

# FRIENDS OF SANTA TERESA PARK



*The Hidden Springs Trail leading to Coyote Peak*

## On a Clear Day, You Can See 70 Miles Away

By Mike Boulland

The Friends of Santa Teresa Park (FOSTP) and the Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department participated in a joint sponsorship of the design, fabrication, and display of a new interpretive sign on top of Coyote Peak. Using the latest in sign material, the extra-wide sign will have a remarkable 45-degree panoramic view to the north of Santa Clara Valley and the Bay Area. The sign includes several pictures taken by talented photographers, Ron Horii and his son, Chris Horii, on exceptionally clear days when they could photograph nationally-recognized landmarks seventy miles away from the peak. Specifically, the towers of the Golden Gate Bridge, San Francisco skyscrapers, and the Oakland/Alameda city buildings are some of the iconic landmarks that you can recognize while standing from the peak.

FOSTP is proud to have completed the Coyote Peak Interpretive Sign after five years of planning and design. The beautiful "Birds Eye View" sign captures a north-west view of the Bay Area in a rare spectacular telephoto  
*Continued on page 6.*

### About Us

The Friends of Santa Teresa Park (FOSTP) is a volunteer organization, founded in 1992 and based in San Jose, whose purpose is to support Santa Teresa County Park. We are a diverse group with a wide range of interests. Our members include equestrians, hikers, runners, mountain bikers, historians, teachers, photographers, trail crew leaders, geocachers, 4H and scout leaders, and concerned members of the community. We serve as an interface between the community and the County Parks Department. We report on problems and concerns in the park and recommend changes and improvements to the park. We help out with trail maintenance and park events. If you are interested in helping out at the park or just want to know what's going on, you are welcome to join us. See our website for more information. You are welcome to join our Yahoo Group: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/FoSTP/>

**Meetings:** 7:00 pm, 1st Thursday of each month.

Upper Clubhouse/Banquet Facility, Santa Teresa Golf Club  
260 Bernal Road, San Jose, CA

**Website:** <http://www.stpfriends.org>

**Officers:**

- Mike Boulland, President
- Kitty Monahan, Vice President
- Ronald Horii, Secretary, Webmaster, Newsletter Editor
- Greg Koopman: Treasurer

## Coyote Peak Interpretive Sign Dedication Event

By Mike Boulland

Mark your calendar for a spectacular FOSTP and SCCPR event, to dedicate a panoramic view sign of the Santa Clara Valley on top of Coyote Peak in Santa Teresa Park. On October 25, 2014 the main ceremonies will be held at the Pueblo Day Use Area in Santa Teresa Park, starting at 10 a.m. Participants will be allowed to park free, and no admission will be charged. The event will then move to the top of Coyote Peak, where the unveiling ceremony for the new sign will take place between 11 am and 11:30 am. The public will be encouraged to hike or ride one of the County Parks' interpretive vans to the top of the peak. Bring your cameras and telephoto lenses to capture photos of far distant landmarks of the Bay Area.



*Coyote Peak viewpoint to the north, site of future sign.*

### Inside this Newsletter:

- Invitation to Fandango, Oct. 4, 2014, pg. 2
- FOSTP members help during Santa Teresa Hills Fire, pg. 2
- New Treasurer, Greg Koopman, pg. 2
- Adopt-a-Trail Program, pg. 2
- Martial Cottle Ranch and Rancho Santa Teresa, pg. 3
- Saving Mt. Umunhum, pg. 4
- Muriel Wright Volunteer Center, pg. 5
- Cross Country at Santa Teresa Park, pg. 5
- New Rangers and Promotions, pg. 6



## Join the Fun and Entertainment at a Free Family Event on Saturday Oct. 4

Come to Family Fandango at the Bernal-Gulnac-Joice Ranch, 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm, 372 Manila Drive, San Jose, CA 95119. This is a public community event sponsored by the Santa Clara County Parks & Recreation Department. Family Fandango is a family-oriented evening highlighting 1770-1870 California. You can learn about Native Americans with members of the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe of the San Francisco Bay Area. Come dress like Alta California colonists, create pottery, investigate Meson del Minero/Trading Post, and participate in pretend branding, roping, crafts, folklorico dancing, and more!"



## County Parks Called FOSTP Members to help with emergency response during Santa Teresa Fire

FOSTP members were called upon to help monitor the closed Santa Teresa Park trails due to the bush fire on June 30, 2014. The County Parks Department called all its trained Trail Watch volunteers in the area for emergency support. Within a short time, Kitty Monahan and Julie Carpentia were helping patrol the trails to inform trail users that the trails were closed due to the fire. FOSTP is proud our trained members were able to be counted on to help volunteer during the emergency.



*Fire in the Santa Teresa Hills, west of Santa Teresa Park. The fire eventually burned 125 acres and came within 150 yards of the park boundary near the Vista Loop Trail. No park structures or neighboring homes were damaged.*

## New Treasurer

By Mike Boulland

The FOSTP Board welcomes Greg Koopman as our new treasurer. He is an active bicyclist and enjoys helping his wife, Roxanne Koopman, organize cross-country and fun run events in the community. Members of FOSTP are very thankful to have his presence and support on the board. The picture below shows Greg volunteering to show a young guest how to rope a wooden horse at the 2013 Fandango.



## Adopt-a-Trail Program

By Kitty Monahan

The Adopt-a-Trail Program is designed to recruit, train, and support volunteers and volunteer groups assigned to a trail or section of a trail within the Santa Clara County Parks. This program was developed by the Volunteer Coordinating Council of the County Parks Department. The Friends of Santa Teresa Park have adopted the Norred Trail (pictured below). Our organization has been a steward of this trail, inspecting it, removing litter and debris, and reporting problem conditions. The Friends of Santa Teresa Park are looking for a volunteer to be the liaison with the Santa Clara County Parks and report to the Senior Ranger from Hellyer County Park. Please contact Mike Boulland, President of Friends of Santa Teresa Park at 408-268-2703 to help keep our park a great place to hike, bike, and ride.



## What is the connection to The Rancho Santa Teresa and the new Martial Cottle Park?

by Mike Boulland

The opening of Martial Cottle Park brought excitement and enthusiasm to many park users all over the County this year. The idea of having a new area of land saved for the public to enjoy farming and open space in the center of Blossom Valley, one of San Jose's beautiful neighborhoods, was from rancher Walter Cottle Lester. Now that his farmland is open to the public, the new park is a wonderful place for a family to take an enjoyable walk and breathe a breath of fresh air in the middle of San Jose.

The Rancho Santa Teresa County Historic Site and Martial Cottle Park land were all part of the one large Rancho Santa Teresa that the Bernal Family was granted in 1834 by Governor José Figueroa to José Joaquín Bernal. ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rancho\\_Santa\\_Teresa](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rancho_Santa_Teresa)). The Mexican land grant extended west from Coyote Creek to the Santa Teresa Hills, and included present day Santa Teresa Park. The 1867 official United States survey and patent awarded to Agustín Bernal in 1867 was for 9,647 acres.

"The Park is significant in local history because it has been used for agriculture in the Santa Clara Valley by the Cottle family, for approximately 150 years, extending from 1864 to the present. The property was originally part of the Jose Joaquin Bernal family's extensive Rancho Santa Teresa. In 1864 it was purchased by Edward Cottle, who later deeded 35 acres to his son, Martial Cottle. Martial Cottle used the property for cattle, grain, and row crops. Martial married Edith Cottle and had five children, including Ethel Edith Cottle who married Henry W. Lester in July, 1914. Martial eventually left the property to his daughter, Ethel Cottle Lester, who envisioned someday

preserving the land for public use in her father's name. Ethel Cottle Lester was the mother of the donor, Walter Cottle Lester, and his sister, Edith Ethel Lester." (Source: Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Archives.)

## Bear Tree Lot and Rancho Santa Teresa Historic Area Site

In each newsletter issue, FOSTP plans to give an update to the progress of the Rancho Santa Teresa Historic Area Site Plan progress. The site is located on the corner of Curie Drive and San Ignacio Avenue, across the street from Bernal Intermediate School. The draft master plans for the site show a visitor center will be constructed there.

Funding for the project took a setback this year when money set aside to build out the master plan was diverted to other County Parks projects. The park department staff recommended \$300,000 in Capital Improvement Funds to implement access trails in 2014.

This year, the Santa Clara County Park's Department Capital Improvement Fund included plans to improve the vacant lot and make trail improvements. At the last minute, the project funds for the site were scrapped. FOSTP members are looking forward to next year's budget when the county property taxes improve the parks department budget so that the project may be funded.

## Join the Friends of Santa Teresa Park

The Friends of Santa Teresa Park invite you to join the fun and help us with our family-orientated volunteer activities. We have been actively serving San Teresa County Park for over twenty years. Our goal is to help bring outdoor activities to our local community by sponsoring unique and fun activities that everyone in your family would enjoy. We have been recognized by both the City of San Jose and the County of Santa Clara. We have been awarded San Jose's CAP (Community Action and Pride) Grants to fund our activities, such as our meetings, website, and newsletters.

We are always looking for more new members to help to us support or participate with us on some of our guided interpretive trail hikes, trail maintenance projects, and public events. Also, since Santa Teresa Park has a rich early California history, we need help researching and organizing a history data bank so that we may tell the park's story of the past, as well as recording the history of the present.

One of the highlights at each FOSTP monthly meeting is Ron Horii's photography slideshow presentations. His award-winning pictures delight our members, showing wildflowers, waterfalls, trails, wildlife, and the spectacular views of the rolling hills and valleys.

Again, we encourage you to join us to help make Santa Teresa Park a real "Gem in the County Park system." FOSTP meetings are held on the first Thursday of every month at the Santa Teresa Golf Course upper banquet room. See you at our next meeting!



*This is Ron Horii's picture of the Cottle House on Snell Avenue. It won "Best of Show" at the 2014 San Jose Historic Photo Contest, sponsored by the Preservation Action Council of San Jose and the Historic Landmarks Commission of San Jose.*



## **Saving Mt. Umunhum History Hidden In Our Own Backyard**

By Sam Drake

Every day, we residents of the South Bay see a striking landmark in the mountains above us – a white rectangular tower atop Mount Umunhum. We know we are home when we see it. More than a landmark, the tower is the most visible and last remnant of an important chapter of our local history. That landmark and the history it represents are endangered. A group of local volunteers hopes to save it.

At 3,486 feet elevation, Mt. Umunhum is the fourth tallest peak in the Santa Cruz Mountains. From much of the South Bay, it appears much more prominent than that statistic would suggest. The eye is drawn to the enigmatic white tower at its peak.

During the Cold War, Mt. Umunhum was the site of the Almaden Air Force Station. The station defended the Bay Area from invasion by air. From 1958 to 1980, its powerful radar could see far out to sea, and its airmen could scramble fighters to investigate any unidentified planes that were detected. On watch 24 hours a day, the station's blanket of protection kept the Bay Area from harm.

Built in 1960, the tower was the base for the station's long range search radar antenna. The five-story tall concrete building housed the personnel and electronics to operate the radar. The 85.5 ton antenna on top spun every 10-12 seconds, searching the skies for incoming airborne threats.

From the valley floor, only the radar tower is visible, but in reality, the mountaintop contained an entire small town. The airmen and their families, including children, lived on Mt. Umunhum. The Air Force Station had barracks, apartments, playground, pool, movie theater, a PX, even a bowling alley – all the comforts of home. For the military families stationed there, it WAS home.

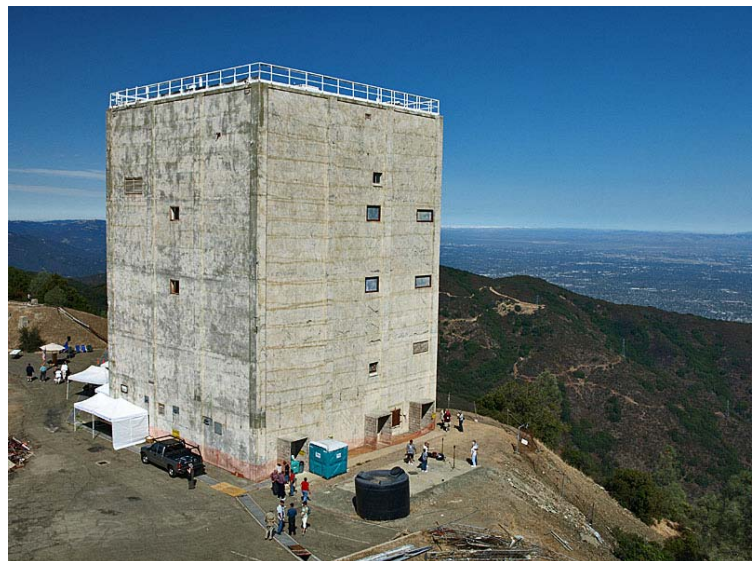
### **An Uncertain Future**

As technology advanced, and satellites and missiles became more sophisticated, ground-based radars like the one on Mt. Umunhum became less important for our nation's safety. The Air Force Station closed in 1980. The radar antenna was taken down, leaving the tower and the rest of the Station behind.

Today Mt. Umunhum is owned by the Mid-Peninsula Regional Open Space District, or "Mid-Pen". They are working to open Mt. Umunhum to the public for the first time, converting the Air Force Station into open space. All structures of the Almaden Air Force Station have been demolished, other than the radar tower. Unfortunately, the radar tower is not currently part of their plans, because Mid-Pen does not spend money on historic preservation.

At a series of rancorous public meetings in 2012, the South Bay community informed Mid-Pen's Board that the tower should not be demolished. Over two thousand people signed a petition calling for the tower to be preserved, and hundreds came to public meetings on the subject.

In October 2012, Mid-Pen's made their decision: to wait. If by 2017, "the community" could raise the approximately \$1.2 million needed to repair and restore the radar tower, it would be saved. If not, it would be demolished. The Umunhum Conservancy was founded specifically to answer that call. "Several of us who wanted to save the tower exchanged ideas and phone numbers in the audience that night," said Sam Drake. "A few days later I filed paperwork with the state to form the Umunhum Conservancy, a non-profit dedicated to preserving the radar tower." Other volunteers quickly signed on to help. Today the Conservancy's Board includes Basim Jaber, historian for the Almaden Air Force Station; Kitty Monahan, former Santa Clara County Park Commissioner; Mike Boulland, organizer of several local non-profit volunteer organizations; Chuck Berls, Founding Director of the Campbell Veterans Memorial Foundation; and Randee McQueen, whose family owns much of the property surrounding Mt. Umunhum. The goal of the Conservancy is to raise the funds necessary to preserve the Radar Tower. "The reaction we've been getting from the community is great! When we present at public events people line up to talk to us about how they can help with our efforts," said Basim Jaber. "We need to raise \$1.2 million by 2017. We need help from everyone in our community" said Kitty Monahan, the Conservancy's Secretary. "Today all of the structures of the Almaden Air Force Station are gone, other than the radar tower", said Drake. "Together we can preserve our local historical landmark for future generations."



*Radar tower on Mt. Umunhum by Ron Horii, Sept. 24, 2011*

## Muriel Wright Volunteer Center

By Mike Boulland

Have you noticed the new activity at the Muriel Wright Residential Center, which was once a juvenile detention facility? First of all the name has been changed to the Muriel Wright Center. The facility's function has also been changed to serve as a center for the 4000-plus volunteers who help serve in the county parks.

Over the last year and a half, the building has been converted to a new volunteer headquarters, managed by Gloria Gill, Program Manager, Volunteer Division. Gloria has overseen the remodeling of the center by getting support from the Americorps youth program. These young adults travel to various location and stay several weeks to give provide service to local agencies throughout the US.

These young men and women put on their work gloves to help paint, repair doors, patch walls, and move in new office equipment to make the vacant Muriel Wright building into a new Volunteer Center. They also remodeled the old building residential rooms to modern dorm rooms. The program allows the Americorps work crews to be housed at the center while they are in the San Jose area in exchange for working on projects in the County Parks.

The expanding Santa Clara County Parks Volunteer Office has needed a central place to operate due to the large numbers of volunteers who help in the parks. The building has more rooms for meetings with large groups, a small conference training room, and several staff department offices. The new facility was selected as a central location for county volunteers. Its easy access to light rail and freeways make access available to all volunteers.

FOSTP members feel the amount of funds spent by the County Parks Department was well worth it. Specifically, the funds used to restore and staff the building will be returned more than ten times in volunteer service.

FOSTP is delighted to announce that Sara Shellenbarger, a former Americorps member, has been hired as the new Volunteer Coordinator for the County of Santa



*Sara Shellenbarger (left) and Gloria Gill (right) welcome visitors to the Volunteer Center.*

Clara Parks and Recreation department. We welcome Sara to Santa Teresa Park and our neighborhood.

If you would like to volunteer in the parks, we encourage you to check in at the Muriel Wright Volunteer Center in Santa Teresa Park off of Bernal Road. They always could use a hand, especially in the office or outdoors in one of your favorite parks.

## Santa Teresa Park: A Perfect Venue for Cross Country Competitions

by Roxanne Koopman

Hikers in the South San Jose community love to visit Santa Teresa Park because of its multi-use trails and breath-taking views. However, many people don't know that for the past couple of years, the park has been the venue of the Oak Grove School District Cross Country meet. This year, on September 18th, 2014, approximately 180 runners from Bernal, Davis, and Herman Middle schools will be running the challenging 2.2-mile rugged course beginning and ending at the Pueblo picnic area.

Sue Briscoe, a Bernal Middle School Cross Country Coach, concurs that having this running event in a park nearby shows them and their family that there is a place so beautiful and accessible to them right in their own backyard.



*2013 cross country meet at Santa Teresa's Pueblo Area*



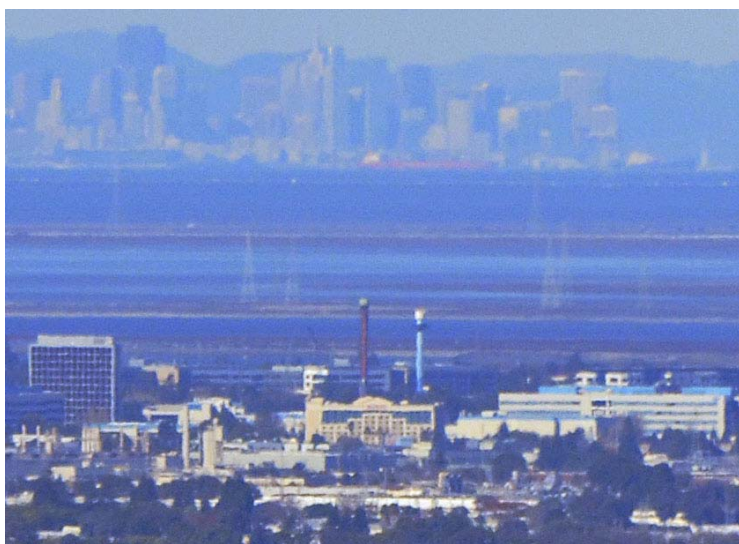
## On a Clear Day You Can See 70 Miles Away [Cont'd.]

color photograph. The photo was taken on clear day that allowed photographer Ron Horii to capture the distant skyscrapers of the City of San Francisco and the top of Mt Tamalpais. One photograph shows faintly the towers of the Golden Gate Bridge.

Our members encourage you to hike up the Coyote Peak Trail to the top of the 1,155 foot hill and enjoy one of the best views in the Bay Area. While you're there, try to identify the changes to the landscape by comparing the picture of the view taken in 2011 to the current view.



*View from Coyote Peak of Martial Cottle Park, Communications Hill, downtown San Jose, Mineta San Jose Airport, Santa Clara, downtown San Francisco, Mt. Tamalpais. (2011)*



*Zoom-in view from Coyote Peak of the buildings around Great America theme park in Santa Clara, San Francisco Bay, the Dumbarton and San Mateo bridges, ships on the Bay, downtown San Francisco skyscrapers. (2011)*

## New Rangers and promotions

By Mike Boulland

### Senior Ranger Aniko Millan

Our FOSTP board members were surprised with the news that Senior Ranger Aniko Millan decided to change positions in the parks department. Senior Ranger Millan has a long tradition with Santa Teresa Park. She was part of the original Santa Clara County Parks' Mounted Ranger Unit, who were stationed at the Buck Norred Ranch site in Santa Teresa Park. When the Mounted Ranger Unit was disbanded, she transferred her duties to become a regular park ranger. It did not take long for her to show excellent leadership abilities to find solutions to problems, and she moved up to become Santa Teresa's Senior Ranger. As a top Senior Ranger in the department, she was promoted to Park Supervising Ranger of Region 2. FOSTP members want to congratulate and recognize Ranger Millan for a job well done and are thankful we are in Park Region 2. We are saddened to see her leave her position at Santa Teresa Park as she made a difference in getting more recreation events at the park. Specifically, she was responsible for introducing evening "Movies in the Park" and "Family Camp Out" events at Santa Teresa Park's Pueblo Day Use Area.

FOSTP President, Mike Boulland, said "Senior Ranger Aniko Millan is a remarkable ranger who listens to her staff and community volunteers and finds solutions to resolve concerns ahead of time. FOSTP members who have worked with her in the past will miss her quick humor and a true good "Friend" of Santa Teresa Park."

### Senior Ranger Phillip Hearin

On the other hand, FOSTP is excited about welcoming on board Senior Ranger Phillip Hearin, who is taking over the position Aniko Millan left. We are delighted to welcome Phillip Hearin as our new Senior Ranger at Santa Teresa Park. He has worked his way up through the department and is looking forward to working at keeping Santa Teresa Park safe for all its park guests.

Kitty Monahan, president of the New Almaden Quicksilver County Park Association says, "I worked with him at Almaden Quicksilver County Park, and he is wonderful. He enjoys working with the public and gets a lot done." She said that one of Senior Ranger Hearin's best assets is that he is known for taking an interest in community events and projects. As a result, FOSTP members are looking forward to working with him on future projects. In fact, FOSTP new interpretive sign project on top of Coyote Peak would not have happened so quickly without his approval and support.

Join our Yahoo Group:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/FoSTP/>

Visit our website:

<http://www.stpfriends.org>