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## SSA General Meeting

### Land Use Planning in the South Skyline Community

Friday, January 26, 2007

7:00 pm - Refreshments

7:30 pm – Featured presentation  
CDF Saratoga Summit Fire Station  
12900 Skyline Blvd.

*Bring a dessert.*

*SSA will provide hot beverages and soft drinks.*

This will be a panel presentation with representatives from three counties followed by a discussion of issues from the audience.

#### Panel Members:

Lisa Grote – Director Community Planning, San Mateo County

Paul Garcia – Policy Analyst, Santa Clara County

Bill Shoe – Principal Planner, Santa Clara County

Mark Demming – Assistant Planning Director, Santa Cruz County

Panel members have been asked to make a presentation describing the land-use pattern that their existing County General Plan permits in their portion of the South Skyline area, followed by a description of any changes presently being considered for the next update of their County General Plan for this same area. Members of the audience will be invited to ask questions after the presentations.

Please see the article on page 2, "Land Use Planning in the South Skyline Community".

Our thanks to Saratoga Summit CDF Fire Chief, Tim, for the use of the firehouse for this meeting. A few extra people are needed to set up tables and chairs before the meeting. If you would like to help, please arrive at 6:30.

#### Directions:

*The CDF Saratoga Summit Fire Station is located on the west side of Skyline Blvd. approximately 1 mile north of the intersection of Skyline and Highway 9. You may need to park along the road so a flashlight is advisable.*

# Land Use Planning In The South Skyline Community

By Kenneth R. Broome

Our South Skyline community landscape has become what it is today by the historical process of early-day logging, clearing and grazing that changed the natural forested environment, followed by subdivision of particular tracts for home building. Only fairly recently has State law required that each municipality and county prepare and administer overall long term General Plans to determine future use of the land within its boundaries. In our case, the Land Use Planning agencies are the three counties of San Mateo, Santa Clara and Santa Cruz. Each county has prepared a General Plan that includes its unincorporated portion of the South Skyline Community. Each county has its own approach to planning and administration of what to us is just one continuous mountain top area.

Your Board of Directors has invited senior planning officials from each of the three counties to attend our next General Meeting to be held on Friday, January 26 to present a description of how they define our present land –use pattern and what they consider might be the in the best interests of their residents and landowners in the future. We have also invited the appropriate County Supervisors to attend this meeting, or to send a representative in order to become aware of what is presented and to hear the discussion that will follow the presentations.

The Governor’s Office of Planning and Research is required to adopt and periodically revise guidelines for the preparation and content of local General Plans (Government Code #65040.2). The 2003 edition of the General Plan Guidelines supersedes all previous editions. Section 4 is titled, “The Planning Framework” and contains descriptions of each element of the General Plan, how it should be administered and how frequently it should be updated (every five to ten years). For specific details, check the Governor’s Office of Planning and Research website at [www.opr.ca.gov](http://www.opr.ca.gov) .

Every proposed change in the use of any parcel of land in any of the three counties must either conform to the requirements of the then authorized General Plan for that county, or the County planning Commission must grant an exception, after the necessary steps have been taken to ensure public notification and participation. If any proposed land use would cause significant environmental impact on adjacent property, the developer is required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to prepare an Environmental Report at the developer’s expense that describes the nature and extent of any significant impact, even if the proposed use is in conformance with the intent of the General Plan. Such reports must be made available for public review and discussion. However, the issues at such a late stage in the development process are normally the need for and adequacy of mitigative measures to



reduce environmental impact rather than whether the project can be built or not.

Recently defeated Measure “A” in Santa Clara County illustrates a method for voters county-wide to determine land-use policy in areas such as ours that may not be in our best interests. Acceptability of, say, another commercial winery or a golf course along Skyline Boulevard can best be addressed when the General Plan is being revised rather than waiting until specific projects are proposed without adequate regard as to where they might best be located in the public interest. Establishment of additional Open Space Preserves, prevention of wildfires, maintenance of adequate groundwater supplies, limitation of traffic volume, noise and accident prevention are all aspects of the General Plan that may be of concern to SSA members. Come and express your personal views on particular issues at this meeting. The proceedings will be recorded. Copies will be available, at cost, upon request to Bill Prince.



## Quarterly Report

By Ruth Waldhauer

Skyline Propane Users Group (SPUG) was formed to benefit SSA members. For information about joining, or for members wishing to have current information on the agreement with Amerigas, please send contact Ruth Waldhauer at [ruth\\_waldhauer@yahoo.com](mailto:ruth_waldhauer@yahoo.com) , or 650-948-1466. Information is also available on our website at [www.southskyline.org](http://www.southskyline.org) .

Recent SPUG prices are:

October	\$1.66/gallon
November	\$1.72
December	\$1.66
January	\$1.84

With the approach of winter, prices normally rise. The open market is about \$1.00/gallon more than our SPUG price. Thankfully, our group price is significantly less than the open market price. CONSERVE! Prices are subject to change as frequently as wholesale prices change. Members 55 years of age or older qualify for a 2 cent/gallon discount on the SPUG group price. Our SPUG rate is based on automatic regular route deliveries on a keep-full basis, not "will-call" service.

## SSA Board Elections

The annual SSA Board Elections will take place at the SSA General Meeting on January 26 at 7:30 pm. (see page 1). There are four board members who will run for another 2-year term: Judy Grote, Fred Glover, Barby Bergman, Larry Myers, and Patti Begley.

Kris Pemberton is not running for re-election. Many thanks to Kris for all her work and support.

### New Candidates

The new candidate this year is Ivy Iverson:

*For the last twenty years I have lived in the Las Cumbres Community and have served on the Fire Department Auxiliary, the Architectural Control Committee, and the Garden Committee. If chosen for the SSA Board, I would work with Larry Myers on increasing the number of SSA members in this area with the goal of SSA membership reaching the 500 mark.*

*As for my personal history, my first six years were spent in Glacier National Park, Montana where my father worked for the Park Service until our family moved to Denver, Colorado. After high school I majored in Occupational Therapy, worked for 10 years, then obtained a M.A. in Speech Communication before moving to the San Jose area. In the 90's I attended San Jose State University to obtain a teaching credential.*

*All my work situations have involved some form of teaching and working with groups. What I love best is working with others on problem solving about issues that are important to members using a format that encourages everyone to participate. After observing the last SSA board meeting and being impressed by the warm atmosphere and equal participation of the board members, I made the decision to "throw my hat in the ring".*



## A New Year's Blessing

By Patti Begley

May your feet take you down your favorite trail  
Over grassy hills with coveys of quail  
Past swollen streams edged with fern  
Through madrone and fir at every turn.

May you delight at the sight of a small gray squirrel  
Or the beauty of moss on a redwood burl  
May you take pleasure in every bird and bug  
May you not slip on a banana slug.

## What is Your SSA Board Doing?

By Judy Grote

### Actions Completed

- The October General meeting was held with Part 2 of a talk by Mark Hylkema, a State Park archeologist who works in the Felton office, on "The History of the Ohlone Indians of the San Francisco Peninsula".
- Published the October Skyline newsletter.
- Adopt-a-Highway program continues to be successful.
- SSA Board nomination slate ready for membership vote.

### Work in Progress

- Publish the January Skyline newsletter.
- Plan for the January and April general meetings. The January General meeting featured topic will be Land Use Planning. Sr. Planners from Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, San Mateo Counties will be there for our questions.
- How do we better address traffic safety in the community?
- SSEPO Draft agreement with MROSD to use their Skyline Field Office meeting room for First Aid.
- SSEPO renewal of grant application to the Peninsula Community Foundation.

Visitors are welcome at Board meetings. Please check the website for meeting dates. Meeting minutes and agendas are also on [www.southskyline.org](http://www.southskyline.org).

## SSA Membership Renewal

It is that time of year again where South Skyline Association members are asked to renew their membership for the year, and new members are invited to join.

The membership dues are \$15 per year. Membership includes delivery of the *Skylines* newsletter, free classified ads, and participation in the Skyline Propane Users Group (SPUG). Membership fees are also used to provide refreshments and honorariums for many of the speakers at our General Meetings.

The SSA Annual Membership Renewal form is inserted in this issue of *Skylines*. Additional forms can be found on the website at [www.southskyline.org](http://www.southskyline.org). Please complete it and send it with your check to:

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

# CHP Traffic Safety Meeting

By Ruth Waldhauer

At the last Traffic Safety Meeting held Wednesday, November 8, at 3 pm, the California Highway Patrol (CHP) hosted the ninth meeting of concerned citizens and public officials to discuss traffic safety in the SR-84 and SR-35 area. Captain Bridget Lott opened the chaired the meeting. The meeting was attended by representatives of CHP, CalTrans, members of SSA and concerned citizens.

Lieutenant Linda Franklin of the CHP, Redwood City Area, provided an update on current traffic collision numbers for the area. Included were beats: 21 (SR-84 from SR-1 to SR-35), 42 (SR-35 from SR-92 to the north limits of Woodside), 52 (SR-35 from the city limits of Woodside to the San Mateo/Santa Clara county line), and 72 (SR-35 from the San Mateo/Santa Clara county line to the Santa Clara/Santa Cruz county line):

SR-35 and SR-84	2004	2005	2006 to Nov 8
Total traffic collisions	75	62	63
Fatal	5	0	2*
Injury	41	34	39
PDO (property damage only)	29	28	22

\*Neither one of these fatal accidents involved motorcycles.

The use of a radar trailer has been part of the enforcement and education efforts, but was not widely seen by local residents during commute hours. The radar trailer will be deployed again in the spring, and be used in additional locations.

On SR-9, a specialized enforcement unit was deployed successfully for additional motorcycle safety.

## Group discussion

Laurie McLean volunteered to give safety presentations to motorcycle clubs, together with a CHP motorcycle sergeant or public affairs officer. This idea was welcomed by CHP and will be pursued.

SSA members reported that there appears to be an increase in big-rigs on SR-35 and 84, and that these big-rigs are unable to negotiate the narrow curves. In fact, SSA member Jim Sanderson only narrowly escaped serious injury as a big-rig failed to make one such curve and drove over his vehicle (see Big-Rig article on page 10). Captain Lott has agreed to talk to businesses and to research the legality of such large cabs, as well as discuss this matter with the local assembly elected officials.

## The future of the TSC meetings

Captain Lott suggested discontinuing the Traffic Safety Committee meetings, but assured to continue the traffic safety efforts on SR-35 and 84. This was met with dismay by

community members. Community members were cognizant of the fact that the traffic safety meetings are a burden on time for all committee members, but expressed concern about a potential decrease in CHP enforcement after two highly successful years. Captain Lott offered to send a sergeant to the community if a meeting was organized locally, in case new traffic safety issues arise. In such a setting, specific local concerns could be heard and passed on.

Iris Schrijver requested a quarterly update on traffic safety statistics, which have been provided regularly by Lieutenant Linda Franklin. This request was met with approval and upon receipt by email (ischrijver@stanfordmed.org) will be distributed to Traffic Safety Committee community members.

## Conclusion

The meeting was concluded at approximately 4:00 pm.

As a representative for SSA at the CHP meetings, I have been urging that CHP coordinate patrols for the three counties covering our area. The patrols were coordinated years ago, but not so in the past five to seven years. Coordinated patrols do not increase costs for the three jurisdictions. Coordinated patrols prevent motorcycles and cars from moving the location of their races from one jurisdiction. For example, when CHP is active along Skyline between Skylonda and Saratoga Gap, the racers simply move to route 9 in the Santa Cruz or Santa Clara districts. So far, CHP has not responded to my plea.

## New Column: Mountain Home Handyman

By Dick Schwind

With this issue we hope to start a regular column in the Skylines with the above title, subtitled, 'Amateur to Amateur'. So many of us do our own maintenance here on the mountain and have even built our own houses, so why not share those little (or large) maintenance gems we have learned? I will be happy to start out as the coordinator of the column. We need a cadre of contributors. Please respond to this by email and include any ideas you have for columns and your particular strengths. Mention 'Mountain Handyman' in the subject so if it goes into the Spam filter I can retrieve it. I am setting up an informal review process so several pairs of eyes can offer technical comments. While this will always be advertised as amateur advice, we would like to avoid as many errors as possible!

The *Skylines* is a quarterly newsletter with handyman articles due to me by the middle of the 3rd, 6th, 9th, and 12th months. We may get a flood of suggested articles for the next issue, so please be patient -- soon I will be begging for articles!

Dick Schwind [schwindr@yahoo.com](mailto:schwindr@yahoo.com)



# Pacific Madrone Marks the Seasons

By Sarah Schoen

Pacific madrones (*Arbutus menziesii*) are trees best experienced by touch as well as sight. Rough, chipped bark at the base leads to a smooth, cool trunk with curls of paper-thin bark, knobby branches, oval leathery leaves, then clusters of waxen flowers or bumpy, round fruit.



Madrones have single or multiple curved trunks and heavy, irregular limbs, growing 50 to 80 feet or more toward the light. The thin bark of the upper trunk and branches sheds every July to August. The new bark is green, turning orange, then reddish brown with age. Because the bark is thin, the water rising from roots to leaves cools the upper trunk's surface.

Leaves are thick, glossy ovals, dark green above and pale green or silvery below. In summer, leaves are obliquely oriented to the sun, reflecting away heat and conserving water. Although madrones are evergreen, they lose about one third of their leaves every June to July, adding a touch of fall to late spring and early summer.

Flowers are clusters of small white urns, blooming from late March to early May. They have five fused sepals, five fused petals and ten stamen. Flowers are sweet smelling and pollinated by bees. The blooms fall off in May, at times covering the ground under the trees in snowy drifts.

Fruits are small round berries, orange red to red and covered on the surface by warty bumps. The green October berries ripen through November. The fruits are eaten and distributed by animals, primarily birds like robins, cedar waxwings, band-tailed pigeons, and varied thrushes, and when they drop to the ground in December, also quail, deer, and raccoons.

Each berry contains up to 20 seeds. The seeds sprout in February to April, and have a high rate of germination. However, seedling survival is poor due to fungal disease, litter fall, predation, and lack of light. Success is highest in mineral soil with adequate light, such as can be found after a fire or clear cutting. In this situation, madrone initially out competes Douglas fir. The saplings grow rapidly, producing dense cover. They also produce allelochemicals, which slow down other plant species. Over time as succession continues in the absence of fire, madrones are eventually shaded out by Douglas fir, redwoods, other tall trees, and shade tolerant plants.

In addition to improved seedling survival, madrones have adapted to fire by crown sprouting. The globe shaped burl contains carbohydrates and adventurous buds. The sprouting clumps may grow five feet in the first year, ten feet by the

third. After that, growth is concentrated in the dominant stems, eventually resulting in a new multiple trunked tree.

In mixed woodlands, madrones are a preferred nesting sites of birds. Trees with fungus-infested heartwood are used by cavity nesters. The upper branches are used by canopy nesters.

California Indians used madrones in a number of ways. They ate the astringent berries raw, made them into cider, or dried and then either cooked them with hot stones and water in cooking baskets, or mixed them with manzanita berries. The burl wood was used to make cooking utensils, the trunks for lodge poles. Medicinally, bark was used to treat colds and stomachaches, and leaves and bark were made into lotion to heal cuts and sores.

Early Spanish also used the wood for stirrups and to make charcoal for gunpowder. The bark was used to tan leather. The tree is named madrone because it reminded them of its Spanish relative, madroño or strawberry tree.

Pacific madrone is in the heath family, Ericaceae. Related family members include manzanitas, rhododendrons, and huckleberries. It's found in the coastal mountains from southern British Columbia south to Baja California, and on the western slopes of the Sierra Nevada.

## Attracting Deer Can Attract Mountain Lions

The California Department of Fish and Game is supporting a "Keep Me Wild Campaign". The following information was taken from their website at [www.dfg.ca.gov/keepmewild/index.html](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/keepmewild/index.html).

More than half of California is considered deer habitat. And where there are deer, there are mountain lions. That's because deer are the mountain lion's primary prey.

Allowing deer access to your garden and landscaping, or intentionally feeding deer can be deadly. Wild animals naturally fear people, keep a distance, and will not bother you, so long as they remain truly wild. but if they become accustomed to humans, their natural ways are ruined. Their normal wildlife and fear of humans is lost. That's when conflict occurs.

- Never intentionally feed deer.
- Landscape with deer-resistant plants.
- Enclose gardens with eight-foot fencing or use deer-proof fencing.
- Pick up fallen tree fruit.
- Install motion-sensitive lighting around the house and garden. [Note: Please be sensitive to the effects of light on our night skies, and lighting up your neighbors' property.]
- Consider using commercially prepared deer repellents available at garden supply stores.

## CERT Training in Los Gatos

By Kathi Larkin

In September of this year, I took a class just down the hill in downtown Los Gatos, called Community Emergency Response Training (C.E.R.T.). I had seen the class advertised on the town's website and thought that these would be useful skills for mountain folks like myself to have. In good times, we have excellent 911 services we can count on, but if a major disaster strikes, we may have to depend on one another for a number of days or longer.

The C.E.R.T. classes were practical, hands-on, and led by professionals in their field who volunteered their time toward the C.E.R.T. goal of citizen preparedness. I cannot speak highly enough of the value of these classes to mountain residents in particular.

Here's the best part: The training was FREE and there was no obligation to join a team. This C.E.R.T. group is happy to train an individual like myself so that she is better prepared to care for her loved ones in the event of a disaster. They are also happy when several people from one neighborhood join the class with the goal of organizing a neighborhood C.E.R.T. team. My fellow classmates ranged in age from their teens to their 80's. Everyone who is interested in being prepared can take this class. I am writing to urge my fellow mountain residents to join the next C.E.R.T. class this January 2007. To sign up, call Bill Mercer at 408-356-6921 or the C.E.R.T. office at 408-399-5722 and mark your calendars now. Class size is limited to 30 people and our last class nearly filled to capacity.

Tuesday 1/16, 7-10 pm, Emergency Preparedness  
Thursday 1/18, 7-10 pm, Search and Rescue  
Saturday 1/20, 9 - 1 pm, Disaster Medicine  
Tuesday 1/23, 7 - 10 pm, Fire Safety  
Tuesday 1/30, 7 - 10 pm, Terrorism and Disaster Psychology  
Thursday 2/1, 7 - 10 pm, Radio Communications and C.E.R.T. Organization  
Saturday 2/3, 9 - 1 pm, Final Exercise and Graduation

Are you prepared?

## Skyline Adopt-A-Highway

By Ruth Waldhauer

Once again, volunteers came forward on November 4 to pick up litter along the section of Skyline Boulevard that SSA has adopted. Since SSA began the program, 35 have joined the honor role by helping. Everyone has been so enthusiastic, and enjoyed being involved.

We are responsible for gathering litter every two months. The sweep takes about an hour. A crew of 4 people is ideal, two for each side of the highway. The next scheduled date is Saturday, March 10. Please volunteer to help by contacting me at [ruth\\_waldhauer@yahoo.com](mailto:ruth_waldhauer@yahoo.com) or 650-948-1466.

Skyline is our front yard!!! Let's keep it clean and beautiful.



The November clean-up crew: Lois Manning, Barby Bergman, Dr. Gary Gechlik



### Winter Wine and Food Pairing

Don't miss the fourth annual Winter Wine and Food Pairing on Saturday, February 10 at Thomas Fogarty Winery and Vineyards. It is a chance to sample great local wines paired with food designed especially for that wine. There will also be an auction and live music by David Elias.

All proceeds go to La Honda schools. Tickets go on sale in January. For more information call 747-0372 or email [paula@meer.net](mailto:paula@meer.net).

# Open Burn Season for Santa Cruz County

Submitted by George Johnson



The **OPEN BURN** Season within the unincorporated areas of Santa Cruz County is December 1, 2006 – April 30, 2007. Burning out of season may result in a citation and you could be liable for ALL fire suppression costs. Open burning will be conducted only on days designated as **BURN DAYS** by Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District. Legal burn days are broadcasted over local radio

or you may call 1-800-225-2876 to confirm the burn day status.

The burn regulations are listed below:

1. Only yard trimmings and brush originating on the premises of one- or two-family dwellings may be burned.
2. Maximum pile size – 4 foot diameter
3. No burning of any waste material such as, household garbage, tires, construction material, plastic, tar paper, or poison oak will be allowed
4. Area within 10 feet of the outer edge of burn pile will be maintained free and clear of all flammable material and vegetation.
5. A garden hose connected to a water supply shall be readily available for use at open burning sites. A competent adult, with a shovel, shall supervise the burning material until the fire has been extinguished.
6. Open burning may be immediately discontinued if it is determined that it constitutes a hazardous condition.
7. *All Burning In An Incinerator Is Prohibited.*

This information in no way relieves your responsibilities to neighboring properties and to burn in the prescribed manner. No person shall allow a fire kindled or attended by them to escape their control. Failure to burn within the requirements of the law may result in a citation and you may be liable for all fire suppression costs.



# Lakeside School 125th Reunion

Graduates, parents and friends of Lakeside School! Mark your calendar for the gala celebration of Lakeside School's 125th birthday.

May 5, 2007 at Lakeside School

19621 Black Road, Los Gatos

RSVP on the web:

[www.sealiesoftware.com/lakeside/rsvp.html](http://www.sealiesoftware.com/lakeside/rsvp.html)

**Pass it on:** Our address list was collected at the Centennial, which makes it twenty-five years out of date. If you know of anyone who might be interested, please tell them about this web site or send us their contact information (especially email addresses).

**Book:** A book of the *History of Lakeside School* will be available for the reunion. It will include photographs and stories from times gone by, plus a CD with many more photos and other memorabilia. If you have photos or stories to contribute, please contact Karen Fishback at [jfishback@earthlink.net](mailto:jfishback@earthlink.net).

**T-shirts** will be available for the reunion. Profits will support the reunion and other programs at the school.

**Community Quilt:** Everyone is invited to contribute to the community quilt. For more information, please contact Donna Johsens at [djohsens@earthlink.net](mailto:djohsens@earthlink.net). Further information about the book, T-shirts and quilt will be forthcoming on this web page. Details and order forms will also be sent when available if you ask for them on your RSVP form.

**Contact** the 125th Reunion Committee at [Lakeside125Reunion@yahoo.com](mailto:Lakeside125Reunion@yahoo.com) if you have any questions or comments.

## Lakeside Walk-A-Thon

The Lakeside School Walk-A-Thon is coming up this March the 16<sup>th</sup>, and Lakeside needs your donations, whether in the form of sponsorships for individual students or a flat donation to the Lakeside PTA Walk-A-Thon Fund.

If you have a business that you would like to have featured as a Business Sponsor we will be having T-Shirts made again this year for which we will ask a minimum \$150.00 donation.

**If you have any questions or if you would like to become a business sponsor you can contact Hans or Donna Johsens at 408-395-0337 or [djohsens@earthlink.net](mailto:djohsens@earthlink.net).**



# Mountain Home Handyman - "Amateur to Amateur"



## Drain Down the Plumbing, or Leave the Heat On?

By Dick Schwind

First, see the accompanying article on what is the start of a regular 'mountain home handyman' column if we get contributors. If you like this idea and can contribute or review for accuracy, please respond with your capabilities/ideas to me at the email address below. Also, if you see glaring errors please point them out so they can be corrected in the next 'Skylines' issue.

Ever wondered whether you might be ahead to drain down the plumbing rather than leave the heat on when gone for a month or two in the middle of winter? Or, rely upon leaving all the faucets dripping (they sometimes stop dripping, and that doesn't protect the dishwasher, washing machine, etc)? By leaving the heat on you do take the chance that the power won't stay on to keep the furnace working during a cold snap-- a pretty good bet based upon my experience.

Some newer South Skyliners may not realize that in the last 35 or so years we have had about three deep freezes down to 18 degrees all over the mountain. These were accompanied by brisk, dry north winds. If you do freeze up your house plumbing just plan to replace it, or at least a lot of fittings!! Needless to say everyone should have spigots, etc that are exposed to the cold well wrapped with insulation, and maybe left dripping for that minor freeze that is likely to occur every couple years.

Recently I had the opportunity of tagging behind the local plumber Pat Leimbacker of Dubois, WY, taking notes as he drained down plumbing in a modest house. Draining down empty homes is very common there. Here are my notes. It is not a simple process -- you may rightly think it is only for the brave! I think you will decide, better to leave the heat on, or have a friend turn on the heat when threatened by a cold snap.

1. **Preparation:** At your hardware store set yourself up with an outside spigot hose connection to your air compressor. Also, pick up 3 or so gallons of RV antifreeze (non-poisonous -- don't use the regular auto kind!)
2. After reading this, first write out your modifications to this plan for your place so you don't miss anything. How many solenoid valves in your system (washing machine, dishwasher, water softener, ice maker, etc)? What are you going to do with all the liquid containers, canned goods, etc in the house?
3. Determine to where are you going to drain the system - to the pressure pump, the storage tank?? Electric heat tape + insulation can be used to protect your pump and tank, or possibly you can heat the shed they are in. Does the shut-off valve leak that is holding back the water you are not draining down? Will it refill part of your water system? Need to replace the valve?

4. **Draining Down:** Turn off appropriate house breakers -- hot water tank (or gas to it) and pressure pump (those of you with a water meter -- if in a warmed space, discuss with your water company?)
5. Connect water hose to hot water tank and drain until it stops - but there will still be some water in it.
6. Drain and blow out any water out of your air compressor (don't want that foul water going into the house!). Connect air compressor (oil-less or with good oil filtration) to an outdoor spigot, **set max. pressure to no more than your max. water pressure** and start compressor (leaving it on until the job is completed). This will finish draining down the hot water tank. Close the tank valve and remove the water hose. You will now be charging up the water tank with air to blow out both the hot and cold water lines (assumes no check valve in the hot water line).
7. Toilets: turn off water (to prevent splashing) and flush.
8. Faucets: remove aerators (reduce plugging).
9. Blow out, in pulses, faucets (both hot and cold of mixer valves), kitchen sink spray hose, tubs, showers, toilets, outdoor spigots, extra line under the floor that you forgot about, etc; everything with a manual valve. Go back one or two times and repeat until only dry air is coming out! If you have water softener, refer now to #10.
- 9.1 If included in the drain-down, your pressure pump and tank should be dry. However, if you have an old pressure tank with a bladder, some water may have seeped into the air space and be trapped. If you suspect this, re-pressurize the system and drain what water you can by removing the air 'tire valve' in the tank. Before starting up the system upon returning it is a good chance to check for proper charge in the water tank -- refer to its manual.

### Now for the items with solenoid valves:

10. Run dishwasher into its second cycle (first cycle just drains out any left-over water, second is the fill cycle) to blow out the fill line (only has hot water). Run washing machine fill cycle to do the same, but be sure to get both hot and cold sides by using 'warm' setting. Disconnect both ends of your refrigerator icemaker tube and blow out -- your mouth pressure will do. Do all other appliances with water hookup on your list from item 2. Water softeners are a special problem, as they cannot be successfully completely blown out. Usually they are connected to the water system with an easily disconnected bypass valve. Place the valve in bypass after the initial blowing out of the system, disconnect the water softener, tip it over to drain out what you can and leave the softener on its side. The water in the salt tank is saturated with salt so has a low freezing temperature, and besides the salt tank is tapered and quite flexible.

### Now, all water lines should be dry.

11. Disconnect the air line and leave all faucets open
- ### Now for the R/V Antifreeze.
12. Washing machine: Pour in a half gallon; run spin cycle to protect its pump and trap.

*Continued on Page 9*



# Biodiesel Is The Way To Go

By Scott Herron

Regardless of your political views about the war in Iraq, the issues surrounding global warming or the cost of gasoline at the pump today there is a good reason to learn more about biodiesel; you'll be seeing it for sale soon at fuel stations near you.

Unlike diesel fuel made from petroleum, biodiesel (BD) is derived from sources other than fossilized carbon. Such sources include vegetable oil (e.g. soy, canola, palm, peanuts, etc.), animal fat (rendered beef and poultry), recycled restaurant cooking oil and even algae (naturally grown, farmed or genetically modified).

BD can power any diesel vehicle; however, you can't burn it in your gasoline-powered vehicle, and vice versa. Most BD sold in the U.S. today is made from soybeans, or recycled fryer oil. BD is not pure oil but has been processed to remove glycerin in a chemical reaction called 'transesterification'. This alteration distinguishes it from straight vegetable oil (SVO), a fuel used by many ecologically-minded folks in their old Mercedes diesel sedan or Ford truck; however, these vehicles need engine modification to burn SVO. BD can be run in any diesel engine without modification.

BD has many important attributes that make it a more efficient and cleaner fuel compared to either petro-diesel or gasoline. Its energy content is comparable to petro-diesel and higher than gasoline; this and the fact that diesel engines are 20-40% more efficient relative to gas engines provide drivers of diesel vehicles a clear advantage in fuel efficiency. For example, a late model BD VW sedan typically gets 45-50 miles per gallon combined highway and city driving. Burning BD, this vehicle is cleaner than most gas-burning hybrids and far more fun to drive.

BD combustion is "carbon-neutral". The carbon dioxide released from the tailpipe is available to use by plants to grow more feedstock rather than being derived from fossil fuel whose carbon was trapped millions of years ago as coal or petroleum. Thus it is considered a truly "renewable fuel", like ethanol, because farmers can grow the crops that produce the oil. Obviously, this has important geopolitical implications as no military force is required to secure a source of BD and the local rather than global economy is involved in the supply of BD.

Diesel vehicles in general can help us out of our current energy jam in a significant way. As Margo Oge of the U.S. EPA said recently, if only one third of our cars ran on diesel instead of gas, Americans could stop importing oil from Saudi Arabia (equivalent to 1.4 million barrels of crude oil per day).

BD is also cleaner than diesel or gas because it is nontoxic, i.e. it biodegrades as rapidly as sugar in the environment and cannot contaminate water supplies. Other greenhouse gases

besides CO<sub>2</sub>, particularly carbon monoxide, are greatly reduced burning BD and there is no sulfur or carcinogens released by BD. Nitrogen oxide (NO<sub>x</sub>) emission is slightly increased by burning BD relative to diesel; these gases can be removed by the newer high-tech 'clean diesel' exhaust systems used by modern diesel cars sold today.

In fact, the era of the modern diesel vehicle is upon us. The stinky, clanking diesel engines of the 1970's are a relic of the past. Clean diesels have the distinct advantage of being able to use an alternative fuel, like BD, and still deliver fuel efficiency comparable to any hybrid vehicle sold today. BD production in the U.S. has tripled in the past few years but distribution still remains a problem. Thus, BD cooperatives have sprung-up around the bay area to supply local groups. It's likely that one will be coming soon to Sky Londa for those who wish to use this clean burning alternative and renewable fuel.

## Drain Down the Plumbing ...

(Cont. from page 8.)

13. Dishwasher: Pour in a half-gallon; run wash + drain cycle to protect pump.
14. Sink traps: Give a generous splash (less than a pint)
15. Toilets: Plunger down water level. Add a pint each to bowl and tank.
16. Bath tubs and showers: Add a pint each.
17. Check the list of item 2, complete process for anything else on your list.

### Leave All Valves Open

Starting Back Up: Close faucets, start pump (first consider checking and adjusting the air pressure above the bladder), open valves to work out all air in the system, replace faucet aerators, flush toilets, run an empty cycle in each the dishwasher and the washing machine, etc for other items of item 2. Turn on the hot water heater. Remember, you had potentially unsanitary air in the system (though it came through the hot water tank, which should help), so run plenty of water at the faucets, use bottled water for a bit, or use this opportunity to chlorinate your system, if on your own well.

Comment (if you bothered to read this far!): I'd suspect it is a rare plumber in this area who is familiar with this process, or can do it competently. If going that route, I'd suggest you find a contractor with 'old timer' experience!

Good luck, one amateur handyman to another!  
Dick Schwind [schwindr@yahoo.com](mailto:schwindr@yahoo.com)

## Encounter With A Big-Rig

By Ruth Waldhauer

Jim Sanderson was heading down Woodside Road, Route 84 around 2:15 PM and saw a tractor-trailer driving up the hill. He knew the trailer would have to cut across both lanes to make the turn so he stopped dead. Thank God he's as good a driver as he is, but unfortunately, the truck did not stop. Instead, it drove slowly over Jim's Porsche convertible. The body of the trailer crushed the windshield and front left side beyond all recognition as Jim leaned on the horn and into the passenger seat. He said it was as if it was happening in slow motion; that's how slowly the whole thing unfolded. The driver of the truck was bawling when Jim got out of the car. All the driver kept saying was that he told his boss he shouldn't go up that road, but his boss insisted. There were tire tracks across the hood of the Porsche, and the upholstery on the driver side headrest is torn where the bottom of the trailer scraped across it.

Mountain neighbors, Adela and John Morris were kind enough to stop and direct traffic and waited over half an hour for the Sheriff to arrive. Adela stated she had been following the tractor-trailer up the road, watching as it cut across both lanes on each curve.

I've had the same surreal experience of waiting for an accident to happen as I followed one of these trucks and waiting for an hour for it to become unstuck on one of the curves the driver wasn't able to negotiate. Something must be done to regulate these big rigs on our roads. Hopefully continued safety meetings with the California Highway Patrol (see page 4) will bring forth some solutions.

## News and Notes on Newts

By Patti Begley

**California Newt** (*Taricha torosa*)  
Most visible from December to May when they migrate back to their breeding ponds.



Walk and look carefully near streams and ponds. There could be dozens of California Newts milling about the area slowly making their annual migration to their breeding ponds.

These reddish brown salamanders with their yellow/orange bellies are often difficult to see as they blend into the fallen leaves and muddy trails.

But are they newts, or are they salamanders? Newts are of the salamander family but not all salamanders are newts. As my 12 year old explained to me it's like "all squares are rectangles, but not all rectangles are squares". Ok...



Jim Sanderson at Kennedy's Auto Body Shop and what's left of his car.

The California Newt changes during the breeding season and lives a dual life as either a terrestrial, non-breeding eft or an aquatic newt. During the late summer and fall months this species has a terrestrial existence, hiding under logs and in rock crevices. The terrestrial, non-breeding adults have warty skin and are not slimy. After the first winter rains, the terrestrial efts will migrate to the water for breeding. Once in the water, they will transform into an aquatic newt. Aquatic, breeding males develop smooth skin, swellings around their cloacal openings, and a fin-like tail.

The female California Newt will lay eggs in ponds, lakes, and slow moving streams in water typically not deeper than 5 inches. They lay from 7-30 eggs attached to exposed roots or unattached on the bottom. The eggs are protected by a gel-like membrane that is toxic.

The California Newt has a unique way of fending off predators. First they raise their head and point their tail straight out to expose their bright under exterior color to warn off predators. If attacked, the newt excretes a neurotoxin through its skin that can cause paralysis and or death to its attacker. These potent toxins are called *tetradotoxin* and *tarichatoxin*, the same toxin found in pufferfish and harlequin frogs. It is quite safe for humans to handle them, but it is recommended that you wash your hands after touching these animals.

The diet of an adult California Newt consists of earthworms, snails, slugs, and sow bugs. The newt has an adhesive texture to its tongue and projects it out to capture its prey.

The California Newt is currently a California Special Concern species. The introduction of exotic predators, such as mosquito fish and crayfish, are known to threaten newt populations. These predators do not appear to be deterred by the newt's toxicity and larvae are especially vulnerable.

Enjoy visiting with these cute little creatures, but California Newts should not be taken from their natural habitat.

# Classified Ads

## EMPLOYMENT

Administrative / Communications Assistant Djerassi Resident Artist Program (DRAP) seeks a part-time Administrative Assistant to assist with communication and administrative activities. Includes maintaining donor files and computer database using FileMaker Pro/Donations. BA and 2 years experience, excellent interpersonal and computer skills required. Send letter on interest, resume and two references to Admin/Comm Search, DRAP, 2325 Bear Gulch Road, Woodside, CA 94062, or email to DRAP@djerassi.org, or fax to (650) 747-1250. See [www.djerassi.org](http://www.djerassi.org) for position and Program descriptions.

## ACREAGE WANTED

I have a very qualified and motivated buyer looking for acreage with or without a house somewhere along the Skyline corridor and West. If anyone is interested or know someone who might be interested, please contact: Karin Bird- Broker Re/Max Skywood 650-851-8100 x305 or email [birdie@skywoodrealty.com](mailto:birdie@skywoodrealty.com)

## PERSONAL

Would like to start a South Skyline (social, not duplicate) bridge monthly group. Call Dick or Lillian 408-867-9422

## FOR RENT

**Furnished apartment for rent Skyline area.** Two room studio with fireplace, skylights, propane for heat and cooking. Quiet and rural. \$775.00 a month including utilities. Month to month ok. Call 650-851-1061.

## SERVICES

**Alice's Restaurant**  
Four Corners on Skyline  
Locally owned and operated  
8:30AM-9:00PM daily; 7:00PM (Tuesday)  
(650) 851-0303

## **ElectroWorks**

Licensed, bonded & insured electrical contractor right on the mountain. Generator transfer switches, Panel upgrades, Lighting, Spa/Jacuzzi wiring, Troubleshooting and repairs, Remodels... Everything electrical! Contact Werner Glinka at 851-5909 or [info@electroworksonline.com](mailto:info@electroworksonline.com). References available upon request

**Handyman**, roofing, roofing repair, carpentry. 20 years experience. References available. I'm on Skyline. Chris 408-867-2784

## SERVICES

**The Mountain Terrace**  
Charming and rustic atmosphere, uniquely suited to your special occasion. Now available for private events (650) 851-1606



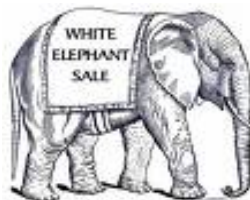
1Mbps symmetrical broadband is now available in the South Skyline area. <http://SkylineBroadbandService.com> 650-917-9279

## FOR SALE

**Cello - 1/2 size.** Great for beginning student. Good tone, excellent condition. \$390  
Call Patti 408-867-3973

## FREE

**Free fire fitting.** This fitting will allow the connection of a fire hose to your water supply and can be utilized by the fire department to access the water necessary for fire suppression. South Skyline Fire and Rescue, George 408-354-1401



## **SOUTH SKYLINE ASSOCIATION**

Box 400, Star Route 2  
La Honda, CA 94020

### **SSA Calendar**

**General Meeting** – January 26, CDF Fire Station

**Business Meetings at 7:15 pm:**

Thurs. February 8

Thurs. March 8

Thurs. April 12

(Call Bill Prince for location and directions)

President Bill Prince 650-917-9279

Editor Patti Begley 408-867-3973

### **Skylines Is Published Once A Quarter**

*Skylines* invites individuals to submit articles and artwork.

**Policy on Classified Ads:** Ads are free to SSA members. No continuing ads will be accepted. They must be resubmitted for each issue. Deadline date for ads for the April issue will be April 1, 2007.

**Skylines News Articles:** The deadline for submitting articles for the next issue is March 19, 2006.

**Send all ads and articles to:** Patti Begley c/o 22400 Skyline Blvd #35, La Honda CA 94020, or [SkylinesEditor@earthlink.net](mailto:SkylinesEditor@earthlink.net).

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