

San Carlos Eaton Hills 4-H

Issue Nine

<http://www.sancarlos4h.org>
May 2012

Club Officers

President: Tristan Knoth

Vice President: Peri Wong

Corresponding Secretary: Anya Knoth

Secretary: Summer Weaver

Treasurer: Maeve Keegan

Sergeant-at-Arms: Sarah Sutherland

Membership: Isabella Paragas

Jr. Farm Boss:

Steering Committee

Bruce & Maeve Knoth –
Community Leaders 654-4975

Laura Deck

Judy Grimsby

Julie Figliozzi Wong

Kurt Hallamasek

Gretta Keegan

Scot & Patty Marsters

Aida Paragas

Melissa Stewart

Heather Sutherland

Vera Warrick

Eva Watte

Lisa Weaver

Lisa Montalvo

Chuck Oey

Karen Biggers – co-Registrar 591-2707

Bill Sharratt – co-Registrar – 595-1683

Katherine Schembri – Projects
Coordinator 365-2331

Scot Marsters — Farm Manager

Eric Grimsby — Farm Boss 591-2212

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Next General Meeting:
May 15 at 7PM,
Clifford School

President's Message

Hello 4H members!

I figured out the moral of this year's story. Whoever's elected president for next year, listen up. Here it is: don't be funny from the beginning of the year. By April, all the humor's gone, and by May all the good gimmicks are used up. The only humor left is that there's no humor.

Anyways, this month we have "elections". We reworked the system and took a lesson from Putin. We also have our pizza and bingo night, as usual. Surprisingly enough, we eat pizza and play bingo. It costs money, but we take Visa (see details below). Finally, Hometown Days is coming up. It's the most exciting event in San Carlos (though San Carlos is a hotbed of excitement) and we need everybody to come participate in the parade. The one time we didn't win was a disgrace and we don't want that to happen again. We are still trying to live it down.

~ Tristan Knoth



At this month's meeting:

Vote for club officers and enjoy pizza and bingo

\$1 buys a slice of pizza and a bingo card

Each additional bingo card is \$1.

The club will provide drinks and lots of fun prizes!

Feel free to bring a prize to donate (worth \$5 or less).

UPCOMING DATES & EVENTS

May 15	7PM May general meeting
May 15	Record books due to community leaders
May 19 – 20	Hometown Days!
	Sat. 8:15-11 Float decorating and parade
	Sat. & Sun. 10-5 Dime Toss and Information Booths open
May 26	State 4-H Field Day, UC Davis
June 9 - 17	San Mateo County Fair
June 17	Cake Booth service at San Mateo County Fair

Line up for Hometown Days Parade

Get ready for San Carlos Hometown Days! This annual celebration happens **May 19, 2012**. Next to Fair, Hometown Days is the biggest event in our 4-H year. Every 4-H family is needed to make this year's celebration a success. This year's theme is "32 Years Of Hometown Cheer." To celebrate this theme we can bring our animals with us along the parade route and take a walk with them. Please be certain to provide water and a bowl for your animal. Small animals and poultry will be more comfortable in a kennel/cage.

Please wear your 4-H t-shirt, or 4-H uniform, or 4-H colors—green and white. Be sure to wear comfortable shoes. Parade activities begin at **8:15 AM** when we gather on Cedar Street near the north end of the Central Middle school playground to decorate our float. The parade steps off at 9:45 am from Central Middle School, follows a route through downtown San Carlos, and ends back at the school approximately an hour later. All 4-H club members are welcome to participate in the parade, and adults who are not helping set up the club booths should also plan to join in the fun.

So to review:

- Arrive at 8:15am on Saturday, May 19.
- Wear your 4-H t-shirt or uniform (including the hat) or green and white.
- Wear comfortable walking shoes.
- Bring an animal to take for a walk; remember a leash, water, and a bowl.
- Bring a wagon or cage for your small animal.
- Bring water in a bottle for yourself.
- Bring your decorated scooter or bicycle
- Bring extra decorations from your project and a way to secure them.

Bring 4-H Whites to May Meeting

We would everyone to please remember to bring their old whites to the next general meeting. Since fair is fast approaching, the bin of whites will be available. Feel free to add a pair, take a pair or just peruse. Old shirts are needed, as well.

Thanks,

Melissa Stewart

Club Officer Elections at May Meeting

Elections for club officers will be held at the May general meeting. Only club members vote for officers. (Parents cannot vote.) Membership in the Junior/Teen Leadership project for at least one year is a prerequisite for becoming a candidate. In addition, only candidates who submit a candidate statement to the club newsletter are eligible for election. Please become an informed voter; read the candidates' statements below before the meeting.

Candidates Statements

President

Hello San Carlos/Eaton Hills 4-H Club my name is Kate Lyn Sutherland and I am running for President for the 2012-2013 4-H year. I have been in 4-H for seven years and held the positions of secretary and outreach officer on the board. I am also a current 4-H State Ambassador, County All Star and a member of the Statewide 4-H Incentives and Recognition Committee. I have taken many projects in our club like hobby crafts, lambs, socializing rabbits and many more, along with raising show chickens and market turkeys. I love 4-H and it has become the most rewarding part of my life. Actually 4-H is my life, I am constantly thinking of new ways to make our club even greater. It may seem time consuming but I wouldn't have it any-other way! Please vote for Kate Lyn for President because I love 4-H and all of you!

Vice-President

Hi! My name is Summer, and I'm running for the office of Vice President. In case I haven't been able to introduce myself to you personally, allow me to do so right now. I'm sixteen, I'm a sophomore at Mercy High School, this is my third year in 4-H, and I love talking. This year, I had the honor of being the Secretary for our club. I absolutely loved being able to take on this leadership, and I adored the new way I got to interact with our club. When I first started 4-H three years ago, I was much more quiet and shy. I didn't want to speak at meetings, or take on much of any leadership at all. Now, I've found that I actually really enjoy public speaking, and I love to help the club in any way that I can. This club has really helped me come out of my shell, and I could not be any more grateful. So please, vote for me!

Secretary

Hi my name is Anya Knoth and this is my eighth year in 4H. I have previously served as corresponding secretary and this year I am running for secretary. Over my years in 4H I have raised lambs, a goat and many chickens, and participated in many other projects like Community Service, Junior/Teen Leaders and Hobby Crafts. Last year I really enjoyed my job as corresponding secretary, and I am really looking forward at the chance to hopefully become our clubs secretary next year. Thank you so much and I hope you vote for me this month!

Corresponding Secretary

Hi my name is Isabella Paragas and I am running for Corresponding Secretary. I am a Sophomore at Carlmont High School and I have been a 4-H member for 6 years. I am currently serving as the Membership Chairperson and Junior Teen Leader for the Manga Art Project and the Beginning 4-H Project. Along with writing other important letters, the Corresponding Secretary writes many 'thank you' notes to various organizations and individuals that contribute to the club, and I have a lot of experience writing personal 'thank you' notes over the years. I also have a lot of writing experience being a Staff Writer for my high school newspaper. So vote *Isabella* for Corresponding Secretary.

Treasurer

Hi my name is Maeve. This is my 6th year in 4-H. I want to be your treasurer because I have been the treasurer of my Girl Scout troop for seven years and know how to keep records of money being put in and out of the account. I have also been your treasurer for the last year as well as the treasurer for the new San Carlos Leo's Club. I know how to put checks and money that we get from 4-H into the bank. I also know how to keep the records on the computer and in the checkbook as well as reconciling. 4-H has been a great and fun time so far and I hope to endure more in the last few years that I have left in this club. I'm also very responsible and honest.

Club Historian

The 4-H organization has been around for over 100 years. It opened the door for youth to learn leadership skills and explore new ways to help their community. Since 4-H started in the late 1890's there has been many historical events in the agricultural world, including 4-H and other similar groups. My name is Nik Grimsby; I am a sophomore at Carlmont and have a strong fascination with world history. I believe that I am the right choice for this new office as club historian. With me at the lead we can bring lost 4-H stories back in the light, and to tell tales of long ago. We can learn the true story of us, of our proud, strong, amazing club, that continues to create history every day. Thank you for your consideration, and be sure to vote for me! Nik Grimsby.

Club Photographer

Hi my name is Dina Ferguson, I'm 14, and I have been in 4H for 3 years. I would like to be considered for the Club Photographer. I'm running for this office because I like photography and I enjoyed being the photographer for my previous 4H club. My job as the club photographer was to supply pictures of club activities and events to the webmaster and historian. Over the last couple of years I have tried to refine my photography skills through classes, as well as digital imaging classes. I feel that I am a good fit for this position given my experience in photography. I would really appreciate your vote! Thank you.

Membership

My name is Sebrianne Ferguson. This is my third year in 4H and I'm running for the Membership office. The previous office I've held was club Reporter for El Sereno 4-H. Over the last year I have focused on my leadership and communication skills. I'm running for the Membership office because I would like to work with new members and serve as an interface between new members and the community leaders. I had a taste of this last November, when I helped with the New Member Breakfast and interacted with many new members which I found very enjoyable. I believe that my mix of leadership and communication skills qualifies me for this office. I would appreciate your vote!

Sergeant-at-Arms

My name is Justin Wesley Weaver, and I am running for the position of sergeant-at-arms in the 4-H office. I am currently fourteen years aged and I am experiencing my fifth year in 4-H. As a member of the 4-H club, I do believe that I have the necessary experience to hold an office position. I have been in many projects over my years in this club and I can easily say with a straight face that I have some idea of how things work. Some of these projects include beekeeping, chickens, goats, lambs, and community service. Thank you so much for your vote!

Jr. Farm Boss

My Name is Jesse Taylor and I am running to be your Junior Farm boss for the 2012-2013 year. I am a 15 year old sophomore and I have been in 4-H for 7 years. I should be your next Junior Farm Boss because of my experience with the position, the farm, and the animals. I was Junior Farm Boss two years ago so I am familiar with how to give a Farm Report and make decisions at the farm. While I was Junior Farm Boss we were doing renovations and I worked at the farm every Saturday morning while we were doing construction. Because of this, I know the ins and outs of how the farm works. I am also very knowledgeable about the animals because I have raised sheep, goats, turkeys, chickens, and bees, all the animals that can be raised at the farm except pigs. I think I am the perfect person for the position, and I hope you vote for me!!

Hello my name is Sarah Sutherland and I am running for the 2012-2013 JR. Farm Boss position. I have been in 4-H for 8 years and I'm 13 years old. I have raised lambs and turkeys at the San Carlos Eaton Hills 4-H Farm. This club and farm means the world to me and I don't know what I would do without it. I've put countless hours in to the rebuilding of the farm along with my family. I've led the kids from beginning 4-H project on a tour of our farm for the past two years. My goal is to help the beginning 4-Hers learn more about the farm and to get them as excited about the farm and raising animals as I am. I would like to see more 4-Hers have the opportunity to use the farm and put the fun back in to the farm. Please vote for me Sarah Sutherland for Jr. farm boss so I can help make that happen. Thank you and have a great day.

Record Books Due on May 15 – Get a Jump on Them

Members who plan to show animals at the San Mateo County Fair **MUST** have their record books at the May 2012 General Meeting. All other members who hope to earn a pin and year stripe, can bring record books to the Knoth home at 519 Prospect Street, San Carlos, in early June 2012.

The club website contains links to the state 4-H website, where you will find Word and PDF versions of the Personal Development Form and Project Report Form.

If you are claiming credit for demonstrations, you must complete a Demonstrative Verification Form and submit it with your record book. Forms are available on the club website.

Cake Booth at Fair

For those families who are looking to be involved with the fair but don't have an animal to show and don't quite know what to do....have I got a great opportunity for you: the cake booth! For those new to the club, every year our club is responsible for staffing and providing cakes for the cake booth for one day at the fair—this year it's Sunday, **June 17**. It is a really fun way to be part of the action of the fair for a day.

We ask that every family in our club donate two cakes for the booth. It's definitely not too early to start thinking about finding your favorite cake recipe. We also sell large cookies at the cake booth and they always sell out, so please stash some cookies in your freezer and bring them to the booth during the fair. Make this a fun family activity by following these cake-baking guidelines:

- Cakes must be 8” or 9” round, 2-layer cakes. No square or rectangular cakes.
- Box mixes are preferred. (You will need two boxes to bake two cakes.) Baking is easy and the results are uniform.
- Any flavor is fine, but we recommend you make one chocolate because it is the most popular flavor.
- Cakes must be frosted. Again, store-bought frosting is great.
- Avoid the whipped frosting, please, because it doesn’t hold up.
- Frost when the cake is completely cooled.
- Cakes must be presentable, but need not be fancy.
- Do not slice your cake.
- Too busy to bake? Or the cake fell over? Please buy two-layer 8” or 9” store-bought cakes are perfectly fine.

Please sign-up at the May general meeting. Please contact our cake booth coordinators Nadine Ferguson at (nferg@fergusonsgroup.com) or Heather Sutherland at hpsutherland@comcast.net. They can answer your questions, get you signed up to work the cake booth or how/where/when to get your cakes donated!

“Pen Pride” Booth at Fair!

For more than 65 years, San Mateo county 4-H clubs have taken a turn raising a special steer, “Peninsula Pen Pride.” In 2002, our club raised “Houdini,” a beautiful Black Angus, who was quite adept at escaping his pen! The Pen Pride steer always has a choice pen location in the livestock barn at fair and a special role in raising funds for our county’s 4-H clubs. For a \$1 donation, fair-goers take a chance at guessing the steer’s weight and winning fabulous prizes. The steer is officially weighed on the last day of Fair. Because thousands of people enjoy playing this game, there are always several correct and close guesses with a prize for each.

All San Mateo county 4-H clubs participate in selling Pen Pride tickets, the entry forms for the guessing game. San Carlos/Eaton Hills club members already purchased a set of tickets as part of their registration dues. In addition to submitting these guesses, our members and parents help our club fulfill its responsibility for selling Pen Pride tickets to fair-goers. Selling tickets is easy and fun and people always love to talk about the steer and 4-H. We are the biggest club in the county and as such, have to pull our fair share of Pen Pride duty. Every family is requested to sign up for a shift. We also need someone to coordinate the shifts. Sign up at the May general meeting to help, or contact Cyndi Nolasco at thenolascofamily@yahoo.com.

4-H Summer Camp @ Indiana Jones Gulch

San Mateo County 4-H holds a summer camp at Jones Gulch for one week in June. This year, camp runs from June 17 - 22, 2012. Want to be one of the first to know when camp registration opens? 4-H camp is a resident camp for members ages 9 and up. Please note: Use the following links ONLY when viewing this newsletter online. For more information and to register go to: <http://ucanr.org/sites/smsf4h/SummerCamp/>



-CAMP INDIANA JONES GULCH-

SUNDAY JUNE 17TH – FRIDAY JUNE 22ND, 2012



San Mateo County 4-H Summer Camp offers fun and excitement such as swimming, boating, archery, arts & crafts, hiking, rock tower climbing, horseback riding, and both organized and unorganized games. We have fun nightly recreation which includes all campers in the activities. The friends and memories made there last a lifetime. 4-H offers hands-on, experiential learning activities to promote citizenship, leadership, and life skills.



Register at: <http://ucanr.org/sites/smsf4h/SummerCamp/>

Project Reports

Italian Cooking

At our last cooking project meeting, we cooked up a storm! We made Marinara sauce, Pesto, Baked Turkey Meatballs, and pasta. Everything was made from scratch other than the pasta. For the pasta we used stored bought spaghetti. We learned proper pasta cooking techniques. For the marinara sauce we started out by sautéing the onions and then simmered it with tomatoes. We then blended it in the food processor to make it smooth and added the spices. We make pesto sauce using basil, pine nuts and cheese sauce. We learned about alternate ingredients to use for pesto such as cilantro, etc. When rolling the meatballs, we make sure they were make uniform in size to prevent burning the smaller ones. I am the JTL for this project, so I got to demonstrate proper chopping techniques to younger project members. We ended the project meeting by playing “Name Your Pasta” game. Everything turned out delicious!

~ Sebrianne Furguson

Building Our Chicken Coop!

This month we finished my families’ chicken coop. I learned a lot about building a sturdy structure that would be a lot of fun for our hens! It was really fun to choose the location, and design for the coop. After we finally chose a design we all liked, and found a good spot for it in our yard we put together a cut list of all the parts we would need and what size! Then we went to the store and picked up all our materials. Later we started to build, we started with the hen house, then we dug holes in the ground for the enclosure. After a lot of hard rainy work we covered the whole enclosure in wire, and made a gate so we could get in to clean it! Our chicken coop is finally done, and our hens are living inside it happily!

- Daphne Schwartz

Books, Bucks and Elbow Grease Bring a Library to Swaziland

Everyone talks about how they want to make a difference in the world. Well, talk is cheap. Adults are often better at coming up with 20 reasons why a particular idea won't work than they are at actually accomplishing something. Kids, however, view the world through a simpler lens based on "sure, why not" rather than "gee, I don't think that will work."

Good thing I hang out with the teen members of the San Carlos-Eaton Hills 4-H Club. When I asked a group of seven of them in the Community Service Project – Anya Knoth, Sarah and Kate Lyn Sutherland, Justin and Summer Weaver, Cormac Keegan, and Anna Spalletta -- if they wanted to team up with the African Library Project to gather books for a school library in Africa, they said yes without hesitation. Their mission, should they choose to accept it, was to gather 1,000 gently-used children's books and raise \$500 to cover shipping costs. So began the journey to bring books to the students at Mlumati Primary School in Msahweni, Swaziland. OK, admit it: you'd be hard pressed to find Swaziland on a map without the help of Google Earth. A few quick facts: Swaziland is a kingdom of 1.3 million bordering South Africa and Mozambique. Almost 40% of Swazis have been diagnosed with HIV/AIDS, and life expectancy is a mere 48. The adult literacy rate is 87%, and English is one of two official languages. The government is trying to improve the quality and affordability of primary education, but currently students must pay for their school fees and uniforms. School books and supplies are extremely limited. The African Library Project has established over 50 libraries in Swaziland to date and partners with two organizations that train the teachers and librarians and coordinate book distribution. Each school provides the space, furniture, and staffing for a library. That's where we come in. Heather Sutherland, the other 4-H leader, and I

gave the kids a checklist of tasks, and they were off and running. They drafted e-mail announcements and articles for the club newsletter, planned a skit for the general meeting, made posters and flyers, and planned a bake sale. Their slogan for the book drive was: "A book and a buck, that's all we ask."

Our first fundraiser was a bake sale that brought in \$128. At another meeting the kids sold root beer floats for \$3, and in a stroke of marketing genius, if you donated a book, your float cost \$2. Now the till was up to \$284. Things were picking up speed in the book drive category too. Once we put the word out that we were gathering children's books, the power of human connections and viral marketing took off. I e-mailed the four elementary school librarians in San Carlos and they gladly donated about 200 books. A retired librarian in Menlo Park saw our book drive page on the African Library Project website and gave us 350 books. My boyfriend went to the Friends of the Library sale at Cubberly Community Center in Palo Alto and came back with five bags of books – free. The piles of books in my garage grew like mushrooms.

The last hurdle was the remaining \$300. According to the ALP guidelines, book drive organizers must pay to ship the books to a warehouse in New Orleans (approximately \$250 media rate), plus contribute a flat fee of \$300 to cover our share of the shipping container from New Orleans to Africa. After much discussion, another leader suggested that the kids present their project to the San Carlos Lions Club and ask them for a donation, just like pitching to venture capitalists.

The kids prepared their script, rehearsed their parts, and donned their 4-H shirts. As they addressed what was to them a scary group of adults, Heather and I watched proudly from the back of the room. Their presentation was smooth, sincere, and

compelling. Then came the crucial moment, the “ask” in business lingo.

“So to summarize, you need \$300 to cover the remaining shipping costs?” asked Scot Marsters, the president. Yes, they all nodded in unison. A pause. Silence.

“I move that we donate \$300 to the San Carlos 4-H Club for their book drive,” said a member.

“I second the motion,” said another. Cue seven speechless 4-H members with deer-in-the-headlights expressions. I looked at Heather with my mouth open like a fish and gasped. “Wow, I thought we’d get some kind of donation from them but not the whole amount,” I exclaimed.

High fives all around in the parking lot! All that remained was the final step of packing the books and lugging them to the post office. The book packing party took place in my garage accompanied by root beer floats left over from the sale. We were thrilled to see books every child should experience like *Charlotte’s Web*, *Corduroy*, *Dr. Seuss*, *Little House on the Prairie*, *Frog and Toad*, *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, *Winnie the Pooh*, and the Beverly Cleary books. Even if you grow up poor in the United States, your education is free and books in schools and communities are free and plentiful. We have so much. They
By Laura Deck

have so little. In retrospect, it took seven kids a modest amount of effort to gather used books to fill a new library where once was none. Over the course of the three-month book drive, not once did anyone say, this is too hard, or I don’t think we can do it. It didn’t occur to them to fail.

The 4-H kids wrote letters to the Swazi students. Anna summed it all up best: *I’m Anna. I am in 8th grade and I love to read. Some of my favorite books are in the boxes. It seems so different there, and I just wanted a little piece of our lives here to share with you. Read as much as you can. By the way, I’m 14 years old, 5’4”, Italian and French, and my favorite color is purple. I hope you guys like the books.*



Into the Wild with the 4-H Backpacking Project

On the morning of April 21st, six members of the inaugural 4-H backpacking project hit the trail at Castle Rock State Park. Sydney Cohn, Jesse Taylor, Sofia Demers, Alyssa Montalvo, Anna Spalletta, and Ryan Heitel carried sleeping bags, tents, clothes, gear, food, and other necessities on their backs through the wildlands of the Santa Cruz Mountains. Our destination was the Castle Rock Trail Camp where we would spend the night and hike back out the next morning covering a total of six miles.

The group met with the project leaders, Laura Deck and John Schuck, three times prior to the trip. They learned how to light a camp stove, filter water, pitch a tent, read a map, select a campsite, make tinder to start a fire, follow good trail etiquette, pack lightly, choose the proper gear, and adopt “leave no trace” principles. Now we were ready and eager to test our new skills.

We purchased our permit at the ranger station and off we went. The trail passed through oak and madrone forests to Castle Rock, popular with rock climbers, and on to Castle Rock Falls where we had a view of the ocean under the clouds. The next section of the trail had some

boulders we had to scramble over (so not easy with a 25-pound pack on your back), and soon we reached the camp.

Next we got busy pitching tents and setting up camp. We spent the afternoon playing games (charades or poker anyone?), drawing and painting, and exploring and relaxing in camp. For dinner we sampled several freeze-dried delicacies and decided that the chicken teriyaki with rice was better than the mac n cheese. The park allowed fires, so Jesse used our custom-made tinder (cotton balls with petroleum jelly) to get one going. We lost count of the number of marshmallows Ryan burned (I mean roasted).

The night passed without incident and everyone was up early for breakfast (oatmeal, dried fruit, and hot chocolate) and then we broke camp. The trail back was uphill almost the whole way, but the group kept a steady pace and made it back to the car with energy to spare. I asked each of the kids what they liked best and least about backpacking. Here are their answers:

What I like best:

Sydney: staying up late listening to sounds and waking up in your tent hearing sounds.

Alyssa: hiking on the trail and climbing up the rocks.

Ryan: it's a great feeling when you arrive at your destination.

Jesse: talking around the campfire.

Anna: socializing with the group.

Sofia: eating s'mores.

What I like least:

Sydney: Huffing and puffing to get to camp.

Alyssa: no changing room and my sleeping bag slid off my pad.

Ryan: thumbs down on the mac 'n cheese.

Jesse: the popping sounds from the rifle range nearby.

Anna: crawly bugs and ants.

Sofia: had a stomach ache

From our perspective, the kids were troopers and we were very proud of what they accomplished. We didn't hear one single complaint, everyone followed instructions (stay on the trail and wait at junctions), pitched in, and the group got along really well together. We proved we could be self-sufficient and safe outdoors and have a great time along the way.



By Laura Deck & John Schuck



Beginning 4-Hers went to the farm on 5/5/12 and had a great tour by members of the Community Service, Sheep and Goat projects.

Cheers,
Sarah Wolking

More Cooking

Throughout the year, cooking class has been a blast. It has allowed eager children to prepare fun and simple dishes. The best part was we got to enjoy the food we cooked. My favorite dish was broccoli beef and turmeric rice. We also learned how to handle meats and to check if food was still good. I definitely recommend this class.

Elise Wacha

Archery

Archery is an interesting sport. The most fun way to do it is to go hiking while shooting. This is what we did last weekend at Kings Mountain Archery Range where a group of archers met up to shoot at this outdoor range. We hiked through the woods stopping at different targets to shoot. Some of the targets were measured in yards and some were measured in feet. The longest distance was probably 68 yards. I loved being outdoors to shoot, you should definitely try it!!!

Elise Wacha

U.S. Geological Survey 10th Triennial Open House

The U.S.G.S. is holding Open House at its Menlo Park headquarters on May 19th and 20th from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. There is no admission charge and visitors will be able to park in lots normally reserved for staff. This event is only held every 3 years so this is one of the few opportunities one has to learn about all the amazing things the U.S.G.S. does. There will be presentations, hands-on activities, displays, and live music (plus food, usually). Topics highlighted will include: earthquakes, water quality, volcanoes, coastal and marine geology, mineral and energy resources, geography, and the San Francisco Bay ecosystem. I have been lucky enough to attend the Open House the last 4 times and have always found fun and informative things to do. Take the whole family, even the grown-ups will be entertained and surprised! Need further information? Check out the web site at:

<http://openhouse.wr.usgs.gov/2012/>

Peter Warrick

Want to Find Out More About 4-H?

You can view the May 2011 issue of *Highlights*, the San Mateo County 4-H monthly online newsletter, at [http://ucanr.org/sites/smsf4h/Printable Highlights](http://ucanr.org/sites/smsf4h/Printable_Highlights)

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- 5.

Special Edition ~ Next newsletter deadline: June 20

Tell us about your fair experiences. What did you enter? What did you see? How did you participate? Did you work the cake booth or sell pen pride tickets? Is this your first year? Is this your last year?

Write down your thoughts and send me the note! We welcome and encourage articles written by members. Newsletter articles can be sent to Shelle McGee-Lucas via email at straycatgt@comcast.net. Also articles can be hand written and mailed or dropped off if experiencing computer issues. Call 508-8392 for address.

