South Skyline Association
General Meeting

Water and Fire
Presented by
Larry Watson, SSA President
and
Tim O’Donoghue, CalFire Captain

Larry is trained as an agricultural biometeorologist specializing in irrigation, and, as a 17-year resident of South Skyline, has had plenty of experiences with community water systems, wells, and water quality issues. Tim O’Donoghue is CalFire Captain at Saratoga Summit.

Jaqua Ranch
Sunday, August 11
Noon until 4pm
Please bring a Potluck Item for Lunch
SSA will provide plates, utensils, lemonade and soft drinks

Directions
The SSA Meeting will take place at Dick and Ami Jaqua’s ranch on Langley Hill Road.
♦ From Highway 84, drive south on Skyline Blvd. 4.5 miles
♦ From Page Mill Rd. drive north on Skyline Blvd. 3 miles

Turn west at the sign for Yerba Buena Nursery which is across from Fogarty Winery. Follow the SSA signs along the unpaved road to Jaqua Ranch.
Please no smoking and leave your dogs at home.
Bo Gimbal, SSA board member and treasurer, passed away on May 4.

SSA recognizes and appreciates the many contributions Bo Gimbal made to SSA and our mountain community.

Bo composed the mission statement for SSA that truly expresses our goals. It helps SSA to find the way forward when the next step isn’t clear.

As SSA treasurer he established a better and more transparent way to manage the duties.

We appreciate his many years of volunteer trail building, starting in his Portola Valley years, and continuing on the Toll Road, The Ancient Oaks Trail (his favorite), the Achistaca Trail, and on many trails in MROSD park lands. Bo was a long time Sempervirens Fund volunteer, assisting them in many ways, including developing a trail and memorial redwood grove system at their San Lorenzo Creek Redwoods addition to Castle Rock State Park. He was out there on his tractor creating and improving trails for all of us to enjoy.

Soon after MROSD was formed, Bo volunteered to help building trails. Maintenance and Construction Supervisor Craig Beckman tells that with Bo’s help in those early days, MROSD grew to become widely recognized as the best trail builders. Other agencies now seek to learn from MROSD.

Bo made an enormous contribution to the Draft Trails Plan for Castle Rock State Park by serving as the first Chairman of its Citizens’ Committee and by initiating its first drafts. He also made important contributions to the General Plan for the Park while serving on its Citizens’ Advisory Committee.

For years Bo brought persimmons from his trees to SSA board meetings for us to enjoy. Most delicious.

For all of these years of quiet service, we want to say thank you.

If you are inspired to make a gift in Bo Gimbal’s memory, please consider The Sempervirens Fund (http://www.sempervirens.org). Bo was a long time Sempervirens Fund volunteer, assisting them in many ways, including developing a trail and memorial redwood grove system at their San Lorenzo Creek Redwoods addition to Castle Rock State Park.

Got a Skylines Editor? Yes We do!

by Tanja Anderson

First, many thanks from all the South Skyline Association Members to Patti Begley who’s been volunteering as our Skylines editor for the past 13 years! From all of us we say, “THANK YOU!”

Also many thanks to the Skylines communications team, Joyce Rosenstiel, Georgia Stigall and Ruth Waldhauer who have been very gracious in helping me make the transition as the new editor of Skylines as easy as possible. I’m looking forward to serving the South Skyline Association!

Not too long ago, I might be known as what we would call a “flatlander”. I’ve been living here in the mountains about 4 years now and am continually amazed at our beautiful and wondrous mountain views, spacious skies, and sunsets, just to name a few. I work by day as a business transformation partner or more simply, an executive coach at HGST, Inc., A Western Digital Company. We’re the company that is building the infrastructure called the “cloud” o store all your electronic data, pictures, email and the SKYLINES newsletter on the world wide web—I’m sure you’ve often wondered what happens to all that stuff from Facebook! And well….by night I’m scouring all those great article submissions you’re sending my way to skylineseditor@yahoo.com. So please send them on over! I’d love to share your stories!
SSA General Meeting
The April Meeting at Fogarty Winery had a record turnout. Janet Schwind’s presentation on a chapter from a Skyline Historical Society history book was very well received. The board is looking forward to our upcoming general meeting at the Jacqua’s on August 11 as announced on the Skylines front page.

SSA Board Turnover
As many may know, Bo Gimbal, long-time Board Member and Treasurer passed away in May. In June, Brian Beckey resigned his position as Board Member and coordinator of the Adopt-A-Highway program. The Board truly appreciates Brian’s service to SSA and his contributions to streamlining Board operations. James Morris and Michael Rowe were appointed at the June 13 Board Meeting to serve the remainder of the terms in these vacant positions. We are grateful for the talents and enthusiasm these two bring to the Board. Their introductory biographies are included on page 4. Also, Tanja Anderson agreed to take over the Skylines editor position from Patti Begley. Tanja went straight to work on this issue of Skylines. Thank you, Tanja.

SSA Grants
A grant in the amount of $3,300 on behalf of the association has been made to South Skyline Fire & Rescue. Captain Andy Seigel will speak about the organization at our summer meeting.

Website Committee
This new committee has been created for two purposes:
1. Recruit a new webmaster to become a member of the committee. Our webmaster for 11 years, Bill Prince, is ready to transition out of the role. This role supporting the current website requires a commitment of approximately 2 hours per month and utilizes client-side content formatting with ftp publishing. SSA owes a debt of gratitude to Bill for his time and talents.

2. The committee is developing a “vision plan” for the next version of our website to support our association more effectively going forward. Input from the general membership on requirements including committee participation are welcome. If you have technical skills related to the selection and deployment of a CMS-based web platform please join us.

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<th>Current Board</th>
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<td>Vice President; Programs Chair; BAAQMD</td>
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Welcome our newest Board Members Michael Rowe and James Morris!

Michael Rowe is a transplant from Iowa and has lived in Sunnyvale for 20 years before moving up to the mountains in 2009 with his wife Kristen.

Michael works from home, as a director of an international biotechnology company based on the East Coast. Both Michael and Kristen love the Skyline area and they say they wish they had joined our community much sooner!

“I’m honored to be part of the board and look forward to serving the SSA membership in the coming year”, says Mike.

Welcome Michael to the SSA Board and we extend our congratulations to both you and Kristen on your recent marriage.

Also new to the SSA Board is James Morris. James is a General Contractor and a Broker Associate with Alain Pinel Realtors of Saratoga.

James grew up in Dana Point CA., opening his first business when he was just 17 years old eventually settling into the Skyline area and establishing offices in The San Francisco Bay Area, Southern California and Las Vegas.

He has been involved with the development of all types of properties for over 30 years and built his Skyline residence called Cloudsrest.

James in his free time does just about everything but skydive, and that is still not off the table. James can most often be found backpacking, climbing mountains and hiking around our great Skyline area!

Welcome James and Mike!

Adopt-A-highway

by Ruth Waldhauer

Saturday, May 4, was Ladies Day for Adopt-A-Highway. No men.

Robin Pinchard, Pat O’Coffey, and I were the volunteers. As we made our way along the route, we met a motorcyclist resting at a pull-out. He politely asked what we were doing. We responded and he thanked us for cleaning up litter. He said Skyline Boulevard is so beautiful, and appreciated our effort. He then asked how much we were paid.

Ami Jaqua and friends cleaned up their section of Skyline Boulevard on Friday, May 24. Their section reaches from Rapley Ranch Road north to Old La Honda Road.

Ami’s crew included Robin Pinchard, Gaye Tarjorsen, Helen Haydon, and Jennifer Heit.

The next scheduled clean-up for the SSA group is Saturday, July 13.

Volunteers are responsible for gathering litter every two months. The sweep takes about an hour and a half. So far there are 147 names on the honor roll listing those who have participated. We love getting new recruits. You will find it rewarding and fun. Contact Ruth Waldhauer at ruth.waldhauer3@gmail.com or 650-948-1466.
Quarterly Roundup

Our 2nd annual Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, May 26th was a huge success! We served over 150 customers. We ran a slide-show of training and incident photos, as well as a video from the 2012 Volunteer academy. Thanks to all who attended.

Our incident count is well above average. We have already been dispatched over 100 times. Our small, dedicated team is doing everything they can to keep up with this deluge of incidents.

In April, Water Tender 2951 was outfitted with additional compartments. This has added about 30% more cargo space. We could not have done this without your donations and a grant from the SSA. Thank you! The South Skyline Firefighters is a 501(c)(3) non-profit and we are always grateful for donations. Our business address is: Saratoga Summit Station 12900 Skyline Blvd. Los Gatos, 95033.

Open House

We will be hosting several open-house events. The next will be on July 27th, at Las Cumbres Station, 18269 Las Cumbres Road, 10AM – 2PM. Everyone is welcome. Stop by to learn more about what your local fire department does, how fire protection works in Santa Cruz County and California, or get answers to your burning questions. For folks who might be interested in joining as a volunteer, this is an ideal time to learn more about the program. There is no obligation.

We REALLY Need Volunteers!

Usually, this is the “Firefighter Spotlight” section, but I’ve run out of firefighters to spotlight. You’ve seen them all. Our current roster of 6 volunteers is really being tested this year with a very high call volume. We simply need more. Ideally, we would have 6 candidates signed up by September. We’re well short of that target at this writing.

No prior experience is necessary as long as you’re over 18. If you are interested, please contact us to learn more – come to an open house, leave us a message at (408) 395-5811, or use the contact form on our website, http://southskylinefire.org.

South Skyline Association
Seeking Webmaster

The South Skyline is seeking a volunteer Web master.

This role supporting the current website requires a commitment of approximately 2 hours per month and utilizes client-side content formatting with ftp publishing. Or if you have technical skills related to the selection and deployment of a CMS-based web platform please join us at our next SSA Website Committee meeting.

The position is fun and rewarding! Please contact contact Larry Watson, President@southskyline.org for more information.
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.waldhauer3@gmail.com or 650-948-1466.

Information is also available on our website at WWW.SouthSkyline.org.
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 SSA posts are for the first of the month. Our SPUG rate is based 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.

*Northern Energy has merged with Amerigas. SSA members formerly with Northern Energy will now receive the Amerigas SPUG price.

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SPUG QUARTERLY REPORT
by Ruth Waldhauer

Geocaching in Our Backyard by Tanja Anderson

Geocaching is an outdoor treasure hunting game. “The word Geocaching refers to GEO for geography, and to CACHING, the process of hiding a cache” (www.geocaching.com).

Geocaches can be found all over the world. They are hidden by individuals in a variety of locations that are important to them such as local parks, like Castle Rock, on a city street and even underwater. With use of a GPS-enabled device one can navigate to find these countless treasures. While you can’t take them or the contents, you can exchange an item from the cache with something of equal value.

You can sign up for free at www.geocaching.com for more coordinates or we will feature coordinates in the Skylines newsletter. If you find our featured Geocache or a cache near the Skyline route, please send us your picture, coordinates and a brief description of your experience so that we might feature your story.

You don’t need to leave the trail to reach this cache.

Park at N 37° 14.469 W 122° 06.339 and hike on the trail on the north end of the parking lot. You’ll cross the street and start down the Loghry Woods Trail. Its hidden in a tree. Be safe and have fun!
South Skyline Rainfall and Sudden Oak Death
by Larry Watson

If you have oak trees that you want to keep, there may be things you can do between now and the next rainy season to reduce their probability of a Sudden Oak Death (SOD) fate. This South Skyline area-specific article is based on my participation in Skyline SOD blitzes, review of materials available at matteolab.org, and personal communications with the principal investigator, Matteo Garbelotto, UC Berkeley.

There are two approaches to reduce the possibility of this fate for any oak tree: (1) improve tree antimicrobial response with phosphonate fungicide treatments prior to infection, and (2) prune neighboring bays and tanoaks to prevent dripping or blown rain drops from any nearby infected trees. For more details on the first approach, see the “Treatment” link at matteolab.org.

The guideline for pruning bays, the primary infectious host in the South Skyline area, is as follows:

0 to 10 yards from oak trunks – prune all bays to ground level
10 to 20 yards from oak trunks where wind-blown rain can be expected – prune bays to minimal height.

Generally the wind is blowing from the Southeast quadrant during heavy rainfall but your topography could modify this guideline slightly. (See Skylines Oct 2005 article). Hence you may want to increase the no-bay buffer zone in that direction. If you treat bays with an herbicide and a surfactant a month before cutting, the treatment will somewhat slow down the resprouting bays are famous for. Of course you may not want to (or cannot) use an herbicide. Not matter what, you need to select the few oaks you may want to protect as it is virtually impossible to protect all oaks.

Start with the most important oaks in your property followed by oaks that may cause damage to property or injuries to people were they to fall. Often oaks that are affected by SOD will crash down when still green. Normally 2-6 oaks is the number of oaks most folks choose to protect. Size makes a difference and for oaks with a diameter over 36”, you should try to clear bays at least 15 yards all around the trunk. Beware that tanoak leaves are also infectious and you may want to clear those as well if they grow in proximity of valuable oaks.

As discussed below, new infections only occur during, or shortly after, rainfall accompanied by warm temperatures. Common sense is supported by a little knowledge about the causal agent (*Phytophthora ramorum*): this swimming, water-borne organism is a member of the Straminopile kingdom, and like kelp, is not plant, animal, bacteria, or fungus. The organism in sufficient quantities under ideal conditions can first glide as an infectious structure from bay or tanoak leaves onto the bark of oaks and then “swim” into mature oaks through bole lesions (trunk cracks). They can then consume the cambium layer girdling the tree and occlude vessels in the xylem thus eliminating water transport to the tree parts above.

The organism is in an inactive state during the dry season, often in the leaves of infected California bay laurels. To become active and infectious, there must be a period of continual rain for approximately 6 to 9 hours while temperatures remain above 65°F. These conditions mostly occur during the warmer March to June period, the end of our rainy season.

The organism can infect almost all Pacific coast plants and is believed to exist currently in many US and European nurseries, but is currently being controlled by both US and European government through periodical control surveys. The South Skyline area is one place where the organism has thrived. It escaped into native forests from ornamental plantings in the late 1980s-early1990s in Santa Cruz County and made its way into our neighborhood thanks to the continuous forest cover and because of our suitable weather conditions and trees.

There are three primary trees of interest: California bay laurel, tanoaks, and most red oaks (coast live oak, Shreve’s oak, California black oak, and possibly canyon oaks). The primary infectious host is the bay, whose leaves are easily infected by wind-blown, infected water droplets via leaf lesions. The bay leaves then subsequently provide habitat to the inactive organism during the dry season. Since bays are not killed by the organism, they can be excellent hosts for many years. The organism can infect tanoaks through the leaves or twigs but kills the tree thus reducing its ability to infect other trees. Rarely are oak leaves infected.

Oaks are infected through natural openings in their trunks, especially in bark fissures where water accumulates, under very special conditions requiring very high water...
Western vervain (*Verbena lasiostachys*) is a tough little plant. Growing on trail edges and other disturbed areas, it sends out square stems and saw-toothed leaves to gather light. Then in late spring and summer, when many of the season’s wildflowers are well past, spikes of tiny purple flowers emerge.

Western vervain grows 1 to 4 feet tall, falling to hug the ground as the highly branched stems get longer. Opposite leaves are ¾ to 2 ¼ “long, hairy, and have saw-toothed edges. They have 3 lobes along the stem and 1 to 2 lobes at the base.

Flower spikes grow on the ends of the stems. The spikes are ¾ to 4” long, with only a few tiny flowers blooming at any one time. They bloom first at the bottom of the spike, then work their way up. Individual flowers are less than 3/16“ across and, on close observation, 5-petalled and tubular with 2 irregular lips. Flowers are pollinated by bees and butterflies.

Western vervain is a pioneer species, growing in disturbed areas, at the edge of brushy areas, and along dry creeks. It is sometimes planted to control erosion.

Local California Indians used vervain medicinally. An infusion of the plant was used to treat fevers, typhoid, and “fevers of the stomach”. Other species of vervain grow in Europe and the eastern U.S. Historically, people have believed these species to have medicinal, religious, or magical qualities.

The square stems and opposite leaves are common characteristics of the mint family. However, western vervain is a member of the closely related verbena family, Verbenaceae. It grows from Oregon, south through California to Baja California below 7500 feet.

The local HAM radio club ([www.sc4arc.org](http://www.sc4arc.org)) held its annual training weekend, early in April. Twenty-five students spent two days learning the fundamentals of HAM radio, and studying for the Technician Class exam. This year, the class was held in the La Honda Fire Brigade’s classroom. Several local HAM radio operators taught the class in segments, each one giving practical knowledge with their own experience and flair. A week later, a practicum was given, and students learned how to program their radios.

The SC4ARC classes have had excellent pass results. This year, there was a 100% pass rate. The locals who took the class participated in our weekly Monday night NET, practicing their new skills on radio. Not everybody who takes the class lives locally. Each year, the class is attended by people who come from as far away as Vallejo, and Fresno, as well as from cities on the bay side of the peninsula.

Announcements for next Spring’s class will start going out in January 2014.
SAVE OUR LOCAL PARKS
Portola and Castle Rock Update
by Judy Grote

As many of you know, Portola Redwoods and Castle Rock State Parks have been saved for this year, and possibly through 2016. A condition of the agreements between the Portola and Castle Rock Foundation and Sempervirens/Save the Redwoods League/Post was that the community support the 2 parks via volunteers, ~ 60 in total. Agreements with them in future years will depend upon this community volunteer support.

What has changed is how the parks will be staffed. The number of rangers to support both parks has been reduced by 1 ranger, and the park coverage has been extended to include supporting the Big Basin ranger staff. Park ranger support prioritization changes to 1) Big Basin, 2) Castle Rock, and 3) Portola in emergency and high park visitor situations. Both Castle Rock and Portola will be staffed with 2 park aides each and a senior park aide to oversee the more junior park aides.

“What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what difference you want to make.” - Jane Goodall

Both parks will have very limited funds for running and managing the parks. The rangers primarily will serve as peace officers. There will be very limited maintenance staff and park aides. This means volunteers are needed for such functions as 1) trail clearing, 2) trail patrol, 3) leading nature hikes, 4) camper programs in the amphitheater, 5) help with the Jr Ranger program, etc.

Stu Langdoc has been setting up and organizing the volunteer program in cooperation with Audrey Stapleton. We had one training in April/May with 20 volunteers, but we need at least 30-40 more volunteers for these 2 parks. If you can help out, please let Stu know. His email address is stu-langdoc@verizon.net. If you are a MidPen docent, the Foundation would welcome your help.

Current information on both parks can be found on the foundation website www.portolaandcastlerockfound.org and facebook pages Save Portola Redwoods and Castle Rock State Parks.

This will be a long haul. These park jewels need our continued support in order to remain open.
The South Skyline FireSafe Council (SSFSC) recently began offering free inspections of your home and property to provide suggestions for making it more defensible in case of a wildfire. Our home was one of the first to receive this valuable service, and we found the experience painless and educational.

The two “inspectors” who provide this service are local, experienced and very knowledgeable. Dick Schwind, founder of the SSFSC, was also one of the earliest members of the South Skyline Volunteer Firefighters, now known as the South Skyline Fire & Rescue, Company 29. George Johnson retired a few years ago after serving as the Captain of Company 29 for decades. Dick and George therefore offer their observations and suggestions backed by a lifetime of practical experience not only living on South Skyline, but also fighting fires.

We had already done a good job clearing the mandatory defensible space required by state law, but Dick and George had other excellent suggestions, especially in regards to ember prevention, accessibility and water supply identification. Some of their suggestions included: clearing brush at the bottom of the road to make it look more inviting for fire trucks (fire trucks need 14’ vertical and horizontal clearance), labeling the water tank with water storage capacity, removing lumber stacked against the house, installing smaller gauge wire screening over attic vents and outbuilding windows, among many other ideas.

They provide a written report listing their suggestions so that we can follow up. It is important to note that their report is completely confidential. It does not carry the weight or official status of a CalFire inspection, and will not be given to either CalFire or any insurance company. This is a free educational service offered to residents of the South Skyline area who live within the boundaries of the SSFSC (see http://www.southskylinefiresafe.org/firesafe-boundary-map).

To schedule an appointment, please e-mail Dick Schwind - schwindr@yahoo.com, or George Johnson - ghj.2904@gmail.com and request an SSFSC Home Volunteer Inspection and Advisory.

Sudden Oak Death, Continued from Page 7

concentrations of the organism and continual water flows. Young oaks typically do not have bole lesions and are not susceptible to infection.

An infected bay or tanoak tree that can drip onto large oaks or tanoaks below its canopy will almost certainly result in the death of those trees over time. The current recommendation is not to remove infected material from your property. If burning is not an option at the time you prune, scatter the infected material in small pieces at least a few yards from any oaks.

The updated South Skyline Accumulated Annual Rainfall graph is on Page 11. There is a strong positive correlation between the extent of new infections and “wet” years. This year’s lower than average rainfall (especially during late spring) should indicate the rate of new infections was reduced compared to wetter years since the organism first arrived.

For a map of the distribution of the disease go to www.sodmap.org or download the iPhone app, “SODMAP mobile” with its GPS features. From everyone, thanks to Jane Manning for coordinating the South Skyline SOD blitzes. For additional information about SOD in the South Skyline area you can contact Jane at skyline_sod@yahoo.com.

A meeting will be organized in the South Skyline area in October-November to bring residents up to speed on available disease management approaches. Date and location will be posted in August on www.matteolab.org and the October issue of Skylines.


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Dog Days Since 1995 Training, Exercising, Socializing. We have two sessions that begin each season, Monday evenings & Saturday mornings at Woodland School in Ladera (Portola Valley) 650-851-5500 Winner 2013 Daily News BEST Dog Trainer & BEST Dog Day Care

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

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

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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 issues is released. Sign up and update your email address with Ruth Waldhauer at: ruth.waldhauer3@gmail.com or 650-984-1466

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

SOUTH SKYLINE ASSOCIATION
Box 400, Star Route 2
La Honda, CA 94020

SSA Calendar
General Meeting – August 11
Jaqua Ranch

Business Meetings on
Thursdays at 7:30p
August 8
Sept. 12
Oct. 10

President Larry Watson 408-313-6293
Editor Tanja Anderson 408-882-7829
Ruth Waldhauer 650-948-1466 for SPUG & Membership

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 issues.

Skylines Ads and News Articles: The Deadline for submitting ads and articles for the next issues is September 12th.

Send all ads and articles to: Skylines Editor c/o 224400 Skyline Blvd #35, La Honda CA 94020, or SkylinesEditor@yahoo.com, 408-867-3973

We reserve the right to edit all submissions. We assume no responsibility for omissions, incorrect information or personal opinions.