

WINTER

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The Antler



Deerhorn Valley, Jamul, CA 91935

TheAntler@DeerhornValley.net

Ariele Johannson ~ Kim Hamilton, Editors

"In a medical or fire emergency, the single-most important thing you can do is to make sure we can find you."

*-Chief Clay Howe
BLM Wildfire Specialist*



A non-flammable reflective address sign may protect both your home and family in a fire or medical emergency. Contact Susie Norton at 468-3183 to order yours for \$20. All proceeds go to our Deerhorn Valley Fire Dept. Auxiliary.

DEERHORN INITIATES EMERGENCY DIRECTORY-MAPPING PROJECT

Deerhorn Valley people value their solitude and independence, but when emergencies arise, they know they must rely upon one another. When the next wildfire threatens, or your neighbor calls 911, will our firefighter/EMT's be able to find you?

We can improve our chances of protecting our homes and families by coming together in a cooperative effort to make sure our home, and those of our neighbors, can be located in an emergency.

This project began under former Fire Capt. Don Deede. Volunteer "Road Captains" (you and/or a neighbor) gather critical information about the roads, driveways, homes, and structures in their immediate area.

Under guidance from CalFire personnel, the information is organized by road name in an Emergency Notebook along with accurate maps and photos of driveways and key landmarks. Copies will be kept at the Lyons Valley (Cal-Fire) Station and Deerhorn Station #37 for emergency personnel only.

Here's where we need your cooperation. Imagine what YOU would need if you were an out-of-town firefighter entering a completely strange environment. Your sole intent is to preserve lives and property. Will you be able to find an address sign? A driveway? Where is the



What may be easily visible in daytime can be obscured by darkness or smoky conditions. Do you have your reflective sign?

water tank or hydrant hookup?

Remember it may be pitch dark, smoke-filled, and the difference of 100 yards or a half mile is critical in a medical or fire emergency.

We would like to know if there are persons who may need assistance evacuating. What kind of structures are there? Are there animals? Does your water supply have fittings a water pumper can attach to?

Please complete the insert attached. To save duplicating efforts, we are also creating a Community Directory to be distributed to residents. If there is any information you do not included, just mark the adjacent box. We will ALWAYS respect your privacy.

If you can help collect information and photos of your area, please call Phyllis Dozier (468-0064).

WHOPPING ACORN CROP THIS YEAR ... Are our oaks predicting a wet winter?

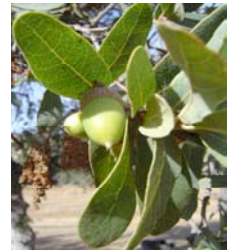
I had a good talk with Paul Jacob a few weeks ago. We were looking at his oaks when he remarked, "This sure is a bumper crop of acorns!" In fact, the oaks of Deerhorn Valley are putting out the largest crop of acorns since 1998. That crop preceded a very wet winter— DV received more than 40 inches of rain. Maybe the acorns know something we don't.

Our valley is home to three main types of native oak: Coastal Live Oak, Scrub Oak, and the Engelmann Oak. The Engelmann is the rarest of all American oaks and found only in a small range between 2300 and 4200 feet. Some of the finest specimens are right here in Deerhorn.

Our oaks can survive most normal fires that move through the grasses and chaparral, but when wind-driven embers and firebrands lodge against hollowed trees, the trunks act as a chimney and the trees burn from the inside out. Many oaks that overhung or stood aside burning structures were also lost; the heat intensity was just too much for them to withstand. Sadly, many of these fire survivors now face a new threat: the Gold-spotted Oak Borer is responsible for most of the standing dead oak we see around the valley. The Engelmann appears to be somewhat resistant to this insect, but some 90% of our coastal



Live Oak acorns (left) are narrower and pointed. Engelmann oaks produce rounder acorns (right).



live oaks are showing signs of infestation.

November and December are the best months to collect acorns. Check for insect damage with a float test. Toss them in a bucket of water and keep the ones that sink. Store them in the refrigerator and plant after the first rains. Poke them into the ground by boulders or near older oaks. Protect them from pests with a screen cylinder. You can even give some a head start by germinating them inside, then planting them once the root has sprouted. Not all will take, so it's better to plant too many than not enough.

Plant them for your kids and grandkids. And for *their* kids and grandkids. Teach them to know and love our oaks as we do.

MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS...

Dubé Vineyards and Winery...



You are driving into Deerhorn Valley on Honey Springs Road. There is a hillside neatly stacked with grapevines. You have heard there is a winery in Jamul, but may not know its history. It is the Dubé Family Winery, established in 1999 by Carol and Doug Dubé. You may have seen their Cabernet Sauvignon, Chardonnay, meritage of Syrah and Zinfandel, and others in local stores. The Trading Post, Jamul Liquor, and Albertson's in Alpine all carry Dubé wines. If you attended the DV Annual BBQ, you may have seen the wine and chocolate gift basket they donated to our Silent Auction.



Doug, Jack, Alex, and one of our four big guard dogs – Zak.

You remember the heat wave in September. For Doug and Carol, this meant they had to do an emergency harvest of their grapes. In one morning, with a crew of local people and their two sons, Alex and Jack, the grapes were picked and crushed and ready for the first fermentation. The photo (left) shows Doug working with the crushed grapes or “must.” (FYI: The email version of The Antler is in color--- email us at theantler@deerhornvalley.net to subscribe and we'll get it to you within 2 days.)

“...settle down with a beautiful glass of white or red wine that is grown, harvested, and created in our own unique valley...”

Now, you want to know where you can go to learn more about their history, wines, and wine blends. The Dubé's have a website with pics and a calendar of events. You can see where they pour their wines and you get to taste (virtually) each one! They do not sell wines at their winery, but they can deliver your order. Their website is www.dubevineyards.com, or you can email them at info@dubevineyards.com. Finally, you can settle down with a beautiful glass of white or red wine that is grown, harvested, and created in our own unique valley as you gaze across ancient oaks, chaparral, hummingbirds and mountain scenery.

Dr. Ruth Baak: Where Jeans Meet Genes

You've probably seen her at a DV Barbecue or Pancake Breakfast. Ruth Baak, the Llama Lady, strolling about with her llamas, and delighting youngsters and oldsters alike. Ruth breeds her llamas right here at Beacon Hill Ranch up on Mother Grundy Truck Trail. On any given weekend you'll spot her amid her herd of more than 40 llamas...many of them award-winners including Serpiko, the 2005 National Champion.

But come Monday morning, she trades her blue jeans for the genes she works with in her Carlsbad laboratory at AutoGenomics Inc. There Dr. Baak, immunogeneticist, is engrossed in genotyping and molecular diagnostics, training hospital and clinic staff in methods and equipment used to identify viruses, including the H1N1 (swine flu).

A California native from Loma Linda, Ruth's professional pursuits have taken her from UCLA to Salk Institute to UCSD where her doctoral work has included cutting-edge studies of transgenic mutations and stem cell research.

But ask her about Deerhorn Valley and her prize-winning llamas, and Dr. Ruth Baak transforms back into the Llama Lady. “Llamas are like potato chips: you have one or two and you then can't stop. Llama people have a strong organization with a wonderful youth component. It's a wholesome family activity where buyers and sellers become friends.” Ruth even offers an Adopt-A-Llama program to mentor would-be llama owners who visit, learn to work with the animals, and even harvest wool for spinning.

What continues to surprise and delight her about living in Deerhorn Valley? “The diversity of people who live here... you go around the corner and find surprises... teachers, fishermen, artists, even a castle. Here people live their lives and put down roots. And that's really a special thing.”

Well said, Ruth Baak!

Ed. Note: You can visit Ruth's llamas online at www.llamajeans.com or contact her directly at rbaak@aol.com



*“Here people live their lives and put down roots. And that's really a special thing.”
-Ruth Baak*

ASK A BIOLOGIST...by Nira Clark

Ed Note: Nira Clark, from right here in DV, is a biology instructor at Southwestern College. Questions about our DV wildlife? Send them to TheAntler@deerhornvalley.net and we'll include them and her answer in a future issue. You can read more from Nira article on rattlesnakes and lizards on our DeerhornValley.net website.

Q: *Where do rattlesnakes go in winter?*

A: Rattlesnakes hibernate during the colder months. They go underground or deep into woodpile and wait for it to get warm again. Snakes only hibernate in dens in colder climates – not in Deerhorn Valley (to my knowledge). They are *ectothermic*, which means that they have a low resting metabolism and get their body temperature from the environment. Some people erroneously call them “cold blooded,” but if you were to take the temperature of a rattlesnake (which I don’t

recommend!) you would be surprised to find the temperature around 100°-105°F during the summer, and 50°F or even 40°F in winter. It’s a neat strategy that allows them to live in areas with little food (like the desert). Rattlesnakes only need to eat once a month in the summer and can go several months without food in winter.

Rattlesnakes in our region can have babies every year or every other year (depending on temperatures and food supply). Most rattlesnakes mate each spring and the babies hatch in the autumn (between August and October – with most births in September). Off-season births (as well as mating) can occur... but it is not common. Where do they have their babies? Females give birth in rock crevices, mammal holes, brush piles or other places that afford some shelter. Another interesting thing is



Ed. Note: This young rattler was found at the bottom of our woodpile just last week. It had died when a log rolled onto him as we were getting firewood the night before. Kinda close...

that rattlesnakes are *oviparous*. This means that the female stores the eggs inside her body till they are ready to hatch. The eggs “hatch” inside her, and are then “born”.

Other snakes (such as king snakes or garter snakes) are oviparous and lay eggs.

AROUND OUR VALLEY...

In the last issue we asked, “What continues to surprise and delight you about living in Deerhorn Valley? Some answers...”

When I moved here I was fearful that being surrounded by so many rocks would eventually become distasteful...but it has turned out to be just the opposite. As I sat reading The Antler today, I looked out the window to a scene of huge rocks and very few plants. Tears came to my eyes and I was overcome with the beauty and uniqueness of where we live. Since the fires, I have found new appreciation for our

huge variety of rock formations, now so much more pronounced. Thankfully, the vegetation is bounding back and we have discovered new varieties of wildflowers. Every new discovery is a delight. I consider it a privilege to live in Deerhorn Valley. —Ruth Brewer

Each morning, driving out Elena Lane starting down Deerhorn Valley Road on my way to work, I delight in the ever-changing, always beautiful sky. Whether it is a clear bright blue, white clouds or gray, it brings a sigh. —Anne Evosevich

Sandra Ignosci has good reason to be proud of her niece, Jennifer, who was salutatorian of her graduating class. At the age of 33, married, with 2 small boys, and working the 3rd shift she earned her AA in Criminal Justice and was salutatorian of her class with a 3.99 grade average. Way to go, Jennifer!

Jim and Susie Norton hosted the Chula Vista High School Class of ‘59’s Fiftieth Reunion last month. The Norton’s Deerhorn hospitality was such a hit that they’ve already booked CVHS’s next big event!

OTHER LOCAL BUSINESSES



J&L WATER TRUCKIN'

619-669-3888
Joe Jeffers Larry Baldwin
619-733-3388 619-807-8701
\$95 for 2500 gallons



REAL ESTATE RESULTS

(619) 669-6622
Vicki Beers Marcia Spurgeon
619-733-3388 619-807-8701

Classified ads for businesses located in Deerhorn Valley are free, as space permits. For other businesses (or a double-sized ad, as above) the cost is \$25 per issue. Contact Ariele at (619) 468-3327. Our next issue is planned for March/April.



Don't forget to check us out on DeerhornValley.net
The gate's always open!

DEERHORN BUSINESSES

BEACON HILL LLAMA FARM

Dr. Ruth Baak
www.llamajeans.com
Visitors Welcome – Call for Appt.
619-468-3074 760-715-6644

MARY KAY COSMETICS

Ariele Johannson
Independent Consultant
619-468-3327 619-916-7634
www.marykay.com/arielej

DUBÉ VINEYARDS

2516 Honey Springs Road
Tel/Fax: 468-0030
info@dubevineyards.com

DD SERVICES

“Your Country Concierge”
Don Deede 468-9682
We get it done- or we find someone!

MOTHER GRUNDY LLAMA WEATHER STATION

-KCAJAMUL5 -
www.wunderground.com

SPURGEON WELL & PUMP

Mike Spurgeon, Owner
Honey Springs Road
(619) 248-1787

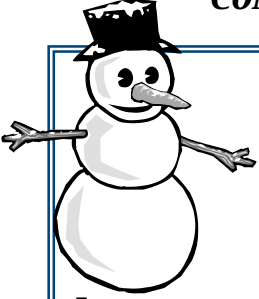
ALL STAR COMPUTERS

Web Design, PC & Laptop
Repair – Tutoring
619 468 3118
info@allstarcomps.com

BARRICADE FIRE- BLOCKING GEL

Tom Lamb, Distributor
619-463-8408 619-985-0178 (cell)
Tom@FireGelSystems.net

COME CELEBRATE WITH YOUR NEIGHBORS, FIREFIGHTERS AND EMT'S!



DEERHORN VALLEY FIRE STATION
HOLIDAY POT LUCK



BAKED POTATOES AND GREEN SALAD PROVIDED...

**JUST BRING SOME FIXIN'S, A DESSERT, OR A SIDE DISH TO SHARE... AND YOURSELVES!
LOCAL CRAFTS & GIFTS TO PURCHASE ~ FREE GRAB BAGS & PIÑATA FOR THE KIDS**

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5TH, 6PM - 9PM

Want to reserve a space for a craft table?
Contact Phyllis at auxiliary@deerhornvalley.net (468-0064)



DV Valley Fire Auxiliary, DV Community Service Zone, and the DV Community Association
Working together for the people of Deerhorn Valley

Important: If you live on Rural Route #1 and haven't been receiving *The Antler* or flyers announcing community events, please email us at TheAntler@deerhornvalley.net. We will gladly send notices to your PO# or via e-mail.

THE ANTLER

**PUBLISHED QUARTERLY BY &
FOR THE COMMUNITY OF
DEERHORN VALLEY**

**DVVFS AUXILIARY - PO BOX 479
JAMUL, CA 91935**



**DEERHORN FRIENDS & NEIGHBORS
RURAL ROUTE 1
JAMUL, CA 91935**

DEERHORN VALLEY DIRECTORY & EMERGENCY CONTACT LIST

A Service Project of the Deerhorn Valley Community Association: DVCA@deerhornvalley.net
PO BOX 862, Jamul, CA 91935

DVCA is assembling a new Directory and Emergency Contact List. The **Emergency List** will be available ONLY to Emergency Personnel (911, Evacuations, etc.) **The Directory** will have a brand new format and contain maps, local businesses, and other valuable information. It will be distributed to all listed residents. Please register now. Help us all stay safer and better connected.

Check each box if you do *not* wish the information to be published in the DV Directory:

Name(s): _____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>
Phone(s): _____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>
Email(s): _____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mailing Address: _____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>
Residence Address: _____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ranch/Home Name (Deerhorn Springs, Far Out Ranch, etc.) _____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>
Professional: (Occupation, Business, Volunteer Work, etc.) : _____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>

May we send you **The DV Antler** and other community updates by email? **YES NO**

IMPORTANT! In case of emergency or evacuation, are there any special circumstances emergency responders should know? (children, elderly, medical, animals etc.) YES NO Please describe below