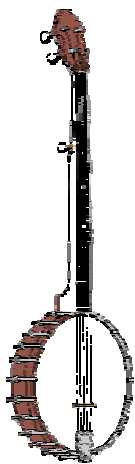


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SSA General Meeting

Summer Potluck Picnic

With "Banjos By The Bay"

Saturday July 27

12:00-4:00

at

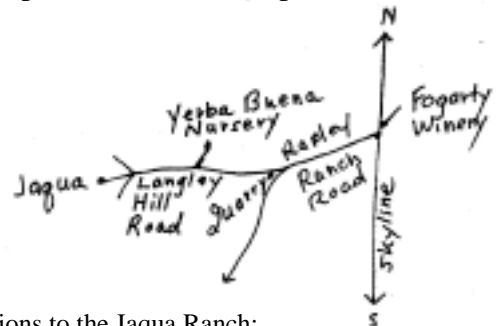
The Jaqua Ranch

Dick and Ami Jaqua invite you to enjoy the amenities of their ranch and beautiful pond. Bring your family for a fun day with your neighbors and enjoy delicious food, and the entertaining music of "Banjos By The Bay".

Bring a favorite dish to share. SSA will provide soft drinks, plates and utensils.



The Jaqua Pond by Ami Jaqua



Directions to the Jaqua Ranch:

Located 4.5 miles South on Skyline from Rte.84, or 1.5 miles North on Skyline from Page Mill.

- Turn west at the Yerba Buena Nursery sign onto Rapley Ranch Rd. (across from Fogarty Winery).
- After 1.5 miles at Langley Hill Quarry the name changes to Langley Hill Road.
- Pass the Quarry on the left; continue about 2.5 miles, passing the Nursery on the right.
- Continue for another 1/2 mile on middle drive to the end of the road. Look for directional signs.

Please, no smoking and leave your pets at home.



SPUG Quarterly Report

Skyline Propane Users Group (SPUG) was formed as a benefit for SSA members. For an information sheet send a SASE to Ruth Waldhauer, 22400 Skyline Blvd. Box 35, La Honda CA 94020.

The SPUG group price has been \$1.099/gallon since August before falling to \$1.049/gallon in May and June. In past years the pattern for price has been higher in winter and lower in summer. In the fall of 2000 as the energy crisis in California developed, all propane prices rose to an all time high reaching \$1.799/gallon for SPUG in January of 2001 before slowly dropping to its present level. Thankfully, our group price is still significantly less than the open market price. CONSERVE!

Members 55 years of age or older qualify for a \$0.05/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. There is no sales tax on propane for qualified users who file a Certificate of Exemption. Phone Amerigas at 1-800-660-1252.

SSA Thanks Our Webmaster

Many SSA members have used the SSA website at <http://www.southskyline.org> to gain access to current SSA information and issues. The woman responsible for designing and maintaining those pages for the last few years is our Webmaster Terrie Winnett. Terrie has done such a great job for SSA and her time and efforts are greatly appreciated.

Terrie has decided it is time to pass the keyboard on to a new volunteer. Bill Prince has offered to seize this opportunity and will soon be taking over the SSA Webmaster responsibilities. Thanks to both Terrie and Bill for making the SSA website possible.

A Neighborly Reminder...

Georgia Stigall

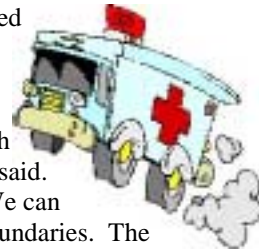
It's a banner year botanically, which means a banner year for rattlesnakes due to increased rodent populations. For all of us with propane tanks, electrical meters and other utility access areas ... please be considerate of those who have to approach these sites in the course of doing their job by clearing around tanks, meters and so forth in areas where people have to walk. It's hard to see a snake, if you can't even see your feet!



911- Ambulance Dispatchers Won't Always Send You Where You Want to Go

Eva Blum

Don't read on if you already know that an ambulance dispatched from Saratoga Summit CDF (via Felton) cannot cross the boundary into San Mateo County. I did not know it three years ago when I called 911 with a triple ankle fracture. The Saratoga Summit CDF crew was on scene within minutes. They laid out flares on the road for the ambulance, splinted my ankle with skill and care, kept me company till the Felton-dispatched ambulance arrived after a short three-quarter hour, helped load me, and waited until I was settled. Fortunately.



The ambulance driver asked to which hospital we were going. Stanford, I said. That's out of our district, he said. We can transport patients only within our boundaries. The nearest they could take me was Good Samaritan Hospital. Since I had been pre-admitted to Stanford, they unloaded me and left. The fire fighters stayed with me until a private ambulance came that would undertake the trip to Stanford. All in all, it took some six hours to get to the hospital.

Comes this spring and with it a repeat performance. Almost. My physician wanted me in hospital right now, suspecting I was producing too much insulin with not enough blood sugar as a consequence. You are not to drive, she ordered, call an ambulance, I want you on a glucose drip. I explained the problem of county line borders. Unbelieving and afraid the low blood sugar had befuddled my brain, she insisted. A friend would not do.

So I called 911. Again he Saratoga Summit CDF crew was at my house within minutes, headed by Captain di Napoli, Steve Hernandez and Dale Johnson. I can't say enough about their professionalism, kindness and initiative. They tried for at least half an hour to get a commitment from various dispatchers to allow transport to Stanford Hospital where I was expected; to no avail. In the end I had to sign a waiver of service so that a friend would be able to drive me. In the present instance I only lost an hour, instead of six.

Is there an answer? If you have one, let me know. Email comments to web@southskyline.org.

Wildlife Rescue Release Sites

Patty Mayall

Many thanks to the generous and supportive South Skyline residents who offered their properties for releasing wild animals from the Peninsula Humane Society's Wildlife Care Center. Last year, I wrote an article for Skylines on "Living with Wildlife" and at the SSA meeting at Fogarty Winery, I spoke about the work that the Wildlife Care Center does and the crucial need for release sites of animals that are orphans and raised by the Center's staff and volunteers. Every year, the Center cares for thousands of San Mateo County wild birds, reptiles and mammals that are orphaned, sick or injured. The goal is to raise or to treat and then to release healthy wildlife in areas suitable for their survival. We release only 2-4 animals at one site and often have up to 20 animals, so we need numerous sites. During my presentation, I asked anyone interested in providing a release area on their property to please sign a sheet I had on the display table. I was going to be very happy if three people signed. I was overjoyed when thirteen people signed up!

The Wildlife Care Center's Manager

Sue Kelly was equally elated and thankful for this overwhelming response and support from the community. To those of you who provided such beautiful and perfect homes for the animals released, we are deeply grateful. Sue and I were so glad that some of you could share with us that exciting moment when the raccoons explored their new, natural habitats and ventured into the wilderness. It is quite an exhilarating experience which always tempts me to sing out "Born Free" but that would be "unprofessional" (and frightening). To those of you who signed up but were not contacted, that just means we completed releasing at the sites first used. This year, we will need sites again in late summer or fall, so you might hear from me then. Please don't feel forgotten if you don't hear from us. We greatly appreciate that you are on our list and that we have such a super choice of suitable release areas. If anyone has questions about or is interested in offering a site, please call me at 650-851-1902.



If you ever need to report sick, injured, or orphaned wildlife or if you need help dealing with any wildlife issues, please call the Wildlife Care Center at 650-340-7022, ext. 340. With springtime, we have many wild baby birds and animals that need lots of care and feeding, so we always need volunteers at the Center in San Mateo. I highly recommend volunteering if you love birds and animals. All training is provided, and you can help with a choice of tasks for just a few hours a week. Please contact the Center or me if you have any questions. On behalf of the Center and the animals that now know freedom in the wild and wonderful South Skyline area, I thank you for helping us!

Golden Yarrow and Woolly Sunflowers Are Blooming

Sarah Schoen

Along Skyline grow two perennial sunflowers of the genus *Eriophyllum* (Greek for woolly leaf). These are golden yarrow (*E. confertiflorum*) and woolly sunflower (*E. lanatum*).

Golden yarrow is a rounded bush 9" to 2 ½ ' tall. Several herbaceous stems grow from a woody base. The alternate leaves are 1/2 to 2" long, deeply lobed to nearly pinnately compound, and rolled under. Stems and the undersides of leaves are covered with short, gray or white hairs, at least when the plants are young. Tiny yellow flowers have 4 to 6 (occasionally zero) rays up to 1/5" long. The inflorescences grow in strongly overlapping terminal clusters of 3 to over 30 individual flowers. Blooms appear mainly from May to August, but may be present as early as March or as late as November. The species grows in the California coastal and Sierra Nevada mountains, and in Baja California. Golden yarrow can be a "fire-follower" as leachate from charred wood encourages seed germination.

Woolly sunflower grows as an erect or spreading sub shrub, 4" to 3' tall. Simple or branching herbaceous stems grow from a woody base, ending in a single flower. Alternate leaves are 3/8 to 3" long, and are more or less toothed or divided. Again, stems and the undersides of leaves are covered with short hairs, which may diminish with age. Yellow flowers have 8 to 13 (occasionally zero) rays less than 1/2" long. The rays' terminal edges may be notched or toothed, and become lighter yellow with age. Blooms appear from May to July. Woolly sunflower has many varieties, and is widely distributed in California, Nevada, and the Pacific Northwest. For those of you traveling northward, the flower is also known as Oregon sunshine.

Both are important butterfly nectar plants, but use different strategies. Golden yarrow packs several small flowers together to form a landing pad, while woolly sunflower relies on individual, larger flowers.



Golden Yarrow



Woolly Sunflower

South Skyline Emergency Preparedness Update

Ken Broome and Sherry Niswander

We were most pleased to be awarded a \$3,000 grant from the Peninsula Community Foundation to help pay for basic administrative expenses. This Foundation focuses on building communities and they were impressed with our commitment to improving the emergency preparedness in our area.

The first CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) training session was a great success, with 25 students graduating, complete with hard-hats and emergency supplies. A second session is planned for Tuesday evenings and one Saturday in the fall, starting September 17 and finishing October 26. A simulated Disaster Drill is planned for Saturday, November 9 to test the Communications system and everyone's ability to mobilize and check conditions in their neighborhood. CERT training is offered for a \$50 charge to cover the cost of protective equipment and supplies. There is a limit of 25 persons per training. Contact our Treasurer, Sherry Niswander, at (650) 559-0677 to register.

Communications and mapping are still being worked on, but we could definitely use more help. Tom Anderson, who has his HAM radio license, in conjunction with the V.I.P (Volunteers In (Fire) Protection) program under the oversight of CDF (California Department of Forestry), will head up a committee to coordinate HAM radio communications in our area. This committee and the SSEP (South Skyline Emergency Preparedness Program) Board will be making recommendations on what type of equipment should be used by each CERT so that we are all able to communicate to each other and to the outside area during a complete shut down of electricity and telephones during a major emergency. Rich Lee, Ken Broome, Dick Schwind and Tom Anderson are improving the mapping of emergency access of our area.

We have, unfortunately, recently lost several members on our board due to unforeseen personal matters. Irene Long, Eva Blum and Linda Finley are no longer members of the Board of Directors of SSEP. They all were extremely important to our newly formed group and made huge contributions. They will be sorely missed and we wish them much luck in their future endeavors.

This obviously leaves our Board short-handed and we would like to extend an invitation to the community to contact Ken Broome (650/529-1810), Sherry Niswander (650/559-0677) or Judy Grote (650/949-1437) if you would be interested in joining our Board. Our Directors usually meet on the second Saturday afternoon of each month. We plan to have a representative of each CERT area to serve on the Board of Directors.

With all the attention being paid to homeland security against terrorist attacks, how about becoming better

prepared to survive natural disasters that may occur in our own neighborhoods? Please be willing to do what you can, and have fun and fellowship in the process.

FALL CALENDAR 2002 CERT SPRING TRAINING & EVENTS

SSEP and the Saratoga Summit CDF will hold the next CERT training sessions during September and October. If you miss one meeting you can make it up in a later session.

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (CERT) TRAINING:

- Tuesdays, September 17, 24, October 1, 8, 15, 22, 6:30pm-9pm
- Saturday, October 26, 9:00am-7:00pm
- Additional Event – Simulated Disaster Drill Saturday, November 9 Times to be announced.

All classes will be held at the Saratoga Summit Fire Station. Class size is limited to 25, so please register ASAP by calling Sherry Niswander at 650-559-0677

PUC Has Not Responded To Telephone Complaint

Joe Davis



An update on Joe's efforts to improve telephone service in the Skyline area:

I filed a complaint with the PUC several months ago. I never received a response, and after several attempts to reach some one gave up on that approach.

The good news is that the repair service has become quite responsive. I have called them twice in the last month, and they came the same day called or the next day.

But the basic underlying problem still exists, poor quality phone lines and no high-speed service. I am continuing to try and make a contact with PUC. If anyone has any connections please let me know.

Several others and myself are using one way or two-way satellite systems by "DirecPC.com". They have improved their service in the last few years and seem very reliable. It is a little expensive \$30 to \$70/month depending on whether you have the one way or the two-way system (receive and send signals via satellite; no dialing up). Send your comments to: fixphoneproblems@aol.com or call Joe Davis at 650-948-6424.

Recommended Reading



Praise for Crossing the Sauer by Charles Reis Felix

Ruth Waldhauer

A book by Charles Reis Felix, a member of our community and SSA, has just been published. Crossing the Sauer is a tough, vivid, honest memoir of advancing through Germany with Patton's Third Army. Felix is not writing a history of battles, dates, or heroism, but of war at a personal level emphasizing the human factor. Albeit the memoir tells largely of fear, death, mud, and other vicissitudes, it is laced with ribald soldier humor, and poignant glimpses of the negatives of war.

Given our troubled international situation, this book is most relevant today. I strongly recommend Crossing the Sauer, Burford Books, Inc. Applause to Felix.

[Editor's Note: Amazon.com gave Crossing the Sauer glowing reviews and 5 stars from readers.]

PLACES TO BIRD LOCALLY

Freddy Howell

In 1983, volunteers from the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society (SCVAS) produced a small book about local birding sites. Included were write-ups on about forty different areas with information on how to bird the area, directions and the specialties to be found. The book was called Birding at the Bottom of the Bay (BABOB). In 1991, second edition was produced that included some updates and new art work. In 2002, the third edition has just been released.



This is truly a major accomplishment. Consider the changes in the Bay Area over the last twelve years. Consider, also, that this was all a volunteer effort. Some fifty dedicated members of SCVAS visited all of the sites listed, including fourteen new entries, wrote descriptions of the area, updated directions, drew new maps, contributed original artwork and triple checked the species likely to be seen. That's just the writing. Then there is all the graphic work, coordination and finally printing, marketing and distribution. It's a huge project and editor, Betty Wyatt, veteran editor of the last two editions, has a first class product to be proud of. This edition sports a new spiral binding with a title over leaf so you can tell what the book is on the bookshelf. Inside the overleaf is the site listing and the Birding Site Map, making the most important information readily available. A very handy chapter is "The Special Birds and Where to Look for Them." It acts as an index to where one might find birds that are considered rare or unusual. This is especially handy for visiting birders.

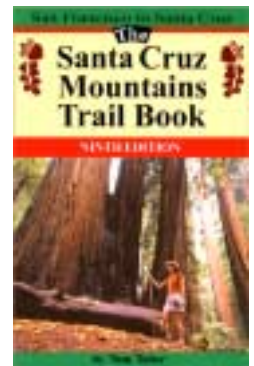
To me, it is very gratifying that there are 54 publicly accessible places in the South Bay to bird and the fact that there are more areas now than there were twelve years ago is particularly amazing. BABOB covers five areas – San Francisco Bay frontage; West Foothills (North); West Foothills (South); East Foothills and Valley; and Valley Floor – The Urban Parks. Notable nearby spots of Big Basin and Panoche Valley are also part of the guide. Many people have no idea how rich Santa Clara County's habitat is or how many species have been recorded: 383.

While the majority of sites are in the Santa Clara Valley, there are many that are easily accessible to mountain residents: Loma Prieta, Castle Rock State Park, the newly expanded Sierra Azul Open Space and Lexington Reservoir County Park. BABOB is available at SCVAS's Nature Shop at McClellan Ranch in Cupertino, at the Wild Bird Center in Los Gatos and at the Bird Feeder in Santa Cruz for \$14.50. It's a great addition to any birder's bookshelf.

The Santa Cruz Mountains Trail Book by Tom Taber

Patti Begley

The 9th edition of this popular trail book was published this year. This updated edition provides detailed trail information for parks in the mountains and along the coast within San Mateo, Santa Clara and Santa Cruz counties. It also contains natural history information. This book is a great resource for finding local hiking trails.





Mountain Summer Events

Big Basin Centennial

100 Days of Celebration

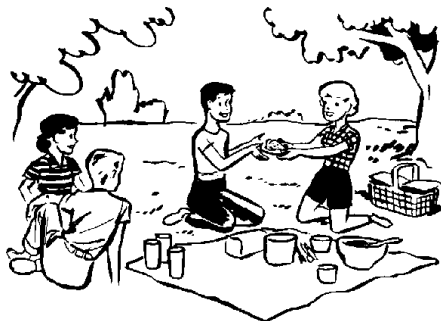
June – September 2002

Big Basin Redwoods State Park is California's oldest State Park, established in 1902, and the 100-Year anniversary will be celebrated with more than 100 days of dance, music, theater, lectures, and special events, from now through September 15, 2002.

Daily Events and Activities

- Guided hikes every Saturday 12:30-1:30 at Park Headquarters
- Centennial performance series at the Campfire Center Saturdays at 4:00pm
- 100 Tales Storytelling July 19, 20 & 21
- Photography and history exhibits
- 100 Wings Bird Weekend July 12, 13 & 14
- A two-day festival at Big Basin State Park September 14 and 15 - Environmental walks, music, theater, games, art and crafts. On Saturday Zun Zun performs Pan-American music. On Sunday dance to the Banana Slug Band and listen to speaker Julia Butterfly Hill. \$5 entry

Find event locations, schedules and other centennial information at <http://www.mountainparks.org/> (831) 335-3174



Spend the day in the redwoods at the 39th Annual Kings Mountain Art Fair. The art fair features arts and crafts from 125 artists. Supervised children's activities and crafts take place all day in "Kiddie Hollow". Admission is free.

When: Labor Day weekend (August 31, September 1,2). The hours are from 10:00am to 5:00 pm each day. A pancake breakfast starts at 8:00 am.

Where: Located at Kings Mountain Community Center on Skyline Blvd. above Woodside, 6 miles south of Highway 92 West.

Proceeds benefit the Kings Mountain Volunteer Fire Brigade and other community charities. Call 650-851-2710 for information.

MROSD Summer Hikes at a Glance

<http://www.openspace.org> or call (650) 691-1200

JULY

Day	Hike	Time	Preserve
17	Explorer Hike	10:30 - 2:00	Purisima Creek Redwoods
20	Exploring La Honda Creek	10:00 - 12:00	La Honda Creek
24	Scenic Aerobic Hike	10:00 - 12:00	Long Ridge

AUGUST

3	Love the Ridge	11:30 - 4:00	Skyline Ridge
4	Director's Trail Talk	9:30 - 1:30	Long Ridge
4	Earthquake Walk	2:00 - 4:30	Los Trancos
8	Afternoon in the Redwoods: Purisima Creek Trail	1:00 - 4:00	Purisima Creek Redwoods
9	Dinner at Dusk	4:30 pm - 7:30 pm	Fremont Older
14	Scenic Aerobic Hike	10:00 - 12:00	St. Joseph's Hill
15	Midweek Hike in the Mountains	10:00 - 2:00	Saratoga Gap
24	Sunset on the Deck	5:30 pm - 10:00 pm	Russian Ridge
28	Scenic Aerobic Hike	10:00 - 12:00	Windy Hill

Take a Hike . . .



Hiking with a Group

By Linda Stinchfield



When the publishing company I'd worked for twenty-five years merged and then moved out of the area, I decided to reward myself with some time off. Suddenly I had the leisure to join a hiking group and what a smart move that turned out to be!

One obvious advantage to a group hike is that it is scheduled, so you make the time to go. My husband and I had lived on the Skyline for six years, commuting daily past obvious trailheads—but somehow never quite found time to explore. We'd say, "Someday we've got to see where that goes..." Hah! But within a month of starting to hike with a group, I'd seen Russian Ridge, Jasper Ridge, Long Ridge, and Los Trancos. I'd seen more of the area I live in than I'd seen in all the previous years put together.

When you hike with a group, chances are they know where the good hikes are. They're familiar with the trails—and not getting lost, or worrying about getting lost, is always an advantage! Beyond that, they know which hikes are best for spring wildflowers, for shade from summer heat, and for not getting bogged down in winter mud.

A group is likely to have someone knowledgeable about the flora and fauna you'll encounter. I've always enjoyed knowing the names of things, and while field guides are great, they can be heavy to lug along. On my very first hike I learned about hound's tongue, mule ears, and owl's clover, to name just a few. Since then I've learned to recognize shooting star, woodland star, and starflower—and avoid star thistle! I've admired baby blue-eyes, chuckled at blue dicks, and know that blue-eyed grass is neither blue-eyed nor a grass; all with a little help from my friends. (And of course, there's another advantage— it's a great way to make new friends!)



And then there's safety. As a woman, I feel vulnerable and hesitant about hiking alone—and it's not always easy to match schedules with a buddy. Hiking as part of a group gives me a feeling of security and the freedom to get out and enjoy nature.

The Midpeninsula Region Open Space District has organized hikes, which might be a good way to get started hiking with a group. Find their newsletter/schedule online at <http://www.openspace.org>, and click on Hikes & Activities. Or call (650) 691-1200. See the "Summer Hikes at a Glance" calendar on page 6.



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

What's In That Banana Slug Slime?

Patti Begley

We get very excited around my house when we come across a banana slug. I don't know what it is about those yellow slimy things that make them so fascinating. But the last time my daughter Tessa handled a slug she came to me with slime covered hands and a little quiver in her voice as she told me "Mom, it won't come off." Soap and water didn't work; in fact it may have increased the slime level. I tried peeling it off but it just stretched out, and snapped back on! After trying several cleansers, we finally scrubbed it off with some grease remover. Wow, what is that stuff?

I had to know more about slug slime, so we went to the all-knowing Internet. Other than the UC Santa Cruz mascot, there were not very many websites dedicated to Banana Slugs. We did eventually find the info we needed at www.naturepark.com/bslug.htm.



We learned that these one-footed invertebrates are the second largest slugs (or mollusks) in the world, growing up to 25 cm long. They live in moist forest floors along the Pacific Coast of North America from California to Alaska. It is a decomposer, which means it chews up leaves, and animal droppings and other dead plant material and recycles it into soil. Ok, but what about that slime?

Banana Slug slime has many functions. One is to keep the slug's skin moist so it can breathe through it. A second function is to protect the slug from predators. They simply hump up their body to appear bigger, and produce a thick milky mucous that gets gooier when it is put in a predator's mouth. Slime helps them move and drop from trees, and assists in the mating process.

But here is the clincher - slug slime is one of nature's best glues. Apparently it is so good that scientists have tried to reproduce it for possible use in the medical field, but so far with no success. Well, the next time we need to glue something we can just grab a B-Slug. It might be slow, but I think it would work!

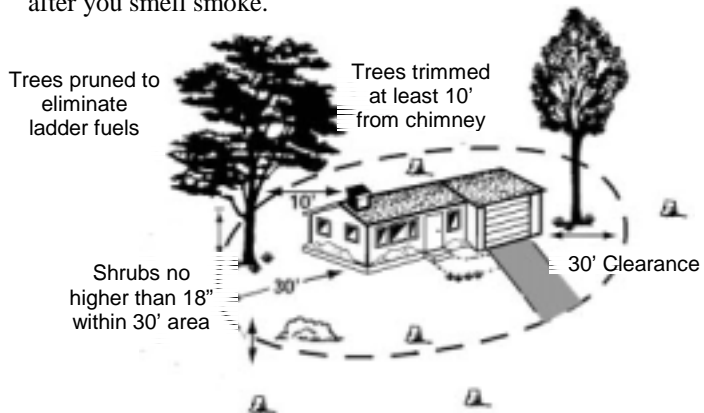


Members of South Skyline Fire & Rescue Respond to All Types of Emergencies

George Johnson – Co. 21 South Skyline Fire & Rescue

Anytime 911 is called in our area help is dispatched from the nearest CDF/Santa Cruz/San Mateo County Fire and Rescue station. These emergencies take the form of wildland fires, residential structure fires, automobile/motorcycle accidents, medical aids, heart attacks, child birth, power lines down, lost hikers, rock climber falls, hazardous material spills on highways, airplane down, earthquakes, etc. Last year South Skyline Fire & Rescue, Company 21, responded to 156 incidents and Las Cumbres Fire & Rescue, Company 26, responded to 117.

With the hot summer conditions upon us it is again time to increase our awareness of wildland fire prevention and safety. As you already know from all the recent news articles, fire conditions are already proving to be extreme this year. As a homeowner, making your home area defensible is the most important activity you can do to help yourself, your neighbors and the fire fighters. This includes an area of 30 - 100 feet clear of flammable vegetation around structures, clear roadway access and a water supply. Information sheets are available at the CDF fire stations, and on the Web. If you have any questions please call. Now is the time to get answers and do your preventive activities to make your home defensible, not after you smell smoke.



This is a quote from the USA Today news: "...Firefighters also patrolled behind the line and inside Show Low, looking for spot fires and crews marked houses to show firefighters which ones could reasonably be defended from the flames, and which ones could not..."

Information is available on the Web at:
<http://www.fire.ca.gov/Education/FireSafety.asp>
<http://www.fire.ca.gov/Education/IndoorFireSafety.asp>
<http://www.fire.ca.gov/Education/publiccode4291.asp>
<http://www.fire.ca.gov/FireEmergencyResponse/FirePlan/SuccessStories/DefensibleSpace.asp>
<http://www.fire.ca.gov/FireEmergencyResponse/2001FireSeason/2001fireseason.asp>
<http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/Monterey/current.html>

Letter to the Editor...

Septic Tanks and Leach Fields

The information presented by the Septic committee in the April issue of SKYLINES, chaired by Dick Schwind, serves as an excellent database to help mountain folk understand the concept and operating criteria for septic tanks and associated leach fields. This is an important issue to fully understand in a world of increasing environmental awareness in which pros and cons for such systems are in question.

I do however, disagree with two statements in the article which I would like to make comment on. The article states in part " the effluent flows into the leach field where it is treated as it filters down into the soil towards the streams, the ground water, and your well-" That is a potentially damaging statement to the existence of septic tanks and leach fields as that is what those who fear contamination of the environment propose, ie. that septic systems are polluting our streams and water supply. Required spatial separation of tanks and fields from streams and wells are guidelines and subjective at best, they may be sufficient, maybe not. However, regulations are in place to hopefully prevent such contaminations taking into account proper design and operation of a septic system in sync with percolation test data. Diversion valves may be part of the system design but may not be present in all systems. The philosophy of a split field is that an unused section of the field will be allowed to "dry out" and moisture-laden debris will desiccate in time leaving a new field to take over when pressed into service.

Leach line setbacks from property lines are usually 10'. Separation between lines is usually 8'. These setbacks and design criteria are in place for two reasons, first, to prevent your septic system from polluting your neighbor's land or open space with your effluent, and second, dissipation/transpiration/evaporation will usually occur within those limits. Percolation tests are done before the field is installed to be sure the field will operate within those parameters. Variations in regulations from County to County may be noted due to variations in subsurface geology, density of population, closeness to streams, domestic water supplies, and other parameters

The other statement "corralled horses, etc., over the leach field denude vegetation and compact the soil, reducing the important transpiration of the liquid in the effluent" is not a fair statement, especially to horse owners. We had horses in our paddocks for 20 years that were directly over a leach field with no apparent impact to the field's ability to dissipate the liquid/moisture, even in heavy rainfall periods.

Once a leach line is installed it is usually covered with a plastic sheeting or fabric mesh to keep dirt from being washed down into the trench contaminating the line and leach rock. Evaporation upward is restricted due to the plastic membrane but less so with the mesh fabric. Soil compaction and denuded vegetation due to horses over the line is irrelevant. Percolation tests are done to ensure dissipation of fluids downward and outward.

Evaporation/transpiration at the surface is an added plus to system behavior. The volume of leach rock within a trench is designed to distribute the liquids over a large surface area and keep the fluids within close proximity to the lines themselves to avoid potential pollution away from the field. The linear feet of line required is usually more than adequate to compensate for compaction, heavy rainfall periods, less than perfect operating fields, and earth movement over time.

Respectfully,
Steve Wolf
Cassel, California



2002 SSA Membership

Have you paid your membership dues this year?

Membership includes delivery of the quarterly newsletter *Skylines* and participation in Skyline Propane Users Group (SPUG). Those outside the Skyline area may apply for associate (non-voting) membership by paying regular dues.

Send \$15 with name, address, phone number, email and property location to:

Ruth Waldhauer
SSA Membership Chairperson
22400 Skyline Boulevard
Box 35
La Honda, CA 94020.

Applications are on our website at
www.southskyline.org

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE

Rug/Carpet "Beautiful", 12'x12'. Light pastels, "Chinese stitch". Large "mondala", Indian rug. \$295
650-851-3181

1981 VW Pickup 650-851-3181

10" Sears Table Saw, \$50
Joe Davis phone: 650-948-6424
Fax: 650-948-5605

Cal King captain's style waveless waterbed (individual bladders) with pillowtop. Headboard includes nightstands. \$250/obo
Craig & Lisa 872-0609

Eggs From Free Range Chickens- fertile, fresh, average size is about extra large, \$2.00/dozen Dick and Lillian, 408-867-9422



SERVICES

Lisa Nicolosi, NCTMB
Nationally Certified
Therapeutic Massage and
Bodyworker



Safe, professional therapeutic massage provided in the comfort of your own home! Swedish, deep tissue, sports massage and polarity modalities used in combination to address your specific needs.

Rates on a sliding scale.
90 minute sessions \$65-80

Shinglemill Ranch
Phone: 408-872-0609
Email: castoner@bigfoot.com
castoner@bigfoot.com References Available

HeartBar- For info or ordering
408-395-0337 or see
<http://heartbar.net/rep/donna60>

Robert's Window Washing service
408-345-2032 (days), 867-2384 (eve.).

FREE

Hot Tub Cover- Six foot diameter for redwood tub. FREE
Joe Davis phone: 650-948-6424
Fax: 650-948-5605

LOST & FOUND

Found: Two male goats in the Hwy 9 roadway, half mile East of Hwy 236.
Call 408-354-1401.



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 dates are July 1, October 1, January 1, and April 1.

Skylines News Articles: The deadline for submitting articles for the next issue is September 16, 2002.

Send all ads and articles to: Patti Begley, 26160 Highway 9, Los Gatos, CA 95033, or SkylinesEditor@earthlink.net

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

SSA CALENDAR

General Meeting – July 27 at The Jaqua Ranch 11:00-4:00

Business Meetings at 7:15 pm:

Thurs. July 11 – Georgia Stigall

Thurs. August 8 – Kris Smith

Thurs. Sept. 12 – To Be Determined

(Call Pat Congdon for location and directions)

President Pat Congdon 650-941-9832

Editor Patti Begley 408-867-3973