

FALL
ISSUE
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The Antler

By and for the community of Deerhorn Valley
A Project of the Deerhorn Valley Community Association
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HOW WILL YOU STAY IN TOUCH DURING THE NEXT WILDFIRE? Emergency Communication in the Age of Twitter

Starting with the Upper Deerhorn Fire on July 19, we followed (with stomachs clenched) the Monte Vista, Cowboy, Honey Springs and Border wildfires. As a fire-surviving community, we all have a heightened awareness of what those smoke plumes can mean. Radio and television aren't reliable sources for early notification to the backcountry. We need good information and we need it EARLY; this comes down to depending upon ourselves to locate as many information resources as possible— and share them.

ENTER SOCIAL MEDIA: With suggestions and encouragement from Capt. Nick Schuler and Chief John Kremensky of CalFire/RuralFD, Deerhorn Valley is taking its first steps into the world of social media by setting up Twitter, Blogspot, and Facebook websites. These have a different purpose than does DeerhornValley.net. They are fast, easy to upload with a cell phone, and (MOST IMPORTANT) people can share information back and forth, even if the "webmaster" isn't around.

IN A DISASTER, a lot will go wrong. During last month's Boulder CO wildfire, the Reverse 911 system crashed. Twitter became the primary backup system that notified residents to evacuate.

Locate your information sources NOW. Below are some suggestions. They won't work for everyone, but all we need is a core group to start with, and the willingness to get word out to neighbors and friends.

INTERNET, SMART-PHONES & CELLS: If you have a cell phone or internet you can be part of the communication chain during evacuation or disaster. When you get information pass it on to via DeerhornValley links.

- ✓ <http://DEERHORNVALLEY.blogspot.com>
- ✓ <http://Twitter.com/DEERHORNVALLEY>

INTERNET: Bookmark the DV and CalFire sites so you can get to them quickly. Sites change, but these are the ones that have been most helpful during this year's wildfires:

- ✓ <http://Twitter.com/CALFIRESANDIEGO>
- ✓ <http://CALFIRESANDIEGO.blogspot.com>

GET A TWITTER ACCOUNT and add DEERHORNVALLEY, CALFIRESANDIEGO and VIEJASALERTS to your Follow List.

REGISTER YOUR EMAIL FOR WILDFIRE ALERTS:

- ✓ <http://EastCountyMagazine.com>

IF YOU HAVE A SCANNER - RADIO you are the angels we need. Amateur radio operators can access much more information and can inform the rest of us via the Deerhorn Twitter, Blog. The more eyes and ears we have, the safer we are.



HPWREN HI-RES CAMERAS (Lyons Peak) Another link you should have ready is to the hi-resolution cameras atop Lyons Peak. From that view you can see smoke plumes and estimate the location and distance. (Sunrises are pretty too!) The south and east cameras give the best views of our area:

- ✓ <http://hpwren.ucsd.edu/cameras/LyonsPeak.html>

NEED HELP? Below is a link to step-by-step illustrated instructions for setting up a Twitter account (online) and activating your cell phone to receive text alerts. If you do nothing else, do this... If you don't have a text message plan for your cell, then make sure you register your email for Wildfire Alerts from East County Magazine.

No system is perfect. Power may be out. Not everyone will have a generator backup. It may come down to few individuals who relay information. But if each of us becomes part of the communication web, everyone is safer and better informed.

<http://www.deerhornvalley.net/TwitterCellAlerts.pdf>



MISS THE ANIMAL EVACUATION PROGRAM?

You can download the handout we received at the presentation at DeerhornValley.net Look for the link on the opening page.

**NO
ANIMAL
LEFT
BEHIND!**



CONNECT WITH DEERHORN VALLEY...

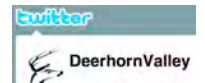


DEERHORNVALLEY.NET Our "magazine." Here you'll find articles, upcoming events, a little history and Deerhorn culture. Updated a couple of times monthly.



DEERHORNVALLEY.BLOGSPOT.COM Our web-log or "blog." Here's where to find details and photos as events take place. Comments appreciated.

TWITTER.COM/DEERHORNVALLEY Short "tweets" are like telegrams; quick and to the point. Good for alerts!



facebook

OUR FACEBOOK PAGE: An online place to meet during an evacuation, emergency, or just to say hi. You need a FB account, but that's it. Go to Facebook.com and search for Deerhorn-Valley. You'll see the Welcome Sign!

by Kim Hamilton

YELLOW JACKETS... -by Rob Deason



YELLOW JACKETS! Often called “meat bees” from their notorious invasion of your BBQ, are actually wasps, and yes, they eat meat . . . cheese too. If you are outdoors and see one or two around, often pestering your dog at mealtime, there are *hundreds* nearby and it's time to trap. They'll barge in, scout your plate, find a tender corner on your steak or burger, nibble off a BB-sized chunk and take off with it... They'll be back to join the ten that gathered while you watched, and – A WARNING – the one that sneaked down into your sugary soda and is waiting with a surprise!

GOOD NEWS... Dealing with yellow jackets is easy! The week before your BBQ, hang out wasp traps . . . Believe me, they work! In three to five days of diligent trapping the invaders will be on high only watching your party!

THE TRAP... Wasp traps are typically transparent, yellow, and (when baited) attract yellow jackets inside. After nibbling a chunk of the bait, they climb up the inside of a tall cone that diminishes to their body size. When they “exit” to go home, they find themselves imprisoned to their demise.

WARNING... Traps come with a little plastic ampoule of chemical “attractant.” Don't use it! Yes it works, but evaporates overnight, and it is so vile and pungent that a drop touching your finger or kitchen counter will stink all day, and if you don't wash your hands surgically, when you go to bed you'll remain awake... and alone.

SOFT DOG FOOD! Buy a can of Costco's Kirkland Lamb & Rice or Pedigree's from Albertsons— anything with a 'meaty' flavor, the softer and juicier, the better. I've tried a chunk of meat, but it spoils too quickly and the yellow jackets don't like it. There's no spoiled food at a BBQ. Dog food lasts about three days. All you need is a teaspoonful placed loosely in the round bait holder inside, then use the back of the spoon to smear some around the inside of the outer container near vent holes. Hang the trap in the open wind, higher than your dog can jump, and wait one hour. Yellow jackets respond quickly, and if you don't have at least ten inside, the wind isn't in your favor or the trap should be moved. One time I had a trap half full in two hours – at least 300.

RE-BAIT... Each wasp takes a little food before it enters the no-way-out room, so the trap needs to be re-baited every other day, or whenever there are no more live critters inside – which could also indicate that you got them all! I empty ours early in the morning when the trapped ones are dead, and before the morning rush. I pour them down a gopher hole – if I can find one – then wash the trap and replenish it.

Hint: Buy two traps and set them fifty feet apart. You may find one works well, the other, gimpily. Move them to where they work and keep it up until the critters are gone. Expect a couple of half-full catches for two days, then diminishing for a few days, indicating you probably did them in. Happy trapping.



SWAPMEET AT THE OLD DEERHORN LODGE!

**SATURDAY OCT. 9TH
8AM - 2PM
ELENA LN @ DEERHORN VALLEY RD**

This is the real thing: An Old-Fashioned, Everyone Get Together, Swap Meet! Clean out that garage, attic, or basement and bring your items down to swap or sell. Have some items you'd like to donate? You can drop them off at the DV Community Association Table. They'll sell them, and give you a tax deductible

AROUND & ABOUT... Neighbor News

WELCOME NEW NEIGHBORS! Paul & Terri Turner ... Paul is an “old Jamulian” and a contractor who builds everything but specializes in straw bale construction, including some residences here in Deerhorn Valley. He's also an avid hiker and rock-climber. Wife Terri has a real passion for healthy backyard gardening and healthful foods. **Francine Garnett** just moved to Deerhorn. She wants to link up with others interested in native plant “gardening.” She'll be at the Native Plant Society Sale in Balboa Park on October 16. Stop, say hi, and give her a Deerhorn Welcome!

OUR COMMUNITY CHIPPER/SHREDDER HAS ARRIVED! This is a state-of-the-art unit that will play a big part in making Deerhorn more fire-safe. Our thanks to **Tom Lamb** and the **Outer Jamul FireSafe Council!**

CONGRATULATIONS TO MICHAEL LUMPKIN, longtime Deerhorn Valley neighbor, who was appointed by Pres. Obama as Senior Advisor to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs in Washington, DC. He works directly for Secretary Eric Shinseki (former Chief of Staff of the Army) on veteran issues including healthcare and improved support for returning vets. Michael is a former Navy SEAL Commander and an Iraq/Afghanistan veteran. Wife **Jill Powell** says she is feeling very much like the former active duty Navy wife, keeping a running “Honey Do” list for those stolen weekends when he makes it home to Deerhorn. “Thank goodness!” she sighs, “The house remodel is complete and it's down to maintenance work. I'm keeping busy like most residents trapping squirrels and gophers, trimming trees and shrubs, repairing sprinklers...”

2010 DEERHORN VALLEY HONEY won Second Place at the San Diego County Fair! *Fire & Rain* was the name given to this year's harvest by beekeepers **Kim Hamilton & Rob Deason**. Some thirty entries were judged on aroma, taste, and clarity.

DUBE VINEYARDS on **Honey Springs Road** is a small family winery, but they received accolades on their 2008 Cabernet Franc. It was selected as one of the top eight wines featured at Bernardo Winery during September (Wine Month.) It went head-to-head against wines from all over the county. Love the deer antlers on the label, too!

SANDRA IGNOSCI was selected as a reader of names of firefighters and other emergency responders who died in the line of duty on 9-11. The moving ceremony took place aboard the **USS Midway on September 11**. Next year she hopes to recruit a contingent from Deerhorn Valley to participate in the ceremony honoring these heroes.

PEG HANCE is recruiting volunteers for the **Tax-Aide Program**. The two-week training takes place in January, followed by an IRS test for certification. Peg has been providing this service for years to the homebound, physically challenged, elderly, and others who need help with tax forms. Volunteers work one day a week as part of a team (nobody's thrown to the dogs!!). Anyone interested in learning more about the program can give Peg a call at 619-988-0222.

DEERHORN FIRE STATION #37 is currently staffed with the highest level of manpower we've ever seen. The recent remodel created sleeping quarters and added air-conditioning, providing comfortable digs for our on-duty firefighters. Thank you, guys, for being here!

THE NEW FIRE STATION AND RFPD HEADQUARTERS on Hwy 94 held their Grand Opening last month. **Ariele Johansson** attended along with several other DV'ers. She took some great photos and interviewed some of our local firefighting heroes. You can read her full article on <http://DeerhornValley.net>. Thanks, Ariele, and everyone!

receipt. What doesn't sell they'll take to the Goodwill. Lots of sellers with equipment, tools, jellies, spices, gifts, solar tubes, tires, DV t-shirts, afghans, and a lot more!

SELLERS:

Give **Anne Evosevich** a call at 466-7415

BUYERS:

Just come on down!



RODENT WRANGLING

-by Kim Hamilton

When we moved to our Deerhorn home almost thirty years ago, **Jim & Betty Love** left us the tools they thought would be helpful for a couple of city-folk: tractor, weed whacker, chainsaw... and gopher traps. I took one look at those traps, labeled them as inhumane-- and tossed them, You all know the ending to this story: after three fig trees fell over, and my first garden disappeared –plant by plant– off I headed to **Simpson's** for more traps. I had SO much to learn.



GOPHERS and I have battled for 27 years now. I pride myself that they are fairly well under control, and I've become a pretty good trapper (I call it "feeding the hawks.")



BUT THEN CAME THE SQUIRRELS... Not the cute tree squirrels of family camping memories. GRRRRR...OUND squirrels: carriers of plague, chewers of sprinkler heads and irrigation lines, burrowers and underminers of oaks, woodpiles, fences, foundations and roadways. And they have arrived by the dozens and dozens.

IT WAS TIME FOR ME TO PLAY PREDATOR... Coyotes and hawks have started to return post-fire, but they cannot keep up with our resident rodents. The squirrel population has reproduced without shame since emerging to a fire-scarred land without predators. It was definitely my time to step forward and take on that role... and restore a little balance to **Elena Lane**.

At first (please don't laugh), I caught them one-at-a-time in a Hav-A-Hart trap and relocated them. Not only is this illegal-- but I'm sure I saw the same little squirrel faces laughing at me the next day. (A previous *Antler* article told of **Emily Bennett** spray-painting them yellow just to prove to Floyd that his squirrel-relocation plan wasn't working!)

Last summer **Jim Norton** lent me his pellet gun. Between the trapping and shooting, I "dispatched" 47 squirrels.

Seemed like a lot of squirrels, but it didn't even make a dent. Then a Mother Grundy friend sent a photo of 16 (SIXTEEN!) squirrels caught in her Squirrel-N-Ator. You bet I went right down to **Jamul Hardware** and got mine... complete with "dunking tray." I've now dispatched about 80... and I **think** I might be noticing fewer of them cavorting about the property. Maybe.

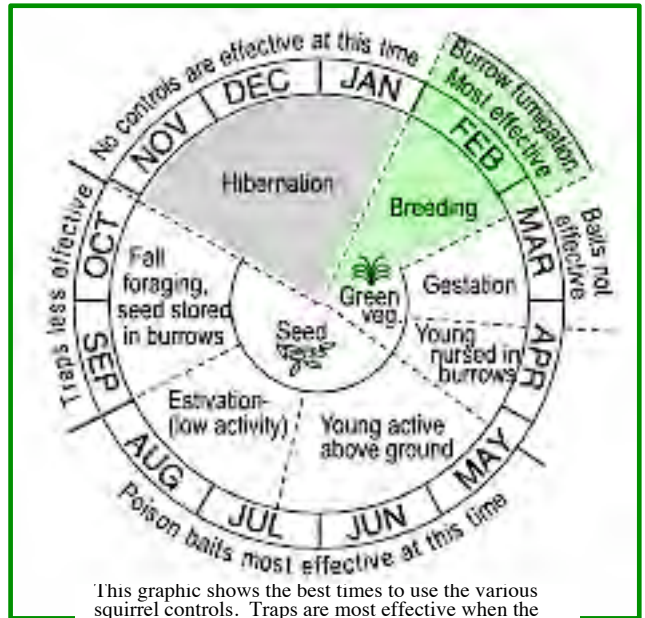
BEST PRACTICES: It turns out that there are some actual "best practices" for dealing with ground squirrels. The three main methods are effective at different times in the year, so pay attention:

FUMIGATION... Start EARLY !

January and February are the breeding months, and fumigating the burrows with a gas bomb is most effective then. The fumigators look like small sticks of dynamite and go by names like Giant Destroyer. Squirrels have extensive tunnels, so cover as many entrances as possible, and use two sticks. (Old timers tell me they accomplish the same thing with car exhaust, but I can't vouch for either effectiveness or legality.)

POISON BAIT... We've never poisoned, being too fearful or harming our dogs or other critters that might pick up a carcass. But there are "safer" ways to do it, and special baits pose less danger to pets and wildlife. **DO NOT USE** anything with brodifacoum, bromadiolone or difethialone (like D-Con). These can kill in a single feeding, and the poison remains in the carcass posing a danger to secondary feeders: hawks, vultures, coyotes, dogs, cats, etc. D-Con and related poisons are designed for indoor areas and are illegal (and dangerous) to use in open spaces.

The San Diego Dept. of Agriculture, Weights and Measures provides rodent bait for rats, squirrels and mice with diphacinone (anticoagulant) **at cost**. It is available at the Main Office in Kearny Mesa (5555 Overland Ave, Suite 3101 858-694-2739.) Use a bait station to protect other animals. The squirrels must feed on the grain over a period of a week or more. But you still need to keep pets away, check the areas frequently, and remove and dispose of any carcasses (use gloves).



This graphic shows the best times to use the various squirrel controls. Traps are most effective when the squirrels have turned to feeding on seed, starting as soon as our grasses begin to dry-- around March.

TRAPPING is certainly the safest, and most satisfying control. The Squirrel-N-Ator Live Trap really works. I place it near an active area, bait it with birdseed, and place some small logs and brush on top. The squirrels push their way in through a one-way door to feed. I've trapped 5-6 at a time regularly. One of the cashiers at Jamul Hardware swears her grandmother caught 30 at one time.



I can only dream. It comes with a plastic "dunking tray" (enough said) for around \$60. Put them out for the hawks.

RESOURCES

- UC-DAVIS: Ground Squirrels <http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES/pn7438.html>
- UC: BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES: <http://groups.ucanr.org/GSBMP/index.cfm>
- RODENTICIDES: <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/education/rodenticide/>

"GRISLY" DISCOVERY ON MOTHER GRUNDY TRUCK TRAIL...

-by Arielle Johansson

PEPSIS WASPS: This formal name and the more common "tarantula hawk" give clues to the insect and its survival. This artistically colored creature here is shown pollinating a tall plant in the milkweed family along **Mother Grundy Truck Trail**. (Can any of you identify the bush for us?) The tarantula serves as host for the pepsis wasp babies. First the insect stings the spider. The paralyzed spider becomes the nutrition for the wasplings and stays alive until they are ready to munch it down. What parents won't do for their offspring!



WARNING: For all their beauty and docile nature, the sting of the Pepsis is the most painful of all winged insect stings; the pain only lasts for a few minutes— but is pure agony. It has been described as "Immediate, blinding, fierce, and shockingly electric pain that simply shuts down one's ability to do anything, except, perhaps, scream."



This event is brought to you as a community service by the Deerhorn Valley Community Association

SUNDAY, OCTOBER

3 ~ 2:00 PM

Bring the family to **The Red Barn** next to DV Fire Station #37! Nancy Conney, of SkyHunters.org, is a recognized expert on raptors.

She'll bring some of these magnificent hawks, owls and falcons for us to see and learn about. This will be UP CLOSE & PERSONAL, so it's not recommended for dogs or very young children; crying and barking are unsettling to the birds.

There's limited seating— so you might want to bring your own chair(s). A Porta-Potty will be available.



The presentation will last approximately one hour and then time for questions, up close looks, and photos.

**Limited Seating
Bring a Chair!**



Parking is close, handicapped spaces are available... There is a nice shaded patio to watch from. The DVCA will have water, drinks, and an information table with community and fire information.

This is a return visit for one of the most-remembered events in the Valley. SEE YOU THERE!

AUTUMN ...Through the Years

SEPTEMBER 4, 1974 – The Deerhorn Valley Volunteer Fire Department (DVVFD) forms and receives their original emergency equipment: a Coast Triple Action Pumper. The DVVFD will be housed in the **Payne Family's** barn.

1975 – The **Ladies' Auxiliary** forms to support our Volunteers

1997 – DVVFD moves to the **Bennett's** on Deerhorn Valley Rd.

1979 – DVVFD moves to the **Jacob's** on Honey Springs Rd.

1984 – DV community fundraising buys a '75 Ford Attack pumper.

1987– The search for land for a **real** fire station ends when the **Jacob Family** gifts a parcel on **Honey Springs**. Fundraising for a permanent Fire Station-Community Center begins.

SEPTEMBER 1993 –**Paul and Dianne Jacob** cut the cake at the dedication of the new fire station (photo on right).

SEPTEMBER 2003 – Deerhorn turns out to honor the services of the DVVFD led by CSZ President **Michael Lumpkin**, Sup. **Dianne Jacob**, and **Steve Dillon** of the DV Auxiliary. DV Capt. **Troy Morrison** awards **Joe Ashman** "Firefighter of the Year."

SEPTEMBER 2006 – The new DV fire engine shows itself at the Swap Meet at the **McKinley's DV Lodge**. **Capt. Deede** picked it up and drove it back from Louisiana.

SEPTEMBER 2007– Deerhorn Valley Ice Cream Social complete with ice cream, old-fashioned root beer floats, fresh-popped corn and a Family Movie. Held at the **Lyons Valley Trading Post**.

This was our last community event before the Harris Fire began on October 21, 2007.



DEERHORN VALLEY BUSINESSES & CLASSIFIED

BEACON HILL LLAMA FARM

Dr. Ruth Baak www.llamajeans.com
Visitors Welcome – Call for Appt .
(619) 468-3074 ~ (760) 715-6644



DUBÉ VINEYARDS

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info@dubevineyards.com

ALL STAR COMPUTERS

Web Design, PC & Laptop Repair – Tutoring
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info@allstarcomps.com

MARY KAY

Ariele Johannson, Ind. Consultant
(619) 916-7634
www.marykay.com/arielej

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Seasonal~ Special Events~ Birthdays
(619) 820-6881 – (Mother Grundy)
mountngrl@wilddbblue.net

SPURGEON WELL & PUMP

Mike Spurgeon, Owner
(619) 248-1787
Honey Springs Road



DH TRACTOR #858816

Dave Hradecky - **468-3890** - Honey Springs Rd.
Heavy brushing- Dozing- Def. Space- Excavation

BARRICADE FIRE-BLOCKING GEL

Tom Lamb, Distributor
(619) 463-8408 (619) 985-0178 (cell)
Tom@FireGelSystems.net



BLIND JUSTICE

Home Inspect'ns, Tree Removal & Chimney Svc.
(619) 820-4188 Bjustice4u@gmail.com

CASTLE CONSTRUCTION

17946 Sierra Cielo 619-654-0559
Remodel, Tenant Improvement, New Const.
Marco Alvarez, General Contractor #876131

TNT CUSTOM BUILDERS Lic #947889

Paul & Terri Turner
18569 Deerhorn Valley Rd.
(619) 468-0042 or (619) 818-5176

JAMUL & BEYOND...

J&L WATER TRUCKIN'

(619) 669-3888



Joe Jeffers Larry Baldwin
(619) 733-3388 (619) 807-8701
\$95 for 2500 gallons

REAL ESTATE RESULTS



(619) 669-6622
Vicki Beers ~ Marcia Spurgeon
(619) 733-3388 (619) 807-870

Classified ads for businesses located in Deerhorn Valley are free as space permits. For other area businesses we humbly request a donation of \$25 per issue. Contact Kim or Ariele:

theantler@deerhornvalley.net or 468-3218

*Your ad contributions helps us cover costs.
Thanks!*

The Deerhorn Valley Community Association was founded in 1987 and is a registered 501c3 non-profit organization EIN# 0338797. All donations are tax-deductible.

Classifieds: Please notify us by email if you wish your listing to run again. Space is becoming limited!

