

# The La Honda Voice



Friday, January 28, 2005

## The Lost Oil Fields of La Honda

A lecture Friday evening (1/28) is entitled, "Oil Bearing Rocks in the Santa Cruz Mountains" by Richard Stanley sponsored by the South Skyline Association (SSA). Except for a small percentage of folks, like myself, this probably wouldn't be the kind of way you would want to start your weekend. However, when I looked closely at the SSA flyer (<http://www.southskyline.org/Skylines/2005-01/SkylinesJan2005.pdf>), I saw something that I found quite amazing - it shows oil fields just a few miles away from La Honda! As you can see from the topo map on page 3, the oil wells are located on either side of Highway 84 between Redwood Terrace and San Gregorio. (continued on page 3)



## Request: Place Dogs on Leash

"Yesterday while walking my dog she was viciously attacked by another dog off leash. I would like to ask everyone to PLEASE keep dogs on leashes while in public places. I would like to avoid undue harm to people and pets." Dan & Chloe (Ives) (message #5951)

## Fire Brigade Report

"The attached pictures (on page 2) show a vehicle that was found by two alert State Parks Rangers near San Gregorio Beach on Highway One. Whoever might have been in the vehicle when it went 50 ft. over the side had left the scene by the time it was discovered. The cause and circumstances of the accident are under investigation by the Highway Patrol. In the pictures you will see La Honda Ast. Chief Ari Delay and Firefighter Paul Long searching the area around the accident for victims who might have been thrown from the vehicle. Pictures are of La Honda Fire Incident # 2005-021, Date: Sunday 1-23-05, Dispatch time: 8:05 am. Pictures taken by Capt. Cathy Whitney, La Honda Fire.

Questions pertaining to our service are always welcome. Please E-mail me at [Lwhitney@flash.net](mailto:Lwhitney@flash.net)" From Larry Whitney, Chief, La Honda Fire Brigade





Overtuned vehicle and surrounding area being searched by La Honda Ast. Chief Ari Delay and Firefighter Paul Long

## La Honda Elementary Greenways Meeting

"There will be a meeting of the La Honda Greenways group on **Monday Feb. 7, 2005**. We will meet in the 3rd grade classroom at 7:15pm. The meeting will be brief so please be on time. If you have any input or desire to work on this project please attend. If you cannot attend send your comments via email to: [LHEgreen@velocity-ventures.com](mailto:LHEgreen@velocity-ventures.com). A revised plan will be proposed for approval by the group. The revised plan will be available for inspection on the website February 4, 2005 (or sooner). The original plan can be viewed on the website <http://www.velocity-ventures.com>. The revised plan is very similar to the original..."(jmailespringer) (message #5928)

Related Story: "... It looks like your going to take advantage of the water collection system designed by Mr. Rich Booth and installed under the ICSD

project... Early in the ICSD project Rich Booth spoke up and told us that he would like to do something about the water and perhaps find a way to water the fields. About two weeks later, one Saturday, I go up to the school and to my amazement there's Mr. Booth, and two backhoes, an excavator, bobcat and several trucks. Mounds of dirt ten feet high lined the perimeter of the ball field. A ditch had been cut along the north-west property line of the school to collect the water. I think every piece of earth moving equipment in La Honda was there... Rich later planted wild flowers along the hill. There were plans to put an oak grove in on the left side on the driveway and name it after Joanne Lehner. This is one less regret for me to carry around. I'm sure that there's a lot of people out there that are happy that their hard work has not gone to waste. Now if someone would just get around to building a library that resembles an early 19th century schoolhouse, I'll be complete." From John K (message #5930)

## "Not one Damn Dime Day" Revisited

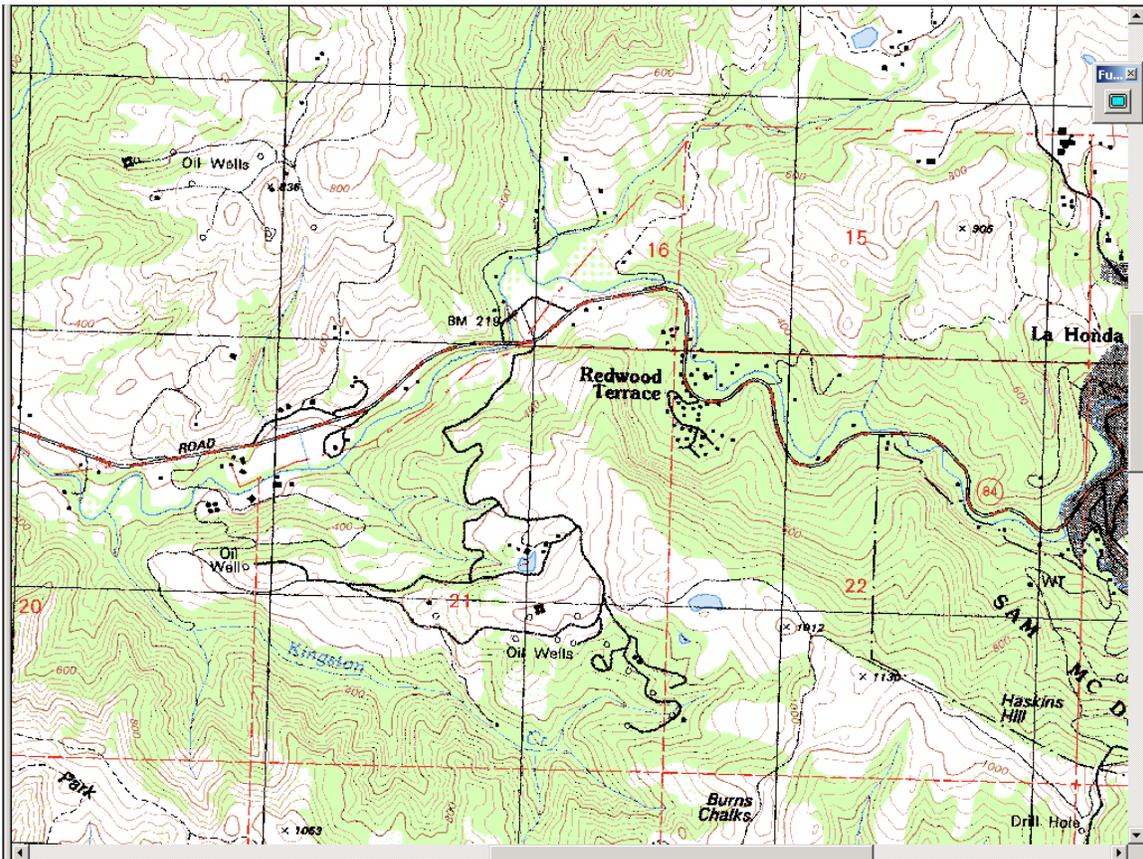
Last week The Voice presented opposing local views on the "Not one Damn Dime Day" -a way to protest the war in Iraq by not buying anything for 24 hours. "The object of the protest was to "Remind the people in power that the war in Iraq is immoral and illegal." Although the goals are well intentioned, an article at snopes.com (which is a great website to research urban legends), questions the usefulness of this form of protest. ( see <http://www.snopes.com/politics/war/not1dime.asp> for the article)

**(Oil Fields - continued from page 1)**

Here is some additional information about the La Honda oil fields. The oil fields are divided into a main area and a South area that comprise 135 acres with 23 wells as of 1981. There was a small amount of production from this area in the 1920's, and then in May 1956, interest in extracting oil from this area was renewed. The first well in 1956 was a dry one drilled by the Neaves Petroleum Developments. In October of the same year another well was drilled that produced about 75 barrels a day of oil. From then up until 1981, 783,124 barrels of oil and 104,519 Mcf of natural gas was extracted from this area. Estimated reserves in 1981 were 120,000 barrels of oil and 31 million cubic feet of gas.[1]

In July 1959, The South oil field was discovered. See the map area South of Highway 84 for the location of this oil field. The first well yielded 25 barrels of oil per day. From then up until 1981, 478,023 barrels of oil and 38,831 Mcf of gas were extracted from this Southern area.

The source rocks for this oil are from the Miocene age. Other nearby oil exists in isolated areas near Point Reyes, Half Moon Bay and Davenport. Some of this oil may have been contiguous at one point but may have been moved along with the San Gregorio and northern San Andreas faults. [2]



These wells are on private property so are not assessable without special permission according to Ruth Waldhauer, a Director at the SSA, who is sponsoring the lecture on "Oil Bearing Rocks in the Santa Cruz Mountains." However Ruth added that there is at least one location where this natural oil can sometimes be seen by the public. There is evidently a parking lot just before the La Honda Honor Camp. If you park and walk down toward the creek, natural oil can sometimes be visible there. Ruth added that this oil is easier to find during the summer, since the rains wash a lot of it away during the winter. I haven't seen this natural oil personally, but would like to hear from anyone who has or have been to the La Honda oil wells themselves.

A potential concern concludes the 1981 California Division of Oil Report, **"Additional development could occur in La Honda oil field.** In the Main Area, production from the shallow Burns sand may be commercial under today's decontrolled oil prices. In the South area, all three pools may have the potential for some additional development. In both areas, there could be room for some offset and infield development wells, some of which may be placed upstructure from existing producing wells.[1] Hopefully, a long time will pass before we have to worry about oil derricks in our backyards.

#### Bibliography

- [1]Hector, Scott T., 1981, *La Honda Oil Field*, California Division of Oil and Gas Publication TR30  
[2]Stanley, R.G. and Lillis, P.G., 2000, *Oil-Bearing Rocks of the Davenport and Point Reyes Areas and Their Implications for Offset along the San Gregorio and Northern San Andreas Faults.*, U.S. Geological Survey

If you are interested in placing an article or have other comments or suggestions, send them to [The\\_Voice@lahonda.com](mailto:The_Voice@lahonda.com)  
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