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## South Skyline Association General Meeting

### Road and Trail Management Plan for Castle Rock Park

Presented by Mary Hazel

**Saratoga Summit Fire Station**

**Sunday, October 24**

**2:00 pm**

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

Mary Hazel is the Supervising State Park Peace Officer for Castle Rock State Park and Portola Redwoods State Park. She will talk to us about the Road and Trail Management Plan that is currently being developed for Castle Rock State Park.

It is the policy of the Department of Parks and Recreation to provide trails for accessing park features and facilities and to provide planning that will effectively meet near-term and long-term recreation opportunities. The Department, through a public planning process, will strive to meet the recreational, educational and interpretation needs of its diverse trail users.

As part of the planning process, they need to obtain feedback, comments, input, and suggestions from the park users, fellow agencies and neighbors of the park regarding the trail system at Castle Rock. In order to solicit that information, trail user surveys are available for park users to complete at Castle Rock and the Santa Cruz District Office in Felton. This survey process will be ongoing for the next year until approximately March 2011. The information gathered from the surveys will be utilized in the planning process.

This presentation and short slide show will be a part of the Department's efforts to explain the Road and Trail Management Plan to neighbors of Castle Rock Park as well as to receive feedback. There will be an opportunity for questions and answers.

#### **Directions:**

*The Saratoga Summit Fire Station is located on the west side of Skyline Blvd. approximately 1 mile north of the intersection of Skyline and Highway 9.*



# Quarterly Report

By Ruth Waldhauer

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

Recent SPUG prices with Amerigas/San Jose are:

January	\$2.29/gallon
1/14/10	2.55
February	2.40
March	2.40
April	1.94
May	1.94
June	1.94
July	1.94
August	1.699
September	1.859

Recent SPUG prices offered by Suburban Propane are:

January	\$2.29/gallon
1/14/10	2.55
February	2.40
March	2.36
April	2.14
May	2.14
June	1.96
July	1.81
August	1.81
September	1.97

Recent Kamps Propane SPUG prices are:

January	\$2.48/gallon
1/14/10	2.75
February	2.43
March	2.43
April	2.07
May	2.12
June	1.96
July	1.882
August	1.882
September	2.017

Do what you can to conserve! The open market price is about \$1.00/gallon higher than the SPUG price.

Prices are subject to change as frequently as wholesale prices change. The prices we post are for the first of the month.

Our SPUG rate is based on automatic regular route deliveries on a keep-full basis, not "will-call" service. Some propane suppliers offer members 55 years of age or older a 2 cent/gallon discount in addition to the SPUG group price.

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

## Public Hearing

### Highway 84 Truck Safety Issues- between Portola Road and Skyline Boulevard

San Mateo County Board of Supervisors' Finance and Operations Committee Meeting

Date: October 18, 2010  
 Time: 2:00 PM  
 Place: San Mateo County Board of Supervisors' Office - 400 County Center  
 Redwood City, CA

The Board of Supervisor's office is located in a multi-story building at the corner of Winslow and Marshall; the building entrance is mid-block. There are metal detectors at the door.

**Are you worried you'll be driven off the road by a big truck on Highway 84?** The South Skyline Association has organized a PUBLIC HEARING with the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors to discuss allocating a budget for a study of the danger of long trucks on Highway 84. The SSA board has requested flag cars to escort trucks that are longer than 30 feet from kingpin to axle, on Highway 84 between Portola Road and Skyline Blvd. Absent legislative action by Caltrans, truck restrictions on route 84 require a local governing body to complete a study which supports truck traffic restrictions. Such a study would need to be budgeted by the local agency. This is your opportunity to speak on this issue!

Supervisor Richard Gordon and Supervisor Mark Church are on this committee. We have invited representatives from the offices of Senator Joe Simitian and Congresswoman Anna Eshoo to attend.

In order to get the right size room for this meeting, please let the SSA know you will be attending. Send a quick email to [board@southskyline.org](mailto:board@southskyline.org)

We hope to see you there!

# All Night Bash Leaves Hams High-Fiving

By Neil Panton, W6VG



Peter Chupity and Mary Panton at Field Day event

A 24-hour marathon communications contest left local hams slapping each other on the back celebrating their successful Field Day event. This annual event has ham radio operators setting up stations in fields all over the country testing their long distance communication capabilities. "The 1556 points we earned far outstrips our prior efforts. We just keep getting better and better!" said a tired but happy club secretary Mary Panton.

Held in La Honda Gardens June 25th and 26th, ham radio operators of the SC4 Amateur Radio Club demonstrated their ability to communicate with the outside world in the event of a disaster or other emergency. Using entirely portable equipment and completely off the power grid, these amateur operators needed only a few hours to set up and communicate with stations as far away as Hawaii, Canada and the east coast.

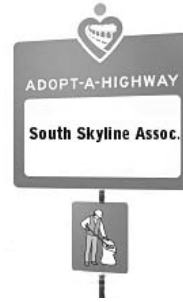
A big part of the exercise is quickly setting up a radio station in any location with your own power and equipment. For this event, the hams used two small Honda generators, three canopy tents, three high frequency radios (HF) and three antennas; two dipoles strung horizontally through the trees, one vertical on the ground supported by guy wires. There was enough food, shelter and equipment to keep the group going for quite a few days. In a real emergency, the 40 or so members of the group are prepared to assist the community with more generators, radios and antennas.

Twenty-two licensed hams participated in the event making 261 contacts by voice (referred to as Phone contacts) and an additional 71 contacts using Morse code (CW). Twenty-two members of the public visited the group over the course of 24 hours of operation, several of whom took advantage of the opportunity to "Get On The Air" themselves. This special "GOTA" station was set up to allow unlicensed operators to get on the air with the supervision of a licensed ham.

Anyone, young or old could have the experience of talking to another ham in another part of the country or world.

Hopefully they discovered how fun and easy it is and will be inclined to get their own radio license.

If you are interested in joining the group or finding out more about it, visit the website [www.sc4arc.org/](http://www.sc4arc.org/) or contact Jack Eddy at (650) 922-6458. We can be proud of the dedicated amateurs who devote their time, experience and resources to emergency preparation. Join in, or at least get to know a ham near you. You never know when you may need assistance in an emergency. Ham radio could provide you with help faster than you think!



## Adopt-a-Highway

The following SSA Members removed litter from four miles of Skyline Boulevard on Saturday, September 11th, both in recognition of those who suffered and died on that day and to show that we care about our beautiful mountain scenery:

Robert Bradford      Matt van der Rign  
Sarah Schoen          Ken Broome

Anyone interested in joining us for the next clean-up on Saturday, November 13th, please call 650-529-1810.

## Skyline FireSafe Defensible Space Chipping

By Dick Schwind

Our FireSafe Council is active with chipping programs in all three counties. Email or call me to get the latest information on FREE CHIPPING.

The persistence of our volunteer Eric Isacson seeking funding for fuel reduction on the critical Kings Creek Truck Trail may be paying off. His grant request has been selected as one of the top five for Northern CA and has been forwarded to the federal level for possible funding!

Dick Schwind, President, SSFSC  
email: [schwindr@yahoo.com](mailto:schwindr@yahoo.com); 408-867-9422

## When to Call 9-1-1 in a Family Medical Emergency

By George Johnson

Being prepared for an emergency takes many forms; education, training, equipment, and mental preparation to name a few key ones. There is a lot of talk about wildfires in the summer time along with home defensible space, and earthquakes are always a concern but easy to push to the back of the daily thoughts. Winter time can bring storm related problems including power outages, closed roads, trees down, mud or rock slides, snow, etc. So the question is, are you prepared? Some of the new comers to the SSA area may not have experienced some of these conditions and may not be as prepared as they could be.

Part of the mental preparation is to consider what your actions will be in an emergency. One of these is when to call 9-1-1 and activate the emergency services in a family medical emergency? Should you call an ambulance for a minor medical condition, probably not, for a major medical event, most certainly. But what about the medical conditions that fall in between? Thinking about this is part of what I call being mentally prepared. It is much better to think about this ahead of time instead of when a stressful situation is happening. The ambulance and fire departments bring with them skill and equipment that most families do not have at home. If ambulance transportation is determined to not be necessary, either because of the patient's condition or because the family will provide their own transportation to the hospital, that is acceptable. Just because an ambulance is at your home does not mean the patient has to be transported by them. An AMA (Against Medical Advise) form will need to be signed to document that the patient understands their condition and options, and for legal liability reasons for the emergency services providers. Talking with your own personal physician on the phone can also help you with this decision.

Another medical situation that needs preplanning and understanding is when a person is in the final phase of a terminal illness. The family needs to work together with the patient to understand their wishes and also when to call the emergency services. Again talking with your own personal physician can help with this decision. One of the questions to consider is if resuscitation attempts should be given in the event of a patient's cardiopulmonary arrest. If the answer is no, then a properly completed Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) form must be available to the emergency services personnel when they arrive in response to a 9-1-1 call.

The Prehospital Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) Form has been developed by the California Emergency Medical Services Authority, in concert with the California Medical Association and emergency medical services (EMS) providers, for the purpose of instructing EMS personnel to forgo specific

resuscitative measures that may keep them alive. These measures include: chest compressions (CPR), assisted ventilation (breathing), endotracheal intubation, defibrillation, and cardiotoxic drugs (drugs which stimulate the heart). The form does not affect the provision of other emergency medical care, including treatment for pain (also known as "comfort measures"), difficulty breathing, major bleeding, or other medical conditions.

This form was designed for use in prehospital settings; in a patient's home, in a long-term care facility, during transport to or from a health care facility, and in other locations outside acute care hospitals. The best way to ensure that your wishes are honored is to complete the official CA State Prehospital DNR form and have it signed by your physician and readily accessible when EMS help arrives. If you are concerned about the form being available at all times, you would be well-advised to obtain and wear a MedicAlert bracelet or neck medallion engraved with your DNR requirements.

The form and additional information is available at these websites: <http://www.emsa.ca.gov/pubs/pdf/DNRForm.pdf>  
[http://www.emsa.ca.gov/personnel/DNR\\_faq.asp](http://www.emsa.ca.gov/personnel/DNR_faq.asp)

## Tree Trimmers May Need To Be Informed About SOD

By Kathy Simpson

I wanted to share with neighbors my recent experience with PG&E's tree trimming contractors, Asplundh. I noticed when they came to trim some lines around the high voltage lines - typically they do this annually - and I went to talk to the workers.

I found out that they didn't know what Sudden Oak Death (SOD) is, didn't know it was in the area, and weren't cleaning their equipment between cutting trees. Typically their daily procedure is to clean their tools once a day. I contacted a supervisor and found that he also didn't know what Sudden Oak Death is, but he did agree to have his workers spray their tools between cutting trees after I asked them to clean their tools so they weren't spreading the disease. I also do not know how they are handling branches they cut from infected trees.

I've sent a message to PG&E as well.

*[Editor's note: The PG&E Representative I spoke to for our road was very knowledgeable about SOD. The problem may be how to pass the info on to the people doing the trimming.]*

## *Take a Hike...*

### **Bean Hollow to Pebble Beach and Back - An Interesting Autumn Walk**

*By Ruth Waldhauer*

This state beach originally had the Spanish name of Arroyo de los Frijoles, "Creek of the Beans," before being Americanized to Bean Hollow. Below the parking lot and picnic tables, the beautiful beach is protected by high bluffs to the south and north. Trails ramble on the southern bluff offering spectacular views. Our hike takes us northward from the beach up the northern bluff. There are no beaches along this stretch of trail, but the tidally exposed rocks are used extensively by fishermen. From an occasional small pull-out along the highway a fisherman's footpath runs down to the shore. If you are willing to do the scrabble down to the water you will be rewarded by a close-up look at tide pools.

Along the trail for most of the year wildflowers will greet you. The coastal fog encourages the bloom to at least well into winter: Evening Primrose, Goldfields, Seaside Daisy, Hottentot Fig, Seaside Woolly Sunflower, Ice plant, Artemesia, Cow Parsnip, Calla Lilly, Fillaree, Scarlet pimpernel, and hundreds more.

Further along you will find colonies of harbor seals and shorebirds.

A couple of small footbridges aid your crossing of rivulets that carve the coastal bluffs. To the south, you'll get a glimpse of Pigeon Point Lighthouse, now part of a hostel.

The rocky intertidal area is habitat for sea slugs and snails, anemones and urchins. Bird-watchers will sight cormorants, pelicans and red-billed oyster catchers flying over the water. The sandy beach is patrolled by gulls, sandpipers and sanderlings. Waves crashing over the offshore reef are a dramatic sight.

In about a mile you will reach Pebble Beach—not to be confused with the Pebble Beach of 18-hole renown golf course. Pebble Beach was a popular destination in the 19<sup>th</sup> century when Pescadero had brief fame as a summer resort. Visitors from San Francisco and the San Mateo County Bayside would stay in hotels in the little town of Pescadero, and according to a tourist guide of the time, collect pebbles from the beach. The pebbles on the beach are quartz chipped from an offshore reef, tumbled ashore, then wave-polished and rounded into beautifully hued small stones. Agates, opals, jaspers, and carnelians of almost every conceivable color are found in great abundance. Collecting pebbles is no longer permitted, nor should one disturb the nearby tide pools or the interesting honeycombed-shaped rocks on the beach.

After enjoying Pebble Beach, follow your footsteps back to Bean Hollow. The scene always changes as you return.

## **South Skyline Emergency Preparedness Organization (SSEPO) - Readiness to Respond**

*By Kenneth Broome*

At a Board of Directors meeting held on Sunday, September 12th at the MROSD Ranger Station, SSEPO's Readiness to Respond to an Emergency was reviewed with the following conclusions and recommendations:

### 1. Medical First-Aid Capability

Bill Fowkes MD and Rich Lee MD consider that the MROSD Ranger Station's Community Room is both suitable and available to accommodate residents who might be injured in an earthquake or in need of medical attention due to an existing condition. There is a container of medicine, cots and blankets stored in the yard of the Ranger Station. However Bill has the name of only one person who is both trained and willing to serve as a nurse in the event of an emergency. He would appreciate knowing the names of any other such people who would be willing to serve as volunteers and who live in the SSA membership area. Another problem is poor reception of HAM Radio signals at the Ranger Station. As described in the next section of this article, the main method of communication between neighborhoods and to the Ranger Station will be by HAM Radios. Tom Anderson and Sherry Niswander plan to install a special HAM Radio antenna on the roof of the Ranger Station to see if that works better.

### 2. Communications

Peggy Wargo and Sherry Niswander have researched and developed an overall system of communications that can operate under various conditions of outages of normal telephone, cell phone, and power supplies. They have developed a Telephone Tree System that enables whole neighborhoods to be alerted to wildfires. This system was proven to be most effective just recently in the Portola Heights neighborhood when a resident's trailer caught fire. GMRS radios have been used within one neighborhood and though variable in some weather conditions, are effective as backup when phones are out of use within a neighborhood. HAM radios used off local repeaters (La Honda and Black Mountain) have a wider range and will allow connection to OES emergency communications. SSEPO is seeking to have a licensed HAM Radio Operator in each neighborhood who is willing to transmit messages to and from the Neighborhood Coordinator and connect them to the other neighborhoods and any SSEPO Operations Centers and County Offices of Emergency Services that may have additional resources. *[Continued on page 6]*

# Reminder on Fire Safety Awareness from the Public Safety Committee

By Larry Myers

Parts of this are taken from a recent article in the Santa Cruz Sentinel.

Despite two consecutive years of wildfires and an increased awareness of the threat, Santa Cruz Mountain residents are not safeguarding their homes from fire as much as they have in the past.

Fewer people are passing home safety inspections this year than in the previous two years, state inspection reports show, meaning more households are letting fire-prone grass grow taller and failing to trim back hazardous brush.

"(After an inspection) we'll go back in three or four weeks, and in some cases, the homeowner hasn't done anything (we've asked)," said Rich Sampson, a Cal Fire division chief in charge of forestry. "Just seeing what communities have gone through and what the losses were you'd think compliance would be a little better this year."

The only good news is that summer has been cool and the threat of fire low - at least so far - which is also why, according to Sampson and others, many residents haven't gotten around to doing the clearance and vegetation removal they're required to do by law.

After visiting roughly 1,100 properties in Santa Cruz and San Mateo counties, just a fraction of the total, firefighters report 30 percent were out of compliance with fire ordinances. Homeowners in the rural areas, per state law, are required to maintain a "defensible space" around their home, meaning clearing most vegetation within 30 feet of the house and trimming back bushes and trees within 100 feet.

Last year, the Lockheed Fire consumed nearly 8,000 acres north of Bonny Doon while the year before three fires burned more than 5,000 acres in Santa Cruz County, including nearly 100 homes. Although there have been no large wildfires in the area this year, there have been several small ones including some residence fires. Fire officials warn that Fall typically yields the greatest threat.

"It's clear to us that defensible space works," said Daniel Berlant, a Cal Fire spokesman in Sacramento. "We will enforce the issue if the homeowners aren't going to follow through with state law. The benefit is to the homeowner."

Our local South Skyline Fire Safe Council has been providing much information and help with chipping in the Skyline area and residents are urged to contact them if

assistance is needed in providing a defensible space around their residence.

## SSEPO – Readiness to Respond *[Continued from page 5]*

3. Operations Personnel - Neighborhood Coordinators  
Barclay Slade is concerned that the following neighborhoods presently lack a coordinator who can help their neighbors find help in an emergency. Anyone reading this article who lives in any of these neighborhoods and has the time and ability to act as a coordinator could be of invaluable help to their neighbors in the event of an earthquake or wildfire. Anyone interested should contact Barclay at 408-354-7818 for a description of what is involved: Indian Rock Ranch, State Route 9 West, and Rosemary Lane
4. Coordination of Operations during an Emergency  
Each Neighborhood is expected to be basically self-sufficient during an emergency within the capability of those who have received CERT training. However it may be that if there are serious landslides or collapse of building structures that may have trapped occupants, that special equipment is needed or medical doctors required who can bring relief to those in pain. Similarly if there are wildfires. In such circumstances, the Neighborhood Coordinator will ask the HAM Radio operator to contact the nearest Operations Center that will be manned during an Emergency. There are likely to be at least three such Operations Centers as follows:  
Las Cumbres Fire Station  
MROSD Ranger Station  
Skylonda CERRP Container
5. Future Areas of Activity  
Each neighborhood should have at least two means of access and escape. It is unacceptable that residents would be unable to escape during a wildfire if the fire blocked their only means of escape or even if fire fighting vehicles were in the way. Each neighborhood coordinator will explore their situation with regard to the need for an additional exit and the state of clearance and ownership if an exit exists but may not be accessible. SSEPO will take whatever action is needed to make emergency escape routes available when needed.
6. Organizational Changes  
The Operations Director and President of SSEPO will attend a monthly meeting of each Neighborhood in turn with the intent of assuring consistency of policies and procedures and providing opportunities for full communication. The Operations Director will chair these meetings. The need exists for new Officers and Directors to relieve those who have served for many years. Anyone interested is requested to contact Ken Broome at 650-529-1810

## **FIRE!**

### ***My Neighbor***

At about 1 a.m. on September 8th, my neighbor awoke to find his home on fire. Springing from bed he ran out through the flames. He looked for his friend who was visiting. He could not find him. Was he trapped in the room at the other end of the house? Screaming his name, he searched for his friend. Thank goodness the friend was sleeping safely in a tent outside and away from the burning home. In the adrenalin rush, time was distorted, but what stood out for him was the fact that life is so much more important than possessions. He and his house guest were alive.

The fire might have started in the chimney of a wood-burning stove. It was the first time in the season that he had made a fire in the stove. Accumulated soot may have smoldered for hours before bursting into the ceiling into flames. Yet, the exact cause has not been determined.

My neighbor ran over the hill to a neighbor's house and they immediately called 9-1-1 and then phoned the person who is at the "top" of the local telephone tree. Our little community has had a telephone tree in place for years. It has been invaluable on several occasions. This time neighbors responded quickly. Some grabbed shovels and headed to the fire site. Seeing the stricken man running around in only shorts, no shoes or shirt, they immediately found clothes and realized he had burns and was in shock.

Within minutes fire engines stated to arrive; soon there were five. My neighbor had done a good job clearing the defensible space around the house. The trees and forest surrounding the house did not catch fire. A valuable lesson!!! Clear the defensible space!!!

Another thoughtful preparation my neighbor did was to back-up his computer daily by saving files to a website. The fire consumed his computer, but his data and information were saved, and can be accessed from another computer.

### **Our Community**

A telephone tree was established several years ago in our community. It may be more appropriate to call it a communications tree. One person is the chief communicator who passes messages to a few others to alert all to an emergency. The groups are small, 5 to 7 in number. One person does not have too many calls to make. In the case when phones are out, the members of the group live close enough together to so it is possible to walk or drive to alert the group. Some members have two-way radios.

When the fire occurred at this house, his neighbors were quick to respond thanks to the telephone tree. The benefit to the stricken neighbor is clear. The benefit to the community was to alert them of the threat to their homes.

Clearing the defensible space around the house is essential. It is usually thought of as necessary to protect the house. In the case where the fire starts in the house, it is critical that the fire does not spread to the surrounding forest.

When the fire professionals arrived, the neighbors appropriately just got out of their way. One contribution the neighbors made was to help direct fire engines to the burning home and then again to guide the firefighters to turnarounds and out the rural road as they headed home a few hours later.

Summary of lessons learned:

1. Clear the defensible space around your home.
2. Establish a telephone tree.
3. Back up your computer via a website or off-site media.
4. Life is so much more important than possessions.

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## **Book Review~**

*By Patti Begley*

### **Mind of the Raven: Investigations and Adventures with Wolf-Birds**

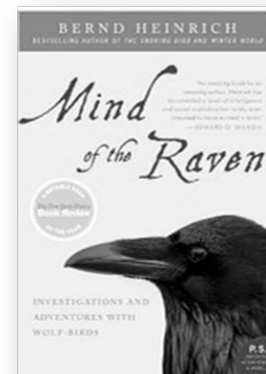
**Author: Bernd Heinrich**

Ravens have been around for centuries, and over the centuries have been the frequent subjects of myths and folklore that often illustrate their intelligence and problem-solving skills. But what is the real story on these cunning birds, and what goes on in their minds? Do ravens actually make conscience choices?

Biologist Bernd Heinrich has raised and studied ravens for many years. This book is a chronicle of anecdotes, and scientific observations that Heinrich has accumulated through his adventures with ravens. The reader gets an intimate look into the behavior of ravens as observed in their daily routines in aviaries as well as in the field.

Heinrich's journeys take him to places like Yellowstone Park where he explores the raven's relationship with wolves, and Baffin Island where ravens congregated on the ice with Eskimo dogs and he investigates the rumors about ravens "talking" to hunters. He also shares fun observations on how ravens play, and their social interactions.

The author's love and passion for ravens is very apparent in this engrossing account of a fascinating bird.



# Poison Oak is Not to be Missed

By Sarah Schoen

Poison oak is usually treated as a plant to be identified and avoided or controlled, but otherwise discounted. Imagine for a moment a world where poison oak causes no human allergic reaction in anyone. What is there to appreciate?

Western poison oak (*Toxicodendron diversilobum*, formerly *Rhus diversiloba*) is found in the far west from British Columbia to Baja California below 5000 to 5500 feet.

Poison oak, highly adaptable and widespread, has California microclimates figured out. In deep woods, poison oak grows as a vine, winding adventurous roots or stems up the trunks and into the main branches of large trees, as long as 100 feet. Small saplings can also form a type of ground cover, waiting for better opportunities. In sunnier, drier locations, poison oak grows as a shrub 2 to 6 feet tall. Leaves are smaller and thicker under these conditions, conserving moisture. Shrubs can grow individually, or form dense thickets through shallow underground rhizomes. Shrubs are lower growing under windy conditions, taller when protected. Under best conditions of light, water, and wind protection, poison oak can even form small trees up to 15 feet tall.

Poison oak is an attractive plant. Three-part (occasionally 5-part) leaves emerge red or bronze in late winter or early spring. Mature green leaflets - glossy or dull, wrinkled or smooth - are roughly oak-shaped, with a longer leaf stem on the central leaflet. There are no thorns.

Dangling clusters of greenish white flowers bloom March to May. They have 5 fused petals and 5 fused sepals - male and female flowers growing on separate plants. The flowers have a strong fragrance and abundant nectar to attract pollinators. In late summer to early fall, clusters of ¼" greenish berries ripen to cream with dark striations. They can dry in place, hanging on into winter. As moisture becomes less available, in late summer and early fall, different leaves can turn a number of shades - pink, yellow, salmon, scarlet, red, cherry, candy apple, burgundy, maroon - before falling. Winter brings characteristically short leafless side twigs on long upright main branches.

California Indians, reportedly immune to poison oak, had a number of uses for the plant. In basketry, stems were used in construction, while the juice, on exposure to air, made a black dye. The juice was also used to make blue green facial tattoos; it was mixed with soot and applied with California nutmeg needles. Leaves were used to wrap acorn meal during baking. Medicinally the juice was used to remove warts and as rattlesnake anti-venom.



Birds and mammals are not allergic to poison oak and make good use of its abundance. The foliage, high in calcium, phosphorus, and sulfur is browsed by deer and livestock. Bees use the nectar (the flowers are nontoxic) to make honey. The shrubs provide cover for nesting birds. Berries, rich in vegetable fat, provide food for a number of bird species well into the winter.

To fully appreciate poison oak, it's best to include an understanding of why 70 to 85% of us are allergic. Poison oak, along with many other members of the sumac or cashew family Anacardiaceae, contains small amounts of urushiol in its sap. The chemical is named for the source from which it was originally isolated and identified - Japanese lacquer trees or kiurushi. Chemically, urushiol is a catechol - a 6 carbon benzene ring, with phenolic, -OH groups attached to the number 1 and 2 carbons. At the number 3 carbon, a 15 or 17 carbon hydrocarbon chain is attached. The C15 and C17 chains can exist in mixtures of a number of forms. Unlucky for us, poison oak contains the more toxic C17 version, and a good amount of the even more toxic C17 version with 2 unsaturated carbon-carbon double bonds. Microgram amounts are enough to cause an allergic reaction. Urushiol is released primarily when a poison oak leaf or stem is damaged, releasing the sap. Once in contact with human skin (either directly or indirectly from something else that has contacted poison oak), urushiol binds to skin proteins, making them appear foreign to the immune system. It only takes 10 to 15 minutes. T4 leukocyte white blood cells get involved, attacking the "invader" and forming the rash. Over time with multiple exposures, different individuals can become more allergic or less allergic.

With nature possibly to the rescue, many local plants are said to provide some relief of symptoms when applied as anti-inflammatory washes. These include alder, mule ears, manzanita, toyon, coffeeberry and mugwort.

## Neighborhood Watch for Thefts and Vandalism

There have been recent reports of break-ins, attempted burglaries and mail theft along the Skyline area. If you see any suspicious activities please notify the police and alert your neighbors. If possible, note car license plates and other identifying information.

## Classified Ads

### FOR SALE

**Georgia's Homesewns:** Several varieties of bags, pillowcases and other fabric goods & gifts. Made in South Skyline region. Phone 650-941-1068 or visit <http://www.CoastalSeams.com>

**Beautiful Norwegian wood burning** stove (Jotul) dark green enamel over cast iron, airtight with primary & secondary air control, great condition \$500. (408) 354 8792

### SERVICES

**Alice's Restaurant**  
Four Corners on Skyline  
Locally owned and operated  
(650) 851-0303  
M-F 8:30AM-9:00PM,  
Sa & Su 8:00AM – 9:00PM

**Brown's Roofing Inc.** Licensed Roofing Contractor, 15 year Kings Mountain resident. New roofs and repairs - no job too small. Free estimates, contact Jeff Brown at (650) 851-1125. Also, visit our website at [brownsroofing.com](http://brownsroofing.com).  
References available upon request.

**C.Stille Excavation** Lic 620755A  
"If you can dream it we can dig it"  
Paving, Septic, Hauling, Water supply, Fire clearing, Tree removal, Retaining walls, Slide removal, Road building, etc  
Call for free estimate, 408-354-5726  
[www.ifyoucandreamitwecandigit.com](http://www.ifyoucandreamitwecandigit.com)

### SERVICES

**Fred Rosenberg Construction**  
Offering construction and management services. Specializing in remodeling and new home construction. 29+ years experience. CA Lic. # 535661 Free consultation and estimate. Contact Fred at (650) 747-0137 or (650) 722-1780 or [fredrosenberg@sbcglobal.net](mailto:fredrosenberg@sbcglobal.net)

**Handyman/defensible space clearing:**  
On Skyline, very experienced, inexpensive. References. Bob Speer 408-867-2784

**LEARNING STRATEGIES**  
Please call to sign up for individual tutoring by a highly qualified tutor around your busy fall plans. Check out our web site for more information: [www.creativelearning-strategies.com](http://www.creativelearning-strategies.com), email [victoriaskinner@creative-learning-strategies.com](mailto:victoriaskinner@creative-learning-strategies.com) or call (650) 747-9651 to have a brochure sent and discuss your child's needs with Director, Victoria Skinner.

**Sheary Construction** Local 12 years. Over 20 years experience. Excellent refs. Doors, windows, remodeling, repairs. Small jobs too. Lic.# 847336 Email @ [mwsheary@aol.com](mailto:mwsheary@aol.com) or call home/office @ 408 354 1656 or cell @ 408 313 6806

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

**South Skyline Real Estate Advisor.**  
Your neighbor for 13 years. The Bay Area Housing Market showing good signs of recovery. May I advise you on buying or selling? Sid Frederick, MS, Realtor, Ecobroker, and Certified Green Building Professional. Keller Williams Realty, 650/948-6426, cell 650/823-8400

### SERVICES

**The Mountain Terrace**  
Charming and rustic atmosphere. Now available for private events. Open for wine tasting on Sat. and Sun. 12:00-4:00. (650) 851-1606

### FREE

**Free fire fitting.** This fitting will allow the connection of a fire hose to your water supply and can be utilized by the fire department to access the water necessary for fire suppression. South Skyline Fire and Rescue, web site, <http://www.southskylinefire.org/> in the "Help us help you" section.

Ads are free to members.  
Membership is \$15 per year.  
Membership forms are available at [www.southskyline.org](http://www.southskyline.org)

Please limit each ad to around 45 words.

Email ads to:  
[skylineseditor@earthlink.net](mailto:skylineseditor@earthlink.net)  
or mail to:  
Skylines Ads  
22400 Skyline Blvd #35  
La Honda, CA 94020

You can now get SSA updates on Facebook.  
Become a fan of South-Skyline-Association.

## SOUTH SKYLINE ASSOCIATION

Box 400, Star Route 2

La Honda, CA 94020

### Consider Getting Your Skylines by Email

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

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

### SSA Calendar

**General Meeting** – October 24  
Saratoga Summit Fire Station 2:00pm

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

Thurs. October 14  
Thurs. November 11  
Thurs. December 9

(Call Fred Glover for location and directions)

President Fred Glover 408-354-7121  
Editor Patti Begley 408-867-3973  
SPUG Ruth Waldhauer 650-948-1466

### Join SSA Today

For just \$15 a year, your membership dues to the South Skyline Association will provide the funds to publish the *Skylines* newsletter, offer free classified ads, allow membership in the South Skylines Propane User Group, and provide speakers for our general meetings. Send your dues to:

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

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

*Skylines* invites individuals to submit articles and artwork.

**Policy on Classified Ads:** Ads are free to SSA members. No continuing ads will be accepted. They must be resubmitted for each issue.

**Skylines Ads and News Articles:** The deadline for submitting ads and articles for the next issue is December 18.

**Send all ads and articles to:** Patti Begley c/o 22400 Skyline Blvd #35, La Honda CA 94020, or [SkylinesEditor@earthlink.net](mailto:SkylinesEditor@earthlink.net), 408-867-3973

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