Telescopes and Science at Lick Observatory

Presented by Dr. Elinor Gates

Friday, October 5
7:00 pm - Refreshments
7:30 pm - Featured presentation

Saratoga Summit Fire Station
12900 Skyline Blvd.

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

Dr. Elinor Gates is a staff astronomer at Lick Observatory specializing in laser guide star adaptive optics and near infrared camera instrumentation and observations. Her primary research interest is measuring the mass of black holes at the centers of active galaxies. She received her B.A. in mathematics and astrophysics from Mount Holyoke College in 1991 and went on to earn her Ph.D. at the University of New Mexico in physics in 1998. Dr. Gates gained her expertise in adaptive optics at the Air Force Phillips Laboratory in Albuquerque, NM. She has also worked at the National Radio Astronomy Observatory and the International Astronomical Union’s Minor Planet Center. The asteroid 2650 was named Elinor in Dr. Gates’ honor for the work she did at the Minor Planet Center.

Dr. Gates’ lecture will discuss the telescopes and science done at Lick Observatory, highlighting how adaptive optics works and the science accomplished with this new technology.

This is a community event; free and open to the public. You do not need to be a SSA member to attend.

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.
What Is Your SSA Board Doing?

- **SSA General Meetings**: This was a great picnic, fostered by just right weather and a good attendance. David Allen (Got Snakes) spoke on our area snakes. He brought quite a few live snakes, which his assistant took around the audience so we could see the physical characteristics as well as hear some of their vocal ones. We should have a very interesting General Meeting in Oct with a speaker on Astronomy. We hope the weather will be as supportive of the event as our summer picnic.

- **Streamlining the Board**: The Board is testing out other capabilities for helping us work better, things such as Google Docs, DropBox, YouSendIt.

- **Public Safety**: The South Skyline FireSafe Council (SSFSC) has completed the on-the-ground work for its first grant, though there is the possibility of receiving a bit more grant funding. Much clearing has been done along Skyline Blvd and the first two miles of the Kings Creek Truck Trail.

- **Public Roads**: The Board has been appealing to CalTrans to repair an erosion problem on Skyline between Bear Gulch East and Bear Gulch West. The erosion on the west side of the highway is getting very close to the roadway. Something must be done before the rains begin or the roadway will be undermined, increasing the cost of repairs by millions. CalTrans plans work for 2014. SSA suggests a stop-gap measure to hold the erosion until full repair can be done. Petition signatures were gathered at the SSA picnic at Jaqua ranch, and letters sent to Rich Gordon and Jerry Hill requesting their help.

- **Sudden Oak Death Study**: For a second year SSA members participate in the Sudden Oak Death (SOD) survey. Results will be presented on October 28 at the Saratoga Summit Fire Station by Matteo Garbelotto, director of the SOD Blitz at UC Berkeley.

- **Adopt-A-Highway**: SSA volunteers conducted their bi-monthly litter pick-up on September 6.

*Submitted by Judy Grote*

### Current Board Members:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Neighborhood</th>
<th>Board Responsibility</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Patti Begley</td>
<td>Highway 9</td>
<td>Membership Committee; Communications Committee; Skylines Editor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brian Bekey</td>
<td>Rocky Creek</td>
<td>Board Member</td>
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<tr>
<td>Janice Compton</td>
<td>Black Road et al</td>
<td>Public Safety</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bo Gimbal</td>
<td>Highway 9</td>
<td>Treasurer; Parks, Land Use policies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Larry Watson</td>
<td>Highway 9</td>
<td>Board Member</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gary Gechlik</td>
<td>Highway 35</td>
<td>Vice President; Programs Chair; BAAQMD</td>
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<td>Jer Granucci</td>
<td>Skylonda</td>
<td>Secretary; Membership Services</td>
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<td>Judy Grote</td>
<td>Alpine-Portola</td>
<td>President; Parks, Land Use policies; SSFSC</td>
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<td>Karim Khaledi</td>
<td>Highway 35</td>
<td>Public Works, Adopt-a-Highway</td>
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<td>Kim Hamilton</td>
<td>Oakridge</td>
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<td>Connie Kleinjans</td>
<td>Highway 35</td>
<td>Communications</td>
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<td>Larry Myers</td>
<td>Las Cumbres</td>
<td>Public Safety, SSEPO</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ruth Waldhauer</td>
<td>Portola Heights</td>
<td>Membership; SPUG; Communications Committee; Hwy 35 Fire Safe Corridor</td>
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**From Timber Barons to Tree Huggers, The History of the Middleton Community Near La Honda by Sheri Jansen-Olliges**

Sheri has lived in one of Middleton Tract original log cabins near La Honda for twenty-seven years. She is a sixth generation Californian, and holds a B.A. in History from the University of California at Berkeley. Casual conversations with Middleton old-timers combined with her lifelong interest in history drove her to dig deeper into the community's history, then publish this previously untold story.

Available on Amazon or contact Sheri at sherijolliges@gmail.com
SPUG 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:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Price</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 2012</td>
<td>2.599/gallon</td>
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<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>2.499</td>
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<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>2.399</td>
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<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>2.399</td>
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<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>2.229</td>
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<td>June</td>
<td>2.239</td>
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<td>July</td>
<td>1.84</td>
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<td>August</td>
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<td>September</td>
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Recent SPUG prices offered by Suburban Propane/Scotts Valley are:

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<th>Month</th>
<th>Price</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 2012</td>
<td>2.80/gallon</td>
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<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>2.80</td>
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<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>2.50</td>
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<td>April</td>
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<td>May</td>
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<td>July</td>
<td>2.099</td>
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<td>April</td>
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<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>1.83</td>
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Northern Energy is merging with Amerigas. The process will take a year or more. In the interim, Northern Energy will honor the Amerigas SPUG price for SSA members who use Northern Energy.

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.

La Honda Annual Holiday Arts and Crafts Fair

The La Honda Volunteer Fire Brigade is hosting its annual Holiday Arts and Crafts Fair in the fire station. There will be a wide variety of handmade arts and crafts.

Sunday, December 9
10:00am - 4:00pm
La Honda fire Station at
8945 La Honda Rd

Come and support a good cause.
More South Skyline Community Events

September 29:
Tour New Firebreak, the Kings Creek Truck Trail, Great Views

Come see the magnificent views of San Lorenzo Headwaters Natural Preserve, the Monterey Bay and the Northern Santa Cruz Mountains; and tour the new firebreak developed by the South Skyline FireSafe Council. We are celebrating the completion of our first grant, $50,000. This is a huge milestone achieved with several thousand dollars of your donated funds and almost 1000 hours of volunteer help!

Thank you, Eric Isacson, for leading this huge effort. South Skyline residents are now much better protected from major wildfires.

You probably saw crews clearing along Skyline Blvd south of Highway 9 this summer, the first part of the grant. Now we invite you to come see and celebrate the completion of the second half of the grant, the Kings Creek Truck Trail.

TIME: Saturday, September 29 at 10am
WHERE: 1 mile down Kings Creek Truck Trail at the parking lot.
This is approximately 1/2 mile south of the Castle Rock parking lot (the 2nd dirt road on the southwest side) at address 15717 Skyline Blvd.
John Drew will guide you through the gate 100 yards off the highway (we pass through private property.)

BRING: Sun hat, hiking shoes, binoculars, water, and picnic lunch if you wish (some food and drinks will be provided).
Take it slowly driving over the water bars. Higher clearance vehicles best, but low clearance okay with careful driving.

First we will point out the features of the panoramic views of the wilderness encircled by Skyline Blvd, Highway 9, and Bear Creek Road. You will see how this project along the Kings Creek Truck Trail provides a fuel break through the center of the great sea of chaparral and woodlands between Skyline Blvd, Highway 9, and Bear Creek Roads. Learn how this provides access for fire crews and an outer line of defense against wildfire approaching the Las Cumbres, Skyline, Oak Ridge and Deer Creek neighborhoods from fires coming from the most dangerous direction, the northwest.

Eric Isacson will then lead a fairly strenuous group hike on down the KCTT as far as the present end of shaded fuel break and return (about 2+ hours). There will be other groups assembled for shorter hikes and you may just go on your own as far as you wish.

Soon the remainder of the KCTT and part of Skyview Road will receive a similar fuel break with our second grant.

Submitted by Dick Schwind, President, SSFSC

October 28:
Announcing the SOD Study Follow-up Meeting and Field Training

This year’s Sudden Oak Death study was the biggest effort yet for the program. Many thanks to our 21 volunteers who attended the June 9th training session and collected symptomatic leaves!!

A follow-up meeting, with 2012 study results presentation by the UC Berkeley researchers followed by an outdoor SOD treatment training and demonstration, will take place on Sunday October 28 at 10. Attendance is free for anyone interested. Just bring your notebook and pencil, and maybe a camera. Snack foods will be provided. Details:

What: 2012 SOD Blitz Follow-up Community Meeting and Field Training
When: Sunday, October 28 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.
(or later if lots of questions)
Where: Cal Fire CDF Forestry and Fire Protection
Fire Station, Saratoga Summit
Address: 12900 Skyline Blvd, Los Gatos
located about 1 mile north of the Hwy 9/Skyline Blvd (CA 35) intersection

The benefit of this meeting to Skyline residents is direct access to the latest information about treatment and prospects for disease impact in our area. By coming to this meeting and training session, you’ll see a detailed hands-on demonstration of fungicide application procedures as well as an interactive meeting about the 2012 Blitz results. Maybe you’re considering treating special oaks near your home—this will help you get started. It is also your opportunity to ask about SOD and our ecology, the weather, fire, genetic factors, anything you’re curious about!

The UC Berkeley team continually emphasizes how crucial it is to monitor the behavior of SOD along Skyline despite the reality of widespread infection here. We are a special case, providing the year-on-year data to build the understanding of severe SOD areas. The effect of SOD on our area’s California oaks is an important example of ecosystem response to non-native organisms. The Skyline area is in fact a laboratory which offers us as residents an opportunity to actively engage with the changes brought about by the global transfer of micro-organisms.

Please take a look at the results and SOD treatment info on Dr Garbelotto’s excellent website: www.matteolab.org

Submitted by Jane Manning, SOD Study Coordinator
Indian tribes made a decoction of white alder bark to treat arrowshafts and flutes from selected wood. Other California food, made a tea from the bark for stomachaches, and made a poultice of the dried bark was applied to burns. A decoction of the bark from both species was used to treat skin ailments. Red alders contain salicin, chemically similar to acetylsalicylic acid, the active ingredient of aspirin. An orange or red dye was produced from the bark of both species to be used in basketry and to make nets less visible to fish under water. Animals have their own uses for the alders. The seeds are eaten by deer mice and by several species of goldfinch. Western tiger swallowtail and green comma butterflies use the trees as one of several larval food plants.

Alders are medium sized, winter deciduous hardwood trees. They have one main trunk and branches that droop at the top. Requiring a lot of water, alders grow along perennial streams, ponds and lakes. Red alders, the largest in North America, grow 80 to 100 feet tall, while white alders are 50 to 80 feet tall. Both live about 100 years.

The two species of alder have more traits in common than those that differ. The best way to tell them apart is by looking at the leaves, which appear after the flowers in the early spring. In both species leaves grow alternate from twigs and have prominent parallel veins. Red alder leaves are 3-6" long, coarsely toothed, with rusty hairs on the underside and with the leaf edges curled under. White alder leaves are 1.5-3.5" long, finely toothed, with no or a few hairs on the underside and with the leaf edges not curled under.

Alder flowers are wind pollinated, relying on winter storms to spread their pollen. Plants are monoecious, with drooping male cylindrical catkins and erect female conelike spikes. To minimize self fertilization, the female flowers open a few days after the males on the same tree. White alders bloom January to February and have golden male catkins, while red alders bloom January to March, with catkins a rusty brown.

Fruits look like tiny cones and contain many small nutlets with tiny wings. Seeds are widely dispersed on wind and along waterways - in late summer to early fall for white alders, and in fall for red alders. Alders are a pioneering species, colonizing disturbed areas after logging, fire, or floods. Plants germinate best on wet, mineral soils, away from flood waters. Adequate sunlight is a requirement - only trees with dominant or codominant crowns will survive.

Alders have extensive, fibrous root systems. The trees form a symbiotic relationship with Actinomycete bacteria, which fix atmospheric nitrogen in root nodules. The bacteria make more than they need and the nitrogen then becomes available for both the trees and eventually other plants growing nearby. California Indians had a number of uses for alders.

Costanoan/Ohlones used the inner bark of white alders for food, made a tea from the bark for stomachaches, and made arrowshafts and flutes from selected wood. Other California Indian tribes made a decoction of white alder bark to treat diarrhea, reduce hemorrhages from consumption or tuberculosis, to aid in childbirth, and to cause sweating. A poultice of the dried bark was applied to burns. A decoction of the bark from both species was used to treat skin ailments. Red alders contain salicin, chemically similar to acetylsalicylic acid, the active ingredient of aspirin. An orange or red dye was produced from the bark of both species to be used in basketry and to make nets less visible to fish under water. Animals have their own uses for the alders. The seeds are eaten by deer mice and by several species of goldfinch. Western tiger swallowtail and green comma butterflies use the trees as one of several larval food plants.

When walking along perennial streams or ponds, I find myself looking for alders. White alders (Alnus rhombifolia) tend to grow on the east side of the Santa Cruz Mountains, while red alders (Alnus rubra) tend to grow on the west. Along Skyline, both are possible and sometimes in the same park or preserve.

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South Skyline Fire & Rescue
News
by Andy Seigel, Captain, SSF&R

We have had a busy summer so far, including three local wildland fires in the first week of August; one in the Deer Creek area, one in the Kings Creek area, and one on Highway 9 near Saratoga Gap. We put our new water tender to good use for two of these incidents.

Firefighter Spotlight

Over the next few issues, we'd like to introduce you to our 2012 graduates of the volunteer firefighter academy. This month, the spotlight is on Doug Aumack.

Doug and his wife Mary moved to the Las Cumbres community in 2011. A neighbor told him about the South Skyline volunteers. Soon thereafter, he stopped in at the Las Cumbres Fire Station and expressed his interest in joining the team. “I learned that there are quite a few things that must be done to gain training and pass tests before finally getting on the job. My journey began.” Doug really enjoyed the educational process of the multi-discipline academy and emergency medical responder training. He noted: “This is serious business in our County, and there are no short cuts for volunteers. I'm pleased to have the education. I was also pleased to pass all the physical requirements, which are strenuous and demanding.”

Why join Company 29? “Basically, I have this belief that everyone needs to give back to the community in some major way and this has become my way.”

Since graduating from the academy in April, Doug has responded to all types of incidents. He also attended the Santa Cruz County ISO Water Tender drills with me. His communication and networking skills did not go unnoticed - recently, he was elected by the Santa Cruz County Fire company officers to be our representative to the Santa Cruz County FDAC (Fire Department Advisory Commission). In this role, he will be our liaison, bringing issues from the five volunteer companies in Santa Cruz County Fire to the commission.

Visit us at http://southskylinefire.org

Adopt-A-Highway
by Ruth Waldhauer

On Thursday, September 6 Karim Khaldi, Ruth Waldhauer, Connie Kleinjans and Robert Bradford were the volunteers for the clean-up.

Ami Jaqua and her crew of friends cleaned their adopted section of Skyline, from Rapley Ranch Road to Old La Honda Road, on September 13.

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 145 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 front yard. Let's keep it beautiful.
Do You Have Proof of Residence in Case of Emergency?

In the event of an emergency road closure it could be important for residents to have an ID that shows proof that they live in the mountains. There may be times when residents will be allowed to pass, but CDF and law enforcement require either a driver’s license with a local address or other proof such as a PG&E bill, or property tax bill. If your address is not on your license, keep other proof of residence in your car.

Classified Ads

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

FOR SALE

Apples for sale at the GHJ Tree Farm. Mountain grown and all natural. Information on the web at http://ghjtreefarm.com

SERVICES

Fred Rosenberg Construction
Fred Rosenberg, General Building Contractor
CA Lic# 553661 Since 1988
Specializing in home remodeling and new construction guidance. Pre-construction services available. Hands-on contractor. No job too small. La Honda local.
Call: (650) 722-1780 Email: fredrosenberg@sbcglobal.net

Residential Design
Country and urban custom houses, remodel and additions. 20+ years experience in California. See some of my work at: http://www.TSResidential.com Taruno S. Vega 650-747-0654 taruno@coastside.net

Skyline Broadband Service - Now offering speeds up to 25 Mbps broadband in the South Skyline area. http://SkylineBroadbandService.com 650-917-9279

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

Thinking about solar power?
Call John DeLong for free viability assessment and quote 408-868-9783

REALTORS

Connie and Barbara - Mountain Realtors
When you decide it’s time to buy or sell, we’re here to help. You set the pace. We make it easy. We know the mountains because we live in the mountains.
Connie Goddard (C) 408-568-8398
Barbara Haniman (C) 408-656-8209 with Coldwell Banker
Web www.connieandbarbara.com
Blog http://connieandbarbara.tumblr.com/

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

FREE

Free fire fitting for those in the South Skyline Fire & Rescue primary response area. 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.

Next Deadline: December 15, 2012
**SOUTH SKYLINE ASSOCIATION**
Box 400, Star Route 2
La Honda, CA 94020

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**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.

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**SSA Calendar**

**General Meeting** - Friday October 5 at 7:00pm
Saratoga Summit Fire Station

**Business Meetings at 7:15 pm:**
Thurs. November 8
Thurs. December 13

(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

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**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 in on www.southskyline.org.

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**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 December 15.

**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.