

# The Highlands lowdown

July 2010

The Highlands Community Association Newsletter

Volume 56, Number 7

www.highlandscommunity.org



## It Takes a Village to Create the Highlands 4th

by Gene McKenna, HCA Second Vice President, Chair, 4th of July Committee

On behalf of the Highlands Community Association, I want to express a big thank-you to the community for an amazing 4th of July celebration. This year was our 51st event, and the 50th anniversary of the original one in 1960! First, thanks go to all the local businesses and Highlands families who made July 4th donations and to all residents who have paid their memberships and become part of the Highlands Community Association. We couldn't do this without your financial support. Please see the list of business and family sponsors on page 5 and show your thanks.

**Parade Powerhouses:** Larry Kang and Vincent Palacios ran a brilliant parade, which was broadcast live on many webcams. Patricia Gill-Thielen organized registra-

tion, Tricia Shroeter provided a morning reception for the dignitaries, Yuki Ishizaki and Cub Scout Pack 3 were the Parade Color Guard. Mark Finner organized the Royal Highlands Marching Band, Jon Carter moved barricades up and down, and Barb Kunz was a great emcee. Parade starters Summer Kang, Carolyn Insley, Taylor Scherer, and Nicole Lee did a great job setting the parade's pace. Jim and Carole Sullivan and Bob and Liz Olson provided vehicles for the parade. Thanks also to the many who donated red wagons and helped escort our parade dignitaries.

**Fireworks Phenoms:** Jim Nemschoff did amazing 3rd of July fund-raising and festivities at the school, Peter and David Cajthaml produced a spectacular fireworks show

►It Takes a Village: to page 8

## HCA Welcome Party for New Neighbors and Everyone Else!

by Liesje Nicolas and Melissa Wilson

**Welcome to the neighborhood from the Highlands Community Association!** We want to get to know you as part of our community and for you to get to know each other. If you are new to the neighborhood, "sort-of-new," or have lived here for 50 years, come join us at the Rec park from 1-3 p.m. on Sunday, September 19. Why? For new families-fun and a personal welcome to the Highlands. For the

# WELCOME

"sort-of-new"— learn what your community association does for you, and for the old-timers— if you haven't knocked on your new

neighbor's door yet, come out to meet our new Highlanders and share your experience!

**When:** Sunday, September, 19

**Where:** 1 to 3 p.m. at the Rec park

**Who:** Everyone, bring the kids

### HRD Meeting

Tuesday, August 9, 7 p.m.  
Rec Center Social Room

### lowdown Deadline

Friday, September 10  
(There's no August lowdown.)

### HCA Meeting

Tuesday, July 27, 7:30 p.m.  
Rec Center Social Room

FROM THE HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



*Rick Priola*  
*HCA President*

**4th of July:** This year's 4th of July celebration was extra special, both because of the beautiful weather and because it was a milestone—the 50th Anniversary of the first event held in 1960. A member of the first Highlands 4th Committee, **Ted McDonald**, and his wife **Marymae** are still Highlands residents, and they and other long-timers remember that first 4th well. It says a lot about how people feel about the Highlands, when four members of the large Watkins family, who moved in the 60s, returned for the anniversary, marched in the parade in their "Vintage Highlands Resident" t-shirts, and had a wonderful time.

Many people took part in preparing the 2010 3rd and 4th. **Gene McKenna**, who became responsible for the celebration with his election as HCA 2nd Vice President, gives you a picture of how big the job is in his article on page 1 of this *lowdown*, which thanks all those who led different parts of the celebration. He did a great job organizing and pulling everything together, and I thank him and all those who participated in making it happen.

**Fire and Public Safety Personnel:** I also want to thank **CALFIRE**, the **San Mateo County Fire Department**, the **Sheriff's Department**, and the **Highway Patrol** for all their help before and during the July 3rd fireworks, their participation in the parade and the midway, and for all their services to our community. Here's an email message from the Highway Patrol volunteers that gives you an idea of their relationship to us.

*Mr. Priola: I just wanted to express my thanks and the thanks of my entire group of CHP volunteers that were present at your fireworks and parade. We had a really great time and enjoyed it. You have a great community up there and it is our pleasure to be a small part of it. I know that the volunteers that are at your school 5 days a week enjoy what they are doing. Thank you once again for allowing us to be a part of your community.*

*Norman Wood, V.P. CHP volunteers*

**Additional Thanks:** I also want to thank our **County Supervisor Mark Church** and **Assemblymember Jerry Hill** for all their support of our community and for marching in our parade on a hot day.

**Skyline Blvd. and Road Closures:** Signs on Skyline Blvd. tell us that it will be closed directly north of the Bunker Hill Exit lane to the intersection of Skyline with Crystal Springs Road for three years, beginning in August. The Sawyer Camp Trail will not be closed, but we won't be able to get there by turning onto Skyline from Bunker Hill. On the other hand, all the work on the Crystal Springs Bypass Tunnel under Polhemus Road has been achieved without the need to close Polhemus.

**Welcome Party:** See page 1 of this *lowdown* for information about the **HCA Welcome Party for new and old residents on Sunday, September 19, from 1 to 3 p.m., at the Rec park. Since the lowdown doesn't come out in August, and the September one won't be out before the party, put it on your calendars now!**

As always, I look forward to meeting you and seeing you at the HCA meetings. If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at [hcapres@gmail.com](mailto:hcapres@gmail.com).

**HCA Meeting Tuesday, Sept. 28, 7:30 p.m.**  
**Agenda**

- I. Call to Order
- II. Review and Approval of the Minutes
- III. Sheriff's Dept/CHP/CDR Cal Fire
- IV. Treasurer's Report
- V. Reports
  - A. First Vice President
  - B. Second Vice President
  - C. Treasurer
  - D. Membership
  - E. *lowdown*
  - F. Public Utilities Committee
  - G. Emergency Services Committee
  - H. Land Committee
- VI. Old Business
- VII. New Business/Announcements
- VIII. Adjournment

**HCA Board Officers for 2010**

<b>President:</b>	<b>Rick Priola</b>	<b>574-8313</b>
<b>First VP:</b>	<b>Jean-Pierre Bernard</b>	<b>357-7644</b>
<b>Second VP:</b>	<b>Gene McKenna</b>	<b>346-7348</b>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	<b>David Krakower</b>	<b>(415) 398-1100</b>
<b>Secretary:</b>	<b>Denise Haas</b>	<b>372-0373</b>
<b>lowdown Editor:</b>	<b>Dorothy Greene</b>	<b>341-1752</b>
<b>lowdown Co-Editor:</b>	<b>James Nemschoff</b>	<b>570-5023</b>

**HCA Committee Chairs for 2010**

<b>Land:</b>	<b>Sam Naifeh</b>	<b>572-8787</b>
<b>Public Utilities:</b>	<b>Wil Pinney</b>	<b>345-2546</b>
<b>Emergency Services:</b>	<b>Pam Merkadeau</b>	<b>280-9046</b>
<b>Membership:</b>	<b>Liesje Nicolas</b>	<b>773-7805</b>
<b>Technology:</b>	<b>Beverley Madden</b>	<b>574-1593</b>

HCA MINUTES

by Denise Haas, Secretary

**HCA Board Meeting,  
June 22, 2010**

**I. Call to Order** – the meeting was called to order at 7:43 p.m. by President Rick Priola.

**II. Review & Approval of the Minutes** – A motion to approve the minutes of May 25, 2010, was moved by JP Bernard, seconded by Dorothy Greene, and carried unanimously.

**III. Sheriff's Department/ California Highway Patrol/CDF** – Deputy Buck reported that in early June several residents had property removed from their cars overnight. The cars were unlocked. Residents are again reminded to lock car doors and remove valuable items when leaving cars in driveways.

**IV. Reports**

**A. 1st Vice-President** – Margaret Glomstad gave an update on the HRD landslide repair and deck replacement.

**B. 2nd Vice-President** – no report

**C. Treasurer** – David Krakower reported that the HCA is on target with the budget.

**D. Membership** – Liesje Nicolas announced that the HCA website, [www.highlandscommunity.org](http://www.highlandscommunity.org), is up and running.

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**E. lowdown** – Dorothy Greene announced the deadline for the next *lowdown* submission as July 9.

**F. Public Utilities Committee** – Wil Pinney reported on sewer proposals and upcoming changes to responsibility for lateral lines. It is recommended that residents pay attention to communication from the County concerning this issue.

**G. Emergency Services Committee** – no report

**H. Land Committee** – no report

**V. Old Business** – none

**VI. New Business/ Announcements**

Mr. Stuart Forrest, San Mateo County Chief Probation Office and Highlands resident, reported on the progress of the Juvenile Hall project. Please contact him with questions/concerns.

**VII. Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

**There is no *lowdown* in August. The deadline for the September *lowdown* is Friday, September 10.**

**Have a great summer!**



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## HIGHLANDS RECREATION CENTER


**Jazzercise is Here  
at Highlands Rec!**

**Tues & Thurs 6:15 p.m.**  
**Sat & Sun 8 a.m.**

Jazzercise combines effective exercise with jazz dance-based choreography and popular music. Each 60-minute high-energy class includes a warm up, aerobic segment, muscle toning and flexibility exercises, and a cool-down. Fresh choreography is continually introduced into the program as Jazzercise founder Judi Sheppard Missett creates new routines every ten weeks. The non-competitive atmosphere makes it easy for people of all fitness levels to participate. Instructors demonstrate both challenging movements and low-impact variations. Most importantly, Jazzercise classes are designed to be fun!

Jazzercise dance-fitness classes are offered at the Highlands Gym by certified Jazzercise instructor Tanya To. "I'm excited about the growth of Jazzercise locally," said To. "Jazzercise offers a unique blend of fitness and jazz dance that our current participants have discovered is a lot of fun. I hope you'll come give us a try." For more information on Jazzercise contact Tanya at [t.to@sbcglobal.net](mailto:t.to@sbcglobal.net) or 650-520-3887. Visit her home page at [jazzercise.com](http://jazzercise.com).

**Fall Childcare Programs 2010-2011**

**After School Program - grades K-5**  
Spaces Available - Flexible Days M-F  
\$75 Non-Refundable Supply Fee  
**In Crowd Middle School Program -**  
grades 6-8. Borel and Abbott Students  
Spaces Available - Flexible Days M-F  
\$75 Non-Refundable Supply Fee

**Early Education Program**  
**Preschool 2.5-5 yrs**

Space Available M-F, 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m.  
\$105 /Non-Refundable Registration Fee

**Middle School Dance**

grades 6-8, Oct 8 7-10 p.m.  
\$8/advance \$10 @ the door  
Must have a valid school ID

**Junior Lifeguarding**

**9 a.m.-4 p.m. Mon-Fri \$175/180 wk**  
**Field Trip Fee \$35 wk**

This American Red Cross program provides a strong foundation for future successful completion of the Red Cross Lifeguarding Course. Junior Guards will work out daily to improve their physical fitness both on land and in the water. They will learn about causes of and ways to prevent drowning and diving accidents, how to supervise others around water, how to recognize when someone is in trouble, and basic first aid, CPR, and AED. Jr. Guards will develop leadership skills necessary to become successful lifeguards, including effective communication, how to make informed decisions, how to work as a team and about customer service.

On Fridays the Junior Lifeguards will participate in staff trainings and then be taken on different aquatic-themed field trips throughout the Bay Area. On some of the longer field trip days they will not participate in trainings. Prerequisites: ability to swim front crawl 25 yards continuously using side breathing, tread water for one minute, submerge and swim a distance of 10 feet. Age 11+

Week #8 8/2-8/6 So you want  
to be a Lifeguard? Memorial Park

Week #9 8/9-8/13 Junior Guard  
Olympics 2009 - Discovery Kingdom

**Underwater Pumpkin Patch**  
**Sun, Oct 24 2-4 p.m.**

Come pick out a pumpkin at our first ever aquatic pumpkin patch! Entrance is free to members and anyone wearing a costume! We'll provide carving pumpkins, which will cost \$6-11, based on size. Hot apple cider and other seasonal goodies will be for sale. What a great way to get your holiday pumpkins!

*The Highlands Recreation District was awarded a California Association for Park and Recreation Indemnity Safety Award as part of the Cycle XII District Visitation Program. The award acknowledges the District's commitment to promoting a safe and healthy environment for both the public and staff, and safety and loss control in these areas: safety committees, inspection programs, employee screening and review, appropriate use of waiver and release forms, and implementation of the Injury and Illness Prevention Program. As part of the award, the District was presented a Safety Award plaque which is now hanging in the Rec Office.*

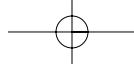

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**Another wonderful 4th of July Celebration.**  
**With thanks to all who worked so diligently**  
**to make it happen.**  
**What a fantastic community!**



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FOURTH OF JULY COMMUNITY NEWS

**Thank You Generous July 4th Sponsors**



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**San Mateo County Sheriff's Dept.**  
**Glenn Sennett and Family**  
**The Spencer Family**

**The Tabor Family**  
**Therese Vandenberg & Michael Goldstein**  
**Tony Vertongen, D.D.S.**

**Footrace Winners**

by Dave Robertson



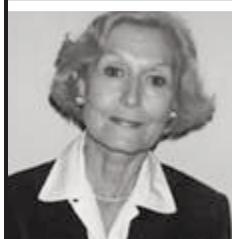
The annual 4th of July 4 kilometer footrace was won this year by high schooler **Conner Stanton** in the time of 17:02. **Aaron Solomon** was second in 18:33. The first adult was **Robert Sherry** in third place at 19:50, edging **Joe Cutts** by one second. **David Kristofferson** won the over-50 category and combined with his daughter **Amy** to win the family division.

**Lindy Harris** was, as usual, our first female, but not far ahead of **Marianne Kristofferson**. **Cristina Ashbaugh** won the girls teen category, and **Ben Solomon** won the 12 and under group. Thanks to everyone who came out to run and earned their t-shirts the hard way.

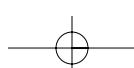
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### Many Thanks

We appreciate Brian Apt, Barry Bignell, David Greene, Denise Haas, Salvador Lahoz, Joyce Priola, Dennis Shew, and Eva Voisin, who shared photos with the *lowdown*.

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## COMMUNITY NEWS

► **It Takes a Village:** from page 1 and handled related security, brush-cleaning, and cleanup with help from the **Belzers, Mooneys, and Jarnigans**. Baking and fund raising help also came from **Christine Tam, Jane and John Johnson, Sujatha Marsden,** and many others.

**Games Greats: Kelly**

**Winterbottom** ran a great water carnival, **Brenda Sell** organized a fun-filled Golf Tourney, **Dave Robertson** put on the annual foot race, and **Paul Fisher** coordinated the annual tennis tournament.

**Midway Magnificents: Michelle Corbett and Mark Nachlis** stepped in and ran the Midway Games wonderfully. The food booth was well-staffed with great contributions from **Karen Teys, Ian Burns, Simin Hashemi, Sterling Sakai, Elmer and Jolita Eckart, Gordon Strause, Jean Pierre Bernard,** and our cook, **Reuben Cannon**. Ticket sales were led by **Rolf and Florence Beier**. Setup and clean up champs included Rec staff members **Jeff Schwartz** and **Steve Risso**, as well as **Cary Wiest** and **Pam Merkadeau**.

**All Around Aces: Laura**

**Woodworth and Molly Carter** did phenomenal fund raising. **Leisje Nichols** signed up HCA members and

also raised funds. **Pam Merkadeau** produced and sold great t-shirts. **Bob, Neil, and Kyle Gutierrez** provided fireworks-synchronized sound and lights and great help broadcasting the parade on the Internet. **Rhonda Moore** was everywhere collecting donations, making sno-cones without pre-crushed ice, and getting dunked in the tank.

**Safety Superstars:** Special thanks to the **California Department of Forestry**, our fire protection agency, for ensuring safety at the fireworks and adding their trucks to the parade. Similarly, the **Sheriff's and Highway Patrol** personnel were helpfully omnipresent making sure we had a safe and fun event. Both the Sheriff and Cal Forestry also made financial contributions. We are very lucky to have their support and ongoing services.

**Complete Kudos:** And a great big thanks to **Rick Priola and Margaret Glomstad**. As the new 4th of July Chairman, I was so fortunate to have the help and support of these two Superheroes. They contributed their knowledge of all-things-4th-of-July and took on dozens of tasks that really make the event happen.

Many, many, more Highlanders pitched in on all sorts of tasks and with generous donations. I thank them all.

## Remembering Ruth Anderson

Family and friends are gathering to celebrate the life of Ruth Anderson, longtime Highlands resident who passed away in April. Please join her

family on Sunday, August 8, from 2 to 5 p.m. at the Highlands Recreation Center to share your memories and reminisce about Ruth.



**Services offered include training reinforcement, exercise, and overnight care for your loving critters.**

### *Highlands lowdown*

*Editor and Business Manager:*

*Dorothy Greene  
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Ave., San Mateo, CA 94402*

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COMMUNITY NEWS

## Highlands Book Group

by Jo Nassutti



**The Book Club meets on the first Tuesday of the month, at 10:15 a.m., in the Exercise Room at the Rec Center.**

Our August 3 selection is *The Heretic's Daughter* by Kathleen Kent. She takes us back to the Salem, Massachusetts, witch trials of the 1690s. Sarah Carrier and her family arrive in Andover, a town near Salem, where they find a community gripped by superstition and fear. The Puritans come to believe that heretics in their midst are responsible for the increase in Indian attacks and the spread of the plague.

Based on the accusations of a few young girls, hysteria mounts and ends with more than 200 men, women, and children sent to jail on charges of witchcraft. Among these unfortunate ones is Sarah's mother.

For **September 14** we return to the classics and read *Sense and Sensibility*, one of Jane Austin's early novels. The Dashwoods, widowed mother and three lively daughters, are evicted from the family home when the father dies and the son inherits the home and the estate. They retreat to a small cottage in Devonshire, and the novel deals with their new life and the perpetual search for husbands for the daughters.

**Questions?** call Jo Nassutti, 650-345-8915.

## 4th of July Parade Winners

by Judy Campbell



*All-American Food Court Winner*

**Best Use of Theme (Around the World):** "American Tourists" - Schroeter Family

**Best of Parade:** Royal Highlands Marching Band

**Individuals: 1st Place** Ryan Ward - "All

American Food Court," **2nd Place** Deb Cogswell, **3rd Place** Melissa Wilson

**Organizations: 1st Place** - Highlands Marching Band, **2nd Place** - Crystal Springs United Methodist Church, **3rd Place** - Cub Scouts Pack 3

**Family: 1st Place** - "Watkins Family" (used to live on New Brunswick in the 60's and moved away. Four family members came from four different states to see old friends and march in the 50th Anniversary parade.)

**2nd Place** - "World Cup" Elizabeth and William Glomstad and Jenny and Caity Winterbottom, **3rd Place** - "Hawaii" Kunz family

**Bikes:** Zachary "America"

**Trikes:** Sophia Awad with "Gigi" India Gay

## Senior Network Summer Calendar

**Tuesday, July 27:** Noon Potluck at the home of Trudie Huygen, 2239 Cobblehill Pl. For information on what to bring, call her at 341-5969.

**Sunday, August 8, 2-5 p.m., at the Rec Center:** Remembering Ruth Anderson

**Friday, August 18:** Lunch at the Hofbrau in Foster City, 12:30 p.m. To request transportation, call Cliff Donley at 349-5290.

### Missing Pan

A round, glass pan that brought goodies to the July 3rd bake sale table went astray that night. Please email [sujathamarsden@gmail.com](mailto:sujathamarsden@gmail.com) if you can help her locate it..



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## FOURTH OF JULY NEWS

**Golf Tournament**

by Brenda Sell

**Sal Lahoz**, winner of the Low Gross Championship Trophy this 47th year of the 4th of July Golf Tournament, is pictured here with his son **Nick**, who was Low Gross Champion in '07 and 2nd place Low Net this year. **Dick Madden**, Champion in '05, took the trophy for Low Net, and **Will Mitchell**, playing with his brother **Buggy**, won the Blind Bogey for the second straight year. It's a family affair!

We thank our sponsors: **Crystal Springs Golf Course, Boulder Creek Golf & Country Club, Peninsula Golf Shop, Celia's Restaurant, and Our Place Cafe.**


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**Tennis Tournament**

by Paul Fisher

On a 4th of July of near perfect weather, our Highlands tennis tournament turned out to be a very successful, closely matched event. Only a few days earlier, there were only 10 entrants, then a surge of entries came in, bringing us to our capacity for two rounds of 24 players, 18 males and 6 females. The format was to play two sets and, if split, a tiebreaker for the third set. There were four men's doubles, one woman's doubles, and one mixed doubles composed of red and blue teams. There was a small entry fee, with each player on the overall winning team receiving a gift certificate.

In the first round, the red teams of **Jim Fink/John Toupin** and **Dora Kreidl/Alec Stanculescu** each won in straight sets over **Victor Tan/Lloyd LaCuesta/** and **Olive Ebert/Paul Fisher**, respectively, while the blue team of **Georg Bremer/Elie**



**Massabaki** won a thrilling 3rd set tiebreaker, 10-8, against **Cam Shaw/Mike Hromadik.**

In a second-round teenage battle, the blue team of **Conor Stanton/Nichil Stewart** won in an exciting 3rd set tiebreaker over **Quentin Bellon/Rahul Joshi**, while in women's doubles, the blue team of **Betty Jue/Ann Poncelet** edged **Brenda Sell/Marlene Hubbard** in straight sets. It all came down to a 3rd set tiebreaker in the final match of the day, in which the red team of **Curtis Joe/Cliff Asvitt** came from behind to defeat **Bob Crosby/Irv Kessler**. With the red and blue teams splitting the six matches, the red team was declared the winner, based on winning a few more games.

Special thanks go to **Michael Chall** for getting the gift certificates and to **Brenda Sell** and **Dora Kreidl** for helping recruit players.

**T-Shirts**

by Pam Merkadeau

Thanks to all who entered the first annual 4th of July t-shirt design contest, and congratulations to **Stephen Cook**, a Highlands alum, for his winning design. Stephen grew up in the Highlands and his parents still live on Lexington Ave. Did you miss out on purchasing this limited edition t-shirt? Some sizes are still available for just \$12. Email Pam at [july4tshirt@yahoo.com](mailto:july4tshirt@yahoo.com) or call 650-280-9046.

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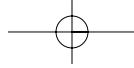
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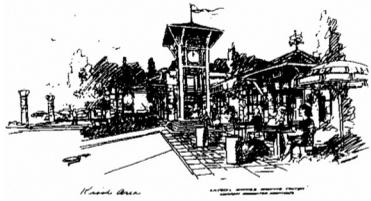
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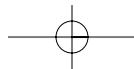


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## A VIEW FROM THE HIGHLANDS

### Volunteers Essential, Here and There

*by Florence Beier*

Volunteers abound in the Highlands. Witness our amazing 4th of July celebration! We work at Filoli, the elementary school, food banks, and numerous other places in San Mateo County. But no one volunteers at a more distant and unusual place than Steve Gehre, who is a docent at Alcatraz. A 42-year resident of the Highlands, he found himself looking for a new challenge after retiring from teaching at Burlingame High School. Ex-neighbors Sheila and Mike Mcquade, whom he ran into at the Half Moon Bay Nursery, suggested he try Alcatraz.

It turns out that all you have to do is check out the website or call a ranger, go out for an interview, take three Saturdays of 8-hour trainings, and you are (or at least Steve was) ready to guide and give presentations to large groups. Steve has read and studied to prepare for

talks on three topics so far: the “Birdman,” the 1962 escape, and “staying sane on the rock.”

One of the most fascinating parts of Steve’s Alcatraz job is how he gets to this island in the middle of San Francisco Bay. He leaves home at 7:10 a.m., throwing his bike in the back of his truck. He parks the truck at Burlingame High School (a privilege as a “teacher emeritus”) and loads his bike onto the 7:35 CalTrain for the city. After the train arrives at 4th and King, Steve rides his bike 2.5 miles to Pier 33 to catch the 8:45 a.m. staff boat for Alcatraz. In the afternoon he does a reverse commute.

Alcatraz has about 5,500 visitors per day, which now must be handled by a ranger staff cut from eighteen to eight, so volunteers are essential. Steve, who took groups of students and parents to Europe seven times, admired the guides

there and enjoys honing his guiding skills now. He greets the tourists as they stream off the boat and leads the standard tours, but his favorite tours are for about a dozen visitors to the dungeon, hospital, or laundry. He also offered to do a special tour for Highlands folks (who don’t have to go by bicycle).

Volunteers are key to what makes the Highlands such a great community. This is true not just on the 4th of July or “off the hill,” because the HCA, HRD, and CERT all depend on us. If you don’t know what these letters stand for, ask at the Rec or your Area Rep, or go to [www.highlandscommunity.org](http://www.highlandscommunity.org) or [www.highlandsrec.com](http://www.highlandsrec.com).