South Skyline Association General Meeting

**Waterwise Gardening**

Presenter: Master Gardener, Rebecca Schoenenberger

Friday, April 25, 2014 at 7:00 pm

Thomas Fogarty Winery

19501 Skyline Boulevard

2.7 miles north of Page Mill Rd., across from Rapley Ranch Rd.

Premiere Fogarty wines will be available.

We request a donation of $5.00 per glass.

Light hors d’oeuvres and soft drinks will be provided.

Yes, we are in the middle of a drought but we can still have a garden if we choose our plants “water” wisely.

The University of California Cooperative Extension Master Gardener Program has provided our speaker tonight. Owner, designer and contractor Rebecca Schoenenberger, has a diverse background in sustainability and natural systems. Her educational background includes an Associate of Science in Park Management, and a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Studies. She also has several years of experience in landscape design and maintenance, based on nature. She has an extensive knowledge of native plants, including which plants will thrive in which locations. Since 2011 Rebecca has been a volunteer Santa Clara County Master Gardener, and continues to improve her understanding of edible and waterwise landscaping, using ecologically sound methods.

This is an open meeting and it is not necessary to be a South Skyline Association member to attend. Children are welcome.
What Is Your SSA Board Doing?
By Michael Rowe and Larry Watson

Did you notice the dual authorship of this article? This newsletter is a transitional period for the SSA Presidency as Larry hands-off to me. Since I was unable to attend the February Board meeting, I was preliminarily elected President, to be confirmed at the March Board meeting. WOW, I guess I learned my lesson about missing Board meetings! Joking aside, Larry has been working overtime, fulfilling roles as both President and Web Committee Chairman, and asked if I’d help lighten the load by taking over as President for a year to allow him to have more time to work on our website update. Consequently, with Larry’s mentoring, Patti’s tutelage, and rest of the Board to guide me, I look forward to serving the SSA as President this year.

General Meeting

The January General Meeting was very well attended and all seemed to thoroughly enjoy the program presented by Ken Hickman, California naturalist, wildlife researcher, and camera trapper. The annual election was also held for new Board members and those whose 2-year terms were expiring.

SSA Board for 2014

The two new Board members are Lori Palazzolo and Barbara Bekins. Lori lives just north of Skylonda, and Barbara resides in the Rocky Creek area. We all appreciate their willingness to join the Board and serve our community.

The following Board members were re-elected for new 2-year terms: Connie Kleinjans, John Harriman, Marianne Rose, Ruth Waldhauer, Larry Watson, James Morris, and Michael Rowe.

At the February 13th meeting the Board elected, or re-elected, Patti Begley as Vice-President, John Harriman as Secretary, and Connie Kleinjans as Treasurer. Michael Rowe was elected President at the March 13 Board meeting (much to my surprise).

SouthSkyline.org Committee

The Board entered into a contract with Sonja London to move our website to a new platform, and add significant new features to support the organization and improve communications for our association. The new site should be available by the time you receive this newsletter – please check it out. Give the committee your feedback through the “Contact” form on the website.

Skyline Historical Society Book

The SSA board is discussing the budget for printing – we anticipate allocating $20,000 to $25,000 toward this project.

In the Neighborhood

Activities are still under way in establishing a memorial tree dedicated to former Board member and Treasurer, Bo Gimbal in Castle Rock Park. From the SSA Board, a sincere “Thank you” to all those who donated to the Sempervirens Fund in Bo’s honor to make this happen. SSA is also supporting the naming of a trail within the MROSD Russian Ridge Preserve for Bo. I anticipate updating you further in the next newsletter.

Please plan to attend our April general meeting at Fogarty Winery.
The long-awaited book on the history of our Skyline area is near completion. The laborious work of research has been completed, the manuscript has gone through professional copy-edit, layout and design, and final proof-reading corrections have been made. The beautiful cover design for our 328 page book and other final tasks are being completed as this newsletter goes to print.

Printers are being solicited for bids and once selected the book then goes to production. Those who have previewed the galleys have been very impressed with the results and anxiously look forward to seeing the completed book.

Obviously, the publication of a book on local history takes some time - it takes as long as it takes! However, I am sure you'll agree, the results will surely have been worth the wait! This is a book that will be read and read again, for entertainment, for education, and as a valued reference source.

To be sure you get your copy, and to help us to determine print numbers, advance orders are being taken now by emailing Ruth Waldhauer at: ruth_waldhauer@yahoo.com.

**Current Board Members**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Neighborhood</th>
<th>Board Responsibility</th>
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<tr>
<td>Patti Begley</td>
<td>Highway 9 - Santa Cruz County</td>
<td>Vice President, Membership/Communications Committee, Website Committee</td>
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<td>Barbara Bekins</td>
<td>Highway 35 - Rocky Creek</td>
<td>Public Safety &amp; Water</td>
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<td>Kim Hamilton</td>
<td>Highway 35 – Oakridge</td>
<td>Public Works</td>
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<td>John Harriman</td>
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<td>Secretary</td>
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<td>Eric Jewett</td>
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<td>Adopt-A-Highway Coordinator</td>
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<td>Connie Kleinjans</td>
<td>Highway 35 - Page Mill Road</td>
<td>Treasurer, Website Committee</td>
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<td>Larry Myers</td>
<td>Las Cumbres</td>
<td>Public Safety, SSEPO</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marianne Rose</td>
<td>Highway 35 - Long Ridge</td>
<td>Communications Committee, Website Committee</td>
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<td>Ruth Waldhauer</td>
<td>Portola Heights</td>
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<td>Larry Watson</td>
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<td>Michael Rowe</td>
<td>Highway 9 - Santa Cruz County</td>
<td>President</td>
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**Skyline History Book Progress—Where Are We Now?**

_by Chuck Schoppe, Skyline Historical Society_

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Mountain Neighbors Helping Neighbors Expands to the Skyline by Dick Schwind

‘Mountain Neighbors Helping Neighbors’ (MNHN) is an all-volunteer, nonprofit organization started a couple years ago for the Summit Road area. They have over 50 volunteers signed up to help their less fortunate neighbors. The MNHN Board was happy to extend their organization into our area and the South Skyline Association Board has endorsed this expansion. Volunteers offer their mountain neighbors who typically have mobility issues, with rides to town and non-professional help such as minor home help.

Patricia Wood and a few other concerned mountain friends from the Summit area (far side of Rte 17) started ‘Mountain Neighbors Helping Neighbors’. It works this way: she or an assistant visits the person seeking assistance to evaluate their needs and have them sign a liability release. When they indicate their need she sends out an email to the local volunteers and connects the volunteer to the person in need.

I have thought for some time that we should offer this kind of service in our SSA area. In talking to friends about a community help program I have found many are already helping a neighbor. That can eventually become a burden that could easily be relieved by this organization. We are fortunate the ‘Mountain Neighbors Helping Neighbors’ has done all the start-up work. We just need to show interest in the program by having a reasonable number of us sign up as volunteers. You decide when you want to help someone by responding to a request sent to all the volunteers in the general area.

Please help make this a successful program by taking action now! Apply to be a volunteer by going online to MNHN95033@gmail.com and downloading the application, or call Patricia Wood at 408-316-2938 and ask her to send it to you. Also, I will have them available at the upcoming Fogarty SSA meeting.

Adopt-A-Highway by Ruth Waldhauer

On Saturday, January 18th, Eric Jewett and Ruth Waldhauer were the volunteers who picked up litter from the southern area, and on Tuesday, January 21st, Armen Leonian, Lynn Gale and Ruth Waldhauer took care of the northern area of our Adopt-A-Highway. Sorry no pictures, I forgot my camera!

Saturday, March 8th, the sun shone on the volunteers as they did a meticulous clean-up. I remembered my camera this time and got a great picture of Eric Jewett, Armen Leonian, Bob Pai, Robert Bradford and Tiffany. Ami Jaqua and friends adopted a section of Skyline Boulevard from Rapley Ranch Road north to Old La Honda Road. Their effort is separate from SSA. Many thanks to them for keeping Skyline beautiful.

SSA volunteers are responsible for gathering litter every two months. The sweep takes about an hour and a half. So far there are over 150 names on the honor role listing those who participated. We love getting new recruits. Please volunteer once. You will find it rewarding and fun.

Contact Ruth Waldhauer at ruth.waldhauer3@gmail.com
With the move to daylight savings time, this is a good time to change the batteries in your smoke detectors. Our 3rd annual Pancake Breakfast will be on Sunday, May 25th from 8am – 11am at the Saratoga Summit Fire Station. We are looking forward to serving up mountains of pancakes, made from scratch! This is a great opportunity to meet our team, including some of our new volunteers, and to find out about our program. Also, James Morris SSA board member and Alain Pinel Realtor will donate his farm-fresh eggs for sale at the event—all proceeds will go towards The South Skyline Fire & Rescue. Follow our website for up to the minute details.

We are receiving many donations from the SSA annual membership drive. Thanks! We are always grateful for any donations. The South Skyline Volunteers is a 501(c)(3) non-profit. Our business address is: Saratoga Summit Station, 12900 Skyline Blvd. Los Gatos, 95033.

We currently have two new volunteers working their way through the Basic Volunteer Firefighter Academy. We’re looking forward to bringing back the Spotlight part of this column. 😊

We are already looking for candidates for 2015 Volunteer Academy. No prior experience is necessary as long as you’re over 18. Please contact us to learn more if you’re interested in joining the team -- use the contact form on our website, http://southskylinefire.org.

Midpen Open Space Vision Plan Approved: 54 Regional Projects from San Mateo Coast to Sierra Azul

Los Altos, Calif.—On January 29, in a packed multipurpose room at the Los Altos Community Center, the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District’s (Midpen) Board of Directors approved a 40-year Vision Plan to a round of spontaneous applause. The Vision Plan includes 54 projects, including a slate of 25 highest priority regional open space projects ranging from opening preserves and building trail connections to improving water quality, protecting the coastline, restoring forestlands, and creating wildlife corridors in an increasingly urbanized region.

President Cecily Harris observed that these projects, “do not replace Midpen’s ongoing work to manage, preserve and steward its 62,000 acres, but do reflect the public’s desire for accelerated restoration and access.” Members of the public who participated in the planning process strongly supported the continued preservation and protection of open space lands, including redwood forests, farmland and watershed areas. They also prioritized environmental stewardship and enhanced interpretive education. Many participants voiced a strong interest in opening preserves that are currently closed or where access is limited, such as La Honda Creek and Bear Creek Redwoods, and adding additional trails and connections throughout Midpen’s 26 preserves.

A complete list of the approved Vision Plan Priority Actions can be found at www.openspace.org/imagine.

“The first chapter in our agency’s history was to secure the Peninsula greenbelt—and while we will still purchase and protect open space—the public has told us for years that they want the lands restored and more opportunities for public use. The Vision Plan articulates those priorities in a clear and scientific way,” said Steve Abbors, General Manager.

Created by voter initiative in 1972, the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District has successfully protected more than 62,000 acres of open space. Midpen’s mission is to acquire and preserve a regional greenbelt of open space and agricultural land of regional significance in perpetuity, protect and restore the natural environment, and provide opportunities for ecologically-sensitive public enjoyment and education. Currently, Midpen protects 70 rare native species in 26 unique preserves with over 225 miles of publicly-accessible trails. Over a million visits are made to Midpen preserves annually.
Skyline Propane Users Group (SPUG) was formed to benefit SSA members. For information about joining, or for members wishing current information on the SPUG agreement, please contact Ruth Waldhauer at ruth.waldhauer3@gmail.com, or 650-948-1466. Information is also available on our website at www.SouthSkyline.org.

SSA has agreements with Amerigas, Kamps Propane, Suburban Propane, and FerrelGas.

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 every month. Our SPUG rate is based on a keep-full basis, not will-call service. Some propane companies offer members over 55 years of age or older a 2 cent/gallon discount in addition to the SPUG group price.

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

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*Prices shown per Gallon

Take a Hike—Fremont Older OSP by Ruth Waldhauer

Fremont Older was a crusading newspaperman, who some say was the most influential editor in the West. He lost his father and all his uncles in the Civil War. With only three years of schooling, he became a printer’s apprentice and moved to California in his teens. Taking Horace Greeley as his model, Older worked his way up from printer to editor of a Redwood City paper. He rejuvenated that paper using many of the tactics still employed by journalists today, including sensationalism, advice columns, and attention-grabbing headlines.

Cora Older designed the house, completed in 1914, with a flat roof and many pergolas, a departure from the prevailing style of the times. The house, in a state of disrepair when MROSD acquired the ranch in the 1975, was restored by a leaseholder and is now listed in the National Registry of Historic Places. Despite the drought, the gardens are still beautiful today. Woodhills is open for occasional house tours. Call MROSD for information on the tour schedule.

Enjoy a four mile hike at Fremont Older OSP and view the house and gardens as you conclude the hike.

From the trail head on Prospect Road follow the Cora Older Trail uphill and to the right. After about 100 feet, the single track trail switchbacks left, then winds uphill and crosses several culverts draining seasonal creeks. The landscape here alternates between open slopes and wooded canyons. Coast live oak and California bay preside over the woodlands, whereas chamise, coyote brush, toyon and California sagebrush dominate the open areas. Hollyleaf cherry and mountain mahogany, often found in chaparral are also nearby.

At about half a mile you meet the Seven Springs Trail. Turn right on this single track trail. With a ravine holding a seasonal creek on your left, you cross a firebreak and then suddenly enter a cool and shady forest. Here, California buckeye, and western chokecherry join coast live...Continued on Page 12
Crimson Columbine Hangs Around South Skyline Trails

By Sarah Schoen

The red and yellow flowers of crimson columbine (Aquilegia formosa) are a welcome sight along the trail. They’re often noticed when a spotlight of sun makes its way through the wooded canopy to the forest floor below.

The plants are herbaceous and perennial, growing 1 to 4’ tall. Leaves are lacy and compound. The 2 or 3 leaflets are cleft and lobed with rounded teeth. Stems are slender, with nodding flowers on the ends. Many parts of the plant are toxic, containing cyanogenic glycosides.

Flowers are unusual, with red sepalas reaching outward in the middle and yellow tubular petals below, hanging down. These yellow petals reach up to end in spurred, red nectaries at the top. Five styles and many yellow stamens hang down below the yellow petals. The flowers bloom from April to July. Tiny seeds ripen August to September.

The flower’s shape and very long tubular petals and nectaries are attractive to flying pollinators with long tongues. These include hummingbirds, which are also attracted to the red color, and butterflies. Bees cannot make it past a narrow restriction to get to the nectar. However some bees “cheat” by chewing a hole and collecting the nectar from the outside, while bypassing pollination. Some other species of columbine found outside our area have short, blue nectaries attractive to bees. The genus Aquilegia is thought to be in a recent and rapid state of speciation as different flowers evolve to specialize in different pollinators. Once the different plants no longer use the same pollinators the flowers will not cross with each other, becoming separate species.

Crimson columbine is in the buttercup family, Ranunculaceae. The genus, Aquilegia is from Latin for water drawing (aqua + lego), for their love of moist locations, or from aquila, Latin for eagle, as the tubular petals are reminiscent of eagle talons. Formosa means beautiful or finely-formed. Columbine is from the Latin for dove, as some other columbine species resemble a dove in flight or because the erect nectaries look like doves standing in a circle, waiting for a drink.

Crimson columbine is found from Alaska, south into Baja California, and west into Montana and Wyoming. It prefers moist locations such as stream banks, seeps, and forest margins in partial to full shade.

Thank You SOD Blitz volunteers for the 4th year in joining the invasive species survey, known as the SOD Blitz. Led by citizen scientists Dr. Matteo Garbelotto and Doug Schmidt of UC Berkeley, volunteers attended an April 12th training session hosted by the Saratoga Summit Fire Station. Volunteers were taught how to collect samples of bay laurel leaves which are tested for Phytophthora ramorum, a water mold not native to California that infects several species of oak via the bark and girdles the trees.

The benefit of the annual sampling is that the data collected tracks disease behavior which can in turn provide clues on control methods. It has already resulted in real management recommendations on lowering infection risk. Progress has been rapid due to in part to participation of volunteers in well over 15 Bay Area communities. Keep up the great work!

For more information on the Annual SOD Blitz contact Jane Manning at skyline_sod@yahoo.com.
On March 18 the Mountain Terrace Restaurant was filled with mountain residents concerned about the drought. The two-hour program featured Glenn Reynolds, President of H2O Solutions, who spoke about California water issues and then answered questions. The program was arranged by Karen Bird and Scott Hayes of Alain Pinel Realtors (http://birdhayes.com/), to address residents’ concerns about living with a private water supply. A number of SSA members were present including outgoing Board president Larry Watson.

During the question session, Larry asked for a show of hands from those with private wells (nearly all present ~100) and also asked if anyone’s well has gone dry (~4 hands). The speaker advised those concerned about their wells to begin monitoring water levels regularly. His suggested method involves installing an air-filled tube that extends below the water level. To measure the water level, air is pumped down the line where it vents into the water. The pressure required to vent the air is equivalent to the overlying water pressure. This pressure can then be converted to feet of water above the tube. Instructions for installing this type of system can be found on the web. There are several sites but here is one http://il.water.usgs.gov/pubs/ofr01-50_chapter4_4.pdf.

A number of SSA members have measured their wells for many years. Below is a record provided by Steve Wolf who lived near Grizzly Flat from 1975-2001. Shown are plots of depth to water in his well and rainfall at his house from 1975-2001. Water depth is on the left axis and ranges from 55 to 142 feet. Note that lower depths to water mean there was more water in the well, corresponding to a higher groundwater level in the aquifer. Although Steve made many measurements, the plot below includes just the lowest and highest depths measured each year. Water depths in the well fluctuate annually with the greatest depths in the fall and lowest depths in the spring. The average overall depth to water was 103 feet. The lowest depth of 55 feet occurred at end of the 1983 rainy season when Steve measured 91 inches of rain at his house. At the end of the 1977 drought his groundwater level had dropped to a depth of 121 feet. It may be relevant to our current drought worries to compare his 1977 value to his average low depth from 1975-1989, which was 113 feet. In the late 1980’s the depth to water again exceeded 120 feet as a result of the low rainfall from 1987-1989. Note that after 1989 measured water depths were greater than ever before, in spite of increasing amounts of rain from 1991 onward. These low groundwater water levels resulted from a change in aquifer properties caused by the 1989 Loma Prieta Earthquake. But that is another story for a future article.

This article is the start of what I hope will be regular features on water. I am interested in compiling well levels during the drought, so if you monitor the water levels in your well drop me an e-mail.

Barbara Bekins
barbara.bekins@gmail.com
South Skyline Fire & Rescue 3rd Annual Pancake Breakfast  Sunday, May 25th from 8am – 11am at the Saratoga Summit Fire Station.

SSFSC Free Chipping Day!
The South Skyline FireSafe Council (SSFSC) will be sponsoring a FREE Defensible Space chipping day on or about May 1, 2014. The chippers will be hired and paid by SSFSC, and this program is only available to those homeowners who live within the SSFSC boundaries (see http://www.southskylinefiresafe.org/firesafe-boundary-map). This offer is only for defensible space clearing, as required by state law, no new construction, timber harvests or other fuels reduction projects, please. More information on Defensible Space Clearing can be found on our website - http://www.southskylinefiresafe.org/creating-your-defensible-space. Your chipping piles must be completed and your application must be submitted by April 15, 2014. One of our volunteers will then inspect your piles, have contractors provide quotes and arrange for the chipping to be done.

Application forms are being stuffed in the local mail boxes in early March, or are available on our website http://www.southskylinefiresafe.org.

If you miss this FREE chipping day, SSFSC also offers a partial reimbursement program for other times of the year. Our complete Defensible Space Chipping policy and application forms are available on our website. Please use the same application form for either option (Free chipping day on May 1 or Partial Reimbursement later in the year). Funding for this program is provided by The South Skyline FireSafe Council with financial support by the South Skyline Association (SSA), The Mid-Peninsula Regional Open Space District (MROSD), and many local resident donations.

SSFSC is also now offering a partial reimbursement program for Fuels Reduction clearing on private roads (3 or more homes). I would be happy to e-mail that policy and application form to Road Managers or other key people as well. They will be also available on our website. Partial funding for this program is provided by a donation from Pacific Gas and Electric Company along with the SSA and MROSD.

Daniels Nature Center at Skyline Open Space Preserve celebrates its seasonal opening:

Free family-friendly nature activities for kids of all ages
Los Altos, Calif.—The Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District marks the seasonal opening of its David C. Daniels Nature Center with a celebration for all including creative exhibits, nearby nature hikes, refreshments, audio tours and fun for the whole family. The Nature Center is free and open from noon to 5:00 pm on weekends beginning April 5 to mid-November. The center’s operating hours adjust in the fall.

The Daniels Nature Center, overlooking Alpine Pond in the Skyline Ridge Open Space Preserve, helps people of all ages connect with nature. Volunteer staff and hands-on interpretive displays teach visitors about the plants and animals living in the surrounding natural environment. Visitors can also meet Twix, the District’s gopher snake and explore nearby hiking trails. Built in 1995, the Center was partially funded through the generosity of the Peninsula Open Space Trust and the Judy and David Daniels family in memory of their son, David C. Daniels.

Portola Valley & Woodside Farmers' Markets (3 locations!)

Wednesdays 3-7pm  The Mountain Goat Farmers' Market in front of Skywood Trading Post, 17285 Skyline Blvd, Woodside

Thursdays 3-7pm  Portola Valley Farmers' Market in front of the historic schoolhouse at town center

Sundays 10 - 2pm  Woodside Farmers' Market at Woodside Elementary School.
As many of you know, the Portola and Castle Rock Foundation, in partnership with Peninsula Open Space Trust, Save the Redwoods League, and Sempervirens Fund, saved both parks from closure in late 2011. While the parks are not closed, there is still a fragility with respect to their funding by the state. The goal is to find and make work a more sustainable model in order to support them within the next 2 years (the state extension for keeping Portola Redwoods State Park open).

Until the park closure crisis of 2011, the Foundation, a 501 (c) (3) tax exempt charity, chiefly supported the interpretive agenda at both parks and raised funds by operating the merchandise sales at the Portola Redwoods State Park Visitor Center. In addition to increasing activity focus on the Foundation’s core charter of supporting the interpretive messaging in both parks, the Foundation is working to improve their physical infrastructure. The Foundation will finance these investments from internally generated funds, increased emphasis on grants, focused fund raising efforts, membership drives, and the generosity of the Donor partners – Save the Redwoods League, Peninsula Open Space Trust and Sempervirens Fund.

The projects completed in 2013 include:
Training 21 volunteers for trail watch, which includes reporting trail issues and interfacing with the public on nature education and helping them navigate the trail system, and interfacing with campers in the campground to improve the visitor experience and safety in both parks

- Building a campground host site ($42k) that also is ADA compliant in Portola Redwoods SP (PRSP)
- Removing a derelict house in Castle Rock (CRSP) that was asbestos ridden
- Finding a potential partner to help with the tire dumping problem in CRSP

The projects which are scheduled for 2014 are below and will 1) enhance the visitor experience, 2) make it safer for visitors, and 3) bring in more revenue for the parks:

- Training additional volunteers to increase the number to a goal of at least 40 ($6500 – funded). Training dates: 3/15, 3/22, 3/29, 4/5
- Rebuilding Ramada structure (contractor estimate: $193,000 out of which $113k is still needed). The previous structure had to be removed for safety reasons. This will enable the park to generate more revenue from visitor events which rent it out for the day.
- Upgrading Campfire Center (contractor estimate: $150,000 out of which $75k of donor funding is still needed) Campfires allow Parks to achieve their educational objectives while visitors enjoy the campfire. The upgrade includes replacing the redwood seating (many of which are broken and tied together), upgrade for ADA access, bring audio visual equipment up to current standard and improve safety through lighting upgrades. Currently the interpretive specialist is just hooking stuff together barely to make the sound system and projection capability work for the programs.
- Overhauling the Wastewater system (Consultant estimate based upon upgrade recommendations: $525,000)
The wastewater system in Portola Redwoods State Park dates to the 1940’s and has been near failure for several years. The system is degraded and wastes a considerable amount of water due to system inefficiencies. A failure could spill sewage into Pescadero Creek, damaging the sensitive wildlife environment and could mean closure of the park and has been a real threat to efforts to improve this park. California State Dept of Parks and Recreation has committed to funding and completing the project in 2014.

- Cabins (Estimate: $272,000)
There are many park visitors who would enjoy an overnight experience among the Redwoods but are less interested in tent camping. To access these non-traditional user groups, many public and private camping areas are expanding through the rental of cabins with resulting high occupancy and increased revenues. Our Business Plan proposes conversion of the Point Group Camp area into a circle of six cabins, two of which would be ADA compliant.

Foundations members are needed. The Foundation is starting a membership drive from which to derive future volunteers and Board Directors as well as help with funding park projects. If you are interested in becoming a member, please visit http://www.portolaandcastlerockfound.org/become-a-member/.

If you are interested in donating http://www.portolaandcastlerockfound.org/donate/ or volunteering http://www.portolaandcastlerockfound.org/volunteer/, you can find more information at the site.

More information on the 2 parks can be found at the Foundation website: http://www.portolaandcastlerockfound.org and at facebook: Save Portola Redwoods and Castle Rock State Parks.
South Skyline Women Walk 39.3 Miles in Avon Walk for Breast Cancer by Frances Mann-Craik

Last year we lost one very special mountain man, Bo Gimbal, to cancer. Another dear neighbor Betsy Kunselman also had been diagnosed with cancer and fought for her life to overcome her breast cancer. These two, and other close-to-home cancer battles, inspired Maggie Yule and I, both Skyline Women to fully embrace life.

In 2013, Maggie and I each walked 39.3 miles, in two days, in the Avon Walk for Breast Cancer. We are walking again this year and invite you to JOIN us in this “walk for life.”

If you can’t walk with us, you can help by sponsoring us – every dollar helps. Together we are making progress with the goal of some day beating cancer.

Here’s our story from 2013.

We, the San Francisco Walkers in the Avon Walk for Breast Cancer, walked a marathon and a half on a bright Saturday and Sunday in September 2013. 2000 women and men -- walkers and crew -- worked with one heart beating for the same cause. Collectively, we raised $4.2 million for women and men in the San Francisco Bay Area, in the fight against breast cancer.

My colleague and friend, Nancy, suddenly passed away from cancer at age 45 in January 2013. A few days later I heard that my friend Betsy, just down Skyline Blvd, had been diagnosed with breast cancer. Then our dearest Bo passed away from cancer.

I had to DO something. Something meaningful. Something important. Something hard that required ME to really work hard. The Avon Walk is all of these things. I thought it would be hard to raise the $1800 of donations required to be in the walk, but that was much easier when compared to cancer-fighting surgery, chemo, and radiation.

The support from the crew and the community was heart warming. I’ll never think of the San Jose police the same way. They rode their bicycles in pink tutus to keep us safe and laughing during our journey. The “Hookers for Hooters” cheered us on as did “The Dudes for Boobs.” The San Francisco Children’s group sang cheers. Little children held out bowls of candy for us and gave us Mardi Gras beads. People hung pink flags in their windows and tooted their horns as we walked by.

I was, and am again, touched to tears by the sign one woman wore on her back, “I’d walk 1000 miles to walk just 1 more mile with my Mom.”

Maggie and I are committed to walking again this year with our new sisters and brothers, walking for the moms the dads the brothers the sisters the daughters the sons who are affected by this disease. We must find a cure.

It was hard, really hard, to walk 26.2 miles in one day. It was harder still to get up on day two and walk 13.1 miles more. Yes, it was hard, but the reward was much more than a match to the difficulty. We did it. We raised over 4 million dollars to help people with breast cancer, to support free mammograms for early detection, to support research. We did it and we survived. It was hard, but nothing,
Continued... Take a Hike

oak with an understory of blue
witch, ocean spray, manroot, and
poison oak. Soon the ravine widens
to a valley, whose north-facing
slope holds the remnants of an or-
chard. Winding your way downhill,
you pass stands of walnut trees and
then meander through a brushy ar-
ea of willows, berry vines, and dog-
wood. The trail turns left, crosses a
culvert draining the seasonal creek,
and then reaches a four-way junc-
tion.

Take Seven Springs Trail which con-
tinues across the junction and then
angles right.

Now climbing on a
gentle grade, you pass a few tall
eucalyptus trees and more wal-
uts. Veering off the ridge top,
you cross a firebreak and then find
shade, welcome on a warm day in a
grove of coast live oaks. Entering
another firebreak, you traverse a
scrubby hillside dotted with old
apricot trees and then climb moder-
ately toward Hunters Point, one of
the preserve’s high points.

A level stretch and then a gentle
descent brings you to two junc-
tions. At the first, a fork, you bear
left. At the second, where a con-
necter to Ranch Road joins from the
left, you continue straight. The
steep hillside, left, is home to sever-
al large valley oaks. Hugging the
east side of the hill beneath Hunters
Point, which is decorated with sticky
monkeyflower and yerba santa,
your trail soon merges with Ranch
Road, coming sharply from the
left. Now you bear right and just
ahead meet the Hayfields Trail, a
dirt road winding its way up-
hill. Turning right, you soon come
to a fork, where the Woodhills Trail
goes left. Veer right and, after
about 100 feet, you find yourself at
Hunters Point.

The sweeping 360 degree views
from this fine vantage point take in
San Jose, the Santa Clara Valley, Mt.
Hamilton, Mt. Umunhum, and most
of the southern end of San Francis-
co Bay, the East Bay hills, and Mt.
Diablo. On a clear day you can even
see Mt. Tamalpais and the San Fran-
cisco skyline. After enjoying the su-
perb scene, retrace your steps to the
junction with Hayfields Trail. After 0.4 miles take the
Creekside Trail to view the
“Woodhills”, the house and gardens
of Cora and Fremont Older.

Return to the parking lot via the

Travel Directions

From Hwy 85: The preserve en-
trance is on Prospect Road in Cuper-
tino. Exit Hwy 85 at De Anza Boule-
vard. (From northbound 85 turn
left on De Anza, and from south-
bound 85 turn right on DeAn-
za.) Travel on De Anza Boulevard
towards the mountains, about 0.5
miles. Turn right on Prospect
Road. At the first stop sign, turn left
and cross the railroad tracks to re-
main on Prospect Road. Follow Pro-
spect Road for 1.3 miles, turning left
after the Saratoga Country Club,
until the preserve parking lot is
reached.

From Skyline: Take Hwy 9 for 7
miles to Saratoga. Turn left at the
light on Saratoga- Sunnyvale, then
left on Prospect Road. At the first
stop sign, turn left and cross the
railroad tracks to remain on Pro-
spect Road. Follow Prospect Road
for 1.3 miles, turning left after the
Saratoga Country Club, until the
preserve parking lot is reached.

Upcoming 2014 Ham Licensing Class

The SC4ARC will be sponsoring a two day class on May 3 and 4, from 9:00 to 4:30 both days and will be held at
the Las Cumbres Community Center. There will be an exam held the following Saturday, and another exam is
available on May 17th.

The class fee of $25 includes text book and all materials. There is a separate $15 fee charged by the examiners at
the time of the test. You can visit www.sc4arc.org to download the registration form and mail it in before April
19. If you have any questions, use the contact form (on the website) to reach the “Radio Officer” or phone Peter
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Correction Notice by Larry Watson: I wrote the article in the last Skylines, ‘South Skyline FireSafe Council’s Five Years of Accomplishments’, – It was not written by Ken MacLean. I regret this happened. The article is correct, except Ken has resigned as President due to his work load and plans to continue and serve on the board of the SSFSC.

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SSA Calendar-General Meeting –
Friday, April 27, 2014 at 7:00pm.
Fogerty Winery.

Business meetings on Thursdays at
7:30pm on May 8, June 12, July 10

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