



Skylines

SOUTH SKYLINE ASSOCIATION

www.southskyline.org

JANUARY 2016

SSA GENERAL MEETING

PLACE: Saratoga Summit Fire Station
12900 Skyline Blvd.

DATE: Friday, January 22, 2016

7:00 pm – Refreshments -
please bring a dessert to share.
SSA will provide beverages.

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

TOPIC: Here Because of Her:

A Pacific Crest Trail Generational Journey



*1973 - Squaw Valley: Rosemary Broome, Marily Reese
and their horses Star, Dotty and Dude*

In 1973 at age 20, friends Rosemary Broome and Marily Reese each took the spring and fall quarters off from college, learned how to pack a horse, and rode the Pacific Crest Trail on horseback. They had to trace out unfinished portions of the trail onto topo maps, and were among just a handful of people on the trail.

Fast-forward to 2015 – the “Wild” year. Chloe Lalonde, Rosemary’s daughter, and her college roommate Ceili Brennan set out on their own PCT journey, but this time on foot amidst the almost 2000 other through-hiker hopefuls this year. They had an app downloaded on their cell phones that kept them updated on water sources and camping options along the well-marked trail.



*2015 – Warner Springs: Chloe Lalonde and
Ceili Brennan*

Omnipresence of technology be what it may, this connectivity allowed Chloe to keep a blog with her mother while on trail. The blog was a natural platform to keep friends and family updated on Chloe and Ceili’s trek, but also an opportunity to interweave Rosemary’s journals and photographs from 1973, which had never enjoyed an audience. For a look at their shared journey along the PCT separated by 43 years but united by blogging, here is the link:

<https://cartwheelsonthepct.wordpress.com/>

Long time South Skyliners, Rosemary Broome and her daughter Chloe Lalonde will share their experiences through-hiking and through horseback-riding the entire 2,600 mile trail from Mexico to Canada. Rosemary and her husband Guy Lalonde moved to South Skyline in 1988 and their children Chloe Lalonde and Geoffrey Lalonde were born and grew up here.

Please join us to enjoy a summary of their experiences and tips for those interested in undertaking all or part of this amazing trail in a Q&A session afterwards.

SSA MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Debra Born, Membership Chairperson

To our many new members we extend a warm welcome to South Skyline Association and Happy New Year. To our current members: thanks to those of you who have already remembered to send in your \$20 dues for 2016, and a reminder to those who have not yet paid dues to do so by January 31. With our membership expanding, currently 1,356 members, SSA is able to fund more valuable projects thru our associated South Skyline organizations thereby making our community safer and more livable.

This past year the membership committee has worked hard to implement a web-based on-line process for membership applications, renewals, and dues payment. In the near future members will be able to update their contact information, pay dues online, and notify us of a change to their propane suppliers. New members will be able to submit applications online and pay dues online. Already the application form is available on the website. In the meantime, continue to submit your applications and payments by January 31 to "Membership Chairperson, 7405 Alpine Road, La Honda 94020. And please remember to make sure we have your current email address and propane supplier as this is vital to helping us transition to a web-based membership system.

SSA BOARD ELECTIONS

SSA Board Elections will take place at the next general meeting on January 22, 2016.

The following board members are running for re-election:

Barbara Bekins	John Harriman	Marianne Rose	Ruth Waldhauer
Larry Watson	Michael Rowe	Kristen Anderson	

We have a new SSA member running for election this year, Maura McNamara: "I've lived in the Santa Cruz Mountains for 33 years, 22 of which have been at our current location at Waterman Gap (Hwy 9 and Hwy 236). My interest serving on the board is getting to know our neighbors and contributing to the community. I look forward to it!"

Nominations can be submitted via email or USPS to Michael Rowe (rowe517@gmail.com), 23101 Hwy 9, Boulder Creek, CA 95006. For all new candidates, please submit nominations and a short biography before the next general meeting on January 23rd.

CURRENT SSA BOARD MEMBERS

Current Board Members	Neighborhood	Board Responsibility
Dave Anderson.....	Highway 9 - Santa Cruz County.....	Public Safety
Kristin Anderson.....	Highway 9 - Santa Cruz County.....	Treasurer
Patti Begley	Highway 9 - Santa Cruz County	Vice President, Communications & Website Committees
Barbara Bekins	Highway 35 - Rocky Creek	Public Safety & Water, Website Committee
Debra Born	Alpine Road.....	Membership Committee, SSFC
Kim Hamilton	Highway 35 - Oakridge	Interim board member
John Harriman	Las Cumbres	Secretary
Eric Jewett	Saratoga Gap.....	Adopt-A-Highway
Jim Parsons.....	Las Cumbres	SSEPO
Marianne Rose	Highway 35 - Long Ridge	Communications & Website Committees
Ruth Waldhauer	Portola Heights	Membership & Communications & SPUG & Website Committees
Larry Watson	Highway 9 - Santa Cruz County	Website Committee, Public Safety
Michael Rowe	Highway 9 - Santa Cruz County	President

South Skyline Association Annual Membership Renewal/Application

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. Fee is \$20 per calendar year and due in January of each year. *Regular* membership area includes properties along Skyline Boulevard and feeder roads between Skylonda and the southern terminus of Skyline Boulevard. (see map on southskyline.org/contact/ .) Those outside of this area will be considered *Associate* Members (non-voting) and pay regular dues. Membership includes delivery of the "Skylines" quarterly newsletter, participation at quarterly general meetings, and participation in Skyline Propane Users Group (SPUG).

First time applying? Yes No
Primary Name:
Other name:
Mailing Address:
Property address:
Telephone:
Email (Required: will be kept confidential):

NOTE: To conserve on cost and volunteer effort all members will receive an electronic copy of the *Skylines* Newsletter unless you check here [] that you want a paper copy.

SPUG: Do you or do you wish to participate in the *Skyline Propane User Group (SPUG)*? Yes _____ No _____
 Tank: Own ___ Rent ___
 Supplier: Amerigas ___ Kamps ___ Suburban/SJ ___ Suburban/SV ___ FerrellGas ___ Other _____

Return this application and a check for \$20.00 payable to "South Skyline Association" to:

**SSA Membership Chairperson
 7405 Alpine Road
 La Honda, CA 94020**

SSA Is What We Make It

We are always seeking volunteers to write articles for *Skylines*, to help at general meetings, to provide informal legal or technical advice and services, and people to monitor government agencies (counties, parks, MROSD, etc.). Tell us if you have a talent or skill that would be useful. Also, helpful comments for the SSA Board are welcome.

SSA maintains a web site at <http://www.southskyline.org>

Have you visited the SSA web site and if so for what information?

Any suggestions for improving it?

DATE:

SIGNATURE:

Please continue to second page of form for donations and volunteer opportunities.

GROUPS SUPPORTED BY SOUTH SKYLINE ASSOCIATION

Below are affiliated South Skyline community organizations dedicated to improving the safety, livability, and beauty of our area. **If you want to volunteer or make a donation to one of these, circle your area(s) of interest. For donations enclose a separate check for each organization.**

Volunteer (circle area of interest)	Donation	Amount Enclosed
<p>South Skyline Fire Safe Council: - Take training and observe inmate crews creating fire breaks.</p> <p>This organization provides a free defensible space chipping program, develops fuel break projects, and sponsors fire education programs.</p> <p>Website: www.southskylinefiresafe.org</p> <p>Name: - Join us, create/help manage projects.</p> <p>Address: - I'd like a free home consultation on my defensible space + home resistance to firebrands + water supply.</p> <p>Email and/or phone #:</p>	<p>Enclose Check \$</p> <p>Payable to SSFSC</p> <p><i>(donations are tax deductible)</i> <i>(SSA will match your donation.)</i></p>	
<p>South Skyline Firefighters - Want to volunteer.</p> <p>Serves Santa Cruz and Santa Clara counties. - Want more information about being a volunteer</p> <p>Website: www.southskylinefire.org</p> <p>Name:</p> <p>Address:</p> <p>Email and/or phone #:</p>	<p>Enclose Check \$</p> <p>Payable to South Skyline Firefighters</p> <p><i>(donations are tax deductible)</i></p>	
<p>South Skyline Emergency Preparedness (SSEPO) - I am interested in joining SSEPO</p> <p>Website: www.SSEPO.org</p> <p>Name:</p> <p>Address:</p> <p>Email and/or phone #:</p>	<p>Enclose Check \$</p> <p>Payable to SSEPO</p> <p><i>(donations are tax deductible)</i></p>	
<p>SSA Adopt-A-Highway Volunteer Name:</p> <p>Gather litter along Skyline Blvd. Address:</p> <p>every two months for about 1 ½ hours. A crew of 6 people is ideal. Email and/or phone</p>	<p><i>Not seeking donations</i></p>	
<p>SSA Skylines Newsletter - I'd like to volunteer to help edit or publish the newsletter.</p> <p>Name: - I'd like to help distribute the newsletter.</p> <p>Address:</p> <p>Email and/or phone # - Tell me what help you need.</p>	<p><i>Not seeking donations</i></p>	

EXCITING CHANGES FOR THE FIRESAFE COUNCIL

John DeLong

The website for the South Skyline FireSafe Council has recently undergone a major facelift and content update. It would be well worth your time to visit this totally revamped website: www.southskylinefiresafe.org. Some highlights:

- In the “Are You Ready for Wildfire” section, there is now a valuable interactive CalFire Ready-Set-Go program to help you not only create your defensible space and prepare your house for possible wildfire, but also help you create an evacuation plan, assemble an emergency supply kit and a family communications plan.
- There is a frightening YouTube video from the cab of a vehicle escaping the Valley Fire in Lake County this summer with fire and embers all around the vehicle. The terrain in that Anderson Springs neighborhood is very similar to our community. And we found a before photo showing that the vegetation was very thick at the edge of the road prior to the Valley Fire (a good argument for the major fuels reduction programs we have been sponsoring over the past few years).
- New on the Fire Safety Links page are real-time Tweets from local CalFire departments.
- The amazing “Be Ember Prepared” video is now on the website. Learn how to get your house prepared to resist flying embers, the number one cause for home loss in recent California fires.
- SSFSC has developed a new organization chart outlining the many areas where volunteers may be able to help us. Please volunteer if you are able – we can use your help. Contact our President, Eric Isacson at Eric@isacson.com to see how you may be able to help.
- There is a new DONATE button on the website so that you can donate to SSFSC online, using PayPal or a credit card. We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, so all donations are tax deductible.
- The updated projects page outlines all of the major projects we have been working on recently.
- Information and applications are now available online for our twice each year Free Chipping Program.
- Our latest big project, which started in December, if weather permits, is a fuels reduction of Ward Road from Long Ridge west to Portola State Park. This project uses CCC crews and our own volunteer observer-supervisors. The goal is to create a major fire break parallel to and halfway between Highway 9 and Alpine Rd.



FIRESAFE COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Kristeen Pemberton, Secretary, South Skyline Fire Safe Council

The South Skyline FireSafe Council held its regularly scheduled elections in November.

Ed Hayes was elected as a new board member. He has been doing a great job of managing our free chipping program. John DeLong, Ken McLean and Eric Isacson were re-elected. We are grateful to them for their continuing service. Eric Isacson was elected President and Ed Hayes, Vice-President. John DeLong was re-elected Treasurer and Kristeen Pemberton, Secretary. Dick Schwind will continue to be active in the SSFSC as the founding president, retired. He will continue doing home inspections and developing new projects.

The board is in the process of adopting an organization chart to describe how we operate and to better define responsibilities. In addition we are developing a priority list of wildfire safety projects to be implemented as resources become available.

We would like to extend our thanks to all of you who support our work!

<http://www.southskylinefiresafe.org/>



SOUTH SKYLINE FIRE & RESCUE NEWS

Andy Seigel, Captain, SSF&R

We had a busy start to the quarter, with a string of wildland fires in early September at Big Basin State Park, Bear Creek Road, and Logan Creek (Boulder Creek). Otherwise, it was a relatively quiet quarter. We're on track for about 200 incidents for 2015.

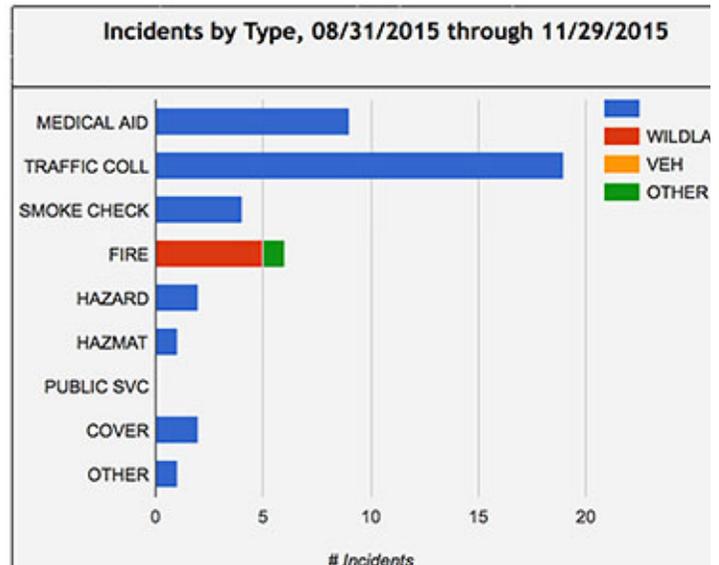
During one of our recent drills, we practiced water movement operations by drafting water out of the Las Cumbres swimming pool. (The pool water was made available since the pool will be emptied for repairs.) We used some of

that water to fill an auxiliary tank that is maintained for fire protection. The swimming pool water has been a boon, allowing us to do some water-intensive drills despite the drought.

We'll be addressing some deferred maintenance on the water tender and engine in December.

Firefighter Spotlight

Let me introduce the last of our 2015 academy graduates, Sean Davis. Sean grew up in Las Cumbres. By the age of 9, he was already polishing fire engines at Las Cumbres Station. As a high school senior, he



called me wondering if there was a way he could volunteer, but he was too young, and moving away from the area.

When he returned to the Bay Area in 2014, he called again, looking for tips on how he could get into the fire service. We invited him to be the second of our "day tripper" firefighters, doing shifts at one of our stations. Sean was delighted to be in a position to "give back to the community". When he's not in school or volunteering with Company 29, he works as an EMT with the Westmed ambulance company. He's already on the road towards a career in the fire service.

We have closed recruiting for the 2016 academy, but we still need more volunteers, and are already thinking ahead to 2017. If you are interested, please contact us. You can find a complete description of the process of becoming a volunteer on our website at <http://southskylinefire.org/join.php>

We like to thank the SSA and the membership for their generous support.
Have a happy and safe holiday season!

LESSONS LEARNED FROM A TOUR OF THE VALLEY FIRE

Eric Isacson, President, South Skyline Fire Safe Council (SSFSC)

Ember Attacks, Red-Outs, Evacuation Problems, Vegetation Clearance, Home Ignitions

Dick Schwind and I recently toured the site of last summer's Valley Fire with Calfire guides to learn what our fire safe council might have done in a similar situation.



My first impression was surprise at how frequently a single home in a neighborhood was burned while most were spared. The fire was very capricious in selecting which homes to attack. Embers were thrown as much as and in some cases more than 2 miles ahead of the fire. In some cases the ember attacks were so intense as to be a "red-out!" There was no predicting where embers might come down. The houses that survived had been built with fire resistant materials and techniques and had ample defensible space -- or were just lucky.

The first priority in Calfire's response was getting people to evacuate -- ahead of fighting the fire itself! Firefighters were diverted to search for isolated homes, knock on doors and persuade people to evacuate immediately. Reverse 911 was not effective; critical phone lines were among the first casualties of the fire. Cellphone coverage was spotty. Poor maps forced firefighters to explore remote dirt roads to search for isolated homes. Few people were prepared to evacuate and some insisted on waiting to see if the fire would really come close. They did not understand the danger of ember attacks or the speed of fire spread and had to be argued with and convinced. Most of the 2000+ structures destroyed or damaged were burned in the first 24 hours. Those who evacuated were faced with traffic jams, poor traffic management and poor organization of escape routes.

The firefighters were extremely appreciative of any available defensible space; they couldn't say enough about how much it helped. It saved many homes and enabled safer access to spot fires, and to establish fire lines. Even poorly maintained fire trails, roadsides, and space around homes helped.

The role of the fire safe council is before the fire occurs: evacuation preparedness, vegetation clearing and structural preparation. The SSFSC and the South Skyline Emergency Preparedness Organization (SSEPO) form a team covering both advance preparation for wildfire and response when one actually does occur.

Calfire's first priority is saving lives. We will support this by promoting evacuation preparations. We will aggressively promote awareness of the danger of ember attacks, ensure effective evacuation notification systems, and assist with evacuation preparations by individual residents.

We will also continue to promote vegetation clearing to create defensible spaces and use of fire resistant building designs and materials.

Please contact either me, Eric Isacson, at Eric@Isacson.com or Jerry Parsons, SSEPO President, at jstanley7@aol.com, if you would like to help with either the Fire Safe Council or the South Skyline Emergency Preparedness Organization, respectively.

Many thanks to Chief Ed Orre of Calfire Morgan Hill and all who helped organize the tour.

Get in touch with your neighbors. Share your ideas/concerns/activities.
Submit your artwork, photos, articles to SkylinesEditor@yahoo.com

SSEPO ORGANIZES MAJOR EARTHQUAKE DISASTER DRILL

Pat O’Coffey and Jerry Parsons



On November 7, 2015, a number of neighborhoods in the South Skyline area participated in an Emergency Preparedness Drill. The scenario was a large earthquake resulting in physical injuries, structural damage and disabled standard communications. The drill objectives were to:

1. Utilize our community response teams (neighborhood coordinators, CERTs – Community Emergency Response Team, residents with medical training, HAM operators and other volunteers) in an exercise which involved damage assessment, search & rescue, triage and transportation of victims.
2. Assess ability to activate those community resources.
3. Test effectiveness of community communication infrastructure.
4. Test effectiveness of communication with Amateur Radio Emergency Services outside the immediate area.

Participating neighborhoods were: Las Cumbres, Portola Heights/Castanea Ridge, Rocky Creek, Monkey Rock and Rosemary Lane. Two Emergency Operation Centers (EOC) were set up in the South Skyline area: (1) the MROSD Skyline Field Office included medical and communication infrastructures, (2) the Las Cumbres Community Center EOC included emergency response management, General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS) and ham radio communications, with medical teams dispatched to emergency incident locations.

The neighborhoods of Las Cumbres and Portola Heights/Castanea Ridge are divided into groups or clusters of residents for emergency response purposes. At the onset of the drill, these two communities used GMRS radios to activate their CERT / volunteer teams according to their own community emergency response plans. Eleven volunteers were activated in Portola Heights and 24 in Las Cumbres. For Portola Heights, once the CERT teams were established, they conducted house-to-house search and rescue. They reported both victims and damage assessments back to a command station within the community. Portola Heights transported 5 victims to the MROSD Skyline Field Office. Las Cumbres used placards to simulate 15 emergency incidents, including injuries, small garage fires, propane leaks, lost children, major road blockages, and water main breaks. Cluster Leaders radioed in when incidents were encountered to advise action taken and requests for assistance as needed. Teams were dispatched to assist with medical emergencies, road blockages, and water main breaks. When needed a medical team would be assigned to another medical emergency while still in the field.

The neighborhoods of Monkey Rock and Rosemary Lane activated two CERT members, one of whom immediately went to the Skyline Field Office to assist, while the other helped transport 3 victims to that facility. Since the neighborhood of Rocky Creek does not yet have a CERT and communication infrastructure in place, they participated in the drill by activating their community phone tree. They also transported 1 victim to the Skyline Field Office. These two neighborhoods are to be congratulated on taking the first step in establishing a well-prepared neighborhood response team!

Communication outside of each neighborhood was done via HAM radios, which can serve wide ranging areas. During the South Skyline Drill, both Las Cumbres and Portola Heights HAM operators were in communication with La Honda Amateur Emergency Radio Services (ARES) and with the communication hub at the MROSD Skyline Field Office. We also completed a test transmission with San Lorenzo Valley ARES in Felton. We have recently established a South Skyline Emergency Communications Plan, which specifies the important frequencies we may need to use in an emergency situation. These HAM communications are critical in requesting outside assistance, such as helicopter transportation of a victim. Simulations of this kind of request were part of the drill. A total of 10 HAM operators participated in the drill: nine from Portola Heights, La Honda and Skyline Field Office and one in Las Cumbres.

Dr. Rich Lee is the Medical Director at the MROSD Skyline Field Office medical facility, where he keeps a well-stocked supply of emergency medical equipment. The conference room at this facility was used for the victim treatment area. In addition to Dr. Lee, another 9 medical volunteers from a number of Skyline neighborhoods reported to assist in victim treatment. For this drill the Las Cumbres central medical operation was not set up. This area will be getting much more attention over the next year.

Overall, the drill was very successful. The primary objective of any drill of this kind is to identify problem areas

and to develop plans to fix those problems so that we are better prepared in an emergency. Debriefing sessions were held at both the Skyline Field Office and at the Las Cumbres EOC location to help identify those areas. Briefly, the key lessons from this drill were:

1. At the medical facility at the MROSD Skyline Field Office, we need to establish a clearly defined leadership and organizational model for setting up and managing the major operational areas of triage, transportation and logistics, and treatment. In addition, we identified some additional supplies/tools that are needed at that facility, as well as better communication options between the medical personnel and the HAM operators.
2. Within Portola Heights / Castanea Ridge, we identified some procedural issues with the activation process and team assignments and we had both pros and cons with using the GMRS radios. We need to continue work on improving the range and clarity of these radios by researching the efficiency of different kinds of radios and antennas, as well as utilization of HAM radio frequencies.
3. In Las Cumbres:
 - a. We need to establish a Medical Team, including local doctors, nurses, physician assistants, and some CERTs. This team will review medical supplies, set up Cluster Leader/CERT go-bags, set up more extensive medical go-bags for dispatched medical teams, and more fully develop a central medical operations plan.
 - b. Our emergency response team members need regular practice sessions in disaster triage, basic emergency medical care, and radio protocol to maintain skill levels. Working with SSEPO, medical training sessions will be planned in 2016.
 - c. We need better radio coverage in steep ridge areas. We will test alternatives, including better GMRS antenna placement and a different radio system using Multiple Use Radio Service (MURS) radios.
 - d. While our EOC emergency management team performed well in prioritizing and managing the emergency incidents, we need more support staff to record and track incidents, register volunteers, and track personnel and supplies. Some logistics staff are needed to support a prolonged emergency (many hours possibly into days) with food, coffee, etc.

When a major disaster happens, it is unlikely that the residents of South Skyline will be receiving outside assistance any time soon. We will need to depend on each other for our survival. We must have strong communities that are prepared for how to respond in an emergency. This starts with organized neighborhoods. Each neighborhood needs a Neighborhood Coordinator (NC) who can help enlist volunteers within that neighborhood and who can organize community emergency plans. We need more CERT volunteers who are trained in emergency response, search & rescue, triage, first aid, etc. And, we need more HAM operators who can help us communicate across neighborhoods and to the outside world. Drills like the one held on November 7 help us be better prepared for that inevitable disaster.

For information on how you can help your neighborhood become organized, or how to become a Neighborhood Coordinator, contact Peggy Wargo at peggywargo.wargol@gmail.com. For information on available CERT classes, contact Jerry Parsons at jstanley7@aol.com. For information on how to become a HAM operator or if you already are a HAM, information on ARES, please contact Pat O’Coffey, at pocoffey@earthlink.net.



DO YOU NEED TEMPORARY VOLUNTEER HELP, FREE?

Dick Schwind

Mountain Neighbors Helping Neighbors (MNHN) is a quite new, non-profit organization. Our members, all volunteer, offer nonprofessional, FREE help to seniors and the incapacitated. Some of the services are transport to medical appointments, help with shopping, visiting, reading, minor home repairs, change alarm batteries, respite care for family caregivers. Founder Patricia Wood, 408-353-4565, coordinates requests for help.

The original MNHN area is the Rte 17 summit area and to the southwest along Summit Road and its tributaries. We have about 35 volunteers in the South Skyline area, so we are spread thinly and are looking for more volunteers. Go online at MNHN95033@gmail.com for more information and download an application, or call Patricia to send you an application. Besides service volunteers, we need organization support volunteers. Let us know your skills. Dick Schwind is a Board Member and may be reached at 408-867-9422.

CATCH A WHIFF OF CALIFORNIA BAY LAUREL

Sarah Schoen

When I think of California bay laurel, I see deep, narrow canyons and dimly-lit trails with old wooden railings on the switchbacks. But bay trees can occur almost anywhere along the California coastal range where the water table is high and the soils are well-drained. The overall form varies with location – narrow, tall trees, reaching over toward the sun in dense forests, broader trees where they don't need to compete for light, and shorter shrubs where water is limited.

California bay laurel (*Umbellularia californica*) most commonly grows as a tree up to 90 ft tall. It can grow from a single trunk, or be multi-trunked when damaged by fire or cutting. Bark, up to 1" thick, is greenish, to reddish-brown to brown, checked and curled at the edges. The wood inside is hard and highly grained when polished.

Leaves are oblong to lance-shaped, hairless, pliable, and 3-6" long. They are somewhat glossy dark green on the upper surface, dull lighter green on the lower and they have a prominent midvein. When crushed, the leaves have a strong aromatic smell, the easiest way to identify the plant if there is any doubt. The trees are evergreen with leaves remaining for at least 2 and up to 4 or 5 years before dropping to the ground. Fallen leaves contain chemicals that inhibit vegetative growth below, reducing competition from other plants.

Bay trees bloom from December to April. The yellow-green flowers grow in flat-topped clusters, with 6 to 10 individual blooms. The flowers have 6 sepals, but no petals, 9 stamen (3 of which are fertile) and a 3-lobed stigma. Insect-pollinated, the flowers are an important winter nectar source and have a scent said to counteract the insect-repellent smell of the leaves. The flowers are adapted to blooming during the rainy season, as there are flap-like valves over the stamens to keep the pollen from getting wet.

Seeds ripen from late summer to fall. On the outside, fruit is a fleshy ovoid, about 1" long, and covered with a bumpy skin ripening from green to purplish green. Inside is a single nut, covered by a hard outer shell. The fruits are somewhat like avocados in appearance; avocados are a member of the same, mostly tropical family, *Lauraceae*.

Bay trees are survivors, and can recover from a number of calamities that might kill less hardy species.

Although the tops are very flammable and destroyed by fire, the remaining part can crown-sprout, often forming a multi-trunked tree. Logging can have a similar effect. And when trees fall over, but the now horizontal trunk is exposed to light and some roots maintain contact with the soil, new tree sprouts can form along the trunks upper edge, like a line of tiny soldiers.

California bay was used by California Indians both as a food source and for medicine. Local Ohlone/Costanoans roasted or ground the kernels into flour for cakes and ate the fruit raw or boiled. Other California Indians also used the plant medicinally - as analgesic for headaches (leaves, poultice of leaves applied externally, or leaves crushed and inhaled), as a fumigant (steambath or burning boughs to rid homes of colds or other sickness), as a dermatological aid (decoction or poultice applied to sores, decoction to remove "vermin of the head"), as an antirheumatic (external bath of infusion of leaves), for stomachaches (decoction of leaves applied externally or taken internally), as a stimulant (nuts eaten), or as a respiratory aid (crushed leaves inhaled to open nasal passages). Modern uses include as a spice (a much stronger and different tasting substitute for Mediterranean bay), a flour moth repellent in cupboards, and wood to make bowls and other small items.

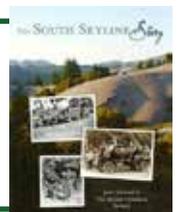
California bay laurel has been discovered to be a major carrier of Sudden Oak Death. The pathogen (*Phytophthora ramorum*) lives in the host, but does not kill the tree. Bay tree products should not be removed from infected areas. For more information on detection and management, refer to <http://www.suddenoakdeath.org>.

California bay laurel is found in the coastal mountains below 5200', from southern Oregon (where it is known as Oregon myrtle) south to San Diego County, and along the western Sierra Nevada foothills.



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.





CALL FOR ENTRIES

PHOTO CONTEST

You're invited, professional and amateur photographers alike, to join Midpen in capturing the diversity of our open spaces through the District's Seventh Annual Digital Photo Contest.

Enter photographs in any of the five categories:

- People
- Wildlife
- Plant Life
- Natural Landscapes
- Mobile Device Photography

Deadline for submissions is: Thursday, March 31, 2016

Winner in each category will receive a Fitbit Charge HR band and will be featured in the summer 2016 issue of our *Open Space Views Newsletter*.

Please read the complete rules, terms, and conditions before submitting your photos at:

www.openspace.org/contest

SSFSC COMPLETES 2015 FREE CHIPPING PROGRAM

Ed Hayes

On October 26, 27 and 28th the SSFSC completed three days of free chipping for residents of the SSA area including parts of San Mateo, Santa Cruz and Santa Clara counties. In all there were 24 individual residences serviced with over 50,000 cubic feet of brush chipped. This worked combined with our spring program that serviced 26 individual residences adds up to 50 homes protected and over 100,000 cubic feet of brush chipped and removed from fire potential. Fire safety is the primary goal of the SSFSC in particularly this year due to the drought conditions in our area.

SSFSC volunteers solicit resident's applications, check the brush piles for size and location, hire contractors through a competitive bid process and then supervise the actual chipping. Juan Huerta B. Tree Service was this year's contractor, many thanks for their hard work. They provided a chipper, truck and five man crew.

SSFSC has two programs aimed at assisting homeowners and communities achieving both fuel reduction and defensible space around their homes and access/escape routes from their homes. The first program is the free chipping program aimed directly at individual homeowners who are required by California law to provide defensible space around their homes. The space generally defined as 100 feet around the home. Cal Fire has jurisdiction over this and annually inspects homes in our area for compliance.

The second program that SSFSC offers is a reimbursement policy for fuel reduction and brush clearing along evacuation/ access roads for communities or drives that service more than three residences. SSFSC will assist the property owners with applications for grants or contracting with work crews such as the Cal Fire crews at the Ben Lomond camp, also they can help provide sponsors or monitors to direct the work. The reimbursement policy will cover a percentage of cost based on community size with a sliding scale that favors the smaller size community. For those resident groups of 3 to 10 this could mean up to 50 percent of cost or a maximum of \$500. For large communities the maximum could be approximately \$3000.

SSFSC wants to thank the various contributors that make these programs possible. They include Santa Cruz County, Santa Clara Fire Safe Council, San Mateo Fire Safe Council, South Skyline Association and the local residents who have donated individually.

SSFSC looks forward to continuing these programs next year so follow our news on our website,

www.southskylinefiresafecouncil.org.

On March 5 of this year much changed in our quiet and peaceful space when the FAA began routing flights over the Santa Cruz Mountains. SSA has offered its support to help residents in their efforts to find a resolution to the significant noise problem that has resulted from this change in policy.

WHY SSA IS SUPPORTING LAWSUIT AGAINST FAA

Dave Anderson

I would like to take this opportunity to address some of the concerns that were voiced at the last general meeting about the support donated by SSA to the law firm representing Lyons et. al. v. FAA regarding establishment of NexGen flight paths over our communities.

For background, here are some links to sites that have been created to raise awareness of this issue:

<http://www.sossantacruz.org>

<http://noisegen.info>

This is the link that brought to my personal attention the need to help fund this effort:

<http://noisegen.info/christopher-suit/>

First, a little about me. I was born and raised in Mountain View, CA. I have memories from a very early age of traveling through these mountains on my family's once- or twice-monthly trips to Pescadero beach via 84/La Honda, looking out the windows of the family car and dreaming of one day living in these mountains. This dream was cemented by the time I spent in my teen years doing trail construction and maintenance, erosion control, etc. in the Rancho Canada and adjacent properties (Between Bear Gulch and Star Hill roads, now the El Corte de Madera Creek Preserve). Quite frankly, I fell in love with redwood forests. I spent enough time in them, far from the racket of civilization, to appreciate their quiet majesty. Unfortunately, property values outpaced my income for most of my youth and I remained only a visitor. Finally, about four years ago, my wife and I made our home across the highway from Castle Rock Park -- literally a dream come true.

With that, I will present to the membership at large the arguments that I presented to the board on this matter.

One point that I would like to make up front is that the new FAA flight paths have had no discernible impact on me. During the time I have lived in these mountains, the air traffic has never been obtrusive. In fact, when I do notice aircraft, more often than not it is the change in pitch as they throttle back for descent that catches my attention. I have often joked with guests that it is very considerate of the pilots to idle their engines to preserve my quiet. However my responsibilities as an SSA board member demand that I do my best to preserve and protect our community and the qualities that make it such a joy to live in. I have been hearing loud and clear the concerns of my neighbors both near and far. While I personally have no dog in this hunt, no axe to grind with the FAA or government in particular, and nothing at all to gain from supporting this litigation, it is my firm belief that seeing this litigation succeed is in the best interest of the community and that I was duty-bound to bring the issue to the board and make the case for trying to preserve our collective quality of life in this way. If that means they spread out and a few more planes fly over my house, so be it. As of now it's really not a problem for me and a few more wouldn't bother me a bit, if it improves matters for the many people who are severely impacted now.

I also want to make clear my reasons for joining SSA, for contributing my (at the time) \$15 yearly membership dues. I saw the SSA as a touch point for incorporating my life into the mountain community; a place to meet and interact with people who, like me, moved to these mountains to enjoy the beauty and splendor that is so unique to this slice of the Santa Cruz Mountains. I saw the SSA as an organization that offered community, education in terms of local history and biology, and more. To the extent that I have been able to keep my head above water on our fixer-upper and participate, I have found that I was right about SSA, and more recently I joined the board and have been blessed with the opportunity to help ensure that the SSA continues to be these things to its members as well as to non-members who attend our general meetings and events.

Beyond that, the current board has a vision of the SSA being more influential in promoting and defending our community and the quality of life that we all enjoy. What that means precisely is still being discussed, but some relevant examples I gave were contributions to the FireSafe Council

(<http://www.southskylinefiresafe.org>), donations to local fire agencies to keep equipment up-to-date,

participation in Emergency preparedness efforts (www.ssepo.org), and pushing back against the herbicide spraying by CalTrans without notice along Skyline. At the time I presented the motion to help with the FAA lawsuit, we had contacted CalTrans and they had stopped spraying... but what if they didn't? What recourse would we have? Generally speaking, when a government agency misbehaves, polite requests are of little value and complaining to one's elected representative is ineffective unless it is done en masse (likely in larger numbers than we can bring to bear). That leaves us with litigation as the final recourse, and in my opinion it should be considered as such within reason.

When I say within reason, one of the factors to be considered is "before it's too late". One of the most-used tactics used by government agencies to prevent opposition is to run out the clock. In the case of these new flight paths, the FAA has made a point of waiting until the 60-day comment period has expired before actually rolling out the new flight paths, so that by the time the public realizes there is a problem it is too late for legal action. Consider this quote from the "Petitioner's Reply Brief" filed in the 9th Circuit in the case we are supporting:

FAA did not disclose to the public that it had improperly prejudged the relevant environmental effects of NorCal OAPM until after the comment period was closed.

This case is unique in that the petitioners did file within the comment period and the court has ruled that petitioners have standing. There really is no other recourse at this point since the clock has run out on all other efforts. The noise.gen.info site has some more recent updates described as "rays of hope" but the simple fact of the matter is that there is nothing binding in any of the discussions, the FAA says it will take them several months to finalize the proposals for these minor changes, and at the end the clock will have been run out for a year. This lawsuit is at this time our only hope of forcing the FAA to perform a proper environmental impact study.

For these reasons I moved at the September 8 SSA Board that we donate \$5,000 to the lawsuit, and the motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

The following stipulations applied to the donation:

- 1) We would like a written statement from you that this money will only be used for the case mentioned in the subject line.
- 2) We will need an invoice that states that the monies received are to fund the case. (Perhaps a single document can serve for items 1 & 2)
- 3) We would like to be apprised of updates on the case.
- 4) Wherever you or your office post, publish or mention a list of donors toward this case, for example press releases listing contributors, interviews, etc. we would like the South Skyline Association mentioned. Obviously if it's a quick sound bite we don't expect you to say "Many donors and the SSA". :) We would just like independent sources that we can reference which demonstrate that we care about the issue and are trying to help.

The entire record of the case at the time this donation was made available via the PACER system

(<https://www.pacer.gov/>) or you can email the address below to obtain a copy.

I have received updates from Thomas Christopher as further filings are registered with the court. The FAA's answering briefs and supplemental documents are here:

http://southskyline.org/wp-content/uploads/FAA_AnsweringBrief.pdf (~270KB PDF)

http://southskyline.org/wp-content/uploads/FAA_AnsweringBrief_Supplement.pdf (~6MB PDF)

The petitioner's answering brief is here:

<http://southskyline.org/wp-content/uploads/PetitionersAnsweringBrief.pdf> (~240KB PDF)

At this point the court will either rule at its leisure or ask for further info from Petitioner or defendant -- at its leisure.

I hope this helps clarify the thinking that went into donating for this cause. If you have any questions or comments please direct them to board@southskyline.org. I prefer that all comments and concerns be made available to the whole board, but if you want to contact me directly you may also use

ssa.road.reports@gmail.com.

SPUG QUARTERLY REPORT

by Ruth Waldhauer

Skyline Propane Users Group (SPUG) was formed to benefit SSA members. For information about the propane benefit, Contact Ruth Waldhauer at ruth.waldhauer3@gmail.com or 650-948-1466. Information is also available at: www.southskyline.org.

SSA has agreements with Amerigas/San Jose, Kamps Propane, Suburban Propane and Ferrellgas. 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 that SSA posts are for the first of the month. Our SPUG price 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:

	Amerigas	Suburban San Jose	Suburban Scotts Valley	Kamps Propane	Ferrell gas
January 2015	1.84	2.799	2.099	2.19	1.64
February	1.86	2.799	2.099	2.09	1.59
March	2.24	2.799	2.19	1.99	1.64
April	2.24	2.799	2.09	1.59	1.48
May	1.59	2.69	1.99	1.59	1.30
June	1.34	2.68	2.09	1.29	1.25
July	1.34	2.689	1.99	1.19	1.28
August	1.25	2.689	1.99	1.19	1.25
September	1.45	2.689	1.99	1.29	1.31
October	1.60	2.689	1.99	1.29	1.31
November	1.60	3.059	1.99	1.80	1.61
December	1.67	3.13	2.19	1.68	1.67

Those whose SSA membership has lapsed will be disqualified from receiving the SPUG price for propane. It's time to renew your membership for 2016. A membership application is included in this newsletter.



Adopt-A-Highway

Jerry Peters

On Monday, October 26th, volunteers Bill Sorich, Eric Jewett, Armen Leonian and Jerry Peters met at the Vista Point at 10 am to gather litter. The area was heavily trashed and we filled six large bags, which is pretty much the norm.

Shown left to right in photo are: Jerry Peters, Bill Sorich and Armen Leonian. Ruth Waldhauer took the photo. Eric Jewett arrived just after Ruth had left. Bill's vintage Model T is shown behind.

SSA & SHS volunteers are responsible for gathering litter every two months. The sweep takes about an hour and a half. So far over 175 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 is the new Coordinator of the Adopt-A-Highway project. Contact Jerry if you wish to volunteer. JPontheridge@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 to 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.

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: 650-712-5900

Free Fire Fitting for those in the South Skyline Fire & Rescue primary response area. This 2-1/2 inch 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.

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Vega 650-747-0654 taruno@coastside.net

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

Russian Ridge Winery, 919 Washington Street, San Carlos. Award winning wines, many Santa Cruz Mountains varietals. Tasting room opens Fridays 5-9 pm and Saturdays/Sundays 12-5 pm.

Award Winning Dog Training Classes!

Saturdays in Portola Valley/Ladera & in Atherton at the lovely Holbrook Palmer Park weekday evenings. NEW class! AKC Urban Canine (for 'CGC dogs) Private Lessons available Please call 650 851-5500

Karin Bird and Scott Hayes with Alain Pinel

Local realtors with over 35 combined years experience. Our lower Woodside presence gives us the exposure of a large, well regarded company; our local office next door to Alice's Restaurant enhances our client service. Please visit our website www.BirdHayes.com or give us a call at 650-581-8100

Need Temporary Help: Ride to medical appointment, simple help at home, FREE? Our volunteers (nonprofessional) help needy seniors and the incapacitated. Call Patricia Wood at 408-853-4565 **Mountain Neighbors Helping Neighbors** coordinator or local Skylines coordinator Dick Schwind at 408-867-9422. See article in this issue.

Ads are free to SSA members. Membership is \$20 per year. Membership forms are available at www.southskyline.org Please limit each ad to 45 words.

Email ads to: Skylineseditor@yahoo.com

SOUTH SKYLINE ASSOCIATION

Box 400, Star Route 2

La Honda, CA 94020

Consider Getting Your *Skylines* by Email

For those members who receive the *Skylines* through the Post Office please consider the option to receive it on-line. This will save paper as well as postage. If you sign up for this option you will be notified by email when the next issues is released. Sign up and update your email address with Debra Born, 7405 Alpine Road, La Honda, CA 94020, Phone: 650-917-9648

Email: debborn@gmail.com

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

SSA CALENDAR - General Meeting

January 22, 2016, Saratoga Summit Fire Station

Board meetings will be held at 7:00pm

January 14, February 11, March 10, April 4

For location contact **Michael Rowe**

rowe517@gmail.com • 408-872-1775

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***Skylines* is Published Once A Quarter**

Skylines invites individuals to submit articles and artwork.

Policy on Classified Ads: Ads are free to SSA members. They must be resubmitted for each issue unless a request is made for the ad to be “on-going”. Please keep ads to 45 words or less.

***Skylines* Ads and News Articles:** The deadline for submitting ads and articles for the next issue is **March 13, 2016**

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.