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Applegater

Photo by Teya Jacobi

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Celebrating
~24~
Years

Think embers and continuous fuels

BY SANDY SHAFFER

Another March, another drive over the Siskiyou and Sierras down to Reno for the annual WUI (Wildland Urban Interface) Conference. This year our Applegate Fire District's new office manager, Tallie Jackson, joined me for the trip. Reno is a good, well-rounded conference for her to learn more about the WUI and the wildfire

issues that we all face here in the Applegate.

I've attended this conference the past dozen or so years and looked forward to seeing some old friends, learning new concepts, and hearing how the coming summer wildfire season was sizing up. The wet winter was definitely discussed. Not much new science-wise, but there was a lot



This home ignited due to fine fuels around it during the 2002 Missionary Ridge Fire in Colorado.

was honored in Reno by receiving the 2017 Wildfire Mitigation Legacy Award—the first time anyone has received this honor.

In past *Applegater* articles I've discussed the Home Ignition Zone (HIZ) course I took from Dr. Cohen. I've used his photos to help explain the HIZ, I've discussed how to define your particular HIZ, I've quoted Dr. Cohen on "discontinuous fuels," I've called him "the HIZ guru,"

and I've shared his work with you, my Applegate neighbors.

When I looked up those old articles on the HIZ, how it differs from "defensible space," and why homes burn in wildfires, I found that it's been *over ten years* since I wrote them! Time sure does fly (or maybe I'm just getting old?)! But, considering how

mitigation specialist for decades. Dr. Cohen

See **THINK EMBERS**, page 24

Paragliders to add color to the sky soon!

BY DAVID DOBBS

Each June I get a quick glimpse of the paragliding event called Rat Race - Sprint Paragliding Competition and Super Clinic as I drive past Woodrat Mountain on Highway 238. How many paragliders can cluster suspended in midair? Who can stay aloft the longest? Who can spot the target on land first and race to retrieve it? Does the first one down have to pay for a round of wine? Regardless, they are probably enjoying themselves while I'm attempting to drive responsibly while (not) heeding the posted warning signs not to look up.

The 2017 Rat Race competition runs from June 18 through 24. Practice day is June 17.

For those of you who want to enjoy the paragliding event with your feet on the ground and your eyes safely following the action in the sky, the event coordinators recommend visiting Fiasco, Longsword, or Red Lily wineries. They all have ample parking and viewing spots. "Longsword is probably the best seat in the house," claims paraglider Norm Young. "It has plenty of

See **RAT RACE**, page 3



Rat Race paragliding competitors will add color to the sky and a temptation for you to look up while driving (don't do it). Photo: Julie Gever, flickr.com.

BENEFIT FOR
Applegater **NEWSMAGAZINE**

★ **Family BBQ!** ★



SUNDAY
JULY 23 ★ LIVE MUSIC ★ **2-6**
"STILL LOOKING" BAND **PM**

FISHING BOOTH • CORNHOLE GAME

<p>★ FOOD & BEVERAGES ★</p> <p>BBQ Chicken Cowboy Beans Green Salad and Bread Complimentary Lemonade Wine and Hard Cider available for purchase</p>	<p>★ SILENT AUCTION ★</p> <p>Art Wine and Food Spa Treatments and more</p> <p>★ RAFFLE PRIZE ★</p>
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TICKETS AVAILABLE JUNE 15 • PURCHASE BY JULY 16 • NO TICKETS AT DOOR

<p>LOCATION</p> <p>APPLEGATE RIVER LODGE 15100 HIGHWAY 238 APPLEGATE</p>	<p>TICKETS</p> <p>APPLEGATER.ORG EVENTBRITE.COM RUCH COUNTRY STORE</p>
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6 - 12⁺

ADULTS \$15 /
2 FOR \$25

*KIDS 5 & UNDER ARE FREE

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ISSUE

ENVIRONMENT - FIRE - RECREATION