

Wandering & Wondering



John Maybury

STAND-UP GAL

“I just read your bit about the deer being killed on Fassler and I wanted to respond. I was the driver of the vehicle that collided with the deer January 19. I am one of the few drivers who does the speed limit on Fassler, much to the dismay of many drivers behind me. I was going slowly enough that Saturday morning that my car did not leave any skid marks on dry pavement. I ride a bike to do most of my errands in town, and many near misses with drivers whose attention is not on the road have helped me be much more aware when I am behind the wheel. I could not control where and when that deer was going to cross Fassler and I was extremely upset that I had anything to do with the death of such a magnificent creature. Just ask the poor cop who thought he was going to need to restrain me. I do not even kill ticks taken from my dog. I just put them back

outside and wish them well. Thanks for taking the time to read this; it feels right to fill in a few blanks.” (Judy Kay)

DEER WHISTLES

I highly recommend deer whistles for your front bumper (about seven bucks—pardon the expression—at many auto parts stores). They get a deer’s attention on a frequency inaudible to the human ear. After accidentally hitting and killing a deer several years ago on Highway 101 near Garberville (never mind \$5,000 damage to my front end and a long ride in a tow truck), I installed deer whistles and haven’t had even a close call since. But I have seen deer grazing by the roadside look up at my approach and run off into the woods. Deer whistles work.

HUG YOUR PARK

If you walk in San Pedro Valley County Park and enjoy the trails and wildlife, please drop by the visitor center and join the volunteer force. I recently hiked through the park and saw good citizens out there with picks and shovels working on the trails. I stopped and talked to them. They were sweaty, muddy, friendly, and glad to hear that I would post this item on Pacifica Riptide and here in Wandering and Wondering. They will be glad to see you. Tell them I sent you.

SNUGGLE UP

New eco-fireplaces and logs can keep you warm using sustainable materials such as ethanol and even coffee. Benefits: Conventional burning logs contain petroleum byproducts, and store-bought firewood may not come from a sustainably managed forest. EcoGreen and EcoSmart Fire Logs: easy-to-set-up fireplaces that use clean-burning ethanol; no chimney required (\$500). Java-Log Fireplace Logs: crackling logs that burn for three hours; made from coffee waste and vegetable oil, and packaged in recycled materials (\$26/6 logs). Duraflame: petroleum-free logs burn for three hours and use 80% less resources than regular firewood (\$23/6 logs). U.S. Department of Energy: online tips for getting the most out of your fireplace. Avoid burning particle-board or treated wood, which release toxic chemicals. (IdealBite.com)

FIGHT AUTISM

Carol Kirkpatrick emails: “The band Five for Fighting is generously donating 49 cents to Autism Speaks each time this video is viewed. Funding goes toward research studies to help find a cure. Please visit the Web site below to watch the video and pass it along to your friends, family, legislators, and insurance companies.” (whatkindofworldtheywant.com)

TICKED OFF

“I work for the San Mateo County Mosquito Abatement District. We are surveying tick densities along multiple recreational trails throughout the county. Ordinarily the Western Black-legged Ticks collected are tested for Lyme disease in our laboratory. Current infection rates can be obtained by calling the District, and more information on local ticks and diseases can be found at smcmad.org/ticks.htm.” (Kim Keyser, SMCMAD)

KITE-POWERED SHIP

“The world’s first commercial cargo ship partially powered by a giant kite is setting sail from Germany to Venezuela. The designers of the MS Beluga Skysails say the computer-controlled kite, measuring 1,722 square feet, could cut fuel consumption by as much as 20 percent. They also hope the state-of-the-art kite will help reduce carbon dioxide emissions, as it tugs the ship. Fuel burnt by ships accounts for 4 percent of global CO2 emissions—twice as much as the aviation industry produces.” (BBC News)

HACKER DERAILS TRAIN

“A Polish teenager allegedly turned the tram system in the city of Lodz into his own personal train set, triggering chaos and derailing four vehicles in the process. Twelve people were injured in one of the

incidents. The 14-year-old modified a TV remote control so that it could be used to change track points. Local police said the youngster trespassed in tram depots to gather information needed to build the device. The teenager told police that he modified track settings for a prank.” (theregister.co.uk)

CAFÉ SCIENTIFIQUE

The Science of Global Warming, the Nobel Peace Prize and Prospects for Needed Policy Changes. Leading climatologist Steve Schneider talks to Stanford Cafe Scientifique, February 12, 6 to 7:30 p.m. Palo Alto group: cafescipa.org/. Start your own affiliate: cafescientifique.org/. Bay Area affiliates: askascientistsf.com, sciencecafesf.com, bnhm.berkeley.edu/about/sciencecafe.php. U.S. affiliates: sciencecafes.org/

DOG & CRONY SHOW

Two bands with Pacifica connections play together for the first time. Dogs Playing Poker with Pacifican Carl Herder on bass, and Me and My Cronies with Ken Restivo on keyboards, play at Grant & Green, February 20, in San Francisco. Cronies open. Show starts at 8:30 p.m. Grant & Green is on Grant and Green streets in North Beach. Parking on a Wednesday night should be a lot easier than weekends.

WALL OF BLUES

Friday, February 8, Old Princeton Landing, 8:30-12:30. This is a rockin’ blues and dance band with lots of Pacifica connections.

SITeseer

- Electronic crystal ball: electionprojection.com
- Reality TV—no laughing matter: brasschecktv.com
- Games for cognitive health: smart-kits.com
- Cost of war to our economy: afsc.org/cost/
- Online activism and connections: care2.com
- Now this is what I call a fun Web site: producten.hema.nl/
- Surf the surf: surfvid.com

SWAMI SEZ

“The most serious threat to democracy is the notion that it has already been achieved.” (Anonymous)

MAYBURRITOVILLE

- Email your stories & photos: mayburrito@goofbuster.com
- My columns online: PacificaTribune.com, WanderingAndWondering.com
- Local vocal: PacificaRiptide.com