



## SSA GENERAL MEETING

### Mushrooms... Keep the Fun in Fungus

Presented by Justin Pierce

Friday, October 20

7:00 pm - Refreshments

7:30 pm - Featured presentation

Saratoga Summit Fire Station  
12900 Skyline Blvd.



*Please bring a sweet or savory dessert to share. SSA will provide beverages.*

This talk will include information about wild local mushrooms, identifying mushrooms, and mushroom resources. Our speaker intends to answer a lot of questions so whatever his audience is curious about, he will talk about.

Justin Pierce has grown up in Santa Cruz County and has been a member of the Fungus Federation of Santa Cruz County for nearly 10 years serving as minister of digital media as well as helping to lead local forays. Justin is currently the Prime Minister for the group. Always having had an interest in fungi, Justin is a self-taught mushroom cultivator and works for Far West Fungi.

All SSA members, Skyline residents (including children), are welcome.

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# Amateur Radio Club Held Field Day at Skyline Ridge Open Space Preserve

Lisa Short Chupity

Every year on the last weekend of June, the American Radio Relay League holds their annual Field Day, where local radio clubs all over the USA and Canada set up simulated emergency radio stations, and try to contact as many stations as possible over a 24-hour period. The SC4 Amateur Radio Club has set their station up at La Honda Gardens for the previous eight years. This was a convenient location for passersby to check out the stations, and get on the air themselves. Having easy public access was always advantageous for us, both as a club involved with our community, and also for points in the weekend contest. But that location isn't the best for making contacts due to the nature of the terrain.

This year, we looked for a place high on the ridge, hoping to improve the number of contacts we could make. Pat O' Coffey, the Logistics officer for this year's field day had her hands full looking for a suitable area, and anyone with authority to let us use such a space. Enter the wonderful rangers with Mid-Peninsula Regional Open Space District. Chris Barresi, the Area Superintendent for MROSD was able to help Pat secure the horse trailer parking area for Skyline Ridge Open Space Preserve. "Chris deserves a big kudo for everything he did for us in making this happen. Typically, there are no overnight activities at Skyline Ridge. Chris facilitated getting us the special permission for this event." Pat was able to get a porta-potti for the parking lot, and special parking permits for those of us who spent the night. This year's event, June 24-25, was a total success!

We got many, many more contacts than we had in previous years, adding to points for the contest. The public participation went very smoothly as well, with friends, dignitaries, and hikers curious to know what we were doing. We have a couple of new, young members, including a teen, who got some of her friends who hold amateur licenses to participate with us. The four of them made many contacts, and were responsible for the lion's share of points earned Saturday afternoon and evening. We had a potluck dinner, some of which was prepared on-site with a solar oven. As is customary, every year the SC4ARC does the entire Field Day event "off-grid", to simulate an emergency station set-up. We used gasoline generators to run the radios (and periodic coffee brewing). We contacted the International Space Station using an antenna made from a standard steel tape measure. We used not only "phone" (radio voice contacts), but also used digital PSK and Winlink modes.

Many thanks to the SC4ARC members who helped make this year's Field Day successful, and also to you, our neighbors in the South Skyline area who participated with us!

<b>SPUG QUARTERLY REPORT</b>						
		<b>Amerigas</b>	<b>Suburban San Jose</b>	<b>Suburban Scotts Valley</b>	<b>Kamps</b>	<b>Ferrellgas</b>
<i>By Ruth Waldhauer</i>	July	1.76	3.44	2.199	1.82	1.465
	August	1.76	3.44	2.199	1.69	1.465
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 <a href="mailto:ruth.waldhauer3@gmail.com">ruth.waldhauer3@gmail.com</a> or 650-948-1466. Information is also available on our website: <a href="http://SouthSkyline.org/spug/">SouthSkyline.org/spug/</a>	September	1.79	3.549	2.199	1.69	1.405
	October	1.79	3.61	2.199	1.69	1.475
	November	2.04	3.81	2.39	1.99	1.795
	December	2.17	3.99	2.49	2.10	1.785
	January 2017	2.17	4.30	2.74	2.48	1.995
	February	2.17	4.50	2.799	2.19	2.165
	March	2.17	4.579	2.99	2.19	2.235
	April	2.17	4.589	3.01	2.19	1.845
	May	2.17	4.589	2.99	2.19	1.846
	June	1.99	4.58	2.89	1.99	1.785
	July	1.99	4.58	2.69	1.89	1.757
	August	1.99	4.58	2.49	1.89	1.76
September	1.99	4.72	2.49	2.09	1.87	

SSA has agreements with Amerigas, Kamps, Propane, Suburban Propane, and FerrelGas. The open market price is about \$5.00/gallon. 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.

**Don't Lose Your SPUG Discount.** Propane members who have neglected to renew their SSA membership for 2017 will no longer qualify for the SPUG price. To renew go to [southskyline.org/membership/](http://southskyline.org/membership/) and follow instructions to pay online or by check.

# California Black Oaks Are Smart as Well as Pretty

Sarah Schoen

Oaks are one of the most diverse groups of trees in California. Of the many species of true oaks, *Quercus*, found in the state, approximately 7 grow in the South Skyline Area. California black oaks (*Quercus kelloggii*) are one of my favorites.



California black oaks, like all oaks, begin life as a tiny acorn. From March to May, female flowers are wind pollinated from the male catkins' over abundant pollen. In 18 to 20 months, the fruit is mature in the fall. As they mature, some acorns may be self-thinned, especially in drought

years. The oblong, chestnut brown acorns are relatively long, 1 to 1 ½". They are set deep into the cap, with less than half of the acorn exposed. The cap itself is covered with thin, flat, raggedy scales.

In mid to late winter, usually following a period of cold, acorns germinate into saplings, growing rapidly toward the light. The smooth, gray bark when young becomes dark and deeply fissured with age. The dark trunk looks almost black in winter when the trees have dropped their leaves. Early naturalist Albert Kellogg was inspired by this to name the trees black oaks. At about age 30, California black oaks begin to produce acorns. The acorn production reaches a maximum at about age 80 to 100, continuing to age 200, when production begins to decline. Black oaks have mast years of higher production than other times, about every 2 to 6 years. They can live up to 500 years.

California black oaks are tall with ascending limbs, the trees growing 30 to 80 feet tall. With plenty of sunlight, they have an open, rounded crown; when shaded among other trees they are narrow. Mature trees are clear of lower limbs 10 to 40 feet from the ground.

California black oak leaves are distinctive. They are 4 to 8" long, with deep, angular lobes, some of which are bristled at the pointed tip. When held up to the light, the leaves have a clearer outer margin. The leaves are winter deciduous. In the fall, when conditions are just right, they can turn bright yellow, otherwise more commonly here yellow-brown to brown, before falling. In the spring, new leaves emerge, silvery and pink, before turning deep green and darker on the top than the underside.

Black oaks are well adapted to fire. Their thick, insulating bark and the absence of limbs low to the ground helps them survive light to moderate fires. In hotter fires, if top-killed, the trees can regrow from the roots by crown sprouting. The roots themselves are formed into one to several tap roots that can penetrate bedrock. There are many lateral roots off these taproots, and also many surface roots. The large root system can store nutrients and water for the regrowth. After regrowth, the growth form can change from a single trunked to a multitrunked tree. Fire increases the soil mineral to organic content ratio, better for acorn germination. And wildlife caching of acorns well away from the parent tree adds insurance that some will survive in unburned areas. Overall, fire helps California black oaks compete against many conifers and other hardwoods.

Black oaks are important to wildlife. Cavities and branches provide nest sites for a number of species of owls, woodpeckers, and western gray squirrels. Acorns are eaten by deer, acorn woodpeckers, and pocket gophers. They are also cached and eaten by western gray squirrels, scrub jays, and Steller's jays, who help disperse the seeds.

California black oaks have been and continue to be used by people. Like many oak species, the acorns were processed as a staple food by many California Indian tribes. These acorns were considered to be the best tasting by some, in part due to their higher fat content than other oak species. These acorns also kept well in granaries, due to higher tannin levels. When early pioneers used the wood as lumber, much of it was wasted due to warping. Trees were girdled and killed by foresters, removed as "trash trees" to encourage growth of other species for lumber. In the 1960's, girdling on federal lands was ended and with a new milling process, most of the wood can be saved and is now used to make cabinetry, furniture, and flooring.

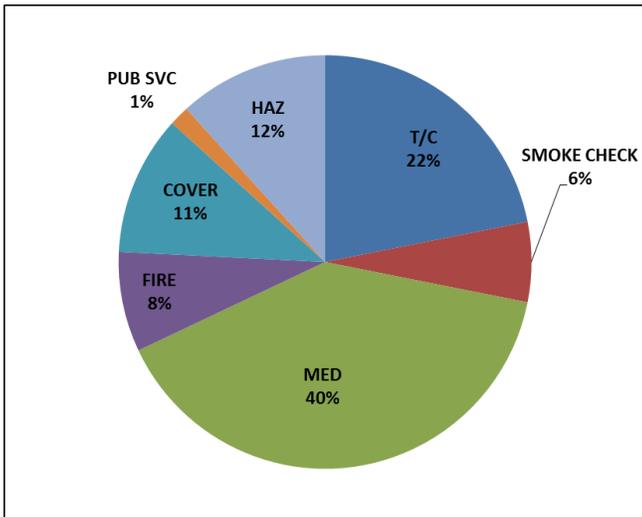
California black oaks are found from Southern Oregon south to Baja California in pure stands or mixed woodlands with conifers and other hardwoods. Castle Rock State Park has claim to the largest acreage of black oak woodlands in the Santa Cruz Mountains.



# South Skyline Fire & Rescue News

by Andy Seigel, Captain, SSF&R

## Incidents



For this quarter, notable incidents included the vegetation fire on Skyline south of Alpine after a tree took out some power lines. We also had a large number of cover assignments, where we staff one of the stations while Cal Fire resources are heading out of county to big fires.

### What else are we doing?

The response area is still dealing with road related issues from the winter storms. We have been working in various areas of the community to improve, or in some cases, simply *find* access for fire equipment. We are making good progress and hope to complete two of these projects by the end of September.

Santa Cruz County Fire has been outfitting a new utility for us. It's a 2017 Ford F350, and right now, lights, siren, and radios are being installed. We have completed a design for a cargo slide-out that will be installed in the bed sometime in November. We may start using the vehicle before then.

### Donations

We have raised about \$8000 so far this year, thanks in a very large part to the SSA and the SSA membership, who donated about **85%** of the funds. **THANK YOU!**

Another 11% was raised at various events and 4% from other sources. With these funds, we replaced one of our extrication tools, as I reported in the April issue.

I thought it might be interesting to list some other items we've been able to purchase over the years with your help:

GPS units, radios	Hose roller
Portable weather meters	Honda Generator
Rope rescue gear	Portable pump
Two rescue litter baskets	Two wheels for the litters
Adapters, hose appliances	Extrication tools
Medical bags	Traction splints
Wildand hose clamps	High visibility rain jackets
Wildland hose packs	Personal LED lights
Nozzles	5000 gallon water tank
Firefighter continuing education	Engine backup camera

Also this quarter, we finally got with the times, and added a PayPal link on our website, <http://southskylinefire.org>

### Recruiting

At this writing, we have two candidates for 2018. We're hopeful we can get them both through the process and have some new members to put in the Firefighter Spotlight next year.

## South Skyline FireSafe Council

### Activities Update

By John DeLong, SSFSC Education Committee

Early this spring, the South Skyline FireSafe Council (SSFSC) began a major fuels reduction project to provide a much needed firebreak along Charcoal Road, a ridgeline above Stevens Creek Canyon. This project may take up to two years to complete. Charcoal Road is entirely on parkland, mostly Santa Clara County Parks, with a portion on Mid-Peninsula Regional Open Space District (MROSD) land. The project was conceived and planned by Dick Schwind, founder of the SSFSC, and is being managed by the Santa Clara County FireSafe Council (SCCFSC) with financial support from SCCFSC, SSFSC, and MROSD.

SSFSC recently helped the Waterman Gap Road association with a fuels reduction/road clearing project. SSFSC provided fiscal sponsorship and certified observers so that the Waterman Gap Road association could use CDCR/CalFire Ben Lomond inmate crews to do the work.

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SSFSC's **free Fall chipping program** is coming up – NOTE: the **deadline for applications is October 15**. This is only for proper-ties within the SSFSC boundaries

[www.southskylinefiresafe.org/firesafe-boundary-map](http://www.southskylinefiresafe.org/firesafe-boundary-map)

You can complete an application online at

[www.southskylinefiresafe.org/Home/free-chipping-program](http://www.southskylinefiresafe.org/Home/free-chipping-program)

**SSFSC has these committees which need volunteer help:**

- 1) Home inspections and chipping programs – We provide free home inspections to help people prepare their homes for future wildfires, and we offer free chipping every spring and fall. These two programs have been run by one person each for the past seven years, but have become popular and we need help managing them.
- 2) Water tanks – strategic placement of water tanks to assist with refilling tanker trucks is a pet project for the various fire departments and we hope to help them accomplish this.
- 3) Shaded fuel breaks/roads and trails – maintaining fire breaks, fire roads, and other projects that we have already cleared is of key importance. We need help planning and coordinating maintenance projects (with most work done by CCC or Ben Lomond crews), and assessing condition of public trails and roads to identify problem areas.
- 4) Fire Station and Public Agency Liaison – this committee will focus on creating and maintaining relationships with personnel at our local fire stations and communicating with other agencies responsible for maintaining properties within our boundaries.
- 5) Education and Community Outreach – providing educational materials for our website; setting up and managing booths at quarterly community events, writing press re-leases and articles for local publications, managing hand- outs and brochures, etc.

If you live within our boundaries and would like to come to our meetings or volunteer, please let us know. For more information reply to John DeLong [jmdelong@aol.com](mailto:jmdelong@aol.com) or our President Ken MacLean [kenymac@verizon.net](mailto:kenymac@verizon.net)

## **Progress Rebuilding Storm-Ravaged Skyline Blvd.**

*Dick Schwind*

Last April the SSA arranged a meeting with Cal Trans at the Saratoga Library to tell us of their preliminary design plans for rebuilding the massive collapse of Skyline Blvd. north of Las Cumbres. It avalanched away due to the heavy rains in early February. They estimated this rebuild might be completed by the end of September. (That date has since been extended.) The repair design for another partial road collapse just to the south of this gap was also described.

Reconstruction activity has been quite continuous at both sites since that time. The repair of the partial road collapse will probably be complete by the time this newsletter is delivered.

The estimated completion date for the larger slide is now the end of December 2017, but Cal Trans reports that date could be extended if we have a lot of rain this winter. Rebuilding the massive collapse has proceeded parallel to completing the design phase, which has been completed for some time. Key materials have been ordered, received, tested for compliance, and are being delivered to the site (as of September 11). Drilling anchors for the retaining wall is proceeding slower than expected (yep, probably our sandstone that has had the summer to dry out.). There is a good chance their present completion goal of the end of the year will be met. In any case the pressure the SSA has been able to bring upon Cal Trans has been having its positive effect!

No apparent local action has happened at the failed culvert where the large Skyline Blvd. fill is located at the entrance to the Los Altos Rod and Gun Club/Castle Rock State Park campsite. During the large storms last winter, tens of thousands of gallons of water were ponded against this fill but fortunately, there was no collapse. The very preliminary plan was to drill a new large culvert through the fill making a wild animal pathway under the highway in addition to the needed drainage. Cal Trans expected this could be accomplished without disrupting traffic.

A neighbor near the Skyline Blvd. one lane slip-out about 1 mile south of the Skylonda Corners reports that the downhill side repair is about complete, but the one lane traffic control will continue for an indefinite time while the major landslide on the uphill side is stabilized.

# CERT & ARES to the Rescue!

Frances Mann-Craik

It was a dark and stormy night.... following another, and yet another dark and stormy night during that first week of January 2017. A major thoroughfare in Cuesta La Honda cracked, phones were out, the power lines were down, and then the water main broke. A crack in the road turned into a huge gorge that began swallowing up the nearest home in a menacing, slowly-creeping mudslide. Mud was building up against the back door, the floorboards were creaking, and the rain kept pouring down. What now?

Several mountain neighbors in La Honda faced these real disasters this past winter. As the rain came down week after week and the earth was no longer able to hang onto the ground, roads and communications lines were cut off and homes began to slide away. Ari Delay, Chief of the all-volunteer La Honda Fire Brigade, which sponsors South Coast Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), for the first time since 2011, called out the CERT. In addition, he called on the local Ham radio volunteers – the South Coast Amateur Radio Emergency Services (SC4ARES) group.

Chief Delay knew that the local team of fire fighters could use assistance from trained volunteers during these extraordinary circumstances and called out the CERT and ARES volunteers. “The homeowners of the first home to go were exhausted after days of storms, no power, or heat, or way to communicate, and then a mudslide was coming down the hill toward them. They were trying to evacuate the home on their own and were very tired,” Ari said.

## CERT to the rescue!

Ari contacted Peggy Wargo, Portola Heights resident, South Skyline Emergency Preparedness Organization (SSEPO) Board Member and CERT coordinator for South Coast CERT and South Skyline CERT volunteers. Peggy activated the CERT call-out system and many volunteers appeared with willing hands and strong backs to help pack and move the homeowner’s belongings, before everything disappeared down the mud hole.

That was just the first house. Then there was a second, and a third. All slowly oozing toward the pit. The CERT came to the rescue of all these neighbors. “All together we had a total of approximately 50 volunteers across four separate call-out events, who put in 300+ hours to respond, staff key activities, and rescue neighbors’ belongings,” Peggy said.

## ARES to the Rescue!

Meanwhile, 32 residents of Middleton Tract were trapped. Roads were blocked by a large landslide, no power, phones, or cell coverage. Should emergency help be needed in this cut-off community, there was no way to let someone know. The local Ham radio club, SC4ARC, activated several of its Amateur Radio Emergency Services’ (ARES) members, who set out to fix that.

Chief Delay contacted Linda Bennett and Peter Chupity to help with this emergency. They met at the La Honda fire station, gathered equipment, and in complete darkness, aided only by flashlights, hiked across the slippery mountain of a mud slide, where they set up a portable Ham radio station at one of the neighbor’s homes. They distributed hand-held GMRS radios (like walkie-talkies) to each neighbor, and taught them how to use it to keep in touch with their neighbors. The neighbors could now talk with each other and, if needed, use the Ham radio to access La Honda emergency communications. The ARES’ volunteers monitored these Ham lines during the week the roads were blocked, helping with the day-to-day needs and requests for those trapped.

In addition to helping neighbors directly, during the worst of the relentless storms, CERT and ARES volunteers helped staff the La Honda Department of Operations (DOC), while the all-volunteer La Honda Fire Brigade fire fighters went out on calls – 125 of them – in January and February. CERT and Ham radio volunteers staffed the fire station and managed emergency calls, tracked the location of fire department staff, and tracked open and closed incidents and resources, all on a 24-hour basis, until the emergency situations were resolved.

“We have been conducting CERT and ARES training for some 20 years, this is one of the few times our CERTs have been called out,” Ari said. “This year, all that training and practice drilling came into play, as the volunteers were called out repeatedly to rescue neighbors from the ravishes of the storms. There was seamless cooperation between the La Honda Fire department, CERTs, SC4ARES and Puente, as we all worked in a unified way to help the people we were there to help,” Ari said.

**The outcome:** Homes were lost, but personal property was saved. No one was hurt. No one was left alone in the cold.

*Continued on page 7*

**CERT & ARES** continued from page 6

Peggy Wargo concluded, "Some people who live in the South Skyline and mountain area live out here because they like to stay to themselves. But, when something like this happens, everyone helps out."

Want to help your neighbors? Volunteer for CERT or ARES:

CERT: Contact Peggy Wargo at [peggy.wargo@lahondafire.org](mailto:peggy.wargo@lahondafire.org)

SC4ARC: Visit the website at [www.sc4arc.org](http://www.sc4arc.org) and click on the "Contact Us" tab.

South Skyline ARES: If you are already a licensed Ham operator and would like to join South Skyline ARES, contact Pat O’Coffey at [pat.ocoffey@lahondafire.org](mailto:pat.ocoffey@lahondafire.org)

**Interested in Future CERT Classes?**

The next **basic CERT class** is planned for March 2018 and will be held in El Granada. Watch for details in the January 2018 Skylines.

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La Honda Fire Brigade is sponsoring the following **Advanced CERT training** program for those who have already completed the basic CERT class:

**CERT Firefighter Rehabilitation Course (4 hour class)**

November 28th La Honda Fire Brigade - 8945 La Honda Road, La Honda

November 30th Kings Mountain Fire Brigade -13889 Skyline Blvd, Woodside

December 2nd Coastside Fire Protection Station 40 - 1191 Main St, Half Moon Bay

**Course summary:**

Introduction and overview of firefighter rehabilitation class includes its purpose, the role CERT’s can provide in this rehab, coverage of physiological threats to firefighters, fire scene snapshot and what to expect, characteristics and set up at the scene of a fire, how to establish a rehab area, needed supplies and equipment, details of what CERT members can do in the rehab area.

For more information contact: Peggy Wargo  
SouthCoast and SouthSkyline CERT Coordinator  
[peggy.wargo@lahondafire.org](mailto:peggy.wargo@lahondafire.org)

**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY**

**South Skyline Association  
Membership Assistant**

*South Skyline Association* is growing and we need your help!

We are seeking part-time help to manage our membership data. Work hours range from approximately 10 hours per week in December and January to as few as 4 hours per month from April thru November. Work from home and help our community!

Primary Responsibilities:

- Manage membership applications and renewal forms;
- Enter and edit data entries on the SSA website based database;
- Contact applicants/members to clarify or complete required information;
- Work with other Membership Committee members to resolve questions.

Key Competencies:

- Excellent Communication Skills
- Information Collection and Management
- Problem Solving
- Attention to Detail
- Ability to maintain confidentiality

Other requirements include owning a computer with internet connection and a telephone. Experience with database entry or WordPress is desirable, although not a requirement.

Compensation will be dependent upon experience.

**Contact [membership@southskyline.org](mailto:membership@southskyline.org)**

## ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY

*Jerry Peters*

On Monday, June 26th, volunteers Armen Leonian, Kathryn Hargrove, Dave Myrick, Lilly Blum, first-time participant Tiffany Pai and Jerry Peters met at the Vista Point at 10 am to gather litter.



The weather was pleasant while we worked and fortunately we had a strong group because the amount of cans, bottles and plastic containers was much larger than usual. Despite five-foot tall grass and thistles below the parking area, we managed to clean the area in about one hour. We collected 8 large bags. A nice woman who had stopped to enjoy the view with her family took the photo. Left to right: Dave Myrick, Jerry Peters, Armen Leonian, Kathryn Hargrove and Lilly Blum; Tiffany Pai left before the photo.

On Monday, August 28th, volunteers Armen Leonian, Lilly Blum, first-time participant Ron Marazzo and Jerry Peters met at the Russian Ridge Vista Point at 10 am to gather litter.

The weather was quite hot while we worked and after an hour and a half we had collected 7 large bags. The amount of cans, bottles and plastic containers was relatively large but the tall grass and thistles had been cleared out which helped our gathering efforts. There was evidence of a small fire having occurred below the middle of the parking area.



Photo (left-to right): Armen Leonian, Ron Marazzo and Lilly Blum; Jerry Peters took the photo.

SSA & SHS volunteers are responsible for gathering litter every two months. The sweep normally takes about an hour and a half. So far over 185 names are on the honor roll 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)

## Looking for a Volunteer for Skylines Editor

*Patti Begley*

I've had the great pleasure of working as the Skylines editor on and off for about 15 years now with the help of several other volunteers. We have recently lost our layout editor and we really need to find a volunteer to take on the editor job, or at least part of it.

The editor job has been divided up to include a layout editor, and the coordinator of a team of several volunteers who review and do copyediting. Until recently I have been coordinating the review process, schedule, and monitoring emails while Marianne Rose did the layout. Now we either need to find someone else to be the coordinator or a new layout person, as I cannot do both jobs.

If you think the Skylines is an important communication tool for our community and are interested in being part of this newsletter team, please send an email to me and I will send you the details. [SkylinesEditor@yahoo.com](mailto:SkylinesEditor@yahoo.com)



### Take a Hike...

## Horseshoe Lake

*Ruth Waldhauer*

Begin the hike at Skyline Ridge OSP Parking lot on Skyline Boulevard (RT 35) 3/4 mile south of the Page Mill/Alpine intersection. Take the trail heading downhill, and pass through a field thick with willows, coyote brush, thistles and teasels. After you pass through the handicapped parking lot, go through a hikers-only stile gate and turn right. Coffeeberry, yarrow, curly dock, pennyroyal, and very aromatic vinegar weed thrive nearby. In late August I found Clarkia still blooming there. As you descend through the upper watershed of East Lambert Creek, the U-shaped lake comes into view, wrapped around a tree-topped knoll. Soon you arrive at Horseshoe Lake, which is fringed with cattails and may be dotted with ducks and coots. The lake was formed by an earthen dam. Both Alpine Pond and Horseshoe Lake were created in the 1950s by John Rickey, a hog farmer and restaurateur who once owned the land.

After you cross a bridge, there is a bench on the dam. From here you can see why the lake got its name. A curving arm of water extends northeast, mirroring the one you were traveling beside. Staying beside the lake, you will pass two more benches with nice views over the water. Soon you will reach the end of this arm of the lake and cross a small wood bridge over a seasonal wet area. Hazelnut, oceanspray, thimbleberry, ferns and berry vines grow beside the trail. Now in the open you have a fine view of the lake on your left. Soon you will arrive at the gate to the equestrian parking area. Leaving the gate to the equestrian parking area bear left, and pass stands of canyon oak, madrone, young Douglas-fir, and pine. Again you will pass alongside the lake, but this time about 30 or 40 feet above it. At the promontory there are two picnic tables. Stop and enjoy. Here listen for the call of the red-tailed hawk.

Continue on and soon you will reach the dirt-and-gravel road you crossed earlier, angle left, go about 75 feet, then turn right onto the Ridge Trail. From here, retrace your route to the parking area.

Distance -- 1.3 miles

Time -- One hour or less

Maps are available at the parking lot

## Skyline Chestnut Orchard

*Patti Begley*

On Skyline Blvd. just south of Horseshoe Lake on Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District land, is a Chestnut Orchard that many locals may not know about. Or if you are like me, you see their signs in the fall but forget to stop by before the chestnuts are all gone. It is open to the public right now for you-pick style chestnut gathering. It makes for a fun family outing, and the orchard also has an interesting history. Thanks to Hans Johsens for the following information about this very old orchard.

### History of the Skyline Orchard

Shortly after California was acquired by the United States in 1847, a Spanish settler moved up into the mountains where he found a perfect natural location for growing non-native chestnut trees. On 20 prime acres with sloping terrain, a generous supply of natural underground water, and a microclimate that provides rain in the winter and coastal fog in the summer and fall, he planted the oldest of the trees growing here today. More trees were added over the next 50 years, and now there are 120 trees with a mixture of European, Chinese and American genetics. Many of the older trees have been growing so long they are larger than houses.

The property was purchased by another family sometime in the first part of the 20th century. After a few decades, the family became unable to keep up with it, and it went fallow. In the early 1980s, the land was purchased by the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District. The district engaged Hans Johsens to restore the long-neglected historic site to its current state of majesty. Hans continues to run Skyline Chestnuts today, making it one of the last heritage agricultural properties still in operation up on the mountain.

### The Harvest

Skyline Chestnuts is a pick-your-own style orchard. The farmstand loans out gloves and buckets then customers go hunting for ripe chestnuts under the gorgeous trees. The chestnut harvest typically starts around the second week of October and continues Wednesday through Sunday until the middle of November.

Hans Johsen maintains a Facebook page called **Skylines Chestnuts**. Check it out for up-to-date times and information on the harvest.

Visit this little bit of history at 22322 Skyline Blvd, La Honda. The gate swings open at 9:30am.

## Community Events



### 2017 FALL FREE CHIPPING PROGRAM

APPLICATIONS MUST BE  
SUBMITTED NO LATER THAN  
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15TH

SIGN UP IS AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE :  
WWW.SOUTHSKYLINEFIRESAFE.ORG

OR CONTACT ED HAYES

E-MAIL: edhayes@wildblue.net

PHONE:408-872-1715



### La Honda Fire Brigade Annual Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser



Sunday, October 15  
From 8am to Noon  
\$10 for adults and \$8 for kids

We proudly serve savory sausage, crisp bacon, orange juice, pancakes, scrambled eggs, tea, coffee and our special gourmet pumpkin pancakes.

### Las Cumbres Conservation Corporation Holiday Bazaar

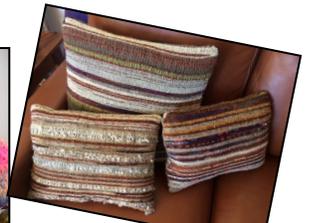
Sunday, November 5, 2017  
10 am to 3 pm  
LCCC Community Center  
Las Cumbres Road  
Los Gatos, CA 95033

A traditional favorite event from the early days of Las Cumbres, our **Holiday Bazaar** returns again this fall on November 5 in the Las Cumbres Community Center located off Skyline Blvd. at 18260 Las Cumbres Road. 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 Baccarossa Winery who will provide afternoon tastings. Avid readers will enjoy the return of the Book Exchange featuring gently-used adult and children's books.

In addition to early holiday shopping, participants and visitors can relax at Café Las Cumbres, where breakfast pastries, soups, and drinks will be offered throughout the day. 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 Café help fund needed supplies for local emergency services.

Contact Lynn Slade at 408-354-7818 or email [bazaar@lascumbres.org](mailto:bazaar@lascumbres.org) for more information on this home-style mountain event.

*Photos from last year's bazaar :*  
*Felted bowls, pillows, ceramics and jewelry.*



## Classified Ads

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### Community

**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

**Free Fire Fitting** for those in the South Skyline Fire & Rescue primary response area. This 2-1/2 inch fitting will allow the connection of a fire hose to your water supply and can be utilized by the fire department to access the water necessary for fire suppression. Please visit <http://southskylinefire.org/> for more information under the "Help us help you" section.

### Services

**Barbara and John Mountain Realtors** Residents here for 21 years. We LOVE the mountains...even with all the rain & road closures! John 408-332-4780 Barbara 408-656-8209 With Coldwell Banker You set the pace. We make it easy. [john.harriman@cbnorcal.com](mailto:john.harriman@cbnorcal.com) [barbara.harriman@cbnorcal.com](mailto:barbara.harriman@cbnorcal.com) Check out our testimonials! [www.theharrimanteam.com](http://www.theharrimanteam.com)

**The BirdHayes Real Estate** Team... Local experts serving the area for over 25 years. Professionals with experience who specialize in local rural properties. Contact us for a consultation to help you prepare your property for sale. Karin Bird and Scott Hayes with Alain-Pinel Realtors 650-851-8100 [www.BirdHayes.com](http://www.BirdHayes.com)

**Dog Days-** Award Winning Dog Training Group Classes- Monday evenings in Portola Valley/Ladera. GIFT CERTIFICATES – great for any dog owner! Private Lessons Please call 650 851-5500 (Best) or Email: [Dog.days@comcast.net](mailto:Dog.days@comcast.net)

**ERT** - Do you have lead in your drinking water? Do you have any signs of mold? Call ERT (408-796-7144) today to determine if these problems exist at your home or business. Our DIY home testing kit offers savings of over \$200.

**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.

**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)

**Portola Valley Farmers' Market** Every Thursday, year-round 2-6pm (2-5pm winter) Weekly farmers' market brings local fruits & veggies, eggs, meat, fish, bakery & specialty foods, crafts and ready-to-eats. 765 Portola Road, PV at town center in front of the Historic Schoolhouse. [www.pvfarmersmarket.com](http://www.pvfarmersmarket.com)

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

**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

When placing an ad: Please limit each ad to 45 words.

Due to many requests, we will attempt to keep a list of ads that will run every issue. However, there is no guarantee that an ad won't be missed because of our changes in staff. If you want to be on the list, 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. The online SSA membership application is at [www.southskyline.org](http://www.southskyline.org).

Email ads to: [skylineseditor@yahoo.com](mailto:skylineseditor@yahoo.com)

SOUTH SKYLINE ASSOCIATION  
400 Skyline Blvd.  
La Honda, CA 94020

### SSA 2017 CALENDAR

SSA General Meeting - Friday October 20, 2017 at  
Saratoga Summit Fire Station • 7:00pm

Board Meetings will be held on:

November 9

January 11

February 8

For locations and more information contact

Michael Rowe rowe517@gmail.com • 408-872-1775

#### Current SSA Board Members

Dave Anderson ..... Highway 9 - Santa Cruz County..... Website, Public Safety  
Kristen Anderson.... Highway 9 - Santa Cruz County..... Treasurer  
Jeff Beaman ..... Skylonda  
Patti Begley ..... Highway 9 - Santa Cruz County..... Communications, Website Committee  
Barbara Bekins..... Highway 35 - Rocky Creek ..... Public Safety/Water, Website Committee  
Debra Born ..... Alpine Road..... Membership Chair, SSFC  
John Harriman..... Las Cumbres ..... Secretary, Outreach  
Joshua Littlefield.... Highway 35 – Rocky Creek..... Vice-President  
Maura McNamara.. Waterman Gap..... Board Insurance  
Jerry Parsons ..... Las Cumbres ..... SSEPO  
Michael Rowe ..... Highway 9 – Santa Cruz County..... President  
Ruth Waldhauer..... Portola Heights..... Communications, SPUG, Website

**Skylines Ads and News Articles: The deadline for submitting ads and articles for the next issue is December 15, 2017.**

Skylines is published once a quarter: January/April/July/October

Skylines invites individuals to submit articles and artwork.

Policy on Classified Ads: See page .

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

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