three board members who will run for another 2-year term: Larry Meyers, Patti Begley and Judy Grote.

Those not running for re-election are Kris Smith, Hans Johsens and Pat Congdon. All three have been tremendous board members and great contributors to the South Skyline Association. The board thanks them for the years of service they have given the SSA.

## New Candidates

The three new candidates are Barbie Bergman, Kris Pemberton, and Fred Glover.

Candidate **Barbie Bergman** is a long time Skyline area resident and SSA member. She has served previously on the board and was one of the original members of the South Skyline volunteer fire department.

**Kris Pemberton** previously served on the board in the 1970's. A long-time resident, she lived in the Skyline area from 1972 – 1990. She and her husband left the area for health reasons and returned in 2000. She lives on the southern portion of Skyline near the Las Cumbres area.

Kris believes in the strong ties of community members. She found that she has benefited from ties among people who share the same consciousness of the environment, socially as well as ecologically. She has always had a great appreciation for the people she's met through the South Skyline Association and has found them to be very commendable. She is looking forward to meeting new people and being of service to the community.

## A word from Fred Glover:

Hi, I'm Fred Glover and I'd like to introduce myself as a candidate for the SSA Board of Directors.

My wife Sarah and I live with our 9 year old son Adam and our yellow dog Oliver about 2 miles North of Black Road on Skyline at an elevation of 2800'. Actually our geodesic dome house is a forested 300 yards from the road, which gives us a nice sense of privacy. I have owned what we call Foxesoven since 1978 and have lived here except between 1986 and 1992 when Sarah and I moved back after a year sailing our small boat to Polynesia. We have both been active in SSA meetings for several years and have met many of you even if we can't remember all your names.

I am a Professional Engineer and run my own (very small) software system engineering company. My expertise is engineering and integrating automatic visual inspection systems for manufacturing inspection and robot guidance.

I am always proud and grateful to live in these magnificent mountains. I am astonished to consider that my "neighborhood" encompasses about 30 square miles!

SSA provides our mountain community with a newsletter and social events to stay in contact with our far-flung neighbors; a central point of liaison for important services and organizations such as CDF, Mid Peninsula Open Space District, CHP and Sheriff's departments, Community Emergency Preparedness and local school districts; entertaining and educational presentations; and bulk propane buying power through SPUG.

What can the SSA board of directors do for you? I look forward to serving you on the SSA Board of Directors.

Sincerely,  
Fred Glover

# Amendment to SSA Bylaws

Section VIII, Amendments to Bylaws, requires that "an amendment must be first published in the newsletter and then approved by a majority of the regular members in attendance at a general meeting." The Board of Directors recommends approval of the following proposed amendment. This amendment will be voted on at the January General Meeting.

I. **AREA.** The South Skyline is defined as the area along Skyline Boulevard, or with access from Skyline Boulevard ~~between Woodside/La Honda Road (Highway 84 on the north), and the southern terminus of Skyline Boulevard at Bear Creek.~~ Also included are upper portions of Gist Road, Black Road, Highway 9 east, Page Mill Road, and Old La Honda Road; Highway 9 west to Waterman Gap; Alpine Road west to Rogers Gulch; and Portola Park Road, including the Middleton Tract.

**I AREA. The South Skyline is defined as the area along Skyline Boulevard, or with access from Skyline Boulevard, which includes Skyline to the North, to Bear Creek Road to the South. Also included are upper portions of Gist Road, Black Road, Highway 9 East, Page Mill Road, and Old La Honda Road; Highway 9 West to Waterman Gap; Alpine Road West to Rogers Gulch; and Portola Park Road, including the Middleton Tract.**

## Strange Winter For Birds In Our Mountain Neighborhoods

Bird populations have been very strange this year. Usually fall and winter are busy times at our feeders. We have black oil sunflower in several tubes, patio mix (an out of the shell blend) in four others, peanuts on a platform and in a peanut feeder, two nyjer/thistle feeders and lots of dove & quail mix on the ground. Usually we have house finch, lesser goldfinch, chickadee, titmouse, acorn woodpecker, both jays, a gazillion juncos, fox sparrow, white and golden crowned sparrow, hermit thrush, both towhees, dove and quail. In the madrone trees and on the bird bath we usually have cedar waxwings and flocks of robins. Usually we go through hundreds of pounds of seed.

Well, this year isn't usual. If it weren't for the lesser goldfinches and the pine siskins on nyjer feeder, we wouldn't be going through much seed at all. We do have our winter sparrows but only 3 or 4 of each. Maybe ten juncos join a couple of spotted towhees on the ground. Occasionally a few doves join a small covey of quail. Haven't seen house finches in months except for one short visit in early December. The cedar waxwings did a fast sweep of the madrone but haven't been back to finish things up or feast on the tree across the street and they haven't been on the birdbath. No chickadee, no titmouse, no woodpeckers, no robins. What's weird about all this is that customers from down in the valley have been saying that they have all sorts of birds. "They're eating us out of house and home!" Yet our customers from different areas in the mountains sing the same tune as I am. "The birds just aren't around and nobody's eating the seed."

Variables that effect bird populations are numerous. Hawks and other predators can make a huge difference. We do have a Cooper's Hawk that hunts in the front of our house. The feeders in the back are much more popular and the birds seem to feel safer under the shelter of the big oak tree. We spread seed for the front ground feeders close to the ceanothas so the birds can hide quickly. Natural food is usually preferred and with the proliferation of fir and pinecones and the mass of berries on all the bushes, this may be part of it. Perhaps the waxwings and robins have so many berries to choose from that they have spread out. The chickadees may be feasting on the fir cones and the bugs that are hiding that the seed in the feeders isn't as attractive. It has been colder than usual so maybe the birds have moved around in their range. We haven't had any reports of large die-offs from naturally occurring avian diseases. West Nile was a factor this year but not as huge as people were predicting.

Every year, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, conducts the "Great Backyard Bird Count". This year it is February 18 through 21. Through this national "Citizen Science" project, researchers are able to track distribution of winter birds and see population trends before it's too late to do something about them. Be a part of it this year. Go online to [www.birdsource.com](http://www.birdsource.com) or visit your local bird store for more information.

~~ Freddy Howell  
Wild Bird Center, Los Gatos

## Emergency Preparedness Update

This year has brought improved readiness in the form of a larger, better-organized committee structure with the addition of fine medical representation from Dr. Bill Fowkes and Dr. Rich Lee. Both doctors are South Skyline residents with strong credentials; for Dr. Fowkes, in the practice of family medicine at Stanford Medical School and for Dr. Rich Lee, practice of first aid under emergency conditions such as existed after the recent earthquake in Pakistan. They are both presently involved in the stockpiling of medicines and supplies needed during an emergency and are looking for a used shipping container or trailer in which to store them. Others serving on the Medical Operations Committee include Dr. Gary Heit (neurosurgeon) Judith Watson, RN (Public Health Nurse), Susan Anderson (wilderness medicine expert) and Eva Blum (behavioral scientist).

Our Secretary, Judy Grote, is in the process of developing an Emergency Communications Network based on the use of HAM radio operators located in each neighborhood. These operators can receive messages from their neighbors who have family "walkie-talkie" radios and relay them to the South Skyline Area Command Post. The Command Post in turn will have longer-range radios, able to reach the County Emergency Operations Centers. The 'Insert' in this issue describes HAM radio training requirements.

Our Treasurer, Kenneth Broome, is pleased to report that the Peninsula Community Foundation has extended the grant of \$3,000 that was awarded last year with an additional amount of \$3,000 to purchase medical supplies and communications equipment. We are also most appreciative of a donation of \$1,000 from one of our Executive Committee members that will cover the cost of printing and inserting each of the quarterly 'Inserts' into *Skylines*. Our grants from the Peninsula Community Foundation were made on the understanding that a similar amount will be provided by residents of the South Skyline Area community. The "Dues Renewal" request in this issue of *Skylines* provides space for members to donate an amount specifically for the South Skyline Emergency Preparedness organization. Our plan for 2005 includes the submittal by June 30 of an application to the California Department of State for registration as a non-profit public service organization under Section 501-c-3 of the IRS Code. Contributors during 2005 should thus be eligible to deduct such contributions from income in 2005 tax returns.

Our President, Sherry Niswander, has announced plans to hold two CERT (Certificate of Emergency Response Training) sessions this spring. One will take place weekly at the Las Cumbres Fire Station starting Saturday, February 26 from noon until 5:00 pm and ending March 19. The other will be at the La Honda Fire Station (see Insert for dates). The cost of each series of CERT training sessions will be \$50 to cover manuals and supplies. There will also be a CPR class at the Saratoga Gap Fire Station in January (see Insert for dates).

*Continued on Page 5*

# Take a Hike . . .



## Hiking Los Trancos and Monte Bello Ridge Open Space Preserves

This is one of my favorite hikes in our local area because it explores numerous and diverse ecosystems; it is always changing from start-to-finish. You start in an area of grassy knolls and oak woodland and then climb a "beautiful mountain" with incredible views. You next descend from the ridge into the depths of a lush canyon with a year-round flowing creek and finally climb back up to the starting point. The hike is a loop of slightly under 8 miles but is strenuous due to the 2000 ft. elevation gain. Despite this fact, there are no extremely steep sections going uphill. There is a steep one-mile section during the descent from Black Mountain. More than half of the time you are hiking in the shade, but during the ridge ascent you will mainly be exposed to the sun. So bring a hat, plenty of water and a substantial lunch to help you complete this hike. Binoculars are also handy to have on this hike; to view the beautiful scenery and also the abundant population of wildlife. If you don't see deer or a coyote in Monte Bello OSP, things are not normal. Ravens and raptors also soar the ridge; I have seen kestrels, red-tail hawks, kites and northern harriers.

Park at either the larger Monte Bello OSP lot or the Los Trancos OSP lot; both about one-mile east down Page Mill Road from Skyline Blvd. (They are just across the street from each other. Note: If you park at the Monte Bello lot and walk through the Los Trancos lot, you can pick up both maps.) The hike starts in the Los Trancos OSP on the Franciscan Loop trail. Enjoy the initial views as you walk through the open grassy area and into the oak forest; start the loop to the left. The trails descends gently for about one-half mile until you cross Los Trancos Creek. Look for the junction of the Lost Creek Loop Trail and take it to the left. Disregard the first sign with an arrow to the Page Mill Trail; do the loop. After 0.6 mile there is a junction with the Page Mill Trail. Take the Page Mill Trail. Follow the sign to Page Mill Rd. Gate LT01. You will approach some private residences but the trail switches back along Page Mill Rd. I noticed what I guessed were some water or sewer lines (concrete tunnels with man-hole covers) as I walked in this area which must represent the failed dreams of some Palo Alto developer. Follow the signs to Page Mill Rd. parking. At the last big junction, follow the arrow pointing towards Monte Bello. The trail leads to Page Mill Rd; cross the road and enter Monte Bello OSP through the gate.

You are now at the beginning of the Canyon Trail, which parallels Stevens Creek all the way down Stevens Canyon. Follow this route 0.3 mile until you reach the junction of the Bella Vista Trail. As you see the myriad of cattails on the left, take some time to enjoy the "sag pond" and its example of succession in nature, along the way. From the start of the Bella Vista Trail to the Black Mountain backpackers camp is 1.4 miles. You will gain approximately 1000 ft. in elevation, but

the good news is that this trail is graded so nicely that there are no steep stretches throughout that entire distance. The other good thing about the Bella Vista Trail is that it is aptly named; the views just keep getting better and better, the higher you go. As the trail climbs it winds through the foothills and you reach several shady spots where you can catch your breath. Though the climb may look daunting at the start, if you get into your own personal rhythm and take a few water stops, you can reach this destination, quite smoothly. The last leg to the top is on the Old Ranch Trail, follow the signs to the backpackers' camp, which makes a good lunch stop location. Note: water is available at the camp but is not potable. There is a placard nearby which discusses the history of the property before it was purchased by MROSD from Stanford University. From the camp, you're only about a half-mile and 300 feet from the summit of Black Mountain (3000 ft.), which may constitute a good side-trip if your feeling strong and want a view of the South Bay. After lunch, take the crossover trail to the Indian Creek Trail and begin your descent. Take it slow and easy as this trail is much steeper and is downhill for its entire length, one mile. I find a walking stick to be helpful during this downhill. The views of the mixed evergreen and douglas fir forests in vast Stevens Canyon are superb, though they are surprisingly short-lived due to the steep descent.

At the bottom, you again reach the Canyon Trail. Take a right and go up the canyon about 0.2 mile to the first junction on the left. Take this trail, which is part of the Stevens Creek Nature Trail. After 0.6 mile you will have reached another junction. Follow the signs for the nature trail that now winds for 1.1 miles along the headwaters of Stevens Creek. You even have to cross the creek at one spot. Typically for a nature trail, it is very beautiful and there are informative signs as you walk. At the end, the trail emerges from the woodland and into the grassland, producing striking new views of Stevens Canyon. A left at the final trail junction leads you directly into the Monte Bello Ridge OSP parking lot.

~*Jerry Peters*

### Emergency Preparedness Update *cont. from pg. 4*

Your Neighborhood Coordinators in each of the ten neighborhoods that have been identified in the South Skyline Area will shortly be contacting each of you who returned the form that was inserted in a previous issue of *Skylines*. For those of you who may have mislaid this form, an additional copy is included with this issue. Again, only those who return the form will be contacted. Returning the form does **not** obligate you to become active in SSEPO, only to be on a list of those to be contacted in the event that you may need help during an emergency.

~*Kenneth P. Broome*

# Wild Cucumbers Burst Forth

Wild cucumbers (*Marah* sp.) are much more than they seem. Above ground are trailing vines with ivy-shaped leaves and white flowers. Below ground is a massive tuber – after several years up to 100 pounds or more.

During fall and early winter, wild cucumbers exist entirely below ground. Members of the mostly tropical gourd family Cucurbitaceae, wild cucumbers survive the dry fall and cold winter storing food and water as man-sized tubers. Occasionally the tubers divide into two “legs”, the size and shape leading to the other common names – manroot and man-in-the-ground.

In midwinter, after sufficient rain, the tuber throws up one to several stems, which grow above ground at a rapid pace. By late spring or early summer, 20-30 foot long vines use spiraling tendrils to grow up and over adjacent plants, or sprawl across the open ground. Alternate leaves have five to seven lobes. Several male flowers appear on racemes, sprouting from the leaf axils. One female flower then blooms at the base. The star-shaped flowers have no sepals and white, cream-colored, or greenish-yellow petals, and yellow centers. Male flowers have 5 stamens, which are fused, while female flowers have inferior ovaries (below the petals).

The female flowers ripen into spiny “cucumbers,” which are bitter and poisonous. *Marah* is Hebrew and Latin for bitter. As the fruit ripens, the pods develop tremendous water pressure. At maturity, the weakest part explodes and disperses the seeds several inches. By late summer in dry areas, or early fall in wet areas, the aboveground plant withers and dies back once again to an underground tuber.

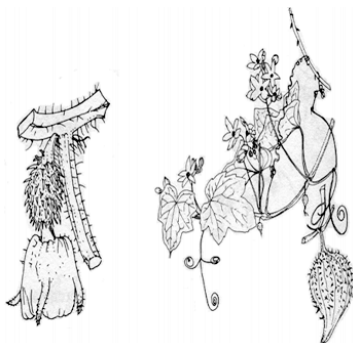
There are two species of wild cucumbers in the Santa Cruz Mountains. Wild cucumber or California Manroot (*M. fabaceus*) flowers are flat, leaves are more deeply indented, and the fruits are globe-shaped with a lot of stiff spines. The 2-3 seeds per fruit are not flat. Flowers



*M. fabaceus*

bloom from March to April or May and the plants are found in most non-desert regions of California below 5000 feet.

Western wild cucumber or coast manroot (*M. oreganos*) flowers are bell-shaped; leaves are less deeply indented and have sharp points. The fruits are football shaped, with few or



*M. oreganos*

no spines and the 3-6 seeds per fruit are mostly flat. Flowers bloom from March to May or June. The plants are found not far from the coast in California, from Santa Clara County north and in the Pacific Northwest. Hybrids are presumed to occur where the species overlap.

California natives had many uses for wild cucumbers. The root juice was used to stupefy fish for easier catching. Roasted seed oil was used to promote hair growth or for kidney ailments. The seeds were used for beads and in gambling games. Ground seeds were used as healing salves. Later, Spanish Californians mixed the roots with sugar to treat horses’ saddle sores.

~~Sarah Schoen

## Sluggish Reverie

by Lynnette Vega

Yellow banana slug  
 you have basked in the morning  
 coolness  
 of my front porch  
 Your silvery slime  
 Your calling card  
 remnants of wanderings  
 over plants and rocks  
 And now  
 time has played you a dirty trick  
 as the afternoon sun warms your path  
 and you must content yourself  
 with lying  
 in the ebbing shadows

### SSA Treasurer’s Report December 31, 2004

<b>Credits:</b>	
Membership	\$7,230.00
Interest & Other Income	838.55
Total Credits:	\$8,068.55
<b>Debits:</b>	
Printing, Postage, & Supplies	\$2,907.68
General Meetings & Speakers	1,331.43
Website & All Other Expenses	405.10
Total Debits:	4,644.21
<b>Bank Balance (Checking &amp; Savings)</b>	<b>\$24,087.11</b>

## Mountain Blood Drive March 30, 1:30-6:30 PM

Lakeside Elementary School will be hosting a Blood Drive for mountain residents with the American Red Cross on Wednesday, March 30, from 1:30 to 6:30 pm. It will be held in the Lakeside Community Center, at Lakeside Elementary School located at 19621 Black Rd., Los Gatos.

The school office staff is taking calls to set up appointments. Call **(408) 354-2372** to reserve a time. You may also schedule an appointment on the Red Cross website at: [GiveLife.org](http://GiveLife.org).

Blood is needed on a continual basis, and this is your chance to help save someone's life. Type O- 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 O-, it is doubly important for you to donate.

Please call for an appointment as soon as possible. If you have any questions, please call Peggy McRoberts at: (408) 354-5530. Give the gift of life. Give blood on March 30th!

~~Peggy McRoberts

## Line Dancing Tuesday Evenings at Lakeside Community Center



Karen Fishback, long-time mountain resident, has been offering classes in Line Dancing at the Lakeside School Community Center on Black Road.

Starting in January she will be adding a half hour, starting at **7:00 pm** and going to **9:00 pm every Tuesday** evening. All classes are offered on a drop-in basis. There is a requested donation of **\$4 for the entire session**, and 100% of the donations go to the Lakeside School and Community Foundation.

The first half hour will be dedicated to the beginning beginners to bring them up to speed. Experienced Line Dancers are welcome too.

It is a great opportunity to have fun, get some exercise, and meet others in the community.

## Winter Wine and Food Pairing Saturday, January 29, 4-7pm Mountain Terrace, Woodside

Sample fine local wines paired with delicious food and live music in a beautiful redwood setting at the Second Annual Wine and Food Pairing, in Woodside.



Built on a foundation of fine wines by Thomas Fogarty Winery, Bonny Doon Vineyards, Cantiga Wineworks, the wine list also features a set of superb wines produced by a local wine making family, including a Pinot Noir grown on the slopes of La Honda's Mindego Hill. Each wine is paired with a special dish selected to complement that wine and prepared by Epiphany Gourmet. In addition we will have live music by local musician David Elias and a silent auction. All this takes place at the Mountain Terrace, a quaint mountain lodge nestled amongst majestic redwoods and oaks and located at the top of Woodside where Hwy 84 meets Skyline.

Tickets are \$40 in advance; \$50 at the door. **Advance tickets are recommended and can be purchased by calling 650-747-0372.** All proceeds go to the La Honda Educational Foundation (LHEF) and the Pescadero Educational Foundation (PEF) to benefit local schools. For more information on LHEF, the auction and the wine pairing visit <http://www.lahondaschools.org/>.

## CHP Held Meeting On Traffic Safety In Area of Skyline/SR84

On Friday December 3, 2004 the California Highway Patrol, San Mateo County Sheriff's Office, Cal Trans, Woodside Fire Dept., La Honda Fire Dept., Dr. Wong, community members, and other invited guests attended a safety meeting concerning the SR-35 and SR-84 routes. Captain Bridget Lott launched the meeting by discussing the history of the "4 Corners Area" and some of the problems it faces, namely motorist safety. Several issues were revealed and Captain Lott laid out her vision for the future safety of the area. Long term solutions for the on-going problems were part of Lott's plan. Federal grants, Cal Trans road surveys, motorcycle safety courses, increased patrol, and community involvement were the main points of the discussion.

Dr. Wong, a long time motorcycle enthusiast, and Larry Whitney, of the La Honda Fire Department, talked about their involvement in the motorcycle safety day. Many community members attending the meeting supported the items proposed by Lott. Community members were well prepared for the meeting as well, equipped with statistics, planning procedures, and other necessary tools needed for a committed group. The meeting allowed people to introduce themselves and take a step toward a safer and friendlier community.

*Continued on page 8*

## New South Skyline On-Line Bulletin Board Is Available

The South Skyline web site has added a new bulletin board feature (<http://southskyline.org/bb>).

The bulletin board provides an interactive forum for discussing issues and other current events with other Skyline residents. The bulletin board is different from email and email lists:

- There is NO advertising whatever on the bulletin board.
- You may remain anonymous on the bulletin board (if you so choose).
- Long, repetitive messages will not be sent to your email.
- The bulletin board does not send you email, except to notify you of new content in topics that you have participated in. (It does not send summaries of new stuff to your email).
- The bulletin board tracks what you have seen, and what is new, and can display "just the new stuff" if you so choose.
- The bulletin board is sub-divided into categories, forums, and message topics. Look at as much or as little as you wish (see below for current organization).
- Separate from the topics & email notification, there is also a "private message" feature that allows you to send private messages (not emails) to other members of the bulletin board. The private messages are sent to the bulletin board alias of the member, and the receiving member gets an email notification that there is a private message waiting at the bulletin board.
- It does track who is online and allows you to look/interact with others that might be online at the same time (not eavesdrop).

The bulletin board currently has two major categories: (1) South Skyline Association Forums, and (2) Suggestion Box. The forums available in the first category are General Discussion, Highways and Byways, Local Natural History, Parks and Openspace, and Buy - Sell - Swap. These forums can be changed, deleted, or added to as the bulletin board evolves.

South Skyline is interested in your feedback for this new community resource; let us know what you think of it.

~~ Bill Prince  
SSA Webmaster

## CHP Safety Meeting *continued. from pg. 7*

### About 1-800-TELLCHP Toll Free Number Helps Public to Access the CHP for Non-Emergency Purposes

The purpose of the nationwide toll-free telephone number is to provide the public with an easily recognizable telephone number that can be used to contact the California Highway Patrol (CHP). The 1-800-TELL CHP telephone number was originally established for the reporting of vehicle and cargo theft and later expanded for the Farm Labor Vehicle Program. The CHP has designated 1-800-TELL CHP as the number that shall serve as the point of contact for the public to access the CHP for non-emergency purposes (e.g., accident reports, tow questions, CHP office locations, vehicle theft tips, community outreach programs). Additionally, by providing the public with an easily recognizable telephone number for contacting the Department, the use of the cellular 9-1-1 system for non-emergency calls should decrease. CHP answers the 1-800-TELL CHP telephone number 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Christian E. Oliver - Public Affairs Officer  
Redwood City Area California Highway Patrol  
355 Convention Way, Redwood City, CA 94063  
(650) 369-6261  
Fax: (650) 369-6268  
[CEOLIVER@CHP.CA.GOV](mailto:CEOLIVER@CHP.CA.GOV)

Ruth Waldhauer, Judi Lovell, and Cliff Jenkins attended to gather information for SSA. Ruth spoke to Captain Bridget Lott following the meeting to give her personal opinion, and asked that CHP increase the patrols. Ruth reminded Captain Lott that when CHP actively spent a weekend patrolling, we locals immediately saw reduction in speeding by motorcycles and cars. Ruth, Judi Lovell and Cliff also cited the need for coordination with Santa Clara and Santa Cruz CHP. Without this coordination, rogue speeders just move from the San Mateo jurisdiction along Skyline and route 84 to the Santa Clara and Santa Cruz area of Skyline and Route 9.

Laurie McLean, SSA associate member from La Honda, also attended. Laurie, after witnessing a tragic fatal accident on SR 84, started the 84-35 Traffic Safety Committee, which focuses on CHP enforcement, legislation and education.

Thanks to the efforts of Noelle Consentino and John Connally of SSA members from Indian Rock Ranch, there will be a joint meeting in April with the various jurisdictions of CHP in our area.  
~~Ruth Waldhauer

### SSA Board to Meet with CHP on Traffic Safety

The SSA Board of Directors will be meeting with San Jose, Santa Cruz and Redwood City CHP in the near future to discuss traffic safety and enforcement related problems associated with the excessive motorcycle activity along Highways 9 and 35. We encourage community members to submit their suggestions on this issue. Please email your comments to [noellecosentino@hotmail.com](mailto:noellecosentino@hotmail.com).





## Keep Skyline Beautiful SSA Participates in Adopt-A-Highway Program

Have you been offended by the debris strewn along Skyline Boulevard, particularly at the CALTRANS Vista Point at Russian Ridge? SSA bylaws definition of purpose states: "To foster a sense of community spirit, to keep residents and property owners informed of public agency actions or other items of concern in the South Skyline sphere of influence, to protect the rights and represent the interests of the residents and property owners of our area, and to engage in various projects to enhance the unique South Skyline environment." Can you commit to spending a couple of hours each year to keeping our unique South Skyline environment beautiful and clear of debris?

The Los Altos Rod and Gun Club through the CALTRANS Adopt-A-Highway Program picks up litter along Skyline Boulevard from its intersection with Route 9 to Castle Rock. Volunteers from the Kiwanis Club pick up litter along the two miles stretch south from Windy Hill. Very recently the National University of Singapore has joined Adopt-A-Highway program to pick up litter along the two-mile northbound stretch along Skyline in the area of the Russian Ridge Vista Point. (See article to the right).

We are asking for SSA members to volunteer to pick up litter along the southbound two-mile stretch in the area of the Russian Ridge Vista Point. It would take about an hour to cover the area. This would be needed once every two months. With twelve volunteers, each person would only have to commit to spending one hour per year. A larger group -- the more the merrier.

Adopt-A-Highway provides safety training, and supplies safety gear (hard hats, vests, gloves, safety glasses, litter pickers, litter bags). No one less than 16 years of age may participate.

Our first clean-up days will be on Saturday morning, **February 5, 2005, April 2, 2005**, and every two months thereafter. Future dates will be announced in Skylines. To participate, please contact Ruth Waldhauer at [waldhauer@batnet.com](mailto:waldhauer@batnet.com) or 650-948-

~~RuthWaldhauer



## University Students Clean Up Skyline

After living here in the mountains for several years I tend to think of the Skyline area as "our neighborhood" and that the residents are the ones most concerned about making sure the beauty of this place is maintained. I sometimes forget that there are people who live in the valley and other parts of the bay area who also care very much about the trails, the open space, and the scenic Skyline drive. So I was intrigued and grateful when I read about how students from the National University of Singapore Entrepreneurs Association (NUSEA) in Silicon Valley have volunteered to be a part of the Adopt-A-Highway program, and once a month they donate their time to maintain a 2 mile section of Skyline Blvd.

Removing litter is their way of making sure that their adopted highway remains an outstanding example of the U.S.'s environmental diversity. "The Adopt-A-Highway project embodies our spirit, to not only whole-heartedly pursue our entrepreneurial aspirations, but also to become good corporate citizens. By volunteering our time every month, we ensure that the environment is kept clean, and everyone can enjoy the unspoiled scenery."

Kae Fong Tay (Founder and President of 1st Committee of NUSEA) originally pioneered this project after NUSEA students expressed an interest in doing social work. Ming Hwee Chong and Darius Cheung (President of 3rd Committee) continued the application process and the program was approved in 2004. "Participating in Adopt-A-Highway has provided us a greater understanding of the importance of contributing back to society, and we hope that this will be a stepping stone towards engaging in more community-minded projects." (Photos are from their website at <http://www.nusea.org/news/2004/HighwayClean.php>.)

This group has certainly set a fine example for our community and the SSA's own Adopt-A-Highway project.

~~Patti Begley

## SOUTH SKYLINE ASSOCIATION

Box 400, Star Route 2

La Honda, CA 94020

### SSA Calendar

**General Meeting** – January 28,  
Saratoga Summit Fire Station

**Business Meetings at 7:15 pm:**

Thurs. January 13 Dick Schwind's

Thurs. February 10 Ruth Waldhauer's

Thurs. March 10 TBD

(Call Pat Congdon for location and directions)

President Pat Congdon 650-941-9832

Editor Patti Begley 408-867-3973

## Classified Ads

### FOR SALE

**Band-Saw**, by Dayton, Metal-saw, smaller unit. Complete, needs some work! \$85.00/trade 650-851-3181

**Pool cover roller** \$100 OBO. Neil 408-472-6476

**Watertight Drums** – Approx. 55 Gal. - \$5 each. Contained fruit products only. Uses include storage of emergency supplies, irrigation water or fermentation. Proceeds go to Animals in Disaster (La Honda/Coastside area). Pick up in La Honda. Order by e-mail: [animals\\_in\\_disaster@yahoo.com](mailto:animals_in_disaster@yahoo.com)

**Older Lopi wood stove** (heavy welded steel), glass window door, blower, heats approx. 1500 square feet. Excellent condition. \$400. 408-867-9422

**Septic tank riser pipe**, 2+ ft. of 30 in. inside diameter heavy plastic. Install this and no more digging for that septic tank lid! Cuts easily with a saw. \$50. 408-867-9422

### FREE

**Free fire fitting.** This fitting will allow the connection of a fire hose to your water supply and can be utilized by the fire department to access the water necessary for fire suppression. South Skyline Fire and Rescue, George 408-354-1401

### FREE

Cab-Over Camper for 8' bed. Sleeps 4. Kitchen, Bath, Heater. Fair to good condition. White in color. 7399 Alpine Road, 650-323-1334

### SERVICES

**Local Skyline Realtor** would like to help you buy or sell your home! Call Christine Jarvis for a free Market Analysis 408-863-3014

**Finish carpenter** specializing in repair, construction and installation of windows, doors, flooring, custom cabinets and outdoor decks. Bruce Soko 408-561-8016

  
Skyline Broadband Service

Mbps symmetrical broadband is now available in the South Skyline area. A customer quote: "*Bravo for your vision and your persistence in getting 'broadband to the boonies'!*" -- Bruce Visit our website at <http://skylinebroadbandservice.com/> 650-917-9279; ask for Bill

### SERVICES

**Deer Proof Your Skyline Garden.**

Yerba Buena California Native Plant Nursery has published a list of over 100 native plants that are deer resistant. This list, along with hints for Deer-Proofing your Bay Area Garden are available at the Nursery or can be downloaded from their website at [www.yerbabuenanursery.com](http://www.yerbabuenanursery.com). There is also a recipe for a Deer Repellent Spray that may be used in combination with the planting of these plants. Kathy Crane (650) 851-1668, fax (650) 851-5565

**Universal Life Minister**

Personalized non-denominational weddings and other ceremonies. Lynnette Joy Vega (650) 747-0605 PO Box 205, La Honda, CA 94020 email: [ahondalynnette@earthlink.net](mailto:ahondalynnette@earthlink.net)

**Handyman** with extensive knowledge of invasive plant removal and native plant landscaping. Specialties include invasive tree removal, soil testing and regeneration, organic circle gardening, permaculture techniques, carpentry and plumbing. David Tex Houston 650-529-9023 or 650-303-2777

**Pet Sitting** – Responsible 10 year old (w/resp. mom) will care for your pets. Start at \$5 a day. Pref. within a few miles of Hwy 9/ Skyline. Call Patti 408-867-3973

