SOUTH SKYLINE ASSOCIATION GENERAL MEETING

PLACE: Thomas Fogarty Winery 19501 Skyline Boulevard
2.7 miles north of Page Mill Rd., across from Rapley Ranch Rd.

DATE: Thursday, April 30, 2015 at 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm
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 and honey tasting.
Please note that this meeting will be on a Thursday, rather than the usual Friday.

TOPIC: THE BUZZ ABOUT BEES
Presenter: Art Hall, Beekeeper and Bee Rescuer

Our speaker tonight will discuss the life cycle of honey bees and the structure of a typical bee colony. Also, he will discuss how one can support bees in open spaces and gardens, and what kinds of bees live in our area. Finally, he will talk about how he rescues bees from residential, natural, and industrial settings, as well as the relocation process involved.

Art Hall grew up on a farm, as well as other rural settings, and has worked around bees all his life. After building houses and owning a design company, he then worked for Fortune 500 companies in international operations. Later, he began to focus on honey bee rescue after the start of Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD). There are some beekeepers who rescue bees as a hobby. Art’s life has always been slightly upside down: he is the only beekeeper in the Bay Area who rescues bees as his fulltime job and only keeps a few hives as a sideline hobby for his beekeeping classes and, of course, HONEY! He is a member of the Santa Clara County, San Mateo County, Gilroy, and San Francisco beekeepers guilds. In addition to multiple television appearances, he has spoken to over 50 groups in Northern California. He honed his public speaking skills by presenting to groups as large as 1,000. However, if you ever sit next to him on an airplane, he will talk to you 1:1 about honey bees for the entire flight.

As a special treat for today’s event, Art will be bringing a live observation hive, have honey tasting, and will also make a limited supply of honey available for sales.

Art is knowledgeable about bees in the Santa Cruz mountains. If you have topics or questions you would like discussed, please send them to Art a week before the meeting at artshoney@gmail.com

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WHAT IS YOUR SOUTH SKYLINE ASSOCIATION BOARD DOING?

Michael Rowe, President

General Meeting

The January meeting was very well attended and all seemed to thoroughly enjoy the program. The program on “Climate Change in the Santa Cruz Mountains” was presented by Dr. Stuart Weiss, Chief Scientist, Creekside Center for Earth Observation. Attendees learned about the latest climate model projections and how flora in our community can be expected respond to increasingly warmer and drier conditions.

Speaking of General Meetings, I hope many of you can join us for the next meeting on April 30th, hosted by Fogarty Winery – local bee expert, Art Hall, will be speaking about the variety of bees in the Santa Cruz Mountains, including wild and domestic honey bees. Mark your calendars and join your neighbors for a fun and educational evening. (See front page.)

SSA Board for 2015

Also at the January General Meeting, the annual SSA Board election was held for new Board members and those whose 2-year terms were expiring. I’m happy to introduce Debra Born as our newest board member, replacing long-term board member Larry Meyers. We are still looking for another person to join the board to replace Kim Hamilton. Please consider joining us on the board if you can spare approximately 2 hours per month for the monthly board meeting (actually it is a bit less than that, since we do not end up meeting every month) – if you would like to know more, feel free to contact me or join us for our next board meeting on April 9th (meetings are held on the second Thursday of every month).

On a final note regarding the board, we approved a mild reorganization of the board committees at our March meeting. A full organization chart will appear on the SSA website soon, but as a teaser here are the new committees:

- Executive Committee
- Communications Committee
- Membership Committee
- Community Outreach Committee
- Community Safety & Infrastructure

SouthSkyline.org Committee

Our website has evolved greatly over the past year and Larry Watson continues to lead the effort to get us modernized and add useful features on our website. If you haven’t visited the website recently, please check it out and provide us your feedback. Soon, we hope to roll out the option for online membership renewals… stay tuned for the official announcement.

In the Neighborhood

As of March, approximately 1,300 households have renewed/joined the SSA! We anticipate another couple hundred renewals over the coming months. So what does the SSA do with the revenue from your membership fees? Among the important line items in our budget, I’m happy to report that the board has again approved a $5,000 donation to South Skyline Fire and Rescue for 2015. Also, we’ve approved increasing the Firesafe Council matching donation from $3,000 to $5,000 this year. In short, your membership fees get funneled back into the community and a big part of our mission is increasing safety.

In other news, we are still working out strategies for dealing with the problem of late night racing and reckless driving along Skyline Blvd and Highway 9. Please report any incidents involving racing or drifting to ssa.road.reports@gmail.com. Similarly, we are still investigating how to work with the proper authorities to remove abandoned vehicles along the roadside and in State Park properties.

THE SOUTH SKYLINE STORY

Janet Schwind, Skyline Historical Society

Our book, *The South Skyline Story* is selling well. A small group of local yokels produced a book about our great community’s history. Included are family photos and stories, transcribed tapes, interviews, and lots of research. The book can be purchased at Alice’s Restaurant and from Skyline Historical Society President Chuck Schoppe, email: chuck_sch@hotmail.com or phone: 408-867-9229 Your cost: $27.01 including tax plus $6.10 shipping priority mail.
CURRENT SSA BOARD MEMBERS

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<th>Current Board Members</th>
<th>Neighborhood</th>
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<tr>
<td>Dave Anderson</td>
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<td>Kristin Anderson</td>
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<td>Treasurer</td>
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<td>Patti Begley</td>
<td>Highway 9 - Santa Cruz County</td>
<td>Vice President, Communications Committee, Website Committee</td>
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<td>Barbara Bekins</td>
<td>Highway 35 - Rocky Creek</td>
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<td>Debra Born</td>
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<td>Kim Hamilton</td>
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<td>John Harriman</td>
<td>Las Cumbres</td>
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<td>Marianne Rose</td>
<td>Highway 35 - Long Ridge</td>
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<td>Ruth Waldhauer</td>
<td>Portola Heights</td>
<td>Membership/Communications Committee, SPUG, Website Committee</td>
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<td>Larry Watson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Michael Rowe</td>
<td>Highway 9 - Santa Cruz County</td>
<td>President</td>
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SUDDEN OAK DEATH BLITZ LOCAL TRAINING EVENT

It is Sudden Oak Death blitz time for the Skyline/La Honda/95033 area. This is our 5th year and the 7th year for this nationally-recognized UC Berkeley research project on this devastating invasive water mold.

When: April 25, Saturday at 1 PM

Where: Saratoga Summit CDF fire station (on Skyline Blvd about 1 mi N of Hwy 9 and Skyline crossing).

If you’ve never done the SOD blitz, you’re missing out! If you have participated before, consider re-sampling your previously marked trees—faster and easier (use sodblitz.org to access your prior results)!

It is about 1-1/4 hour training session, which is mandatory in order to ensure that everyone collects in the same fashion. Sampling packets and instructions on how to collect samples in our area are provided. Free and snacks!

Don’t miss this opportunity to learn how to identify the disease plus treatment options, help monitor our ecosystem, and get outside to inspect your local area.

For more info about our local meeting, email skyline_sod@yahoo.com and for more info about SOD go to sodblitz.org.
DEDICATION OF THE
BO GIMBAL TREE
Ann Waldhauer

On March 15, 2015 a group of friends and family of Bo Gimbal hiked to a very large redwood tree in Castle Rock State Park that is now dedicated to his memory. Bo was a South Skyline neighbor who spent many years as a volunteer planning and building trails in the parks and open space preserves in the South Skyline region. In addition, he served as a board member and treasurer of South Skyline Association providing SSA with its statement of purpose. He was soft spoken and powerful. He passed away in May 2013 after a long and productive life.

This tree was dedicated to Bo thanks to contributions to Sempervirens Fund from many friends, neighbors, and Skylines readers. It took 11 of us to circle the tree, making it about 50 feet in circumference or about 16 feet in diameter. It’s almost big enough to match our esteem for Bo.
NIGHT STREET RACING INCIDENT REPORTS ARE NEEDED

Patti Begley

In June 2014 the SSA Board met with CHP departments and CA State Parks representatives to discuss the late night racing and drifting performed on our roads, parking areas, turnouts, and intersections. We were told that due to limited resources, changes in patrolling can only happen if we provide a good log of incidents (day/time/place) that the authorities can use to justify the need for increasing patrols on targeted that will result in the most effective outcome.

Most of this activity seems to occur after 10:00 pm on Friday and Saturday nights, although it is not limited to the weekend. They often arrive in groups, and are usually driving sports cars. Even though these activities seem to be increasing, we have received very few incident reports from residents. We will get no help from law enforcement unless we can show a pattern of activity. This is especially important for nighttime racing, as the daytime weekend activity is being patrolled.

These are the types of activities that have been observed and would be of interest to the CHP:

• Groups of cars gathering in the parking lots and intersections after sunset.
• Racing down Highway 9 or Skyline (sometimes taking up both lanes).
• Drifting (doing doughnuts) in parking areas and turnouts.
• The noise of several cars racing and/or speeding throughout the night and early morning hours.

One helpful method would be to keep a running log of noise and eye witness descriptions. Aggregate the information (as opposed to sending email daily) to the email address below. Any reports of incidents will help to get the attention of law enforcement and prevent a tragic accident. The email address is ssa.road.reports@gmail.com.

EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

Lisa Short Chupity

This winter has been a busy one in the Emergency Communications/Ham Radio world. ARRL/ARES has appointed Linda Bennett (Alpine area) as the Coastside District Emergency Coordinator. She, in turn, has appointed Robert Smith (Skylonda area) as Assistant District Emergency Coordinator, Jeneen Sommers of Loma Mar as the SC4ARES Emergency Coordinator, and Pat O’Coffee (South Skyline area) as the South Skyline Emergency Coordinator.

All of these local ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service) Emergency Coordinators, local volunteer Ham radio operators, and other agencies, like Large Animal Evacuation, are all part of the new Coastside Emergency Corps, headed by Nicholas Gottuso, with the San Mateo County Sheriff, San Mateo County OES (Office of Emergency Services), and Department of Homeland Security. Nick has divided the coastside into three branches which extend to Skyline: #1 covers from the Tom Lantos Tunnels down to Frenchman’s Creek Rd. #2 covers from Frenchman’s Creek Rd. to Tunitas Creek Rd. #3 covers from Tunitas Creek Rd. to the Santa Cruz County line.

VERY STRINGENT WOOD STOVE/FIREPLACE REQUIREMENTS COMING?

Dick Schwind

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District (nine counties including San Mateo and Santa Clara, but not Santa Cruz) is conducting hearings on their proposed new wood burning restrictions. At the conclusion of these hearings the board will presumably proceed to pass these regulations. The number of No-Wood-Burning Spare the Air Days will be increased and the exemption for wood stoves (and presumably wood burning inserts into fireplaces) being the only source of heat will become much more restricted. Allowable particle emissions from new wood stoves are being greatly reduced. The district may establish a registration for all homeowners claiming their wood burning unit their only source of heat, and visible emissions from wood burning devices during the first 20 minutes of operation will be more restricted. When a home is sold, uncertified wood burning devices must be replaced with gas or electric heating devices. The planned effective date is this November 1.

For more detail go to the Bay Area Air Quality Management District web site and look for the announcement ‘Proposed Amendments to Regulation6, Rule 3: Wood-Burning Devices’. http://www.baaqmd.gov/?sc_itemid=156191E5-F112-4633-935E-FE9B58272325
2015 SPRING FREE CHIPPING PROGRAM
MAY 4TH & 5TH

SOUTH SKYLINE FIRE SAFE COUNCIL IS OFFERING FREE BRUSH CHIPPING FOR DEFENSIBLE FIRE SAFE CLEARING AND FUEL REDUCTION AROUND INDIVIDUAL HOMEOWNERS’ PROPERTY.

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<th>GENERAL</th>
<th>Home must exist within the SSFSC Boundaries</th>
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<tr>
<td>ELIGIBILITY</td>
<td>Brush piles must be orderly and within proximity of good access for chipper</td>
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<tr>
<td>REQUIREMENTS:</td>
<td>Brush piles must be available for inspection one week in advance of chipping date</td>
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<td>Chipping is for existing homes only, No new construction or area clearing</td>
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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE: [www.southskylinefiresafe.org](http://www.southskylinefiresafe.org)

APPLICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED NO LATER THAN APRIL 22ND.
FOR APPLICATIONS AND POLICY RULES PLEASE CONTACT ED HAYES
EMAIL: edhayes@wildblue.net  PHONE: 408-872-1715

SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY ON SOUTH SKYLINE
The Ferrells

My wife and I live at the very southern end of Skyline Blvd, just north of Bear Creek Rd. We wanted to get the word out to our neighbors about a very suspicious incident that happened on Wednesday, 3/11/15, at about 2:15pm at our house.

I was at work and my wife was home alone. At around 2pm she came upstairs and entered her office which has several large windows. She saw movement out of the corner of her eye and saw that there was a man walking slowly from the rear of the house along the north side yard. He was looking toward the downstairs windows and was only about ten feet from the house.

She knocked on the window and yelled from inside “Hey, what are you doing here!?”. The man stopped and looked up at her for a couple of seconds then continued to move at a casual pace to the front of our house. My wife moved to the dining area to continue observing the man. As he was in front of our garage he looked back at her one more time then proceeded uphill and into the woods towards Skyline. She heard no sounds of a vehicle after the man left the area. Apparently he was on foot.

The man kept both hands in his pockets the entire time. He wore dark pants, a black long sleeved knit shirt, a dark boonie hat with a brim, and had a solid black bandana covering his lower face. Only his eyes were visible. They were dark brown and the small area around his eyes was brown or very tanned. He had a tan camo military style backpack which appeared to be mostly empty. He had a thin build and was about six feet tall. He showed no fear during the encounter.

Our house sits back from the road and is not easily visible. Our driveway is about 600 feet long. Our lot is large and wooded with very rugged terrain that drops down into Connely Gulch. No one would accidentally find themselves in our back yard.

We filed a report with the Santa Cruz County Sheriff’s office and a deputy came out to talk to my wife and have a look around. If anyone has a similar encounter or sees someone matching this description, please contact the Sheriff and spread the word to your neighbors.
TALL MEADOW-RUE DESERVES A CLOSER LOOK
Sarah Schoen

Tall meadow-rue (Thalictrum fendleri var. polycarpum) is an herbaceous perennial, dormant in fall and most of winter. The bright green leaves first emerge in late winter to early spring (Thalictrum means to grow green or flourish). The green leaves are doubly compound, divided into groups of three. They are reminiscent of columbine leaves; both plants are members of the buttercup family, Ranunculaceae. Stems emerge after the leaves, and the graceful plants grow 3 to 5 feet tall.

Meadow-rue of this species is dioecious – with male and female flowers on separate plants. Wind-pollinated, the flowers have no petals. There is no need to attract insect pollinators. Both male and female flowers grow in panicles, branched clusters that mature from the bottom up. They have a saucer-shaped base of sepals, green to purple. Male flowers look like umbrellas, with many showy, dangling yellow anthers below. Female flowers look like tiny sea urchins, with many green to purple stigmas. The flowers bloom from March to May.

Seeds are in achenes, with seven to twenty fruits per female flower. Polycarpum means many fruited. In this variety fruits are compressed only near the margins, and are 1-ribbed, with several wavy, netlike veins.

Like many members of the buttercup family, the plant (at least the stem in this case) is considered to be poisonous. Mendocino Indians used the root as a general charm and panacea. Yuki Indians applied a poultice of the pounded plant to sprains.

Tall meadow-rue is found in moist locations from western Oregon south through California and east to Utah. In the Santa Cruz Mountains, it is more common on the eastern than western slopes. The plant is named after the old world common rue (Ruta) or herb-of-grace, whose leaves it also resembles.
DEFENSIBLE SPACE CONFUSION
Dick Schwind, VP, South Skyline FireSafe Council

In the South Skyline Association area outside of the Woodside Fire Protection District, Cal Fire is responsible for fighting our wildland fires. This is mandated by California law to protect our forests, woodlands, chaparral, and resulting water resources. If you are being billed roughly $100 - $150 for your residence by the state for the SRA (State Responsibility Area) fire prevention fee you are in this Cal Fire area. Hopefully, we all know the required 100 foot defensible space required around our inhabited structures. The first 30 feet is to be groomed to have minimum burnable material. The next 70 feet is to have thinned out bushes and trees, the bushes trimmed and the trees limbed up. See the South Skyline FireSafe Council website www.southskylinefiresafecouncil.com for an on-line ‘Living with Fire’ booklet with the details. You probably have been visited by Cal Fire to inspect your clearances and may have at some point received a legal notice from them ordering you to improve your defensible space.

However, if you are a resident in Santa Clara County along Skyline Blvd and down feeder roads you have received an annual mailing from the Santa Clara County Fire Department. It urges you to maintain your defensible space and claims it is only 30 feet from your structure! I have discussed this discrepancy with them and they claim some justification for their 30 feet. Unless you are certain your home is ‘bulletproof’ to the radiation load from a large wildland fire sweeping over your home and are willing to go against Cal Fire, be sure to stick to the state mandated 100 foot clearance!

SSFSC RESUMES HOME WILDFIRE INSPECTIONS
Dick Schwind, VP, SSFSC

For several years the South Skyline FireSafe Council has offered free inspections advising you how to improve the resistance of your home to a major wildfire. George Johnson and I did these inspections. Early last year George learned of his cancer and he lost the battle several months later. This created a lull in the program but I am now restarting the effort. The inspection, all on the home exterior and its surroundings, is done with the homeowner and takes most of an hour. This is much more detailed than a Cal Fire inspection. You will receive a written, confidential report. Call me, 408-867-9422, or email me, schwindr@yahoo.com to sign up. Also, please re-apply if you requested an inspection that was not done. Thank you.

YOUR BUSY FIRESAFE COUNCIL
Dick Schwind, VP, SSFSC

The South Skyline FireSafe Council (SSFSC) is busy with three current projects:

1. Portola Heights roads - Led by our volunteers Mark Haynie and Bill Guenther, CCC teams of youth have completed several weeks of clearing and chipping, establishing shaded fuel firebreaks on several roads.

2. Lower Kings Creek Truck Trail: The upper four miles of the Kings Creek Truck Trail (KCTT) connects Skyline Blvd at Castle Rock SP with Kings Creek County Road and thus to Hwy 9. This was cleared using grant funds by the SSFSC with a shaded fuel break several years ago. Now Eric Isacson is leading the effort to clear (shaded fuel break) the lower three miles of the KCTT. This section terminates where the San Lorenzo River reaches Hwy 9. Several weeks of effort by CCC crews has been completed and now the Ben Lomond crew will continue the work with SSFSC volunteers supporting the effort.

3. The first free Defensible Space chipping of cut and piled brush around homes is announced in this issue. There will be another such event in the fall. These two events cost the SSFSC roughly $10,000 to help make our community safer from wildfires.

Please support our programs with your contributions! The SSA is matching your donations to a total of $5000. Send your check to: SSFSC Treasurer, Box 324, La Honda, CA 94020. Thank you!
NEW TRAIL IN SANBORN COUNTY PARK
Jerry Peters

The John Nicholas Trail has been extended from Lake Ranch up to the Skyline Trail near the Sunnyvale Mountain parking area. I have been observing the work on this delightful trail for nearly two years and I am happy to report that it is now officially open. The John Nicholas Trail has been used for many years from Black Road to Lake Ranch (and beyond down the hill to Sanborn Road) simply by placing signs on existing fire roads that were in use from earlier times. In fact, Ruth Waldhauer reviewed this hike in a previous issue of Skylines. The new trail up the hill from the lake is very special and exhibits why the trail took a long time to complete.

If you start at Black Road you will walk to the lake and then to the far end of the lake; this is the two-mile mark. You then go up the hill across two new bridges that cross a small creek. These bridges are quite attractive and the second one has a spot to have lunch or a snack. Now you enter into the lower half of the new trail extension. This part continuously switches back and forth up the hill. The grade is not too severe and you remain in the trees the whole way. The forest varies from oaks to firs to madrones and to the various combinations of these trees that you expect to see in the drier eastern slopes of the Santa Cruz Mountains. There are no views but the scenery is still enjoyable as you pass through the changing ecosystems. The new trail has been nicely manicured and it is quite wide. After about two miles on the new extension you will come to a junction with another old fireroad. Cross the road and continue along the upper half of the new trail; this is where the highlights begin. After another half mile you come to a significant drainage and cross an elegant stone bridge that was made from the local sandstone rocks. It features a rock arch to make the span. Now start up the hill and in a short distance you come to a very large sandstone rock that is on a par with Indian or Summit Rocks. A rock platform has been fashioned by the trail builders on the lower right side of the rock so you can enjoy the tafoni formations. A series of tight switchbacks takes you up to the top of the big (unnamed?) rock; you will notice more work from the stone masons who placed many pieces to make the trail bed.

Now you have reached the Douglas Fir forest and the trees start getting bigger. The grade here is less steep on this upper trail and is actually enjoyable. Next you come to a dramatic scenic overlook. Again, the trail builders placed many pieces of sandstone blocks, creating a fairly large platform, so you might enjoy the view of the lower Hwy 9/ Sanborn Rd/Mountain Winery areas and of course the metropolis beyond. This area makes a good lunch spot and can accommodate a large group. Another half mile takes you to the end of the John Nicholas trail when you reach the Skyline Trail junction. The total length of the trail is 5.7 miles. An up-and-back hike would require the stamina to complete nearly 12 miles (I estimate the elevation gain is probably around 1100 ft).

If you park at the end of Sanborn Rd. and go up the very steep fire road, you can get to the new trail extension after only 3/4 mile (500 ft elevation gain). An up-and-back hike from here would total about 8 miles (1500 ft elevation gain). Either option is relatively strenuous. What I have been doing is starting from the top (Sunnyvale Mountain) and walking down to the big rock and back with my dog. By the way, kudos to Sanborn (and all the other Santa Clara County Parks) for making so many of their trails dog-friendly. This makes a very pleasant three-mile round trip with only about 200 ft of elevation gain.

The trail is named for John Nicholas, who was a teacher in West Valley College’s Park Management Program. Not knowing that, I wondered why Santa Clara County took the time to create such a high quality trail? I asked one of the county workers and was told that John Nicholas was a well liked employee who had mentored many of the trail builders and rangers now working in county parks. This trail leaves a wonderful legacy to his name.
SPUG QUARTERLY REPORT

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, please contact Ruth Waldhauer at ruth.waldhauer3@gmail.com or 650-948-1466. Information is also available on our website: 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 the month. Our SPUG rate is based on a keep-full basis, not will-call service.

You are not required to pay sales tax on propane if you do not have natural gas available where you use propane. If you get your propane from Amerigas, you will need to submit a sales tax exemption form. Contact Amerigas for the form.

Recent SPUG prices ($/gallon) are:

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<th>Amerigas</th>
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<td>Scotts Valley</td>
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Those whose SSA membership has lapsed will be disqualified from receiving the benefit of SPUG price for propane.

VOLUNTEERS READY TO HELP OUR NEEDY NEIGHBORS

Dick Schwind, MNHN Board member

Our Skyline group of the all-volunteer, nonprofit Mountain Neighbors Helping Neighbors has enough, though barely enough, members to now offer some help to our needy neighbors. If you have a temporary need of nonprofessional help, call Patricia Wood, our President and Help Coordinator at 408-353-4565 or send an email to her at mhn95033@gmail.com. Initially our help is likely to be spotty, particularly since the South Skyline area is so large for our relatively few volunteers who may live many miles from a person in need. With time our numbers will grow.

Can you be a volunteer for this program? We need to quickly triple the number of our volunteers! We all love living in our mountains and expect it will eventually be hard to leave. Our neighbors requesting help can often extend their years here with just some help getting through a crisis or two. Often that is a ride to a medical appointment, taking the trash out to the collection location or a similar task. Our website, www.mhn95033.org has more information and an application form. Or, just call me 408-867-9422 or email me, schwindr@yahoo.com, and I will send you the volunteer application form. Thank you!
SOUTH SKYLINE FIRE & RESCUE NEWS

Andy Seigel, Captain, SSF&R

We’ve had a generally quiet start to 2015 incidents in comparison to the last few years. What is keeping us busy is dealing with equipment gremlins again – both the engine and our light rescue are out of service, with reserves filling the gap. We hope to have our front-line vehicles back soon.

With so little rain, we are looking at a potentially busy fire season ahead.

Training

In addition to our regular training, many of us are helping out with the instruction at the Basic Volunteer Firefighter Academy. This year’s academy has 38 volunteer and paid call candidates from many fire districts in Santa Cruz County. South Skyline has two candidates making their way through the skills and knowledge tests. We’ll be introducing them to you in future editions.

Water

We are continuing to work on our remote water storage project. We are using funds that we raised this year to purchase a 5000 gallon tank for the Highway 9 corridor. We hope to have this installed for this season.

Pancakes

Before you know it, it will be Memorial Day weekend, and our pancake breakfast will be Sunday, May 24, from 8 to 11:30AM at the Saratoga Summit CDF. We expect to serve a mountain of pancakes to several hundred hungry folks. Check out our website for up to the minute details.

The breakfast marks the beginning of our recruiting season. We have had two consecutive years with staffing gains, and we want to keep up that trend. If you are interested, please contact us. You can find a complete description of the volunteer program on our website, [http://southskylinefire.org](http://southskylinefire.org).
ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY
Ruth Waldhauer

On Saturday, January 17, volunteers Barbara Bekins, Armen Leonian, and Jerry Peters met me at the Vista Point at 10 am to gather litter. The skies were so cloudy, overcast, and visibility very poor that we could only safely clean-up at the Vista Point. We could not do the routes north and south of the Vista Point because it was too dangerous. Fire Trucks and emergency vehicles were racing along Skyline; too dangerous to do more.

On Saturday, March 7, Jerry Peters, Armen Leonian, Richard Booth and Dan Jones comprised the team. We did the cleanup in record time. We were just back at the Vista Point to return the equipment to me, when we met a family with two girls (middle school age???) gathering litter. The girls were doing this task to gain their public service requirement for school. We thought we had done a good job at the Vista Point, but somehow the girls found the little we missed.

SSA & SHS volunteers are responsible for gathering litter every two months. The sweep takes about an hour and a half. So far over 160 names are on the honor role listing those who have participated. We love getting new recruits. Please volunteer once. You will find it both rewarding and fun.

Jerry Peters has agreed to take over as Coordinator of the Adopt-A-Highway project from me. Contact Jerry if you wish to volunteer. JPontheridge@gmail.com.

UPCOMING 2015 HAM LICENSING CLASS

The SC4ARC will be sponsoring a two day class on May 2 and 3, from 9:00 to 4:30 both days and will be held in at Pescadero High School. There will be an exam held the following Saturday, and another exam is available later in May.

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 for online registration, and mail it in before April 18, 2015. If you have any questions, please use the contact form (on the website) to reach the “Radio Officer” or phone Peter Chupity at 747-0316.
South Skyline Association (SSA) fosters a sense of community spirit, keeps residents informed of public agency actions and other issues of concern in the South Skyline sphere of influence, protects the rights and represents the interests of those in our area, and engages in various projects to enhance the unique South Skyline environment.

Regular membership is open to property owners and residents in the South Skyline area at least 18 years of age. The SSA area includes Skyline Boulevard and feeder roads between Skylonda and the southern terminus of Skyline Boulevard. Those outside the area may apply for Associate Membership (non-voting) by paying regular dues. Membership includes delivery of the “Skylines” quarterly newsletter, and participation in Skyline Propane Users Group (SPUG). Please provide the following necessary information:

Name(s): ____________________________________________________________

Mailing Address: ______________________________________________________

Property location in the SSA area: __________________________________________

Telephone: (___) ___________________________

* Email (will be kept confidential): _________________________________________

* Associate Members - To help conserve on paper and postage, out of area members will receive an electronic copy of the Skylines Newsletter if a paper copy is not requested. An Email address is required. Check here if you prefer a paper copy: ______

Check here if you do NOT want to be listed in the SSA roster: ______
(The SSA roster is distributed to SSA members only.)

Are you a participant in Skyline Propane User Group, or wish to be?: Yes ___ No ___

Tank: Own ___ Rent ___

Supplier: Amerigas___ Kamps___ Suburban/SJ____ Suburban/SV___ FerrellGas___ Other___

Return this application and a check for $15.00 (payable to "South Skyline Association") to:

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

SSA is What We Make It
Let us know if you have a talent or skill that would be useful. We are particularly looking for articles for Skylines, volunteers to help set up for general meetings, informal legal advice, and people to monitor government agencies (counties, parks, MROSD). Any comments for the SSA Board are also welcome.

SSA maintains a web site at http://www.southskyline.org
Have you used the SSA web site? If yes, how often?

What information were you seeking?

What are your suggestions for improving it?

Please continue to second page of form for donations and volunteer opportunities.
South Skyline Community Groups That Could Use Your Help

Below are four South Skyline community groups that are dedicated to improving the safety and beauty of our area. If you would like to contribute some volunteer time or make a donation, please circle an area of interest or enclose a separate check for each organization.

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<th>South Skyline FireSafe Council:</th>
<th>South Skyline Firefighters</th>
<th>South Skyline Emergency Preparedness</th>
<th>Adopt-A-Highway Volunteers</th>
<th>Skylines Newsletter</th>
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<td>This organization is seeking donations to continue our home defensible space chipping, roadside fuel break, and education programs. The SSA will match your donation.</td>
<td>- Want to volunteer. - Want more information about being a volunteer</td>
<td>- I am interested in joining SSEP</td>
<td>- I would like to sign up for a day.</td>
<td>- I’d like to volunteer to help edit or publish the newsletter.</td>
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RENEW YOUR SSA MEMBERSHIP NOW - BEFORE YOU FORGET

Please take a moment and renew your SSA membership for 2015. For just $15 a year, your membership dues help SSA publish the Skylines newsletter, offer free classified ads, and provide speakers for our general meetings. Your SSA membership is also necessary to participate in the Skyline Propane Users Group (SPUG) to get discounted rates on your propane service. The membership form is on page 13 of this newsletter and can be found on the SSA web site at [http://southskyline.org](http://southskyline.org) --> Join Us --> membership application. Mail your form and dues to: SSA Membership Chairperson, 22400 Skyline Blvd. Box 35, La Honda CA 94020. Questions? Contact: ruth.waldhauer3@gmail.com
CLASSIFIED ADS

Due to many requests, we will attempt to keep a list of ads that will run every issue. However, there is no guarantee that an ad won’t be missed because of our changes in staff. If you want be on the list, you must make a request to “run until canceled”. It is best to resubmit ads for each issue. Send to: skylineseditor@yahoo.com Please keep ads to 45 words or less.

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. Please visit http://southskylinefire.org/ for more information under the “Help Us Help You” section.

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.scaarc.org or write: SC4ARC, PO Box 237, La Honda, CA 94020

Hay for Sale: California Red Oats, $16/bale (large bales) including tax and delivery to Skyline/La Honda area. Locally and sustainably grown, traditionally cured. 60 years experience. Call or email Chris at pearson@slac.stanford.edu or 650 747-0948

Pineda Tree Service: A local and reliable business that specializes in crown thinning & cleaning, hazardous tree removal, poison oak removal, and property cleanup for fire regulations. Free Estimates. Insured. CSL # 991767. Email: Pinedaslae@gmail.com Phone: (650) 208-2734 or (650) 208-2734 Salomon Pineda

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

Wanted: Las Cumbres Facilities Manager Position Reporting to the Las Cumbres Board. Areas of responsibility include the community center, pool, playing field, playground, tennis courts and surrounding areas. For additional information and the Full job description, please contact Holly Gentle holly.nicole.gentle@gmail.com

Tayside Sport Horses offers horse and rider training for eventing, hunter/jumpers, and dressage. Ages 9+, adults very welcome. Bring your own horse or use one of ours. Based at the Horse Park at Woodside, and Clermont Equestrian on Skyline Blvd. Email: info@taysidehorse.com or call/text 605-799-4252

Barbara & John Harriman Mountain Realtors: We live in the mountains. We love the mountains. You set the pace. We make it easy, John Harriman (C) 408-332-4780 Barbara Harriman (C) 408-656-8209 John.Harriman@cbnorcal.com Barbara.Harriman@cbnorcal.com Check out our testimonials! www.TheHarrimanTeam.com

James Morris, Real Estate: Broker Associate with Alain Pinel Realtors and General Contractor With over 30 years of experience in construction and property development, including septic and well systems, uniquely qualified to evaluate, market, acquire, renovate mountain properties. Please call 408-928-1990, email-jmorris@apr.com or visit my website at www.jrmnorcalhomes.com

Skyline Broadband Service: Offering high-speed wireless Internet with speeds up to 25 Mbps in much of our 500-square-mile coverage area. http://SkylineBroadbandService.com, phone: 650-917-9279

Learning Strategies: One-on-one tutoring in your home by qualified educators. K-12, all subject areas including test prep ISEE, HSPT, SSAT & SAT, Contact Learning Strategies, www.creative-learning-strategies.com or email victori-askinner@creative-learning-strategies.com or call 650-747-9651 for a free phone consultation.

Planning for Drought: Water well performance analysis for South Skyline area residents. Details at WellWachers.net or email Larry@WaterMatters.com for more info.

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Advertisements are free to SSA members. Membership is $15 per year.
Membership forms are available at www.southskyline.org
Please limit each ad to 45 words. Ads will be shortened when space is limited.
Email ads to: skylineseditor@yahoo.com
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 650-948-1466

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

SSA Calendar - General Meeting

April 30, 7:00 pm - Fogarty Winery
Business meetings will be held April 9, May 14 and June 11 at 7:00pm

President Michael Rowe
408-872-1775

Skylineseditor@yahoo.com

Skylines is Published Once A Quarter

Skylines invites individuals to submit articles and artwork.

Policy on Classified Ads: Ads are free to SSA members. They must be resubmitted for each issue.

Skylines Ads and News Articles: The deadline for submitting ads and articles for the next issue is June 15, 2015

Send all ads and articles to: SkylinesEditor@yahoo.com,

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