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SSA Spring Quarterly General Meeting

Native Plants Through Deep Time:

How communities have come together and stayed together and the connections between geology, insects & plants.



Guest Speaker – Paul Heiple



Friday, April 28 at 7:00pm

Join us for a talk by Paul Heiple, on a fascinating topic of local relevance.

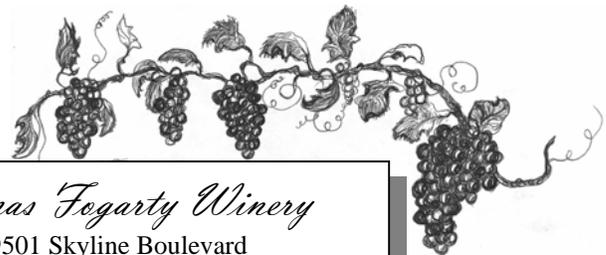
Paul is a geologist who also has extensive knowledge of native plant and insect species. He weaves scientific information with anecdotes and enthusiasm, making for a very engaging presentation.

Paul is the chair of the Portola Valley Conservation Committee, an officer with the California Native Plant Society Santa Clara Valley Chapter, an active participant of the San Mateo County Weed Management Area and an all-around naturalist and "weed warrior".

You will find his style engaging and accessible, as well as encouraging you to learn more.

This event will be held at the beautiful Thomas Fogarty Winery. Fine Fogarty wines will be available. We request a donation of \$5.00 per glass. Soft drinks will be provided, and light hors d'oeuvres from Alice's Restaurant.

During the reception, music will be provided by master guitarist Dona Reyes.



Thomas Fogarty Winery

19501 Skyline Boulevard
(2.7 miles north of Page Mill Road, across
from the entrance to Yerba Buena Nursery)

What Is Your SSA Board Doing?

By Judy Grote

Actions Completed

- January General meeting with a presentation on mapping as applied to Land Use by Rebecca More and Gary Patton from the Planning and Conservation League.
- Published the January Skylines newsletter.
- SSA Adopt-a-highway program is in full gear with regular clean-up days now being held. Our last litter pick-up was March 4th. The next litter pick-up is scheduled for May 6. Anyone wishing to participate on one of the clean-up days should contact Ruth Waldhauer.

Work in Progress

- Publish the April Skylines newsletter.
- Land Use Policies: An ad hoc committee is investigating land use policies across the 3 county area—San Mateo, Santa Clara, and Santa Cruz. This group is researching the regulations related to zoning and land use and is developing possible concerns for presentation to the membership for their education. The team is developing a membership survey focusing on Land Use and fire mitigation issues.
- SSEPO: a container for medical supplies has been purchased. Medical supplies to be purchased for the container are to be determined.
- We have 3 new board members--Noelle Cosentino, Marianne Rose, and Hertha Harrington. The newly elected 2006 Board Officers are:

President: Bill Prince
 Vice President: Ken Broome
 Secretary: Judy Grote
 Treasurer: Bo Gimbal

General meeting topics - Coming Attractions

- General meeting on April 28th at Fogarty's Winery will feature Paul Heiple who will speak on native plants from the perspective of a geologist.
- July picnic General Meeting.

Visitors are welcome at Board meetings. Please check the website for meeting dates. Meeting minutes and agendas are also on www.southskyline.org.

SSA Board members are listed in the box on the right:



Quarterly Report

By Ruth Waldhauer

Skyline Propane Users Group (SPUG) was formed to benefit SSA members. For information about joining, or for members wishing to have current 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. Information is also available on our website at www.southskyline.org.

Recent SPUG prices are:

January \$2.04/gallon
 February 1.81
 March 1.81

Since Katrina struck last August, prices have risen to an all time high. The open market is about \$3.00/gallon with some customers paying even more. Thankfully, our group price is significantly less than the open market price. CONSERVE! See the website for latest changes.

Prices are subject to changes as frequently as wholesale prices change. Members 55 years of age or older qualify for a 5 cents/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.

Name	Neighborhood	Board Responsibility
Patti Begley	Highway 9	Skylines Editor
Barby Bergman	Crazy Pete's, Rocky Creek	Board Member
Ken Broome	Crazy Pete's, Rocky Creek	Vice President; Program Committee Chair; SSEPO President
Noelle Cosentino	Indian Rock	Board Member; interest in CHP managing the motorcycle problem
Bo Gimbal	Highway 9	Treasurer; interest in parks
Fred Glover	Southern part of Skyline	Board Member; interest in land use policies
Judy Grote	Alpine-Portola	Secretary; interest in parks, land use policies
Hilda Hertha	Skylonda	Board Member
Larry Myers	Las Cumbres	Board Member
Kris Pemberton	Southern part of Skyline	Board Member
Bill Prince	Portola Heights	President; past Web Master
Marianne Rose	Longridge Area	Board Member; Web Master
Ruth Waldhauer	Portola Heights	Membership; SPUG; Communications; Adopt-a-Highway

Into the Woods for Performing Arts



Concert Series Benefits Lakeside Community Center

By Patti Begley

On March 21, I attended a performance by award winning songwriter and musician Hans York. This performance was part of a fledgling concert series organized by a non-profit group, Into the Woods for Performing Arts, for the purpose of providing quality entertainment to the mountain community, and as a fundraiser for the Lakeside Community Center.

Hans York performed here last summer with his band Lyquid Amber, and was kind enough to return to this mountain venue to perform solo. Hans performed a blend of folk, jazz and acoustic music, which was enjoyable, fun, and very personal. What a great opportunity to enjoy wonderful music in such an intimate atmosphere.

I encourage residents and music lovers to watch for upcoming performances, most likely this summer. It's great family entertainment, close to home, and benefits our community.

Young Artists to Paint Community Center Mural



The children of Lakeside Elementary School will be creating a mural for the exterior wall of the Lakeside Community Center, which is located at Lakeside School on Black Road. They will be working under the direction of our local mountain artist, Bonnie Peterson.

The children are working on finding a theme that proudly reflects the community in which we live. They are talking with their parents and other members of the community. A mural committee will consider all their ideas and choose a theme.

They would like very much to hear from Lakeside alumni and friends. If you have ideas to share, please email to susan_ady@lakesidesd.k12.ca.us. They look forward to seeing this mural develop out of our community.



Clean up volunteers Sheri Olliges, Sarah Hitchcock-Glover, and Robert Bradford.

Skyline Adopt-A-Highway

By Ruth Waldhauer

The volunteer crew on January 7 for the litter pick-up sweep of the section of Skyline SSA has adopted, completed work quickly and managed to avoid the rain that fell later.

On March 4, volunteers did march forth once again.

The next scheduled litter pick-up dates are May 6 and July 8.

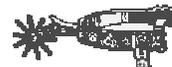
Thanks to all who signed up, we have not had to call on anyone so far to help more than once. Should you wish to volunteer, contact Ruth Waldhauer at 650-948-1466 or ruth_waldhauer@yahoo.com.

High Country Wins Spur Award

In the January issue of *Skylines* we introduced a new book, *High Country*, written by local author Willard Wyman of La Honda.

On March 18, during the National Festival of the West, Western Writers of America announced award winners in 15 categories. Among those winners was Willard Wyman who won the Spurs Award for The Best First Novel and also for Novel of the West, a distinction few writers have achieved. He will be honored June 13-17 at the WWA Convention in Cody, Wyoming.

Our congratulations to Will!



Viewshed Protection in Santa Clara County

By Ruth Waldhauer

A new land use planning issue has arisen in Santa Clara County. About two years ago Santa Clara county Planning Office received a request from a developer to build a 25,000 square foot house in the hillside area. This alerted the Planning Office and Board of Supervisors. They felt the hillside area should retain its rural atmosphere. They felt that a home ten times the size of its existing neighbors was inconsistent with this principle. "Viewshed Protection" was launched. At this point Santa Clara county is holding community meetings to gather input from residents. Extensive background information, mapping, and progress reports on this planning study are available on the Planning Office's website at www.sccgov.portal/site/planning/. An Ordinance may be drafted and considered by this summer.

SCC Hillside Association, a neighbor's group, is strongly in opposition. www.scchillside.org/

Brian Schmidt, Santa Clara County advocate for Committee for Greenfoot Hills is supporting the County's effort. www.greenfoothills.org

SSA provides this information but does not take a position, neither positive nor negative. In a future issue of *Skylines* look for land use planning issues in the two other counties in the SSA area, San Mateo and Santa Cruz.

Land Use Planning Committee is Delaying Questionnaire

The SSA Board and the ad hoc committee studying land use planning in our area both have decided not to send a questionnaire to members, as was announced in the January issue of *Skylines*. Sending the questionnaire without adequate information will not get good informed answers for the SSA Board on which to base future actions. The SSA Board will strive to keep land use planning before our members. See the article on "Viewshed Protection for Santa Clara County" in this issue.

South Coast Garden Tour Benefiting La Honda & Pescadero Education Foundations

May 14 & 15 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Tickets range from \$20 - \$50

To order in advance call 650-747-9514

www.pescaderoschools.org/gardentour.html

Tickets available on day of event near La Honda and Pescadero Post Offices.

Emergency Preparedness Progress

By Ken Broome

The South Skyline Emergency Preparedness Organization (SSEPO) is making progress in several directions:

- Collecting medical supplies stored in a container at the Mid Pen Ranger Station ((Bill Fowkes and Rich Lee)
- Advising SSA members of ways in which to meet the new 100-ft. defensible space requirement to protect their houses from wildfires (Chuck Schoppe)
- Recommendations on the type of personal GMRS radios for keeping in touch when all else fails (Tom Anderson).

Neighborhood Coordinator back-up deputies are still needed in each neighborhood. Barclay Slade will be available at the next General Meeting at Fogarty's to explain what kinds of activities are expected from such volunteers. Tom Anderson will bring examples of the GMRS radios he is recommending for each resident to purchase; the cost of these radios is about \$75 for two of them – they can also be used to keep in touch with family members at the beach or in the mountains. The radios require a minimal license fee and involve only nominal restrictions on operating procedures as compared to HAM radio operators. SSEPO plans to organize regular drills to help people become familiar with using these radios.

Theatre In The Woods To Perform "Rosencrantz & Guildenstern Are Dead"

Theatre in the Woods is turning FIVE. And they've got something special for you this year, a frolick through the woods with two of Hamlet's most interesting characters... in 'Rosencrantz & Guildenstern Are Dead' by Tom Stoppard. This hilarious jaunt gives the audience an entirely different look at Shakespeare's classic, and leaves audiences gasping for breath as they hike and laugh through the play.

July 22 to Aug 13 (Sat and Sun) 1 pm (it could be extended to Aug 20) 2170 Bear Gulch Road West, Woodside.

**Please wear shoes suitable for hiking, as well as long pants. Bug spray is advisable.

**You are welcome to bring a picnic lunch and enjoy the lovely redwoods setting before the performance begins.

Ticket Prices -- \$20 - regular, \$15 TBA, \$10 student/senior
Reservations: 415-668-2879 or
reservations@theatreinthewoods.com

A Garden of Roses Along Skyline

By Sarah Schoen

Like a garden, more than one type of rose grows in the Santa Cruz Mountains. Here we find three different native species. However, unlike cultivated roses, you may need to look a bit closer to tell these apart. All have blooms in various shades of pink, reddish orange hips and gray brown stems.

California rose (*Rosa californica*) grows in thickets up to ten feet tall. Leaflets have dense short hairs on the underside. Prickles are few, stout, and curved backwards toward the base of the stem. The flowers grow in clusters from April to October. The hips are round to egg-shaped and smooth to slightly hairy with long tapering sepals. California roses are found along stream banks and other moist woodland areas from southern Oregon to northern Baja California.



Wood rose or redwood rose (*R. gymnocarpa*) is a loose shrub up to three to six feet high. Leaflets are nonhairy or with thick, glandular hairs. The many prickles are slender and usually straight (or curved toward the tip of the stem). Flowers grow singly or in clusters of two or three from April to September. Hips are round to elliptical and smooth, losing their sepals with age (*gymnocarpa* means naked fruit). Wood roses are found in the under story and edges of forests from British Columbia to San Luis Obispo County and east to Montana.



Ground rose (*R. spithamea*) is a low growing shrub up to one to two feet high. Leaflets and prickles are similar to wood rose, except the leaves may turn red in the fall. Plants are inconspicuous, rarely flowering until after a fire allows in more sunlight and adds ash nutrients to the soil. Then many flowers bloom from May to August. Hips are round and glandular and retain their sepals. Ground roses are found in openings of forests and chaparral from southwestern Oregon to northern Monterey County.



Native roses are important to wildlife. Leaves are browsed by deer. Hips persist throughout the winter and are eaten by small

mammals and birds, which disperse the seeds. Thickets of California rose provide good nesting sites.

Native Californians had a number of uses for roses. Straight shoots were made into fire drills and arrow shafts. Bark fiber was made into twine. Different parts of the plants were made into tea – hips as a source of vitamin C, calcium, phosphorus, and iron; leaves for pain and colic, roots for colds.

Keeping Skyline Beautiful

By Ruth Waldhauer

Working with Midpeninsula regional Open Space district (MROSD), a group from California Conservation Corps (CCC) led by Gary Harang removed invasive non-native broom plants along Skyline Boulevard south of the Skyline Ridge Christmas Tree Farm. You may have noticed this activity as you drove along. Removing the large plants at a site is only the first step in a several decade commitment to eradicate the broom.

Gary Harang also led his group to remove invasive broom from the Meadow trail in Coal Creek OSP. Future plans call for work in Purisima OSP.

The District has been utilizing CCC crews for many years for a variety of projects.

MROSD, CCC, and locals all benefit from this program. MROSD hired CCC, gaining the extra workers needed for the task. CCC gained by broadening the horizon of the crew members, and earning them much needed paychecks. Locals (and visitors) gained by keeping Skyline beautiful.

Lakeside School Holds 3rd Annual Walk-A-Thon

By Hans Johsens

On March 17th the 3rd Annual Lakeside Walk-a-Thon PTA Fundraiser went off again without a hitch. Well, that isn't entirely true, but the only hitch was the weather, and the kids thought the rain and hail were the best part! Don't you just love our mountain kids and their true grit? It was a wonderful day and our kids showed their spirit and endurance in ways that many of us parents cannot begin to match.

The lower grades were delayed, but the 4th and 5th graders went off as planned and ran for 90 minutes. Many were disappointed because they wanted more time! The most laps go to 5th grader Danielle Devonport who ran 63 laps, or almost 8 miles! All together over 310 miles were logged for all people recording laps; pretty darned good for a school of only 79 students.

Continued on page 7

National Animal Identification System Proposal

By Judy Grote

Are you familiar with NAIS? The scope of this article is to educate you about NAIS, give you a few links so you can research this for yourselves, and then decide if you want to do anything about it, e.g., comment to the various public entities assigned to receive comments.

The USDA has proposed a National Animal Identification System (NAIS), which initially is voluntary but moves quickly to becoming mandatory and impacts those owning small numbers of animals as well as the large producers. This is not being proposed through legislation. It is a USDA proposal.

What the USDA wants to do is to register the GPS coordinates, name, address, phone, and myriad other data on every location--includes farms, homes, etc.--that has a single animal with what is called a Government Premise ID. This will be a mandatory registration for which each animal owner will need to pay a fee of \$10 or more each year. Then, every animal on the premises (current exceptions seem to be cats and dogs) will need to be tagged with a tag, Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) or otherwise. The tagging of animals will be mandatory too. Additionally, you will be required to log, track and report all events around the animal, including its birth, death, or the animal leaving or entering your property. These reports must be made within the 24-hour period of the event or the owner may suffer stiff fines. An example of this could be that you want to take your horse for a trail ride. To get to the trail the horse needs to be transported by trailer. To do this the horse owner will need to log this information every time the horse leaves and comes back to the premises or perhaps leaves the property permanently if sold.

Where the big producers differ from the 'little guy' is that they may get to use a single batch ID for many animals to keep costs low as well as minimize the bookkeeping. What this means for the 'little guy' is that we will need to tag and track every single animal on our property. 'Animals' currently included are horses, alpaca, llamas, horses, cattle, goats, sheep, swine, poultry and other birds. What is not included now are cats and dogs but this could be extended later. So each of us who have animals will bear the cost of NAIS in fees, tags, equipment, and the time to do the tracking per animal if this goes through.

The USDA has not been very vocal in publishing this. The schedule is fairly aggressive and is being implemented in phases. Please note the timeline on the NAIS website at USDA (see page 16 of the draft). It is voluntary this year for animal registration as of 3/9/06, but by 2008/2009 it could be mandatory if permitted to move forward without adequate public comment. Mandatory means all animals within the scope of the draft and the premises containing them must be registered. To date much of the interviewing and comment has come from large producers and packers.

How the states are dealing with this is different on a state-by-state basis. For some states, like Texas and Wisconsin, NAIS is mandatory beginning this year. Texas also has implemented a very stiff fine for non-compliance--\$1000 / incident. You will be able to contact your state representative charged with overseeing the comment period via the CA link provided in this article under useful links. In New York, the legislature is trying to include dogs for tagging with RFID tags under this umbrella--the salient word is trying. What you also might want to note is how all of this will be enforced. What is being used to sell NAIS is that it will prevent such diseases as Mad Cow Disease, or BSE. NAIS will not prevent disease such as BSE. Testing at slaughter and stopping the practice of feeding cows back to cows are the things that will help prevent Mad Cow Disease. There are many articles on the latter on the Internet, just Google your way through them. You may want to ask yourself why this can't be voluntary, rather than mandatory--especially for the 'little guy'.

Below are useful links for providing education on the above. The whole proposal is out there for your perusal. Below is a summary to give you an overall view. Happy researching.

General NAIS site at USDA:

<http://animalid.aphis.usda.gov/nais>

Premise ID summary:

http://animalid.aphis.usda.gov/nais/subjects/premises_id/index.shtml

Animal ID summary:

http://animalid.aphis.usda.gov/nais/subjects/animal_id/index.shtml

NAIS Draft document:

http://animalid.aphis.usda.gov/nais/about/pdf/NAIS_Draft_Strategic_Plan_42505.pdf

[NAIS Contacts for public comment](#)

Horses: <http://animalid.aphis.usda.gov/nais/audiences/horses>

Alpaca and Llamas:

http://animalid.aphis.usda.gov/nais/audiences/llamas_and_alpacas

Cattle and Bison:

http://animalid.aphis.usda.gov/nais/audiences/cattle_and_bison

Swine: <http://animalid.aphis.usda.gov/nais/audiences/swine>

Goats: <http://animalid.aphis.usda.gov/nais/audiences/goats>

Poultry and other birds:

http://animalid.aphis.usda.gov/nais/audiences/poultry_and_birds

Deer and Elk:

http://animalid.aphis.usda.gov/nais/audiences/deer_and_elk

California Contact for public comment:

http://animalid.aphis.usda.gov/nais/about/contact_your_state.shtml/#california



Walk-A-Thon – continued from page 5

The Walk-a-Thon has quickly become the second largest fundraiser for Lakeside. In the past 2 years we have raised around \$9000 each year. We hope to do the same this year, even though we have 18 fewer students than last year, and 28 fewer than the year before. The kids have indicated a desire to meet last year's amount. Let's hope they are successful. As of April 5th we have seen \$6467 in donations, so we have a ways to go. Feel free to stop by the school and see the Earthquakes in California wall map showing the donations coming in.

Our goals this year are threefold:

1. Help the Lakeside Community Foundation fund the Physical Education program for 2006/2007 (walk-a-thon funding not to exceed \$3000).
2. Fund, with the help of an Art grant, the production of a public art project on the front of the Lakeside Community Center in the form of a mural.

3. Purchase and install stage curtains inside the Lakeside Community Center.

The combination of these 3 goals is not projected to exceed \$9000.00. Any funds raised beyond what is necessary will be spent entirely on other worthy projects within the school. If you wish to donate towards the Lakeside Walk-a-Thon, we would be grateful if you would please make a check out to Lakeside PTA Walk-a-Thon and mail to: Lakeside School Attn: Walk-a-Thon, 19621 Black Rd., Los Gatos, CA 95033.

If you have any questions, please call Hans or Donna Johsens at 408-395-0337.

**Lakeside School Annual
Family Fun Day & Auction**
Saturday, May 20
All the mountain community is invited!
<http://www.lakesidelosgatos.org/>

Classified Ads

FOR SALE

13 foot Paracclipse C-Band Satellite dish—includes receiver, feedhorn, LNB, and rotor arm. All in good working order. Highest Offer. John 408-867-3313 or jheineke@scu.edu

DR. 4-Ton Electric Splitter
Electric/Hydraulic Splitter Good for logs up to 10" Thick. \$200.
Call (650) 851 9464

Yakima Rocket Box Like new. Long enough for skis. \$100 (Originally \$300)
Call 408-354-7121

HELP WANTED

Caretaker(s) for Mt. Paradise. Prefer mature person(s). Prop. Close to Boulder Creek. Large acreage. Some expr. in woodcutting, prop maintenance & horse care. Hrs per wk in exchange for free rent of beautiful apartment, workshop, large deck; utilities incl. Drivers license required. Will pay for special tasks.
Call 831-338-9610 10 am to 3:30 pm.

FREE

Free fire fitting. Connects 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

SERVICES

Massage & Yoga. Group yoga classes at Kings Mountain Center. Massage, energy therapy & private yoga sessions available up request. Contact deborah at 650-851-1519 or pranadancer@yahoo.com

Skyline Broadband Service
1Mbps symmetrical broadband is now available in the South Skyline area. A customer quote: "Wow!"-- Adam
Visit our website at
<http://SkylineBroadbandService.com>
650-917-9279

The Deck Doctor: The leader in deck re-staining and repair in the SC Mountains. If your deck is gray, it needs staining; most decks needs re-staining every few years. It's messy and hard to get right, isn't it? We've done 150 decks and we will do yours in 3 days. We use long-lasting stains to protect your deck. View pictures of your neighbors' decks on www.TheDeckDoctor.com, estimate your deck area and length of handrails, and then call Rupert on 408 705 1956. We live on Skyline!

Therapeutic Massage. 10 years experience in deep tissue, Swedish and reflexology. In studio in Los Gatos or house calls. 408-515-3219 Felicia Lango, certified massage therapist.

DINING

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

The Mountain Terrace
Charming and rustic atmosphere uniquely suited to your special occasion. Now available for private events (650) 851-1606

COMMUNITY GROUPS

Mom/Play Group. I am the mother of a 4-month-old baby, and I am hoping to connect with other moms in the Skylonda/South Skyline area for play dates, mom's group, etc. Contact Carrie at chinacat@well.com, or 650-529-1168.

Lakeside School on Black Road is looking for community members interested in serving on the Lakeside School and Community Foundation, as well as the concert series for Into the Woods for Performing Arts. Call 408-354-2372.

SOUTH SKYLINE ASSOCIATION

Box 400, Star Route 2

La Honda, CA 94020

Don't forget to renew your SSA Membership for 2006!

A membership application can be printed from the SSA website at www.southskyline.org/About.html

SSA Calendar

General Meeting –April 28, Thomas Fogarty Winery

Business Meetings at 7:15 pm:

Thurs. May 11

Thurs. June 8

Thurs. July 13

(Call Bill Prince for location and directions)

President Bill Prince 650-917-9279

Editor Patti Begley 408-867-3973

SSA Volunteer Sign-ups

Periodically, SSA needs volunteers. Sometimes simply to help set up or tear down at a general meetings (4 times per year), and sometimes we need people to sit on a committee (infrequent, but sometimes once or twice per year).

If you would like to participate once in a while, let us know, and we will add you to our private volunteer mailing list.

Email us if interested at: webMaster@SouthSkyline.org

***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 July issue will be June 26, 2006.

Skylines News Articles: The deadline for submitting articles for the next issue is June 19, 2006.

Send all ads and articles to: Patti Begley c/o 22400 Skyline Blvd #35, La Honda CA 94020, or SkylinesEditor@earthlink.net, 408-867-3973

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