



SOUTH SKYLINE ASSOCIATION

[www.southskyline.org](http://www.southskyline.org)

OCTOBER

## SSA GENERAL MEETING

Friday, October 28

Saratoga Summit Fire Station

7:00pm - Refreshments • Bring a dessert to share

SSA will provide beverages

**Presenter: Elise McCandless**

**All About Our Local Bats**

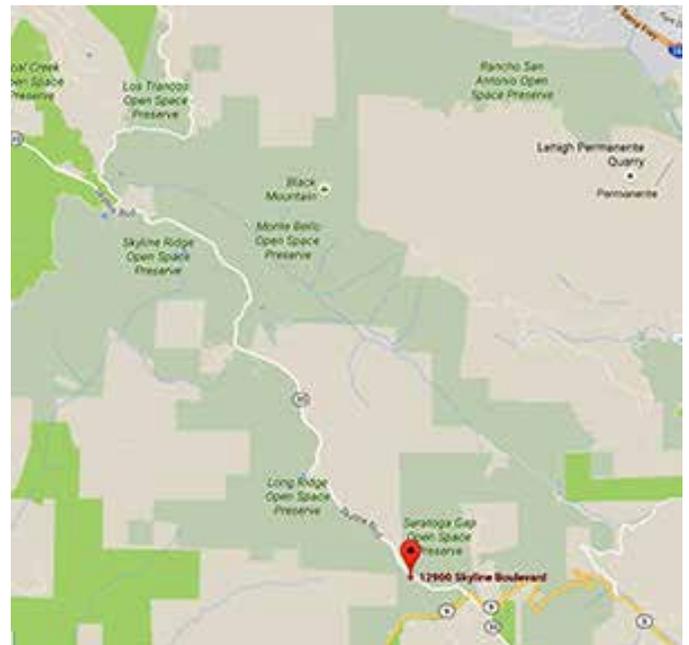
7:30pm - Featured presentation

Did you know that bats can eat 500-1000 insects per hour? Some bats can fly 60 miles per hour and 10,000 feet up while migrating thousands of miles! Join us for a program about our local bats, where they live, and why we should protect them. Bat rehabilitator, educator, and advocate Elise McCandless of Santa Cruz Bats ([www.santacruz bats.com](http://www.santacruz bats.com)) will talk about the biology, behavior, and ecological importance of bats in our area.

Santa Cruz Bats ([www.santacruz bats.com](http://www.santacruz bats.com)) is an all-volunteer run organization devoted to rescuing bats, educating the public about bats, and advocating for the protection of bats.

If you have questions or concerns about bats, or have found a sick or injured bat you can call Santa Cruz Bats at 831-421-2233. Note: *Never touch a bat with your bare hands.*

Saratoga Summit Fire Station is at 12900 Skyline Blvd.



## MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE UPDATE

*Debra Born*

As the warmth of summer months slips into cooler temperatures and the prospect of rain so does the Membership Committee anticipate the flurry of activity associated with SSA membership renewals and new members who want to take advantage of the SPUG program's propane discount as well as the thoroughly enjoyable quarterly general meetings and their fascinating speakers and opportunity to connect with neighbors.

To that end there has been continued focus on getting our online application and payment system up and running on our website. We currently expect new applicants and existing members to be able to join and renew online ***no later than December 1. We strongly encourage everyone who has access to a computer, tablet, or smart-phone to renew your membership for 2017 or to join via the SSA website.***

The way it will work is as follows:

Go to the [southskyline.org](http://southskyline.org) website and click on the "Membership" tab at the top of the page.

Click on the "Renew" button or on the "Pay to Join" button. Both buttons will take you to a page where you can choose to pay via PayPal or by credit card. You will not need a password to do this.

Following payment new members will be asked to create your "Profile".

If you are an existing member and want to update your "Profile" i.e., email address, phone number, propane company, etc., you will need to go thru a log-in process and create a user name and password. Instructions for using this process will be on the website.

Of course everyone will still be able to renew or join the old-fashioned way. There will be an updated "Join or Renew" membership form in the January *Skylines* newsletter, which you'll be able to fill out and send to the address on the form along with your \$20 payment. Or you can already go to our website and print out a copy of the application on your own computer and send in with payment. However, given the current size of our membership and the limited time of our volunteers, we strongly encourage you to try the online process. We think you'll like it!

Finally, as a post-script, we've filtered out on our database our lapsed from the active member count and noted our actual current "active" count is approximately 1,550 and not 1,800 as previously reported. This is still a large number of members, of which we are proud and pleased to serve. With your dues we are able to support not only our own programs and activities but to support through our grant process other non-profit organizations in our South Skyline area.

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## WHAT IS YOUR SSA BOARD DOING?

*Michael Rowe, President*

Wow, Fall 2016 already...where has the time gone? Notwithstanding the crazy political season we are forced to suffer through (by the way, when did the campaign season become 12+ months long?), I for one would like to slow time down and savor the season. Short of being able to do that, how about a review of what the SSA board has accomplished and continues to work on?

First, we had a fantastic summer General Meeting at Jacqua Ranch August 7th. Perfect weather, a beautiful setting, yummy food, and an interesting speaker topic...what's not to love? I'm sorry for all those that couldn't make it. Not to worry, we have another great General Meeting planned for October 28th at the Saratoga Summit Fire Station – see this issue for details, or visit the [Southskyline.org](http://Southskyline.org) homepage. Please mark your calendar and join us.

Next, the SSA Board continues to refine our Vision Statement. We dedicated a full board meeting to work through what we could provide our community and what we've garnered is important to members. I'm hesitant to share a "work in progress," but in the spirit of transparency, let me provide you a preview of where we are heading: "South Skyline Association is the catalyst that connects Santa Cruz Mountain communities through social involvement and by addressing pertinent local issues. Our work influences local/regional public policy to

improve community safety, environmental sensitivity and promote a thriving connected community.” Once we word-smith and finalize the Vision Statement, we plan to create a New Resident “Welcome to the Community” information and resource package. Stay tuned...more to come.

On the Donation/Grants front, the board passed a motion to pledge a supporting donation to the Lakeside School for replacing the aging roof. See details in this newsletter for information on how you can also help with a personal donation. In addition, the Board has been working on defining, codifying, and systemizing the Grant Request process. We are close to publishing the SSA Grant Request Guidelines, including SSA Grant Request Form. Our goal is to have this completed before the end of the year so that the annual budget meeting in January can benefit from the clarified guidelines.

The online presence of South Skyline Association continues to evolve and modernize. Unfortunately, the goal of offering membership renewal online has been painfully complicated and has suffered delays that have put the project behind schedule. Nonetheless, the hope is to have electronic renewals soon.

Check out the “About” section of our website for our new detailed and zoomable map of the SSA membership region. New members to our community can easily check to see if they live within our boundaries and are eligible for Regular Voting Membership (Associate Members fall outside our boundaries and do not have voting rights).

Finally, the board, largely through Maura McNamara’s efforts, has created a Volunteer Waiver for the Adopt-A-Highway program. Please be sure to fill one out when joining the effort to help clean our local roadsides.



## **SOUTH SKYLINE FIRE & RESCUE NEWS**

*Andy Seigel, Captain, SSF&R*

Our local Cal Fire crews have been out of county for much of July and August, first at the Soberanes fire, and later at the Clayton fire. We have covered the area several times as crews move around. So far, we have been very lucky this year and there have been few fires in our response area.

### **Firefighter Spotlight**

We would like to introduce our new 2016 volunteer, David Myrick.

David and his wife moved to Portola Heights from the peninsula in 2015. As an EMT, he was motivated to join the team to have a place to use his skills. In talking about the process of becoming a firefighter, he said. The Academy is quite challenging, both physically and mentally “there’s so much new material to learn!” He has already put his new skills to work, responding to 20 calls, including several rescues in Castle Rock State Park.

Would you like to join David? Do you want to learn more to help you decide if you are interested in being a volunteer firefighter? Volunteering with Santa Cruz County Fire is a great opportunity to help your community. It is extremely rewarding, and Company 29 is a great team to work with. In terms of time commitment, after the initial training (fire academy), you would attend twice-per-month training sessions to keep skills sharp, and be available to respond when it fits in your schedule.

There is still time to get into the program for the 2017 season. We have a few people considering the program for next year but so far none have committed. If you are potentially interested, please contact us, talk to any local firefighter, stop by whenever you see the door open at the fire station, or use the response form on our website. You can also find a complete description of the process of becoming a volunteer at

<http://southskylinefire.org/join.php>



## FIRESAFE COUNCIL CONTINUES SKYLINE BOULEVARD FUELS REDUCTION

*Dick Schwind and John DeLong*

Our South Skyline FireSafe Council (SSFSC) has just completed its latest Skyline Boulevard fuels reduction effort from Page Mill/Alpine Roads north 2.5 miles to the Fogarty Winery. We received an \$11,000 grant from PG&E for this program. This completes our effort of many years making 13.5 miles of Skyline Boulevard from Black Road north to Rapley Ranch Road our most essential fire break. Our most dangerous potential firestorm winds come in the late summer and early fall from the northeast, roughly perpendicular to Skyline Boulevard.

Cal Trans provided traffic control and the chipper for this 15 day effort. Cal Fire's prison crews from the Ben Lomond Camp did the chain sawing, weed eating, and stuffing the chipper. We (Dick and John) lead the project. Our

SSFSC volunteers helped the Cal Fire Captain oversee the crew. Roughly 40 truck loads of chips (300+ cubic yards) were broadcast back along the highway or delivered to neighbors. Roughly 400 volunteer hours were required for this project!

Please **VOLUNTEER** to help our **ALL-VOLUNTEER** South Skyline FireSafe Council continue its fuels reduction efforts. There are funds available for more projects that we can not access due to lack of personnel to write grant requests and lead projects. We are a core of only 10 local residents leading our programs plus our faithful trained volunteers who help us manage our work crews on a daily basis. Contact our president, Eric Isacson, at phone: 408-867-9422 or email: [eric@isacson.com](mailto:eric@isacson.com)



### **2016 FALL FREE CHIPPING PROGRAM NOVEMBER 1, 2 & 3 • TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY SOUTH SKYLINE FIRE SAFE COUNCIL IS OFFERING FREE BRUSH CHIPPING FOR DEFENSIBLE FIRE SAFE CLEARING AND FUEL REDUCTION AROUND INDIVIDUAL HOMEOWNERS PROPERTY**

***APPLICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED NO LATER THAN SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15TH  
FOR APPLICATIONS AND POLICY RULES PLEASE CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE:***

[WWW.SOUTHSKYLINEFIRESAFE.ORG](http://WWW.SOUTHSKYLINEFIRESAFE.ORG)

**or contact Ed Hayes: e-mail: [edhayes@wildblue.net](mailto:edhayes@wildblue.net), phone: 408-872-1715**

#### **GENERAL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:**

- Home must exist within the SSFSC Boundries
- Brush piles must be orderly and within proximity of good access for chipper
  - Chips will be left on homeonwer's property in a pile or broadcast
- Brush piles must be available for inspection one week in advance of chipping date
  - Chipping is for existing homes only, No new construction or area clearing

The SSFSC Defensible Space Free Chipping and Partial Reimbursement Programs are supported by donations and matching contributions from South Skyline Association, Santa Cruz County, San Mateo Fire Safe Council, Santa Cruz County, and community homeowners and residents.

**SSFSC GREATLY APPRECIATES YOUR TAX DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTIONS OF ANY AMOUNT SO WE CAN CONTINUE TO PROVIDE THIS VALUABLE COMMUNITY FIRE PROTECTION PROGRAM.**

## NEW LA HONDA FIRE ENGINE

*Joyce Converse*

INTRODUCING...(I think it should have a name). **Fire Engine** is too mundane and this machine is anything BUT! The simplest way to describe it is that it has the capacity of a large truck in a smaller package. It is 27-1/2 feet long and weighs 40,000 pounds.

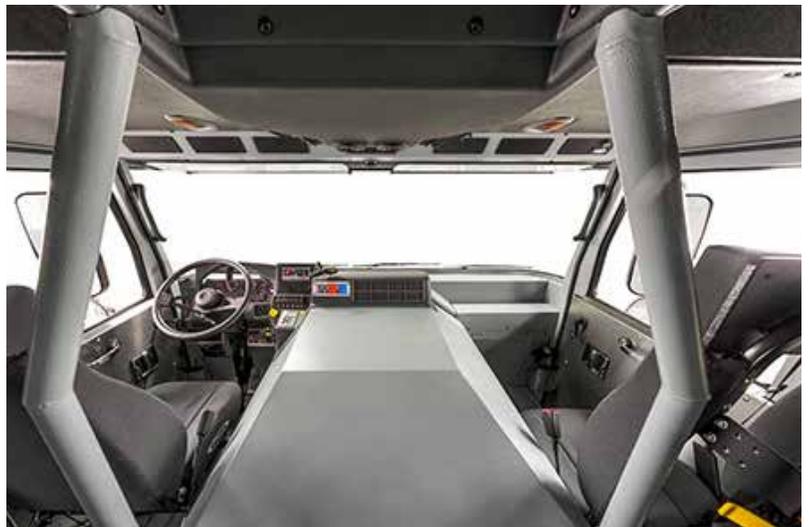
The Pierce Company in Wisconsin is a million square foot facility on a 63 acre campus that produces fire engines according to specifications from all over the world. The Department's apparatus committee was led by Captain Peter Panofsky and included Chief Ari Delay, Assistant Chief Paul Long, Firefighter Amy Johnson and Firefighter Rory Doolin. Together they developed detailed specifications -- basically a book -- describing the specifics of this machine which is designed to suit the needs of our extended community -- all the areas LHVFB serves. Here are some of the high points:

1. It has the shortest wheel base available so that its turning radius is functional for our narrow, winding, often hilly roads and streets.
2. It has shorter-than-usual front and rear bumpers that tilt somewhat upward so that it can go up (and back down) steep driveways. I think there are quite a few of those around.
3. It can seat six firefighters (two in the front, four in the rear) as opposed to the three that are crowded into the front of the current machine.
4. In addition to water, it has a compressed air foam system (CAFS) that basically mixes water, soap and air to stretch the water supply. The CARBON in wood is hydrophobic - that is, it repels water. (Who knew?) The addition of the foam multiplies the function of the water many times over. There is no other front line structure fire engine anywhere in the area that has this compressed air foam system. WE have it because water here is at a premium (as opposed to Redwood City for instance).
5. There are now "Receivers" near the back wheels on both sides. These are designed as anchors for rescuing people who fall off cliffs. It used to take a crew five to ten minutes to set up the "anchor" which would allow a firefighter to safely get down a cliff to rescue someone who had fallen. Now it is immediately ready.
6. Firefighters carry a thermal imaging camera that sees through smoke and is currently stored under the seat in a box out of reach. It will now be readily available.
7. Critical for our firefighters are the self-contained breathing apparatuses - one for each of the six firefighters. The new engine features seats that store the breathing apparatus in them. This is in contrast to a compartment on the side of the current engine. These are easily and immediately accessed and can be worn like backpacks.

Aside from all the amazing assets already mentioned, take a look at the picture. That smooth steel surface that runs through the middle of the inside of the truck is the ENGINE! The thermal imaging camera can be set there as well as other tools and equipment.

The fire engine we are replacing dates from 1988 and is fully owned by the County. Our acquisition of this new fire engine is made possible by the partnership between the County of San Mateo and the La Honda Fire Brigade. Measure A - a county initiated tax from 2012 was intended to maintain and replace outdated safety-oriented equipment. This measure supplied \$453,000 and the LHVFB raised \$100,000 locally over the last two years as our contribution. This machine will be owned jointly.

Final inspection is scheduled for the week of August 8th and then the truck will make its way to La Honda. Once outfitted the engine will be placed in service at the annual Pancake Breakfast on Sunday October 16th. You are ALL invited to celebrate this milestone in the history of the La Honda Fire Brigade. You'll be able to check it out and toast it with some ice cream!!!



## **GIS MAPPING PROJECT STATUS UPDATE**

This article provides an update to our South Skyline Area neighbors on this important project sponsored by La Honda Fire with financial support from SSEPO, SSA, and others. Planning phase is now complete and the project is operational with data collection underway.

### **What is the project all about?**

Providing first responders with up-to-date neighborhood and individual property access information that is critical during emergency situations. The maps include property level details such as structure locations, obstacles or barriers, gated areas, water sources, fire hydrants, availability of fire sprinkler systems, critical driveway distance to structures information and more.

### **Why should I care?**

Current processes use outdated paper mapping systems that often detail incomplete or missing important fire fighting information altogether. This project replaces this paper system with an easy-to-update electronic solution that can be immediately accessed by first responders in both offline and online modes.

### **In the event of emergency first responders could expect to:**

- Reduce emergency vehicle arrival times
- Help ensure accurate arrival on scene
- Avoid navigation errors
- Improve situational awareness and results
- Improve impact of onsite delivery of emergency services
- Generally improved overall effectiveness and efficiency.

### **And before an emergency ever strikes they can:**

- Develop Pre-Suppression Plans to better understand specific areas and how to proceed
- Increase their overall knowledge of required response criteria
- Identify areas needed for better planning and preplan resource staging
- Identification and location of other resources that could be used in the event of an emergency.

### **Areas currently mapped:**

Phase One data collection is now occurring or has been completed in the following areas:

- Las Cumbres
- Portola Heights
- Castanea Ridge
- Rosemary Lane
- Monkey Rock
- Rocky Creek/Clouds Rest
- Cuesta La Honda.

### **What information is being collected at the residential level?**

Data collected includes information that is key for responders so that they can quickly locate and respond as needed. Included are property addresses, restricted access areas, length of driveway, structures, availability of fire sprinklers, location of electrical shutoffs, water sources, special needs, etc.

### **Progress thus far:**

The phase one planning stage is now finalized and mapping is occurring in various neighborhoods. Hardware and software including iPads and software map access are becoming available to our firefighters. Las Cumbres South Skyline Fire & Rescue became the first local fire department to receive their tools and has placed them into operation. Other fire departments will be deploying soon!

### **Who supports this project?**

- La Honda Fire Brigade
- CalFire, Felton, Saratoga-Summit, Skyland

- SouthSkyline Fire & Rescue
- Kings Mountain Fire Brigade
- South Skyline Emergency Preparedness Organization
- South Skyline Association
- Various neighborhoods where mapping is completed or underway

## What can I do?

Get involved today! Visit [www.ssepo.com](http://www.ssepo.com) and locate your neighborhood coordinator to set an appointment. If you don't know or cannot find a neighborhood coordinator for your area, or if you have questions, contact Peggy Wargo at 650.839.3933 or La Honda Fire at [gis@lahondafire.org](mailto:gis@lahondafire.org) for more information.

*GIS Mapping team training event:  
L to R: Mark Haynie: Portola Heights, Michael Dittman: volunteer GIS Engineer, Chief Ari Delay: La Honda Fire Brigade, Tom Hempel: Clouds Rest, SMC Research & Rescue volunteers, and Pat O'Coffey: Portola Heights*



## SSFSC COMPLETES KCTT ANNUAL MAINTENANCE

*Eric Isacson*

In August the South Skyline Fire Safe Council completed this year's vegetation maintenance on the Kings Creek Truck Trail. It is the only access route for fighting fires in the most remote reaches of Castle Rock State Park, and for establishing a line of defense against the spread of wildfire into nearby communities such as Las Cumbres. Re-growth of vegetation previously cleared was especially vigorous during the past year with many madrone saplings reaching 8 ft.!

KCTT runs from Highway 35 near the Castle Rock parking lot 8 miles down around the southern boundary of the Park to Highway 9 below Waterman Gap. Beginning in 2011 the SSFSC secured more than \$100,000 in grants and managed re-opening of the nearly abandoned KCTT. The last segment was completed in 2015. The original grant required a commitment that we maintain the vegetation clearance and we have been doing so on a roughly annual basis ever since

A large part of the expense this year came from the SRA Fee we all pay as part of our taxes. The balance was provided by contributions to the SSFSC by local residents. Thank you for these!

Fire Crews from Calfire's Ben Lomond Camp worked 12 days on the project and engine crews 4. Supervision was provided by local sponsors trained by Calfire. In addition to managing the field work the SSFSC organized the project and obtained necessary agency approvals.

Special thanks to Fred Glover, Ron Chandik, Kim Hamilton, John DeLong, and Karl Noonan (Vajrapani Institute) for providing the volunteer supervision that make the project possible.

## ARROYO WILLOWS GROW WHERE THE WATER IS

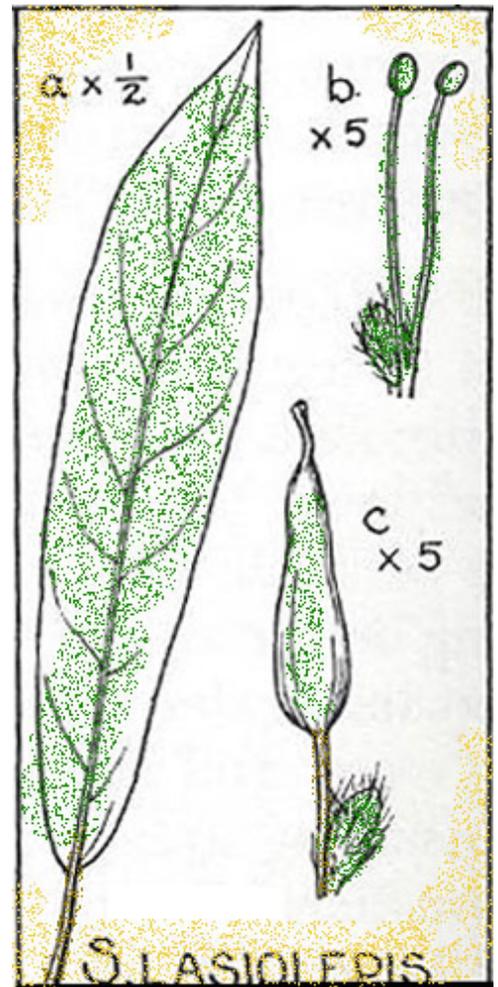
*Sarah Schoen*

Arroyo willows (*Salix lasiolepis*) dot the shoreline along the ponds and creeks of South Skyline. So attached to sources of water, they can also be seen growing near springs or where the groundwater table approaches the surface.

Arroyo willow is a deciduous and multitrunked large shrub or small tree up to 30 feet tall. Leaves are simple, alternate and **oblanceolate** (widest in the middle) to **lanceolate**, 2 to 5 inches long. They are pale white, gray, or light green underneath, medium to dark green above, and very slightly rolled under along the margins. A key to identifying the species locally is the lack of any glands or “sticky dew drops” on the petiole (leaf stem). In the fall, if the weather is cool, leaves will turn yellow before falling to the ground.

Woody twigs are yellow to brown, hairy when young and smooth when older. They are visible from afar in winter when the leaves are off; buds with fused scales are held tightly against the stems.

Flowers emerge in late winter to early spring, before the leaves. Male and female flowers are on separate plants, ensuring crosspollination. They have no petals or sepals, and grow in multiflower catkins. Males are yellow with 2 stamens. Females are green, with a minute style and superior glabrous ovary. The flowers can be wind pollinated, the lack of interfering leaves aiding in the process. Or they can be insect pollinated, bees or flies gathering pollen and a small amount of nectar as their prize.

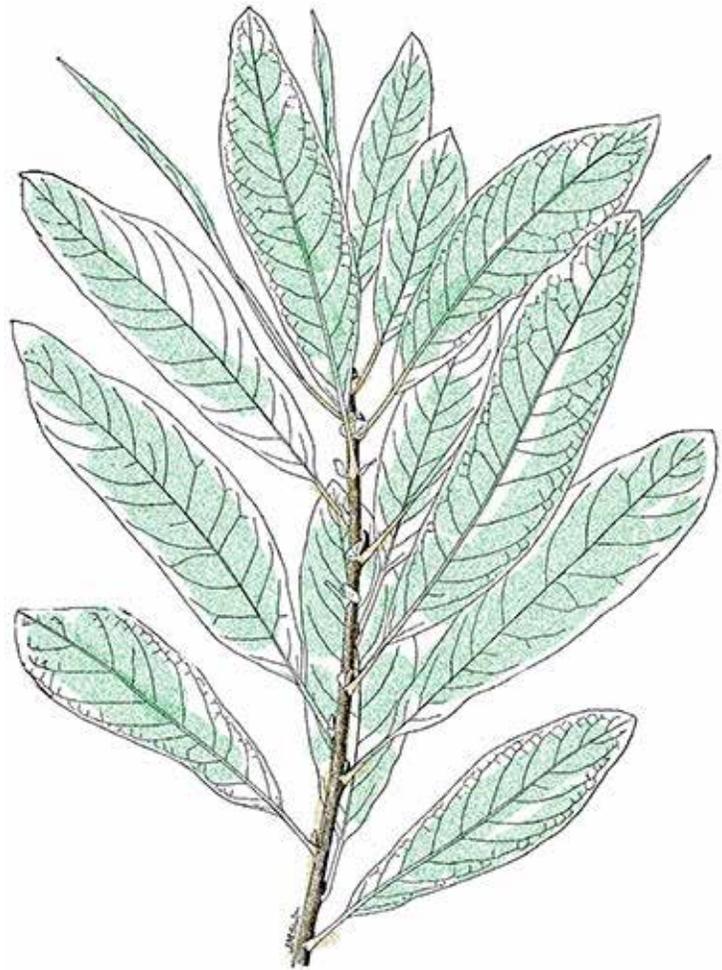


*Photos: David Schoen*

Fruits are capsules with tiny seeds. The light-weight seeds have silky hairs that help them float on the wind to the next pond, say from Alpine to Horseshoe. But that is only 1 of 3 alternate plans for dispersal. Willow twigs are excellent rooters. They can form large clonal colonies directly near the parent plant. (Fast growing, if they fall over, the live trunk will re-root and send up a new plant.) And lastly, as the shrub grows taller and shades out the lower branches, these can break off, float downstream, and for the very small percentage that land on shore and get at least partially covered by soil, re-root to sprout a new genetic clone some distance away.

Willows have been used medicinally by a number of different cultures. Local Ohlones made an infusion of bark or young leaves or a decoction of flowers of the arroyo willow, all to treat colds. Willows, different species of which are found throughout the northern hemisphere, contain salicylic acid. In the 1880s, Bayer began selling an acetylated form, known as aspirin.

Willows have also been used as a material of construction by many California Indian tribes. The pliable twigs and roots are used in basketry, framing temporary huts, and in making rope.



Willows are important to wildlife. They provide cover for a number of bird species. And they are a larval food plant for at least 3 species of butterflies found locally - western tiger swallowtails, mourning cloaks, and Lorquin's admirals.

Although arroyo willow is the most common willow in the Santa Cruz Mountains, there are 2 other species found locally. Shining or Pacific willow (*S. lasiandra*) has glandular petioles and fused bud scale margins. Its dark green shiny leaves are lightly saw-toothed and abruptly pointed at the tip. Red willow (*S. laevigata*) has glandular petioles and free bud scale margins. Twigs are yellow brown or red. It is taller, more tree-like than arroyo, and leaves are similar, but have slightly scalloped margins.

Arroyo willows are abundant and widespread, found from California below 9,000 feet to Washington, Idaho, Texas, and into Mexico, and, of course, near water.



*Photo: Ruth Waldhauer*

## **TAKE A HIKE - HORSESHOE LAKE**

*Ruth Waldhauer*

### ***An interesting and easy hike that loops around Horseshoe Lake.***

Park your car at Skyline Ridge Open Space Preserve located on Skyline, about a mile south of the intersection with Skyline and Page Mill Road/Alpine Road. From there you will see the information boards and maps. Take the Ridge Trail that veers to the left, and pass through a field thick with willows, coyote brush, thistles, and teasels. California quail may be hiding in the underbrush. Listen for their worried murmuring and plaintive calls. These birds sit tight until you are practically on top of them, and then they take flight in low arcs on rapidly beating wings. Crossing a firebreak you will soon merge with a dirt road leading to a handicapped parking area. Here you will see steps leading down to a sign board and the Horseshoe Lake Trail.

The trail thrives with Coffeberry, Yarrow, Curley Dock, and Pennyroyal and soon comes to a culvert with a bridge. Continuing on you will see Clarkia blooming from spring well into fall. You will catch glimpses of the lake and you may even spot a wild turkey or two. Soon you will be at the junction of the Sunny Jim Trail and a bridge. Cross the bridge and take a seat on the bench nearby. From this vantage point, you can see how the lake got its name. The lake was formed in the 1950s by an earthen dam near the headwaters of Lambert Creek. A curving arm of the water extends to the right, mirroring the one you just traveled. Horseshoe Lake is fringed with Cattails, and maybe dotted with ducks and coots.

Continuing on around the lake past a couple benches, you will soon cross a small wooden bridge. Hazelnut, Oceanspray, Thimbleberry, ferns and berry vines grow beside the trail. Ascending at a gentle grade with a view of the lake, you will meet the trail to the equestrian parking lot. Take the short cut to avoid the parking lot. Turn left and pass through stands of Canyon Oak, Madrone, young Douglas Fir and pine.

A short, easy climb will bring you to a promontory that divides the two arms of the lake. A picnic table there can provide with with a glorious view to enjoy lunch. Continuing on, you will soon reach the dirt road you crossed earlier, angle left, go about 75 feet, and turn right onto the Ridge trail. From here retrace your steps to the parking area. Distance - about 2 miles.

# 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](mailto:ruth.waldhauer3@gmail.com) or 650-948-1466. Information is also available on our website: [www.SouthSkyline.org](http://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:

	Amerigas	Suburban San Jose	Suburban Scotts Valley	Kamps Propane	Ferrell gas
January 2016.....	1.79	3.96	2.39	1.99	1.73
February.....	1.79	3.44	2.399	1.99	1.65
March.....	1.79	3.44	2.399	1.99	1.415
April.....	1.73	3.44	2.199	1.69	1.355
May.....	1.730	3.44	2.199	1.69	1.305
June.....	1.730	3.44	2.199	1.72	1.405
July.....	1.76	3.44	2.199	1.82	1.465
August.....	1.79	3.549	2.199	1.69	1.465
September.....	1.79	4.549	2.199	1.69	1.405
October.....	1.79	3.61	2.199	1.69	1.475



## Don't Lose Your SPUG Discount for Propane

Members who have neglected to renew their SSA membership for 2016 will no longer qualify for the SPUG price. To renew, print out the membership form displayed on [www.southskyline.org](http://www.southskyline.org). Send the form and check to: SSA Membership Chairperson, 7405 Alpine Road, La Honda CA 94020.

## THERE WAS A FIRE HERE

Judith Watson

It's that time of year again, September and October, with warm, dry days. It is the most dangerous time of year because the land is parched and we are at increased risk of catastrophic fire. Many of us remember the Oakland Hills Firestorm on October 20, 1991.

Journalist Risa Nye has written a memoir of that time, *There Was A Fire Here*. That windy Sunday, Risa Nye fled her home in the Oakland Hills with her three children, her parakeet and very few belongings. The smoke and flames were so fast and deadly that there was little time to ponder what to take and what to leave behind.

Writer Nye begins her litany of lost possessions: her son's favorite quilt, her husband's gold watch, her fancy red shoes, her pink dress. While mourning her losses, she begins to fabricate a new life on the ashes of the old. In this recounting, Risa Nye threads in the tale of neighbors, friends and community.

What would you take if you had only moments to decide? What if, like Ms. Nye's neighbor, you are not even in town? We cannot stop a catastrophe from happening but we can mitigate its aftermath with planning. Luckily Ms. Nye had updated her insurance and had bought replacement cost. She was adequately covered and could afford to rent.

Today it's easy to record a complete inventory on our mobile phones. We can scan photographs and important documents. We can have special items appraised and insured. We can make plans to meet up with loved ones. We can make a plan to check on neighbors and free their pets. We can keep a go-bag in our car with items we would need the first few days. **Let's do it!**

## ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY

*Jerry Peters*

On Monday, June 20th, volunteers Maura McNamara, David Harrison, Armen Leonian and Jerry Peters met at the Vista Point at 10 am to gather litter. The grass and brush in the area was very high so finding the debris was more difficult. We filled 4 large bags, which is slightly under the norm. Cal Trans showed up while we were working and we left the bags for them. They cleared the area about 15-feet beyond the metal railing which surrounds the vista point. We then picked up the litter that was uncovered. Jerry Peters took the photos.



SSA & SHS volunteers are responsible for gathering litter every two months. The sweep takes about an hour and a half. So far over 180 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 Coordinator of the Adopt-A-Highway project. Contact Jerry if you wish to volunteer. [jpontheridge@gmail.com](mailto:jpontheridge@gmail.com)



## LAS CUMBRES HOLIDAY BAZAAR

Sunday, Nov. 13, 2016, 10 am - 4 pm

LCCC Community Center, Las Cumbres Rd, Los Gatos, CA 95033

A traditional favorite event from the early days of Las Cumbres, the Holiday Bazaar returns this fall on November 13 in the Las Cumbres Community Center. Plans are underway to make this year's event the best ever. Hand-crafted jewelry, felted clutches, painted silk scarves, soaps and bee-related products are in production, along with holiday crafts, decorations and handmade ornaments.

We are pleased to welcome back the popular Barccarossa Winery who will provide afternoon tastings. Avid readers will enjoy the return of the **Book Exchange** featuring gently-used adult and children's books. If your shelves are sagging from too many books, contact Jill Barsby at [jillbarsby@gmail.com](mailto:jillbarsby@gmail.com) and donate a few, then come to the Bazaar and browse for some great new reads donated by others.

In addition to early holiday shopping, participants and visitors can relax at Cafe Las Cumbres, where breakfast breads, soups, and drinks will be offered throughout the day. And a sure hit for all Foodies is the Las Cumbres Pantry, featuring local plum jam & honey, home-baked goodies and breads. Proceeds from the Pantry and Cafe help fund needed supplies for local emergency services.

Contact Mary Aumack at 408-482-6956 or email [maryaumack@gmail.com](mailto:maryaumack@gmail.com) for more information on this home-style mountain event.



*Woven and hand-painted fabrics, jewelry and pottery are among the many arts featured.*

*Wine tasting by Baccarossa Winery is a highlight.*



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## SSA 2017 GRANT APPLICATIONS

The SSA Board will be accepting grant applications for funding requests in 2017. Please contact Kristen Anderson for more information: [anderkristen@gmail.com](mailto:anderkristen@gmail.com).

## PROTECT OUR WATERSHED GROUP PUSHES CALTRANS TO STOP BROADCAST SPRAYING

Liz Chapman

Even as San Mateo County road crews demonstrate that mowing is an effective way to clear view-obstructing and flammable weeds from the shoulders of our local roads, Caltrans remains attached to spraying glyphosate-based herbicides along highways 35, 84, 1, 9, 92, and 280. Protect Our Watershed ([protectourwatershed.org](http://protectourwatershed.org)) has pressed Caltrans to abandon this practice. Mowing has to be done anyway for visibility and fire safety. Why add the cost and risks of herbicide sprays?

Caltrans pays some lip service to at least notifying those who live along these roads when spraying is planned, but information has been sketchy and scattershot. We have not received answers to many of our questions regarding last year's spraying or about current plans to spray.

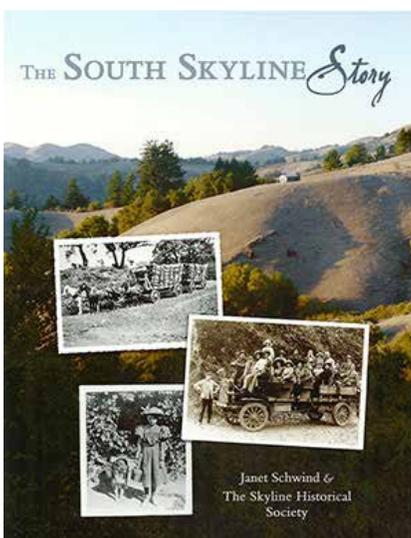
Please sign our simple petition to Caltrans at [www.protectourwatershed.org/sign-petition.html](http://www.protectourwatershed.org/sign-petition.html). We need more signatures, like a couple thousand, to really make an impact. Caltrans has stopped spraying in other areas and counties in California. We need our representatives to hear us and help end spraying here too.

If you have property fronting one of these state highways, you can make your dissatisfaction known to Caltrans with our free NO SPRAY signs. We can provide them already laminated and attached to recycled wood stakes (contact us through our website) or you can print out a sign from our website and make your own. Caltrans has said these signs will be respected when they spray, but have failed to say this year when that will be, so it may well be your best protection to post these throughout the year until Caltrans quits spraying entirely.

Letters to our representatives at the County and the State are vital. Share this information with your neighbors and friends, and help us spread the word on group sites, with the media, and on bulletin boards.

Let us know at [protectourwatershed.org](http://protectourwatershed.org) if you see Caltrans spraying, especially if you know there's been no notification.

For all sorts of good reasons, from unnecessary costs to potential harm to our soil and water, **let's put a stop to mindless broadcast spraying along our roads.** Thank you!



### **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 and learn how the crude trails, dusty ranch and private roads of the ridge properties through four different counties were connected by the building of Skyline 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 is just \$27.01. including tax or \$33.81 by priority mail.

For information email [chuck\\_sch@hotmail.com](mailto:chuck_sch@hotmail.com) or phone 408-867-9229

## CLASSIFIED ADS

**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.

**For Sale:** Conn model 580 three manual theater organ, has full compliment of features including Leslie speaker. This beautiful organ has always been professionally maintained. With Christmas just ahead this would make a great gift for the family. Email for full specifications, pictures, or to personally audition this fine instrument. \$495 OBO.

Chuck Schoppe: [chuck\\_sch@hotmail.com](mailto:chuck_sch@hotmail.com)

**For Sale:** Whitfield pellet stove, fireplace insert or free-standing; uses clean-burning pellets available from Lowes, Orchard Supply, etc. Winter is coming - time to prepare! \$325 OBO (Original cost \$2,200) email Chuck Schoppe, [chuck\\_sch@hotmail.com](mailto:chuck_sch@hotmail.com)

### **Barbara and John 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, [john.harriman@cbtnorcal.com](mailto:john.harriman@cbtnorcal.com)  
Barbara Harriman (C) 408-656-8209  
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### **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.

**Skyline Broadband Service -** Offering high-speed wireless Internet with speeds up to 50 Mbps in much of our 500-square-mile coverage area.

<http://skylinebroadbandservice.com>

phone: 650-712-5900

### **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](mailto:dog.days@comcast.net)

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<http://www.tsvresidential.com>

Taruno S. Vega 650-747-0654 [taruno@coastside.net](mailto:taruno@coastside.net)

**Pineda Tree Service Inc.** A local and reliable business that specializes in crown thinning & cleaning, Hazardous tree removal, poison oak removal, and property cleanup, 24/7 emergency. Free estimate Insured and bonded. CSL#991767.

Phone: 650-208-2734

Email: [pinedatreeserviceInc@gmail.com](mailto:pinedatreeserviceInc@gmail.com)

### **Villa del Monte Winery**

23076 Summit Road, Los Gatos. Award-winning, family-owned winery featuring grapes from the Santa Cruz Mountains AVA. Open for tasting one weekend per month. Learn more at:

<http://villadelmontewinery.com/tastings/>

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. Classified Ads are free to SSA members.

Membership is \$20 per year. Membership forms are available at [www.southskyline.org](http://www.southskyline.org)

**Please limit each ad to 45 words. Email ads to: [skylineseditor@yahoo.com](mailto: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. Sign up for this option and verify your email address by sending an email to [Membership@southskyline.org](mailto: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 October 28 7pm at Saratoga Summit Fire Station

**Board Meeting** will be held on November 10

**Board Meeting** will be held on January 12, 2017

For locations and more information contact

**Michael Rowe**

[rowe517@gmail.com](mailto:rowe517@gmail.com) • 408-872-1775

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### ***Skylines* is Published Once A Quarter: January/April/July/October**

*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 **December 15, 2016.**

**Send all ads and articles to:** [SkylinesEditor@yahoo.com](mailto:SkylinesEditor@yahoo.com)

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