



SSA Community Potluck Picnic and BBQ

Dear South Skyline Neighbors,

We're excited to invite you to an afternoon of good food, BBQ, live music, swimming, creative sharing, and community camaraderie! Please join us on Sunday, July 26, from noon to 4:00pm at the Las Cumbres Community Center for our South Skyline Community Potluck Picnic.

Please be sure to RSVP and mention food preferences at the link below so we can order appropriately for the grill!

What's Happening:

- Fresh grilled selection of meats and veggies by local pitmaster Charlie Brown.
- Potluck Feast: Bring your favorite side dish and enjoy a variety of homemade delights. We'll provide plates, utensils, condiments, napkins, and soft drinks.
- Light, family-friendly entertainment

Why You Won't Want to Miss It

- Community Bonding: Reconnect with familiar faces and meet new neighbors.
- Enjoy the grass area; feel free to bring suitable games
- Enjoy the barbeque areas if you like.
- Enjoy a few laps or a soak in the Las Cumbres pool (Minors only with adult supervision).
- Enjoy popular music covered by local artists:
 - First Half: "Aly & The Cat"—Aly Kahn and Margaret Atherton
 - Second Half: "Just One More"—Aly Kahn and Mark Kibort

Sunday, July 26, 2026

TIME Noon–4:00pm

PLACE Las Cumbres Community Center

[18260 Las Cumbres Rd.](#)
[Los Gatos CA 95033](#)

Directions: Approximately 4.5 miles south of the intersection of Highway 9 and Skyline Blvd., or 1.5 miles north of the intersection of Black Rd. and Skyline Blvd. Follow the signs to the Community Center.

This is a community picnic for all South Skyline residents.

Please bring a side dish, salad, or dessert to share.

SSA will provide plates, utensils, lemonade, and soft drinks.



Ready to Participate or Have Questions?

Please fill out the short survey at the link below to help us ensure that we provide enough food for everyone. (It would be helpful if you could RSVP, but it's not necessary if your plans are not yet firm.)—see you on July 26!

<https://forms.gle/Lu2BWDeqZjwNHKg79>

Warmly,

The South Skyline Association (SSA)

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South Skyline Association News

Notification of a Proposed Change in SSA Bylaws

At the next general meeting, SSA members will be asked to vote on approving the following change in the SSA Bylaws:

Section

V. MEMBERSHIP

B. Associate Member.

An associate member is a person or group who has an interest in the South Skyline area and pays the annual dues but lives outside the boundaries of SSA. Associate members do not have the right to vote or to serve on the board of directors. They receive newsletters, but only digitally.

Change: They receive newsletters, but only digitally.

To: They receive newsletters digitally, as default, but may opt-in to USPS mail.

Reasoning: This formalizes a longstanding practice where any paid voting or associate members could receive a hard-copy newsletter.

The SSA Is Looking for Volunteers

The SSA is looking for South Skyline residents who live within the South Skyline Association boundaries and would like to volunteer their time to help on the SSA board.

The board meets once per month, on the 2nd Thursday evening of each month either on Zoom or in person. We invite anyone interested in knowing more to contact Udy Gold: president@southskyline.org.

The purpose of the South Skyline Association is to foster a sense of community spirit, to keep residents and property owners informed of public agency actions or other items of concern in the South Skyline sphere of influence, to protect the rights and represent the interests of the residents and property owners of our area, and to engage in various projects to enhance the unique South Skyline environment.

SPUG Quarterly Report

Month/Year	Amerigas	Ferrellgas	Kamps	Suburban/SV
May 2026	2.750	2.981	3.297	4.450
April 2026	2.750	2.930	3.275	4.450
March 2026	2.750	3.060	3.411	4.500
February 2026	2.750	3.074	3.412	4.520
January 2026	2.750	2.998	3.412	4.520
December 2025	2.750	2.944	3.362	4.520
November 2025	2.750	2.911	3.190	4.520
October 2025	2.750	2.849	3.190	4.520
September 2025	2.750	2.742	3.190	4.520
August 2025	2.750	2.785	3.510	4.520
July 2025	2.750	2.809	3.510	4.520
June 2025	2.750	2.801	3.510	4.520
May 2025	2.750	2.977	3.510	4.520

Skyline Propane Users Group (SPUG) was formed to benefit SSA members. For information about joining, or current information on the SPUG 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. The open market price is more than \$1.00/gallon higher than the SPUG price. **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.

South Skyline Fire & Rescue News

BY DENIS DE CEUSTER, FIREFIGHTER, SSF&R

CAL FIRE CZU is now at peak staffing, with two engines at Saratoga Summit. In April, we had a fire in the Deer Creek area, where we were 3rd on scene with the water tender. In May, we provided water support for a prescribed burn at Henry Cowell State Park.

There's no better time than the present to work on your defensible space! And remember that if you see smoke where it doesn't belong, call 911.

Our pancake breakfast was a big success!

Our annual breakfast was Saturday, May 23rd. We had a great turnout. The Alto Velo cyclists came out in force with some 80 riders! We've posted some photos and a short video (provided by Alto Velo) on



our website. Thanks to those who attended! We'd also like to thank the SSEPO for helping us with traffic control. Also, a special thanks to the New York Style Sausage company of Sunnyvale for donating the breakfast links for this year's event. And of course we need to thank our CAL FIRE partners for giving over their kitchen and apparatus bay for the event.

What's in a number?

You may have noticed that our apparatus numbering has changed. This plan, adopted by some fire districts in the county, aligns vehicles with the stations to which they are assigned. So, E2911 is now E29; the water tender is now WT29; the utility is now U29. E2936, as a Type-3 engine, becomes E329. This is a very similar style to San Mateo County.

Recognition

Company 29 was recognized at the May Board of Supervisors meeting. Captain Andy Seigel was recognized for 25 years of service and also received the Volunteer Firefighter of the Year award for his



work on several apparatus design committees, including the one for the upcoming water tender. Captain Doug Aumack received an award for the most responses in 2025.

CAL FIRE Engineer Joseph Borg received the career Firefighter of the Year award.

Recruiting

We are actively recruiting for the 2027 season. You can visit us at our scheduled training sessions - the first Tuesday evening at 6:30PM and the third Saturday morning at 8:30AM every month. Or email us: interest@southskylinefire.org

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

What Do You Mean, Fire Safe?

BY LARRY WATSON, BOARD MEMBER SOUTH SKYLINE FIRE SAFE COUNCIL (SSFSC)

In This Article

1. **SSFSC News**
2. **Managing your Defensible Space through the Seasons: Summer**

1. South Skyline FireSafe Council News

Thanks to all our neighbors who participated in the 2026 Chipping Program. Doing so helped improve wildfire safety for us all.

As the Chairman of the Education and Outreach Committee for the FireSafe Council Board, we would appreciate any feedback on our Skylines articles, our presence at quarterly SSA meetings, and our programs like Free Chipping. Send those comments and/or suggestions for other programs or outreach to SSFSC.Outreach@gmail.com.

Are you looking for a flexible volunteer opportunity? The South Skyline FireSafe Council is seeking Board members! Our FireSafe Council is a non-profit organization whose mission is to provide education and outreach programs for fire prevention and wildfire preparedness. Our goal is to prevent the loss of lives and reduce losses of personal and public property and natural resources. If interested in supporting our mission, please contact our President at SouthSkylineFiresafe@gmail.com

2. Managing your Defensible Space in the Summer.

The list of activities for summer to improve wildfire safety for this year's fire season:

- If your trash service provides a green container for organics, make sure it is filled to capacity every week by including combustible materials from your defensible space.
- If you can participate in the Santa Cruz County Backyard Pile Burning Program, you can begin to prepare 4'x4'x4' piles in safe locations where if showered by embers will not ignite other biomass or structures.
- Use mowing to maintain and expand grasslands,

and shaded fire breaks. These native plant communities have greatly reduced wildfire risks compared to "mixed evergreen forest" which has much more biomass (wildfire fuel) above ground and can support fire laddering up into the canopy. For a couple of thousand years, the people managing our neighborhood lands were able to promote these safer plant communities with recurring fires. Without prescribed fires or wildfires, most areas have increasingly become the more dangerous mixed evergreen forest community.

Most of the disappearing grasslands and woodlands in our area are too steep, too rough, or don't provide the maneuverability to safely use 4-wheel riding tractors or mowers. In some cases, grazing animals can be employed, but generally mowing is on-



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(human) foot. There are choices of tools for mowing that vary in emissions, safety, comfort of use, and undesirable collateral effects. As pictured, after 29 years of mowing my defensible space in all ways, I currently use two tools- a battery-powered, extended and adjustable-angle hedger, and a sickle-bar mower implement mounted on a walk-behind, 2-wheel tractor. Here's a brief history of cutting grass.

Fifteen thousand years ago, people began to use a hand tool called a sickle, a curved stone blade with a bone or wood handle to harvest wild or domesticated grasses. By the 8th century, with increased hay harvest for domesticated animals, the scythe came into use. Instead of a hand tool like the sickle, the long-handled scythe was swung with a full-body motion using both hands, and the larger blade was by then made of metal. In the mid-19th century horse-drawn mowers were developed, called sickle-bar mowers. A sickle bar mower is a highly efficient, low-power attachment used for cutting tall grass, brush, and forage crops. Unlike rotary mowers, it uses a reciprocating, scissor-like action with a long bar of triangular blades. It lays the cut material down intact, making it the ideal tool for hay-making or in situ mulching operations.

In 1942 in Italy, the first walk-behind, 2-wheel tractor with a sickle-bar mower was developed for areas that could not safely support riding tractors. The brand was BSC and they were globally successful due to the reduced labor compared to a scythe or horse-drawn mower. Other brands including Gravely in the US were popular for decades. However, since World War II, most agriculture in the US has migrated to level ground for greater efficiency. Today in the US, the BCS line of walk-behind tractors is the only available option for a sickle-bar mower to use on rough, sloped, and unlevel ground.

Today's most common alternative for most defensible space mowing is a gas- or battery-powered string trimmer or "weed-whacker". There

are also larger gas-powered rotary brush or flail mowers. But starting in 2024 the California Air Resources Board eliminated most new small internal combustion, off-road engines less than 25 horsepower. A commercial operator using a gas-powered backpack leaf blower for one hour generates the same smog-forming emissions as a car driving 1100 miles.

Existing or in-stock brush mowers or flail mowers with such engines can be used but not replaced with new engines. The well-known DR Brush mower now has created a 25.1 horsepower model for the California market. Due to agricultural exemptions, the BCS walk-behind tractors are still available new. We have local BCS dealers in Half Moon Bay, Campbell, and Santa Cruz. Unfortunately, today's price for the smallest tractor/mower is almost \$5,000.

I have almost exclusively maintained 5 to 7 acres of defensible space for 20 years by mowing grasslands and shaded fire breaks using sickle-bar mowers mounted on BSC tractors. Unlike the other alternatives, the sickle-bar puts a fraction of the dust and plant debris into the air and onto the operator. The power for a sickle-bar mower is about ¼ the power required for a flail or rotary brush mower. High-speed, steel-blade rotary mowers can create sparks when striking rocks and easily ignite dry vegetation. And the sickle-bar mower, unlike a string trimmer does not broadcast plastic pieces into the environment. I recently tried a pre-production battery-powered, remotely-controlled, 2-wheel tractor but found it currently unacceptable for safe mowing on sloped and/or rough ground like I maintain. There will be improvements in the production model that may provide a breakthrough in neighborhood mowing. I'll keep you posted. Here's a short video of my mower in action <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aREjRP-aZnc&t=11s>.

Dry Wells from 1989 Loma Prieta Earthquake, a repeat? PART 1

BY DICK SCHWIND

'Dad, I was just ready to take a shower, but we don't have any water!' 'Okay, I'll go find the problem and should be able to get the water going quickly.' Like nearly all Skyline residents, I have my own well and am my own 'water company'. Fortunately, I know my water system and can repair it. This time, no dice—the well appeared to be dry! Maybe this had something to do with the Loma Prieta earthquake several days earlier (October 17, 1989, Magnitude 6.9, epicenter 10 miles NE of Santa Cruz). That quake was strong enough that southeast of us on Summit Road we heard that women at home thought their house had attacked them and refused to sleep inside for some time!

Phoning around, I soon learned many of my neighbors south of me, and many others were also out of water—it had to be the earthquake. A quick hike to a developed spring a way below us showed that the steady one gallon per minute I had observed for years had tripled or more—our sinking groundwater was flowing away! The rock under us was now all cracked up! Thanks to the South Skyline Association, we had a community and knew dozens of our 'neighbors' to check with and gather information.

At that time, the CalFire Saratoga Summit Station had a water fountain with a faucet out front, so we quickly grabbed some jugs and headed there for drinking and cooking water. Soon, most affected neighbors were using this source for their drinking water. That shower was to wait a day until I got the Doughboy swimming pool pump hooked into the house water system to supply our non-drinking water. To stretch out our limited supply, the toilets got multiple uses! That pool might take care of us for a couple of months. Many neighbors soon had water trucked in regularly to refill their storage tanks. One dry well

owner in Indian Rock Ranch immediately got a well driller to drill him a new well. Clueless as to what was happening in the ground, the driller hit water, left his (expensive) drill rod in the well to be sure to keep the well open overnight, and came back the next day with the pipe casing to finish the well. No luck! The earth was churning and his drill rod was impossibly stuck. Drill rod and well were lost!

Who knew the answers to how long the groundwater would continue its dramatic fall and if the winter rains would start replenishing it? I knew the USGS west coast office, conveniently in Menlo Park, didn't just do maps and geology, but measured and archived the flow in all our rivers and large creeks, and also employed research Hydrogeologists. Maybe they would have answers. So, the next day after work I went to the USGS library and did a simple literature search (this was still a few years before the World Wide Web). Linking 'earthquake' and 'groundwater' or 'well water, I got essentially nothing! Oh no, they haven't studied this important problem!

I called my neighbor and friend, Steve Wolf, a USGS geologist and very active SSA member. Could he learn what was going on there? I was correct, they knew nothing about our problem and no one else seemed to have researched it. Could we get them interested in studying our wells, bringing their weight to bear? I was confident SSA could organize a special meeting where we could introduce them to dozens of affected neighbors that would be happy to have the USGS come measure their miserly well water levels (or dry wells) and hopefully make some sense of what was happening and maybe what we might expect. They immediately authorized a special study to do just that! We made up a well questionnaire and had that meeting at the Saratoga Summit Station the evening of December 14. Seventy Skyliners attended, all agreed to give access to the USGS

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Plectritis Wildflowers—The Long and the Short

BY SARAH SCHOEN, PHOTOS BY DAVID SCHOEN



Plectritis

When hiking with friends, if someone asks me what flower this is and I say *Plectritis*, the response is generally “What?”

Also known as seablush, *Plectritis* is a genus of similar-looking, tiny, pretty pink or white flowers. Plants are annual herbs with opposite, elliptical leaves. The leaves have short petioles at the base and no petioles (clasping) along the stem.

Flowers are small, two-lipped corollas with 3 exerted stamens. They grow in a loose

head at the top of the stem. At the base of the corolla is a small protuberance called a spur. This contains the nectar that pollinators—bees and butterflies, are after.

If you are hiking with a group of mixed interests and paces, you may have to stop with genus as the identification. Even the wildlife image identifier app SEEK struggles with at first “Dicot,” then “Can you get a different angle?,” then, proudly, genus *Plectritis* with no further help. For those of you with the interest, time and good close-up vision or a hand lens, speciation is possible.

There are 3 species of *Plectritis* in our area. Long-spurred plectritis (*P. cilliosa*) has a long spur (greater than ½ the length of the corolla) and 2 red spots on the corolla’s lower lip. It blooms from March to April. Short-spurred plectritis (*P. congesta*) has very short, slender, pointed spur and no red spots. It blooms from March to June. Longhorn plectritis (*P. macrocera*) has a short, blunt spur and no red spots. It blooms from



Plectritis Closeup

March to May. For extra credit, speciation may also be made by coming back later and observing the fruits. These are tiny triangular achenes with different exact shapes and placement of hairs—something I will save for another day.

Photos were taken at Russian Ridge before I knew this much. I think I now know which species it is not, but I’m not sure which one it is. So they are labelled *Plectritis*.

Plectritis may be cultivated by seed, sowing with a shallow covering of soil in late fall or early spring. And with luck they will self-seed after that.

Take a Hike in Portola Redwoods State Park

BY JOANNE IRWIN

Portola Redwoods State Park offers the perfect antidote to summer heat: the deep shade of the redwood forest and two meandering creeks, cool enough to dip your feet in the water. Situated 20 minutes west of Skyline Blvd, down Alpine Road, then left on Portola State Park Rd., the park is a close getaway for most Skyliners. Be sure to bring snacks or a picnic meal, as there are no restaurants or grocery stores nearby. You'll need to leave your pup at home; in order to protect the wildlife, dogs are allowed on only two trails in the park.

Once you arrive in the heart of the park, you'll find two day-use parking lots on your left, and the visitors center is on your right, just a few minutes' walk down the road. If desired, you can park temporarily in front of the visitors center to pay your \$10 per vehicle parking fee (9 a.m to 5 p.m.) before you park in the day use lot.



While you're inside the visitor's center, you can get a close-up look at the bats, snakes, birds, and wildcats that call the park home by viewing the taxidermy exhibits. Pick up the free yellow flier entitled Sequoia Nature Trail Guide from the center table if you'd like to follow the self-guide nature trail, and learn more about Pescadero Creek, the wildlife, the Ohlone people, and early explorers who have lived among these redwoods.

To find the beginning of the Sequoia Nature Trail, walk behind the visitor center. Here, the trail curves its way downhill towards Pescadero Creek. If you pause at the overlook, you'll spy a grotto across the creek, framed by ferns. If our summer isn't too dry, you'll see the smallest of waterfalls trickling a bit more water into the creek, right above the grotto.

A seasonal bridge, in place May 15 to October 15, allows you to cross the creek and continue along the Nature Trail where you may see the graceful periwinkle blooms of the California Hairbell, or the small yellow saw-toothed petals of Woodland Madia. In one glade, an abundance of three-leaf foamflower grows, its constellation of white blooms hovering over a bumpy carpet of green leaves. When you're near the creek, keep your eyes out for the July show stopper: the Leopard lily. Its spotted orange petals curve backwards, displaying pollen-laden anthers that must look like sparklers to the bees, hummingbirds,



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and butterflies that visit this showy flower. Stop #9 on the Nature Trail is the Shell Tree, a massive shell of a 17-foot-diameter redwood giant that was destroyed by an out-of-control campfire in 1989. The tree was around 2000 years old when it burned.

After roughly an eighth of a mile, you'll reach the intersection with the Iverson Trail. Turn left to go to TipToe Falls (hike described in [July 2024 Issue of Skylines](#)) or turn right to make a loop back to your car, walking another half mile. If you turn left on the Iverson Trail, you can extend your hike by two miles and explore the upper regions of the Pescadero Creek watershed by turning left again when you reach the Coyote Ridge Trail intersection.

The Coyote Ridge Trail increases in steepness (14% grade) as it leads you up and out of the dense redwood forest and into a mixed evergreen forest of Madrone, Tan oak, Doug Fir, with some pockets of redwoods. After 0.7 miles and 800 feet of elevation gain, you'll come to a fork. Keep right to stay on the (lower) Coyote Ridge Trail. In early June, the poison oak was starting to encroach on the trail. Long pants and Tecnu are advised. When you descend back into the valley, the trail will intersect Portola State Park Road. Look left to find the bridge that crosses over Peter's Creek. Soon after you cross the creek, you'll have a choice between following Upper or Lower Escape Road (both wider, dirt roads). Both lead back to the heart of the park, through Portola Campground, and eventually back to the visitors' center. If you select Upper Escape Road, avoid turning left onto Slate Creek Trail, unless you are looking to extend your hike further. Dog owners: Upper and Lower Escape Road trails are the only dog-friendly trails in the park. They are conveniently close to the Portola Campground, where dogs are also allowed.

Some hikers may like the idea of taking the Upper Coyote Ridge trail (the left fork, parting from the Coyote Ridge Trail) into neighboring Pescadero



Creek County Park, and hiking a long loop along the Shingle Mill and Pomponio Trails, and back into the state park returning to the Iverson Trail (5.6 miles) However, many trails in the county park will be closed on and off through fall 2028 for fuel reduction work. There is conflicting information online about which trails are open. Redwoodhikes.com warns that the Single Mill and Pomponio trails are closed, while the Pescadero Creek County Park website states they are open. Unfortunately, when I phoned the county park for the most up-to-date information, they could not confidently confirm whether these trails are in the work zone or not.

Pro-tip: Many hikers have mentioned it is easy to get lost in Portola Redwoods State Park; you will want to grab a map when you're at the visitor's center. The map doesn't include the mileage of the trails themselves. You'll find the "mileage key" in the center of the map, not at the bottom, nor on the legend with the other icons, like on many other maps.

Activities for the Kids at Daniels Nature Center

A fun summer activity for the kids is a visit to the Daniels Nature Center on Alpine Road, next to Alpine Pond.

The focus of the nature center is to interpret the local flora, fauna, and cultural history of Skyline Ridge Preserve, with an emphasis on Alpine Pond. Pond mobiles hang from the ceiling to imaginatively depict the plants and animals that live at different depths in a pond. There is a large-scale, hands-on exhibit that allows visitors to create a food web. Through completing the web, visitors explore the four natural communities, or habitats, surrounding the area just outside the nature center—grassland, mixed evergreen forest, chaparral, and riparian.

Other features include a Skulls and Skins display, where children especially like to compare different animals and make observations. The nature center is also home to a live, captive-bred gopher snake. Interpretive signs on the exterior wall of the nature center adjacent to the building provide information on

the Preserve's history, local wildlife, and an overview of the pond and its inhabitants. A 0.5-mile trail loops around Alpine Pond, providing visitors with an opportunity to enjoy a short, easy access hike.

Park at the Russia Ridge Open Space Preserve main lot, located on the northwest corner of the Skyline Boulevard and Page Mill/Alpine Road intersection. Walk under the pedestrian tunnel beneath Alpine Road. Free of charge.

Operating Schedule

The facility is open from April through November on Saturdays and Sundays. Operating hours:

- April through mid-October: 12 p.m. to 5 p.m.
- Mid-October through mid-November: 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For more information, go to <https://www.openspace.org/where-to-go/what-to-do/daniels-nature-center>

DRY WELLS CONTINUATION

and a two-phase study would start immediately. First, Steve immediately started the 'field work' of measuring water levels in maybe a hundred or so wells, affected and unaffected, with their equipment. Many owners of dry wells decided to drill a new, deeper well. Steve also sat in on the drilling to advise the owner if desired. Second, a USGS hydrogeologist would analyze the data produced, looking for water level patterns in the USGS geology maps and how they related to the local excess river flows. Eventually there would be a USGS report issued with the results. I learned from drilling a second well two years after the quake that the well drillers knew the ground was

still moving. They brought well casing with them and could drill a 250 ft deep well and case it in a fraction of an afternoon to virtually eliminate their chance of a lost drill string!

PART 2 of this report will be in the next Skyline's issue (September 2026) with results from the USGS report and from other newer studies. It is now 35+ years since the Loma Prieta Earthquake. I write this to refresh the dimming Skyline collective memory of this event, as it will surely recur with the next earthquake large enough and close enough to us. Hopefully the South Skyline Association will still be strong enough with dedicated volunteers to again help the community deal with the inevitable loss of well water.

In Memory: Thomas J. Fogarty, A Legacy of Leadership and Innovation

We were very sorry to hear of the passing of Thomas Fogarty. Here on the South Skyline, we knew him as a Santa Cruz Mountain neighbor, and for his beautiful winery where we have been privileged to gather for many South Skyline Association meetings. We send heartfelt condolences to his family.

Below is a summary of his obituary in the NY Times. For the complete article and photos, go to this link [Thomas Fogarty, 91, Who Helped Revolutionize Vascular Surgery, Dies—The New York Times](#)



Dr. Thomas J. Fogarty, the world-renowned cardiovascular surgeon, visionary medical device inventor, and entrepreneur, passed away peacefully on December 28, 2025, at the age of 91 in Portola Valley, California.

His official obituary highlights a life defined by a relentless curiosity and a refusal to accept the medical status quo.

Early Life and Background

Born on February 25, 1934, in Cincinnati, Ohio, Fogarty was the youngest of three children. Following his father's early passing, he developed a knack for mechanical repairs around the house. At age 15, he invented a centrifugal clutch for motorized scooters that remains an industry standard. As a teenager, he also pursued a semi-professional boxing career, but after a brutal 7-round draw left him with a broken nose, he decided to look for a safer profession.

He went on to graduate from Xavier University in 1956 and earned his medical degree summa cum laude from the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine in 1960.

Medical Innovations and the Balloon Catheter

While still a medical student and later during his residency at the University of Oregon Medical School, Dr. Fogarty conceived his most celebrated invention: the Fogarty balloon embolectomy catheter.

- **The Problem:** In the early 1960s, removing blood clots from limbs required highly invasive open

surgery, resulting in a 50% mortality rate and frequent amputations.

- **The Solution:** Fogarty used a fly-fishing line and the finger of a latex surgical glove to build a prototype catheter. It could be slipped past a clot, inflated, and withdrawn to cleanly pull the blockage out.
- **The Impact:** This revolutionary invention effectively birthed the field of minimally invasive surgery. The balloon catheter alone is credited with saving more than 20 million lives and limbs worldwide.

Over his career, Dr. Fogarty was granted **more than 190 medical patents**. His other major contributions included the Hancock Tissue Heart Valve (the world's first tissue valve) and the AneuRx Endovascular Aortic Stent Graft, which transformed the treatment of abdominal aortic aneurysms.

Entrepreneurship and Accolades

Dr. Fogarty co-founded more than 45 medical technology companies and established [Fogarty Innovation](#), a Silicon Valley-based nonprofit educational incubator dedicated to mentoring the next generation of medtech developers.

His profound contributions earned him the industry's highest honors:

- **2001:** Inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame.
- **2014:** Awarded the **National Medal of Technology and Innovation** by President Barack Obama.

Winemaking Legacy

In Northern California, he was equally celebrated as the founder of the [Thomas Fogarty Winery](#) in the Santa Cruz Mountains. He purchased the land in the 1970s and developed it into a premier estate known for producing exceptional, cool-climate Chardonnay and Pinot Noir.

Survivors

Dr. Fogarty is survived by his wife, Rosalee, their four children, and ten grandchildren. Memorial tributes from colleagues around the globe remembered him by his lifelong clinical mantra: *"The patient always comes first."*

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

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Employment

CARETAKER sought for a mountain ranch property, near the summit of Hwy 9 and Skyline. Beautiful 130-acre redwood forest with houses, barns, gardens. Main duties: house cleaning, gardening, guest preparation, overseeing maintenance. Need RV or own housing in the vicinity. Please submit resume: cahenmi@gmail.com.

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 6, 2026.

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 2026 Monthly SSA Board Meetings 7:00pm

August 13
September 10
October 08

For further updates
contact Udy Gold:
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
Noa Doitel		
Evan Dellor	Portola Heights	Vice-President
Udy Gold	Portola Heights	President
Rich Lee	Portola Heights	SSEPO, Chief Fun Officer
Ann Waldhauer	Portola Heights	
Matt Voss	Skylonda	Hospitality

Board positions are available.

Contact Udy Gold – president@southskyline.org

Skylines Ads and News Articles

The deadline for submitting ads and articles for the next issue is **September 6, 2026**

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.