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South Skyline Association
General Meeting

WILDFIRE SURVIVAL

Sunday August 3, 2008
Jaqua Ranch
12:00 Noon – 4:00 pm
Pot-Luck Picnic

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

Please join us for discussions on how we as individuals and as a community can prepare for the threat of wildfires in the Skyline area.

Patrick Congdon – Past President of Santa Clara County Fire Safe Council and long time member of the South Skyline Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service will describe:
- Community Wildfire Prevention Planning
- Improved Fire Fighting Protection
- Formation of a Tri-County SSA Fire Safe Council?

Jess Love, Attorney for the law firm of Ropers Majeski will discuss:
- Rights of Fire Insurance Policy Holders faced with cancelation, renewal refusal, or increased premiums
- Rights of residents faced with mandatory, or voluntary, evacuation orders
- Right of Return in the event of road closures

Information tables are planned by:
- South Skyline Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service
- South Skyline Emergency Preparedness Organization

Product Demonstrations or Equipment Presentations are planned by:
- San Mateo County Office of Emergency Services
- Barricade Fire Protection System
- Cameron Colson Inc. – Fast Fire Break Systems

This event will take place at Dick and Ami Jaqua’s ranch on Langley Hill Road.
- From Highway 84, drive south on Skyline Blvd. 4.5 miles.
- From Page Mill Rd. drive north on Skyline Blvd.1.5 miles.
Turn west at the sign for Yerba Buena Nursery which is across from Fogarty Winery. Follow the SSA signs along the unpaved road to the Jaqua Ranch.

Please – no smoking and leave your dogs at home.
Skyline Propane Users Group (SPUG) was formed to benefit SSA members. For information about joining, or for members wishing current information on the agreement with Amerigas, please contact Ruth Waldhauer at ruth_waldhauer@yahoo.com, or 650-948-1466. Information is also available on our website at www.southskyline.org.

Recent SPUG prices are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>$2.60/gallon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>2.649</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>2.419</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>2.419</td>
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<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>2.459</td>
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Disruptions caused by winter storms are behind us. Do what you can to conserve! The open market price is about $1.00/gallon higher than the SPUG price.

Prices are subject to change as frequently as wholesale prices change. The prices we post are for the first of the month. Members 55 years of age or older qualify for a 2 cent/gallon discount in addition to the SPUG group price. Our SPUG rate is based on automatic regular route deliveries on a keep-full basis, not “will-call” service.

Those whose membership in SSA has lapsed will be disqualified from receiving the benefit of SPUG price for propane.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**

Jeff Gamache, who is Market Manager for Amerigas, met with Larry Myers (president of SSA), Cliff Jenkins (past president of SSA), and me to inform us that Amerigas will no longer serve SPUG members who live in Pescadero, Redwood Estates, or Aldercroft Heights. I know Jeff Gamache has phoned some of those affected, but not all. Jeff Gamache also explained that the cost basis for operations out of the Santa Cruz location is very different from the San Jose location, where fuel, freight and overhead costs are much greater. The price will be about 35 to 45 cents per gallon on average more than the SPUG price for those served out of the Santa Cruz office.

If Amerigas cuts you off their roles, other propane companies that serve our area are Northern Energy, Suburban Propane, Pacific, and Dassel’s. (Who have I missed?) Northern Energy gained praise from some SSA members. Suburban Propane, located in Scotts Valley serves many in our area. Dassel’s, a privately owned propane distributor, possibly has the most attractive rates for Redwood Estates, Aldercroft Heights, and Pescadero, but they do not serve the Skyline Boulevard area. See their website: www.dassels.com or phone them at 831-636-5100.

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**San Mateo County Watershed Protection Outreach**

In the previous Skylines Newsletter we discussed what the County is planning as relates to Watershed Protection of its 34 watersheds. The intent was to educate the community on why San Mateo County thinks it needs a Watershed Protection Strategy. The next 2-3 paragraphs summarize the process and program. The remainder of the article will be an update of what has transpired since the last report-out.

The San Mateo County Board of Supervisors directed staff to develop and implement a public outreach process on watershed protection. The goals of this outreach process are to 1) raise public awareness of the watershed program and perceived watershed problems, and 2) discuss and gather possible alternative recommendations for actions to lessen human impact on the County’s watersheds.

**The goal of the program** is to have a consistent set of regulations across the county with which to address watershed improvement and human activity relative to watershed areas. The county would like to be proactive in managing it from a county perspective rather than having to react to new state and/or federal regulations as they come down. What wasn’t clear was how this would pre-empt the county from having to enforce any new federal and state regulations pertinent to watersheds as well as the new county ones. This could result in layers of bureaucracy dealing with human activity relative to these watershed areas. The scope of the program is the unincorporated county.

**The county worked on this project for 2 years before getting any public input.** This was stated in their verbal meeting presentation. Data used was from 1 study only—the Berkeley study. The county is trying to do a one size fits all approach rather than taking a more granular and systematic approach.

**The proposed process** will gather possible recommendations for action. There were only 2 more workshops scheduled before the county goes back to summarize the meeting input gathered and prepare a recommendation for the Environmental Quality Committee chaired by Rich Gordon and Jerry Hill. This recommendation will be complete in 6 months or less. As additional information becomes available, it will be posted on the County’s website www.co.sanmateo.ca.us/OurWatersheds.

**The new regulations that will be recommended** will be more restrictive than those existing today. This may/will make it harder to get water from the creeks and may have an impact on both riparian and appropriative water rights. The county has failed to clarify this area. What is not understood is if they are hiding something or they truly do not know.

Since the last article, the author attended 2 more watershed meetings—Redwood City, Emerald Hills—but these are not the final 2 referred to above. Each meeting was very well attended. At all 3 meetings (Pescadero, Redwood City, Emerald Hills),

(Continued on page 8)
What Is Your SSA Board Doing?
By Judy Grote

What Is Your SSA Board Doing?

- The SSA April General Meeting was held on Friday, April 18th at the Fogarty Winery. Laura Gould was the featured speaker. She talked about her new book on Calico cats and had signed copies available for purchase. The next General Meeting will be the Summer Picnic at the Jaqua ranch and will focus on Fire Safety, Fire Insurance, and Right of Return.
- The April Skylines Newsletter was published to the Community and the next newsletter is being developed for distribution in July.
- Traffic Safety and motorcycles still remains work in progress. A revised document was sent to Senator Simitian, he has reached a decision, and we will need to do more work to prove that there is an issue. Decibel meters with recorders are being investigated to help SSA make the case.
- CalTrans/Trucks on 84: Truck Advisory warning signs have been posted on Highways 35, 92, and 84, but not quite as requested. Caltrans agreed to realign the markers in 2 curves on Highway 84. This is still work in progress. The Board is working to accelerate getting all the dangerous places needing signage agreed with Caltrans and corrected.
- Rhys Vineyard and Winery: A letter was sent by SSA to the Santa Clara County planning and Board of Supervisors concerning the traffic safety issue at the Rhys Vineyard & Winery. There still has been no reply to date.
- Fire-safe corridor along Skyline. Caltrans will have the dead standing trees removed along all of Skyline and Hwy 9 by the beginning of the next fire season.
- Fire-safe corridor on Old Haul Rd in Alpine-Portola Neighborhood The new bridge, which will make Old Haul Rd passable in case of emergencies, should be completed by December 2008. Start date is scheduled for September 2008.
- Wood Stoves, Fireplaces, and Air Quality: The Board has sent letters to the Bay Area Air Quality Board asking that they not do a one size fits all approach. The recommendation will be reviewed and approved by BAAQMD in July. They will not change their recommendation from one size fits all. One clarification is that if a resident cannot get natural gas and has propane, then that resident is exempt from the wood stove burning restrictions.
- San Mateo County Watersheds: A board representative has attended many of the investigative outreach meetings held with the County. The group conducting these also seems bent on a one size fits all approach. We have input at these meetings as well as submitted comments at the Watershed project website and will continue to watch this closely.

SSA Adopt-A-Highway Program Named Volunteer of the Year
By Ruth Waldhauer

SSA was awarded Volunteer of the Year 2007 by Adopt-A-Highway managers. Over 65 volunteers have participated since the Skyline program began in May 2005. Thanks to all participants!!

On May 3 our crew (as pictured above) consisted of Ann Waldhauer, Bill Sorich, Lisa Hedstrom, Martine Habib, Ruth Waldhauer, and Robert Bradford. We divided into girls vs. boys. The girls completed their sweep in record time. (I think the boys were gossiping.)

SSA tries to recruit new people for each bi-monthly sweep. Please join us. It is fun and can even be habit forming. Former participants have been seen stopping as they drive along Skyline or hike the trails, to pick up a bit of litter.

Please contact Ruth Waldhauer to volunteer. At ruth_waldhauer@yahoo.com or 650-948-1466

Skyline is our front yard!!!
Let’s keep it beautiful.
News from the SSA Truck-Traffic Safety Committee

Yet another truck/automobile accident occurred on March 31, 2008, at Milepost 15 on State Highway 84. A long tractor-trailer proceeding uphill crossed over the centerline on a curve and pushed three downhill autos backwards into each other. Fortunately there were no injuries, but the autos were totaled.

In the meantime, some progress has been reported by Caltrans in correcting the most serious truck traffic safety issues described in the last issue of Skylines.

A Caltrans crew is scheduled to re-align the lane markers at Milepost 17+ of Highway 84 on Saturday, June 14, 2008, to increase the radius of the bend.

Engineering design to increase pavement width at Milepost 15+ is in progress. However, the extent of the proposed construction work is such that it will be necessary for CalTrans to take competitive bids. As a consequence, the work will probably take several years to complete.

An additional truck advisory sign, to be placed at the Tripp Road and Highway 84 intersection in Woodside, has been on order for several months. CalTrans has assured us that it will be in place soon.

The SSA board of directors continues its efforts to make Highway 84 safer for the motoring public. A meeting between CalTrans, the California Highway Patrol, the San Mateo County Sheriff, and representatives of all the various Skyline ridge property owners associations will be held on July 30. If you are interested in attending call Hertha Harrington at 650-851-4226, as space is limited. The SSA Truck-Traffic Safety Committee intends to invite local and state elected officials and other interested parties to participate in our efforts. The hope is that by increasing public awareness of the problems on Highway 84, solutions will emerge which will reduce the dangerous conditions on that vital roadway.

Membership Renewal Notices

By Ruth Waldhauer

Apologies if I offended by sending the SSA Membership renewal notice, but the result is that as of June 15, SSA has 725 paid members. This is a record!!

Memberships are due in January. About early May, postcards are sent to those who have forgotten to renew. For those who only joined SSA later in the year (say October, November, December), they are considered paid for the following year. To receive the SPUUG benefit of lower propane price, Amerigas specifies that one must be a current SSA member.

The larger SSA membership is, the more effective our powers of persuasion with Caltrans, CHP, or the Counties when SSA has an issue to pursue.

Thanks for your SSA membership!!!

Brush Chipping Help

By Dick Schwind

Santa Clara County residents

Are you a Santa Clara County Skyline area resident struggling to get your 100 ft. clearance around permanent structures, and along your driveway? Last summer some of us made use of a grant offer from the Santa Clara County Fire Safe Council for free chipping (!) of the offending perimeter brush that was neatly piled along a good access driveway or road. Their grant program is continuing this year. It can also be brush within 30 ft of your driveway/lane for improving the fire safety of your access. There is a time limit of several hours’ worth of chipping, but that is a HUGE amount of brush. The council contracts with a commercial chipping crew to do the work. Also, they would like to combine jobs to reduce the travel time. No dirt, weeds, or poison oak!! Also, if you have a small amount of brush or not good access we will try to arrange for a common location to drop off the brush.

I will be signing people up for this program and coordinating combining jobs at the summer picnic, and then checking that the brush piles are conforming before the chipper arrives. After the picnic (Aug. 3, see front page) you can email me to coordinate. Do plan to make a generous contribution to the Fire Safe Council for this wonderful service! That will help them continue their grant program. Dick Schwind, schwindr@yahoo.com

Santa Cruz County residents

The Santa Cruz County Fire Chiefs Association also has a chipping program to chip brush you cut in the 100 ft. defensible space. Their program is a bit different from the Santa Clara County one described above as they do not have a grant for their program. Their own chipper is available for operation by professional and volunteer firefighters who have taken the chipper training program. They will come into our area after we have a group of homeowners ready with their brush stacked nicely for chipping (see above). We will have information and signups at the SSA Picnic meeting for this program. Afterwards, email me at schwindr@yahoo.com. I expect to get a coordinator for this Santa Cruz County program. You can also contact the CalFire person in charge of the program, Angela Bernheisel at 831-335-6794.
Wildland Fire on Skyline

By George Johnson – South Skyline Fire and Rescue

As you know from the news, this looks like it will be the year of wildland fires in Santa Cruz County. In years past I have often heard that wildland fire happen in other places, not in Santa Cruz County.

There have now been three major wildland fires in Santa Cruz County this year, the Summit fire – Loma Prieta, the Martin fire – Bonny Doon, and the Trabing fire – Watsonville. You can find the Cal Fire information at this web site, http://cdfdata.fire.ca.gov/incidents/incidents

But the question still comes up, "Can this happen in the South Skyline area?" The answer is, "yes", and not, "if" but "when". Some may think that it takes dry grass or dry brush to get a wildland fire going and in their part of South Skyline they do not have a lot of this type of vegetation. If you look at most of the very old Redwood trees you will find evidence of past wildland fires.

A wildland fire occurred on June 21 at a residence on South Skyline (Hwy 35), which provided another example of how a fire can happen in our area and how it might only take a few changes in events to change a situation into a major problem. On this fire, we (South Skyline area) were lucky that we had a very positive outcome.

On Friday, June 20, the Trabing fire in the Watsonville area quickly turned into a major fire and all the Cal Fire engines in the South Skyline area were sent to the fire. South Skyline Fire and Rescue (Co 29 volunteers) was asked to provide area coverage and man the Saratoga Summit fire station. A cover engine had been requested via the state resource system but none were available until maybe the next day. Given all the other active fires going on in the state, cover engines were also being requested from other agencies and fire districts.

Andy and I took the cover assignment and went over to the Saratoga Summit fire station and settled in for the night. We were awakened a bit after midnight with a fire call requesting a smoke investigation in the area of Hwy 35 and Hwy 9. We headed out in E-2922 to check the area and were soon joined (on the radio) by the other Co 29 engine E-2921 located at the Las Cumbres station. There was "drift smoke" in the South Skyline area from the Trabing fire and there had been other smoke checks related to this so we would not have been surprised for this to be the case in this report. Not finding anything in the Gap area, or a mile south of the Gap, we were headed down Hwy 9 to check that area when Felton dispatch got an additional report that a fire had been seen off of Skyline, 2 miles North from the intersection of Hwy 35 and Hwy 9. Based on this report, Felton dispatch activated a full wildland dispatch (additional engines, water trucks, hand crews, etc.) Because of the Trabing fire most of this additional equipment would have a longer response time than "normal". (This can be one of the events that can change a small event into a major event.) I also later learned that the closest water truck, from Boulder Creek Fire, was unavailable (mechanical problems) and one from Ben Lomond was requested which had additional travel time.

Access to the fire was found to be up a driveway behind a house off of Hwy 35. We located our engine, E-2922, as close to the fire as we could drive. This was about 200 feet from the fire and about 900 feet from Hwy 35. We located our second engine, E-2921, near the house and also at the homeowners water tank fire fitting. This water hook-up was in a great location, and the water it provided was a major reason we were able to make an aggressive attack on the fire. E-2922 carries 1,200 gallons of water, and E-2921 carries 500 gallons of water. (500 gallons is standard for most rural engines.) When aggressively attacking a fire, 500 gallons can be used in less than 5 minutes. Please note, without the homeowner's water supply we would have been out of water in 15 minutes. The next engine (with 500 gallons of water) arrived 40 minutes after Co 29.

Another big factor was the weather. We were very fortunate that the wind was very light that night in the South Skyline area. The other major Santa Cruz County fires all had heavy winds that caused them to be fast moving. Other factors, this fire was in heavy woods (not grass or brush) and on a light slope, so the fire was spreading slowly at the time we arrived. Co 29 along with the other arriving groups (I think we ended up with 6 engines, 2 water trucks, one hand crew, and a Cal Fire battalion chief) were able to put a hose line around the fire and stop the spread in a relatively short amount of time. Co 29 was able to leave after about 5 hours as others continued the fire mop-up.

The cause of the fire was not obvious and is still under investigation. Because of several factors (weather, fuel, slope, location, and aggressive fire attack) the house was not in danger. The home did have good defensible space with good clearances and accessible water to help in fighting the fire. There was no one home so the location and blue reflector markings of the water supply were very important.

It is my belief that it is several small things going bad that can add up to a major disaster. There was a lot of potential in this situation for this to happen. This time, South Skyline was lucky. "Can a major fire happen in the Skyline area?" The answer is, "yes", and not, "if" but "when".

Thank You Volunteers!

South Skyline Fire and Rescue, Co 29, is comprised of all volunteer fire fighters. This incident is an example of how valuable these volunteers are to the South Skyline area.
Thimbleberries
Offer Gain for No Pain
By Sarah Schoen

What attract the hiker’s eye to thimbleberries (*Rubus parviflorus*) are the soft, soft leaves, often moving independently on a light breeze. Those, and the unique absence of bramble thorns, make it irresistible to grasp a light handful while passing by.

Thimbleberries are erect shrubs, 3 to 6 feet tall, often growing in small patches. Simple, alternate, palmate leaves are 4 to 12” across and maple-shaped, usually with 3 to 5, sometimes 7 lobes. They are smooth or softly hairy above, felted below.

First-year canes are green, without flowers or fruit. Second- and third-year canes grow in light zigzags from the first, the older cane’s gray bark peeling in papery shreds. In the 4th year, the old canes die back and the process starts all over again.

Flowers are large, 1 to 2” across. The 5 white petals have a wrinkled texture and curve inward. There are numerous (>15) yellow stamen and pistils in the center. The 5 green sepals have long, narrow, tail-like tips. The flowers bloom in terminal clusters of 4 to 7 from March to August.

Fruits are like flattened raspberries, red and, after picking, in the shape of a thimble. They easily separate from a cone-like receptacle called a torus. Ripening from May to October, each fruit is a collection of small, round drupelets, each containing hard seeds 1.5 to 2.5 mm long.

Thimbleberry fruits are an important seasonal food for many birds and small mammals, who distribute the seeds. After establishment by seed, stands thicken up vegetatively, sprouting from underground rhizomes.

Adapted to fire, the above ground part of the plant is killed, but the root crown and rhizomes re-sprout. In addition seeds are banked over time in the soil, germinating in great numbers post fire with the additional light and nutrients.

Thimbleberries are edible raw or cooked. Native Americans ate them fresh and dried them for later use. There were also medicinal uses including using a poultice of the leaves to minimize scarring, and preparing a root decoction to treat gastrointestinal disorders. And (at what price beauty?) pioneer women rubbed the leaves on their faces to redden their cheeks. Thimbleberries are found throughout the West from Alaska to northern Mexico and as far east as Michigan. In California, they grow in moist woodlands below 8000 feet.

Unlike other local members of this genus, including blackberries, raspberries, and salmonberries, thimbleberries have no thorns – a characteristic taxonomically referred to as unarmed.

Could a Fire Safe Council Reduce Wildfire Threat for Skyline?
By Dick Schwind

Under a state program each county has a Fire Safe Council, though there can be more than one Council in a county. Their main purpose is to promote community wildfire protection planning and implementation. The Fire Safe planning process involves proposing an area for a protection plan, getting all the organizations/districts in the area on board (CalFire is involved with the fire Safe Councils in the three counties and MROSD in San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties), writing a Request for Proposal for a “Community Wildfire Protection Plan” (CWPP), raising the money for a professional fire scientist to write the plan as to how to reduce the wildfire threat to the region, then implementing the plan. Grant moneys from government agencies and local sources are sought for this process. Already a grant to the Fire Safe Council in Santa Cruz County has been used to clear brush along the road in the Indian Rock Ranch area and behind Las Cumbres.

The SSA Board is considering the formation of a Fire Safe Region or our own Council for essentially the SSA area. The end result, taking years to implement, is a reduced risk of a wildfire sweeping through our community. Hopefully, if we get this process going we can use these results plus a strong fire fighting force to reduce homeowners' insurance cancellations! It is one of the topics that will be presented and discussed at the SSA Picnic on August 3. If interested in helping with this effort please send an email to Dick Schwind at schwindr@yahoo.com
Take a Hike …

A Cool Hike for a Hot Day
By Sheri Olliges

Portola Redwoods State Park is home to centuries-old redwoods, as well as tan oak, madrone, fir and bay trees. The understory has huckleberry, fragrant wax myrtle, many species in the fern family, as well as several varieties of mushrooms in the winter and early spring months followed by the wild flowers native to a mixed evergreen forest. Trails sheltered by the tall trees stay cool on hot days. Pescadero Creek, accessible from several places along the trails, flows year round, as do most of the streams that feed into it.

Our hike begins just behind the Visitor Center where you can pay your $6.00 Day Use fee and pick up a map. A free map covers the trails within a mile of the Center. If you contemplate crossing the Old Haul Road for more of a workout, a purchased park map covers all park trails. While still at the Visitor Center explore the many interesting exhibits and displays and browse the books for sale. There is something for every age group. Be sure to take in the handsome mountain lion perched high up on a ledge in the far corner. Then park the car at the Madrone or Tan Oak Day Use Center, just steps away, and head down the Sequoia Nature Trail behind the Center toward Pescadero Creek.

A surprise awaits just a short distance down the path — a large, shady and sandy beach at a wide bend in the creek. On the left a wide rocky ledge of weathered and worn sandstone follows the bend a short distance and provides a different perspective. To the right of the beach take the footbridge that remains in place from late Spring through Fall over the creek. Ferns, grasses, hazelnut and irises flourish here. It is a short distance to the interpretive loop, and never far from the sights and sounds of the creek. The most impressive spot on the loop has to be the 17’ diameter, 2000 year old remains of the Shell Tree.

After completing the loop follow the signs to the Iverson Trail. The trail name honors Christian Iverson, a native of Denmark and a former Pony Express rider who built a small cabin near another bend in the creek around the late 1870’s. He was still living there as late as 1905. Unfortunately, the cabin fell during the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake and nothing of it remains.

As you continue, watch for a formation of three redwood trees, children of a much larger and long-gone mother tree, growing together despite their tall hollowed-out arches. At the intersection with the Iverson Trail, turn left and follow the signs to Tiptoe Falls. Scattered along all the trails are the remains of trees that were cut down in the 1870’s and 1880’s during the logging era. Their mossy stumps still bear the notches where the loggers stood on the springboards to wield their saws. As the trail crosses a marshy stretch of Fall Creek, there are large wooden blocks set in the ground, keeping the hiker’s feet dry and protecting spongy roots. Marvel at the six-foot-tall horsetail plants and sedges before you reach the short path that leads off the main trail to The Falls. At this time of year, there is room along the bank in front of the falls for a rest stop where you can enjoy the water still flowing over the dark rocks. Back out on the main trail watch for a huge hollowed-out living redwood tree and a little further along a large wall of roots from an overturned tree. The trail reaches the Old Haul Road and runs along with it for a short distance before reaching a marker showing the way to the Iverson cabin site. Total distance at this point is just over a mile and elevation gain is approximately 200 feet. To return to the Visitor Center, retrace your steps - it always looks different going the opposite way.

If you are looking for a workout, stay on the Old Haul Road heading south until you see a wide, poorly graveled and rutted road coming up from the left. Look to your right and you will find the Portola Trail. Over 1.4 miles it rises 160 feet from the Old Haul Road to cross Iverson Creek at a 600 foot elevation, climbs to an 800 foot elevation after passing Fall Creek, then to 1160 feet just before reaching an intersection with the Ridge Trail. Turn right at the Ridge Trail and follow it back down .8 miles to the Old Haul Road, then head south until you reach the Iverson Trail again. This adds about 2-½ miles, for a total hike of a little over 4-½ miles.

Adam Hitchcock Glover
August 2, 1995 - April 19, 2008

The South Skyline community is saddened by the death of Adam Glover on April 19, 2008. Adam is the son of our friends and neighbors Fred Glover and Sarah Hitchcock-Glover. Adam was 12 years old. He was an alumnus of Lakeside School, and a Celebration of Adam was held at the school on April 26.

Adam’s curious and inquisitive nature always made him a bright presence at the SSA meetings and various community events, and his love of the mountains was unmistakable. Adam will be dearly missed.

99% of the attendees were against any further regulations. The salient points made were.

- Each watershed is different, and as such they do not have the same issues.
- Data needs to be gathered for each watershed, and the data needs to have good granularity. Once the data is evaluated, and then determine if there are any issues which need to be addressed in the watershed area.
- For watersheds having issues, the problem statement needs to be clearly stated, substantiated, and understood by both the residents and the county.
- The county needs to treat the residents of the watershed area as a partnership and work together on coming up with alternatives and making recommendations to address the issues. Currently the relationship in this process seems adversarial.
- The residents need to be a part of resolving the issues.
- If land use restrictions are levied on a resident’s property, then the resident should be reimbursed for loss of use and his property taxes reduced accordingly.
- Regulations are a negative way of addressing the issues. A more positive way of addressing this is to motivate people to resolve the issues. The county will get more cooperation with such an approach.

Questions that came up during each of these 3 meetings were as follows.

- Is this program really only unincorporated county? If so, how do we make sure that others outside of the unincorporated county don’t have more say than those actually affected?
- The moderator pointed out that this would be looked at from Highway 35 West. Why not take this from Highway 35 East first?
- Some of the cities not in the unincorporated area cause some of the issues in our watersheds. How will the county address that?
- How many agencies will want to have a discussion and say in this? Who are these agencies? How will the county get the cooperation of these other agencies?
- Why doesn’t the county use some of the data collected within the county, e.g., the data that is provided to Chris Day?
- What is the impact if we do nothing and just leave the current county water regulations that are in place now?
- Why do we need more water regulations when there are so many in place right now? This will make it harder for everyone. The county keeps ceding its authority to the Feds anyway.
- Why not make incentives be the way to do this rather than more regulations?
- How will additional staff required to support the program, process, and regulations be funded?
- How will the final recommendations be arrived at?
- Has anyone checked the data and results from the Berkeley study? It’s just one study.
- How was the data quantified? It says on one of the slides that no bayside creeks are/were monitored, so where does the data come from?
- How will this impact Riparian Rights? For those who currently have them? For those who have applications in the queue? For those applying for them?
- What is the definition of sediment impairment?
- You state that studies show that 80% of the pollution entering San Francisco Bay comes from polluted runoff. Where is the data to support that? If we don’t have common definitions, then what is the agreed definition of garbage and how does that get factored into the data? Is garbage soda pop cans, refrigerators, or…?
- The county says it is seeing issues caused by the septic systems. What has the county done with the GPS data on septic systems collected within the past 5-10 years? How have they used it? How has the data made the septic situation better?

What the author found most disturbing was that the county had alternatives lined up and was asking the audience to recommend what they thought was the best approach out of several. Each of these approaches was based on data from 1 study only and that data not granular enough to make any recommendations or decisions. Given the lack of data, how do we know these are the best approaches?

Additionally, the county made general comments about a few of the watersheds that were patently untrue. We know they were untrue because we have the data from our area that has been collected by 2 water companies and the park and the data is reviewed by the county each year. The water in our area has none of the problems presented by the county.

Please visit the San Mateo County website to educate yourselves more on this issue and provide your comments via the website. The notes from the individual meetings are somewhat sketchy but will give you a summary. It doesn’t take long to go through the notes for each meeting. What the county decides to do here could have a big impact on our community. Just remember: Knowledge is power, but only if you use it.

Useful websites are:
General watershed site: www.co.sanmateo.ca.us/OurWatersheds
Meeting notes are on the right side of the main web page for all of the outreach meetings conducted by the county.

Watershed protection comments:
http://www.co.sanmateo.ca.us/smc/application/survey/0,,1909_27692560_9001_1249117106,00.html
Increasing Energy Efficiency in the Home

By Ann Waldhauer

There are several well-known tips for saving energy in the household that bear repeating. Replacing old inefficient appliances can pay for itself in a short time in reduced energy costs. Pay attention to how often the compressor of your refrigerator comes on. If it’s too frequent, it’s time to replace it with a well-insulated efficient refrigerator. Front load clothes washers usually use less water and electricity than top loaders. In the past, they tended to be small, which dissuaded many consumers, but now there are large and small ones available. Finally, consider line drying your laundry. An enormous amount of energy is consumed by clothes dryers, whether gas or electric, especially to dry cotton.

A significant fraction of the total energy use in most households is spent heating water. Electric tank heaters are more efficient than gas tank heaters (partially because of the heat lost up the exhaust stack), but the propane is usually much cheaper than the electricity that it is less expensive to use propane to heat water. If you use a (water) solar panel to preheat the water entering your tank heater, you reduce the amount of electricity or gas you use significantly. Several months of the year, you consume no electricity or gas at all to heat water, which pays for itself quickly. Tankless on-demand heaters are much more efficient, since they don’t continuously heat a tank of water at a high temperature; they only heat it when you use it.

Compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) or tubular fluorescents use a quarter of the power that incandescent bulbs (including most halogen lamps) use to produce the same amount of light. CFLs used to be dim, too big to fit in most fixtures, and produced a dismal grayish light. Now they come in many luminosities, sizes, shapes, and colors. They usually last much longer than incandescents, too. Both of these features more than offset the higher purchase price. One thing to keep in mind, however, is that ALL fluorescents contain mercury. This poses no danger while they are in use, but PLEASE do not dispose of them in the household trash. The mercury MUST be recycled. There are drop-off sites in all three counties in the South Skyline area, and most places that sell CFLs will take old ones back to recycle. Also, please look for low mercury fluorescents that use 80% less mercury. Less mercury in the product means less risk of mercury being released into our watersheds and atmosphere.

Phantom loads are those appliances and devices that stay on when they are not in use. Almost any appliance that is “turned on” by remote control, such as a TV, is never really off, and it burns up electricity when it is not in use. Another example is the printer, monitor, and other peripherals for the computer. These loads may be relatively small (but might be large!), but they are on 24/7, so they really add up. I use switched outlets for things like this, or I just turn them off.

Most of the efficiency tips given so far could apply no matter where you live, but one thing that is particular to many in the South Skyline region is water consumption. By far the biggest electrical usage in my home is for pumping water. If your domestic water, like mine, is supplied by a deep well, you may have the same situation. We tend to overlook this, because we don’t flip an electrical switch to open the kitchen faucet or flush the toilet. If you are pumping your own water, then water consumption translates directly to electrical consumption. If, like me, you pump water from a well into a large storage tank, but this tank is below or not much higher than the house, there is probably also a booster pump that pushes the water from the storage tank into pressure tanks so that you get sufficient pressure at your faucet. In this case every drop of water gets pumped twice. That means yet more electrical consumption for every gallon of water used. In this case, conserving water can doubly save electricity usage.

For those of us with deep wells, reducing water consumption can be the best way to reduce electrical consumption. Irrigation can easily use more water than all household use combined. Even a relatively small reduction in irrigation can make a big impact on total water use. And fix those leaks! A leaky irrigation system can waste a huge amount of water, and for us, waste many kWhr of electricity, because like the phantom loads, they are going 24/7.

For those without a lawn or garden, there are some household tips, too. Low flow toilets and shower heads can really reduce the amount of water used, and unlike several years ago, they actually work. I remember unhappily taking a virtuous shower under the equivalent of ant spit, but I now have a luxurious-feeling and effective showerhead that uses only 2 gallons per minute. Likewise, low-flow toilets available now do the job with a single flush, unlike some of the earlier models.

And about that well pump, if it is old, and maybe pumping some sand, it might be pumping at a reduced rate, which means it’s using more electricity to produce the same amount of water. It can be good to check your pumping rate once in a while. If it has dropped significantly, it might be time to replace the pump. Like the new refrigerator, this might pay for itself in reduced electrical consumption in a short time. Another thing to consider is whether your well pump is correctly sized for the productivity of the well. It’s not uncommon, especially in older or owner-installed systems, for a pump to be installed that is capable of pumping more water than the well can produce. In this case, a flow or pressure restriction might be put in place to protect the pump, but this wastes energy, because the pump is using enough electricity to produce its rated capacity while the output is throttled down. If the restriction is not in place, the pump might cycle on and off, which not only uses more electricity (because starting a pump uses much more electricity than running it), but also tends to impact pump lifetime.

The US Department of Energy has compiled a good list of tips for saving energy in the household. You can visit: http://www1.eere.energy.gov/consumer/tips/
National Animal Identification System Proposal (NAIS) Update
By Judy Grote

In 2006 Skylines newsletters we educated you about NAIS and gave you a few links to do more research on your own so that you could decide if you wanted to do anything about it, e.g., comment to public entities assigned to receive comments.

The goals of this article are 1) to remind you about what NAIS is and is not, 2) to update you on the changes that have occurred since the last articles, 3) to explain what it would mean to you if NAIS became mandatory, and 4) to provide you with information on what you can do if you decide you do not like the proposal.

First, what is NAIS? It is a proposal of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). It is not a Federal mandate--yet. The USDA has no ‘statutory authority’ to implement NAIS. It is yet a plan. Congress did not authorize NAIS. So what has Congress done with regard to this proposal? It funded USDA to develop a plan. A link to the proposed Business Plan is provided in the latter part of this article.

What is the state’s role? It is up to each state to 1) decide whether to implement an animal identification system and 2) put supporting processes in place to execute to the NAIS timeline. What this means is that we need to learn what the State of California is doing about it. Most states already have systems and processes in place for livestock disease management—both for prevention and eradication. Note that most contamination happens after animals are sold. If this is so, then what good does it do to have a system to trace them back to the originating ranch or farm? And why do we need a Federal program layered on top of the currently existing state programs?

Second, what has/has not changed with regard to the NAIS proposal? The USDA has received so many complaints and concerns from ranchers, small livestock owners, and farmers, that it has posted a draft on its website that seemingly has more conciliatory language. It says that it is a voluntary program and there will be no enforcement rules and penalties. But it is holding out carrots ($s) to those states who comply with NAIS. What it did not say is whether the program is voluntary for this year, coming years, in perpetuity, or…..

Of note is who supports this proposal—National Institute for Animal Agriculture (NIAA), the largest meat producers (e.g., Cargill), the National Pork Producers Council, and those making the animal-ID technology products, e.g., RFID tags and the other compliance and tracking equipment.

Third, what would your responsibilities be as an animal owner if it becomes mandatory over time?

- Register your premises for a premise id and tracking in either a public or private database (to be determined). To register your premises you would be charged a fee.
- Purchase an animal id tag for tracking each of your animals (a chicken, pig, cow, horse, alpaca, etc. ($3-$20/head) in either a public or private database.
- Currently this still does not cover cats and dogs but could be easily extended to do so later. It also could be extended to cover farm products, such as produce, to identify ptomaine, e coli, etc., issues.
- Purchase an animal id tag reader
- Log and report animal movement off the premise to another location to the Federal Government
- Per day fines if you do not comply with the program procedures

Bottom-line, it is a tax on livestock owners. Because the big livestock operations will be able to operate large groups under one tag, the program will not be as intrusive or expensive to them. They also will be better able to absorb the costs of such a program. What will it cost the taxpayer; $33M to begin with.

USDA’s NAIS Timeline

- July, 2005: All States capable of premises registration. (California complied)
- July, 2005: Animal Identification Number system operational. (California complied)
- April, 2007: Premises registration and animal identification “alerts”. (California complied with premises registration.)
- January, 2008: Premises registration and animal identification required. (The required was changed to voluntary.)
- January, 2009: Reporting of defined animal movements required; entire program becomes mandatory (Required and mandatory were changed to voluntary.)

The latest Federal update is that House Agriculture Committee Chairman Colin Peterson wants to go back to a mandatory National Animal ID system and will propose this after the November election. If this is enacted, it could

- impact families in the area who have chickens/turkeys, sheep, goats, horses, and cattle who keep them for their own use.
- impact small producers and drive many of them out of business, and this means higher food costs.
- impact veterinarians, because they will be used as part of the enforcement system.
- impose stiff fines for not complying if the NAIS becomes mandatory.

A simple herd identification system would be easier and cheaper. So it would be a good idea to find out where our senators and representatives stand on this issue before voting this fall and assess how it could impact you.

The author reviewed the California site dealing with this. California Department of Food and Agriculture: Premises and animal identification: (Continued on page 11)
AtmosTheatre Presents
Our 7th Annual Theatre in the Woods Production

**Freedomland**

July 26 thru August 31

Saturdays & Sundays @ 1pm
Picnicking beginning @ 12pm
Tickets:
$20 for General Admission
$15 for Seniors/Students/TBA Members
$10 for July 26 & August 2 Previews

Come join us for a dark yet comedic play by local playwright Amy Freed and directed by AtmosTheatre's Artistic Director, Karen Offereins. Nominated for a Pulitzer Prize for Drama in 1998, *Freedomland* tells the story of a three estranged siblings and their iconoclastic father in a family showdown which sets off fireworks that illuminate the neurosis, rage and anxiety of one family, and of America at the turn of the millennium. This play is not suitable for children and may not be suitable for teenagers. Please use your own discretion.

As always, we are pleased to bring you a unique theatrical experience as part of a leisurely and invigorating hike through Woodside's beautiful redwood forest.

Visit our site at www.atmostheatre.com to learn. Tickets and reservations can be made beginning June 1st. We highly recommend purchasing tickets or making a reservation in advance as we have limited seating for our intimate venue.

Hope to see you in the woods!

**Lakeside 125th Reunion T-Shirts and Books**

*The 125th Committee*

There are still a few of the Lakeside School 125th Reunion t-shirts available for purchase in green, size medium only. They are a big bargain at $10 (plus shipping if we have to mail them). The profits from these shirts will go into the kitty to pay for the fantastic historical display, soon to be put up in the main hall at Lakeside. To order a t-shirt, contact Hans Johsens at hjohsens@earthlink.net.

Also available is the book "Lakeside Legends: the First 125 Years". This great book of local history is 92 pages, with 100 photographs, plus a CD with 1000 more photographs, and is $25 per copy.

To order a book send a check or money order made out to Karen Fishback to:
Karen Fishback
19240 Black Road
Los Gatos, CA 96033

Books can also be purchased at Lakeside School or at Rural Supply in downtown Los Gatos.

**NAIS Update Continued from page 10**

- [http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/AHFSS/Animal_Health/id_info.html](http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/AHFSS/Animal_Health/id_info.html)
- California Department of Food and Agriculture: Create an account and register your premises: [http://www.californiaid.org/](http://www.californiaid.org/)
  At this time, NAIS seems to be voluntary in California. No law outlawing a mandatory NAIS program seems to have been passed by the state legislature. Only 3 states so far have passed no mandatory NAIS laws.

Last, but not least, what can you do about it? 1) Go out to the USDA website [www.usda.gov/nais](http://www.usda.gov/nais), [animalid.aphis.usda.gov/nais/about/index.shtml](http://animalid.aphis.usda.gov/nais/about/index.shtml) and read the revised proposal as well as the NAIS Business Plan, the NAIS User Guide, and NAIS Program Standards.; 2) Find out where California's senators and representatives stand on this issue before voting this fall. If you think NAIS would be good, then you need to do nothing. If you don't want NAIS, then let your senators and representatives know your concerns and why you think NAIS is not required. And then keep watch over whether there is a push at the Federal level for the program to become mandatory after the November elections. 3) Educate those of your friends and neighbors who would be impacted by NAIS if it becomes mandatory so they can get educated and decide for themselves; 4) If you do not want NAIS, you also can support one of the myriad groups that are fighting the mandatory implementation of NAIS (Google NAIS Opposition or NO NAIS). Spread the word…and Happy Googling.
Local Summer Events

There are many summer events in and around the mountains to enjoy. Here are a few to consider:

**Los Gatos Shakespeare Festival in Oak Meadow Park**
- *The Tempest* – July 18, 26, 31, August 3, 9
- *Beauty and the Beast* – July 19, 27, August 8, 1
Tickets by phone 800-838-3006 or online at www.lgshakes.org

**Hidden Villa in Los Altos Hills** has a free concert series, a Sustainable Building Tour, and weekend activities for children in their working farm though-out July and August. They also have great hiking trails. Check the events calendar and register in advance at www.hiddenvilla.org or call (650) 949-9704.

**Mid-Peninsula Open Space Regional Park** has many docent-led hikes such as:
- Girls Night Out on Russian Ridge on 8/01
- Lions and Us on Skyline Ridge on 8/09
- Art: Out and About on Long Ridge on 8/16
These are only a few of the events. For more information go to www.openspace.org/activities/ or call (650) 691-2150.

**Big Basin Redwoods State Park** has activities too. You don’t need to be a camper there to participate. Stop in for:
- The Redwood Loop Trail Naturalist Guided Walk held Saturdays and Sundays 11:00 AM and 2:00 PM. March through November.
- The Road Less Traveled is a dog friendly walk on Sundays at noon.
There are hikes for kids and families too. Visit the museum for interesting information on the Santa Cruz Mountains. For more information go to www.bigbasin.org/activitiesmain.html

**The Mountain Parks Foundation** in cooperation with California State Parks sponsors events such as:
- Big Basin Redwoods, “Tales of the Basin” Storytelling Weekend Event July 25 – 27
- Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park, “Ohlone Day” 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. September 20
- Big Basin Redwoods State Park, “Big Basin Founders’ Day” 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. September 27
For more information, please call (831)335-7077 or go to www.mountainparks.org.

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**Summer Reading Recommendation**

*By Patti Begley*

**The Ohlone Way**
*Indian Life in the San Francisco-Monterey Bay Area.*
*By Malcolm Margolin*

The Ohlone Way is an interesting and compelling history of the Native Americans who lived in the bay area hundreds to perhaps thousands of years before the Spaniards came. The author used fictional accounts of individuals and communities to explain the Ohlone way of life. This technique made the narrative easier to read, although the reader needs to keep in mind that it is only the author’s interpretation. Still, this book is full of fascinating facts about this group of people who lived a fairly peaceful existence in one of the most beautiful locations in our country.

I was especially struck with the ecological history contained in this book. Margolin quoted descriptions taken from the diaries of early explorers that made me ache with the realization of how much the San Francisco Bay Area has changed in just a mere 200 years.

“There is not any country in the world which more abounds in fish and game of every description”, noted the French sea captain la Perouse. Flocks of ducks, geese and seabirds were so enormous that when alarmed by a rifle shot they were said to rise “in a dense cloud with a noise like that of a hurricane.”

I read the 1986 edition, but a more recent edition was released in 2003, the Special 25th Anniversary Edition, with a new afterword by the author. This book was selected by the San Francisco Chronicle as one of the top 100 western nonfiction books of the twentieth century.
Community Emergency Response Training for Skyline Residents

Trainers from the San Mateo County Office of Emergency Preparedness will be providing Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) for the South Skyline area. These classes will be held for four Saturday mornings:

September 13 – October 4
8:00 am until 1:00 pm
Mid-Peninsula Open Space District Ranger Station, Skyline Blvd at Alpine Rd.

These classes are limited to 30 people. To register Call Barclay Slade at 408-354-7818.

Classified Ads

FOR SALE

New Charcoal BBQ Grill by Royal Oak - This grill is very large (2 large turkeys can be easily accommodated). The grill has never been used. Completely assembled, height of grilling surface is adjustable, built-in thermostat, built in warming shelf and detachable side boards with hangers for utensils. The grill is too big for two people unless you entertain a lot. Paid $150, will sell for $100. John Heineke (408)867-3313

Propane Gas Dryer. Maytag Neptune Dryer MD-6(MDG 4000 BWW) Looks and runs like brand-new, 6 years old. $200/b.o. (650) 851-4446

Manual Tire Changer 24 inches high and very heavy Manufactured by Coats Tireman in Fort Dodge, Iowa. Robert Bradford at 408-867-2384

Multi-purpose & colorful cloth bags made in the south Skyline region. Visit www.CoastalSeams.com or phone Georgia at 650-941-1068

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 13’ aluminum Paracircle C-band satellite dish plus actuator arm, receiver and all needed cable. In perfect working order. Must disassemble. John Heineke 409 867-3313

Free Fish Food The last of our pond fish (goldfish and koi) have died after a long and blissful life. Thinking they would live forever, we’ve bought too much food. We have Tetra Pond Wheatgerm Sticks (fall/winter) and Tetra Pond Koi Vibrance (summer) for the first person who calls 408.892.2199.

Free for the hauling 1) Huskie chain saw (needs carburetor cleaning and maybe new chains); 2) electric water heater; 3) Hughes satellite DSL receiver antenna and modem (antenna needs removing from the roof, ladder available); 4) partially finished 6 inch telescope (mirror is excellent but will need re-aluminizing for good performance). John K. Landre (650) 851-1021

SERVICES

ElectroWorks Licensed, bonded & insured electrical contractor right on the mountain. Generator transfer switches, Panel upgrades, Lighting, Spa/Jacuzzi wiring, Troubleshooting and repairs, Remodels... Everything electrical! Contact Werner Glinka at 851 5909 or info@electroworksonline.com. References available upon request.

Residential Design Country and urban custom houses, remodel and additions. 20 years experience in California. Taruno S. Vega 650-747-0654 taruno@coastside.net

Skyline Broadband Service 1 Mbps symmetrical broadband is now available in the South Skyline area. http://SkylineBroadbandService.com 650-917-9279

Yerba Buena Nursery is your Skyline resource for California Native Plants and advice on how to sustain local wildlife by what you plant in your garden. We offer classes, monthly Tea-Lunches, a Gift Shop and extensive Demonstration Garden. Open Tues-Sat, 9-5. www.yerbabuenanursery.com
SSA Calendar

General Meeting – August 3, 
Jaqua Ranch

Business Meetings at 7:15 pm:
Thurs. August 14
Thurs. September 11
Thurs. October 9

(Call Larry Myers for location and directions)

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

Membership forms can be found on www.southskyline.org.

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 October issue will be September 28, 2008. 

Skylines News Articles: The deadline for submitting articles for the next issue is September 15, 2008. 

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.