

Solano Verde Ranch Homeowners Association

November 2009

Orchard Picking

Ensure your orchard pickers remove the stackable bins 24 hours after service. With the fall season, comes high winds. No one wants to see the bins strewn across the streets! Please follow-up with your vendors.

REMINDER: Payment of Assessments

Most homeowners now pay the regular assessments by pre-authorized payment (i.e. auto debit). This reduces the work involved in collecting assessments and has the advantages for participating homeowners that they do not need to send checks in monthly and should not run the risk of incurring late charges.

Anyone who has not already arranged this is, therefore, requested to do so. The necessary paperwork can be obtained from Real Support (contact details on last page).

Exiting the Community

Steps have been taken to reduce the obstructed view on the north side while merging onto Bradley Road. The foliage has been trimmed and will be reviewed in the coming weeks.

Board Meetings

All homeowners are welcome to attend. A Notice & Agenda of all Board meetings will be posted on the Solano Verde Ranch website located at www.solanoverde.org. Also, please look for it on the bulletin board next to your mailboxes.

Fence/Gate Maintenance

The Board requests that all homeowners make the necessary repairs to their property fence lines in like condition and style. This is your responsibility! If you have any questions, please contact Real Support.

Security/Large Gatherings

Please be sure to notify your neighbors of any large-scale events you will be hosting. We are a small, exceptional community and security is of utmost importance! Knowledge of such gatherings will put your neighbors at ease with the hustle and bustle they come across.

Front Gate Directory

Real Support is still missing information from some homeowners for the directory. Any homeowners who have not already done so are requested to give Real Support:

- Their name(s)
- Address
- Telephone number
- Email address(es)

(Circulation of the directory will be restricted to the Board and the management company ONLY). A telephone call to Real Support (310-457-0019) will get you a form to complete or you may simply email the information to Bryan Chan or Helmut Martinek of Real Support.

Architectural Committee

Your ARC Committee is charged with reviewing all plans PRIOR to construction commencement. Be sure to submit them in a timely manner to avoid delays. The Board and ARC will respond promptly.



FUN THINGS TO DO:

November 20, 2009: “Band / Dancing”, with “**KC and The Sunshine Band**”. Performing at the Canyon Concert and Special Events Center, 28912 Roadside Drive, Agoura Hills, CA. Call (818) 879-5016, or, go onto the web at www.canyonclub.net, for tickets.

November 21, 2009: “Comedy at the Canyon”, with **Dennis Miller**. Playing at the Canyon Concert and Special Events Center, 28912 Roadside Drive, Agoura Hills, CA. Call (818) 879-5016, or, go onto the web at www.canyonclub.net, for tickets.

Every Thursday Night: “Band / Dancing”, with “**The Spazmatics**”, L.A.’s largest 80’s Dance Party. Performing at the Canyon Concert and Special Events Center, 28912 Roadside Drive, Agoura Hills, CA. Call (818) 879-5016, or, go onto the web at www.canyonclub.net, for tickets.

Through November 22, 2009: Rodgers & Hammerstein’s “Oklahoma”, a Great American Musical, performing at the Camarillo Community Theatre, 330 Skyway Drive, Camarillo (inside the airport). Call (805) 388-5716, or, go onto the web at www.camarillotheatre.org, for tickets.

November 21-22, 2009: “The Nutcracker”, performed at the “Cabrillo Music Theatre – Fred Kavli Theatre”, 2100 East Thousand Oaks Boulevard, Thousand Oaks, CA. Call the Box Office at (805) 449-2787 or, go online at www.ci.thousand-oaks.ca.us or, at www.toaks.org, for tickets.

November 22-23, 2009: “12th Annual Ojai Holiday Home Look-In”, known for showcasing a diverse and eclectic mix of homes, on the tour. This year, two of the four featured residences include custom builder Otis Bradley’s green home, located near the foothills of the Topa Topa Mountains, located in beautiful Ojai. Call (805) 646-2094 or, visit online at www.lobero.org, for tickets.

November 26, 2009: “Chocolate Tasting and Tour” (Ongoing 2nd and 4th Thursdays, every month), at “Choolots du Bressan”, in Carpinteria, CA. Limited Space. Call (805) 684-6900, or, visit online at www.chococalibressan.com, for tickets.

November 27, 2009: “La Dolce Vita Cooking Class” (Every 4th Saturday, through January 24, 2010), an opportunity to learn culinary secrets and experience what people rave about. Classes are taught by Executive Chef Michelle and may also include guest chefs. It runs from 1 – 4 p.m., for \$49.00 per person. The culinary experience includes your meal, a glass of wine, and hands-on training (not just watching!) Call for menu, details, and reservations. Located at 750 South “B” Street, Oxnard, CA. Call (805) 486-6878, or, visit on the web at www.venturaharborvillage.com.

November 27, 2009: “Comedy at the Canyon”, with **Robert Schimmel**. Playing at the Canyon Concert and Special Events Center, 28912 Roadside Drive, Agoura Hills, CA. Call (818) 879-5016, or, go onto the web at www.canyonclub.net, for tickets.

November 28, 2009: “Band / Dancing”, with “**Air Supply**”. Performing at the Canyon Concert and Special Events Center, 28912 Roadside Drive, Agoura Hills, CA. Call (818) 879-5016, or, go onto the web at www.canyonclub.net, for tickets.

Daily: “CAF Flights in Two Top Military Trainers”. A dream adventure, taking you on a spectacular flight for 20 minutes! Take pictures, fly, and experience a ride you will remember forever. This is tax deductible. Located at the CAF Aviation Museum, 455 Aviation Drive, Camarillo, CA. Call (805) 482-0064 or visit online at www.cafsocal.com.



Fallen Tree Branch



Scratched Glass



Balcom Canyon Road



Broken Side View Mirror

WATCH OUT FOR FALLING TREES!

With the recent winds, there have been two incidents of big, heavy Eucalyptus tree limbs falling onto passing cars, going south on Balcolm Canyon Road, south of Stockton Road, in Somis. Remember, on a windy day, drive by at your own risk...and if you have a sunroof...use it! Look up while you drive on that side of the road or things could get worse than this unlucky driver, who swerved just in time to not get a direct hit over the top of their car.... because they saw it dropping from the sky, through their sunroof, thus avoiding a real catastrophe!



INTERESTING FACTS about our SOLANO VERDE RANCHES HUMMINGBIRDS:

Hummingbirds are carnivores (nectar is just the fuel to power their fly catching activity), and depend on insects that are not abundant in subfreezing weather, so most of them must retreat back "home" to Central America in the winter or risk starvation. Most Ruby-throated Hummingbirds winter between southern Mexico and northern Panama. Since hummingbirds lead solitary lives and neither live nor migrate in flocks, an individual bird may spend the winter anywhere in this range where the habitat is favorable, but probably returns to the same location each winter. Ruby-throats begin moving north as early as January, and by the end of February they are at the northern coast of Yucatan, gorging on insects and spiders to add a thick layer of fat in preparation for flying to the U.S. Some will skirt the Gulf of Mexico and follow the Texas coast north, while most apparently cross the Gulf, typically leaving at dusk for a nonstop flight of up to 500 miles, which takes 18-22 hours depending on the weather. Although hummingbirds may fly over water in company of mixed flocks of other bird species, they do not "hitchhike" on other birds. Some hummingbirds land on offshore oilrigs or fishing boats to rest. Individual birds may make landfall

anywhere between southern Texas and central Florida. Before departing, each bird will have nearly doubled its weight, from about 3.25 grams to over 6 grams; when it reaches the U.S. Gulf coast, it may weigh only 2.5 grams. It's also possible that a few Ruby-throats island-hop across the Caribbean and enter the U.S. through the Florida Keys. Males depart Yucatan first, followed about 10 days later by the first females. But the migration is spread over a three-month period, which prevents a catastrophic weather event from wiping out the entire species. This means that a few birds will arrive at any location very early, but the bulk of the population will follow later, so you may not see your first hummingbird for several more weeks. Each individual has its own internal map and schedule, and "your" birds may arrive early, late, or anywhere within a two-month span. Once in North America, migration proceeds at an average rate of about 20 miles per day, generally following the earliest blooming of flowers hummingbirds prefer. The northern limit of this species coincides with that of the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker; if the earliest males arrive in Canada before sufficient flowers are blooming, they raid sapsucker wells for sugar, as well as eat insects caught in the sap. The northward migration is complete by late May. Banding studies show that each bird tends to return every year to the same place it hatched, even visiting the same feeders. Unlike the other hummingbirds of the western mountains, where freezing nights are common even in summer, Ruby-throats aren't well adapted to cold temperatures; they have a tough time below the mid-20's. To avoid the cold, and the scarcity of food when flowers stop blooming and insects stop flying, they go south. Some adult males start migrating south as early as mid-July, but the peak of southward migration for this species is late August and early September. By mid-September, essentially all of the Ruby-throated, at feeders, are migrating through from farther north, and not the same individuals seen in the summer. This is difficult to see, since they all look alike, but has been proven by banding studies. The number of birds migrating south may be twice that of the northward trip, since it includes all immature birds that hatched

during the summer, as well as surviving adults. These little guys are really tough!

For a hummer that just hatched, there's no memory of past migrations, only an urge to put on a lot of weight and fly in a particular direction for a certain amount of time, then look for a good place to spend the winter. Once it learns such a route, a bird may retrace it every year as long as it lives. The initial urge is triggered by the shortening length of sunlight as autumn approaches, and has nothing to do with temperature or the availability of food; in fact, hummingbirds migrate south at the time of greatest food abundance. When the bird is fat enough, it migrates. It's not necessary to take down feeders to force hummingbirds to leave, and in the fall all the birds at your feeder are already migrating anyway. If you remove your feeder, birds will just feed elsewhere, but may not bother to return to your yard the next year. It is recommended to continue maintaining feeders until freezing becomes a problem.

Many people notice that adult males migrate earlier than females, because in the last month or so there may be no birds with red throats at feeders. However, remember that immature Ruby-throats of both sexes look much like their mothers. Young males often have a "5 o'clock shadow" of dark throat feathers in broken streaks, and many develop one or more red gorge feathers by the time they migrate. Immature females may have much lighter streaks in their throats, but no red.

There is evidence that fewer Ruby-throats cross the Gulf in fall than in spring, most instead, following the Texas coast back into Mexico. Perhaps the hurricane season is a factor, and the genes of many birds with a tendency to fly over water were lost at sea during storms. Wow, these little guys are really something!

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Solano Verde Ranch HOA**

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