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Coyote Artwork
By Tessa Begley
Student at Los Gatos High

South Skyline Association General Meeting



The Coyote Brush Highway

Presented by Cindy Roessler

Saratoga Summit Fire Station

Friday, January 27

7:00 pm – Refreshments

**7:30 pm – SSA Board Elections,
followed by the feature presentation.**

Please bring a dessert to share. SSA will provide beverages.

Mountain resident and biologist, Cindy Roessler, will tell a story and share photos about her recent encounters with a family of coyotes on the Dipper Ranch in the Santa Cruz Mountains. Coyote (aka the Trickster, the Western Songdog, and many other names) inspires stories of wonder, frustration and imagination. Bring your coyote stories and let's share an evening of real tails and tall tales.

Directions:

The 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. Bring a flashlight as it might be necessary to park along Highway 9.

January is the time to renew your SSA membership!

SSA Board Elections

SSA Board elections will take place at the SSA Winter General Meeting. One-half of the Board will be up for election. One board member, Fred Glover, resigned before his term was up, and Larry Watson was appointed to fill Fred's term. One board member, Frances Mann-Craik, will not run for re-election. Connie Kleinjanz is a candidate for Frances's board seat.

Current board members who are on the roster for re-election are:

Bo Gimbal, Gary Gechlik, Ruth Waldhauer and Karim Khaldi.

Info on our newest board member and candidate:

Larry Watson:

Larry has lived in the bay area for 30 years, the most recent one-half of that time with his wife Judith in the Castle Rock Park area of South Skyline. Interested in preserving the beauty, safety, and access to the public lands around us, Larry is an organic gardener and trained as a biometeorologist focused on efficient California irrigation.

Connie Kleinjanz:

When people ask me about the long drive down the hill whenever I want to go anywhere, I tell them that I don't mind that part. Driving down the hill is gorgeous! It's relaxing! It lets me practice gratitude. What I do mind is 280 (or other freeways).

Mike and I moved high up Page Mill at the end of 1998 (and got married there), then to Skyline three years later. And I still feel blessed to live in such a gorgeous place. I see the parking lots at the vista points full of cars and think, "They drove all the way up here to look at what I get to live in, all the time!" I hike the same trails over and over, and never get tired of them because they're never the same twice. The sense of community is another gift. We bond just because of where we live!

That said, there are certain challenges that come with living up here. I guess I'm hoping that, as a member of the South Skyline board, I can work on those challenges a bit and maybe share some of what I adore about being here.



Goodbye to Fred Glover, Hello to Larry Watson

By Judy Grote

The SSA community would like to thank **Fred Glover** for his many years of service on the SSA Board and for all the contributions he has made to the community. Fred served for several years as SSA Board President and recently served as chair of the Public Safety committee. He also was instrumental in revising the SSA by-laws to enable us to streamline how the SSA Board works. Fred will continue to work with the SSEPO Emergency Preparedness group as well as help out on the 2 KCTT grants awarded the South Skyline Fire Safe Council.

We want to welcome Larry Watson (south South Skyline area) to the SSA Board. Many of you know Larry. He has lived in the SSA community for many years and graciously agreed to serve out Fred's remaining term, which expires in January 2013. Welcome aboard, Larry.

Route 84 Big Truck Project Makes Progress

Thanks to the tremendous efforts and tenacity of **Frances Mann-Craik** over the past 2 years, Caltrans has agreed to provide a partial fix for the State Route 84 problem with big trucks.

The SSA board has focused on the safety issue of big trucks on this dangerously windy road for the past 4-5 years. Due to the many twists and turns of bureaucracy, incorrect accident reports, and budget issues this has been a daunting project.

Due to the concern of SSA and the community, Caltrans is doing two things within the next year to help with safety on SR84 from Portola Road to Skyline:

- 1) In 2012 install new median strip bumpers to help traffic stay on the correct side of the road.
- 2) Add new signs in various locations on and approaching Rt. 84 that state "No Trucks Over 65 ft Long". This is scheduled to be completed in the next 6 months.

Skyline Blvd. Erosion Project

Thanks to SSA and community efforts Caltrans is making repairs to Skyline Blvd. at mile marker 3.6. This project requires a short stop light in the area while Caltrans works on the erosion control to prevent the highway from slipping away. SSA appealed to Caltrans to start work on this project before the heavy rains began, thereby preventing a more serious and expensive erosion problem. The job is scheduled to be completed in January 2012.

What Is Your SSA Board Doing?

By Judy Grote

- The **SSA Fall General Meeting** was held on Saturday, 10/22/11, at the Saratoga Gap Fire Station. The meeting was hosted by the South Skyline Fire Safe Council and the topic focused on how a wildfire might attack a home in the South Skyline community. Cal Fire (Cal Fire Chief John Ferreira, Cal Fire Battalion Chief Ian Larkin, and Resource Management Division Chief Rich Sampson) provided presentations to get the discussion and questions going with Dick Schwind moderating. The approximately 50-60 attendees received a wealth of helpful information. A big thank you goes to Cal Fire for their participation. Also at this meeting, SSA by-law changes were unanimously approved by the general membership. These by-law changes focused on phase 1 of our effort to streamline how the SSA Board works.
- The **SSA Winter General Meeting** is our annual meeting where we elect Board members. Information on the candidates is on page 2 in this newsletter. A presentation on coyotes will be given by Cindy Roessler, MROSD biologist and conservation director.
- **SSA Survey:** The survey was responded to by 92 members by the cutoff date. The survey results will be published to the membership in the April 2012 *Skylines*.
- **Public Works:** A big thanks goes to Frances for her tenacity over the past 2 years in getting Cal Trans to at least do a temporary fix for the Hwy 84 problem. (See article in this *Skylines* on page 2. Also of note are the repairs to Skyline RT 35 at mile marker 3.6--erosion control to prevent the highway from slipping away. Thanks to SSA efforts, the job which will be completed in January 2012. Though expensive, costs are less than if the project were delayed.
- **Public Safety:** The South Skyline Fire Safe Council received 2 grants and is preparing to make sure the projects are successfully planned, managed, and completed. The Council hired a Project Manager to drive both projects and make sure they are successfully completed. This will require community participation to help make these projects successful.
- **Parks and Land Use:** The committee is focused on 2 areas: 1) trying to keep open our local state parks that are scheduled to close—Portola Redwoods and Castle Rock, and 2) reviewing the One Bay Area Plan and what the impact would be on the SSA community. The Portola and Castle Rock Foundation is trying to keep both parks from closing on 7/1/12. The Foundation must raise a minimum the first year of \$500,000 and the same thereafter for a total of 3 years. One Bay Area Plan visioning meetings were attended for San Mateo County with a second round scheduled for 1/10/12. The importance of this plan is that while it will be about planning for San Mateo County, it must fit within the constraints and priorities of the 9 county regional One Bay Area Plan. This will limit the local county flexibility for Land Use because it will need to be within the regional guidelines.

Visitors are welcome at board meetings. Please check the SSA Calendar on page 12 for meeting dates.

Current SSA Board Members Are:

Name	Neighborhood	Board Responsibility
Patti Begley	Highway 9	Membership Committee; Communications Committee; Skylines Editor
Brian Beckey	Rocky Creek	Ken Broome replacement
Janice Compton	Black Road et al	Public Safety
Bo Gimbal	Highway 9	Treasurer; Parks, Land Use policies
Larry Watson	Southern part of Skyline	Fred Glover replacement
Gary Gechlik	Highway 35	Vice President; Programs Chair
Jer Granucci	Skylonda	Secretary; Membership Services
Judy Grote	Alpine-Portola	President; Parks, Land Use policies; SSFSC
Karim Khaldi	Highway 35	Public Works
Kim Hamilton	Oakridge	Public Works; Adopt-a-Highway
Frances Mann-Craik	Highway 35	Public Works
Larry Myers	Las Cumbres	Public Safety
Ruth Waldhauer	Portola Heights	Membership; SPUG; Communications Committee; Hwy 35 Fire Safe Corridor



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, 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/San Jose are:

January 2011	\$2.499/gallon
February	2.529
March	2.529
April	2.539
May	2.399
June	2.399
July	2.399
August	2.509
September	2.569
October	2.549
November	2.549
December	2.679
January 2012	2.559

Recent SPUG prices offered by Suburban Propane are:

January 2011	\$2.63/gallon
February	2.65
March	2.65
April	2.93
May	2.65
June	2.49
July	2.49
August	2.41
September	2.49
October	2.70
November	2.608
December	2.85
January 2012	2.80

Recent Kamps Propane SPUG prices are:

January 2011	\$2.53/gallon
February	2.49
March	2.528
April	2.568
May	2.378
June	2.44
July	2.44
August	2.45
September	2.55
October	2.608
November	2.57

December	2.648
January 2012	2.69

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. Our SPUG rate is based on automatic regular route deliveries on a keep-full basis, not "will-call" service. Some propane suppliers offer members 55 years of age or older a 2 cent/gallon discount in addition to the SPUG group price.

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

Adopt-A-Highway

By Ruth Waldhauer

As we gathered on November 12 in a dense fog, we soon realized that it was not safe for us to walk along Skyline to gather trash. After a bit of conversation we decided to just clean up the litter at the Vista Point parking area and the trash that was thrown downhill from the parking lot. We collected three big Adopt-A-Highway bags each weighing well over 80 pounds; mostly beer bottles. Quite a haul!!!

In the photo with dense fog in the background, you can see Fred Glover, Ruth Waldhauer, Karim Khaldi, and Armen Leonian. Katherine Hargove left before we assembled for the photo.



SSA and SHS volunteers are responsible for gathering litter every two months. The sweep takes about an hour and a half. Please contact Ruth Waldhauer at ruth_waldhauer@yahoo.com or 650-948-1466 to volunteer. So far there are 135 names on the honor roll listing those who have participated. We love getting new recruits. You will find that it is rewarding and fun.

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

Save Our Local Parks

By Judy Grote

As many of you may know, Portola Redwoods and Castle Rock State Parks are scheduled to be closed as of 7/1/12. Soon signs will go up on the roads approaching the parks informing visitors of the park closures.

These parks are both important to the Peninsula as well as to their immediate neighborhood—the South Skyline community. Portola Redwoods is the park where Peninsula children learn to camp. Castle Rock is where Peninsula children learn to climb. Not being able to officially use the parks will not stop people from the valley using them anyway. This could result in back packers / campers camping in non-camping areas and potential fires which could destroy our community. Another possibility is more drug grower / cartel action.

The Portola and Castle Rock Foundation is trying to save these parks in cooperation with Sempervirens, Save-the-Redwoods League, REI, Adventure Out, and some of the climber clubs. The Foundation is expected to take the lead in saving the parks while the other organizations provide some supporting assistance. It is going to take a village to save these parks. The Foundation needs to raise a minimum of \$500,000 / year for 3 years while a longer term business model is developed to assure each park's viability. The first \$500,000 needs to be raised / guaranteed prior to 7/1/12. To help accelerate getting to the goal—just six months away for the first \$500,000, we are trying to hire for 2 positions (1) Biz Dev and Sales, 2) Program Development). These positions are described in the Skyline Newsletter Help Wanted section.

The Portola and Castle Rock Foundation had a few model choices: 1) the Henry Coe model which is to keep the state parks within the state park system, 2) have a commercial vendor run the parks, and 3) the Foundation manages the parks by parceling out the functions to private companies to reduce the run rate. The Foundation decided to adopt the Henry Coe model, which was just given final approval by the State Park System (DPR). What this means is that 1) the Foundation will need to raise the \$s to keep both parks going, and 2) all park revenues received through camping and day use fees go directly to these 2 parks. More can be read about this at the Foundation website under FAQs.

If you can help in any way, through time / donations, please contact the Foundation Program Director, Andy Vought. His contact information is in the press release at the website address below.

Please access the Foundation website for more information.

http://www.portolaandcastlerockfound.org/Home_Page.html

The following can be found at the website.

- Press Release:
http://www.portolaandcastlerockfound.org/uploads/02Dec11_Press_Release.pdf
- Park Flyer:
<http://www.portolaandcastlerockfound.org/uploads/Castleflyer3.pdf>
- Info on Foundation:
http://pressbanner.com/view/full_story/16713762/article-Foundation-aims-to-rally-community-to-pay-for-parks%E2%80%99-operations

Emergency Response Training in Las Cumbres

The Las Cumbres disaster preparedness team is organizing a six-session training program for our neighborhood coordinators (called cluster leaders) starting in January 2012. Although specifically designed for our cluster leaders in Las Cumbres, the topics are certainly relevant to all mountain residents and we invite everyone in the South Skyline area who wants to attend. These training sessions will be held in the Las Cumbres community center on Las Cumbres Rd.

The first session is intended to guide our cluster leaders in determining whether it's safe to enter a house after an earthquake. Cluster leaders are asked to check on their neighbors after a disaster and need to ensure their own safety while they accomplish that task. George Drew and George Johnson will discuss how to assess a structure for damage and what to look for that might indicate severe structural damage. A third presenter will describe his/her personal experiences in doing house-to-house checks after a disaster.

This first session will be held on Thursday, January 19th at 7:30 p.m. in the Las Cumbres Community Center.

The second session will be a practical hands-on session on using GMRS radios, led by Margaret Martin, on Saturday, March 10th at 10 a.m.

The remaining training sessions will take place in April through July and will cover such topics as first aid and preliminary medical triage, securing utilities, cluster leaders' toolkit and supplies, and disaster psychology.

For any questions about these training sessions, contact Camille Ahern at camilleahern@gmail.com or at 408-354-5669.

Manzanitas of South Skyline

By Sarah Shoen

Manzanitas (*Arctostaphylos* sp.) make up a large genus of widely distributed chaparral shrubs. Their red-brown peeling bark, thick elliptical leaves, and white to pink urn-shaped flowers make them attractive and easy to identify down to the genus level. Within California, there are 62 species and a number of subspecies. Identification to species level is helped by using location.

All manzanitas have several characteristics in common. They have twisting, reddish brown or brown branches with bark that peels off in papery curls. Leaves are thick, evergreen, grow alternately on the stems and have a prominent central vein. Flowers are urn-shaped, white to pink and bloom in terminal clusters. And the shrubs have small round fruit that ripens to red or brown in summer – Manzanita is Spanish for “little apples”. The fruits contain 2 to 10 seeds.

The manzanitas are generally divided into two groups. Members of the first have a large burl near the surface of the ground and can crown sprout after a fire or reproduce from seed. Members of the second group do not have a burl, are killed by fire and only reproduce from seed. The South Skyline area has at least 4 species, all of which bloom February to April, have leaves $\frac{3}{4}$ to $1\frac{1}{4}$ ” long, and have leaf stems (petioles). Three of the species have basal burls.

Brittle-leaf Manzanita (*Arctostaphylos crustacea* ssp. *crustacea* (formerly *A. tomentosa* ssp. *crustacea*)) is perhaps the most common locally. It is a shrub 3 to 9’ tall with a basal burl, very stiff (brittle) gray-green leaves with upper and lower surfaces alike, leaf surface smooth to slightly hairy, leaf base cut straight across, petiole to 2 to 5 mm, and white to pinkish-white flowers.

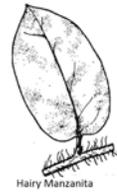


Eastwoods’s Manzanita (*Arctostaphylos glandulosa* ssp. *glandulosa*) is a shrub 3 to 6 ½’ tall with a basal burl. Leaf surfaces are not alike – bright green, darker on the top side, lighter green below and the leaf shape is convex (margins curved upward), petiole 2 to 10 mm, base wedge-shaped to rounded and white to pinkish flowers.

Hoary Manzanita (*Arctostaphylos canescens*) is a shrub 1 to 6’ tall, no basal burl, leaf surfaces alike, leaf base rounded to wedge-shaped, leaves smooth to hairy, petiole 3 to 10 mm, twigs densely short hairy to white hairy.



Hairy Manzanita (*Arctostaphylos crustacea* ssp. *crinita* (formerly *A. tomentosa* ssp. *crinita*)) is very similar to brittle-leaf, including a basal burl, except twigs and the underside of leaves are densely hairy.



Nearby are two geographically isolated species. Santa Cruz Manzanita (*Arctostaphylos andersonii*) has no burl, clasping convex leaves, upper smooth, lower midrib bristly and blooms November to April. It is found in such locations as Big Basin and Wunderlich. Kings Mountain Manzanita (*Arctostaphylos regismontana*) has no burl, clasping flat leaves, and blooms February to April.



The many species of Manzanita are about equally distributed between northern and southern California and about half have very small ranges. Burlled manzanitas are among the longest lived, with some re-sprouters up to 1000 years old. When gray areas of branches are mixed in with red areas, only the red areas are still growing. Because fruit production is energy intensive, plants generally only have abundant crops every other year.

Why so many species? Manzanitas first appeared at least 15 million years ago, at a time of global warming. From two ancestor species, manzanitas began a rapid speciation about 1.5 million years ago where several factors were in play. It was a time of climate change to summer-dry Mediterranean. Plants requiring summer moisture died out, opening up niches for those that were drought tolerant. There were physical changes in topography from plate tectonics. This created different habitats with different soils, exposures, rainfall, and slopes. There was also an increase in wildfires associated with summer drought. In between burns, manzanitas accumulate large numbers of seeds banked in the soil over the years. Fire removes the hard seed coat, releasing a large number of seedlings to compete in a short period of time. Manzanitas that form burls will crown sprout, with the genetically same individual surviving. Nonburl-forming manzanitas are killed by fire, allowing their genetically diverse offspring to adapt to changing conditions. Burl forming manzanitas are not speciating as rapidly as non-burl forming manzanitas. Finally, interglacial periods of warming and cooling have resulted in plant species migrating north, then south. This can result in isolated populations being left behind. It also brings geographically isolated populations into close contact where they can hybridize, potentially creating new species. (Parker 2007, *Fremontia* 35:4)

Manzanita berries are eaten by animals, including bears, coyotes, and foxes. The name *Arctostaphylos* is from the Greek for bear grape or bear berry.

[Continued on Page 7]

Sudden Oak Death Update

By Jane Manning

On October 23, 2011, Dr. Matteo Garbelotto and Doug Schmidt came to Skyline Ridge ranger station to give a Sudden Oak Death (SOD) treatment demonstration workshop. This was a follow-up to the SSA-sponsored study held this past spring, which revealed that the Skyline area is extensively infected by the Sudden Oak Death pathogen.

To re-cap, the outcome of the study for our area was that every bay tree which was sampled tested positive for *Phytophthora ramorum*. Bay laurels are a “vector” which houses the pathogen and shows particular symptoms, but does not kill the tree. In particularly wet, warm spring seasons this pathogen will hop to nearby canyon, shreve, coast live, and black oaks. Peak oak mortality years since *P. ramorum* arrived in California from Asia have been the winter/spring seasons of 2002, 2006, and 2011. The key take-away for residents who value oak trees is to mitigate risk by finding an approach that works for their particular site.

Dr. Garbelotto began the meeting with an overview presentation of the SOD study program and in-depth information about disease mechanism. Their 15+ years of research has revealed that oak mortality risk can be reduced and delayed in target oaks. Other tree species are rarely killed by SOD. The widespread presence of SOD along Skyline probably means most oak trees have been or will soon be challenged by the pathogen. California oaks *will not evolve resistance* because evolution takes place over many thousands of years—not in our lifetimes! Some trees may possess better “induced immunity”, which is a plant’s response to any invader and therein lies the area in which we mere humans can assist the trees.

As a basic measure, the UCB team recommends to avoid all foot traffic near your oaks during the wet season and postpone outdoor work as well. Washing mud off tires, boots, and tools showed a precipitous reduction in spore counts. Disinfection is helpful too, but removal of the mud makes the biggest difference. No off-site soil or chips was advised. Isolation of new nursery plants for several months will allow you to check for symptoms before adding potential infectious plants. Vegetation removal in oak vicinity should be carefully considered. There are the “filthy five” species which should be removed within 10 meters, and possibly more if uphill or downwind from prized oaks. The official list of vector species is long, but these 5 are particularly infectious when located near oaks and include bays, tan oaks, and rhododendrons.

Wholesale removal of all bay laurels is not advised for a stream-side habitat or when the bay itself is a prize specimen. It is also recommended to focus on trees within view which the owner particularly loves, because again, the pathogen is everywhere and the idea is to boost your chances of enjoying key trees as long as possible. Oak species such as blue and interior live oak are not showing

infection most likely because of wide spacing in their typical habitat.

The UCB research team has found that if an oak tree is not showing visible signs of infection, then fungicide will reduce disease risk and extend the tree’s chances of survival. The fungicide does not kill the SOD pathogen; it instead triggers the tree’s induced immune response which enables the tree’s own secondary metabolites to do so. Other recommendations include prevention of other stresses to oaks which could compromise immune response, such as bark damage and root compression.

The meeting continued outdoors with Doug Schmidt demonstrating the use of fungicide application equipment. UC Berkeley does not endorse any one product, as their mission is research and education of land owners. Agrifos is one product, which anyone can apply. Application should be fall and spring the first year, and each fall thereafter when oaks are still actively photosynthesizing. Summer/early fall are non-ideal because of partial dormancy from seasonal drought. Target trees should be identified by the landowner so if an arborist tells you to treat all of the trees in your forest, find a new arborist. Light rainfall is not a problem.

The meeting attendees did learn do-it-yourself fungicide application. It can either be sprayed directly onto oak bark or injected into ¼” holes drilled to provide direct contact with the tree’s “circulatory” system. In selecting between drill-inject method or spray method, the drawbacks are moss removal for spraying versus drilling ¼” diameter holes each 6-8” around the diameter. The holes have not been found to hurt the oaks, as the damage is quickly dealt with by the tree’s resident immune response. Materials can be purchased online or in bulk orders via local suppliers.

Manzanitas of Skyline [Continued from Page 6]

Manzanitas were very important to California Indians for food, medicine, and as a construction material. Berries were eaten fresh or dried, whole, or ground into meal. In some cases seeds, rather than the whole fruit was used. Berries were also crushed, mixed with water, and made into cider. Medicinally the plants were used as an infusion of leaves to treat poison oak rash, an infusion of leaves or bark to treat diarrhea, an infusion of the bark to treat lung hemorrhages. Leaves were chewed or the cider was consumed to treat stomach aches. Manzanita wood was used to make digging sticks, bows, and awl handles and, after fire hardening, to make arrow points. Use varied with the species and tribe. Some tribes used fire to control the spacing of bushes and optimize berry production. Early European settlers learned the California Indian production of cider. They also used the bark for tanning and the hard wood to make utensils. Manzanita dowels, in place of nails, have been identified in the construction of Mission San Dolores in San Francisco.

[Photo by David Schoen]



Rebuilding South Skyline Fire & Rescue

By Andy Seigel, Captain, SSF&R

It's been an interesting year for volunteer fire Company 29. Let's start with some good news. I have recently returned from Smyrna, Georgia where I did the final inspection on our new Santa Cruz County Fire Water Tender 2951! Acquisition of this new apparatus has been in the works for quite some time, and we are delighted to introduce it to the South Skyline area. It will be housed at the Saratoga Summit fire station, replacing one of our aging Company 29 engines. With a capacity of 3000 gallons, this resource will be very useful for fire suppression in all three counties in our immediate response area and beyond. The presence of a mobile water source will have a positive impact on the ISO rating for many homes in our area. Insurance companies rely on the ISO to determine the cost of and eligibility for home insurance.

Our other engine, which has spent 7 months in the repair shop this year, is years overdue for a replacement. As our engine replacement fund has been redirected for the last 4 years to keep firefighters in fire stations, we are exploring many alternatives for funding a new engine replacement program, but the solution is elusive. As we wrote in the last issue of Skylines, Santa Cruz County is facing some tough decisions regarding funding in general for CSA48, our fire district. Even if you don't live in CSA48, but you're in Saratoga Summit's response area in San Mateo or Santa Clara Counties, what happens to CSA48 affects you.
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Recent Fires in South Skyline

Two recent structure fires in the South Skyline area were both caused by deferred maintenance. Please don't let this happen to your home. Fire fighters worked diligently to prevent the fires from spreading to adjacent homes. Applause to these heroes!

Paying attention to any electrical problems and periodic chimney cleaning and inspection could prevent a fire in your home. Don't let your home catch fire!!!

Observer Training Classes for Inmate Work Crews

In order to cash in on the great deal of having CA Dept. of Corrections crews clear brush and trees along Skyline Blvd., Cal Fire truck trails, and our private roads we usually have to supply trained observers. They call us 'sponsors', but we are simply providing eyes to help the Cal Fire Captain in charge watch the crew so 'observer' seems more appropriate. This training must be RENEWED ANNUALLY!

Training dates are at the Ben Lomond Conservation Camp, located at 13575 Empire Grade Road, Santa Cruz Ca, 95060 (but above Boulder Creek) have now been set:

**Jan 23 Mon, Jan 25 Wed,
Feb 6 Mon, Feb 8 Wed, Feb 27 Mon, Feb 29 Wed,
Mar 12 Mon, Mar 14 Wed, Mar 15 Thur (Las Cumbres),
Apr 23 Mon, and Apr 25 Wed.
Classes are 9am - 1pm, please bring a lunch.**

Volunteers need only attend one session. They ask that you call the camp with number coming, names not required. JOHN DREW, South Skyline FireSafe Council (SSFSC), is coordinating the training for us. If going to the Ben Lomond Camp, most of an hour's drive from here, you probably want to commute with someone or have riders, so call/email John to coordinate on transportation. **Please Note: they have agreed to come to Skyline, to Las Cumbres for the training session on Thursday, March 15.**

So, call the Ben Lomond Conservation Camp, then immediately email or call John with your name, phone number and email, and what dates are best for you. John can then keep you informed if we get the March 12 date. Since the crews only work weekdays the training sessions are also only on weekdays. (See contact numbers below.)

The SSFSC will help you get started requesting crew time for your road, but you need to get some of your residents trained. Call Dick for information.

Ben Lomond Conservation Camp 831-423-1652
John Drew 408-395-9955, johnnydrew@msn.com
Dick Schwind 408-867-9422 dschwindr@yahoo.com

Ham Radio Classes

If you are not yet licensed, but have an interest, the SC4 Amateur Radio Club is putting together a two day technician licensing preparation class for March 3 and 4, tentatively to be held at the Las Cumbres Community Center. Getting your license is easy and the test is a simple 35 question multiple choice exam. There's no longer a requirement to know Morse code. The class fee is \$25 and includes text book and all study materials. Email Peter Chupity at ki6fao@arrl.net if you are interested.

South Skyline FireSafe Council 2011 Accomplishments



The principle accomplishments in 2011 for our all-volunteer South Skyline Fire Safe Council were:

- Received notification that we have been selected to receive two grants! Each would be approximately \$50,000 and together with local matching funds would fund projects costing a total of more than \$150,000. The projects will be for fuel reduction work; selectively removing brush and creating shaded fuel breaks. Their locations would be along the Kings Creek Truck Trail (KCTT), Skyview Road between Castle Rock State Park and Las Cumbres, and along Skyline Blvd between Black Road and Saratoga Gap. Starting this work is dependent on actually receiving the grant money from the State and Federal agencies, hopefully by spring. In the meantime we are obtaining the required environmental clearances and preparing detailed work plans. When work begins we will need a number of trained volunteers to monitor the inmates who will be working with CalTrans on Skyline Blvd. and possibly in conjunction with private contractors on the KCTT. When completed, these two projects will provide a strategic line of defense for the Las Cumbres community and nearby homes against their greatest threat - a wind-blown wildfire sweeping southeastward out of Castle Rock State Park.
- Matched funds with the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District for a couple weeks of inmate crew plus the Caltrans crew extending the previous fuel reduction effort along Skyline Blvd. north from about a mile north of the Saratoga Summit Fire Station.
- Coordinated training in March for monitoring inmate crews working on our various projects. About 30 local volunteers completed the half-day class at Las Cumbres.
- Coordinated free chipping using the San Mateo County FireSafe grant for the Skyline and Middleton Tract - Alpine areas.
- Coordinated free chipping worth about \$10,000 from a grant of the Santa Clara County FireSafe Council (SCFSC) at homes in Santa Clara and nearby Santa Cruz County and the Las Cumbres Community Brush pile.
- Coordinating with the Santa Clara County FireSafe Council for a fuel break along the upper mile of Black Road. This greatly delayed project is now set for January and February.

- Coordinated the October SSA general meeting as a half-day seminar with Cal Fire on defense against wildland fire. Schwind emphasized the next steps after achieving your defensible space is eliminating fire-starting lodging places for flying embers on and at the base of your house, and reducing the threat of house ignition from the radiation.
- Kept our community informed of our progress via regular articles in the Skylines and Las Cumbres Newsletters.

Our board of seven very active volunteers and several area coordinators has probably logged about 1500 hours of volunteer time on these projects this year and returned in value to the community many times the \$2300 donated and then matched by the SSA. We can always use more volunteers. If you can't be a volunteer fire fighter call me!
Dick Schwind
408-867-9422 schwindr@yahoo.com
President, South Skyline FireSafe Council

Open Space Matches SSFSC Funding to Extend Skyline Blvd Fuel Reduction

By Dick Schwind

The Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (MROSD) has agreed to match the \$2500 cash committed by the South Skyline FireSafe Council (SSFSC) for this year's work extending the Skyline Blvd fuel reduction effort northward. With the grant work this year on Skyline Blvd south of Route 9 (see accompanying article on SSFSC 2010 accomplishments) this should complete the Skyline Blvd. fuel reduction for 13 miles from Black Road to north of Page Mill - Alpine Roads!

This clearing effort started a couple years ago by a grant received by Cal Fire and included some work south of Black Road. Caltrans and the Ben Lomond Camp inmate crews are the actual workers. This new funding will commit 20 days of the CA Dept. of Corrections crew of 15 men. This will produce a much better job than a pass of a CalTrans masticator.

Both MROSD personnel and the SSFSC volunteers must provide the planning and support effort. We volunteers need more help so please call/email me with your offer to help us! Our funding gets the action started. The actual value of the work is probably TEN TIMES what we invest!
Dick Schwind SSFSC President
408-867-9422 schwindr@yahoo.com

South Skyline FireSafe Council 2012 Agenda, Donations

Our FireSafe Council has now completed its third year. While very good progress was made this last year to make our homes less vulnerable to wildland fires, this will be a much busier year for us. We are an all-volunteer tax deductible, non-profit organization that depends upon your donations and volunteer help. The SSA will MATCH YOUR DONATION! Go to the SSA Annual Membership Renewal/Application form which is included in this newsletter. Send in your check along with your SSA dues or send a donation directly to: SSFSC Treasurer, Box 324, LaHonda, CA 94020. Thank you!

Continuing from the accompanying article on our 2011 accomplishments:

- Complete the work on the ground for two grants. Finish the preliminaries and do the clearing work on the Kings Creek Truck Trail and Skyline Blvd between Black Road and Rte 9. This does depend upon receiving timely grant fund payments and volunteer help.
- Publicize the grant effort and results, producing a high quality pamphlet; one of the grant requirements.
- Continue the Skyline Blvd. fuel reduction work, marching north past Page Mill - Alpine using our funds plus matching contributions (see accomplishments).
- Help the Santa Clara County FireSafe Council's upper Black Road fuel break project
- Continue as a home defensible space clearing resource, particularly with chipping and masticating. However, as we have been reporting in the past, free chipping programs from the surrounding FireSafe councils have/are coming to an end. See our website, listed below for our cost sharing program as our funds allow. If you have particularly good workers that you can recommend for clearing, please share them with us and the community.
- Facilitate private road clearing projects that use Ben Lomond crew (Your community does need to get members to the required training).
- Coordinate training for the above crews (See training schedule on page 8)
- Survey our entire Council area for the most needed fuel break projects. Look for funding assistance.
- Coordinate with the surrounding FireSafe councils
- Inform homeowners on preparing their house defense against firebrand and radiant heat attack in a wildland fire and help facilitate the upgrades. This was emphasized in the October SSA meeting and will be covered in future Skylines articles.
- Recruit more volunteer help so we can accomplish more for the community! Would you like to help us? Call or email me!
Dick Schwind, President SSFSC
408-867-9422; schwindr@yahoo.com
SSFSC website: www.southskylinefiresafe.org

Rebuilding South Skyline Fire & Rescue *[Continued from page 8]*

If you've seen any of my presentations over the last few years, or visited our website, you also know that we are desperately in need of new volunteer firefighters. We have been through a period of unprecedented attrition, and we are now down to 5 active volunteers, our lowest level ever. This is quite a change from 2001, when we had a staff of 15. It's a massive change from a time perhaps 25 years ago, when our response area was covered by 30 volunteers. We ran approximately 150 calls in 2011, averaging 2.1 volunteers per incident; it was quite a challenge to mount an effective response with such a small team.

As budgets tighten for the career staff at Saratoga Summit, they run with a smaller crew (2 personnel in the winter), increasing the need for a robust volunteer force. Also, it is not out of the question that Saratoga Summit station could close periodically in the winter months in future seasons without new funding for Santa Cruz County Fire (note that summer fire season is funded at the state level). Accordingly, we have been aggressively recruiting this past year and we are very fortunate to be working with 4 candidates for our February volunteer academy. This is great news - but it's not enough. We need to continue this trend until we have a stable volunteer force of at least 12, always with more in the pipeline. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer firefighter, visit our website at <http://southskylinefire.org> to learn more about the program, and contact us via the website in the "Contact Us" section. We recruit year-round.

Open Burn Suspension in Santa Cruz County

CAL FIRE has declared a suspension of all open burning in Santa Cruz County. The ban comes during a time of heightened fire danger and will remain in place until favorable weather conditions return.

Burning out of season may result in a citation and you could be liable for ALL fire suppression costs.

Always check with your local Fire Department prior to burning to determine whether a permit is required.

You may call the Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District to confirm a burn day.
1-800-CAL-BURN (1-800-225-2876)

Status of Santa Cruz County Fire Funding

By George Johnson

State budget cuts are threatening fire services for those in rural parts of Santa Cruz County not covered by city fire departments. Dozens showed up December 13, 2011 to protest cuts to fire service in remote areas of Santa Cruz County at the Board of Supervisors meeting in Santa Cruz. The meeting discussed how the County would make up a \$590,000 shortfall in the fire department's budget for the 2013-2014 year. These options include reducing winter firefighter staff from 20 to 16 and eliminating one of the five stations serving far-reaching areas of the counties, which would save about \$410,000 per year.

In response to community letters sent in Sept. 2011 to the Santa Cruz County Supervisor's office, this letter was received from Santa Cruz County supervisor Mark Stone, Oct. 2011:

Thanks for your email. I share your concerns about the future of CSA 48 (County Fire). In light of the fact that some of the largest and most devastating fires in our county's history have occurred in the CSA 48 area, the loss of year-round support from even one of the County Fire stations is deeply troubling. Given the existing high-risk conditions that are projected to continue into the future, we can expect that destructive fires will almost certainly occur again here, so it's critical that we retain the ability to respond rapidly to such a threat. Unfortunately, the on-going budget crisis is forcing the County to make some tough decisions, and even essential services such as County Fire are not immune from the across-the-board cuts being made.

County Fire is suffering from declining tax revenues and rising costs. While the County continues to struggle to recover from the effects of the global financial crisis, County Fire has also had to absorb the financial impacts of changes to industry safety standards and regulatory requirements, as well as equipment repairs and/or replacements. As you know, an attempt to offset that burden through a parcel tax initiative was defeated, so County Fire has had to draw down its reserves and tighten its operating budget to remain solvent. Today those reserves are nearly depleted. By next year, County Fire will be out of money.

The County will be looking at all of its options over the coming year and it is my hope that we will be able to make appropriate changes to County Fire that will preserve the stations and services to the greatest extent possible.

As this issue moves forward, I encourage you to keep in touch! --Mark Stone Supervisor, 5th Dist. Santa Cruz County

Please continue to email our supervisor, Mark Stone mark.stone@co.santa-cruz.ca.us supporting a strong Santa Cruz County Fire Department.

Letter to the Editor

A Response to Genetically Altered Foodstuffs

I am writing concerning Judy Grote's interesting discussion of genetically altered foodstuffs and their potential impact on our lives. [*Skylines* October 2011] With respect for her opinions which are prevalent in the population when one asks, I think that there is another side to the issues of genetically altered food and feed.

Humans have been using natural selection and breeding to genetically alter foods and animals for centuries. Modern wheat is a variety of wheat that lost, through a spontaneous mutation, the ability to "explode" and scatter seeds widely. Look at the many breeds of dogs in our society. Not all this genetic selection has been of benefit. For example, the English bulldog female cannot deliver a pup spontaneously and must have Cesarean section to reproduce.

The suggested readings in Judy' piece are all of one option. When one clicks on the responsibltechnology.com URL, the first encounter is a large page with the following message **How do we stop genetic modification of our food stuff.** The books suggested are both polemics.

Genetically modified crops have been available commercially as early as 1994. Though there here have been ethical and health related concerns, there has been no direct evidence of any human harm that I can find as of this time. I searched the medical literature from 1948-present day using *genetically modified food and adverse (7 citations)* and *genetically modified food and disease (1-citations)*. There was one article suggesting that the incidence of endometriosis (which affects about 10% of the female population) has increased in the last decade at the same time genetically engineered foodstuff has been introduced. What else has happened in the environment in the past decade?? I am surprised the paper was accepted for publication. There are no specific cases of adverse effects presented on Medline.

Genetically altered crops increase yields mostly by increasing pest and disease resistance. This makes money for farmers and big companies like Monsanto. They also allow significant reduction of the use of pesticides and their environmental impact. In addition, increased crop yields also can help with famine in third world countries. It is also possible to enrich nutrients which potentially could improve health. Transgenic carotene rich rice is now produced in India where vitamin A deficiency is common. It is also potentially possible to remove food allergens which are a problem for some of us.

I think caution is appropriate and the answers of risk and benefit will evolve over the long term. There are many things I am worried about in our world. Transgenic foodstuff is way down the list. We need to develop traceability and labeling and through epidemiology the questions will be answered.

--Bill Fowkes

Genetic Engineering (GE): Why This Time is Different

By Judy Grote

The purpose of this article is to educate the community on 1) why genetic engineering (referred to as Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO) or GE) today is different than genetic engineering in the past, and 2) why the seeds we plant in our garden make a difference to the overall South Skyline community.

Previously, genetic engineering was done within a species (intra-species). Today it is being done between species (inter-species). GE today is a new process used by biotech scientists to insert genes from organisms (human, plant, animal, bacteria or virus) into crop plants. There are several reasons why this is done 1) increasing farmer productivity by not spraying as much pesticide and decreasing his expenses through less crop loss and less pesticides used, and 2) trying to get certain traits into the crop that are not currently there, e.g., resistance to certain plant diseases. But these are also reasons for any genetic engineering, whether intra-species or inter-species. The key is the impact on our environment—soil, animals, and people—from this new technology.

This technology has been present in the food we eat for less than ten years and differs from traditional plant breeding because it forces the exchange of genes across species barriers, a process that does not occur in nature. Examples of this include inserting viral and fish genes into tomatoes to get certain characteristics (Calgene tomatoes at one time but now off the market), jellyfish and chicken genes into potatoes, and human genes into rice to produce drugs (pharming). Currently, the two most commonly engineered traits on the market are (1) resistance to herbicides that would normally kill the crop (e.g., Roundup Ready (glyphosate) Alfalfa and Cotton), and (2) the ability to produce an insecticide that kills a wide spectrum of insects, including the target insect pest (e.g., Bt Cotton and Potatoes).

The regulation of these new GE crops today is no different than crops not produced via this process. The issue is 1) lack of sufficient, rigorous safety testing procedures to prove that these GE foods are not harmful to human health and the environment, and 2) the agribusiness companies producing these new GE crops attest to their safety, not an independent lab. Companies that bring a new GE food to market are not required to notify the FDA beforehand.

Examples of threats to health include 1) more than 300 food products being recalled after contamination with GE StarLink corn, which was not approved for human consumption, due to the presence of a possible food allergen in 2000, 2) a GE version of a nutritional supplement, L-tryptophan, causing 37 deaths and permanently disabling more than 5,000 people in 1989, 3) GE potatoes (Bt potatoes) causing damage to the immune systems and organs of rats in a study in 1999, and 4) the

antibiotic resistance 'marker genes' used in gene splicing can weaken antibiotic effectiveness in treating diseases.

Examples of threats to the environment of GE crops include 1) an increase in the use of the pesticide Roundup (glyphosate) for farmers planting GE soy (they used 2-5x more than those not planting GMO soy), 2) genetic contamination of native varieties of species by the GE species thru cross-pollination, e.g., corn, and 3) being harmful to beneficial insects, birds, and earthworms, e.g., toxicity to Monarch butterflies. The issues from the above are 1) increased use of pesticides over the years results in super weeds for which there is no pesticide to kill the super weeds, 2) the farmer is locked into the agribusiness company, such as Monsanto, when he buys Roundup Ready alfalfa because he needs to buy the pesticides from Monsanto too, e.g., Roundup which will not impact his Roundup Ready alfalfa crop, 3) loss of crop productivity for GE crops which are more productive the first year but less so over the next 3-4 years, and 4) genetic contamination that is impossible to recall, thus possibly destroying the farmer's or gardener's seed diversity.

In California, only GE cotton is grown in significant amounts, with GE alfalfa next in line (approved in 2011). California produces over 350 crops, and the biotech industry is trying to engineer and commercialize as many of them as possible in California. The most current include 1) Bayer Corporation's herbicide-tolerant rice, 2) Ventria Bioscience Corporation's pharmaceutical rice, and 3) Monsanto Corporation's herbicide-tolerant strawberries, lettuce, and rice.

More of the above can be investigated in 'Seeds of Deception' by Jeffrey Smith and 'Seeds of Destruction' by F. William Engdahl. Though the titles seem similar, the two books have a different orientation. 'Seeds of Deception' goes more into the safety of GE foods while 'Seeds of Destruction' focuses on the agenda behind big agribusiness in pushing this new technology. There is a very good chapter on what can go wrong in using this new technology in 'Seeds of Deception.'



Canis latrans

Is it Acceptable to Dump Toxic Substances on Your Neighbors' Property?

By Pablo Riviere

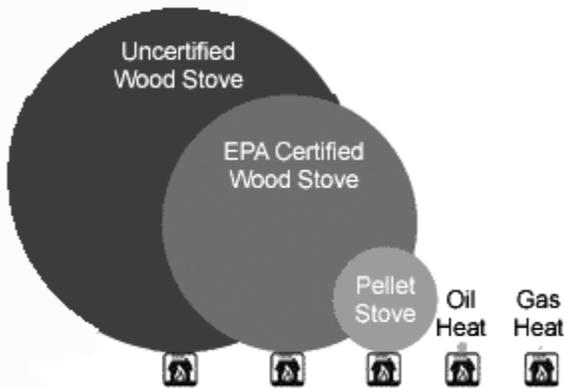
The age of innocence is over. You can't bury your head in the sand and ignore the health consequences of exposure to wood smoke for you and for your neighbors.

Did you know that wood smoke contains formaldehyde, sulfur dioxide, fine particulate matter, carbon monoxide, and various irritant gases such as nitrogen oxides that can scar the lungs? Wood smoke also contains chemicals known to be carcinogens, such as polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons and dioxin.

The particles in wood smoke are too small to be filtered by your upper respiratory system, so they end up deep in your lungs, where they can stay for months causing chemical changes and structural damage. Poisonous and cancer-causing substances frequently enter the lungs by sticking to such tiny particles, which are so small that are not stopped by closed doors and windows, and often seep into your neighbors' houses.

Wood and tobacco smoke are quite similar in chemical composition. For those suffering from asthma or other respiratory problems, wood smoke is a very harmful exposure. Children are particularly vulnerable, even interfering with normal lung development.

Emission Comparisons of Different Fuels



If you can't afford to heat your house by other means and you **have to** burn wood, please do so wisely following EPA guidelines (see <http://www.epa.gov/burnwise/pdfs/BurnWiseTips.pdf>) Replacing a non-EPA certified wood stove with an EPA certified wood stove can reduce smoke emissions by 50% or more. Also, everyone is encouraged to use cleaner methods to dispose of vegetation, instead of open air burning.

More and more people are getting fumed and smoked out of their homes every day. Their neighbors are depriving

them of a fundamental human right -- the right to breathe reasonably clean air. Let's be conscientious and each do our part to clean the air we breathe. For more information and references please see:

http://burningissues.org/car-www/medical_effects/index.html

Pros and Cons of Barricade Gel

By David Lawrence

At the October 22nd SSA meeting, there were excellent presentations both on how best to protect our homes with defensible space, and how to partner with firefighters in making their job easier. Dick Schwind deserves credit for organizing our local FireSafe Council, which keeps the issue of wildfire danger, quite appropriately, in the forefront of our consciousness.

However the meeting did not discuss fire prevention products that homeowners can buy, the most prominent of which is Barricade Gel. This really is a product that can save your home; there are videos that show a structure—with Barricade Gel properly applied—that survives a wildfire aimed directly at it, with little or no resulting damage. The gel is a sticky substance that, mixed with water, is able to hold a thin layer of that water against the surfaces of your home.

Now, all the positives about the product are easy enough to obtain, either in literature from the company, or on its website. This column is about additional considerations that you will need to weigh in deciding whether to buy it or not.

The first and most obvious complication concerns the difficulty of applying it. The brochure for the gel shows a woman with a backpack (which contains a small pressure pump that you can buy from the company), spraying her home with a garden hose. That would work if you have a one-story house, surrounded by flat land, all of which is easily accessed. I don't know how many SSA residences fit this description, but I assume the percentage is very small.

If you have elevation or access issues, you will need to boost your water pressure to at least 100 psi, and you will need a serious pressure pump to be able to do that. My neighbor John DeLong has prepared himself for this task in the correct way, with an additional water supply, a significant length of professional two-inch firefighting hose, and a major freestanding booster pump. But John is a big, muscular man; he can probably bench press a small elephant. Not all of us are in that same category.
[Continued on page 14]

The Pros and Cons of Barricade Gel

[Continued from page 13]

In a word, there's a reason that professional firefighters do weight training: just try to make a two-inch hose—under full water pressure—obey your commands. Don't forget that the goal is not just to get the gel onto the walls of your home; it's to get it *evenly distributed* on the walls, which is a different matter entirely. This is a mistake that I predict most buyers will make: do not simply calculate the square footage of wall and roof coverage that you'll need, and buy gel in that amount. That would assume that the application—done under extreme stress and time constraints—will be accomplished perfectly. A better formula would be to buy twice the amount of gel you'll need—which purchase then begins to run into real money. And that's before you get to the equipment you'll need to apply it.

You should also be aware that simply buying the gel and storing it away for an emergency is not sufficient. It needs to be mixed once or twice a year. A neat trick for doing that is putting it into the trunk of your car and then driving over an extremely bad road for awhile. Less simple to solve though, is the problem that the stated shelf life of the product is three years. Whether the three-year expiration date is legitimate, or a marketing device to keep you buying the gel, is a decision you'll have to make. Speaking personally, I'm fine with keeping cough drops with a use-by date of 1998 on them. But if I'd apply those same lax standards to a product I would need to save my home: that's a much tougher dilemma.

Eric Isacson, who has probably thought as carefully about fire protection as anybody in the SSA, brings up still another issue. In an emergency, we are hard-wired to go into fight-or-flight mode. But the "flight" alternative has a psychological component to it. Some percentage of us, facing a mile-long wall of flames coming toward our home, *are going to freeze up*. So it's not just a question of whether you'll be able to apply the gel carefully and correctly, it's about whether you'll be able to do anything at all. How one takes inventory of what the psychology of that moment will bring out in us—without actually being in the moment—is beyond the scope of this page.

In conclusion then, I'm impressed with the capacity of Barricade Gel to save a home from a wildfire. But we each—according to our own reckoning—need to assess in a realistic way what the odds are that we'll be able to deploy it successfully when the occasion demands.

Classified Ads

Internship Positions Available

There are two internship positions open in the Portola Castle Rock Foundation. The Portola and Castle Rock Foundation has been supporting Castle Rock State Park and Portola Redwoods State Park since 1991 and is the official cooperating association for these parks. It is also a 501 (c) 3 charitable organization.

Contact: Andy Vought
Mobile: 650-283-1283
Email: avought@yahoo.com

The State Park Closure Challenge

On May 13th, 2011 the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) released a list of 70 state parks that will be **permanently** closed to the public as a direct result of the \$22 million budget-cut enacted by Governor Jerry Brown and the Legislature earlier this year. Portola Redwoods and Castle Rock State Parks are slated for closure by July 1st, 2012. We have a narrow window within which to raise at least \$500,000.

We are mobilizing a broad coalition to increase public awareness and raise funds to keep these two parks from closing.

Position Description: Deputy Development Director

The Deputy Development Director will be a key member of our team focusing on refining and executing our awareness and fundraising activities. Our program includes raising public awareness of the problem and implementing programs to raise funds from the public (for example, through point-of-sale flyers at Bay Area outdoor equipment retailers) and from foundations and private individuals. As Deputy Development Director you will work directly with Officers and Board Members of the Portola and Castle Rock Foundation in conceiving, developing and implementing this critical program. This position is ideal for someone 1) with a deep interest in environmental preservation, 2) wanting to polish their Business Development and Sales Skills. You will work closely with the Deputy Communications Director.

This is an unpaid, full-time internship position. We seek to fill this position immediately to spearhead our drive to save these two parks and anticipate the position will last until May/June 2012. This position is based on the San Francisco Peninsula.

For more information on this position go to: www.portolaandcastlerockfound.org/How_to_Help.html and Facebook at [Save Portola Redwoods and Castle Rock State Parks](#).

[Continued on page 15]

Classified Ads

[Continued from page 14]
INTERNSHIPS

Position Description: Deputy Communications Director

The Deputy Communications Director will be a key member of our team focusing on communicating to the public and special interest groups who share our vision to keep Castle Rock and Portola Redwoods State Parks open. Our program includes raising public awareness of the problem and implementing programs to raise funds for the public. As Deputy Communications Director you will define and implement internet and conventional communications and marketing programs. Our internet strategy involves use of our foundation website, our facebook presence, and other social media. Our conventional programs involve press, broadcast and in-store marketing.

You will work directly with Officers and Board Members of the Portola and Castle Rock Foundation in conceiving, developing, and implementing our communications strategy to support critical programs. This position is ideal for someone with a deep interest in environmental preservation and an understanding of marketing communications and social networking. You will also work closely with the Deputy Development Director, who is responsible for Business Development and Sales.

This is an unpaid, full-time internship position. We seek to fill this position immediately to spearhead our drive to save these two parks and anticipate the position will last until May/June 2012. This position is based on the San Francisco Peninsula.

For more information on this position go to:
www.portolaandcastlerockfound.org/How_to_Help.html and Facebook at [Save Portola Redwoods and Castle Rock State Parks](#).

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>

COMMUNITY GROUPS

SC4 Amateur Radio Club Welcomes those interested in amateur radio for emergency communications and neighborly talk. License is free. Simple exam: No Morse code. We offer classes. Visit www.sc4arc.org or write: SC4ARC
PO Box 237
La Honda, CA 94020

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Alice's Restaurant
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Locally owned and operated
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Skyline Broadband Service
1 Mbps symmetrical broadband is now available in the South Skyline area.
<http://SkylineBroadbandService.com>
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Tired of High PG&E Bills?
Time to go Solar!
Call John 408-868-9783
Local Skyline resident since 1982

The Mountain Terrace
Charming and rustic atmosphere.
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Your TAX Champion – Have Laptop will Travel to You! Individual taxes returns prepared by Janice Compton, CPA with a Master in Taxation. A Mountain Resident with Reasonable Rates and reasonable hours, evening and weekends. Office appointments are also made in my home office.
janicecpa@verizon.net (408) 354-4451

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Your neighbor for 15 years. I know the people and the properties – with many satisfied Having the right information makes for clear decisions and the best results! I'd be honored to represent you. customers. If you are thinking about buying or selling, please call me and let's get started. If you have questions about getting refinanced or working with a bank, I can help. Sid Frederick, MS, Realtor, in Portola Park Heights Neighborhood.
650/948-6426
SidFrederick@KWRPA.COM
www.MySkylineHome.com

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, web site, <http://www.southskylinefire.org/> in the "Help us help you" section.

Ads are free to members.
Membership is \$15 per year.
Membership forms are available in this issue and at
www.southskyline.org

Please limit each ad to around 45 words. Ads will be shortened when space is limited. Email ads to:
skylineseditor@earthlink.net
or mail to:
Skylines Ads
22400 Skyline Blvd #35
La Honda, CA 94020

SOUTH SKYLINE ASSOCIATION

Box 400, Star Route 2
La Honda, CA 94020

Consider Getting Your Skylines by Email

For those members who receive the *Skylines* through the Post Office please consider the option to receive it on-line. This will save paper as well as postage. If you sign up for this option you will be notified by email when the next issue is released. Sign up and update your email address with Ruth Waldhauer at: ruth_waldhauer@yahoo.com or 650-948-1466.

Those members who live locally where we stuff mail boxes will continue to get a paper copy.

SSA Calendar

General Meeting – January 27
Saratoga Summit Fire Station 7:00pm

Business Meetings at 7:15 pm:

(No meeting in January)

Thurs. February 9

Thurs. March 8

(Call Judy Grote for location and directions)

President Judy Grote 650-949-1437

Editor Patti Begley 408-867-3973

SPUG & Membership Ruth Waldhauer
650-948-1466

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. A membership form is included in this issue. Send your dues to:

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

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 March 18.

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.