SSA GENERAL MEETING

Sunday August 7, 2016 • Jaqua Ranch • Noon – 4:00pm

Presenter:
Nikki Hanson – California Native Plants that are Good Habitat and Garden Plants

SSA will provide plates, utensils, lemonade and soft drinks. Join us for our annual summer potluck lunch and presentation. We will meet on the shaded patio of the Jaqua Ranch on Langley Road (directions below).

All SSA members and Skyline residents are welcome.

Nikki Hanson is an assistant manager in Acterra Native Plant Nursery. She will be talking to us about native plants that are good habitat and garden plants in the South Skyline area. She will also talk about what she does at the Acterra Native Plant Nursery where they grow plants for many restoration projects in California.

Nikki first connected with Acterra in 2005. Working at the native plant nursery was a match made in heaven for Nikki, as she has been a ‘plant person’ since approximately age two! While obtaining an A.S. in Biology from Foothill College, she continued working at Acterra nursery, until 2011. Nikki went on to achieve a B.S. in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at the University of California Santa Cruz (UCSC), where she worked as a nursery assistant at the USCS arboretum as well as assisting in Dr. Ingrid Parker’s invasive plant lab.

Nikki furthered her research experience and nursery skills while she researched native milkweeds at University of Idaho. In Idaho she worked at the Franklin H. Pitkin Forest Nursery and in Western Washington (where her research project took place) she worked at the Oxbow Native Plant Nursery. In addition to her passion for plants and restoration work, Nikki loves teaching and community building. She taught for eight summers as a summer school teacher at Peninsula School in Menlo Park, and worked as an environmental education instructor with the Reikes Center’s Nature Studies program at Huddart Park where she loved sharing knowledge to connect the next generation with nature. In January 2016, Nikki was delighted to come back to work at Acterra as an assistant manager in Acterra Native Plant Nursery!

Nikki grew up in the La Honda area and is very excited to return to this area, where she now lives with her husband.

Directions to Jaqua Ranch:
**SSEPO ORGANIZES MEETING OF MULTI-COUNTY OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES**

*Frances Mann-Craik*

Until recently, county officials working in the Offices of Emergency Services (OES) in Santa Clara, San Mateo, Santa Cruz and San Francisco Counties didn’t personally know each other. That was until the San Mateo OES Coastside District Coordinator Nick Gottuso joined forces with several South Skyline Emergency Preparedness (SSEPO) board members (Larry Meyers, Pat O’Coffey, Jerry Parsons, and Peggy Wargo) and began driving quarterly Volunteer/OES county meetings. The overarching goal is one of community preparedness, regardless of which of our four counties we reside in when “The Big One” hits.

The most recent meeting, on May 27, was held at the Santa Clara OES office in the Sheriff’s building. When you exit the elevator, it’s like walking into “the twilight zone.” The air is still; the computer screens are all blank; the chairs are empty - on each hangs a vest with the title of the someday-person for that chair; the walls are covered with a bank of huge monitors that stare back blankly. All is ready for whatever type of emergency comes along. Then, the team will descend. Each body will plunk into the correct chair and the wheels on the emergency machine will begin to turn.

At the May meeting, in addition to our multi-county OES officials, UC Santa Cruz OES representative joined in; as well as Santa Clara County CERT coordinator. During the meeting there was much discussion around the deployment of volunteers as a resource during a disaster, including: the chain of control of volunteers and the liability issues around leveraging volunteers. Not surprisingly, the county OES teams have similar issues. These meetings are helping bubble up solutions as well as enabling the exchange of ideas and best practices.

Next projects:

- Saratoga-Summit CalFire fire station-sponsored CERT team for the SSEPO area – being organized by Jerry Parsons with CalFire Battalion Chief Gonzalez
- Work with San Mateo, Santa Cruz, and Santa Clara County OES departments for inclusive response procedures and processes to cover unincorporated SSEPO areas
- Work with counties to ensure public emergency communications systems (i.e. SMC Alerts) address potential call-out and communications needs
- Plan for ongoing volunteer training events in coordination with local fire personnel

www.ssepo.org

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“The South Skyline Story” – a fascinating biography of our scenic Skyline region

Upon opening the book you will follow the paths of the native Ohlone peoples, experience the rugged life in the logging camps, mills and ranches. Learn how the crude trails, dusty ranch and private roads of the ridge properties through four different counties were connected by the building of the boulevard. The book introduces the various waves of people who left the comfort of the “flatlands” to succumb to the lore of the mountains. Complete with detailed maps, it should be in your library!

Your cost just $27.01 incl. tax or $33.81 by priority mail.

For information email chuck_sch@hotmail.com or phone 408-867-9229
SOUTH SKYLINE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS
VOLUNTEERS SHARE WHAT THEY WILL DO...
WHEN THE BIG ONE HITS

Francis Mann-Craik
Neighborhood Coordinator - Monkey Rock

1. Check on Family and Pets
2. Shut off power, water, propane if called for
3. Check phone lines – if working, activate Monkey Rock emergency phone tree; then follow up with neighbors in need
4. If phones not working, grab CERT bag and hike to each neighbor to see if they are okay, provide first aid, transport, etc.
5. Head for MROSD to help with CERT and SSEPO coordination and neighborhood support

Helen Feber
Emergency Operations Team Leader - Las Cumbres

1. Check that my loved ones and home are safe/evacuated if needed.
2. Determine working communications: landlines, cell-text, cell-voice, cell-internet and turn on my 2-way radio and announce myself on the Las Cumbres net.
3. Leave a note on my front door of my intended location and status. If Facebook is accessible, report an “I’m okay” status.
4. Head to the LCCC community center and set up the Emergency Operations Center there or in an alternate location if it is unsafe.
5. Direct Las Cumbres Field Response Teams to assess and report overall status of neighborhood clusters.

Bryan Osborne
Radio Systems

1. Check for domestic and pet injuries.
2. Check and record home structural and electrical problems.
3. Check and record injuries and structural damage on other residences on Castanea Ridge Road. If needed, cut gas and electrical service to damaged structures.
4. Open and place in operation the Castanea Ridge communications trailer.
5. Collect and compile information from Castanea Ridge and Portola Heights.
6. Scan for in use frequencies in order to contact San Mateo County EOS center.
7. Pass needed information to San Mateo County Office of Emergency Services (SMCOES) from local communities.
8. Pass needed information back to local communities from SMCOES.
9. Maintain power and radios in communications trailer for as long as needed.

continued on next page
5. If appropriate, shut off power, propane, or water, to residences using owner-supplied diagram.
6. Proceed to Emergency Operations Center or alternate location as directed by Operations Team Leader.
1. Check on Family and Pets
2. Shut off power, water, propane
3. Leave a note on front door regarding my location
4. Grab Medical Bag
5. Go to MROSD emergency station
6. Retrieve Medical supplies from trailer
7. Set up Emergency First Aid Center
8. Coordinate care of injured

Peggy Wargo
CERT Coordinator

1. Check family and home
2. Send out SMC Alert to CERT members with reporting instructions once authorized
1. Go to pre-assigned staging area
2. Determine/confirm resource as “Operations Section Leader”
3. Coordinate as needed the set up of “Ops Center” for medical first aid and support
   • Triage area
   • Medical treatment area

4. Ensure Ham radio comm. availability
5. Set up resource Check-In process
6. Work with logistics: food/water/staffing rotation needs
   • Food/water requirements
   • Resource rotation plan
7. Attend or set up periodic briefing sessions
   • Coordinate updates from IC briefings
   • Communications and logistical processes
8. Once event resolved:
   • Wind down site
   • Check out all resources (follow up on any not properly checked out)
   • Ensure the return of all equipment to storage
9. Coordinate Final event debrief
10. Go home!

Rich Lee, M.D.
Medical Emergency Coordinator

Sharon Peters
Neighborhood Coordinator
Rosemary Lane
SSFSC RECEIVES GRANT FOR FURTHER SKYLINE CLEARING

John DeLong

The South Skyline FireSafe Council (SSFSC) plans to complete the fuels reduction effort along our portion of Skyline Blvd in San Mateo County that we began two years ago. You may recall that in 2014 SSFSC, under the leadership of Bill Guenther, cleared most of Skyline Blvd from the Grizzly Flat Trailhead to Page Mill Road, and also cleared some around the CalTrans Vista Point. But most of the area north of Page Mill Rd was not cleared. The hot, dry winds of late summer typically come from the northeast, increasing the fire danger. Since Skyline is perpendicular to that, it becomes our most important firebreak.

Thanks to the recent efforts of Dick Schwind, SSFSC has secured a grant of $11,000 from Pacific Gas and Electric Company to complete the “shaded fuel break” (remove brush, dead material, designated trees up to 4” in diameter and limb up larger trees) along Highway 35 from Page Mill Road north to Fogarty Winery (our SSFSC northern boundary). CalTrans will provide traffic control and a chipper, CalFire has agreed to provide work crews from the Ben Lomond Camp, and SSFSC will provide coordination, oversight and sponsors to assist the crews. This will be a three week effort, starting in August, but spread out in time as we can coordinate CalTrans, CalFire and our volunteers. The work will all be done within the 100 foot width of state ownership along Highway 35. Chips from the CalTrans chipper will not be broadcast, but will go into their truck. We are committed to finding nearby locations that would like the chips. If you are nearby and interested in taking some or all of this mulch, please contact me at jmdelong@aol.com, or Dick Schwind at schwindr@yahoo.com. A letter will be sent to homeowners along Skyline Blvd with more information.

COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN

Eric Isaacson

In June we got a dramatic wake-up call when the roads between Highway 17, Skyline Blvd., and Highway 9 were gridlocked with traffic diverted from Highway 17 when it was shutdown by a car fire that spread into Redwood Estates. The gridlock trapped people in their cars for as much as 2 hours. Had the fire not been controlled quickly but spread up toward Skyline there would have been many casualties.

Few of us anticipated this kind of problem. It highlighted our lack of an evacuation plan for the area. A Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) is supposed to identify this kind of problem in advance so that, as funds are available, they can be directed to the most urgent needs. Santa Cruz and San Mateo Counties have had a CWPP in place for a number of years but Santa Clara County has had none. Hence the surprise at the event in June.

Fortunately the Santa Clara County Fire Safe Council has a project in progress to prepare a CWPP. Because fire doesn’t respect county boundaries they are including relevant parts of Santa Cruz County in their plan. The CWPP project is an opportunity for us to identify the wildfire risks we as residents of the area know about that others may not. Including these risks in the plan will go a long way toward making funds available to address them.

Please review the pertinent parts of the latest draft of the plan at http://www.sccfd.org/santa-clara-county-community-wildfire-protection-plan and submit your comments and recommendations to sccwpp@gmail.com

Note that Annex 6 addresses the South Skyline area.
LA HONDA VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE
Joyce Converse

This message is meant for our extended community. For some of you it is not new information. For others, it may be an eye-opener. Most of us grew up in a town or city where there was a fire department, funded and sustained by government at one level or another. It gave us a sense of comfort and protection and we came to take it for granted -- as a given or an entitlement. This is my first year on the Board of Directors of the La Honda Volunteer Fire Brigade (LHVFB) and it is safe to say that I have been stunned. A few facts:

1. The LHVFB is just that -- VOLUNTEER. NO ONE involved receives a dime of compensation -- not even the chief.
2. The town of La Honda saves an estimated $2 million each year as a consequence of its presence.
3. Your homeowner’s insurance is lessened or even possible because of LHVFB.
4. The LHVFB is funded by:
   a. Grants researched and applied for by our chief and a couple of firefighters who know the ropes
   b. Annual memberships that are tax deductible
   c. THE FUNDRAISERS: Crab Cioppino (the biggest), LH Country Faire (food booth), Ducati Event (food booth), LH Flea Market, Pancake Breakfast, LH Christmas Faire.

Our fire brigade goes where it is needed. It partners with other volunteer fire departments (Loma Mar, Kings Mountain, Colma) as well as county-funded Cal Fire departments (Skyonda, Pescadero, Cordilleros). It helps in Woodside and Half Moon Bay. It was involved with the exploded gas pipeline a few years back in San Bruno. It helped out with the southern California fires during last summer’s drought. It is there for you if you fall off a ladder or have a heart attack -- not to mention a smoking furnace. Every person in the Brigade is trained in both firefighting and CPR and many lives have been saved as a consequence.

There are roughly 500 households in the greater La Honda area (not including towns and villages farther afield). There are a total of only 220 members. Please consider joining this amazing organization by going to www.lahondafire.org. Become a member and/or a volunteer if you are able. The greater community needs you as much as you need it!

www.lahondafire.org
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 more than $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>Month</th>
<th>Amerigas</th>
<th>Suburban San Jose</th>
<th>Suburban Scotts Valley</th>
<th>Kamps Propane</th>
<th>FerrelGas</th>
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Don’t Lose Your SPUG Discount for Propane

SPUG discounts and paper copies of the Skylines newsletter will be discontinued for members who have not paid membership dues for 2016. Print out a membership application at southskyline.org/join/

MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT BOARD VOTES TO PRESERVE THE RADAR TOWER ATOP MOUNT UMUNHUM

Los Altos, CA—In a special meeting on June 8, the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (Midpen) Board of Directors voted unanimously to keep the five-story, decommissioned Air Force radar tower atop Mount Umunhum in the Sierra Azul Open Space Preserve.

The Board also voted to accept donations from the general public for the repairs to and ongoing maintenance of the tower. In the last year, Midpen has spent nearly $400,000 in general funds on interim repairs to make the tower safe for visitors to the Mount Umunhum summit.

“It is a straightforward decision that our board makes tonight” said Yoriko Kishimoto, Midpen Board President, “We have sympathy for those who use the radar tower as a physical landmark and cherish its history and we welcome private donations to help us repair and maintain the radar tower.”

In 2012, the Midpen Board voted to postpone any decision on the tower until October 2017 to give the public the opportunity to experience the mountain with the tower in place and to give private parties time to raise funds for tower preservation. However, a unanimous May 10 vote by the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors to place the tower on the County Heritage Resource Inventory effectively ended that process.

Other components of Midpen’s plan for Mount Umunhum will continue as planned, including opening the
VENUS THISTLE WILL PRICK YOUR INTEREST

Sarah Schoen

All South Skyline residents are familiar with thistles, members of the genus *Cirsium*. But not all species are invasive weeds. We have our own lovely native, venus thistle (*Cirsium occidentale var. venustum*). Venus thistle is an erect annual or biannual plant, anchored by a tap root and growing 2 to 6 feet above ground. There is one main stem, branched further up and covered with a light felt.

Leaves are alternate, oblanceolate (longer than wide, attached to the stem at the narrow end) and noticeably smaller as they go up the stem. The leaves are not bristly above and are felted below. They have wavy margins, with short spines on the crests of the waves.

The flowers are definitely thistles. They have a spherical green base (involucre) 3/4” to 2-1/4” wide, surrounded by spiny bracts, with the bracts curved upwards. The involucres may be free of hairs or lightly cobwebbed. This and some of the other subspecies are also called cobweb or cobwebby thistle. The flower head is 1 to 1-1/2” high and, like other thistles, composed of disk flowers only. Unlike the nonnative species, these flowers are in shades of red: crimson, red pink, and, rarely, pink. Anthers are covered in white pollen at the top of the flower head. The flowers bloom May to July. Small, one-seeded fruits have feathery pappus bristles, carried by the wind like parachutes.

Many animals enjoy venus thistles. Hummingbirds and swallowtail butterflies are attracted to the blooms and presumably pollinate the flowers. Recently, I spent a minute watching a bumblebee, diving head down well into the flower’s center to collect nectar. At the same time, her abdomen was pointing upward and collecting the white pollen from the ends of the anthers. The mylitta crescent butterfly (*Phyciodes mylitta*) uses many types of thistles, native and nonnative, as a larval food plant.

Although no medicinal uses are known, two California Indian tribes – the Kawaiisu and the Tubatulabal used *Cirsium occidentale* for food. They stripped the spring stems and then ate them raw.

Venus thistle is found singly or in small groups on rocky slopes, grasslands, and partially shaded woods. This thistle is found only in California and is widely distributed throughout most of its counties, although generally inland from the coast and below 11,000’. Another subspecies, *Cirsium occidentale var. occidentale*, cobwebby thistle, is found more commonly along coastal dunes (and occasionally more inland below 600’) and has lavender to bright purple flowers.

Photo: David Schoen

www.openspace.org
AMATEUR RADIO LICENSING CLASS
Lisa Chupity

A two-day Amateur Radio class was given at the Coastside Emergency Operations Center in Half Moon Bay over the weekend of June 4-5. Fifteen people, most of whom recently completed the Coastside CERT program, engaged in the question pool. The class was taught by local ham radio operators, all of whom are Emergency Coordinators along the San Mateo County coastside area. Among the instructors were South Skyline-based teachers, Pat O’Coffey, Bob Smith, and Alpine area teachers Peter Chupity and Linda Bennett. The question pool is all of the 426 possible questions, of which only 35 appear on the actual exam. The topics included how radio works, basic electrical concepts, antennae, radio components and how they work, operating, license regulations, and safety. These topics were taught with graphics, what-if scenarios, and creative and interactive demonstrations.

Coastside Fire Battalion Chief Ari Delay was impressed with the instructors: “The level of technical expertise in the instructors was extremely high. They drilled down complex issues in physics and electronics into very easy to understand information.”

Certified CERT Instructor Michelle Dragony thought the class was great. “I had been intimidated by all the information, but the book and online mock tests have been helpful. I was glad to see other women in the class, and the high percentage of women instructors.” She was impressed with instructor Robert Smith. “He took the information, broke it into small chunks, and then blended it all back together. It all made sense.” Amateur Radio (or Ham Radio) allows communication across the street, around the world, or even outer space. In instances where telephone, internet, and cellular service are inoperable, Amateur Radio is there to get the message through. Amateur Radio operators, often called “hams,” enjoy radio technology as a hobby. But it’s also a service – a vital service that has saved lives when regular communication systems failed.

www.arrl.org/what-is-ham-radio

Here on the central and south Skyline area, SC4ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Services) serves the La Honda Volunteer Fire Brigade and the Coastside Emergency Operations Center. Many hams are members of the Coastside Emergency Corps.

www.sc4arc.org

Classified 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.
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.

Freebies: a tall wrought iron wine rack, solid oak twin bed frames (stack to make into bunk bed) two old western saddles one from 1800s, beautiful leather-bound set Encyclopedia Americana early 20th century edition. Call 650-851-1061

Free: Interior (hollow core, oak) and exterior doors, various sizes; also six double-glazed 4’x6 1/2’ alum frame sliding door panels (was going to be a greenhouse project but one I’ll never get to.) Contact Chuck Schoppe, email chuck_sch@hotmail.com or phone 408-867-9229.

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

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

Dog Days Award Winning Dog Training Classes- Saturday days & Monday evenings in Portola Valley/Ladera. New! AKC Urban Canine Class Gift Certificates – great for any dog owner! Private Lessons available. Please call 650 851-5500 (best) or email: Dog.days@comcast.net

Tree Work - I want to share contact information for Jim Lynch- a fantastic and fearless person who has cut several trees and many branches for us over the last 3 years. He is skilled, able to climb and piece down branches and whole trees, as well as any other tree work. His prices are very reasonable. Contact is 831-227-3250. Lynne Penek-Holden

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

Karin Bird and Scott Hayes with Alain-Pinel - Local realtors with over 35 years combined 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: http://www.birdhayes.com or give us a call at 650-851-8100.

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.

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Consider Getting Your *Skylines* by Email

For those members who receive the *Skylines* through the Post Office please consider the option to receive it on-line. This will save paper as well as postage. Sign up for this option and verify your email address by sending an email to Membership@southskyline.org.

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

SSA CALENDAR

**General Meeting** will be held on August 7 at 12-4pm at Jaqua Ranch

**Board Meeting** will be held on Sept. 8

**Board Meeting** will be held on October 13

For locations and more information 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.

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**Skylines Ads and News Articles:** The deadline for submitting ads and articles for the next issue is September 15, 2016

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

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