

IN THIS ISSUE

- 1 - SSA General Meeting
- 2 - What is the SSA Board Doing?
- 3 - Board Elections
 - SPUG
- 4 - Lakeside Walk-A-Thon
 - Traffic Safety SR 84
- 5 - Adopt-A-Highway
 - Residents Keep Informed
- 6 - Indian Warrior
 - Pine Siskins
- 7 - Ano Nuevo
 - Urge CHP to Increase Patrols
 - Amateur Radio Club
- 8 - Fire & Rescue 2008
 - SSEPO
- 9 - Fire Safe Council Field Trip
 - Old Haul Rd.
 - Classified Ads
- 10- SSA Calendar

South Skyline Association General Meeting

Earthquakes in the SSA Area

Presented by Dr. Carol Prentice

CDF Summit Fire Station

Friday, January 30

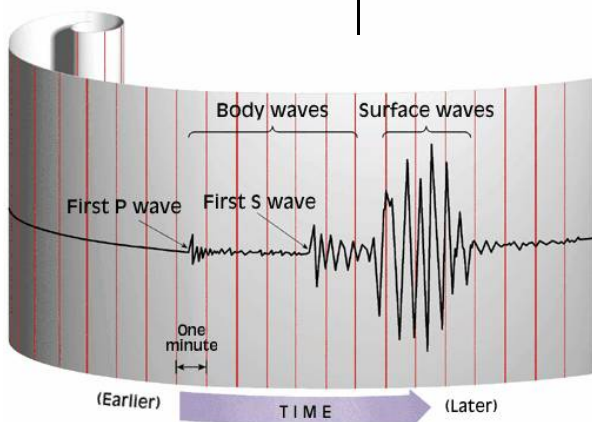
7:00 pm - Refreshments

7:30 pm – SSA Board Elections,
followed by the featured presentation

*Please bring a dessert to share.
SSA will provide hot beverages and soft drinks.*

Carol Prentice is currently a research geologist with the Earthquake Hazards team at the US Geological Survey in Menlo Park. She received her PhD and Master's degrees in Geological Science from the California Institute of Technology. Carol's research involves the study of active faults in northern California, the Caribbean, and Asia. Her most recent work in northern California includes studies of the San Andreas Fault and the 1906 earthquake. Carol Prentice is also acknowledged in the popular book by Simon Winchester, "Crack at the Edge of the World".

Dr. Prentice will discuss the history of earthquake activity in this area, and talk about the risks and probabilities of future earthquakes. Following Carol's talk we will hear from CalFire Battalion Chief Ian Larkin, Tom Anderson of Anderson -Niswander Construction, and Ken Broome of the South Skyline Emergency Preparedness who will all talk about some things we can do to be prepared for an eventual earthquake.



Directions:

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

What Is Your SSA Board Doing?

By Secretary, Judy Grote

- The SSA Fall **General Meeting** was held on Saturday, October 18 at the Saratoga Summit CDF station. The meeting featured Pat Congdon speaking about the topic “Fire & Native Plants: Myths & Reality.” This was a great presentation—very good slides, very knowledgeable speaker. The next SSA General Meeting will be held in January and will focus on earthquake information.
- The October *Skylines* newsletter was published to the community.
- **Traffic Safety and motorcycles:** There are still a lot of critical motorcycle accidents. Everyone should call the CHP when they see irresponsible behavior on the part of motorcyclists. This will ensure that CHP understands the severity of the problem in the South Skylines community.
- **CalTrans/Trucks on 84:** The SSA Board received a letter from Caltrans confirming that the tight curve on Hwy 84 at mile marker 15/75 will be remediated within the next 2 years. The Board is trying to get support from Simitian for quicker action from CalTrans.
- **Fire Safe Council:** The SSA Board agreed to fully support the fledgling tri-county South Skyline Fire Safe Council. It agreed to match donations from the community up to \$1000. For further detail see Fire Safe Council insert in this newsletter.
- **Saratoga US Post Office closure:** SSA member David Lawrence is leading the effort to keep the Saratoga Village Post Office. SSA wrote a letter of endorsement to keep the office open. David circulated petition to Big Basin Way merchants and forwarded it with a briefing book to Anna Eshoo, Diane Feinstein and Barbara Boxer. Anna Eshoo responded and is pursuing the issue.
- **San Mateo County Watersheds:** At the July 22, 2008, Environmental Quality Committee (EQC) meeting the staff was directed to collect data on the health of the County’s 34 watersheds as well as to assess existing County programs and rules that protect watersheds. On November 18, 2008, the EQC of the Board of Supervisors was shown a presentation by Bruce Wolfe, Executive Officer of the Regional Water Quality Control Board, in response to a request from EQC to update the County on changes to the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES), and questions raised by residents generated from the County's watershed protection outreach efforts. http://www.co.sanmateo.ca.us/smc/department/home/0,,1909_1207226097_1345864271,00.html
- **SPUG:** When Amerigas-Scotts Valley decided to no longer serve some SSA members, and not honor the SPUG price, SSA began the search for other propane providers who will offer SSA members a price similar to the SPUG rate. Four companies offered proposals for SSA members: Kamps Propane, Suburban Propane, Northern Energy and Dassel. This means SSA members can choose between propane suppliers, and still get a good price.

The 2008 SSA Board is as follows:

Name	Neighborhood	Board Responsibility
Patti Begley	Highway 9	Communications Committee; Skylines Editor
Barby Bergman	Crazy Pete’s, Rocky Creek	Board Member
Ken Broome	Crazy Pete’s, Rocky Creek	Vice President, Program Committee Chair, SSEPO President, Trucks on Hwy 84
Noelle Cosentino	Indian Trails	Traffic Safety & Motorcycles, Archivist
Bo Gimbal	Highway 9	Treasurer; interest in Parks
Fred Glover	Southern part of Skyline	Interest in Land Use policies
Gary Gechlik	Highway 35	BAAQMD
Judy Grote	Alpine-Portola	Secretary; Parks, Land Use policies; Fire Safety – Old Haul Rd Fire Safe Corridor
Hertha Harrington	Skylonda	Board Member, CalTrans, Trucks on Hwy 84
Gary Heit	Mindego Hill	Rapley Ranch & Langley Hill – Cancelled Homeowners Insurance, Archivist
Larry Myers	Las Cumbres	President
Ivy Iverson	Southern part of Skyline, Las Cumbres	Board Member
Ruth Waldhauer	Portola Heights	Membership; SPUG; Communications; Adopt-a-Highway program; Hwy 35 Fire Safe Corridor, Trucks on Hwy 84

SSA Board Elections

The annual SSA Board Elections will take place at the SSA General Meeting on January 30 at 7:30 pm. (See page 1.) There are four board members who will run for another 2-year term: Fred Glover, Judy Grote, Larry Myers, and Patti Begley. Those not running for re-election are Barby Bergman and Ivy Iverson. Gary Heit will relinquish his board seat due to work time constraints. Their contributions to the South Skyline Association and our community are much appreciated.

New Candidates

The three new candidates on the slate for this election are Jer Granucci, Kelly Bartlett, and Kim Hamilton.

Jer Granucci:

Greetings. I am a 5th generation San Franciscan and have lived in the Bay Area my whole life. I spent a year up here on the ridge in the early nineties and got 'hooked' on mountain living and always dreamed of returning. Then last year serendipity found me in a wonderful little cottage in Skylonda that I now call home with my fiancée Ellen. I have spent my career working as a Project/Product Manager at various levels for software companies both large and small, through dot com booms and busts. Ellen and I have taken CERT and CPR training and are very interested in emergency preparedness. We have been overwhelmed by the community that exists up here and are very thankful to now be a part of it. I am looking forward to contributing in whatever way I can by serving on the board.

Kelly Bartlett:

As relative newcomers to Skyline, my partner Martin and I moved to Rosemary Lane in April. I am currently a Physical Education teacher in San Jose Unified where I work with 7th graders. I have extensive experience in Outdoor Adventure Education and Adapted Physical Education. I have a strong belief in community involvement and I look forward to getting to know our community better over the coming years. I would like to give back to our community by serving on the SSA Board.

Kim Hamilton:

Kim and his wife Linda Stinchfield, and a procession of dogs, have lived on Oak Ridge Road, just north of Black Road, for 15 years. We appreciate our neighbors and the powerful sense of community in the mountains, and Kim looks forward to serving the community as a board member.



SPUG Quarterly Report

By Ruth Waldhauer

SPUG Quarterly Report

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 <http://www.southskyline.org>.

Recent SPUG prices are:

September	\$2.519/gallon
October	\$2.519
November	\$2.259
December	\$1.859
January	\$1.599

The usual pattern of price dropping in summer is not what we see this year. Politics seems to be the governing force this year. 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

As announced in July, many associate members of SSA who live in Pescadero, Loma Mar, and in the Summit Road areas will no longer get the benefit of the SPUG price.

Jeff Gamache, Market Manager for Amerigas, informed South Skyline Association (SSA) that Amerigas will no longer offer the SPUG rate to SSA members served by the Scotts Valley yard. Jeff Gamache cited the much higher cost basis for those served by the Scotts Valley yard compared to the San Jose yard. SSA began the search for other propane providers who will offer SSA members a price similar to the SPUG rate. Four

(Continued on Page 4)

(**SPUG** continued from page 3)

companies offered proposals, Kamps Propane, Northern Energy, Suburban Propane, and Dassel.

Kamps Propane offers an agreement which, when phased in, matches our present agreement with Amerigas. Until 50 SSA members sign on, the price will be \$0.15/gallon more than SPUG. With 51-100 SSA members signed on, the price will be \$0.10/gallon more than SPUG. With 101-150 SSA members signed on the price will be \$0.05/gallon more than SPUG. With over 150 SSA members signed on, the price will be the SPUG rate. In addition, Kamps Propane offers a monitoring system to insure that you will never run out of propane. One device will be attached to your tank, and the other device will be attached to your phone. The connection between the two devices is wireless. During the night, say 3-4 AM, your phone will send a message to Kamps Propane reporting on the level of propane in your tank. Kamps Propane offers tank rentals that match the Amerigas agreement. SSA members who are interested in switching to Kamps Propane should contact me first, and then phone Kamps Propane at 1-800-795-4GAS.

Suburban Propane offers SSA members who switch to them, a first fill price currently \$1.899/gallon. The current association price is now \$2.099/gallon. The association price will fluctuate with the cost of their product. Suburban bases their price on their "weighted" cost. This is the average price per gallon of the fuel in their storage tanks at the time they purchased the fuel. If Suburban received a load of fuel then the cost dropped \$0.10/gallon then they would work off an average not the actual cost that propane is currently going for. Suburban will not hold anyone to a time honored contract. If anyone is dissatisfied with their pricing or service, you may go with another company unencumbered with any penalty fee. Installation of the rental tank and gas check from Suburban Propane is \$75. This covers new pigtail and regulator, and a complete safety inspection. SSA members should contact me first, and then phone David Hack at Suburban Propane: 650-879-0115

Northern Energy has local two distribution centers. The one located in Princeton-By-the-Sea serves area which includes La Honda, Pescadero, and Davenport, but not the area along Skyline from Skylonda south. They offer association members who switch to them a low price of \$1.44 for the first fill and only a \$1.00 charge to inspect and set the new tank. An automatic tank monitoring system is available, but optional. Phone Boyd Ritner, 650-245-8904, for details.

Northern Energy's San Jose distribution center promised to respond soon with their proposal.

Dassel, located in Gilroy, serves some SSA associate members in the Santa Cruz County areas, but not much area of San Mateo County nor Santa Clara County. For the service please see their website: www.dassels.com <http://www.dassels.com> or phone them at 831-636-5100.

By posting to southskyline@yahoogroups.com, I will keep you informed should other propane suppliers offer SSA members attractive rates. Note: The SouthSkyline Yahoo Group is not affiliated with the South Skyline Association; SSA membership is not required to join the SouthSkyline Yahoo Group.

If you are not a SSA member but wish to be, so that you may take advantage of the propane benefit, SPUG, please contact me. SSA welcomes nearby neighbors in La Honda, Los Gatos, and surrounding areas as associate members.

Ruth Waldhauer
SSA Membership Chairperson
ruth_waldhauer@yahoo.com

Lakeside to Hold Walk-A-Thon for Art Enrichment Programs

Students at Lakeside School will be getting ready for their annual Walk-A-Thon which raises money for the PTA to finance music, dance, and arts enrichment programs. They will be looking for individuals and businesses to sponsor their walk.

Donna and Hans Johsen started this Walk-A-Thon in 2003 and since then it has been the school's largest fundraiser. Donna, Hans and their two boys, Parker and Cody, work hard with all the other volunteers to make this such a successful event. For their contributions, Donna and Hans were presented with the Golden Oak Service Award, a prestigious California PTA award given to an individual or organization that has made significant contributions to the welfare of children and youth in the school or community.

Traffic Safety SR 84

*By Kenneth R. Broome P.E.
Incoming Chair, Traffic Safety Committee*

The SSA Traffic Safety Committee needs any information that members can provide about accidents that occur on the Woodside/La Honda Road section of State Route 84. Privacy and legal constraints prevent the various police agencies from releasing official reports of such accidents to other than the parties that were directly involved.

Following the minor improvements so far authorized at the two sharp bends on the eastern slope of this section of the highway, SSA hopes to get CALTRANS to perform a study for an overall traffic safety up grade of this highway similar to what was done recently at SR 92. The Committee needs this information to make the case for such a study.

Traffic information can be sent to the following email address SSA_Activities@Yahoo.com, or phone Ruth Waldhauer at 650-948-1466.



Skyline Adopt-A-Highway

By Ruth Waldhauer

On November 8, a group from Jikoji Zen Center volunteered for the clean-up lead by Robert Bradford and me. The smiling faces in the photo are: Cliff Isberg, Jennifer Hohman, Mike Newhall, and Greg Campbell.

Our Skyline area extends from Rapley Ranch Road to a little south of the Skyline Ranch Christmas Tree Farm. So far there are 66 names on the Honor Role listing those who have participated, a few have been out more than once. We love to get new recruits. Please join us. You will find that it is very rewarding, perhaps even habit forming.

Volunteers are responsible for gathering litter every two months. The sweep takes about an hour and a half. A crew of 6 people is ideal. The next scheduled date is January 3. Please volunteer by contacting me at ruth_waldhauer@yahoo.com or 650-948-1466.

Volunteers also make a weekly sweep of the CalTrans Vista Point below Russian Ridge. This spot is on Skyline about a mile north of the intersection with Page Mill Road. Usually one lone volunteer picks up litter, a 20 minute or less task, and places it in one of the two trash cans there. Valley Trash removed the trash every Thursday morning.

Skyline is our paradise!!! Let's keep it beautiful.

Residents Keep Each Other Informed of Local Burglaries and Post Office Closure

By Patti Begley

One of the things that I like about our mountain community is that even though we are spread out over 25 or so miles along the skyline ridge, we do communicate with each other more so, I

think, than many people living in town. The local schools are always a big connector of residents, emails, websites and of course newsletters such as the *Skylines* are all effective means of exchanging information. I find it reassuring to get bits of information about road conditions, and fires, as well as community events and lost pets. I think that even though most of us treasure our privacy, we care about each other and look out for each other in small but effective ways.

A case in point is a string of emails I received about a **home burglary** that took place in the area of Skyline and Black Road. A woman returning home from driving her kids to Lakeside School saw two people in a black Scion on the side of the road. It looked like they were loading something into the car. It turns out they were probably loading items they took from her home. The suspects parked on the side of the road and walked in through the woods a good distance to get to her house because her road is gated. She let friends and neighbors know about the burglary and other people reported that they too had seen this car loitering in the area for the last few days. This put everyone on the alert for this car driven by a man in his late 20's, with dark hair, and a beard, accompanied by a woman with a long thin face, brown hair and dark circles under her eyes. Further emails informed us that (probably) the same people, this time in a truck, returned to this area a second time. This time they knew to call 9-1-1 when the suspects were seen loading Christmas trees very early in the morning. I understand someone was arrested, and they are suspected of being meth users.

This incident prompts us to be aware of suspicious behavior, let neighbors know, and to notify law enforcement. Always report vehicles loitering and call 9-1-1.

Other news that recently came across the Skyline grapevine is that the **US Post Office in Saratoga Village is closing**. This closing affects mountain residents who use the post office boxes and appreciate the convenience of the location. All services are moving to the already crowded Allendale Post Office. Skyline resident David Lawrence not only let people know about this closing (through emails, phone calls, and speaking at a South Skyline Association board meeting), but took the very proactive course of contacting the Post Office officials, circulating a petition, and starting a letter-writing campaign to urge the USPS to consider keeping an office in the village. Alerting the community so that we know what's going on and can join his voice of protest if we wish, is appreciated.

David reports that escrow will close on the sale of the current building in about a month, so there is still time to write to your representatives: Representative Anna Eshoo, Senator Dianne Feinstein, Senator Barbara Boxer, and The Honorable John Potter- Post Master General.

Indian Warrior Grows Bravely in the Santa Cruz Mountains

By Sarah Schoen

Low and off to the side, tucked under some brush, a flash of dark red commands attention. While hiking in winter or spring, Indian warrior (*Pedicularis densiflora*) will catch your eye and turn your head.

Indian warrior is a perennial, growing 6 to 20 inches tall in colonies that spread from year to year. Roots are woody and stems are erect. The mostly basal, finely divided, and fernlike leaves 4 to 7 inches long, start gold and turn to green. Smaller leaves grow alternately up the stem, in decreasing size.



Striking flowers, deep red to bright maroon, grow in dense spikes at the top of un-branched stems. They bloom from January to June. Within the spikes, individual flower tubes of 5 fused petals are flattened along the sides. The upper 2 petals are longer and arching, about 1 inch long. The inconspicuous lower 3 petals form short “teeth” halfway up the tube and about 1/10” long. Four stamens are in the 2 upper petals.

Indian Warrior grows in masses, mostly under manzanita, but also madrone, chemise, and oaks. It is preferentially root parasitic on those plants. However, parasitism is not required for survival since its leaves contain chlorophyll and it can also photosynthesize. As expected, the reddish tubular flowers are pollinated by hummingbirds.

The common name, Indian warrior, may have come from the inflorescence being reminiscent of an Indian headdress. There is also a legend that each plant grows for a fallen Indian warrior. Modern day herbalists use the non-parasitic plant medicinally as a muscle relaxant and tranquilizer.

Indian warrior grows in the coastal mountains from Baja California to southern Oregon and in the northern Sierra Nevada. Locally, it is more common on the east side of the ridge. In part due to their parasitic tendencies, Indian warrior, and its relatives Indian paintbrush (*Castilleja* sp.) and owl’s clover (*Orthocarpus* sp.) have been recently moved taxonomically from the figwort family (Scrophulariaceae) to the broom-rape family (Orobanchaceae).

A rare close relative to Indian warrior, Dudley’s lousewort (*Pedicularis dudleyi*) has pink to purple flowers about 5/8 inches long, with the lower 3 fused petals half as long as the upper 2. The overall plant is floppy, rather than erect, and the leaves are not as finely divided. It blooms from April to June.

News Flash! Pine Siskins are Berry Eaters!

By Freddy Howell

A few weeks ago, we started noticing madrone berry crumbs on the deck...and lots of little droppings. Cedar Waxwings, we thought, because of these gorgeous birds’ normal pattern and behavior.

One morning, I was outside filling the bird baths and I was struck by the loud, high pitched calls coming from the madrone. Cedar Waxwings also have a high pitched call but it’s more of a whine. This was more of a buzz. Out came the binoculars and lo and behold the top of the tree was covered in Pine Siskins. Our madrone has a spread of about 50 feet so my estimate was about 500 birds. As described last month, flocks of 30 plus birds would break off feeding, swoop down on the birdbath and dripper, drink and bathe, and then swoop back up into the tree to be replaced by another group. And this is still going on, three weeks later.



I have looked in the Sibley Guides and the closest I can get to berries is buds. One book says they don’t usually eat bugs, another one says they eat insects and spiders, but no one says they eat berries. Not that we mind the Pine Siskins devouring the madrone berries, but what are the cedar waxwings going to do?

As a side note, our ground feeding gold crowned sparrows are clinging to the cage holding a finch black gold block (nyjer/thistle, millet and sunflower chips). That’s another feeding first. Spotted Towhees and Fox Sparrows are on the ground. Dark-eyed Juncos, Chestnut-backed Chickadees and Oak Titmice are at the baths and feeders. Amazingly, the Juncos, who the books say are ground feeders, are feeding from the Moby Nyjer feeder that is a mesh feeder for Goldfinches. Monkey see, Monkey do. Lots of Steller’s Jays, a few Scrub Jays and a much reduced flock of Band-tailed Pigeons have taken over the deer block. A few Lesser Goldfinches and a couple of Anna’s Hummingbirds round out the birds in our yard.

Ano Nuevo State Nature Reserve

By Ruth Waldhauer

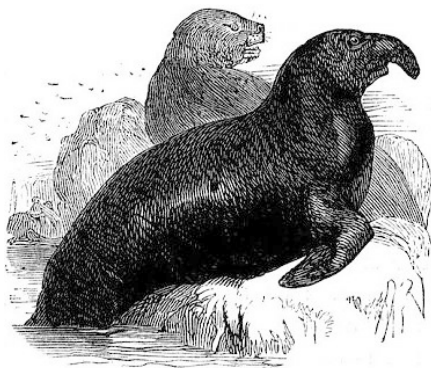
Best known for its northern elephant seal rookery, this interesting unit of the state park system has extremely varied natural features as well as human history that will fascinate all visitors. The state of California purchased Ano Nuevo and a strip of adjacent mainland in 1958 to create the reserve, which now has been expanded to include over 4000 acres of coastal mountains, bluffs, dunes and beaches. The section of the reserve where the elephant seals breed is restricted to public access by guided tours (from December 1 to March 31) or by permit (from April 1 to November 30). Park rangers and docents are in the reserve to assist visitors in the restricted area. No access is allowed to Ano Nuevo Island.

Named for the New Year in the year 1603 by the Spanish explorer Sebastian Vizcaino, who sailed past at that season, this coastal area had long been inhabited by Indians who hunted, fished and gathered shell fish from the sea. After the founding of the Mission Santa Cruz 19 miles to the south, the Indians were greatly reduced in numbers due to their contact with Europeans. The Ano Nuevo lands were used for pasturage, and then became part of a private Mexican rancho in 1842, and eventually some of the land was purchased by the Steele brothers, who operated a dairy farm here. Some of the park buildings, including the visitor center, a former barn, are relics of this period.

The main entrance to Ano Nuevo State Reserve is on Highway 1, about 12 miles south of RT 84. Reservations are recommended well in advance for the guided walk to the elephant seal rookery. Phone the call center at 800-444-4445 for reservations.

Last year I brought my 13 year old grandson, who lives in New York, to Ano Nuevo. He was delighted with the adventure. The docent who led our tour was most accommodating to my grandson and other children in the group, soliciting questions and opinions from them. He not only communicated extensively about the seals and the rookery, but also about the geological fault located there.

See the website at: www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=523



Residents Can Urge CHP to Increase the Patrol of Our Roads

A couple years ago John Connally submitted an article to *Skylines* about the motorcycle problems along Highway 35 and Highway 9 and how we need to make calls to the CHP and Sheriff to report incidents and ask them to coordinate patrols of our mountain roads. Speeding motorcycles and cars are still a big problem, and we need to continue our efforts to let law enforcement know that we are concerned and would like patrols increased. As John said "The main point is to keep calling, insist on regular patrols, and remember that you can make a difference."

Here are the numbers to call:

Santa Cruz CHP Dispatch: (831) 796-2160
Santa Cruz CHP Main Office: (831) 662-0511
San Jose CHP Dispatch: (707) 551-4100
San Jose CHP Main Office: (408) 467-5400
Saratoga Sheriffs Dispatch: (408) 299-3233
Saratoga Sheriffs Main Office: (408) 868-6600
Palo Alto Police Dispatch: (650) 329-2413
Palo Alto Police Main Office: (650) 329-2406

2009 Membership Drive: SC4 Amateur Radio Club!

Living up here in the hills, you might know an alternate route for when the road is closed, keep extra food and water on hand and maybe have a backup generator for when the storms roll in. But do you have a "plan B" for when the phone lines are down? Have you ever wanted the security of being able to call home when you're out hiking, riding or biking? Or have you always wanted to pick some weak signal out through the static from half way 'round the world and make contact with a far off land? Maybe talk with the International Space Station? Or maybe you just want to meet with some great neighbors? Then consider joining SC4 ARC!

It's easy to join, and you do not have to be a licensed HAM radio operator! All are welcome. The club will offer a class on February 28th and March 1st for those who would like to prepare for the Technician Class license test. Getting your amateur radio license is easy and fun, and there's no longer a requirement to know Morse code: It's a simple, 35 question multiple-choice test .

To join, just visit our website at www.SC4ARC.org, download and complete the membership form from the home page at the link marked **membership form here**. Already a member? January is renewal time. Questions? Call Jack Eddy at 650 747-9782, email him at jackheddy@yahoo.com, or click on the Contact Us tab on the website!

South Skyline Fire and Rescue Had a Busy 2008

By George Johnson
Captain South Skyline Fire and Rescue

I was recently asked what type of emergency calls Company 29 has been responding to this year, so I thought a newsletter article would be a good opportunity to share this information. So far in 2008, South Skyline Fire and Rescue has responded to 153 calls. This is a larger number of calls than we have had in a one year period before.

About 66% of our calls this year have been related to highway accidents. This includes cars, trucks, motorcycles, and bicycles on our mountain roads. Most of these involve accidents and can include car vs. car, car vs. motorcycle, motorcycle vs. motorcycle, and vehicles going off the roadway "over the side" that then require a rope rescue in addition to the medical aid.

Another 30% of our calls are for medical aids not related to vehicle accidents. These include home accidents, medical problems, heart attacks, hikers, rock climbers, chronic medical conditions, and miscellaneous 9-1-1 calls. In both of these situations, highway accidents and medical aids, an air ambulance is frequently utilized to transport the seriously injured patients to the hospital because of the long travel time from our remote area.

The balance of our calls were made up of: structure fires, wildland fires, vehicle fires, hazardous conditions, tree and wires down, smoke checks, establishing air ambulance landing sites, station and area coverage, and miscellaneous 9-1-1 calls (excluding law enforcement). In our response area we help people that are residents, friends and relatives of residents, park visitors, commuters, and others.

All Company 29 members are trained in emergency medical advanced first aid, with some members also certified as Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) in addition to fire and rescue training. On some calls our members arrive at the incident first and start the first patient treatment or incident assessment. On other calls we provide additional support to other emergency first responders who are on the incident before us. Depending on the situation a call can require anywhere from 3 or 4 first responders to well over a dozen. One of the larger incidents I can recall had over 25 emergency personnel from some 6 agencies, and included the use of two air ambulances.

This brings me to another topic, the need for new members. We currently have 9 members on our team, having added one and then lost two who moved out of the area this year. The South Skyline Fire and Rescue team provides an important resource to our community by reducing emergency response time and by providing a number of locally available skilled emergency personnel. Going forward in 2009, Santa Cruz County fire continues to have budget challenges. At times Saratoga Summit station is going to be staffed with two paid personnel. Many times they look to Co 29 to provide the additional personnel and

resources needed to work through a call. That being said, I would like to encourage you to consider joining our team as a volunteer firefighter. If you are interested, please email me at ghj.2904@gmail.com and I can provide additional information and requirements. Being a member is a great way to add to your skills and help your community.

South Skyline Emergency Preparedness Organization

By Ken Broome, President SSEPO

We greatly appreciate the financial support of the members of the South Skyline Association over the past year that amounted to a total of \$ 2715.00. When added to the grant of \$1,500 from the Silicon Valley Community Foundation we now have a total of \$11,714.44 that will be needed to purchase repeater stations and enhanced GMRS radios for a communications system that will connect each of our eleven Neighborhood Coordinators with an Operations Center. The Operations Center is probably going to be located in a used Office Trailer at the abandoned Sherill Winery if the Open Space District Board approves our request, and the Communications Committee's Survey organized by Peggy Wargo confirms its suitability from a radio reception standpoint.

Our Medical Response Committee under Dr. Bill Fowkes has purchased \$1,500 more in medicines and equipment for our Emergency First Aid Post at the Open Space District's Field Office on Skyline Blvd. at Alpine & Page Mill Roads.

We are highly supportive of the formation of the South Skyline Fire Safe Council under Dick Schwind's leadership. The objective of this new organization is to reduce the danger of wild fires in our community by helping land owners remove accumulations of combustible materials near their houses. Such a program complements the objective of SSEPO to respond to emergencies like wildfires and earthquakes that threaten people's homes by offering them preparedness information, rescue and medical assistance as needed.

If you are interested and able to help our Neighborhood Coordinators in an emergency please contact Barclay Slade, our Operations Director at 408-354-7818. She can tell you about an upcoming CERT training course scheduled for January 24th in conjunction with the La Honda Fire Brigade.

We are also in need of your continued financial support to pay for the continuing utility costs of the Operations Center and Radio Repeater Stations.

Fire Safe Council Sponsors Field Trip to Las Cumbres for Defensible Space Education

All residents are invited to take a walk through Las Cumbres, led by Pat Congdon, and discuss what to remove to obtain defensible space. This will take place on Saturday February 7, 10:00 – 11:30. See the first page of the Fire Safe Council insert in this newsletter for details.

Fire-Safe Corridor on Old Haul Rd in Alpine-Portola Neighborhood

By Judy Grote

Debris has been cleared from the creek prior to the Oct. 20th deadline by Fish and Game. Some concrete has been poured on both sides of the creek. The bridge was supposed to be completed prior to May 1, 2009, when Portola Redwoods State Park reopens. However, due to a missing permit, the completion date probably will not be until Fall 2009.

Classified Ads

FOR SALE

Georgia's Homesewns: Several varieties of bags, pillowcases and other fabric goods & gifts. Made in South Skyline region. Phone 650-941-1068 or visit <http://www.CoastalSeams.com>

WANTED

Wood-burning stove. Call Richard Blum 408-867-1255

SERVICES

Alice's Restaurant
Four Corners on Skyline
Locally owned and operated
(650) 851-0303
M-F 8:30AM-9:00PM,
Sa & Su 8:00AM – 9:00PM

BirdHayes.com

With over 25 years of combined experience Karin Bird and Scott Hayes are local realtors who are beating the odds in this challenging market. We proved it in 2008, and we would like to thank the community for your support. To find out how we did it, please give us a call. Karin 650-851-8100 or Scott 650-641-2839

Blues/funk/rock band for hire.

Local trio "The Smokin' Kingsnakes" plays grooving blues, funk, and rock tunes with a pinch of jazz. Tasty mix of originals and covers with unique and very danceable arrangements. Well

SERVICES

rehearsed, great repertoire, and a loyal following. We regularly play places like Henfling's, JJ's Blues, etc. Now available for private parties. Demo CD available on request. Check out web site at <http://smokingsnakes.com>, or call Henrik at (408) 867-9391.

Brown's Roofing Inc. Licensed Roofing Contractor, 15 year Kings Mountain resident. New roofs and repairs - no job too small. Free estimates, contact Jeff Brown at (650) 851-1125. Also, visit our website at brownsroofing.com. References available upon request.

CPA - Yuck!-TAXES-Headaches-Relax & just collect your documents & records and let a professional, Janice Compton a CPA, with a Masters in Taxation, prepare all your tax forms for you at reasonable an hourly rate. Only pay for what. Call Janice @ (408) 354-4451 or email janicecpa@verizon.net.

Defensible Space

Brush clearing, tree work, landscaping. Excellent Skyline references (Eric 408 395-6543, etc.)
Asuncion 209-483-0116

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

SERVICES


Skyline Broadband Service

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

The Mountain Terrace

Charming and rustic atmosphere. Now available for private events. Open for wine tasting on Sat. and Sun. 12:00-4:00. (650) 851-1606

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

FREE

Free Large glass mirror. 61" X 34" X 1/8" No frame, just the glass. Could be cut up for projects.
E-mail me at ghj.2904@gmail.com

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

SSA Calendar

General Meeting – January 30 at
CDF Fire Station 7:00pm

Business Meetings at 7:15 pm:

Thurs. February 12

Thurs. March 12

Thurs. April 9

(Call Larry Myers for location and
directions)

President Larry Myers 408-354-5830

Editor Patti Begley 408-867-3973

Policy on Classified Ads: Ads are free to SSA members. No continuing ads will be accepted. They must be resubmitted for each issue.

Deadline date for ads for the April issue will be March 30, 2008.

Skylines News Articles: The deadline for submitting articles for the next issue is March 20, 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