

# Sunshine fire protection district newsletter

### 2007's To Do List for Safety

As I look back at my past Spring Newsletter articles, I see a common theme: 'to do' lists and getting ready for summer. When I first started writing about the summer it was in the context of the beginning of a new fire season. Unfortunately, our recent experiences are that fire season is now continuous from year to year. Nevertheless, spring is a good opportunity to 'uncover' your home and property from their winter's sleep and to reassess family fire prevention and safety issues. So, with no further ado, here is my To Do list for 2007:

Some things to think about for wildland fire mitigation:

1.Take some time to look at your home's defensible space: have bushes and forest litter crept back; is it time to widen the zone of thinned vegetation; have new ladder fuels arrived? 2. Keep roofs clear of debris: all of those pine needles that accumulate over the winter need to be cleaned from gutters.

- 3. Check to see if roof shingles that blew off during the winter Chinook winds need to be replaced.
- 4. Enclose porch floors, roofs and attic openings (this will help keep windblown firebrands from getting into your home).
- 5. Dispose of slash from thinning. Be sure to follow the SFPD and County guidelines for burning.
- 6. Don't park vehicles in tall, dry grass: hot mufflers can start fires.
- 7. Stack firewood uphill or on a contour and at least 15 feet away from buildings.
- 8. Get rid of trash that accumulated over the winter.

Ideas for general emergency prepared-

1. If you are new to the District, let us know! We are a small District and May 07 Vol. 07 Iss.2



would like to know about our neighbors' needs and concerns. We're here to serve you.

- 2. If you have a buried propane tank, provide us with a means of locating it when the access to the tank is under snow (e.g., a flag sticking up several feet).
- 3. If you have a sprinkler system for your house, please let us know if you have a fire department connection and its location (firemarshal@sunshine-fpd.org). If you

(Cont. on p. 8)





### Inside this Issue

Page 1: 2007 To Do List

Page 2: Schedule, Board of Directors

Page 3 : Chief's Message

Page 4 & 5: Volunteer Profile: Los Ami- Page 10: Community news

gos

Page 6: Team Sunshine

Page 7: Flapjack Fling

Page 8: 2007 To Do List (cont.)

Page 9: Sunshine Tables & Chairs

Campaign

Page 11: Schoolhouse & Cemetery

News, Mountain Gardening

Page 12: Kids' Corner

### Calendar of events



Training and meeting schedules are also available at the Sunshine Fire Department website: www.sunshinefire.com

### Firefighter trainings:

Trainings are scheduled for the second Saturday of each month at 9:00 am to 12:00 pm at the fire station.

Jun 9, Jul 14, Aug 11, Sep 8, Oct 13, Nov 10, Dec 8

### Squad meetings:

Squad meetings are held the third Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm at the fire station.

Jun 21, Jul 19, Aug 16, Sep 20, Oct 18, Nov 15, Dec 20

### Medical trainings:

Medical trainings are held from 7:30 pm to 9:30 pm.at Gold Hill or Four Mile Jun 14 GH, Jul 18 4M, Aug 9 GH, Sep 18 4M, Oct 9 GH

### Board meetings:

Board meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm at the Station 2. Meetings are open to the public.

Jun 12, Jul 10, Aug 14, Sep 11, Oct 9, Nov 13, Dec 11

### Team Sunshine

Meetings are scheduled on an as needed basis, typically the fourth Thursday of the month at 7:30, location rotates.

### Special Events

Flapjack Fling & Community Meeting, Sunday June 3, fire station #2, food service 9-11 a.m., meeting 10:30 a.m.

Schoolhouse Art & Craft Fair, Sep 22-23, 10-4, Schoolhouse



### Star Route Band

Available for Hire House parties, celebrations, graduations!

Dance tunes and flute - driven melodies.

References or more info: Dee Spencer 303.443.0121 John Metzger 303.440.1921

### **Board Members**

Pavel Bouska, Chairman Don Dick, Treasurer Jennifer Lansky, Member Frank McGuire, Member Pat Noyes, Member

Board meetings are at 7:30 pm on the second Tuesday of every month at the fire station and are open to the public.

### **District Officers**

Steve Stratton, Fire Chief Bruce Honeyman, Asst. Fire Chief & Fire Marshal



### **Contact information**

Steve Stratton, Fire Chief Home & work ph. 303-786-8255 Pager 303-441-3851 #4561 steve@stevestratton.tv SFPD-Chief@egroups.com

Bruce Honeyman, Asst. Fire chief & Fire Marshal ph. 303-786-7731 SFPD-FireMarshal@egroups.com

In any emergency, call 911.

When a man opens the door of his car for his wife, you can be sure of one thing: Either the car is new or the wife is.

### Chief's Message

It is springtime! Well, at least I think it is. As I write this it is snowing pretty good. Hopefully that will give way to the sunny skies of Sunshine, soon.

Of course, with spring comes the preparation for fire season. And this one is like all others. Most of our SFPD personnel have completed their wildfire re-training for the season. Our equipment is getting checked out and stocked with the necessary supplies. The snow chains are coming off (I think). And there is a look to the longrange forecasts to get an idea what the season may be like. Global warming aside, early indicators say our year will most likely be a lot like last year. Normal amounts of rain are projected for the Colorado northern front range but it will be warmer and drier than normal in the southwest, Wyoming and the Dakotas. This sounds good for us but it could be a setup. With regular moisture we'll have tall grasses and abundant ladder fuels and, should things get dry in the fall, lead to large fuel loads. Get a head start and keep greenery trimmed. Make sure it is clear under your deck, and stack your firewood away from the house. If you get a chance, cut down some of those diseased trees that might be in your "defensible space".

Speaking of "fire mitigation", it is still the number one thing I get asked about. A few years ago we were able to acquire grant money to help with our mitigation costs. No, that money is not going to be available this year. The reason is that the powers-to-be are requiring us to have an official Community Wide Protection Plan

(CWPP) in place so they can be assured their grant money is being put to good use. Makes sense. A CWPP is something our community sorely needs and is not something your fire department is directly responsible for. There are several ways to make such a plan: hire someone, do it ourselves, or a combination. Gold Hill just completed theirs. With the help of the Colorado State Forest Service and Boulder County Land Use they were able to write their plan themselves with almost no money spent.

Discussion about the CWPP and other community issues is planned at our 2nd Annual Flap Jack Fling, which is planned for Sunday, June 3rd. Last year's event was a great success. There will be a community meeting at 10:30 AM while you down copious amounts of carbohydrates. If you have items you would like the community to discuss, please let me know (email would be good: steve@stevestratton.tv). I'll make up an agenda and we'll see if we can get a handle on how things are in Sunshine.

As I mentioned in the last newsletter we have four firefighters graduating from Colorado Fire Academy. Peter, Caleb, Brett and Rick should be finishing up their trials of fire about the time you read this. Congratulations to these four guys who have worked their tails off to provide our community with even better service. I am really proud of each of them.

While construction on the new "old station" is nearing completion we have run into a snag. Boulder County



Land Use is requiring us to meet building codes that were not in place when the structure was first built. This may require a completely new septic system. Hopefully this will get ironed out in a few weeks and construction will be completed soon. It's always something.

Have a great Spring and Summer. Enjoy all Sunshine has to offer.

Steve Stratton Fire Chief



### Volunteer Profile: Los Amigos

We have an exceptional group of four fire fighters, nicknamed "Los Amigos", who have just completed structural fire training. The following profile focuses on Caleb Sevian, but is really a tribute to the entire team. Viva Los Amigos!

When Caleb Sevian's son was born last September, he was reminded of the special times with his dad, riding in his truck with the fire siren blaring. And at that moment he decided to continue the tradition by becoming a firefighter too. His father, who helped start the Sugarloaf department in the sixties, was thrilled.

Caleb knew Sunshine Canyon well from his frequent bike rides and the warm welcome he received from Steve Stratton convinced him that Sunshine was where he wanted to volunteer. Now he states, "There's no other department I'd rather be a part of, Sunshine is the best".

After going through standard wildland training, Caleb signed up for structural fire training, a demanding 16 week commitment of up to 20 hours per week of formal coursework taught by certified instructors.

With Peter Beresford, Brett Haberstick and Rick Lansky, Caleb has been learning the specific skills needed to fight structure fires including forcible entry, knocking down a fire, search and rescue, and ladders. The job is not all brawn, not all mental, but a combination.

Drills include putting the fire fighters under stress and practicing coping mechanisms; managing their breathing and conserving their oxygen supply; maneuvering with zero visibility by touch and hearing. Training is physically taxing, such as dragging and lifting unconscious victims and carrying them down ladders as high as three stories.

Since the bulkier the fire fighter the more oxygen consumed, the ideal volunteer is lean but exceptionally strong and aerobically fit. And Caleb certainly fits that description well. At one time, he was a nationally ranked body builder and power lifter. Now, his preferred sport is cycling where he's ranked among the top 15 U.S. Masters cyclists and he also finds time for triathlons, skiing, and mountain climbing. His teammates are awed by how strong he is for his size and he admits to being the "brute" called upon for heavy lifting.

Everyone on the team contributes according to their talents to build a strong unit, one that is committed to sharing their training with all the members of SFPD. According to Caleb, Rick is the most knowledgeable in practical aspects, having the most hands-on experience, and is a natural leader. Complementing this, Peter Beresford has hit the textbooks incredibly hard, amassing a tremendous knowledge of the science of fire by going beyond the required coursework. And Brett Haberstick has been the consummate team builder, making sure that they're a cohesive unit by inspiring them through his drive to contribute, work hard, and support his teammates.

A number of SFPD members (Eric Bader, Bruce Honeyman, Steve Strat-(Cont. next page)



Los Amigos at a burn building drill

Los Amigos (cont.) ton, Steve Waltman, and Doug Young) have done this training, but we've never had four members together in a session, leading to great camaraderie, reinforcement, and teamwork. At the same time, we also benefit by developing closer ties with participating individuals from other departments upon which we depend for mutual assistance.

What has impressed Caleb the most is the quality of the people he's encountered in Los Amigos and the fire service. His Los Amigos buddies are "good, solid, very smart people". Throughout the department, the "love of volunteers for the service" is inspiring, he's "never

seen anything like it elsewhere".

This new wave of highly trained volunteers, armed with the most current knowledge in a dynamic field, are a great asset for our department. As Peter Beresford sums it up, "We will be *very* confident in a fully involved structure fire and more than capable of backing each other up."

(Previous profiles of the Los Amigos can be found in the newsletter section at www.sunshinefire.com: Brett-Summer 06, Peter Fall 06, and Rick Winter 03.)



Los Amigos (from left): Brett Haberstick, Peter Beresford, Caleb Sevian, Rick Lansky

Marriage is grand -- and divorce is at least 100 grand.

Plug-In Problems

Here's a cautionary account forwarded by Don Dick concerning a couple whose house burnt down, leaving nothing but ashes. The insurance investigator sifted through the ashes for several hours and traced the source of the fire to the master bathroom. He asked the wife what she had plugged in in the bathroom. She listed the normal things....curling iron, blow dryer. Then she remembered she had a Glade Plug-In in the bathroom.

The investigator had one of those "Aha" moments. He said he has seen more house fires started with the plug-in type room fresheners than anything else. The very thin plastic had melted away but when the investigator looked in the wall plug, the two prongs left from the plug-in were still in there.

The investigator said he personally wouldn't have any type of plug in fragrance device anywhere in his house as he has seen too many fires caused by them.

**Specialty Appliances** Inc.

> Wanda Stratton Sales Consultant

Ph 303-516-4015 Cell 303-588-3273

Your local contact for kitchen appliances

### Team Sunshine

Spaghetti Feed Wrap up

Thanks so much to everyone who attended our first annual Spaghetti Feed and made it such a great evening. Special congratulations to Sterling Soper who won bingo twice! Way to go, dude!

Kudos to chairperson Martha Peacock, bingo coordinator Linda Luchangco, chefs Erin and Rey Gonzales, and key contributor Ardie Sehulster.

Flapjack Fling Sunday, June 3rd, 9:00 **Community Photos** 

Sunshine community photos from the Spaghetti Feed and other events can be viewed at:

teamsunshine.myphotoalbum.com

If you'd like to share photos, please upload them by following the directions and using the following:

username: teamsunshine passcode: sunshine

PLEASE: no nudity or embarassing photos and if you add captions, do not include last names or inappropriate langauge.

Block leaders:

3000-4000 SCD: tbd

4000-5000 SCD: Donna Edwards

5000-6000 SCD: Ruby Heflin

6000-7000 SCD: Judy Frey

Mistyvale: Lin Ballard

Whispering Pines: Wanda Stratton

0-1000 CR83: Jean Gatza 1000-2000 CR83: Dee Spencer

Next Meeting: Frey residence, June 28th



## Sunshine Firehouse Flapjack Fling



Sunday, June 3rd, 9 - 11 a.m.
Pancakes • Bacon • Sausage • Coffee • Tea • Juice
Adults - \$6, Kids under 12 - \$4
Community Meeting - 10:30 a.m.
Fire Station 2 at 5880 Sunshine Canyon Dr
Open to the public

Please join the Sunshine Fire Department and Team Sunshine for our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Pancake Breakfast!
We will begin a community meeting at 10:30 a.m. to share current info & discuss a Sunshine Community Fire Mitigation Plan

(Please, no dogs)

Hosted by Team Sunshine Building a Stronger Sunshine Community

### To Do List (cont. from p. 1)

don't know if you have such a connection, call me (303-449-6685) and I'll check it out for you.

- 4. Put emergency contact and medical information in a location that is easy for firefighters and emergency medical personnel to find. Pharmacies sell plastic information holders, usually emblazoned with a big red cross, that you can attach to the refrigerator door. If you have a living will or Do Not Resuscitate Orders (DNR), make sure that they are easy to find by emergency responders. Good locations include the refrigerator door, as described above, or with your collection of medications.
- 5. Get a fireproof safe for critical personnel information or put the documents in a safety deposit box at one of the local banks.
- 6. Think about those items that are precious to you (e.g., family photographs) and keep them organized for quick and easy access if you need to quickly evacuate your home. In an emergency, you may have only a few minutes to gather belongings.

  7. Make sure that emergency responders can locate your house: your fire department address marker (the green plastic strips) should be in good shape and visible from the road. If you need

- a new one, or are unsure if your current marker is adequate for the task, contact me. Remember that some of our mutual and automatic aid responders (e.g., Pridemark Paramedic Services and adjacent fire districts) may not be as familiar with our District as we are.
- 8. Trim branches along your driveway to facilitate moving our equipment to your home (our largest pumper, 4501, is 9 feet wide and 11 feet tall.
- 9. Develop a family evacuation plan. Agree upon a rendezvous point, perhaps at a friend's house in town. Practice family fire drills: know the best exits from your home. 10. Check the batteries on your smoke detectors.
- 11. If you have a cistern for emergency water or a fire department connection for you swimming pool, make sure that the fittings are in order and that the cistern has water.

  12. If you are going away on vacation, try to remember to park vehicles away from likely routes of emergency access. If you have a turnaround at your home, leave it free of vehicles so that we don't need to back down your driveway when

we leave.

- 13. Make sure that your fire extinguisher is charged and is located for easy access. A good place for an extinguisher is just outside the kitchen. Extinguishers need to be serviced yearly! If you don't know the proper way to use an extinguisher, contact us and we'll be glad to show you. 14. Have flashlights with fresh batteries at convenient locations in your home.
- 15. If you have a gate on your driveway, make sure that we are up-to-date on the access code.
- 16. Consider purchasing a Knox Box (www.knoxbox.com) so that we can gain access to your home in an emergency.
- 17. Clean out your garage and storage areas! Properly dispose of hazardous materials.
- 18. Have your fireplace chimney inspected and cleaned.

Remember to plan ahead. If you have any questions about emergency preparedness, please do not hesitate to contact us. Have a safe and fun summer!

Bruce Honeyman, Fire Marshal



### S P E N C E R

\* Paintings \*Landscapes

\*Commissions
\*Home Portraits

Call with inquiries or studio tour

303-443-0121 deefish@starplay.com

# Sunshine Fire Protection District and Team Sunshine

Ask Your Help to Fund the Purchase of Tables and Chairs for Fire Trainings and the Fun Events We Have up here in the Canyon!

Each time we have an event, it costs almost \$300 to rent tables and chairs! We've gone ahead and purchased them now so we can start enjoying savings at our Flapjack Fling. We're asking folks to pitch in to help SFPD cover the cost of this community asset.

### SUNSHINE TABLES AND CHAIRS CAMPAIGN

"Purchase" a chair or table, and Team Sunshine will stencil your name on it - as a bona fide tables and chairs campaign supporter! (Or you may want your generosity to be a secret - your choice!)

> Suggested Contribution for chairs: \$10/chair Suggested Contribution for tables: \$25/quarter table, \$50/half table, \$100 whole table Contributions of any size will be gratefully accepted.

### Sunshine Tables and Chairs Order Form

Name	
Address	Phone
Number of Chairs "purchased"	Number of Tables "purchased"
Amount enclosed:	(Make checks payable to Sunshine Fire Protection District
Names to be stenciled:	

Send check & form to: Don Dick, Treasurer, SFPD; 3992 Sunshine Canyon Drive; Boulder, CO 80302 Or bring your donation to the Flapjack Fling

#### Sunshine Trivia

- 1. Why is the Shetter property dotted with holes?
- a. As reported in The Onion, it's the site where the new species Prairie Dog Colossus was just discovered.
- b. They're planting trees as a windbreak...hold on, wind up here?
- c. It's the location for a remake of the movie "Holes"
- 2. Which Sunshine residents rafted down the Green River in Utah recently?
- a. The Carpenters with the motto "Tippecanoe and Tyler too"
- b. The entire Bunko Group–the inflatable dice worked but the tortilla chips got a bit soggy
- c. Trigg Bader, Katrina Bauersachs, and Brendan Hoffmann, who chose white water over the White House for their eighth grade trip
- 3. Which residents are getting married this month?
- a. Wanda Bennett and Steve Stratton, unless their pagers go off during the ceremony
- b. Ruby Heflin and Chris Voorhees, but we hear she's only marrying him for his plow
- c. Hildegard and Wain Stowe, the first time was in Germany but Wain thought he was just auditioning for a part in Wagner's Ring
- 4. Which Sunshine resident is taking a sabbatical from teaching?
- a. Bruce Honeyman, our very own telecommuting fire marshal, who decided that basking in California beat luging down his driveway this winter
- b. Eva and Jack Bauersachs, here from Germany so daughter Katrina can polish her idiomatic English, like using "like" at least, like, every third word.
- c. Some of us have been on sabbatical for years!

5 Bonus question!	Which Sunshine resident has a last name	e that is a contra
diction in terms?		

Answers: 1) trees 2) Trigg, Katrina, Brendan 3) Wanda and Steve 4) Bruce, Eva & Jack 5) Pat Noyes

### **Marriages**

Wanda Bennett & Steve Stratton Deirdre Griffin & Jonathon Damron

Congratulations from Sunshine!

photo: Wanda & Steve with Danny Williams officiating



The Dear Chris Column

Advice from the Mountain Man Who Calls It like He Sees It



Dear Chris, Any reliable baby sitters you can recommend? The

kids are driving me crazy!

--Screaming Mom in Whispering Pines

I'm keerful 'bout recommending folks after a situation that happened right here in my cabin roundbout twelve years ago. I was sitting here enjoyin' some "mountain dew" (if you get my drift) with a fellow Sunshiner when I git a call from a buddy in town. He happens to mention that there's a ruckus at his place because his wife is babysittin' and the pa never showed up to pick up his rugrat. Wouldn't ya know, I happen to pass on the story to my drinking pardner and his eyes get as big as silver dollars and he says, "Omigod! I gotta go!" Believe it or not, he was the pa that forgot his own kid!

Now the story jus' gits better 'n better. Just a few days ago his wife and another neighbor of the female persuasion stop by my cabin for some neighborly yakkety yak and this old story comes up. You'd think that would warn off the neighbor, but noooo! That very night she accepts an offer from this same yahoo to bring up her kid from town. Yup, you guessed it, he does it again and forgets to pick up her kid!

I pretty much spelled it out for her, but like my granny used ter say, "I got plenty of advice to give, cuz no one ever takes it." --Chris

### Sunshine Schoolhouse and Cemetery News



### Let There Be Light!

At the annual board meeting of the Sunshine Cemetery Association, the board voted to establish an electrical supply independent from Fire Station #1 with an anticipated cost of around \$5,000. Donations are needed for this expense since existing funds and revenue sources are insufficient.

Donations to this fund should be made out to "Sunshine Cemetery Association" and delivered to: Paul Gatza, 732 County Rd. 83, Boulder, CO 80302. Please note that your donation is for "electricity". The checks will be held and if the board is unable to collect the needed amount, all checks will be returned.

Rules, fees, and board contact info for use of the Schoolhouse will be posted on the front door.

Three card tables are missing from the Schoolhouse, the board requests that the borrower(s) please return them. Also, if any residents have "gently used" tables to donate, the board would greatly appreciate them.

For any further information, please call chair Haydee Kuner at 303-530-4579.

### Wildlife Watch

A controversial mountain-lion study took a big step forward April 26th after an advisory committee gave the plan its stamp of approval.

The Boulder County Parks and Open Space Advisory Committee voted to recommend approval of the Front Range Cougar Pilot Study-which calls for using intimidation and force to scare away those that are habituated to people.

The unanimous vote came just minutes after an emotional appeal from two Pine Brook Hills residents. Patrice Spitz said she doesn't want to see another incident like the mauling of a 7-year-old by a mountain lion

### Instruction offered in Sunshine

Yoga Classes!
\*Join us for a gentle
Breath-focused yoga class
that tones, strengthens,
stretches, and relaxes

Art & Nature Classes for young Children \* Experienced Teacher of children

Flute lessons
\*Beg. through Int. students
\*ages 10 to adult

\* Call for schedules

Dee Spencer (303)-443-0121 Local Sunshine resident 1254 County Road 83 deefish@starplay.com

### Mountain Gardening

Tracy Ferrell invites residents to join her in establishing a Sunshine Garden Club that would meet once a month to exchange tips, seeds, seedlings, etc. "As everyone knows," Tracy says, "gardening in Sunshine has particular challenges, and it would be nice to see what is working or not working for others in the community." Anyone interested can call Tracy Ferrell at 303-546-6274. Once she has enough interested folks, she will set the first meeting date.

on Flagstaff Mountain a year ago.

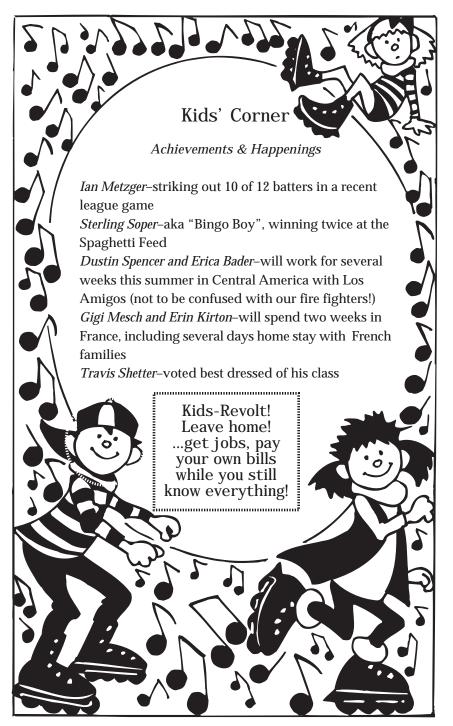
It is largely for that reason that the Colorado DOW conceived the pilot study, which calls for trapping six cougars and applying radio collars.

Matt Aldredge, a biologist with the division, said the purpose of the oneyear study is to assess the size and behavior of the cougar population and deter the cats that have become too comfortable around people and pets from continuing those habits.

Methods the division is recommending to reduce cougar-human interaction include shooting the lions with beanbags and chasing them with hounds.

Aldredge assured the committee that these methods would only be targeted at problem lions-those animals that through repeated observation show an excessively high level of comfort around people..

excerpt The Daily Camera, Apr. 27th.



For Sale: large, rectangular trampoline. Double tarped, pads, metal springs, supports. Local location on CR 83. Steve 303.443.0121. or 720.560.0178

Help Available: odd jobs, babysitting, landscaping, etc. 16 yr. old Sunshine resident. References. Call Dustin Spencer 303-443-0121

Personals are \$1/line; business ads are \$10. Next deadline is Jul. 15th.

### **Editorial Contact**

Remember, this is your newsletter! Please contact me with comments, ideas, or submissions.

> Mary Mesch 5188 Sunshine Canyon ph. 447-1471 fax 447-2739 mmesch@ionsky.com

### Computer Consulting & Evening Computer Classes

Professional services for small business and residential (Macintosh and Windows)

Assist with WisperTel and DSL Internet connection issues and installation. LAN configuration, wireless networks, VPN, ISDN, domain registration, e-mail, Internet faxing, shared printing, tune-ups, virus & spyware removal.

Also, beginning & advanced classes offered for both Windows and Macintosh computers. Held at Holiday Inn Express in north Boulder during the evenings. Call for information and times.

Scott Mesch Starplay Systems, LLC. 303-539-9386 scott@starplay.com www.starplay.com

Marriage is when a man and woman become as one; the trouble starts when they try to decide which one.