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South Skyline Association General Meeting

Celebrating the 40th Anniversary of SSA and 35th Anniversary of SS Fire 7 Rescue Volunteers



Sunday August 2, 2009

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.

Join us for our summer picnic marking the 40th year of the South Skyline Association at the beautiful Jaqua Ranch. Besides sharing delicious food and chatting with neighbors, there will be brief presentations by the following:

- Larry Hasset who is currently a board member for MROSD, a past president of SSA, and a former member of the South Skyline Fire and Rescue Volunteers. He will speak about the future plans of MROSD.
- Carl Tallman, Mountain Sector Superintendent of State Parks.
- Janet Schwind will share bits of history about events that led up to the founding of SSA 40 years ago.
- George Johnson will speak about the South Skyline Fire and Rescue Volunteers.

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.

What Is Your SSA Board Doing?

By Secretary, Judy Grote



Quarterly Report

By Ruth Waldhauer

- The SSA April **General Meeting** was held on Friday, April 17th at Fogarty Winery. The star of the show was Dr. Fogarty, who talked about his medical inventions, what was transpiring in the medical area today and where medical inventions and care were most advanced, and finally one of his favorite topics, the winery and how it all got started. This was an excellent presentation and discussion, with a good Q&A at the end. The attendance was 120+. The next General Meeting will be the summer picnic at Jaqua Ranch on Sunday, August 2nd and will celebrate the 40th anniversary of the founding of SSA and the 35th anniversary of the South Skyline Fire and Rescue Volunteers. Representatives from MROSD and State Parks will speak of their future plans.
- The April **Skylines Newsletter** was published to the Community. The next newsletter is being developed for distribution in July 2009.
- **Fire Safe Council:** Chipping will go forward once the 501c3 submitted has been approved. By having this approved, it mitigates any legal issues.
- **Firesafe corridor on Old Haul Rd in Alpine-Portola Neighborhood.** This is still dependent upon getting the final permit of Fish and Game. SSA wrote a letter to Ruth Coleman, Director of State Parks, asking that this problem get resolved as quickly as possible, indicated the lengthy time the problem has been outstanding, and asked for her help in expediting this. We also escalated this issue to Anna Eshoo's, Joe Simitian's, and Rich Gordon's offices for help in getting this issue resolved.
- **Phone outage information:** There was an extensive phone outage in the Santa Cruz County area which affected many of our members. A future Skylines article will address, 1) What do you do when the phone is out? 2) Where is your nearest fire station and staffing hours? 3) Location of the nearest ER hospitals?
- **Home invasions problem in the Skylines area:** There have been several home invasions in the SSA area, with many things of value being taken. The Board is investigating what might be done with the Sheriff's office. Sheriff's offices in the three counties have little advice to offer other than to lock your doors. The Board is investigating what might be done to protect our mountain community.

Visitors are welcome at Board meetings. Please check the website for meeting dates.

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, or Suburban Propane, 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 are:

April	\$1.42
May	\$1.41
June	\$1.53
July	\$1.64

Recent prices offered by Suburban Propane to SSA members are:

April	\$1.72
May	\$1.43
June	\$1.43
July	\$1.45

Recent Kamps Propane SPUG prices are:

April	\$1.42
May	\$1.41
June	\$1.53
July	\$1.57

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. 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.

Amateur Radio Field Day

By Laurie McLean

Early each summer, on the fourth full weekend of June, amateur radio operators across North America put up antennas, pitch their tents and fill the amateur band airwaves with calls of "CQ CQ CQ Field Day." For 24 continuous hours, they will try to make contact with as many other "hams" as they can, using voice, Morse code, digital texting or even amateur television.

Field Day started in the 1930s as a challenge to take radio transmitters, literally, out into fields and operate as portable stations (these were a far cry from today's miniaturized, reliable radios.) The operators kept score of how many other stations they were able to contact, awarding extra points if the exchange was with another portable station and an additional bonus for foreign stations. The scores were, then, something for clubs to compare and brag about. During World War II amateur radio was shut down "for the duration" but with the end of the war (and the availability of cheap, military surplus gear) amateur radio was reborn. The cold war emphasis on Civil Defense naturally encouraged the idea of being able to set up emergency communications centers anywhere using volunteers, and many saw Field Day as a chance to demonstrate that capability.

Today, Field Day is still a contest for bragging rights and a chance to practice our skills, but also it's camping and cook-outs, visiting with friends old and new, and checking out the radio equipment. With thousands of people on the air, chances of making contact with even a modest set up are very good.

Radio operators' privileges (the frequencies on which they may transmit) are determined by the class of license they have; at any time, radio operators can work under the highest privileges of the operators immediately present. On Field Day, a club's "amateur extra class" members are present to assist, so all members may work with "extra class" privileges. In fact; Non-licensed individuals may also operate under the direct assistance of a licensed "ham."

Last June, members of the SC4 Amateur Radio Club, their families and friends set up camp on Langley Hill and over 24 hours made contact with 236 other amateur stations across North America, from Hawaii in the west to Vermont in the east.

We put up temporary antennas and took turns running the radios and logging the information using laptops and a temporary network kindly provided for us by Skyline Broadband Service. Along with the radios, there was a solar cooking demonstration and, had the fog not come in, a telescope for star gazing. The children had FRS (no license required) radios to play with as they ran through the woods playing tag, and hide and seek. This year, as this issue goes to press, we held Field Day at La Honda Gardens.

If you are interested in joining our club or becoming licensed, please visit our web site: <<http://www.sc4arc.org>> or write to us at SC4ARC, PO Box 237, La Honda, CA 94020 for more info.

Easy Shade for Cooling & More

By Georgia Stigall



One of the most effective, simplest and inexpensive ways to reduce heat and sunlight in a given area, both outside and inside, is through the use of polypro shade cloth. Shade cloth does not mold or mildew and does not fade in sunlight.

Because shade cloth is knitted, rather than woven, it also does not fray. This means it can be used effectively without sewing, by simply tacking it over a window for example. Another way to install unfinished shade cloth is to nail or screw lath or furring over a folded edge. There are also a variety of easily-installed hardware options for clipping shade cloth to structures, whether or not the edges are hemmed. It can even be "push pinned" to a wall or wooden frame!

For a more finished look, and/or to create a layered hem for inserting grommets, it is easily sewn on most home sewing machines using a denim needle (#16) and polyester thread (either "all purpose or "heavy" depending on your preferences, and the machine you're using.)

Shade cloth is locally available from hardware stores and garden centers, in three typical colors: saddle tan (aka desert sand), green and black. Additional colors including blue, rose, dark brown and "mocha plum" are available from a number of private companies that sell on-line.

For our ridgetop setting, I use the saddle tan (aka "desert sand"). I fold the hem twice and secure it with a straight stitch. We accommodate grommets using a soldering iron to create the opening, and then install the grommet (try this on test pieces first - if the hole is too large, you can't make it smaller!).

We use these shade cloth "tarps" over both metal and wood frames.

I size the shade cloth tarp so that when attached (with small outdoor elastic loops) it's pulled taut, which makes for a very neat (as in tidy!) appearance and does not flap. (*Continued on page 8*)

Skyline Adopt-A-Highway

By Ruth Waldhauer

On May 2 the SSA volunteers included (pictured below) Ken Broome, Bill Sorich, Robert Bradford, me (Ruth Waldhauer), Jer Grannuci and his fiancé Ellen, and Ann Waldhauer (not pictured).



Despite the slightly misty weather, we succeeded in gathering many bags of trash and litter, including debris from a car/truck collision. Most interesting was the bouquet of flowers found at the Vista Point. Was it left as a tribute to the volunteers?

On July 11, Maggie Richardson, Betsy Moore, Cliff Jenkins, and Robert Bradford (below) were the crew for the clean-up.



Once again we found debris from a vehicle collision. Robert found a cute little teddy bear, and I found a penny.

Volunteers are responsible for gathering litter every two months. The sweep takes about an hour and a half. The next scheduled dates are July 11 and September 5. Please contact 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 minute task, and places it in one of the two trash cans there. Valley Trash removes the trash every Thursday morning.

So far there are 79 names on the honor role listing those who have participated. We love to get new recruits. You will find that it rewarding and fun.

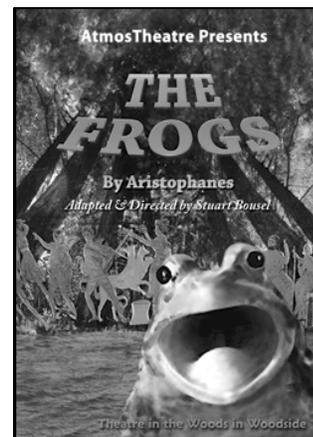
Skyline is our paradise!!! Let's keep it beautiful.

AtmosTheatre – Theatre in the Woods Presents The Frogs

By Karen Offereins

It's time to let you know about our upcoming Theatre in the Woods show this summer. We are doing Aristophanes' Greek comedy, *The Frogs*.

AtmosTheatre is proud to present our 8th annual Theatre in the Woods production. **The Frogs** follows the journey and adventures of Dionysus, the patron god of theatre, and his servant as they find their way to Hades in order to retrieve the popular poet Euripides. Once there, Dionysus is recruited to judge a contest between Euripides and the well respected Aeschylus and must choose the best poet to take back to Athens. We are pleased to bring you a unique theatrical experience as part of a leisurely and invigorating hike through Woodside's beautiful redwood forest.



The Frogs will run from August 1 thru September 6 on Saturdays and Sundays @ 1:00pm at Theatre in the Woods in Woodside - 2170 Bear Gulch Road. More info can be found at our web site at www.atmostheatre.com. Tickets will be available starting June 15th.

\$20 General Admission
\$15 Seniors, Students, TBA Members
\$10 General Admission for August 1 Preview
Tickets & Info: www.atmostheatre.com / 415-632-1680

State Parks Closure Update

By Judy Grote

As most of you know, there has been talk on the radio, TV, and articles in the newspapers addressing the California State budget deficits and how to address them. One of the proposals is to close 80% of the Parks. The Parks that would be left open are those having outside sources of income. If this came to pass, very few State parks would be left open in the SSA area, if any.

If we want our Parks open and available for Public use, we need to take action. Given what is happening economically, the parks serve a very important outlet in hard times. They are something of beauty that can inspire and provide learning opportunities in our everyday lives. They also attract visitors from all over the world.

If the parks were to close:

- This would address less than 1% of the deficit plus have an impact on the state tourism industry.
- It would mean that many of the businesses surrounding the parks would not succeed, which would adversely impact both our state unemployment rate as well as state revenue--incoming income and sales taxes.
- It wouldn't stop some campers and day users from coming to the parks. This could lead to fires and higher crime in our community making it a less enjoyable place to live. Additionally, no fee income would be generated for the Parks.

A proposal for supporting the parks via a mandatory additional \$15 Vehicle License Fee for all California vehicles was defeated recently. "An alternative could be a voluntary Vehicle License Fee addition of \$10 or \$15. A similar proposal in Montana passed a Republican legislature and was signed by a Republican governor. About 75 percent of Montana motorists voluntarily pay it. If 75 percent of California's 28 million motorists voluntarily signed on to a \$10 Vehicle License Fee, that would raise about \$210 million for state parks. The result would be a replacement of the state's general fund contribution of \$140 million, plus allow state parks to catch up on a big backlog of repairs." (*Sacramento Bee Editorial proposal*)

If you enjoy the parks and want them to remain open, please take a moment to communicate your support for them by writing a letter to the Governor (Arnold Schwarzenegger), the State Parks Director (Ruth Coleman), and our State Senator (Joe Simitian) or your State Senator, if different. There is still time to do this.

Please find contact information provided on this page.

Alpine-Portola Neighborhood: Old Haul Rd Bridge Update

By Judy Grote

Old Haul Rd. is the primary escape route for residents on Portola State Park Rd. and in Middleton Tract should a fire come down Portola State Park Rd. It has been over 3 years since the bridge joining Old Haul Rd across Pescadero Creek was washed out, and it still is not fixed. This is not due to lack of trying by several residents in our community.

What this means is that we need to keep the pressure on. We need to write letters in support of getting the bridge completed.

Government Representative Contact Information

The closure of the California State Parks (see article on this page) and the safety of residents and visitors to the Portola Redwoods State Park (see article above) are important issues to the Skylines community. If you are interested in letting your representatives know your views, names and contact numbers are provided below:

- Write a letter to your assembly member and senator:
Go to the general site and enter your zip code
<http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/yourleg.html>
- For zip code 94020:
Joe Simitian, State Senator
www.senatorsimitian.com/main/entry/contact_information/

State Capitol, Room 2080
Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: (916) 651-4011
Fax: (916) 323-4529
- Jerry Hill, State Assemblyman
State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0019
Phone: (916) 319-2019
- Santa Cruz Mountains Sector District Superintendent
Chet Bardo, District Superintendent
303 Big Trees Park Rd.
Felton, CA 95018
District Phone: (831) 335-6318
Ask to speak to the District Superintendent
- California State Parks Director
Ruth Coleman, Director of California State Parks
Dept. of Parks and Recreation
1416 9th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: 916-658-0144
916-213-5230
- Governor's office
Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: 916-445-2841
Fax: 916-558-3160
Email the Governor: <http://gov.ca.gov/interact#contact>

Take a Hike . . .

Tarwater Trail

By Ruth Waldhauer

A good choice for a summer day is a hike on the Tarwater Trail. During the dry season when water flow is lessened, one can see tar globs bubbling up in the creek, and globs of tar accumulating on rocks and vegetation for a distance down stream from the emerging tar globs. The flora and historic points of interest add to the pleasure of this hike.

To reach the parking lot for the Tarwater Trail in upper Pescadero Creek County Park, take Alpine Road south from the Alpine/Page Mill intersection with Skyline Boulevard. Follow Alpine Road south for 3.1 miles and bear right on Alpine past the Portola State Park Road intersection. Continue 0.4 mile to Camp Pomponio Road. Turn left onto it, and continue 1 mile to a small unpaved parking area on the left side of the road. There you can find a map posted on the bulletin board. Just across the road from the parking lot, take the west leg of the Tarwater Trail. It first leads across a meadow, then descends to the remains of a small building with a corrugated tin roof under a cluster of eucalyptus trees. Peek inside, but do not enter. Not safe. It may collapse. Here an early settler raised goats, and made cheese that he sold.

Continuing on, contour around the building's south side into a swale where the early settler planted a double row of pear trees, now quite aged, but still producing pears, then the trail switchbacks downhill into the shade of big redwoods. The trail zigzags downhill past horsetails and ferns. At its junction with the Canyon Trail, go right a short distance where you will meet Tarwater Creek, and discover the meaning of its name. Observe its surface for globs of thick, shiny, iridescent material.

Retrace your steps, and continue on the now wide Tarwater Trail Loop above the east side of Tarwater Creek. Huckleberries, ferns, and clintonia with bright dark blue seeds at this time of the year, line the trail. At the next junction, go through a gate in a split rail fence onto Camp Pomponio Road. Turn left following the road for about 200 feet, then veer right onto the narrow Pomponio/Tarwater Trail Loop. The trail crosses Wally's Creek and very shortly Shingle Mill Creek. Turn uphill on the Tarwater Trail.

Walking through the deep redwood forest, you will come to a former mill site. The last operation in the 1960s produced redwood railroad ties. Abandoned there is a donkey engine used to power the mill, and saw pit structures. Don't walk on these structures. They are old and very weak. This area has regrown tall and dense since then. Huge stumps encircled by new growth attest to the size and tenacity of the ancient trees.

Continue uphill to the parking lot to complete a very satisfying five mile hike.

In Memory

Eva Maria Spitz-Blum

Many of us knew Eva who served on our SSA board, and contributed nature articles to the Skylines. Eva died on May 2 with her children and grand child present, at the age of 90. She had been a Barnard graduate, and Stanford PhD psychologist who worked for the county, then in research at Stanford. She wrote and co-wrote a number of scholarly books.

Eva and her husband Dick moved to Skyline from Woodside in 1969 and bought Langley Hill behind the quarry. They named their home Volcano Ranch. Their long haired Scottish Highland Cattle were an unforgettable sight. In 1985 the Blums moved from Volcano to Shingle Mill. Eva's Shingle Mill became a working sheep ranch.

A good neighbor, dedicated rancher, friend to critters, steward of our mountain lands, we are glad to have known Eva.

(A more detailed story of Eva's life can be found in the June 24 edition of The Almanac, a Portola Valley and Woodside publication.)



There's History in Our Place Names - Part 2 Damiana Creek

By Janet Schwind

Have you ever hiked on the Windy Hill Open Space Preserve and wondered how Damiana Creek got its name? My curiosity led me down an interesting path, full of irony.

According to Wikipedia, damiana (*Tumera diffusa*) is a flowering shrub found in Central America which was used as a cure for many conditions. A liqueur from the plant was a common ingredient in margaritas, and the leaves were smoked to achieve a marijuana-like buzz. An alternate name is *Tumera aphrodisiaca*, because a tea made from its leaves was used to enhance love making, especially for women. Did the parents of little Damiana Padilla, whose families had come from Mexico in the 1770s, have this in mind when they named her?

Well, if they did, their wishes were fulfilled. Damiana married Maximo Martinez when she was 15 years old. In 1834 the couple moved onto his rancho (Rancho el Corte de Madera) which stretched from present day Portola Valley up to the skyline. She gave birth to 15 children, only eight of whom survived into adulthood. In spite of this toll on her body, Damiana lived to the ripe old age of 87, outlasting her husband by 14 years.

The creek which bears her name is said to be a boundary of the land she maintained after her husband's estate was divided.

CAL FIRE and MROSD Safely, Successfully Complete 100 acre Controlled Burn in Russian Ridge

By Leigh Ann Maze
Communications Specialist
Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) and the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (MROSD) safely and successfully completed a controlled burn of 100 acres on July 8 in the Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve, located along Skyline Boulevard near the intersection of Page Mill Road.

Weather conditions were favorable, and the burn was safely completed in about four hours providing a valuable opportunity for local fire agencies to practice wildland firefighting and interagency coordination. Firefighters from CAL FIRE, South Skyline Fire and Rescue Volunteers, the La Honda Fire Brigade, the King's Mountain Volunteer Fire Brigade, the Palo Alto Fire Department and the Ben Lomond Fire Camp as well as rangers from the City of Palo Alto and MROSD participated..

The burned area will serve as a fire break during the hotter, drier late summer and fall months, will help control invasive weeds like Harding grass, and increase the abundance and diversity of native California grasses and wildflowers next spring.

Controlled burns are one of several tools MROSD uses to manage grasslands in the Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve for the health of the environment and to reduce fire hazard. Five controlled burns have now been successfully implemented at Russian Ridge since 1998, and have proven effective in controlling brush, reducing invasive plants, and improving the native grasslands, which are adapted to periodic fire. As a result, Russian Ridge has become a popular Bay Area destination to see spring wildflowers. Other techniques used in combination with controlled burns at Russian Ridge include grazing, seeding, mowing, bio-control insects and selective herbicide application.

Weed-eating insects called Hairy weevils were released July 7 and 8 in six open space preserves, including Russian Ridge, as part of the District's effort to reduce the spread of the non-native, invasive weed yellow starthistle and restore the natural environment on the preserves. The District first released hairy weevils in 1997, and conducted additional releases from 2004-2008. Follow up monitoring revealed that 40-90 percent of the yellow starthistle seed heads were damaged and the remaining starthistle populations in some locations noticeably declined. The District will continue to monitor the weevil populations and their effectiveness.



Firefighters carefully monitor the controlled burn with hoses ready in the Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve July 8. The 100-acre burn was safely and successfully completed in about four hours. Photo by Jack Owicki.

Neighborhood Ice Cream Party

The Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District would like to invite Skyline neighbors and preserve visitors to a Neighborhood Ice Cream Party.

Saturday, September 26
1:00 to 4:00 PM



Skyline Field Office

Free ice cream is being provided by Dreyer's Ice Cream as part of their Slow Churned Neighborhood Salute. Contact Cindy Roessler at skantics@gmail.com for more details. Hope to see you there and bring your favorite topping.

The field office is located at 21150 Skyline Boulevard, La Honda (just south of Skyline Boulevard and Page Mill Road).

Blue Elderberries on Skyline

By Sarah Schoen



Blue elderberries (*Sambucus mexicana*) dot the landscape along Skyline. They grow as large shrubs or occasionally small trees up to 25 feet, as wide as they are tall.

Large opposite leaves are pinnately compound, a feather shape with a central axis and 3 to 9 small leaflets branching out

to the end and side. Edges are serrated and the leaf axis is often bowed down. The leaves are deciduous, falling by late fall are re-emerging in late winter. Newer twigs are arched with smoother greenish bark and central white pith. Older branches have ribbed or furrowed bark which is gray or brown.

Flowers bloom from April to June in creamy white flat-topped clusters 2-8 inches wide. Tiny individual flowers have 5 fused sepals and petals, 5 stamens, and an inferior ovary (below the sepals and petals). Fruit ripens blue-black from July to August. Because they are covered with a white waxy bloom, the clusters of round fruit appear light to medium blue.

California Indians had multiple uses for blue elderberries—culinary, medicinal, constructional and musical.

Fruits were eaten raw, dried, or cooked. Although potentially toxic to mammals when eaten in quantity, cooking or removing the seeds destroys the cyanide poison. European settlers were familiar with related elderberry plants to the east and in Europe. They also used the fruits for jams, jellies, wine, and syrup and cooked the flowers in a type of fritter.

Some of the more varied Indian uses were medicinal. Flowers and leaves were dried and used as a diuretic. Flowers were made into a tea to treat colds, flu, coughs, and upset stomachs. The tea was also used to stimulate perspiration and break fevers. Topically, a wash from the flowers was used to treat wounds or crushed leaves relieved the reaction to stinging nettle. Recent research has demonstrated antiviral properties from the extract of a related species.

California Indians burned or pruned elderberries for cultivation. In addition to controlling pests and increasing fruit production, this practice encouraged the growth of new, straight twigs and branches. These were used as arrow shafts and fire drills. After removing the white pith, hollowed out twigs were used as flutes, whistles, and a percussion instrument called clapper sticks. A dye from the fruit and twigs was used in basketry.

A related shrub, red elderberry (*Sambucus racemosa* var. *racemosa*) locally grows in moist areas closer to the coast. Creamy white bunches of flowers bloom in dome or pyramid-shapes from March to May. The round fruit grows in bright red clusters without a waxy covering. It is toxic to mammals, containing more of the cyanide toxin, and should not be eaten. Both blue and red elderberry fruits are eaten by birds, who distribute the seeds. Blue elderberry is found from Mexico to British Columbia and west to Utah and New Mexico, mostly inland from the coast, below 9000 feet.

Easy Shade for Cooling & More

Continued from page 3

The mesh allows air to pass through, which adds to the cooling effect. You can see through it, which is another nice feature. We also use shade cloth over tents, windows, vehicles (especially on those high desert camping trips!), to shade the dog "hangout" areas and just about anywhere that reduced sunlight and heat is desired. Shade cloth is cleaned, when necessary, by simply rinsing with a hose or under a faucet.

For window covers, it can be used outside (most effective) or inside (very effective). It also can be layered as needed (we have a south-facing window with a double layer of shade cloth inside the window and it's extremely helpful!).

There is a significant reduction of the heat that through the glass when shade cloth is used. I was going to cite statistics, but decided to let those interested do their own research based on the tremendous amount of data available.

In the horticultural world, the colors of shade cloth are very relevant as each represents a percentage of sunlight blockage. Saddle tan happens to be in the highest category, as it blocks 80-90% of sunlight depending on the manufacturer. Be sure to check this information when making your purchase, to get the desired result.

Feel free to contact me if you need more information or advice on how to work with shade cloth. I will also bring a sample tarp to the SSA summer picnic, although you don't have to wait that long if you need information sooner.

I work with it extensively in my sewing business and for our home; and while I do not sell shade cloth or shade cloth tarps, I can offer advice on locations for purchasing. I can be reached at georgiastigall@yahoo.com or by phoning 650-941-1068.

South Skyline Fire & Rescue

By George Johnson

What does it take to become a Santa Cruz County Fire volunteer with Company 29, South Skyline Fire & Rescue? A lot has changed to the requirements to being a volunteer since the group started in the 70's. What has not change is the need we have for additional members. Please contact me at GHJ.2904@gmail.com with any questions and if you would like to get involved or visit the Co 29 web site at <http://www.southskylinefire.org/>

There are a series of steps to go through prior to becoming a member.

Prerequisites

- You need to reside in our response area, which extends along Highway 35 from Bear Creek Road, north to the San Mateo County line, and south on Highway 9 to Highway 236.
- Be at least 18 years of age and in good physical condition.
- Have a current and valid driver's license or state photo identification.
- Attend two company trainings to meet the group, find out who we are, and ask questions.
- Complete and return the Volunteer Firefighter Application along with a current DMV printout. The application is reviewed by the Company 29 officers and our battalion chief. If the application is approved, it is placed in a *pending* status until the next step is completed.
- Complete and pass the CPAT (Candidate Physical Ability Test). The CPAT Testing Center is an indoor facility designed with the firefighter candidate in mind. For a modest registration fee, candidates receive an orientation and a rigorous, professionally run test covering eight basic skills. You will be reimbursed by Santa Cruz County Fire for the registration fee. Additional information is located at the CPAT web site. *We recommend that you watch the video under Preparing for the CPAT.* <http://www.cffjac.org/go/jac/cpat/>
- After the application is approved and you have passed CPAT, you must complete and pass a physical exam provide by the Santa Cruz Occupational Medical Center. Santa Cruz County Fire will assist with scheduling and appointment and will pay all necessary fees.

Once all of those steps are successfully completed, you are covered by California state worker's compensation insurance, and you are part of the team! You are now able to attend and participate in Company 29 training drills and Basic Firefighter Academy classes. Santa Cruz County Fire (CZU) maintains a web site which lists available classes. We'll summarize the training here.

Initial Training

Your first class as a *Trainee* is Safety and Orientation, a one-day class which introduces you to the fire service and CZU policies. This is a prerequisite for all other classes. After that, there are four major modules (EMS, HazMat, Wildland, Structure) as well as some short classes to complete. CZU tries to accommodate the volunteer by scheduling most classes on weekends. All classes are provided by CZU unless otherwise specified.

- EMS - you will need to be certified to at least the First Responder EMS level. This training is provided by the Red Cross or a local community college. It is preferable to obtain an EMT-1D certification. EMT is a more in-depth curriculum. Most local colleges offer a class once or twice a year, and ETS in Santa Cruz has a very good program. EMT can take 2-3 times as long as First Responder.
 - ICS-100 and ICS-200 are introductions to the Incident Command System. These are online classes and must be completed prior to most of the following modules.
 - SCBA (Self Contained Breathing Apparatus) training with Company 29.
 - Hazmat - This 4 day class is given at least once a year and covers the basic operational response to hazardous materials events with a focus on safety.
 - Defensive Driver is a half day class reviewing safe driving techniques. This is required once every 4 years by the Office of Risk Management.
 - Wildland Firefighting - This 4 day class is given each spring and covers the basics of vegetation fires.
 - Structure Fire Academy - This module provides knowledge of basic fire behavior, ventilation, basic search techniques, hose advancement, and ladders. There are live fire exercises with this class. This is a 5 day class.
 - Water Rescue Awareness is a 6 hour class about water dynamics and safety around swift water.

Once you have completed the modules through HazMat, you will be issued a radio pager and you are able to respond to non-fire incidents in a supervised *trainee* capacity. When all of the modules are completed, you can respond to all incidents. Note that it can take 8 to 12 months to complete the basic training. At the completion of all of these modules, you are a Volunteer Firefighter I.

Beyond VFF I

After VFF I, two required classes, Vehicle Extrication and Low Angle Rope Rescue will get you to VFF II. The Driver/Operator series (including Emergency Vehicle Operations, Pump Operations, Commanding the Initial Response, Wildland Interface Zone S-215, and Engine Boss S-231, as well as obtaining a Class B license from the DMV) will prepare you for the Volunteer Engineer position.

EARTHQUAKE

FAQ's and Self Help Souce Material by TL Anderson

1. MY HOME WENT THROUGH LOMA PRIETA JUST FINE - SO I AM OK. Wrong! Loma Prieta was a relatively small event and out of our neighborhood. What we face is the predicted 7+ event on the Mid-Peninsula segment of the San Andreas Fault. It runs just East of Skyline Blvd.

2. WHAT WILL THE SHAKING AT MY HOME BE LIKE? ABAG and USGS have developed Shaking Maps that indicate the level of expected shaking for all Bay Area neighborhoods. You can see these very interesting maps at www.abag.ca.gov/eqmaps/pickcity.html. Find your street - the color will show what you can expect at your house. ABAG is the Association of Bay Area Governments.

3. CAN I TELL IF MY HOME IS AT RISK? The major seismic hazard red flags are:

- House not anchored (bolted) to the foundation.
- No foundation/brick foundation/rubble foundation.
- Hill side house/split level house/brick houses.
- House has cripple wall (short wall between the foundation and floor)
- House built prior to 1960.
- Kit houses/mountain cabins turned into real houses/houses built without a building permit.
- Living space over a garage (no wall below a second story - called a "soft story")

4. DO I NEED A STRUCTURAL ENGINEER TO DESIGN A RETROFIT? Maybe. There are triggers as to whether you can proceed without engineering (called a prescriptive retrofit) or whether you need an engineered design (engineered retrofit). Generally you don't need a structural engineer if:

- House is on a flat lot.
- Not over 2 stories/not split level
- Does not have a soft story/has modern foundation.
- No unusual design features (odd shape, cathedral ceilings, walls of glass, odd design such as timber framing, brick or masonry construction)

5. WHAT IS THIS PLAN SET 'A' I HAVE BEEN HEARING ABOUT? ABAG, local building officials and structural engineers have developed a simplified set of plans for basic residential retrofits, called Plan Set A. Its purpose is to allow homeowners to act as their own contractor to either do the work themselves or use the Plan Set A to take bids from contractors. Plan Set A can be found at: www.abag.ca.gov/bayarea/eqmaps/fixit/plansets.html. It is not a substitute for engineering.

6. WHAT IS THE BEST SOURCE OF EARTHQUAKE MATERIAL. ABAG has the broadest and best web site for earthquake information. The site also has listings of certified seismic contractors and listing of structural engineers doing retrofit design work. DIY training courses and a complete retrofit course with slides are available on the site. Seismic contractors or engineers will undertake a seismic hazard inspection of your home for a modest fee. ww.abag.ca.gov/fixit.

Tom Anderson and his wife Sherry Niswander live in Portola Heights. Their General Engineering Construction firm, Anderson Niswander Inc, has specialized in residential and commercial seismic retrofit and structural concrete for over 20 years. You can reach them at 650-559-0451 or www.andersonniswander.com



San Mateo County Plans to Eliminate Patrols on Skyline

It was reported in the Half Moon Bay Review on July 8 that the San Mateo County Sheriff will eliminate the patrol of a 25-mile stretch of Skyline Boulevard from Highway 92 south to the San Mateo county line. Sheriff Greg Munks announced that this is due to a \$2.2 million reduction from his budget for the 2009-2010 fiscal year.

This raises safety concerns for many Skylines residents because of the number of speeding vehicles and many accidents that occur along this corridor. Sheriff Munks said the public safety would not be compromised because the void would be filled by other patrols to Skyline and overtime patrols during peak hours.

Fred Glover, president of the South Skyline Association expressed his concern to the Review about the implications of these cuts. "(The cuts) will certainly affect weekend safety in the summertime," he said. "It'll become more dangerous. (The Sheriff's Office has) got their own way of deciding what areas to cut, and that ought to be open to public scrutiny."

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>

FREE

Free 90 minute Qi Gong/Chi Gung Healing Workshop. I have been studying and practicing Chinese Martial Arts for over 37 years. Both beginner and advanced martial artist will benefit from this learning. However no experience is necessary. I am offering this free workshop because I have seen and experienced so many health benefits from this practice so now I want to give something back. Become part of an ancient practice in a modern day. To set up your free workshop call Matt Cavender at 408-353-3001 or 831-476-7575 or email matt@kungfusantacruz.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

WANTED

A police officer to verify the VIN number on an Antique Car. Up on Skyline at Portola Heights. Call 650-948-6424 Day or evenings.

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

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.

SERVICES

Deck Staining and House Painting.

Excellent references. All phases of interior and exterior house painting. Deck repair and all phases of deck refurbish. All our work is guaranteed. Call 408-353-6726 or cell 831-5889970 or email terrinmatt@hotmail.com.

Green Realtor - The world may be hot, flat?, and crowded, and there is something we can do about this! I'm a REALTOR® specializing in eco-friendly living. I help people buy and sell "green" homes and can advise clients on improving the environmental impact of current homes.

Ann Von Essen, REALTOR®, green.
Acterra Green@Home Energy-Audit Coordinator
DRE 01849654
650-575-6940
ann@eaglehomegroup.com

Massage - Support your body with quality care of Massage. Stress relief, immune support, increased range of motion and better sleep are among the many benefits. The strong skilled hands of Maggie Richardson are now available on Skyline. Teacher of holistic health and body worker extraordinaire offering her talents. Call and book today to receive \$10.00 off your first appointment. Refer someone and you both get \$10.00 off your appointments! Everyone wins, call today. (650) 269-8031

On and Around the Mountain Catering by Lindsay Wasserman (Emerson)

I have been making food and serving people on Skyline for over 30 years. I love to bring people together over fresh, local, organic, delicious meals. Family reunions, weddings, anniversaries, life celebrations, birthdays and fund raisers are a few of the many local events I have catered. Call Lindsay Wasserman at my new number in Boulder Creek 831-338-4942 or email me at skylineranch@earthlink.net
Local references available upon request!

SERVICES

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


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

SummitDeckDoctor: Mountain Deck Refinishing and Repair. 408 353 DECK (3325)

www.SummitDeckDoctor.com.
Rupert@SummitDeckDoctor.com Lic #928487. Over 320 decks worked on. Local referrals. Free estimates.

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. 19500 Skyline Blvd., Woodside (650) 851-1668
www.yerbabuenanursery.com

Classified Guidelines

- Any ads over 35 words may be shortened due to space issues. Please limit text to a short description and contact information.
- Ads are free to members. See the back page for membership information.
- Deadline for Ads for the October issue will be September 28, 2009.
- Send ads to skylineseditor@earthlink.net

SOUTH SKYLINE ASSOCIATION

Box 400, Star Route 2

La Honda, CA 94020

SSA Calendar

General Meeting – August 2 at Jaqua Ranch 12:00 noon

Business Meetings at 7:15 pm:

Thurs. August 13

Thurs. September 10

Thurs. October 8

(Call Fred Glover for location and directions)

President Fred Glover 408-354-7121

Editor Patti Begley 408-867-3973

Join SSA Today

For just \$15 a year, your membership dues to the South Skyline Association will provide the funds to publish the Skylines newsletter, offer free classified ads, allow membership in the South Skylines Propane User Group, and provide speakers for our general meetings. Send your dues to:

SSA Membership Chairperson
22400 Skyline Blvd. Box 35
La Honda, CA 94020

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

Skylines Is Published Once A Quarter

Skylines invites individuals to submit articles and artwork.

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

Skylines Ads and News Articles: The deadline for submitting ads and articles for the next issue is September 28, 2009.

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.