

IN THIS ISSUE

- 1 - SSA General Meeting
- 2 - What is Your SSA Board Doing?
- 3 - Free Chipping
- SPUG
- 4 - Adopt-A-Highway
- Ham Radio Club Meeting
- 5 - Amateur Radio Club Class
- Dogs On-leash Trails
- 6 - Blue Eyed Grass
- Jaqua Art Exhibit
- Wildflower Show
- 7 - Skyline Fire & Rescue Info
- FireSafe Council Field Trip
- Fire Insurance
- 8 - What Eats This?
- History in Our Name Places
- 9 - Emergency Cooling Preparedness
- 10- Water Well Recovery
- Closing Montebello School
- *Skylines* On-line
- 11 - Classified Ads



Thomas Fogarty Winery

19501 Skyline Boulevard
2.7 miles north of Page Mill Rd.,
across from the entrance to
Yerba Buena Nursery

South Skyline Association General Meeting

Guest Speaker Dr. Thomas J. Fogarty

Friday, April 17 at 7:00 pm
Thomas Fogarty Winery

**Premiere Fogarty wines will be available. We request a donation of \$5.00 per glass.
Light hors d'oeuvres and soft drinks will be provided.**

Please join us for our annual spring meeting at the beautiful Thomas Fogarty Winery. This is always a favorite venue, and we are pleased to have Dr. Fogarty join us this evening and share with us his stories of inventions and wine making.

Dr. Thomas J. Fogarty is an internationally recognized cardiovascular surgeon, inventor, entrepreneur, and vintner. He has been involved with a wide spectrum of innovations in business and technology. Dr. Fogarty has served as founder/co-founder, and Chairman/Board Member of over 33 various business and research companies, based on devices designed and developed by Fogarty Engineering, Inc. During the past 40 years, he has acquired over 100 surgical patents, including the "industry standard" Fogarty balloon embolectomy catheter and the widely used Aneurx Stent Graft that replaces open surgery aortic aneurysm. Dr. Fogarty is the recipient of countless awards and honors; most significantly, he is the recipient of the Jacobson Innovation Award of the American College of Surgeons, the 2000 Lemelson-MIT prize for Invention and Innovation and was inducted into the Inventors Hall of Fame in December 2001.

Recently, Dr. Fogarty and his colleagues founded the Fogarty Institute for Innovation at El Camino Hospital. The purpose of the Institute is to create an environment where innovation in medicine is encouraged, supported, and nurtured.

What Is Your SSA Board Doing?

By Secretary, Judy Grote

- The SSA January **General Meeting** was held on Friday, January 30th at the Saratoga Summit CDF station. The meeting featured Carol Prentice, from USGS in Menlo Park, speaking about Earthquakes in the SSA Area. This was a great presentation—very good slides, very knowledgeable speaker. Approximately ½ of the Board was elected this time, 3 of the Board members new to the Board—Jer Granucci, Martin Bligh, and Kim Hamilton. The next SSA General Meeting will be held at Fogarty Winery on Friday, April 17th, and feature Dr. Fogarty speaking about the medical devices he has invented and his passion for winemaking.
- The January **Skylines Newsletter** was published to the Community. The next newsletter is being developed for distribution in April 2009.
- **Fire Safe Council:** The SSA Board matched donations to the South Skyline Fire Safe Council--\$1060. These donations from the community and the matching funds from the Board will be used for a chipping program. The Council is developing a request for a FEMA grant. For further detail see other articles in the newsletter.
- **Firesafe corridor on Old Haul Rd in Alpine-Portola Neighborhood.** The completion should be by year-end, with the earliest time possible in the Fall. This is dependent upon really getting the final permit of Fish and Game.
- **SPUG:** The propane supplier program is rolling along with several companies offering discounts to SSA members—Amerigas, Kamps, Suburban, and Northern Energy.
- **Septic Inspection Regulations under AB885.** The Board sent a letter concerning AB885, Septic Inspection regulations. It was contacted by Todd Thompson who will inform contactees on next steps. Kings' Mountain was contacted, and they endorsed our letter.
- **Well & Spring Recovery since the Loma Prieta Earthquake:** A questionnaire is being developed for members to fill out with their input. The information received from the questionnaires will be correlated and an article written up in the Skylines Newsletter to notify membership of potential issues that may recur with another quake.

Name	Neighborhood	Board Responsibility
Patti Begley	Highway 9	Communications Committee; Skylines Editor
Martin Bligh	Rosemary Lane	Board Member
Ken Broome	Crazy Pete's, Rocky Creek	Board Member; SSEPO Treasurer
Noelle Cosentino	Indian Rock	Traffic Safety & Motorcycles, Archivist
Bo Gimbal	Highway 9	Treasurer; interest in parks
Fred Glover	Southern part of Skyline	President; interest in land use policies
Gary Gechlik	Highway 35	Vice President; Programs Chair, BAAQMD
Jer Granucci	Skylonda	Traffic Safety on 84
Judy Grote	Alpine-Portola	Secretary; parks, land use policies; Fire Safety – Old Haul Rd Fire Safe Corridor
Kim Hamilton	Oakridge	Board Member
Hertha Harrington	Skylonda	Board Member,
Larry Myers	Las Cumbres	Board Member
Ruth Waldhauer	Portola Heights	Membership; SPUG; Communications; Adopt-a-Highway program

Free Chipping for Defensible Space

By Dick Schwind & Martin Bligh

The South Skyline FireSafe Council is now offering to homeowners in our area, all three counties, a limited amount of free chipping of brush, limbs, and small trees that are cleared to create home defensible space. (Also, the Santa Clara County FireSafe Council's chipping program is expected to resume soon to all Santa Clara County residents in our area using the same contacts below.) Thanks to generous homeowner donations and SSA matching we have raised more than \$2000. We plan to use this to also provide free chipping in all three counties until these funds (and we hope to raise more) are exhausted. We expect to honor our 'customers' in the order they are ready for chipping.

There must normally be a minimum of a half hour's worth of chipping (maybe a 4x6x25 ft. pile) to minimize the lost time in moving from one to another location. Smaller amounts must be transported to a common location or added to a neighbor's pile. For the best use of the funds the chipping will all occur over 2 or 3 days' time when enough piles are ready, probably in two or three months. Contact CAL FIRE if you wish to have an inspection and advice as to what to clear.

The piles must be properly stacked. Please contact your FireSafe Council Area Coordinator for advice and to sign up for the program: Oak Ridge: Ken Maclean 354- 5636; Las Cumbres: John Drew 408-395-9955 or Bill Hult 408-354-8988; Indian Rock Ranch: Beth Seagraves 408-872-0891; other Skyline area south of Rte 9: Ken Maclean 354- 5636; Rte 9: Bo Gimbal 831-338-9475; Skyline area from Rte 9 to Page Mill/Alpine (open); Portola Heights: Bill Sorich 650-949-0761; Alpine - Portola Park Rd (open); Middleton Tract: Laura Wuest 650-917-1715; Crazy Pete's area: Ken Broome 650-529-1810; and other Skyline area from Alpine/Page Mill to Old LaHonda Rd: (open). The South Skyline FireSafe Council does not presently extend into the Skylonda community, but contact the Woodside Fire Protection District for assistance. Others receiving the Skylines may be outside our service area, email Dick Schwind to determine if we can serve you. If no area coordinator is listed contact Dick Schwind or Martin Bligh. Maybe you would like to volunteer to coordinate for your area!

Donations (tax deductible) are most welcome to keep this program going. Send to: South Skyline FireSafe Council, Star Rt. 2 Box 324, La Honda, CA 94020
Dick Schwind 408-867-9422 Martin Bligh 408-329-7035
schwindr@yahoo.com mbligh@mbligh.org



Quarterly Report

By Ruth Waldhauer

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, Kamps Propane, Suburban Propane, or Northern Energy,, 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 with Amerigas or Kamps Propane are:

December	\$1.86/gallon
January	\$1.60
February	\$1.89
March	\$1.68

Suburban Propane currently offers SSA members the price of \$1.79/gallon. Northern Energy matches the SPUG price to their clients to keep them from switching to another supplier.

The usual pattern of price dropping in summer is not what we see this year. Politics seem 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. Some propane suppliers offer members 55 years of age or older 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.

For more information visit the website: www.southskyline.org, or contact Ruth at ruth_waldhauer@yahoo.com or 650-948-1466.

Thanks to Rob Skinner of Pescadero who helps get information about other suppliers to those in his area who no longer receive the SPUG benefit from Amerigas. Rob calls his sub-group PUG.

Skyline Adopt-A-Highway

By Ruth Waldhauer

On January 10 the SSA volunteers included Robert Bradford (camera-shy), Martine Habib, me, Hillary Hart, Peggy and Tom Wargo (top photo). It was cold, but we had fun.

Robert Bradford, Ami Jaqua, Jane Mackey, Paul Schoemaker, and James Gaston were the SSA volunteers on March 7 (bottom photo). This crew gathered a record amount of litter, including a very worn toilet complete with seat.

Our Skyline area extends from Rapley Ranch Road to a little south of the Skyline Ranch Christmas Tree Farm. So far there are 73 names on the Honor Role listing those who have participated. 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 six people is deal. The next scheduled dates are May 2 and July 11. Please volunteer by contacting Ruth at ruth_waldhauer@yahoo.com or 650-948-1466.

Also needed are volunteers to 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 minutes task, and places it in one of the two trash cans there. Valley Trash removes the trash every Thursday morning.

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



Come One! Come All! Come Ham!

The SC4 Amateur Radio Club invites you to meet the Amateur Radio operators of your community at The La Honda Gardens, June 27th and June 28th, 2009. This is the National Field Day for Amateur Radio and throughout the country ham radio operators will be setting up radio stations in unusual locations! We will be making contacts with others in a contesting atmosphere while displaying our emergency communications capabilities. The La Honda Gardens is located on Highway 84, behind the La Honda Post Office. We welcome you to come and sit with the radio operators as they make contacts (24 hours straight!) and we will help you make contacts of your own! La Honda Gardens, 12 noon June 27th until 12 noon June 28th.

We'll have a ham of a time!

www.sc4arc.org/field_day.asp
SC4ARC
PO Box 237, La Honda, 94020
Linda J. Bennett, President (650) 747-0462

Amateur Radio Club Class Graduates New Licensees

By Peter Chupity

The SC4 Amateur Radio Club held its Winter Technician's license preparation class March 7 and 8, at the La Honda Elementary School. The Technician's license grants privileges on frequencies that permit communication over distances of tens to hundreds of miles. We had 15 motivated students; most from the Skyline and south-coast area, but also from as far as Colma to the north, and Scott's Valley to the south. The youngest was eleven years old. Their common interest was ham radio as a backup during emergencies or when far away from working cell phones. There were avid outdoors men and women and recent CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) trainees and some who also wanted to keep alive a tradition of amateur radio operation from their fathers.

During the two day course, seven volunteer instructors from our radio club covered FCC rules and operator responsibilities, good operating practices, radio and electronic fundamentals, setting up a station, emergency and public service communications, the basics of radio wave propagation and antennas, and the basics of electrical safety. We discussed Morse code and why it is still used for some long range communication as well as various voice modes and some digital modes for sending text and pictures. The fundamentals and operation of range extending repeaters included those placed on amateur satellites. Students were surprised to learn that 29 amateur satellites are presently orbiting earth and relaying messages among ham radio operators perhaps a thousand miles apart.

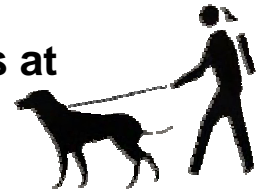
Saturday the 14th, after a week of home study using online practice exams, ten members of the class went to Sunnyvale and passed their exams triumphantly. One even passed the next level, General license exam, and gained privileges on frequencies that will let him communicate with other amateurs around the world. We are very excited to have these bright, new members join us in the amateur radio world and as communicators for CERT teams in their communities.

If you are interested in amateur radio in the South Skyline area, please visit our web site at <http://www.sc4arc.org>.



Dogs On-leash Access at Sanborn County Park

By Patti Begley



Sanborn Park has some great hiking trails that can be accessed from the southern part of Skyline Blvd. and Black Road. Now you can invite your dog to hike along with you on most of these trails. On February 1, 2009 the Santa Clara County Parks Department reintroduced "dogs on-leash access" to trails within Sanborn Park.

Dogs on-leash access is permitted in most areas of the Santa Clara County Parks Department except where the trails cross into Castle Rock State Park boundaries. The areas where dogs on-leash are NOT allowed are the Skyline Trail north of the Summit Rock parking lot to Castle Rock, and the Connector Trail north of the Indian Rock parking area that connects the Skyline Trail to the Castle Rock parking lot. A map is available at www.parkhere.org

Areas that are prohibited to dogs entirely will be clearly posted with an international "no dog" sign. If you are in a Santa Clara County Park and you don't see a sign, just keep your dog leashed and follow these basic rules (quoting from the Santa Clara County Parks website www.parkhere.org).

- Dogs must be controlled by a six (6) foot leash at all times except in off-leash facilities.
- Handlers must be at least 16 years of age. An adult must accompany all persons under 16.
- Only two dogs permitted per handler. Handlers must supervise and be able to verbally control their dogs at all times.
- It is the dog owner's responsibility or person having custody or care of the dog to ensure that their animal doesn't interfere with, bother, or harass park users, other animals, and wildlife or park resources.
- Dogs with aggressive tendencies are not allowed.
- Dog handlers/owners are responsible for all injury caused by their dogs and must provide contact information if their dog bites another dog or person.
- All dogs must wear proof of current license, rabies vaccination, and be free of communicable diseases. Dogs in heat are not allowed.
- Please pick up after your pet. Scooper bags are provided in high-use areas. If you have hiked into a remote area, please pack your dog's waste out.

Blue-eyed Grass Winks In and Out

By Sarah Schoen

Blue-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium bellum*) grows in tufted islands across the landscape. Although neither a grass nor usually blue, this flower is really a member of the iris family. The perennial grows in clumps up to one foot tall. Roots are woody and stems are flat and clustered with two or more branches. Linear, grass-like leaves have parallel veins. They are mostly basal, with fewer and shorter alternate leaves clasping the stem.



The one inch flowers bloom purple, lavender, blue-violet, occasionally light blue, or rarely white. The three petals and three sepals are very similar, each tipped at the middle edge, forming a six point star. The yellow centers are made up of three stamens fused with the style into a single column.

Individual flowers live for a few days, opening in early morning, closing in late afternoon. New flowers replace them and plants

bloom from March to May or June. The three part ovaries are below the petals and sepals (inferior), characteristic of the iris family. They form tan to brown globe to egg-shaped capsules, with one to a few tiny seeds.

Sisyrinchium is from the Greek for pig snout, either because in ancient Greece pigs rooted members of this genus or because of the stigma's shape. *Bellum* means beautiful.

Blue-eyed grass was used medicinally by California Indians. Roots, leaves, or whole plants were made into a tea or decoction to treat stomach ills or to reduce fever and chills. Early Spanish adopted some of these practices. It was believed that a fevered patient could live for days on the tea alone.

Blue-eyed grass is relatively easy to grow from seed or transplants and once established, will self sow. It is water, drought, cold and deer tolerant, and will grow in a variety of well drained soil types from sandy to clay. It does prefer full sun and not much competition from other plants.

Blue-eyed grass grows in open meadows, grassland, chaparral, and the edges of oak woodlands. It is found in most California counties and also in parts of Oregon and Baja California. A relative, golden-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium californicum*), has bright yellow flowers and grows in wet places along the California coast and occasionally along the San Francisco Bay shoreline. It blooms from March to May.

Jaqua Paintings on Exhibit at Woodside Library

Ami Jaqua will have an exhibition of some of her recent paintings at the Woodside Library during May and June. The title is "Green Laundry Show".

Ami's sketches have often appeared in the Skylines and viewers will be even more delighted by the beauty, quality, and environmental message of these paintings.

The library is open 11 am to 6 pm Monday through Thursday, and 11 am to 5 pm Friday and Saturday.

California Native Wildflower Show

The **37th Annual Wildflower Show**, the premier botanical and horticultural event of the South Bay and Peninsula, will take place at Mission College in Santa Clara over the weekend of **April 25-26, 2009**, 10am to 4pm.

The Wildflower Show is a two-day expo showcasing the plant biodiversity of Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties. In April many native plants are in full bloom, providing a breathtaking display of natural beauty. At the show, over 400 species of wildflowers and native plants are displayed, each accurately labeled, many suitable for the home garden.

Many special activities take place in conjunction with the wildflower show. Free classes are offered on native plant identification, wildflower gardening, and gardening with native plants. Knowledgeable botanists and gardeners are on hand to answer questions. Books, posters, seeds, note cards, and other wildflower-related items are available for purchase.

The venue is the Mission College Hospitality Management Building, conveniently accessible from the Great America Parkway exit off Highway 101 in Santa Clara. Parking is free (in Lot C only). The Wildflower Show is sponsored by the Mission College Biological Sciences Department. For more information, visit www.cnps-scv.org, email cnps_scv@yahoo.com, or call 650-941-1068.

A Suggestion from South Skyline Fire and Rescue

By George Johnson

As noted in our last letter, the majority of the South Skyline Fire and Rescue calls in our area involve medical related emergencies. Some of the home emergencies are accidents and some are health related. This might be a chronic condition like diabetes or a new condition like a heart attack. With that in mind I have a few suggestions that can be taken proactively.

Make sure the first responders can find your location. Mark driveways and roadways with names and address numbers that are clear and easy to understand. Many calls are at night when dark or small numbers are hard to see. Pay attention to any special conditions, gates, living area apartments behind the main house, etc. Additional information can also be given to the 9-1-1 dispatcher at the time of the call but this can be hard to have in mind in an emergency. Put information on a note card by the phone. This will help visitors or babysitters that may not know your location. The more proactive you can be the better.

Related to the person needing help, have current medical information available to provide to the first responders when they arrive. On a paper or note card list current medications, any relevant past medical history, allergies, and doctor and health care information. Collect up the person's current medications in a zip lock bag so they can go with the patient to the hospital.

If there is a dog or other pets, put them in another area or room out of the way. Some dogs do not like having extra people in the house and might act protective. Arrange ahead of time for a neighbor to be "on call" should they be needed to take care of things at home. Let them lock-up, feed pets, etc.

Most of us like to think that "it will not be me", that needs to take a ride in an ambulance to the hospital or will need the help of the fire and rescue first responders, but you never know. As with wildfires, earthquakes, and other emergencies it pays to think and plan ahead before the emergence accrues.

Please contact me if you have any questions or would like information on how to join the South Skyline Fire and Rescue team. My e-mail is GHJ.2904@gmail.com. I will write about the requirement details in the next letter.

FireSafe Council Field Trip

By John Drew & Dick Schwind

The South Skyline FireSafe Council's first public event of the year, a field trip on Feb 7 at Las Cumbres, was well attended. It was led by our President, Pat Congdon, previously a long-time volunteer in the SSVFRD, a wildland fire behavior analyst, and a controlled burn expert. After a discussion of the law concerning defensible space and past wildland fires in the area we visited some home sites and discussed the strengths and weaknesses of both their houses and outbuilding structures and their clearing for defensible space. Particularly lacking was adequate driveway width and clearance for a large city fire engine to get to the sites.

Pat discussed what firebrands were composed of. These burning twigs get convected far ahead of a fire front and start spot fires. He pointed out it takes 1/8 inch wire mesh to stop these from penetrating into or under a structure. Any small niche that a firebrand can get lodged in is a weak spot in the fire resistance of a structure.

A 30 foot clearance around a propane tank is particularly important. Probably nothing will scare off defending firefighters faster than an overheated propane tank that is flaring off!

Fire Insurance Companies and Defensible Space

By Dick Schwind

A couple years ago one homeowner on the Skyline was told they must increase their defensible space to 1000 feet to continue to be insured! Of course they ended up with another insurance company. The new state law SB 1595 makes insurance companies justify requiring more than the state-mandated 100 foot defensible space about a home. For them to require more than 100 feet they must make an inspection and submit their justification in writing to the local fire chief. He must accept or deny their request. For the CAL FIRE responsible areas the local Fire Chief is the responsible person. The insurance company can still discontinue your insurance when their insurance year is up. I would expect that is what they would do rather than follow this procedure. This law apparently says nothing about property lines. While you legally need to only provide defensible space to your property line the insurance companies have no such restriction.

What Eats This?

By Cindy Roessler

There's a tall Fremont cottonwood tree (*Populus fremontii*) planted at the Plum Pond on the Dipper Ranch. After hiking all the way down there, it's nice to sit next to the pond and relax while watching the dragonflies flit across the pond surface in sync with the fluttering cottonwood leaves. Trees in the *Populus* family (including the quaking aspen) have long flattened stems and wide blades which cause them to move in the slightest breeze.

In September, I noticed many of the fallen cottonwood leaves had a bulge at the base of the leaf blade. I've frequently planted and hiked among several species of cottonwood trees and never noticed this before. On closer inspection, I found that all the swollen bumps had a small slit on the side. I realized they were probably galls.

Galls are abnormalities in plant tissues caused by some other organism, often an insect. The insect chemically or mechanically stimulates the plant tissue to produce extra plant hormones which in turn greatly increase plant growth in a localized area (like cancer) and this results in a new structure - the gall. Guess what happens inside the gall. The insect either moves into or lays eggs in this new structure. Thus, the insect has caused the plant to create a bug birthing chamber or bug condominium. Certain aphids do this to cottonwood and poplar leaf stems. Ah-hah.

But there's more. The Poplar Petiole Gall Aphid (*Pemphigus populitransversus*) bears live young inside the cottonwood gall, that turn into winged females who leave the cottonwood to give birth to more female aphids that eat mustard plants. The lady mustard version of the family flies back to the cottonwoods in the fall and has a generation of both female and male aphids who lay eggs in the cottonwood twigs or bark since cottonwoods are deciduous and drop their leaves in the fall. In the spring, the leaf buds break, the aphid eggs hatch, the little aphid nymphs chew on the new cottonwood leaf stems causing the galls to form and the whole thing starts over again. Whew.

But there's still more. Today I saw a small bird busily picking gall-laden leaves in the cottonwood tree at the Plum Pond and I saw and heard it peck at each leaf and then drop them. The bird was greyish and seemed to have a small crest. It was getting dark, and as always, I was nervous about the approach of mountain-lion hours, so I couldn't stay for long, but I think it was an oak titmouse. A quick internet search finds many research studies on poplar gall aphids, types of poplars infested by them, birds who eat the aphids, and why they occur, where, at what numbers, or not.

This planted cottonwood tree is the only one at the pond or anywhere nearby. Still, the aphids find it, go through their complicated life cycle and the birds find the galls with the aphids. Next time I'm relaxing at the Plum Pond, I will try



not to be unnerved by the busy and complicated natural world above me or maybe I will sit under the sycamore tree instead.

There's History in Our Place Names

Part 1 of a series

By Janet Schwind

As I drive along the Skyline and hike the area's trails, I like to think of the people who traveled these paths before me. I use the names of local features to remind me who they were.

The recently built Achistaca Trail (which runs parallel to Skyline Blvd. north from Highway 9 on the east side) on the Long Ridge Preserve reminds me that I may be walking in the footsteps of an Indian tribe. I don't think the trail was a specific tribal route. It was just named to honor the tribe's presence in the general area.

I, along with other local folks, have been hesitant to talk about this trail, because we didn't know how to pronounce its name. Well, recently, I encountered Mark Hylkema, archaeologist for state parks, who told me that the Indians would have pronounced it "atchistak" (this phonetic spelling is my own invention). The ending "tac" he says means "houses," but no one seems to know what "achis" means. The "a" at the end of the name was added by the Spanish.

The Spanish missionaries and early surveyors have provided us the only written record of tribal distribution during the early colonial period. Randall Milliken made a detailed study of these records, and came up with a tentative map of where the tribes were located. This was a laborious task, as Indians from one area were inducted into different missions, which had different methods of recording names of tribes and villages. Sometimes the mission scribes just reverted to Spanish names such as "San Bernardino" which described all the area to the west of Mission Santa Clara.

Milliken placed the Achistaca in the San Lorenzo Valley area of Boulder Creek, perhaps up to Saratoga Gap. Eighty-five people from this tribe entered the Mission Santa Cruz from 1791 to 1795. Some may have gone earlier into the mission at San Francisco. While they lived in the missions, they intermarried with other tribes in the local area. As mission recruitment reached farther afield, they mixed with others as well, and many tribal affiliations were lost.

As you hike along the Achistaca Trail try to imagine a time when small groups of native people were living off the plants and animals around you.

Book source: Milliken, Randall. A Time of Little Choice. Menlo Park, Calif.: Ballena Press, 1995.

Emergency Cooling Preparedness

By Larry and Judith Watson © 2009

A user review. *Specific products are not endorsed by SSA but information is provided to help residents find unique products that might be useful for mountain living. The Watsons have done extensive research on this product and more detailed information is available on the SSA website at www.southskyline.org.*

Everyone who lives in the South Skyline area lives “off-the-grid” at least part of the time. Most of us grid-connected types who have lived here for a while have developed means for dealing with grid-loss, which, for us, occurs about a dozen times a year. This article explains why we love our high-efficiency SunFrost refrigerator. We have an all-electric late 1970’s house with solar assisted hot water and a grid-tied solar electric system.

Refrigeration is perhaps the most beneficial use of limited available electricity. In addition to food preservation, ice can be valuable for first aid, expanding cold storage, or cocktails.



SunFrost has been hand-making refrigerators, freezers, combinations, and portable solar-powered vaccine coolers in Arcata since 1978. Originally created for the back-to-the-land types of Northern California, over half of their production now goes to hospitals in rural Africa and other developing countries. SunFrost provides an off-the-grid alternative to propane-powered refrigeration. Our complete article on our decision to buy one can be found at www.southskyline.org. The article discusses the following items:

1. Energy efficient – Annual kWh (kilowatt hour) usage estimates for today’s most efficient full sized combination units are 400 to 500 kWh per year (www.EnergyStar.gov). Pictured above is our RF-19, the largest SunFrost: 19 cubic feet, ½ refrigerator, ½ freezer (on the bottom), sitting atop a matching 13” 2 drawer cabinet. It uses approximately 150 kWh per year. Everyday it uses 1/3 the power of the EnergyStar units or equivalently will run on our portable battery backup system 3 times as long when the grid is not available.
2. Bonus benefits to efficiency – Because there is no circulation of air between refrigerator and freezer, storage time for fruits and vegetables is doubled, ice does not evaporate, and automated defrosting is unnecessary.
3. A SunFrost is almost free – if, like us, you are installing a solar electric system and need a new full-sized refrigerator, the first year cost of the additional solar electric necessary for the incremental power required by the best EnergyStar unit is about the same as the cost of our SunFrost (\$3800).
4. Disadvantages – SunFrost products are unloaded on your driveway eight weeks after you purchase them. We needed some remodeling of the utility room – it is not a roll-in/plug-in replacement. Twice a year, a 30 minute defrosting exercise is required for the freezer.



Water Well Recovery after the Loma Prieta Earthquake -- Seeking Info

By Steve Wolf and Dick Schwind

In October 1989 many homeowners in the South Skyline area who depended upon wells for their water supply experienced significant loss in water levels within days following the Loma Prieta Earthquake. Many wells went dry and homeowners were forced to borrow from a more fortunate neighbor or truck in water. Some lost wells permanently, while others endured temporary loss of supply. Many had no choice but to drill a new well. The flow in the surrounding creeks greatly increased following the quake as 'our water' drained out of the mountain. The water level in one well dropped 130', many others experienced 50'-100' drop in water levels.

Shortly after the quake locals Steve Wolf and Dick Schwind organized an emergency exploratory meeting of the SSA to learn how pervasive and serious the problem was. Steve, then employed at the USGS, received authorization from local management to sponsor a study to determine the extent of the problem and research the causes attributable to the significant lowering of water tables near the epicenter of the quake. Utilizing the ability of the SSA to distribute information over a wide area, questionnaires were sent out to collect well water loss information from all residents. Based on those findings and the surge in flows of surrounding creeks the USGS published the Open-File Report 91-567, 'Hydrologic Changes Associated with the Loma Prieta Earthquake in the San Lorenzo and Pescadero Drainage Basins, coauthored by Stuart Rojstaczer and Stephen Wolf.

Steve did not stay within the bounds of his part of the study, but continued to advise many who experienced water supply losses as to their options, and often sat alongside residents, sitting in on the many new wells that were drilled. He collected some data from several wells for two or three years on how they were recovering before other assignments forced him to drop that effort.

The winter rains following the quake and in subsequent years provided water to raise the water table. This facilitated the gradual closure of fissures, crevices, and fractures in the rocks by sedimentation, etc, so they became more restrictive to water flow and water loss. The water tables began to slowly recover, but this recovery was not well documented.

Steve and Dick now want to gather more information on how long it took for the affected wells to recover. What if roughly the same thing happens with the next 'Big One' and affected residents are trying to make the decision whether to truck in water for many months or even years, or drill a new well? We would like to try to collect anecdotal information for those who have not moved on, or to 'new' homeowners who know their well had been compromised and can send this

inquiry on to the homeowner at the time of the earthquake. Of particular usefulness would be time sensitive data as to when the water table reached its pre-quake elevation or water production returned to an acceptable flow. One may remember this by how long you needed to truck in or borrow water from a neighbor.

Please go to the South Skyline website www.southskyline.org to 'Survey' where you will find a short questionnaire. Please follow the instructions. We will keep the replies anonymous but assemble the 'data' and publish the results in a future Skylines. If you prefer you may mail a request for the questionnaire to: Dick Schwind, 11825 Skyline Blvd, Los Gatos, CA 95033, and he will send you one.

The Closing of Montebello School

Since 1892, Montebello school has served the children of the mountain community. After 117 years, this small country school will close its doors on June 12, 2009. The current enrollment at Montebello is only nine students, and that is not enough to justify keeping it open.

A large community celebration is in the works, and the Montebello staff is creating a "Montebello Memories" project. If you are a friend of Montebello school and would like to share your memories as a part of this project go to scobby.edublogs.org/.

Would You Prefer Your *Skylines* On-line?

In an effort to conserve on paper, postage, and printing we are asking SSA Members who live out of the area and receive the *Skylines* by postal service, if they would prefer to read or print their copies on-line. To be removed from the mailing list and added to an email list, contact Ruth Waldhauer at ruth_waldhauer@yahoo.com or 650-948-1466.

We will continue to stuff mail boxes in the Skyline area. This only applies to members who receive the *Skylines* through the Post Office.

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>

Sears Die Hard Motorcycle/Sports battery 50-N18L-A3. Bought wrong size, but had already added acid before discovering that so could not return it. \$20. John 408-867-3205

Utility bed for 1/2, 3/4 or 1 ton truck with lumber rack, 7 – doors with locks, trays, bends, lights. Everthing Super! Ready to load. \$550 Steve 650-851-3181

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

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.

Child Care – Now scheduling for summer child care by a **credentialed classroom teacher** who is a local mountain resident. References available upon request. Please contact Amanda for further information: (408) 348-0589 asleslie@gmail.com.

SERVICES

Handyman maintenance and repair service. Professional workmanship, solid references, Skyline resident. Leroy Brown 650-529-9830, cell 408-829-4161

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.

Painting - Morgan's Custom Painting
Local mountain resident providing interior and exterior painting services. Call (408) 348-5781 for an estimate. Great rates for mountain neighbors. www.MorgansCustomPainting.com. CA painting contractor license # 875956


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

Tutoring – Now scheduling for summer tutoring of K-8 grade students by a **credentialed classroom teacher** who is a local mountain resident. References available upon request. Please contact Amanda for further information: (408) 348-0589 asleslie@gmail.com.

Yerba Buena Nursery is your Skyline resource for California Native Plants. We offer a **garden design service** and **delivery service**. Visit our charming garden shop for one of a kind gifts. Open Tues – Sat 9-5. www.yerbabuenanursery.com

FOR RENT

Home for Rent in Indian Rock Ranch Area. On 6.5 acres with forever views towards the ocean. Very private gated community at intersection of Highway 9 and Skyline. Wood paneling, tile floors, high ceilings, built by a craftsman **3BR**, 2 Bath; 2 car garage, Washer /Dryer Great Schools: Lakeside Elementary, Rolling Hills Middle School; choose between Saratoga High and Los Gatos High \$1950. / month (First, last month, security deposit) Most pets O.K. Phone (408) 741-4978 Email: Rpeter6982@aol.com Move in May 1st

WANTED

Reliable pickup truck. Preferably Toyota. Possibly Mid 90s. Can be 2WD or 4WD. Looks don't matter as long as it's fairly reliable. Lpenek@yahoo.com

Qualified Buyer looking for property with acreage and possibly views. I have two different Buyers which I have been working with that are ready to go. If you are interested and have such a property or know of something please email: karin@birdhayes.com or call me at 650-851-8100. Thank-you- Karin Bird

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

SSA Calendar

General Meeting – April 17 at
Thomas Fogarty Winery 7:00pm

Business Meetings at 7:15 pm:

Thurs. April 9
Thurs. May 13
Thurs. June 11

(Call Fred Glover for location and
directions)

President Fred Glover 408-354-7121
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 articles and ads for the July issue will be June 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.