



# Skylines

SOUTH SKYLINE ASSOCIATION

www.southskyline.org

July 2014

## South Skyline Association General Meeting

### Bay Area Puma Project

Presenter: Zara McDonald, Founder and President  
of Felidae Conservation Fund

#### Jaqua Ranch

Sunday, August 10, 2014

Noon until 4pm

Please bring a Potluck Item for Lunch

SSA will provide plates, utensils, lemonade and soft drinks

San Francisco-based and globally-working wild cat conservationist and naturalist Zara McDonald, Executive Director of Felidae Conservation Fund, gives an engaging and inspiring presentation about mountain lions and the work currently underway to study and protect them. Felidae Conservation Fund is a non-profit that aims to advance the conservation of wild cats and their habitats planetwide through a combination of groundbreaking research, compelling education and cutting-edge technology. Felidae works in both North and South America on different mountain lion research and conservation projects. The flagship project is the Bay Area Puma Project – [www.bapp.org](http://www.bapp.org). These keystone predators (also called pumas and cougars) play a critical role in maintaining the health and biodiversity of our ecosystems. However, expansion of human populations is causing increasing encounters and conflicts between humans and pumas, and growing tensions in our local communities. Zara discusses mountain lion ecology and history, the challenges of sharing the habitat with mountain lions, and offers essential tips for living and recreating without fear in puma habitat.

**Speaker Bio:** Zara McDonald is the Founder and President of Felidae Conservation Fund. She is an entrepreneur, conservationist, and vet technician, and has journeyed throughout four continents working on behalf of wild felid research and conservation since 2002. Zara has worked extensively in all areas of felid research, tracking and monitoring. A certified capture specialist she has worked on four mountain lion research projects since 2003. During her tenure as an ultra marathoner Zara came into contact with mountain lions on 2 occasions in Marin county .

#### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

SSA General Meeting .....	1
What's Your SSA Board Doing	2
Donation to SSFSC.....	3
Free Chipping .....	4
Adopt-A-Highway .....	4
Skylines Fire Rescue News.....	5
Home Wildfire Defense .....	5
SPUG .....	6
Wildflowers .....	7
Water Wise.....	8
Calendar Reminders .....	9
Keep Breathing.....	9
Take-a-Hike.....	10
KCTT Firebreak.....	11
Mountain Neighbors.....	12
Advertisements .....	13

#### SSA General Meeting Directions

The SSA Meeting will take place at Dick and Ami Jaqua's ranch on Langley Hill Road.

- From Highway 84, drive south on Skyline Blvd. 4.5 miles

- From Page Mill Rd. drive north on Skyline Blvd. 3miles

Turn west at Rapley Ranch Road which is across from Fogarty Winery. Follow the SSA signs.

# What Is Your SSA Board Doing?

By Michael Rowe , SSA President

## **Welcome new SSA Treasurer & Board Member Kristen Anderson !**

## **Review of June Board Meeting at Saratoga Summit Cal Fire Station**

The June Board Meeting included CHP representatives from San Mateo County, Santa Clara, and Santa Cruz counties, as well as representative from CA State Parks. The two main topics up for discussion were, 1) what can be done about the increase in late-night racing and reckless driving along Skyline Blvd. and Hwy 9, and 2) what can be done about abandoned/wrecked vehicles in the woods alongside Hwy 9?

Regarding the first issue, our community can help by logging dates/times/locations (mile marker info helps) of the racing and reckless driving and providing CHP a “heat map” to help them best target the time and place to capture the culprits in action.

David Anderson agreed to capture, summarize, and be the point-person to submit the aggregate data to CHP and State Parks Peace Officer. If you’d like to help our community reduce the late night noise and reckless driving, please email your “reports” to [dave.a.anderson@gmail.com](mailto:dave.a.anderson@gmail.com).

Regarding the second issue, both CHP and State Parks are powerless to do anything about this. This is a “Vehicle Abatement” problem and must be handled through the appropriate county programs set up to deal with this. The Board will investigate this further and learn what it takes to get vehicles removed.

## **SouthSkyline.org Committee**

The new site is up and running...have you visited it yet? Please check it out if you have not already done so. Also, please give the committee your feedback through the “Contact” form on the website. The website committee continues to work on the backbone of the site and has many exciting improvements planned for later this year...stay tuned and visit our site frequently to check for changes and new features/information (teaser: we hope to offer South Skyline Association membership renewal & payment online for 2015).

## **Skyline Historical Society Book**

Chuck Shoppe, SHS President, reports that the book is completed and the committee has selected a printer. We anticipate printing the book within the month, and plan to kick-off sales in the October Skylines. The fall General Meeting will include a presentation and showing of the book.

## **In the Neighborhood**

Bo Gimble Trail dedication ceremony on July 26<sup>th</sup> , hosted by MROSD to honor our late SSA treasurer and dedicated trail builder who volunteered for MROSD and State Parks.

***Please plan to attend our SSA summer general meeting & potluck at Jaqua Ranch on August 10th.***



<b>Current Board Members</b>	<b>Neighborhood</b>	<b>Board Responsibility</b>
Patti Begley	Highway 9 - Santa Cruz County	Vice President, Membership/Communications Committee, Website Committee
Barbara Bekins	Highway 35 - Rocky Creek	Public Safety & Water
Kim Hamilton	Highway 35 – Oakridge	Public Works
John Harriman	Las Cumbres	Secretary
Eric Jewett	Saratoga Gap	Adopt-A-Highway Coordinator
Larry Myers	Las Cumbres	Public Safety, SSEPO
Marianne Rose	Highway 35 - Long Ridge	Communications Committee, Website Committee
Ruth Waldhauer	Portola Heights	Membership/Communications Committee, SPUG, Website Committee
Larry Watson	Highway 9 - Santa Cruz County	Website Committee
James Morris	Saratoga Gap	
Michael Rowe	Highway 9 - Santa Cruz County	President
Kristen Anderson	Highway 9 - Santa Cruz County	Treasurer

## Use Corporate Matching Funds Programs to Increase your Donation to SSFSC?

By John DeLong, Treasurer, SSFSC

Over the past few years, some of the local residents who have donated to the South Skyline FireSafe Council (SSFSC), a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, have requested matching funds from their employer, Apple. Apple's giving program was recently moved to Benevity, a company that manages corporate giving for many large corporations, including Google and many others. SSFSC has now been verified as an approved cause in the Giving Programs for all of their clients. When making a donation to SSFSC or any other non-profit, always remember to notify your employer - your donation could be increased significantly!

# SSFSC's 1st Free Chipping Day Such a Great Success— We Will Do It Again!

by John DeLong, SSFSC Treasurer

For the past five years, the South Skyline FireSafe Council (SSFSC) has coordinated chipping activities in our area that were funded by either the Santa Clara County FireSafe Council or FireSafe San Mateo. Chipping programs are specifically aimed at helping homeowners create and maintain a Defensible Space around homes and structures on their properties, as required by state law (see our website page for more information:

<http://www.southskylinefiresafe.org/creating-your-defensible-space>).

The homeowners do their required clearing, and we provide chipping contractor services to get rid of the generated slash.

This spring, for the first time, SSFSC sponsored our own Free Chipping Day, and it was a great success. We stuffed mailboxes in our area with

flyers and an application, as well as posting a notice in [Skylines](#) and on the local South Skyline Yahoo Users Group.

24 applications were received by the mid-April deadline. SSFSC Board members Ed Hayes and John DeLong inspected, measured and photographed each pile, to help contractors prepare their bids. J Huerta Tree Service was given the contract and began chipping on Monday, May 5. Ed and John led the chipping crews from house to house to save time and improve efficiency.

It took just under 3 days to chip the piles at 19 residences. The reason the 24 applications resulted in 19 residences chipped was that 2 piles were too small, 2 piles were not ready when we did the inspections, and 1 pile was determined to be inaccessible to the chipper.

This event was made possible by generous donations from many local residents, as well as grants from Pacific Gas and Electric Company, The South Skyline Association and the Mid-Peninsula Regional Open Space District. In addition, this would not have been possible without the 70+ volunteer hours donated by many of our SSFSC board members on this key event.

The response to this event was so strong that the SSFSC Board has approved a second chipping day this year **on or about November 10, 2014** and we are considering making this an annual event. We have already received 7 requests for chipping for the fall, and look forward to many more. Please see our application inserted into this issue.

**Deadline for submitting the application is October 20.**

## Adopt-A-Highway

by Ruth Waldhauer

On Monday, May 5, the South Skyline Association (SSA) and Skyline History Society (SHS) volunteers included: Armen Leonian, Cliff Jenkins, Lynn Penek-Holden, Robert Bradford, Lynn Gale and Eric Jewett. After cleaning up the Vista Point the group split in two: One half headed north and the other headed south. Robert Bradford stayed behind at the Vista Point and swept up thousands of cigarette butts. Thank you, Robert!

Ami Jaqua and friends cleaned their section of Skyline, Rapley Ranch Road to Old La Honda Road, on Thursday, May 1.

SSA & SHS volunteers are responsible for gathering litter every two months. The sweep takes about an hour and a half. So far over 155 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!

Contact Ruth Waldhauer at [ruth.waldhauer3@gmail.com](mailto:ruth.waldhauer3@gmail.com)



# South Skyline Fire & Rescue News

by Andy Seigel, Captain, SSF&R

Defensible space saves lives! We have links on our web site under “Help Us Help You” to the [Ready for Wildfire](#) and [Cal Fire](#) web sites. Both of these have lots of information about how to set up your defensible space as well as preparing a wildland fire action plan.

## Got pancakes?

Our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Pancake Breakfast was a **BIG** success! We had a great time serving **230** hungry patrons, 50% more than last year. Thanks to our friends and family who helped us stage the event and to all who attended. I’d like to add a special thanks to our colleagues at Cal Fire Saratoga Summit for loaning us their firehouse for the day and helping us with setup, and for giving fire engine tours for kids and adults alike. The crews at Saratoga Summit are essential to EMS and fire protection in the South Skyline area. I hear that they like chocolate chip cookies, and not just at Christmas. 😊



## Incidents and Training

We’ve had the water tender out to several fires this quarter, including a vegetation fire near Mount Madonna, a vehicle fire into the vegetation on Hwy 17,

and most recently, a vegetation fire in the Deer Creek area below Las Cumbres. Water tenders are crucial resources for fighting fires in this area, where hydrants are rarely available.

We’ve also been participating in a number of inter-agency drills: two with Santa Clara County Fire, one with a variety of agencies from Santa Cruz County, and another with San Mateo County. These “water movement” drills help us hone our skills with the water tender, but also develop working relationships with these other agencies.

Did you know? Our local Cal Fire unit has a twitter feed so you can be notified about major events. The link is: <https://twitter.com/CALFIRECZU>

## New Volunteers

We are excited to have two new volunteers who graduated from the Basic Volunteer Firefighter Academy in late April. One is already responding to incidents, and has participated in several of the water tender drills. We’ll be introducing these new volunteers in future issues.

We still need more volunteers, and we will be hosting a recruiting open-house on Saturday, July 26<sup>th</sup> from 10AM to 2PM at the Las Cumbres Fire Station. This is a great time to learn about joining the team, or gather general information about your local fire department. You can find up to the minute details on our website, <http://southskylinefire.org>

# Home Wildfire Defense—Voluntary Inspections Resume

by Dick Schwind

The South Skyline FireSafe Council is resuming its voluntary home inspection for wildfire defense.

There are two major reasons homes are consumed by wildfire:

First, the heat radiating from the fire is so intense the wood exterior experiences spontaneous combustion, or windows break and embers enter the house. Creating your defensible space as required by state law will minimize this risk if you

have tempered glass windows.

Second, embers settle into a ‘sweet spot’ on or next to your house. Likely you can eliminate these ‘sweet spots’ with little cost or effort. Most of these involve removing cordwood and soft furniture (pads), etc off the deck or against the house. This includes allowing leaves, needles, or wood to accumulate under a deck. Other items are more subtle.

We offer a free inspection that is much more comprehensive than the Cal Fire inspection (it only includes items required by law.) We typically take most of an hour and leave you a written report. You need to first watch our video. Please email me if you would like an inspection. If you applied before you are on our list and we will be doing yours soon.

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

# SPUG QUARTERLY REPORT

by 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 about \$1.00/gallon higher than the SPUG price. Prices are subject to change as frequently as wholesale prices change. The prices SSA posts are for the first of the month. Our SPUG rate is based on a keep-full basis, not will-call service. Some propane companies offer members 55 years of age or older a 2 cent/gallon discount in the addition to the SPUG group price.

	Amerigas	Suburban/San Jose	Suburban/Scotts Valley	Kamps Propane	Ferrell Gas
Sept	1.86	2.199	2.199	1.94	
Oct	1.94	2.29	2.29	1.99	
Nov	2.1	3.04	2.499	2.18	2.23
Dec	2.39	3.11	2.89	2.19	2.3
Jan	2.59	3.549	3.199	2.69	2.64
Feb	2.84	3.659	3.499	2.96	2.79
March	2.9	3.699	3.599	2.79	2.65
April	2.49	2.499	2.499	2.09	2.02
May	2.09	2.499	2.399	2.09	1.82
June	1.99	2.499	2.19	1.99	1.77
July					

\*Prices shown per Gallon

**Those whose SSA membership has lapsed will be disqualified from receiving the benefit of SPUG price for propane.**

# Yerba Buena—Watch Where You Step

By Sarah Schoen

Yerba Buena (*Clinopodium douglasii* formerly *Satureja douglasii*) the “good herb”, is a common mint of the Santa Cruz Mountains forests. No local excursion needs to do without the refreshing aroma of this inconspicuous plant.

Yerba Buena is a perennial, trailing, mat-forming vine, growing flat and close to the ground from a woody rhizome. The vines seem shorter than their 1 to 4 foot length, at intervals sending roots down into the soil.

Round to triangular leaves grow opposite from the square stem. They have shallowly scalloped edges and feel almost sandpaper-y to the touch.

Tiny white or purple-tinged flowers bloom from May to August. I almost have to be intentionally looking for them to see them. The tubular flowers usually grow singly from leaf axils and at 45 degree angles to the stem. They have 5 petals which are fused into an upper and lower lip. There is a 2-part style exerted from the bloom and 4 stamens inside. The 3-lobed lower lip serves as a landing pad for tiny insect pollinators. As the insect passes the stigma and heads toward the pollen and nectar, the stigma halves close, preventing self-pollination when the insect crawls back out. Fruits are 4 tiny brown nutlets, about 1 mm in diameter, from June to September.

The mint was so prevalent that Yerba Buena was the name given by early Spanish explorers to a meadow along the San Francisco Bay, about 2 1/2 miles northeast of the mission San Francisco. It eventually became a town, but in 1847, the more widely known name San Francisco was formally adopted by the Americans. The Yerba Buena name is retained by the island joining the eastern and western spans



of the San Francisco Bay Bridge.

Yerba Buena was used medicinally by many California Indian tribes – a practice that was admired by the Spanish when they named the mint. Ohlone/Costanoan Indians used a decoction for pinworms and a warm poultice was applied to jaw or leaves were held in the mouth for toothaches. Kashaya Pomo used a tea as a blood purifier, as sedative and as a treatment for upset stomachs for people losing weight. Coast Yuki chewed the plants to relieve various pains, particularly stomach pains. Cahuilla made a decoction of plant parts to treat colds and fevers.

Leaves were also dried and made into a beverage tea by many California Indian tribes.

This practice continues today with current local inhabitants.

Yerba Buena is found in the coastal mountains from British Columbia south to Los Angeles County. It grows below 2700' in forests, chaparral, and on open slopes.



Photo by David Schoen

# Water Wise: Measure Your Well

by Larry Watson

Under the current drought conditions most of us living near Skyline have concerns about the continued availability of water from our wells. Some have already had to begin buying water. It would be beneficial to be able to predict when a personal or neighborhood well may no longer provide adequate water, but that is not an easy task.

Measuring the depth to water in a well before and after a pumping cycle over time can indicate changes in static water level and recharge rates. Instruments to measure depth to water can be as simple as a string with a weight, however I have found this technique to be error-prone. One can alternatively purchase sophisticated sonic instruments that eliminate water contact reducing the possibility of contamination. Below is the description of a reasonably-priced alternative for the do-it-yourselfer.

My instrument, which I call my Wolfmeter, was based on communications with former long-time resident Steve Wolf. This technique employs the principle of greater conductivity for water compared to air. Steve's historical well measurements were discussed by Barbara Bekins in the "Water Wise" article in the last issue of *Skylines*.



One uses readily-available thermostat wire and a volt/ohm meter. Lowering the end with a weight and closely-

spaced bare wire ends (arrows) completes a circuit when it reaches the water level. Here's the sensor at the end of the thermostat wire (18-2) with a tungsten fishing sinker. I chose not to use lead in case it was lost in the well. The wire is 18-gauge with 2 conductors and available in several spool lengths.

To simplify the operation, I built a spool from scrap plywood with a 12" hub, 3" width, and a 3" flange to hold 500' feet of wire and the meter. The sensor descends at 3' per revolution and when the water level is reached it is indicated instantly on the meter set to the highest resistance scale. The wire is color-coded in 10' increments

using permanent markers to avoid measuring the length of the wire each time.

Here's my Wolfe-meter ready to go. To employ this technique the 1/2" plug in the sanitary seal must be accessible and removable, and the rubber gasket must permit the sensor to pass through. Note that after you open the sanitary seal, it isn't.



Currently, the static water level in our well is 79'. After approximately 1 hour of pumping to refill the tank, the level falls to 82'. I plan to check it weekly until the rains start again.

The most important variable in a well-depth study is the height of the water column above the submersible pump. The well driller's report indicates that this well is 215' deep. Lacking actual records, we will assume the top of the pump is at 200'. Therefore after pumping, we have 118' of available water remaining above the pump. The recharge time to return to the static water height is also important to track over time. For questions, email [larry@watermatters.com](mailto:larry@watermatters.com)



# Calendar Reminders

**August 10, 2014 Sunday 12-4PM:**

**SSA GENERAL MEETING**

Bay area puma project, Presenter: Zara McDonald, Founder and President of Felidae Conservation Fund Jaqua Ranch, (Directions on Page 1). Please bring a Potluck Item for Lunch. SSA will provide plates, utensils, lemonade and soft drinks.

**October 20, 2014**

**SSFSC Free Chipping Application Due.** Chipping day this year will occur **on or about November 10, 2014** Application contained in July Newsletter.

**November 10, 2014**

Mark your calendars SSFSC Free Chipping Day occurs on or about Nov. 10th.

**Portola Valley & Woodside Farmers' Markets (3 locations!)**

Wednesdays 3-7pm **The Mountain Goat Farmers' Market** in front of Skywood Trading Post,  
17285 Skyline Blvd, Woodside

Thursdays 3-7pm **Portola Valley Farmers' Market** in front of the historic schoolhouse at town center

Sundays 10 - 2pm **Woodside Farmers' Market** at Woodside Elementary School.

## Keep Breathing. Some thoughts on breathing...

By Harriet Garfinkle, Woodside Pilates

Have you ever noticed that when you pant really fast like a dog that your heart starts to race? That your body hairs raise up? That is your system pumping excessive adrenaline into your body, warning you of imminent danger. What are we supposed to do with this adrenaline?

The adrenaline gives us mammals the energy to activate the 'fight or flight' reflex. We need that energy to either climb the nearest tree or attack that sabre tooth tiger head on. But what if there IS no sabre tooth tiger? WE turn that energy back on ourselves in the form of tension. What is the best way to dissipate tension in the body? BREATHE. Now here comes the kicker!

Sometimes the body tries to get more oxygen by breathing through our non-existent gills. "Our GILLS?!!!" , you say. Yes, when we are especially tense, we raise our shoulders to try to open our gills that are directly activated by cranial nerve number 11. Except we left our gills behind long ago. So, we keep raising

our shoulders over and over in the vain hope that more oxygen will reach the body and help slow down the rate of release of adrenaline. Now we are in an even bigger fix. Adrenaline is coursing through our body randomly firing nerve endings AND our shoulders have become earrings. What to do?

Breathe deep, long diaphragmatic breaths. Allow the belly to expand to make room for the internal organs to scootch out of the way as the diaphragm makes its excursion down into the abdominal cavity. Include your pelvic floor in the breath by allowing it also to expand and contract. Notice that your heart rate is slowing down and a sense of calm is enveloping you. Notice that your shoulders can tentatively lower themselves back down towards your armpits. That is oxygen moving into your system to calm you down. Keep breathing.

# Take a Hike! Big Basin Redwoods State Park—the Granddaddy of Them All

By Jerry Peters

Did you know that Big Basin was the first State Park in California? Early conservationists, most notably Andrew P. Hill, led a movement to create a park to preserve the old-growth redwoods. In May of 1900 they formed the Sempervirens Club while camping within the present day park and began their efforts in earnest. In 1902, California Redwood Park was created in Big Basin on 3800 acres, most of it old-growth forest. In 1904, the park was opened to campers for the first time. In the following decades, visitation to Big Basin grew steadily as park amenities were developed. The Big Basin Inn offered cabins to rent, a restaurant, general store, barber shop, gas station and photographic studio. There was also a post office, swimming and boating areas, tennis courts and a dance floor. During the Great Depression of the 1930s, the Civilian Conservation Corps assigned a company to Big Basin; they built the amphitheater, miles of trails and many of the buildings still used today.

Today, near Park Headquarters, there is a gift shop and a small store where you can get an ice cream treat after your hiking adventures. Don't miss the museum behind the store; there is wide array of exhibits & information. Maps, books and postcards are available at the visitor center.

With over 80+ miles of trails, everyone should be able to find a hike suitable for their abilities. Some general information about the park be-

fore you go: Summer weekends are very crowded and the drive on Hwy 236 behind a frightened first-timer can really try your patience. During the late fall and winter seasons it is very dark under the canopy and nighttime comes early. So I strongly recommend visiting the park during the week and getting an early start. More generalities: parking at State Parks costs \$10 (\$9 seniors); there is a lot of parking at Big Basin but you can end up far from the amenities. (Note: if you go to Castle Rock SP on a good weather weekend you will not be able to find parking after 10 am.)

Big Basin's premier hike is the Berry Creek Falls Loop, a 12-mile hike with around 1900-feet of elevation gain. It begins at park headquarters, descends into the basin along pretty creeks and passes three waterfalls: Berry Creek, Silver and Golden Cascades. Begin at the large parking lot across the road from park headquarters. Immediately there is an option to take the Redwood Trail by going left. If you have the stamina to add another 0.6-mile to the trip, you will be rewarded with some of the biggest trees in the park including the Mother and Father of the Forest (the most massive tree and the tallest tree). If not, follow the connector trail to the Skyline-to-the-Sea Trail. Cross Opal Creek and turn left on the trail. You will pass through beautiful redwoods some more than 12-feet in diameter as you climb about 250-feet up Middle Ridge in the first mile. Cross over the Middle Ridge Fire

Road and angle down to the right and go down the other side of the ridge. As you wind back around to the left and go over and around small ridges and canyons the scenery opens up and you are struck by this incredible sea of green, interspersed with very large redwood trunks. The trail continues to descend through more incredible old-growth trees, a variety of plant life and large interesting rocks. Not to forget the fallen giants you pass along the way. It's about this point you will really be glad that the visionaries saved this place for our enjoyment. Soon the trail parallels Kelly Creek and things get even better as you walk above pretty pools in the creek with a steep and rugged ridge on the other side and then when you reach West Waddell Creek and get your first view of Berry Creek Falls. Here at a confluence of three creeks, the incredible lushness of the green scenery (especially the profuse variety of ferns) starts to become memorable. After 4.3-miles the Skyline-to-the-Sea Trail reaches the Berry Creek Falls Trail. Turn right and shortly you will be standing on the viewing platform for the 65-foot cataract. Berry Creek Falls is inspiring as it tumbles gracefully over a fern-lined black cliff surrounded by redwoods.

***Take a Hike, Continued on Page 12...***

# KCTT Fire Break Spring Cleaning by Eric Isacson

Just before the beginning of fire season in early May the South Fire Safe Council restored the utility of the Kings Creek Truck Trail (KCTT) by cutting back the vegetation that has re-grown during the last 2 years.

South Skyline Fire Safe Council (SSFSC) managed re-opening of the top 4 miles of the KCTT by obtaining \$100,000 in grants and an enormous amount of help from many volunteers, including many from Las Cumbres.

hand tools. They have done an excellent job!

We will most likely need to repeat this spring cleaning again every year in view of how rapidly the brush re-grows on sunny slopes even in relatively dry years. The SSFSC will be looking for new funding each year and for help in managing the work.

If you are interested in contributing or volunteering to help with the work SSFSC is doing to prepare our community for the next wildfire please review our website at [w.southskylinefiresafe.org/](http://w.southskylinefiresafe.org/) and contact the SSFSC President Bill Guenther at [waguenther1@yahoo.com](mailto:waguenther1@yahoo.com) or 650 949-2416.

The vegetation along the KCTT grows so fast in many areas that the new growth must usually be cut back on an annual basis to avoid it becoming

again overgrown, unusable and expensive to reopen. This year the SSFSC was fortunate to obtain a Proposition 40 grant for a week's worth of hand work by a 10-person California Conservation Corps crew using weed eaters, clearing saws, pole saws, chain saws and other

Eric Isacson, [Eric@Isacson.com](mailto:Eric@Isacson.com), 408 395-6543; SSFSC project coordinator.

This fire trail provides important access for fire trucks and the basis for a ridge-top fire break protecting many homes in the event of a wildfire like the Castle Fire in Castle Rock State Park in 2008. It is located about a mile upwind from Las Cumbres on a ridge that could be a barrier against the spread of a fire like that in 2008. Parts of the fire trail can be seen from Las Cumbres.

At the time of the Castle fire the fire trail had all but been abandoned and was overgrown and nearly impassable due to lack of vegetation maintenance. This significantly delayed suppression crews trying to reach the site of the fire. In 2012 and 2013 the



## Mountain Neighbors Helping Neighbors @ Skyline Now...

Mountain Neighbors Helping Neighbors' (MNHN) is an all-volunteer, nonprofit organization started a couple years ago for the Summit Road area. They have over 50 volunteers signed up to help their less fortunate neighbors. The MNHN Board was happy to extend their organization into our area and the South Skyline Association Board has endorsed this expansion. Volunteers offer their mountain neighbors who typically have mobility issues, with rides to town and non-professional help such as minor home help.

Please help make this a successful program by taking action now! **Apply to be a volunteer** by going on line to [MNHN95033@gmail.com](mailto:MNHN95033@gmail.com) and downloading the application, or call Patricia Wood at 408-316-2938 and ask her to send it to you.

### **Take a Hike, Cont. from page 10...**

(A note to you wildflower lovers: if you continue along the Skyline-to-the-Sea Trail for another half-mile below the Berry Creek Falls Trail, there are more tiger lilies along West)

Waddell Creek than anywhere else I have hiked in the Santa Cruz Mountains.)

If you decided to turn back after lunch on the viewing platform it would make a 9-mile round trip, but if you can do it, continue on to the two remaining falls and return on the Sunset Trail which traverses through several different ecosystems as it returns to park headquarters. Follow the trail up the left side of Berry Creek Falls and you gain an interesting perspective looking down on its lip. In a short distance as you cross a small bridge (another confluence), you leave Berry Creek and walk along the east side of West Berry Creek, a narrower and more channeled stream. After another 0.6-mile you reach Silver Falls whose 70-foot freefall spills over sandstone

and limestone rock. Several redwoods have fallen near the waterfalls base, which makes it a good lunch-spot. The trail climbs wooden steps alongside Silver Falls and takes you to the falls brink where you walk on sandstone steps.

Steel cables are in place along this section of the trail and in high water conditions you will want to use them. Be careful, this is the one dangerous section of the hike but going in the opposite direction here is even more dangerous. Just above is the lower portion of Golden Cascades Falls, a long drop of orange sandstone where the water mainly flows on top of the rock rather than falling off. The upper portion of Golden Cascades is similar; the color of the rock is so striking and the somewhat horizontal shape of the fall so unusual. Make sure you spend enough time to enjoy these natural wonders; don't just walk by. In a short distance, the Berry Creek Trail ends and the Sunset Trail begins. Continue past the connector trail to the Sunset Trail Camp

(backpackers may stay here with reservations) and head back towards park headquarters. The Sunset Trail is quite different than the Skyline-to-the-Sea Trail (other than the giant and interesting trees) in that you go over three ridges to get back, not to mention that you have only done 5 of the required 12-miles. The path takes you first through an oak woodland as you go over the first ridge.

Next, you will enter a chaparral zone with some exposed sandstone and many knobcone pines indicating that the forest burned here in the past. The final ridge (Middle Ridge) is a longer climb as you wind through mixed-evergreen forest; continue down the other side into the big redwoods, turn right on the Dool Trail then right again on the Skyline-to-the-Sea Trail. A left turn onto the Redwood Trail brings you back to the parking lot. You may be physically tired at this point but I guarantee you will be truly exhilarated from this experience!

## Advertisements

### Free fire fitting for those in the South

**Skyline Fire & Rescue primary response area.** This fitting will allow the connection of a fire hose to your water supply and can be utilized by the fire department to access the water necessary for fire suppression. Please visit <http://southskylinefire.org/> for more information under the "Help us help you" section.

### Locally-Grown Oat Hay

\$15.00 / Bale  
(650) 851-0179

### NEED WATER - We will haul

3600 Gallon truck  
Mike @ LHQ  
(650) 851-0179

**Russian Ridge Winery** - Owned by Skyline residents & open for tasting every Sat/Sun from 12 to 5 pm. Located in San Carlos at the Cuvee Building, 1001 Washington Street. <http://russianridgewinery.com>

**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](http://www.sc4arc.org) or write: SC4ARC PO Box 237 La Honda, CA 94020

### Skyline Broadband Service

Offering high-speed wireless Internet at several Tiers; with options for speeds up to 25 Mbps in much of our 500-square-mile coverage area.  
<http://SkylineBroadbandService.com>  
phone: 650-917-9279

**Dog Days** has been providing fun, effective Award Winning dog training classes for all levels & private lessons, including 'up on the hill' since 1995. Experienced instructors (25+ yrs exp.) Gift Certificates for classes or private lessons available. Two sessions each season, Monday evenings in Atherton & Saturday mornings at Woodland School in Ladera (Portola Valley). Local & Yelp References for Fun, Positive Dog Training

For more information or questions  
**PLEASE CALL 650-851-5500 anytime,**  
thanks!

**Interested in Solar Power for your home or business?** Contact John DeLong for site assessment and quote. Local Skyline Resident since 1983. 408-868-9783  
[jmdelong@aol.com](mailto:jmdelong@aol.com)

**PINEDA TREE SERVICE** A local and reliable business that specializes in Crown Thinning & Cleaning, Hazardous Tree Removal, Poison Oak Removal, and Property clean-ups for fire regulations. Free Estimates. Insured. CSL # 91767  
Email: [Pinedaslae@gmail.com](mailto:Pinedaslae@gmail.com)  
Phone: 650-208-2734  
Salomon Pineda

**BARBARA & 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  
Barbara Harriman (C) 408-656-8209  
[John.Harriman@cbtnorcal.com](mailto:John.Harriman@cbtnorcal.com)  
[Barbara.Harriman@cbtnorcal.com](mailto:Barbara.Harriman@cbtnorcal.com)

Check out our Testimonials!

[www.HarrimanRealty.com](http://www.HarrimanRealty.com)

**JAMES MORRIS, REAL ESTATE Broker Associate with Alain Pinel Realtors and General Contractor** With over 30 years of experience in construction and property development, including septic and well systems, uniquely qualified to evaluate, market, acquire, renovate mountain properties.

Please call 408-828-1998, email-  
[jmorrison@apr.com](mailto:jmorrison@apr.com) or visit my website at  
[www.jrmnorcalhomes.com](http://www.jrmnorcalhomes.com)

**Residential Design** Country and urban custom houses, remodel and additions. 20+ years experience in California. Local references (economic and high end) See some of my work at: <http://www.TSVresidential.com> Taruno S. Vega  
650-747-0654 [taruno@coastside.net](mailto:taruno@coastside.net)

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

**Environmental Consultant** Certified by State of California Asbestos, Lead, Mold, and Indoor Air Quality. 20% discount to SSA members. EPA Approved Training Provider. [info@ertinc.com](mailto:info@ertinc.com) 1-800-660-1808

Ads are free to members.  
Membership is \$15 per year.  
Membership forms are available at [www.southskyline.org](http://www.southskyline.org)  
Please limit each ad to approx. 45 words.  
Ads will be shortened when space is limited. Email ads to:  
[Skylineseditor@yahoo.com](mailto:Skylineseditor@yahoo.com)  
**SUBJECT LINE: AD PLACEMENT**

SOUTH SKYLINE ASSOCIATION  
Box 400, Star Route 2  
La Honda, CA 94020

### Consider getting Your Skylines by Email

For those members who receive the Skylines through the Post Office please consider the option to receive it on-line. This will save paper as well as postage. If you sign up for this option you will be notified by email when the next issues is released. Sign up and update your email address with Ruth Waldhauer at: ruth.waldhauer3@gmail.com or 650-948-1466

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

SSA Calendar-General Meeting –  
Sunday, August 10th, 2014 at  
1200pm. Jaqua Ranch

Business meetings will be held  
Sept. 11, and November 13 at  
7:00pm

President Michael Rowe  
408-872-1775

Editor Tanja Anderson  
408-882-7829

Ruth Waldhauer 650-948-1466 for SPUG  
& Membership

### 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.

**Skylines Ads and News Articles:** The Deadline for submitting ads and articles for the next issue is **September 5, 2014**

**Send all ads and articles to:** [SkylinesEditor@yahoo.com](mailto:SkylinesEditor@yahoo.com),  
**Subject Line for articles should read: FINAL DRAFT**

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