



South Skyline Community Potluck Picnic

Raptors

A PRESENTATION BY KEVIN FOSTER

This is a community picnic for all South Skyline residents. This wildlife topic will be great for kids, so bring the family!

The guest presenter for this year’s summer gathering will be Kevin Foster, speaking on the subject of raptors. He will be bringing his great horned owl Zeus.



Kevin was raised in Texas, Oklahoma and Colorado. He has been a resident of Santa Cruz County for the last 25 years. Some of the many fine hats he has worn and continues to wear:

- A licensed falconer.
- Wildlife rehabber and rescuer for Santa Cruz County Native Animal Rescue.
- A Pyro technician with Devastating Pyrotechnics.
- Creator of the Boulder Creek community emergency response team (CERT).
- Wedding officiant.
- General contractor.
- Rodeo Clown.
- Board Member for Valley Churches.
- Columnist for the Santa Cruz Mountains bulletin.
- Ad-hoc helper with animal and other issues for CHP, Sheriff, and Animal Control.

Sunday, August 20, 2023
Noon – 3:00pm
Jaqua Ranch

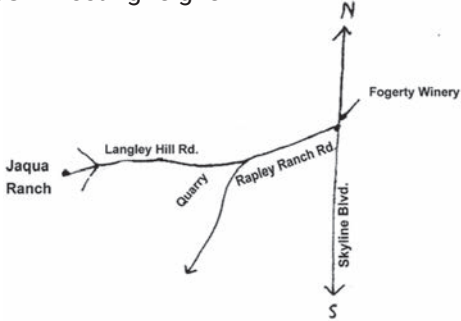
Please bring an entrée, salad or dessert to share; perhaps consider bringing your own reusable tableware. SSA will provide single-use plates, utensils, cups, lemonade and soft drinks.

We will meet on the shaded patio of the Jaqua Ranch on Langley Road (directions below).

Directions to Jaqua Ranch

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. 3 miles.
- Turn west at Rapley Ranch Road which is across from Thomas Fogarty Winery.
- Follow “SSA Meeting” signs.



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What the SSA Board is Doing...

BY EVAN DELLOR, SSA PRESIDENT

Dear community members,

I'm writing this message in the midst of our first heat wave, taking a break from the continual effort to tidy the property in regards to fire mitigation, safety, and access. It's never too late to embark on the little tasks that add up to improved hardening—flammables/plastics not leaning on the house, sweeping/blowing light debris, and trimming grass around roadways that could be sparked from hot exhaust pipes, etc.

The SSA has approved an additional grant to the La Honda Fire Brigade to provide better and more mobile communications equipment. These upgrades could likely benefit us all. Communication is at the core of successful emergency response.

We continue to make website modifications, advocate for road repairs and improvements, and keep organized with the financials. SPUG and membership in general is a continual effort, so keep in mind the lengthy efforts put forth by those on the board who donate their time to keep things running smoothly. This newsletter is also a tremendous effort to compile and publish, so thanks to those (including all of the non-board volunteers) who get it done!

We have a great summer picnic planned—see the section in this edition for details.

Keep cool if you can!

Evan

SSA Grant Application Fall Deadline: September 30, 2023

BY SUSAN STUCKY, SSA GRANT ADMINISTRATOR

Will you need financial assistance for a program or project that supports the South Skyline community? Individuals, students, teachers, groups, and organizations are eligible for South Skyline Association grant funding from \$500 to \$10,000. **The 2023 fall deadline for submitting grant applications to the SSA is September 30, 2023.**

Please check the SSA website under 'Events' at <http://southskyline.org/events/> for the application template. If you have any questions or need additional information or assistance with the grant proposal application, please email grants@southskyline.org. **Applications will be reviewed at the October 12, 2023 SSA Board meeting.**

SPUG Quarterly Report

Month/Year	Amerigas	Ferrellgas	Kamps	Suburban/SV
June 2023	2.750	2.951	3.650	3.600
May 2023	2.750	3.331	3.650	3.950
April 2023	2.750	3.335	3.650	4.350
March 2023	2.750	3.379	3.650	4.350
February 2023	2.750	3.405	3.650	4.400
January 2023	2.750	3.435	3.650	4.500
December 2022	2.750	3.146	3.240	4.150
November 2022	3.250	3.031	3.240	4.410
October 2022	3.250	3.058	3.540	4.410
September 2022	3.250	3.045	3.540	4.380
August 2022	2.750	3.049	3.540	4.330
July 2022	2.750	3.069	3.540	4.480
June 2022	2.750	3.059	3.640	4.500

Skyline Propane Users Group (SPUG) was formed to benefit SSA members. For information about joining, or for members wishing current information on the agreement go to our website: www.SouthSkyline.org/spug/. If you have questions, please email propane@southskyline.org.

SSA has agreements with Amerigas, Ferrellgas, Kamps, and Suburban Propane Scotts Valley. Existing "Associate Members" will continue to enjoy SPUG discounts, and long-time SPUG members who switch to Ferrellgas will also be eligible for the SPUG discount. **Please note: Prices are subject to change as frequently as wholesale prices change. The prices SSA posts are for the first of the month.** Our SPUG rate is based on a keep-full basis, not will-call service.

You are not required to pay sales tax on propane if you do not have natural gas available where you use propane. If you get your propane from Amerigas, you will need to submit a sales tax exemption form. Contact Amerigas for the form.

Membership dues are due every January. Those whose SSA membership has lapsed can be disqualified by our propane providers from receiving the benefit of the SPUG price. Membership can be renewed at <http://SouthSkyline.org/membership/>. If paying by check use the Membership Application on the website.

Community Water Tank Grant Program

BY EVAN DELLOR, SSA PRESIDENT

The SSA is considering the adoption of a sub-grant program that would supply a 5000 gallon water tank to communities for the purpose of having an accessible source of water dedicated for fire mitigation purposes. We have completed a pilot installation.

The grants would possibly cover the cost of the tank itself, a valve with appropriate fire fittings, and delivery. Notionally, the recipients would be responsible for installing the tank and filling it with water. Additional decisions would have to be made regarding specific beneficial location, amenable to access by fire trucks, neighborhood wants, and property easements. Easiest spots would be central to the community, near/on a road, and generally flat to make any grading or site preparation simpler. Installation might involve additional costs depending on the situation. We will provide more information should the SSA formally decide to adopt such a program.

Fuel Reduction Reimbursement Funds Available

BY JANE MANNING

The South Skyline FireSafe Council (SSFSC) has a small fund intended to assist homeowners and road associations with costs for vegetation reduction around homes and/or for clearing along private escape routes and driveways.

This program was created in 2014 to encourage residents within our boundaries to undertake clearing projects. Work can be partially reimbursed by the program through filling out a brief application before beginning work.

Contact: SouthSkylineFiresafe@gmail.com. A SSFSC board member will inspect the project prior to work beginning and an amount will be determined by the SSFSC Board at the monthly meeting based on specified guidelines and budgetary limits. As an example, the guidelines stipulate a maximum amount of \$350 for contract chipping services for an individual homeowner. Please note, this program is meant to augment, not replace, use of the twice-yearly free chipping program!



Free Address Sign for South Skyline Association In-Boundary Members

BY SUSAN STUCKY AND DEBRA BORN

Along with the quiet and privacy that living in the South Skyline area provides, we also have a front seat on many of nature's biggest challenges. We rely on ourselves and our neighbors for assistance, but we count on emergency services too. Whether it is a fire truck, an ambulance, a first-responder, or even just neighbors, the driver has to find you. To help these folks out, address signs are key to timely service. SSA is making free address signs available to SSA (in-boundary) members. If you are unsure if you are



an in-boundary member, see the SSA Area Map at <https://southskyline.org/about/>

The signs are regulation compatible: green and white with 4" reflective numbers and letters and are 80 mil aluminum. Do your part. Order one today.

Applications can be found Applications can be found on page 8 or at this link: <http://southskyline.org/events/>

South Skyline Fire & Rescue News

BY ANDY SEIGEL, CAPTAIN, SSF&R

CZU is at peak staffing as of June 26th, with two engines at Saratoga Summit, and seasonal stations staffed. Grass is getting tall! Remain vigilant and keep focused on your defensible space.

We had a beautiful day and a good turnout for our pancake breakfast in May. Thanks to everyone who attended! We had to scramble when about 35 members of the Alto Velo cycling club showed up with 15 minutes to go! They all got something to eat, refilled water bottles, and we got a photo of the whole group in front of Engine 2911.

New Volunteer and Recruiting

We did manage to get one last-minute candidate through the 2023 volunteer academy and we'll be introducing him in the next issue. We're looking forward to having several candidates

for 2024. There is information on our website about the program. We're happy to answer any questions; email us at interest@southskylinefire.org

Visit us at: <http://southskylinefire.org>



Is Your Home Ready?

BY JOHN DELONG

You should know that all home owners in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI), where we live in the Santa Cruz Mountains, are required to maintain a defensible space around all of their structures. This is required by state law, and is one of your best defenses to protect your home from approaching wildfire.

But you may not be aware that an equally important factor whether your home is able to survive a wildland fire or not is "Home Hardening." There are a lot of small things, as well as some large ones, that can be done to assure that your home is less susceptible to blowing embers and approaching flames.

The South Skyline FireSafe Council wants to remind you that we offer a **no charge** Home Advisory service to help you understand what could be done in and around your home to make it less vulnerable to wildfire. We have six

trained volunteers who can look at your property and the outside of your home and make suggestions to harden the home and improve your defensible space. The visit usually takes about an hour.

These advisories are only available for properties within the boundaries of the South Skyline FireSafe Council, that is north of Bear Creek Road, South of Old La Honda Road, west to Waterman Gap and Portola State Park Road, East to Redwood Gulch and Alpine Roads.

To schedule an appointment, please e-mail us at: homeadvisory.ssfsc@gmail.com, or visit our website: <https://www.southskylinefiresafe.org/programs-2/home-advisory-program/>



Give Back to the Community

BY JOHN DELONG

Many of you know how valuable the services provided by the South Skyline FireSafe Council are. We provide twice a year free chipping programs for the community; sponsor educational events like the Community Preparedness Day; offer free Home Advisory services to help homeowners identify the most important tasks for improving their defensible space and home hardening; and obtain grants to tackle major fuel reduction programs along our key roadways and truck trails.

We do all of this, and much more, with a small group of volunteer board members and active members. But we need more people from the community to give back to their South Skyline Community by volunteering to help us.

Here are some specific skills and assistance that we are seeking right now:

- Additional help with our chipping program: assessing pile sizes and leading the chipping crews to each property. This only happens for a few weeks in Spring and Fall

- Additional help with keeping our Social Media and Website up to date and help with other community Outreach

- Someone with accounting background to help with our regular bookkeeping and financial administration
- Occasional help with grant writing and grant proposal preparation
- Occasional help with project management

Volunteering is a great way to give back to the community and engage in rewarding, satisfying and worthwhile activities. And we are a fun group of South Skyline folk. Please contact us at southskylinefiresafe@gmail.com.

Volunteering is a great way to get to know better your local community and support our mountain life.

South Skyline FireSafe Council

324 Skyline Blvd, La Honda, CA 94020

www.southskylinefiresafe.org

The Skyline Boulevard region in the counties of Santa Cruz, Santa Clara and San Mateo

South Skyline Community Preparedness Day 2023

BY JOHN DELONG

On May 21, the South Skyline Emergency Preparedness Organization (SSEPO) and the South Skyline FireSafe Council co-sponsored the second annual South Skyline Community Preparedness Day, 2023. It was a beautiful Spring day at Skyline Ridge Open Space Preserve.

More than 30 agencies and organizations participated this year, including four different fire departments (South Skyline Volunteer Fire & Rescue, engine 29; CalFire; Santa Clara County Fire; and La Honda Fire Brigade) that showed off a variety of their different types of fire engines. San Mateo County Sheriff sent three vehicles including their CAL OES Emergency Communications Truck and their Cliff Rescue Truck. SSEPO showed off their emergency medical trailer and triage tent. San Mateo Large Animal Evacuation Group showed off one of their trailers and were joined by the Santa Cruz Equine Evacuation Group. Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District showed a ranger pick-up truck outfitted with firefighting hoses and pumps and were joined by a ranger from Palo Alto Parks. In addition, we had many other exhibitors including the American Red Cross, California Department of Insurance, South Coast ARES, Community Emergency Response Team, South Bay Fire Wise Partners, United Policy Holders, State Farm Insurance Company, The San Mateo Resource Conservation District, The South Skyline Association and others.

This year, for the first time, we also had private companies who could provide help with making your properties safer: Brush Hog Tree Care, Irish Excavation and Dempsey Engineering (all three providing mastication and brush removal), California Sisters (native plant landscaping), Hardie Company (fireproof walls) and Simply Solar. Also exhibiting was author of a children's book on wildfire, Marjorie Kline and members from the Ramaytush Ohlone Tribe, upon whose ancestral land we held this event

Almost 100 local residents attended. Most of the exhibitors stated that the level of interest and excellent questions asked made this a valuable event. It was also an excellent networking event allowing the various agencies and fire departments to meet each other as well as interact with the visitors and residents. Plan to join us when we do this again next year!





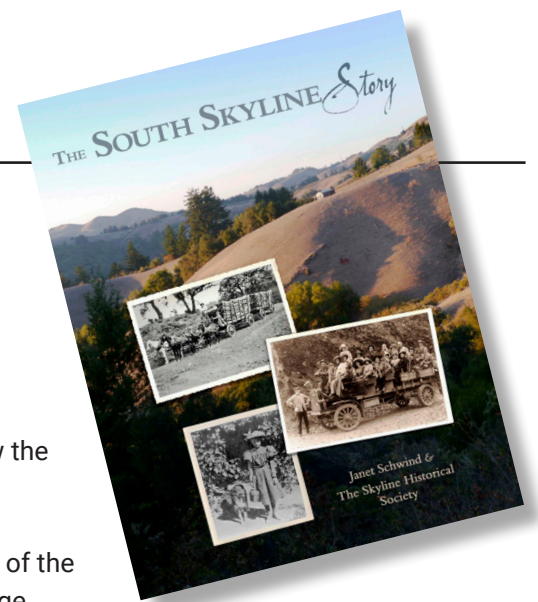
“The South Skyline Story”

A fascinating biography of our scenic Skyline region.

Need a gift for a special person on your gift list? We will help you with your shopping and send this very special gift directly to your lucky recipient and enclose a note that it is from you.

In this book the reader will follow the paths of the native Ohlone people and experience the rugged life in the logging camps, mills, and ranches. Learn how the crude trails, dusty ranch and private roads of the ridge properties through four different counties were connected by the building of the boulevard. This book introduces the waves of people who left the “flatlands” to succumb to the lore of the mountains of the area we call “home.” Complete with detailed maps and vintage photographs, this book should be in the library of every person who loves local history.

Get your copy by contacting Skyline History President Chuck Schoppe, email: chuck_sch@hotmail.com or phone: 408-867-9229. Your cost: \$24.95 plus tax (\$2.25) plus \$8.55 shipping priority mail, for a total of \$35.75.



FREE ADDRESS SIGN FOR SOUTH SKYLINE ASSOCIATION IN-BOUNDARY MEMBERS

To order your free 911 Address Sign, select your preferred design and mounting options below. Mail to: SSA Membership, 400 Skyline Blvd., La Honda, CA 94020

Sign size will be determined by # of numbers/letters in your address:

6" x 18" – 3 numbers only

6" x 24" – 4 numbers only

6" x 30" – 5 numbers only

Mount these signs in plain sight from the road, on a mailbox, post or fence. All signs will have 4" high reflective letters, green background, are 80 mil aluminum, and will be double-sided. If a street name is selected, the letters will be sized to fit.

Your Name: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Your Address: _____

The Street Name (if a street name sign is selected): _____

1 Select Design



Vertical
Numbers Only



Horizontal
Numbers Only



Vertical
with Arrow



Horizontal
street + Arrow



Horizontal
with Street name

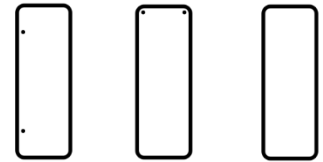


Horizontal
with Arrow

2 Select Arrow Direction



3 Mounting Options



2 side holes 2 top holes no hole

For horizontal signs, the holes will be on the top, long side of the signs. If holes are not required, check the "no hole" option above.

Rein Orchids Keep in Check

BY SARAH SCHOEN

When hiking in our woods June through July, keep a sharp eye out for blooms of rein orchids (*Piperia*). These herbaceous perennials over winter in the soil as round tubers. The above ground portion emerges in spring as 2-4 inconspicuous basal leaves. The leaves are lance-shaped and have parallel veins. As the season progresses, a thin stem emerges, 1 to 2' tall.

Then in late spring to summer, the leaves dry up and wither away. Up to 100 tiny greenish white flowers bloom in a spike along the stem. The flowers have bilateral symmetry with 3 petals and 3 petal-like sepals. The upper sepal is pointed upward at the top. The 2 lower sepals point off the side. 2 lateral petals are between the upper and lower sepals. The lower petal (lip) at the bottom has a spur—a tubular extension growing out from the base.

There are at least two species of rein orchid along Skyline. For Alaska rein orchid (*Piperia unalascensis*), the spur grows back or down and is about as long as the lip, about 1/5". For flat-spurred *Piperia* (*Piperia transversa*), the lip is about the same size. However, the spur is very long, 2 to 3 times as long as the lip, and perpendicular to the axis of the inflorescence. Flowers can rotate downward as they develop, but the spur will show which petal is the lip. Seeds form in upright capsules along the stem.

When some people hear rein orchid, they think of water drops falling from the sky. Instead, the name recalls a part of horse tack. It may refer to the flower's long spur or to a strap-shaped lip on some species in this genus. I like my reins long.

The scent of Alaska rein orchid has been alternately described as musky, soapy, or honey-like. The scent is to attract pyralid moths and plume moths that pollinate the flowers. Flat-spurred *Piperia* smells of cloves and is pollinated by geometrid moths. Using their proboscis, the moths pick up packets of pollen from pollen-laden structures called pollinaria and transfer the pollen to another flower.

The Latin genus name of rein orchids has changed back and forth over time. Currently [The Jepson Manual](#) lists this as *Piperia*. In the past, the genus name was *Habenaria*, which refers to the Latin for rein. The species name *transversa* means turned across, while *unalascensis* refers to Unalaska, an island in the Aleutian chain.

Flat-spurred *Piperia* is found in the far west from British Columbia to Baja California below 7800'. Alaska rein orchid is found throughout the western U.S. and Canada below 9000'. Locally it occurs in mixed evergreen and redwood forests.



P. transversa



P. transversa close up

Photos by David Schoen

SSA Membership Application and Renewal Form

First Time Applying? Yes No (circle one)

Today's Date: _____

Contact Information

Name(s)	
Mailing Address	
City ST ZIP Code	
Physical Property Address	
City ST Zip Code	
Home and Mobile Phone(s)	
E-Mail Address(es) (required)	

Propane Supplier – SPUG Program

If you wish to participate in the SPUG program, first verify that your preferred propane provider will honor the SSA SPUG rate at your address. SSA does not guarantee out of boundary members will receive the SSA SPUG rate. After receipt of your application and payment, we contact the provider directly to inform them of your membership status.

Amerigas Kamps
 FerrellGas Suburban Scotts Valley

Volunteer Interests

SSA always needs additional volunteers. Please consider volunteering and in which areas you are interested.

- Board Member
- Events Planning and Setup
- Website Maintenance
- Skylines Newsletter Production and Deliveries
- Legal Advice
- Member Communication and Database
- Adopt-a-Highway Program

Special Skills or Qualifications

Summarize special skills and qualifications which you feel may be useful to our association.

Our Policies

All contact information is kept confidential. Dues are payable in January of each year and are not prorated if paid later in the year. Members must be at least 18 years of age to participate. Anyone is eligible to join regardless of property address. Members who live within the SSA boundaries are considered regular and are eligible to serve on the Board, vote at general meetings, and receive a paper copy of *Skylines*. All members receive an electronic copy of *Skylines* newsletter. If you are outside the SSA boundaries and must have a hardcopy, check here. (___)

Please also consider joining or renewing online at southskyline.org.

Signature _____

Enclose this application with your \$20.00 check payable to "South Skyline Association" and send to:
SSA Membership Committee
400 Skyline Boulevard
La Honda, CA 94020

Classified Ads

Community

FREE FIRE FITTING FOR THOSE IN THE SOUTH SKYLINE FIRE & RESCUE PRIMARY RESPONSE AREA.

This 2 ½ 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. Blue reflectors are also available. Please visit <http://southskylinefire.org/> for more information in the "Help us help you" section.

SC4 AMATEUR RADIO CLUB welcomes those interested in amateur radio for emergency communications and neighborly talk. License is free. Simple exam: No Morse code. We offer classes. Visit www.sc4arc.org or write: SC4ARC, PO Box 237, La Honda, CA 94020

Service

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DAVE WARTER MORTGAGE ADVISOR

831-419-7604 bayareamortgages.com

I am passionate about creating a better loan process, serving happy clients, and building a foundation for financial success. This allows me to provide my clients with competitive rates, tailored financing solutions, and an efficient loan process focused on communication. Call or email me for a free consultation. dave@bayareamortgages.com

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www.hunnerassociates.com or connect

by email: info@hunnerassociates.com

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taruno@coastside.net

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Mountain varietals. Tasting room open

Fridays 5-9 pm and Saturdays/Sundays

12-5 pm.

SOLAR CONSULTATION

For a free, no obligation solar consultation from your mountain neighbor, please contact David Morgan dmorgan@simplysolarcalifornia.com (408) 348-5781. Simply Solar is a local Northern California company installing North American made panels.

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

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Friendly mountain local, living and working in Las Cumbres, offering fire clearance and tree services to South Skyline neighbors.

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Email: info@skylinefireclearance.com

Call: 831.515.6010

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Join us for Live Online Aging with Grace

Yoga and Chair Yoga for Seniors. Classes

are recorded in case you can't make it live.

Learn More at www.yourhealthandjoy.com

These ads can also be used to list items for sale or items for free

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. **Next deadline: September 10, 2023.**

Classified Ads are free for SSA members. Membership is \$20 per year. The online SSA membership application is at www.southskyline.org. Email ads to: skylineseditor@yahoo.com

SSA Calendar 2023
Monthly SSA
Board Meetings
7:00pm

August 10
September 14
October 12

For further updates
contact Evan Dellor:
president@southskyline.org

Current SSA Board Members

Dave Anderson	Highway 9 – Santa Cruz County	Webmaster, Public Safety
Patti Begley	Highway 9 – Santa Cruz County	Skylines Editor, Website Committee
Barbara Bekins	Highway 35 – Rocky Creek	Treasurer, Public Safety/Water, Website Committee
Debra Born	Alpine Road	Secretary, Membership Chair, SSFC, Website Committee
Evan Dellor	Portola Heights	President
Udy Gold	Portola Heights	
Rich Lee	Portola Heights	Vice-President, SSEPO, Chief Fun Officer
Julie Snyder	Skylonda	
Susan Stucky	Portola Heights	Grant Administrator
Ann Waldhauer	Portola Heights	

Board positions are available.

Contact Evan Dellor – president@southskyline.org

Skylines Ads and News Articles

The deadline for submitting ads and articles for the next issue is **September 10, 2023**

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

Skylines invites individuals to submit articles and artwork.

Policy on Classified Ads: Limit ads to 45 words. Free for SSA members.

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.