



THE

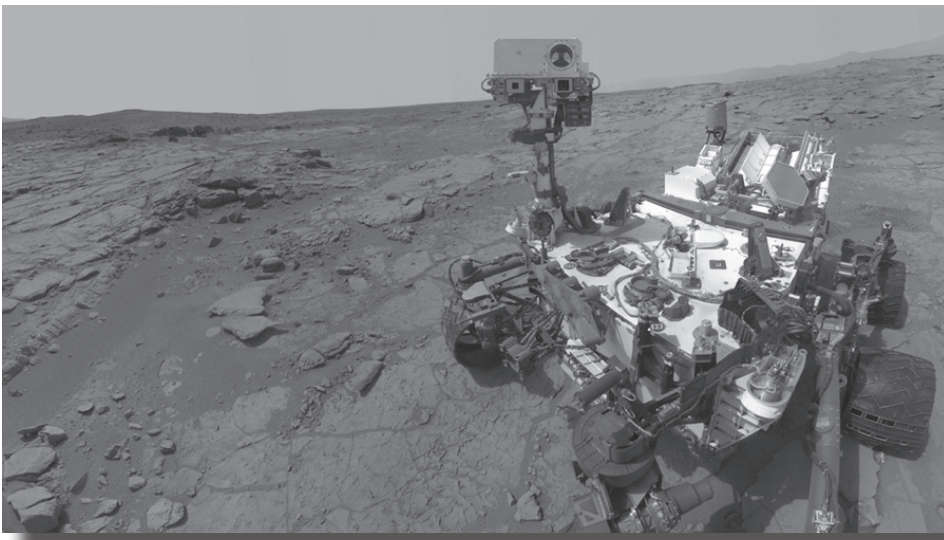
Highlander

Sept./Oct. 2019

The Rural Bonny Doon Association Newsletter

RBDA Public Meeting: A 3-D Mars Tour with the Rover, Curiosity Dr. David Rubin

Wednesday September 11, 6:30 p.m.
Bonny Doon School Multipurpose Room
Pine Flat Road & Ice Cream Grade
This is a family-friendly event!



Curiosity Rover in the Gale Crater on Mars

Please join us at the upcoming RBDA Public Meeting where RBDA Vice Chair, Dr. Dave Rubin, will take us on an exciting tour of Mars, using the rover Curiosity's images, movies, and 3-D imaging technology. The rover landed in Gale crater in 2012, and since then has driven over ancient river gravels, deltas, lake deposits, and dune fields. We will look at how scientists use the rover to conduct field geology on Mars and look at the scenery in 3-D. 3-D glasses will be provided.

Dave Rubin was senior scientist at USGS, where he worked for 38 years until moving to UC Santa Cruz in 2013. He has studied sediment deposits on Earth (Grand Canyon, Utah, offshore California, Australia, and China), Mars, and Saturn's moon Titan. He has authored or co-authored over 300 publications, and he has lived in Bonny Doon for 20 years.



Dr. Dave Rubin, UCSC

Please note the change in time. We hope this earlier meeting time will make this fascinating and exclusive presentation more convenient for families to attend.

Another Step Closer to Public Access on Cotoni-Coast Dairies

More than 20 years has transpired since Coast Dairies was purchased by environmental groups, using funds mostly donated by wealthy, public-spirited Peninsula foundations. Now public access to the 5,800-acre property for the first time is within sight, as the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) prepares an environmental assessment of possible impacts.

BLM, as all land management agencies do, has to walk the tightrope between public use and the preservation of the animals and plants and their habitats. At a time when BLM's already strained budget is handcuffed by the present Washington, D.C. administration, BLM will have to find a way to keep a balance between two conflicting goals, recreation and resource protection.

How BLM will do that is now under study. The process, mandated by the National Environmental Protection Act, began in August 2019 with two "Scoping" sessions, where the public was asked to identify what should be studied in the environmental assessment for its Resource Management Plan. As should have been expected, the overwhelming number of comments at the two public meetings, one in Santa Cruz and one in Davenport, came from those most interested in the plans for public access: off-road bicyclists, organized by the Mountain Bikers of Santa Cruz (MBOSC), and people who live on Cotoni-Coast Dairies' borders, in Bonny Doon, Davenport and Swanton.

Comments were also submitted by naturalists and environmental organizations like the RBDA, the Davenport North Coast Association, the Friends of the North Coast, and Sempervirens, which spearheaded the drive to have Cotoni-Coast Dairies

continued on page 3

Sign Up for Bonny Doon's Text Message Alert System!

Stay informed about general public safety incidents by signing up for the Bonny Doon text message alert system. Based on 911 call center incident reports, this system provides information on general public safety events including fires, traffic collisions, road blockages, and power lines down, and includes a Google Map link for incident location and a *firescan.net* responder audio stream link (when relevant). This service is limited to Bonny Doon and access roads.

To subscribe, text the word ALERT to 831.216.0004; to unsubscribe, text the word REMOVE to 831.216.0004. You will receive an immediate confirmation text message.

Join us! Recording Secretary and Corresponding Secretary Needed Help Keep Bonny Doon Rural and Natural

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

To continue to effectively serve in that role, we need Board Officers. Currently, we have two positions to fill, the Recording and Corresponding Secretaries. The Recording Secretary takes minutes at our Board meetings, which occur every two months, and the Corresponding Secretary oversees communications such as responses to e-mails and letters to government or land management agencies. Both positions do not require much time commitment.

If you are interested and able to help the RBDA by serving as a Board Officer, please contact us by e-mail at *board@rbda.us*.

Do You Have a Plan for Pet Evacuation in a Wildfire Emergency?

Pet and livestock ownership requires a great deal of knowledge, time, patience and love. Many animal owners may not always consider the need to plan for their pets in the event of a disaster. A little planning and awareness before a disaster occurs can prevent tragedies afterwards. Here are some tips and guidelines for preparing your pets and livestock for evacuation (adapted from the SPCA Disaster Preparedness Packet at *spcamc.org* and UC Davis Veterinary Medicine Disaster Preparedness resources at *vetmed.ucdavis.edu/ceh/*):

Small Animal Evacuation

How Should I Prepare?

- Keep your pet's vaccinations current and always keep a collar and tags on your pets.
- Microchip your pets.
- Keep your supplies in a safe, easily accessible location.
- Include your pets in your evacuation drills so they are relaxed about travel and confinement.
- Submit your pet's information to SPCA's free Guardian Angel program.
- Check *SPCAmc.org* for disaster training classes.

During a Disaster

- When you receive warning of a pending disaster or evacuation, ensure your pets are wearing collars and tags, bring them inside so you can locate them quickly, and locate your preparedness supplies.
- Bring your animals with you when evacuating. If your animals are in danger, contact the SPCA.
- Locate a current pet friendly hotels and motels listing from the SPCA or contact friends and family about taking you and your pets in.

After a Disaster

- Examine your property to ensure fencing is intact and remove dangerous debris.
- Watch for your pet's personality changes or changes in behavior.
- Consult your veterinarian or the SPCA if any behavior problems persist.

Horses and Livestock

Identification is critical for reunification

- Permanent forms of identification such as microchipping are recommended; make sure to register.
- Other good forms of ID: a tag attached to the horse's halter or a plastic neck-band engraved or marked with information including owners name(s), address, phone number, backup contact's name, address, and phone number.
- Temporary identification is encouraged during an evacuation such as a leg band, or spray painting your name and phone

number on the horse.

- Keep photographs and medical records accessible. Photographs should be accompanied by detailed descriptions for each horse you own including breed, color, size, markings, scars, and other significant features. Keep copies in a sealed waterproof bag in a safe place. Send a copy to a friend or family member, or keep a copy in digital form on a cloud server for access from a mobile device.

Keep halters and lead ropes ready

- On each halter attach a luggage tag with the following: the horse's name, your name, e-mail address, telephone number, and an emergency contact's telephone number.

Transportation

- If you have your own horse trailer, keep it road ready by checking the tires, floors and hitch frequently. Make sure your truck is in good working order and that the gas tank is at least half full.
- If you don't have a horse trailer, make arrangements to have your horse trailered in an emergency. If you can, have several reliable people lined up to help.
- It is vital that your horses are comfortable being loaded into and unloaded from a trailer. If your horses have not been trained to load and unload, train or have them trained and practice the procedure.

Know where you can take your horses in an emergency evacuation

- Identify at least two exit routes and a prearranged destination.
- Make arrangements with another horse owner to stable your horses in a safe zone.
- Contact your local animal control agency or local emergency management authorities for information about shelters in your area.
- During mandatory evacuations, shelter sites for animals will be identified by the Office of Emergency Services.

Have a back-up plan

- Consider different types of disasters and whether your horses would be better off in a barn or loose in a field. Your local humane organization or emergency management agency should be able to provide you with information about your community's disaster response plans.

Emergency supplies

- Have at least 72 hours worth of fresh water and hay available. Don't forget the water buckets.
- Prepare a potable basic first-aid kit for your horses and keep it easily accessible.
- Prepare an emergency kit that includes water buckets, tarpaulins, leg wraps, knife, scissors and wire cutters (see *cal-cares.com/personal-family for emergency kit ideas*).

Public Access to Cotoni-Coast Dairies

continued from page 1

named a national monument, obliged by President Obama shortly before he left office in January 2017.

Over the course of the next few months BLM will determine where to open trails, where the parking and other visitor facilities will be, and how it will impact the habitat, the flora and fauna, traffic, adjacent communities, neighbors and farmers. They will have to decide if the potential impacts are great enough to warrant a full Environmental Impact Study (EIS), or a less detailed Environmental Assessment (EA). For budgetary and perhaps political reasons, right now they are leaning toward the latter.

Noting the invaluable resources of this wonderful property, the RBDA has urged BLM to conduct a full EIS, especially considering the number of endangered and threatened species that reside there or travel through it (mountain lions being the prime example), and the historic Native American sites and artifacts dating from its occupation by the Cotoni tribelet of Ohlone Indians. We believe there has been only very preliminary study of the biota on Cotoni-Coast Dairies, done almost 20 years ago, so an EA may not be sufficient to truly assess the possible or probable impacts of human visitation.

Given that over 8 million people live within easy driving distance of Cotoni-Coast Dairies, and the probable publicity that will be generated by interest groups and the recreation/travel industry, we are worried that BLM will be overwhelmed, as has happened recently at other Northern and Central California parks from Marin to Big Sur, and has led the various managing agencies to consider and impose access restrictions. Together with the completion of the Santa Cruz County "Rail Trail" and the imminent opening of the adjacent San Vicente Redwoods property, BLM will be challenged to effectively handle the rush of visitors with its very limited staff and resources.

There are also physical challenges that BLM has acknowledged to each of the dozen access points it has identified, from pedestrians needing to get across Highway 1 safely to vehicles exiting and entering along any of the adjacent roads. There are also the cumulative impacts from the ever-increasing beach visitors and tourists that must be considered, including, of course, on public safety and emergency services, traffic and trash collection. Many other questions also need to be addressed. How will BLM handle likely conflicts among user groups: mountain bikers, birders, hikers, equestrians, and families with young children? How many visitors does BLM expect, and what data will BLM use to forecast that? How will any necessary traffic and road realignments affect farmlands, which are protected by County Code?

Maintaining a balance between all these potential impacts and environmental preservation will prove to be an enormous undertaking, and we sincerely hope that BLM succeeds in it, for the sake of the animals, the plants, us their neighbors, and the general public. Over the course of the next year, as BLM conducts its study and publishes a draft of its plan, the future of Cotoni-Coast Dairies and its impacts will begin to be made clear.

Support Our Sponsors

FRANS LANTING STUDIO

Photography Workshops
108 High Road
Santa Cruz CA 95060
831-429-1331
www.lanting.com

THE FLOWER LADIES

Flower Arrangements for
Weddings & Special Occasions
www.theflowerladies.com
831-423-0261

NORTH COAST BERRY FARMS

340 Woodpecker Ridge
Bonny Doon CA 95060
831-426-3733

MCHENRY VINEYARD

Estate Pinot Noir
Bonny Doon CA 95060
www.mchenryvineyard.com
530-756-3202

HEIDI E. HART, President, CEO

California Dreaming Real Estate
Local / Non-Corporate
myagentheidi@gmail.com
831-247-9410

BOYCE-ABEL ASSOCIATES & FAMILY LANDS CONSULTING

Helping Families with Land, Estate and
Asset Transference Issues.
www.familylands.com
831-469-9223

Sponsorships:

\$100 a year (6 issues).

Send check and text to:

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) _____

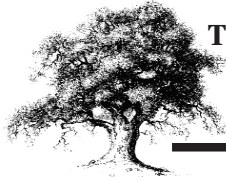
I certify that I (we) live or own property in the Bonny Doon Planning District.

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

Keeping Bonny Doon Rural and Natural since 1957

Prsrt Std
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #236
Santa Cruz, CA

The Rural Bonny Doon Association Newsletter P.O. Box 551 • Felton, CA 95018

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

E-mail us at:

board@rbda.us

Facebook (RBDA Members Only):

RBDA, Rural Bonny Doon Association

RBDA EXECUTIVE BOARD

CHAIR: Andy Davidson 650-862-2639

VICE CHAIR: David Rubin 818-7085

ACTING TREASURER: Jennifer Joslin 459-9760

MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR: Jennifer Joslin 459-9760

ACTING RECORDING SECRETARY: Kendra Turk-Kubo 626-379-7232

ACTING CORRESPONDING SECRETARY: David Rubin 818-7085

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 Sept. 11: See Mars Through the "Eyes" of the Curiosity Rover

City and County to Lobby for Funding for University Housing

The Board of Supervisors and the Santa Cruz City Council are trying to overturn a long-standing University of California policy that requires student (or even faculty or staff) housing to pay for itself. This policy has resulted in incentivizing students to live off-campus, due to the resulting high costs of housing. Because the construction of new housing units hasn't kept up with an ever-growing student and general population, this has led to our community being one of the most unaffordable in the country.

Stemming from a suggestion by the RBDA, the City and County have each contributed \$60,000 to hire someone to lobby California lawmakers for a year to underwrite at least some of the costs of additional campus housing.

While Santa Cruz's high housing costs result from a complex bundle of factors, the leading cause is the fact that students find it much cheaper to rent houses or apartments off-campus which can be shared by several people. This, of course, leads to unwanted impacts to neighborhoods (including Bonny Doon), and makes it very difficult for

people to find affordable housing here.

The UC system's approach to funding construction costs for housing has turned in the last couple of years to what it calls the Public Private Partnership (P3). Private contractors, specifically huge construction companies, pay for, build and own the apartments and dormitories, and collect the rents and fees, while UC maintains ownership of the land. This sets up an adversarial relationship with potential negative impacts. The private entities want to maximize the profits from their investment, while UC's goal is to provide the public benefit of making a college education more affordable and available, especially to people of lesser means, so their children can gain the economic and social benefits.

The P3 policy has already revealed its ugly face locally, with the controversy over UCSC's 3,000 bed Student Housing West (SHW) project. This has most specifically been illustrated by the part of the SHW project planned for the East Meadow, at the bottom of the campus. The desecration of the pristine Great Meadow location has drawn the ire of

professors, students, alumni and the UCSC Foundation, and generated two lawsuits seeking to block it, one from the newly formed East Meadow Action Group (EMAC) and another from Habitat and Watershed Caretakers (HAWC). The latter successfully sued a few years ago to overturn the Environmental Impact Report for the joint UCSC/City of Santa Cruz application to extend city water and sewer services to the North Campus, effectively blocking development.

Recently, HAWC modified the basis of its suit, claiming the East Meadow development and the SHW project is a violation of the Comprehensive Settlement Agreement of 2008, which ended City, County and community groups' lawsuits against UC over its 2005-2020 Long Range Development Plan and capped UCSC enrollment at 19,500 students, which the campus is nearing. EMAC's suit, on the other hand, contends that the project overturns a 50-year tradition of environmentally-conscious planning and UCSC's historical commitment to keeping the East Meadow natural.