



THE

# Highlander

Jan./Feb. 2020

The Rural Bonny Doon Association Newsletter

## ***It's Time to Renew Your RBDA Membership, or Join the RBDA***

*Please...we can't do it  
without you!*

Inside this edition of The Highlander is a postage-paid envelope that you can use to send in your dues. Just fill in your personal info on the envelope, put in your check, and pop it in the mailbox. If you are so inclined, including your own stamp on the enclosed envelope will save the RBDA the cost of postage.

Joining the RBDA isn't just good for us, it's good for you. The more members we have the more accurately we can represent you, and the more seriously public officials will consider our position on issues!

The RBDA is your community organization and your voice at the County Building for the many issues that affect us directly here in the 'Doon. Our volunteer Board members spend many hours working on the community's behalf. From understanding the new UCSC expansion plans to land use issues in the developing San Vicente Redwoods property to trying to get better communication coverage during the PG&E fire outages, the RBDA is involved and active in all the issues that impact us.

**We mail *The Highlander* to everyone in Bonny Doon**, whether they are an RBDA member or not, because one of the most important parts of our job is to educate Bonny Dooners on the myriad issues that affect us. ***You may not be a member or your membership may have lapsed!*** Contact Membership Coordinator Jennifer Joslin (831-419-7141), if you aren't sure. Or just send in your dues! If you are already current, we'll apply them to next year.

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RBDA Public Meeting:

## ***Monterey Canyon: A Sediment Super Highway to the Deep-Sea Dr. Charles Paull***

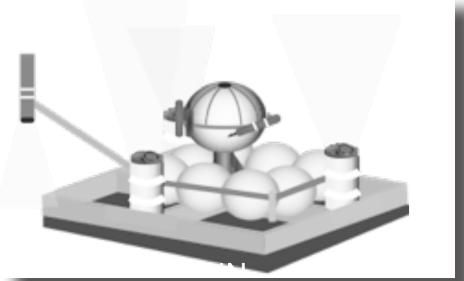
Wednesday, January 8, 7:30 p.m.

Bonny Doon School Multipurpose Room  
Pine Flat Road & Ice Cream Grade

The Grand Canyon is one of the wonders of the world. But did you know that there is an equally grand canyon right here in the Monterey Bay? Hidden beneath the waves, and stretching out into the ocean from Moss Landing, it is roughly equal in size and depth to the one in Arizona.

There are many scientists studying this marine wonder, including Marine Geologist Dr. Charles Paull of the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute (MBARI). Using robotic instruments to observe, sample, and map the floor of the canyon, Dr. Paull and other scientists have recently completed an 18-month-long multi-institution experiment making measurements during sediment flows and studying the impact of these flows on the shape of the sea floor. To carry out this experiment required developing highly sensitive but tough instruments that could withstand the crushing pressures and forces at the canyon floor, to monitor the processes that occur within the main channel. Some of the avalanche-like sediment flows events there were running for more than 30 miles at speeds of up to 16 miles per hour, and swept entire moorings up to 4.5 miles down canyon.

Dr. Paull is studying a diverse set of topics. Prior to coming to MBARI 20 years ago, he was the Amos Hawley Distinguished Professor at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. Over the past decade, he has worked at understanding the ongoing processes which move sediments through submarine canyons. To do this he has participated in the development of new tools and techniques to monitor the conditions associated with episodic energetic events within Monterey Canyon. He is also involved in the use of remotely operated vehicles (ROVs) and autonomous underwater vehicles (AUVs) to explore along the continental margin of North America, especially at sites where fluids and gases are escaping from the sea floor, where gas hydrates or permafrost occur, and where are the active earthquake faults. His efforts are documented in more than 200 peer-reviewed publications. He is an American Geophysical Union Fellow and the 2019 Francis Shepard Medal recipient.



***Please join us for this exciting and informative meeting about the marine geology of the Monterey Submarine Canyon!***

## UCSC Maps Its Future

The shape of the next 20 years for UCSC—at least if it has its own way—emerged in early December in the form of a campus map showing where it hopes to site almost 3 million square feet of new buildings.

Similar to the 2005-2020 Long Range Development Plan, the 2020-2040 Long Range Development Plan (LRDP) foresees the campus growing beyond the Santa Cruz City boundaries into Bonny Doon, northeast of Cave Gulch, to accommodate a student body that would peak at 28,000 students. That is an addition of 9,500 students, plus the increase in faculty, staff and their families that would accompany such growth.

“This is not a target,” said new UCSC Chancellor Cynthia Larive at one of the meetings to unveil the new map. “It’s not a plan. It’s not a mandate. It’s a planning horizon, which puts out a kind of hypothesis, which would be, if we were to have 28,000 students at UC Santa Cruz by 2040, what would the environmental impacts of that be?”

What impacts will this have on our communities, especially Santa Cruz and Bonny Doon? How will traffic, competition for housing, water resources, and the natural environment of the North Campus be impacted? That is what the university will try to forecast in an Environmental Impact Study, which will get underway next spring and conclude with its acceptance about a year later by the UC Regents.

As pointed out by Supervisor Ryan Coonerty’s aide, Andy Schiffrin, at the Dec. 2 meeting where the new plan was unveiled, the irony is that, **while the infrastructure to accommodate the student growth may not be built, the enrollment will still grow. That is exactly what happened the last time around!** The 2005-2020 LRDP targeted an enrollment of 19,500 students, which UCSC is close to approaching, while little of the planned 3 million square feet of buildings—dormitories, classrooms, labs, libraries, recreational facilities—ever materialized. The result has been students jammed into every available living space and overcrowded classes, libraries and labs. The student to professor ratio has gone steadily upward, while some feel that the quality of education has gone downward.

Another irony was pointed out at the meeting by local housing investor Eric Grodberg, during an impassioned speech

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## Four RBDA Board Members are up for Election



**Martin Burmeister**  
*Corresponding Secretary*

I was born and raised in the Central Valley and have spent my whole adult life living in various parts of California. I have always enjoyed the outdoors, whether it is simply gardening, or hiking or skiing in the Sierras, or cycling along the Pacific coast or climbing in the Pinnacles. My wife and I had always wanted to move away to a more peaceful, rural setting, away from the congestion of the silicon valley where I work as an engineering project manager. Four years ago, we finally found what we were looking for here in Bonny Doon. I love the serenity of living within these redwood forests, minutes from the Pacific coast below us. I also enjoy the diverse community of individuals that populate this area. It is this combination of unique people and this beautiful setting that makes Bonny Doon a very special place. If elected to the RBDA as Corresponding Secretary, I would be excited to work to help preserve Bonny Doon’s natural character and to help to solve the many issues that the community faces.



**Kendra Turk-Kubo**  
*Highlander Editor*

Originally from Colorado, I have lived in Santa Cruz County on and off (mostly on) for 25 years, and moved to Bonny Doon in October 2016. I know I am so fortunate to have been able to relocate our family to such a beautiful and rural community. As we set our roots down here, I’ve enjoyed getting to know and serving this community as an RBDA Board member. I am a marine microbial ecologist, and I am living the dream of my 6-year-old self to study the ocean as a Project Scientist in the Ocean Sciences Department at UCSC. Life does not afford much spare time right now, but when it does, I try to pick up my camera, and spend as much time as possible exploring the north coast with my daughter. I have a vested interest in preserving the rural environment and unique community we all enjoy, and hope to continue to serve Bonny Doon well as the Editor of *The Highlander*.



**J. Russell Kliegel**  
*Treasurer*

My grandparents moved to Bonny Doon in 1954, and I came to join them on Smith Grade in 1970. I went to (and enjoyed, and appreciate even more in retrospect) Bonny Doon Union Elementary School, sometimes by bus and sometimes by bicycle. I attended Santa Cruz High School, where I was a proud “Muskrat” on the cross-country team. I then “went away” to the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. I moved back for several years, and was the Controller for Sims Metal recycling in San Jose. After a 20+ year detour to Denver, I am once again back home, and wanted to contribute in some way to our local community. I will be proud to serve as the Treasurer for the RBDA should I be elected.



**David Rubin**  
*Former Vice Chair, new Recording Secretary*

I moved to Bonny Doon 20 years ago with my wife Michelle. I am a geologist who has worked on sedimentology problems for 42 years, first at the US Geological Survey and now at UCSC. My two research projects are interpreting the geology of Mars viewed by the rover Curiosity, and advising the Interior Dept.’s Bureau of Reclamation how to operate Glen Canyon Dam to restore sand bars in Grand Canyon. In the late 70s, a USGS colleague and I led a marine geology survey offshore of Humboldt Bay, where we discovered an active earthquake fault. As a result, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission permanently closed the nuclear power plant nearby. Because of my professional experience, I am particularly concerned about environmental issues in Bonny Doon. I have a wildlife camera in our meadow, and I would be glad to share my movies of the coyotes, bobcats, skunks, foxes, and an occasional mountain lion that pass through. My other recreational activities include hiking, in California and southern Utah, welding, and other metal-working projects.

## UCSC

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citing the Alice-in-Wonderland approach UCSC applies to housing: its no-subsidy policy and ridiculously high construction costs (considering that it already owns the land and pays no permit fees or property taxes) makes campus housing prices higher than residences in the community. In town, or in Bonny Doon, students can rent a 3-bedroom house for the same or less than a 3-bed dormitory room. Given that economic reality, Grodberg said, UCSC will find it impossible to live up to its commitment to house all of its additional students on campus.

The map revealed at the December meetings highlighted the proposed developments: The extension of Western Drive across Empire Grade to access new employee (staff and faculty) housing in the southwest corner of the campus, which will likely necessitate a new traffic light; More buildings and housing near the controversial East Meadow site whose development is the subject of two court suits; Parking areas pushed out to the fringes of the campus; Meyer Drive, which bounds the upper Great Meadow, expanded eastward to Coolidge Drive, the road along the eastern ridge of the campus, with new buildings on either side; and improved vehicle and pedestrian flows through the creation of loop paths intended to improve on-campus traffic

The map also showed new employee housing west of Empire Grade south of the West Entrance, but Schiffrin pointed out to UCSC executives at a subsequent meeting that the local Coastal Act Plan designates that land as preserved for agriculture, making it difficult and highly unlikely that residences would be permitted there. As of mid-December, when this article was written, UCSC had not yet published this map online.

UCSC has recently been awarded #2 in the U.S. News and World Report rankings for Best U.S. College in a new metric for advancing social mobility by enrolling and graduating large proportions of disadvantaged students awarded with Pell Grants. This success is likely to be highlighted as a motivation for further growth. The organizations and individuals trying to reduce the impacts of UCSC on our natural environment will continue to point out that no matter what accolades UCSC earns, local resources are simply too limited to support the proposed growth. There are other places in California where students can get their much-needed education at a lower cost and with less of an environmental impact.

## Joining or Renewing your RBDA Membership

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Memberships run February 1 - January 31, and you can only vote for officers at the January meeting if you've joined before December. We've also given you the option of joining for more than one year, or making a donation to the RBDA.

We encourage our members to provide an e-mail address so we can continue to build a database to use in very time-sensitive and critical situations, and strictly for RBDA-related issues and business. We promise that we will never share your e-mail address with a third party without your permission.

Thank you in advance for your support! Almost all dues and donations go to publishing and printing *The Highlander* and rent/insurance at the school for our public meetings.

*The RBDA is a 501(c)(4) non-profit organization, so donations are not tax deductible.*

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### Sponsorships:

\$100 a year (6 issues).  
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RBDA, P.O. Box 551  
Felton, CA 95018

## 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 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail Address(es) \_\_\_\_\_

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.

Dues mostly go for  
printing and mailing  
***The Highlander***,  
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.



# THE Highlander

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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.bonnydoon.got.net](http://www.bonnydoon.got.net)

E-mail us at:

[board@rbda.us](mailto:board@rbda.us)

Facebook (RBDA Members Only):

**RBDA, Rural Bonny Doon Association**

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CORRESPONDING SECRETARY: Martin Burmeister

HIGHLANDER EDITOR: Kendra Turk-Kubo 626-379-7232

ADVISORS: Ted Benhari and Marty Demare (former board members)

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

## **Public Meeting Jan. 8: Monterey Submarine Canyon - Sediment Superhighway**

### **Addressing Deficits in Communication Infrastructure in the Doon**

For our March 11 public meeting, the RBDA Board is assembling a panel of experts to discuss current shortcomings of the communication infrastructure in Bonny Doon. We feel that the lack of robust cell service coverage poses a significant safety risk, especially in light of multiple recent Public Safety and Power Shutdown (PSPS) events during the 2019 fire season. It also seems that the major communication companies (AT&T, Verizon, Comcast) do not understand the issues facing our rural community, and are not working with PG&E effectively during these outages.

Along with Third District Supervisor Ryan Coonerty, the RBDA Board is working to organize a meeting with representatives from AT&T, Verizon, Comcast, Cruzio, and PG&E. We feel that as a community we need to learn more and engage in a discussion about this topic. *What can we do to ensure that we will have cell coverage during emergencies? How can we ensure back-up power for Comcast and other communication services during power outages (both planned and accidental)? What is currently planned to replace the cell tower that was discontinued in Davenport? What is the future of land lines? Are there any new technologies that would allow us to have more reliable communication and internet services?*

Please keep your eyes out for the formal announcement of this meeting in the March/April Highlander and the February Battle Mountain News. We are interested in hearing from you on this topic. Please contact us at [board@rbda.us](mailto:board@rbda.us) and come out to the March meeting!

### **Help Us Keep Bonny Doon Rural and Natural!**

#### **Can You Serve as RBDA Vice Chair or Volunteer to be a Social Media Coordinator?**

The RBDA is a pipeline to the Santa Cruz County government. We advocate for necessary public services like adequate road maintenance and law enforcement, and for strong land use regulations that protect us from negatively impactful development.

To continue to effectively serve in that role, we still need to fill one board officer position. Dave Rubin will be stepping down as Vice Chair in January 2020 and assuming the Recording Secretary role, leaving a vacancy in the Vice Chair position. The primary responsibility of the Vice Chair is to identify and organize the speakers for our public meetings that take place every two months. This position does not require much time commitment.

We are also looking for a volunteer social media coordinator. As social media platforms become integral to our community interactions, we would like to more effectively use them to increase our awareness about concerns facing our community. We could use your help!

If you are interested and able to help us by serving as Vice Chair or as a volunteer social media coordinator, please contact the Board by email at [board@rbda.us](mailto:board@rbda.us).