



4th of July Parade~  
Rus Rudden & his Cobra

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### MISSION

The Ross Property Owners Association (RPOA) has been representing Ross Residents for over 30 years. Our mission is "to provide funds and services for the benefit of the general community of the Town of Ross." Through the financial support of its members, the RPOA has worked to inform residents of important issues and to contribute to the continual improvement of the community.

The Association holds monthly meetings at 7:15 p.m. at the Town Hall on the Monday immediately preceding the Town Council meeting. RPOA members are encouraged to participate in our monthly meetings. Issues pertaining to Town matters are discussed, particularly those currently before the Council.

## THE ROSS BEAR

excerpt from **ROSS, CALIFORNIA—  
THE PEOPLE, THE PLACES, THE HISTORY**

—by *Preston Maginis*

WHAT IS THE STORY ABOUT THAT STRANGE LOOKING BEAR IN FRONT OF THE ROSS TOWN HALL?



Where did he live before? Well, he lived in the Flax family's front yard at Orchard Lawn, 10 Lagunitas Road across from the Ross School.

Jerome and Peggy Flax sold their property in 1971 to Richard Blum (who was later to marry Senator Dianne Feinstein). Jerry Flax was a businessman, entrepreneur, bon vivant and was widely known for making a world-class dry martini (straight up). Ross Councilman Alan Preston Maginis was walking by the Flax driveway late one afternoon when he saw his friend Jerry surrounded by several laborers preparing to load The Bear on to a truck. His friend told Maginis that he was going to donate the sculpture to the Marin Art and Garden Center. Maginis asked his friend if he might reconsider and donate the bear to the town. Maginis said he would ask for the town's approval at the next meeting to be held the following night.

Jerry suggested that they adjourn to his living room and discuss the matter further over a World Class Libation (straight up!).

The Ross Town Council gratefully accepted the gift from the Flax family by a unanimous vote on the following evening.

The Bear was the work of sculptor Beniamino (Benny) Benvenuto Bufano. Benny Bufano was a well-known San Francisco character in a city of many bearded, beret-wearing pseudo bohemians, but Benny was the genuine article. He lived barely above the poverty level

and gave away or sold (below market value) much of his work. Several people from the business community including Jerry Flax became his advisors and benefactors and saw to it that he received a fair price for his work.

Even after leaving the area Jerry would visit "his bear" and advise the town staff on its proper maintenance and care: "Polish regularly with Carnauba auto wax."

*The Moya Library-Ross Historical Society released "Ross, California, The People, The Places, The History" First Edition in May 2008. It is the first comprehensive history of the Town of Ross and the surrounding valley, complete with rare early photographs and historic maps and was the research and writing project of six Moya-RHS board members/historians for over four years. Contact Charlotte Levin for information.*

## BOUQUETS TO TOWN'S CHIEF OF PROTOCOL

**Roseanna Lourdeaux** has been the Ross's Chief of Protocol for the last two years. She has worked tirelessly to make Town events, i.e., Town Dinners and July 4<sup>th</sup>, the great experiences that we have come to expect.

Roseanna wants to recognize and thank the following for their assistance with July 4<sup>th</sup> 2010:

**Diane Rudden** for all of her help throughout the entire event. Priceless!!

**Julie McMillan & Wendy Battey** for the parade organization

**Ed Dong** & volunteers for providing the great fun games for all

**Peter Daly** Top Productions for the set up of tables, chairs, umbrellas

**Liz Welsh** of the Ross PTA for providing drinks

**Katie Baughman** for singing the National Anthem

**Rick Reide, Diana Hammer, Lee Notowich** for helping with set up

**Bob Maccario & Buzz Doughty** for decorations

The **Town Dinner** set up was the work of **Peter Daly** and **Roseanna**.

The Town's **Linda Lopez** ably assisted with event information and updates through Ross's email announcements.

**WEBSITE  
DESTINATIONS**  
for Local Information



Keep up with the Lagunitas Bridge replacement project. Twice a week the work progress photos are added to this site. It's almost as good as being there.  
<http://lagunitasbridge.com>



[www.townofross.org](http://www.townofross.org) is your destination if you are interested in reading The Minutes from Town Council meetings or catching up with "The Morning After."

Select the "Town Council" tab near the top of the page. Clicking this tab will then give you a choice of topics.

**TOWN COUNCIL ELECTION  
– 2010 –**

In a time-honored tradition, the RPOA sponsored a Candidate's Night for the Town Council candidates, as we have done for the past 25 years. It was held April 28, 2010 at Branson School in the new Student Commons. Branson School, generously, offered the use of their facility. We estimate that about 80 people came to hear the candidates.



The candidates were Mark Fritts, Rupert Russell, Carla Small, and Iris Winey.

There was a 53% voter turnout with a total of 882 ballots cast. Carla Small and Rupert Russell were elected to the Council.

**COMMENDATIONS FOR  
RETIRING COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Mayor Rick Strauss presented:

RESOLUTION NO. 1711 commending William Cahill for four years of service on the Town Council and serving as mayor from June 2008 to July 2009. Councilman Cahill achieved his Council goals of (1) developing staff job descriptions and performance standards and (2)

studying renovation and reconstruction of Town facilities..

RESOLUTION NO. 1712 commending Michael Skall for four years of service on the Town Council and representing the town on the Transportation Authority of Marin and The Association of Bay Area Governments.

Councilman Skall's achieved goals were (1) developing the Emergency Preparedness Program "DISCO" procedures and (2) reviewing and updating the Hillside Lot Ordinance

**PUBLIC SAFETY  
STAFF CHANGES**

**RETIREMENTS**

The Council commended Police Sergeant Robert Tucker, who joined the department in 1983 and Fire Captain Bruce Selfridge, who joined the department in 1973 for their years of dedicated service to the Town.

**PROMOTIONS**

Officer Gianfranco Campa has been promoted to Police Sergeant and Engineer Jim Popken has been promoted to Fire Captain. Congratulations Sergeant Campa and Captain Popken.

**NEW MEN IN TOWN**

The Council announced the appointment of two Apprentice Firefighters. They are Marin residents Justin Hanson and Chris Friscia who were selected from a large pool of very qualified applicants.

**ELECTION OF MAYOR**

At the July 15, 2010 Town Council meeting, new council members Russell and Small were sworn in by Mayor Strauss.

Mayor Pro Tempore Hunter thanked Mayor Strauss for his past year of dedicated service. Councilman Hunter then read a statement into the record stating that for the last several decades the Ross tradition has been for the Mayor Pro Tempore to move to the Mayor position and a new Mayor ProTempore is selected. Mr. Hunter served as mayor for 11/2 years during his first term in office and at the present time cannot make the time commitment to serve again. He asked that his name be removed from the mayor position.

The Council approved the appointment of Chris Martin to the position of mayor and approved the appointment of Carla Small to the position of mayor pro tempore.

The Standing Committees for 2010-2011 are:

Community Protection	Hunter/Russell
Public Works	Small/Strauss
General Government	Strauss/Small
Finance	Russell/Hunter

For complete information about the council members and their council duties go to [townofross.org](http://townofross.org) and select "Town Council".

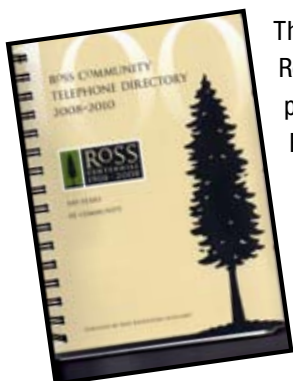
## STREET TREE CANOPY RESTORATION

THE ROSS STREET TREE COMMITTEE is a newly formed volunteer group, recognized by the Town of Ross and working in concert with the Ross Public Works Subcommittee that meets monthly on the second Tuesday at 9:15 a.m. Their mission is as follows:

*“Recognizing that 94% of the respondents of the 2009 Ross Town Survey considered the planting and maintenance of street trees to be an important priority, the goal of the Ross Street Tree Committee is to restore the original beauty of the tree canopy that has been the signature look of old Ross. We plan to reestablish the previous arching form of that canopy by planting single-species, disease-resistant trees in the public right-of way. We will work with the town to establish policies concerning the planting of those trees and we will work with the adjacent resident/property owner, providing maintenance guidelines intended to protect the health and longevity of those trees. Anticipating the natural life-span of trees, at approximately the half-life of the tree, we will establish an under story of younger trees that will eventually take the place of the more mature specimens.”*

Current volunteers are Ann Brenner, Jennifer Leathers, BJ Martin, Chris Martin, Steven McKinney, and Dennis Untermann. The Public Works Superintendent is Robert Maccario.

## ROSS COMMUNITY TELEPHONE DIRECTORY



The new edition of the Ross Telephone Directory, published by Ross Recreation Auxiliary, is available in the Ross Recreation Office at Ross School. For information call 453-6020.

## FIRE DEPARTMENT TRAINS ON REDWOOD DRIVE

*In early September, the Fire department ran a one-week training burn on Redwood Drive.* The first few days were spent prepping the building to burn. On three different days, Ross Fire Department and firefighters from Kentfield, Ross Valley, Larkspur, and Marin County Fire departments conducted rescues and live burn scenarios. The Fire department wishes to thank all the Redwood Drive neighbors for their patience with parking and road closures during these exercises. The training was invaluable for the agencies involved.



Todd Lando photo [www.toddlando.com](http://www.toddlando.com)

To view other photos of the training, go to

[http://toddlando.smugmug.com/Fire/RossBurnSeptember-10/13711919\\_k9Ypd#P-1-16](http://toddlando.smugmug.com/Fire/RossBurnSeptember-10/13711919_k9Ypd#P-1-16)



## GRANT DOLLARS AVAILABLE FOR REPAIR OF PRIVATE SEWER PIPES

*Leaky Pipes Cause Environmental Damage and Present a Public Health Hazard*

The Ross Valley Sanitary District (RVSD) advises that it is a good time to have your property sewer line inspected if you are experiencing repeated backups in shower and bath drains, slow running drains, ground settling near the lateral sewer line or large trees near the sewer line. The pipe may be damaged. The RVSD will do a pre-inspection of the area.

If repair is required, the homeowner may apply to The Lateral Replacement Grant Program for assistance with a qualified sewer lateral. This program will pay for half of the total repair cost, up to \$4000.

Call RVSD at 415 259-2949 or email [info@rvsd.org](mailto:info@rvsd.org)

## MUNICIPAL SERVICES TAX

Good News! The Municipal Services Tax will remain at \$775 per developed parcel for the third consecutive year. We, the citizens of Ross, originally approved this tax in 1984 to provide funds to support Public Safety and other municipal services. This tax requires voter renewal at four year intervals.

## “DISCO” NEWS HELP YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD— BECOME A BLOCK CAPTAIN

The Disaster Council (DISCO) is looking for Volunteer Block Captains. There are several Lagunitas and Laurel Grove neighborhoods that could use a Block Captain to help coordinate the collection and dissemination of neighborhood information to be used in the event of an emergency.

If you are interested in helping, please contact Fire Chief Tom Vallee at 453-1453x157.



ROSS PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 747

ROSS, CA 94957

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

kiki@descomstudios.com

design: kiki la porta



(From left) *George Gaither, Dirk Van Meurs, and Caroline Reidy cutting the ribbon at the opening of the new Ross School, August 23, 2010.*

## RPOA NEWS Briefs

**BOARD CHANGES** – Wendy McPhee has offered her resignation from the Board. She will be greatly missed for her artistic and technical skills and most of all, her enthusiastic approach to the business of the RPOA.

Fortunately, Iris Winey has elected to join the Board of Directors. We welcome her and look forward to working with her.

**NEW TOWN COUNCIL LIAISON** – The new representative from the Council is Scot Hunter. His appointment by the Council is for one year. The liaison attends our monthly meeting for the purpose of answering questions about upcoming Town Council meeting items and hearing our concerns in regard to anything pertaining to Town life that we want the Council to be aware of. **WELCOME SCOT.**

**MEMBERSHIP** – Total membership subscription as of August 1, 2010 is 315 families. The number of memberships in the “Bear” category is 79. The “Bears” are members who have joined with a donation of \$100 or more. The additional donation is used for the projects that we fund in the Town.

Note: THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS STILL HAS ONE VACANCY TO FILL



### ROSS PROPERTY OWNERS ASSN.

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2010

Diane Rudden  
*President*  
Box 179

Anne Hickey  
*Vice-President*  
Box 216

Iris Winey  
*Secretary*  
Box 1472

Frank Doodha  
*Treasurer*  
Box 1409

Charlotte Levin  
*Member-at-Large*  
Box 631

[www.RPOAross.org](http://www.RPOAross.org)

**REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS**  
Held the 2nd Thursday of the month in the Town Hall

**RPOA MEETINGS**  
Held at 7:15 p.m. on the Monday preceding the Town Council Meeting in the Town Hall

**TOWN'S E-MAIL**  
To join the Town's email list and receive Town notices, contact Linda Lopez <llopez@townofross.org>



Please visit RPOA's website to view this newsletter in color and for more information about our organization:  
[www.RPOAross.org](http://www.RPOAross.org)