



THE

Highlander

Nov./Dec. 2022

The Rural Bonny Doon Association Newsletter

RBDA Virtual Public Meeting

Water on the Mountain

Local Water Experts Answer Your Questions

Wednesday November 16, 7:30 p.m. - Virtual Video Conference Meeting

With the Monterey Bay area at D2 level Severe Drought, and with the CZU fire and the changing climate, we in Bonny Doon have concerns about our wells and the quality of our water. How will this natural resource be impacted by continued drought, fire and changing rainfall patterns? Please join the RBDA for a panel discussion about water in Bonny Doon. Three local authorities will answer your questions about well maintenance, drilling and the geology that makes it all work.

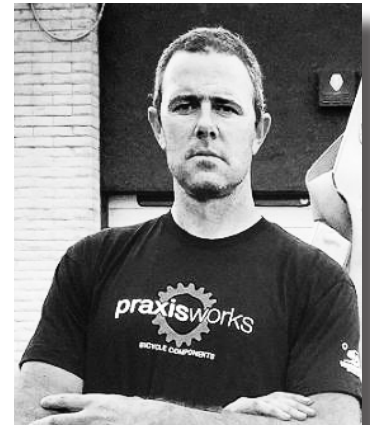
Aaron Bierman is the principal of Bierman Hydro-geo-logic. He earned his B.A. in Earth Sciences from UCSC in 1994 and became a professional licensed hydrogeologist in 2005. He is an expert in water resource management, catchment-and-basin size hydrogeologic and long-term sustainable water supply analysis, fractured hard rock structural controlled groundwater flow, and has served as an expert witness in hydrogeologic discrepancies in relation to groundwater resources, well feasibility and groundwater quantity and quality.



Aaron Lingemann

Aaron Lingemann is a third-generation Bonny Doon water well driller who has been drilling for 30+ years. Under Aaron's leadership, Earth Flow Drilling became the first water well drilling company in the United States to purchase a state of the art Versa-Drill V2000, a rig capable of drilling very deep wells (500 feet and more) and has also maintained Earth Flow Drilling's long reputation as dedicated, personable and hard-working.

Justin Robinson follows his dad's lead as the principal of Tom's Well Service, servicing wells in Bonny Doon since 1978. He is also a Category 1 Master's cyclocross racer. For many years, he was the dominant rider in local cyclocross and mountain biking racing, with many top-



Justin Robinson

Virtual Meeting Participation

Zoom (zoom.us) is a video conference platform that is free to use through either a web browser or application, and audio participation is possible through a dial-up connection on your phone. For this meeting, we will be utilizing all the available security features, including password-protection and waiting rooms managed by the host. Zoom Meeting Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82820780383>

Bonny Doon Cell Tower Community Meeting

On September 8, CTI Towers and AT&T held a zoom meeting for the Bonny Doon Community to present and get feedback on their proposal for a new cell tower on Upper Summit Rd. CTI, as the owner of the property and the proposed tower, is preparing an application to submit to the Santa Cruz County Planning Department and AT&T will be the first tenant.

The new tower will be on the same site as an existing tower. AT&T reviewed other sites and chose this one because it provides the largest increase in coverage area. Additionally, this site has existing equipment and shelters that can be modified. The tower will be 150 feet tall, 80 feet higher than the current one, to get it above the tree line for better coverage. The tower can also house multiple carriers, reducing the need for each carrier to have its own tower.

The tower is designed to replicate a tree commonly known as a "monopine," so it blends in better with the surrounding environment. Its placement is such that it will not be visible from most vantage points. CTI has added a

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UCSC Loses Legal Battle Over Water, Sewer Service for Upper Campus

When the Board of Regents agreed in the early 1960s to develop a new UC in Santa Cruz, they negotiated two contracts that obligated the City of Santa Cruz to provide the campus with water and sewer service. Forty-something years later, when UCSC wanted to extend the campus outside the City limits, to the undeveloped North Campus, the City Council, the county Board of Supervisors and community groups (including the RBDA) battled UCSC over whether those contracts required the City to provide water and sewer services without first getting approval from the Local Agency Formation Committee (LAFCO), a State agency within each county that has authority over utility agencies like the Santa Cruz Water District.

The battle was significant because if LAFCO turned down the expansion applications for North Campus water and sewer services, UCSC couldn't build on the pristine upper campus, in Bonny Doon.

The legal battle over UCSC growth eventually resulted in a Comprehensive Settlement Agreement (CSA) in 2008 that required a service expansion application to LAFCO. That application was fought over for a few years, and finally was withdrawn when the recession kept UCSC from getting the funding it needed for all the North Campus buildings and infrastructure. However, it didn't keep UCSC from growing its enrollment, which has resulted in overcrowded classrooms and other facilities, students often being unable to get the classes they need to graduate on time, and UCSC from turning all its student lounges into dorm rooms. The overall result was a reduced quality of education and campus life.

Fast forward to 2022, and the expiration of the CSA as UCSC approved a new Long Range Development Plan overwhelmingly, once again, planned on the North Campus. To try to avoid the possible LAFCO roadblock, UCSC sought to legally establish that the 1962 and 1965 water contracts applied to the whole UCSC campus. State courts recently disagreed, so once again, it will be up to LAFCO whether UCSC's massive development plans will again be thwarted.

Meanwhile, the City and County of Santa Cruz have been in extended negotiations with UCSC in a legal battle to force the university to provide on-campus housing for all its new students (enrollment is projected to grow by 8,500 by 2040), as well as a portion of the expanded faculty and staff. Upcoming elections that will change the makeup of both the Board of Supervisors and the City Council will influence those negotiations. The suit challenging the planned campus growth is still winding its way through the court system. The RBDA is not a party to that suit but hopes that it is successful both to protect the fragile North Campus environment and to keep the university out of Bonny Doon and eliminating the long-standing County Urban Services Boundary, which keeps Bonny Doon rural.

The huge growth of UCSC has been one of the two main factors making Santa Cruz now the second least-affordable place in the U.S. to live. The recent purchase of the big Hilltop Apartments complex on Western Drive by a university related entity illustrates that UCSC's role in accelerating rents will continue unabated.

Bonny Doon Cell Tower Community Meeting

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generator to the site to continue operation during power outages. The shelter on the site will be modified to include treatments to minimize noise during these outages.

CTI has done its due diligence in terms of health and safety. The site and tower meet all current legal requirements, the company says. According to their site map, most of the expansion of the coverage area will be primarily in upper Bonny Doon extending down to an area just below the intersection of Pine Flat and Empire Grade

The biggest surprise came when AT&T stated that with the installation of the new tower it would be removing the temporary cell tower at the McDermott Fire Station at the intersection of Felton Empire and Empire Grade. This was bad news given that this temporary tower, which was erected on an emergency basis during the CZU fire, serves a good portion of lower Bonny Doon, including the most heavily traveled portion of Empire Grade. Dooners expressed their strong objections and concerns to this news since the temporary tower's removal would result in the loss of service to current customers who would not be served by the new tower. Community members argued that building the new tower, while losing the temporary tower, would result in a net loss of service coverage to Bonny Doon.

However, there is good news. Given all the concerns voiced by the Bonny Doon community, AT&T has now advised that they will not be removing the temporary tower at the fire station. In addition, they are looking for a long-term solution for continuing and improving cell service for lower Bonny Doon.

CTI and AT&T are moving ahead with the application as planned with their proposal for the tower on Upper Summit. We do not know exactly when the plan will be submitted to the county, but we have been told we'll be notified when they do.

DIY Remote-Control External Sprinkler System Supplied by Well Water

By RBDA Chair David Rubin

In the 22 years that we've been living in Bonny Doon, we left home 4 times to avoid breathing smoke, most recently in August 2020, the day before the CZU fire reached our neighborhood on Thayer Road. We appreciated the efforts of our neighbors and other firefighters who kept an eye on our house and neighborhood while we were gone. I expect we will evacuate in future fires and won't be home to help with firefighting, so this article is my attempt to help the community by passing along what I've learned while developing a fire sprinkler system to protect our home in our expected absence.

Before focusing on the sprinkler system, we did many fire-hardening projects: removing gutters and replacing them with drip-edge flashing; covering 200 vents with finer mesh screen; replacing 700 square ft. of decking adjacent to the house with concrete patio; covering the bottom 4 ft. of posts with stucco; replacing the bottom foot of siding with cement board at ground level and where second-story walls meet the roof; and trimming trees and shrubs near the house.

Summary of sprinkler system

After our fire-hardening work, we installed an exterior sprinkler system that we can turn on and off remotely. It relies on multiple power sources (PG&E, generator, and back-up batteries), multiple communication systems (Comcast cable and connection to the AT&T cell tower in Davenport), a video camera to watch the scene at home, and underground piping from the well-water source to sprinkler risers. If our 500-gallon propane tank is half full (as low as we like it to get), the system can deliver about 45,000 gallons of water to the house and adjacent 50 ft. of ground surrounding the house, and over 125 hours of operation (either continuous or spread over a longer time). The article details how the sprinkler system works—in perhaps too much detail for most readers—but it is provided to aid people who might want similar systems. Some of the electrical parts are surprisingly inexpensive; for example, the 2-channel wi-fi relay that controls the generator and sprinklers remotely costs \$17.

Editor's Note: The rest of this article which provides full details of the system including a full parts list is available on the RBDA website at www.rbda.us/November2022Highlander/DIY-RC-ExternalSprinkler.pdf. We are unable to publish it in full here due to its length.

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RBDA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Yearly dues are \$20/pp or \$15/pp for multiple members at same address.

Memberships expire on Jan. 31 of the next year. *

Number of Members _____ Number of years you are joining or renewing for _____

Multiply years times number of memberships. Checks only, please, made out to RBDA.

Amount enclosed for dues: \$ _____

I also wish to support the RBDA with an additional contribution of \$ _____

Total amount of enclosed check \$ _____

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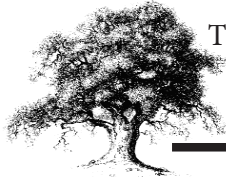
I certify that I (we) live or own property in the Bonny Doon Planning District.

Clip out and mail to RBDA, P.O. Box 551, Felton, CA 95018.

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your voice for keeping
Bonny Doon rural
and natural.

Additional contributions
are gladly accepted and
greatly appreciated!

*Dues paid after Nov. 30
count toward the next year.



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Bonny Doon's voice in preserving our special quality of life, The Highlander, is mailed free 6 times a year. RBDA Public Meetings are usually held the second Wednesdays of January, March, May, September and November. We encourage you to participate. Send correspondence to The Highlander at the above address.

Access the RBDA on the Internet at:

www.rbda.us

E-mail us at:

board@rbda.us

Facebook (RBDA Members Only):

RBDA, Rural Bonny Doon Association

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**Bonny Doon Resident
Santa Cruz, CA 95060**

November 16th RBDA Public Meeting: Water on the Mountain

RBDA Board Nominations at Nov. 16 Meeting

The RBDA turns 65 this year, but your board has no intentions of retiring, as critical issues continue to develop that could have major impacts on Bonny Doon: fire safety and protection, improving cell and internet services, easing of regulations on second housing units, UCSC expanding up Empire Grade, effects of climate change, responsible management of the many acres of now preserved lands that we fought so hard to protect, road maintenance, the possible placement of a "sexually violent predator.

All these are issues that your RBDA Board continues to work on. To be at our most effective, we need a constant infusion of new people to serve on our Board. At the November 16 meeting candidates for the board's expiring 2-year terms (four this year) are nominated, and the election takes place at the January RBDA public meeting.

Three of the present Board officers are planning to run for re-election, so we need at least one Dooner committed to serving our community to step up. The three present Board members who plan to run again are Martin Burmeister, who is currently the Highlander Editor, Laurie Taylor, the Membership Coordinator, and Eric Hoffman, who was recently appointed to fill out the short remaining term of Andy Davidson, our long-serving chair who decided to step down in September because his already busy schedule became even more demanding of his time. The Board appointed long-time Dooner Eric Hoffman to fill the remainder of his term, and Eric will be running for a full 2-year term in January.

We will greatly miss Andy, who accomplished a great deal in his time on the Board, including updating our website, rbda.us, and wish him success in his many endeavors. We will also greatly miss Lisa Ortiz, who has decided, reluctantly, not to run again. Lisa was the glue that held the Board together, arranging our public meeting programs, and organizing our schedule and our Zoom meetings.

If you wish to serve on the Board, or want to learn more about what is involved, contact us at board@rbda.us.