



Santa Susana Mountain Park Association

September 2008 Newsletter

Volume 38 Issue 7

A Non-Profit 501(c)(4) Organization
Incorporated August 31, 1974

Website: SSMPA.COM

E-Mail: MAIL@SSMPA.COM

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING September 15, 2008 at 7:15PM



At this month's meeting, Wayde Hunter, the current President of the North Valley Coalition will be our featured speaker. His main topic will be the status of the Sunshine Canyon Landfill.

Excerpts from his Bio: Wayde arrived came from Australia in 1969 and became a U.S. Citizen. He has over 30 years experience in the Industrial Engineering field as an engineer, supervisor, and manager involving product lines as diverse as electronics and aircraft transparencies to munitions and food. He has continued to work with the various permitting and enforcement agencies of the City, County and State that oversee the Sunshine Canyon Landfill. He actively represents the community responding to Environmental Impact Reports (EIRs) and Mitigated Negative Declarations for most projects in the northeast end of the San Fernando Valley and the Santa Clarita Valley.



Positions currently held include, but not limited to:

1. President, North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens Inc (NVC)
2. Board Member, District 3 Representative, Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council - City of Los Angeles (Re-elected 2nd term)
3. Member, Sunshine Canyon City Landfill Community Advisory Committee - City of Los Angeles
4. Member, Alternative Technology Advisory Subcommittee - County of Los Angeles Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force



Past positions held include but not limited to:

1. V. P. Environmental Affairs Commission - City of Los Angeles
2. Member, Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) - Land Use, Granada Hills - 12th Council District.
3. Member, Sunshine Canyon Amenities Committee - City of Los Angeles / 12th Council District
4. Alternate Member, Solid Waste Action Group (SWAG) - City of Los Angeles



Photo: Carla Henry

Sign posted on Wooisey Canyon Road leading to Rocketdyne/Boeing Industry. With the radioactive and chemical cleanup still unresolved from the 1950's, the posted sign has relevance.

SSMPA General Membership Program meetings take place every 3rd Monday, September through November and January through May at the Rockpointe Clubhouse, 22300 Devonshire Street, Chatsworth, on the south side, 1 block before entering Chatsworth Park South. Our program meetings begin at 7:15pm and conclude at 9:00pm.

The purposes of the Santa Susana Mountain Park Association are the protection, preservation, restoration, and enhancement of the Santa Susana Mountains and Simi Hills as open space lands and wildlife corridors linking the Los Padres National Forest and San Gabriel Mountains, including the Angeles National Forest, to the Santa Monica Mountains; as habitats for plants and animals native to the Santa Susana Mountains and the Simi Hills; as locales of unique geologic formations; as sites of ethnological, archaeological and historical interests; to provide passive recreational opportunities and environmental education opportunities; and, to support the acquisition of new public parks, open space and conservation easements, the expansion of existing parks, participate in the planning of park infrastructure and programs, and support said programs.

Debris from field lab found in nearby park

Ventura County Star

By Teresa Rochester

Thursday, August 21, 2008

Authorities are testing material found in a 40,000-square-foot debris field unearthed last week on public parkland next to the polluted Santa Susana Field Laboratory near Simi Valley, officials said Wednesday. Contractors removing lead shot and clay pigeon fragments from a former Rocketdyne shooting range stumbled upon the debris field on land that is now Sage Ranch Park.

The unexpected discovery prompted the state's Department of Toxic Substances Control to order the Boeing Co., which owns the neighboring Santa Susana Field Laboratory, to test the materials for potential chemical or radiation contamination.

The debris, which includes industrial glass, piping, metal fragments and household wastes such as forks and spoons, is believed to have come from the field lab, said Norm Riley, Department of Toxic Substances Control project director.

The 2,800-acre field laboratory is a former rocket engine and nuclear test site in the hills south of Simi Valley.

The 625-acre Sage Ranch Park at the Ventura-Los Angeles county line is owned by the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and features hiking trails and camping.

"We want them to test this debris and associated soil to make sure it is not contaminated," Riley said, adding later that "we are not simply relying on Boeing to do the characterization work."

As Boeing took samples of the materials shortly after the debris field was found, Riley directed departmental workers to take simultaneous samples for analysis at the department's laboratory. The test results are expected to be ready late this month.

The newest debris field to crop up in Sage Ranch Park was found as contractors removed clay pigeon material from the Rocketdyne-Atomics International Rifle and Pistol Club Inc., which was in operation between 1972 and 1991.

The debris was found in a layer that is four feet deep in some places and is nearly six feet beneath the soil surface in some locations, according to a statement from the department. The debris field covers an area of 200 feet by 200 feet, Riley said. Its volume is about 900 cubic yards.

A trio of local community activists discovered the shooting range debris and a glassy, lightweight, foamlike material in a streambed in February 2007 as they were researching drainage from the field lab. The cleanup and removal of 8,500 cubic yards of debris contaminated with asbestos, antimony and cancer-causing polyaromatic hydrocarbons began this year.

Christina Walsh, who helped find the foamlike debris, said the new discovery is important because it shows that studies attempting to characterize contamination at the lab need to be broadened and not limited to small sections of land. Contaminants in the debris have likely flowed into surrounding areas if they are near drainages, Walsh said.

"We are very curious and we are very concerned" about what is going to be found, Walsh said. "We need to find out where all these debris fields are. We need to keep looking."

BELATED RESULTS OF MAY ELECTIONS. Congratulations to all:

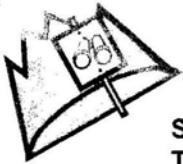
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Reid Bogert
Carla Henry
John Luker

Jan Miller
Patty Miller
Newsletter Editor:
Chris Beauvais



Thank you for renewing your SSMPA membership: Ellen Pifer, Burke and Bunny Levine, Jeffery and Lisa Burkhart. PLEASE NOTE: WHEN SENDING YOUR RENEWAL, PLEASE INDICATE YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS IF YOU HAVE ONE.



Rancho Simi Trailblazers



UPCOMING HIKES

Bring water, lunch, lugsoles, hat, sunscreen
RAIN CANCELS

September 20th Temescal Canyon

5.4 MRT - Moderate (1,000' elevation gain)

Great views of the ocean on clear days, a seasonal waterfall, and a densely wooded canyon. Go to website for more information about this hike. Meet at 8 AM near Donut Delite at the corner of Madera and Royal. Bring 2 -3 quarts of water and a snack. Wear Boots.

September 27th Mt. Islip*

5 MRT - Moderate (1100' elevation gain)

Hike through pine and fir forests with panoramic views of the Mojave Desert and the LA metropolis. An Adventure Pass is required at the trailhead parking lot. Meet at 8 AM at the 118 & Stearns St. Park & Ride. Bring 2 - 4 quarts of water and lunch. Wear boots.

October Activities

October 4th

Reyes Peak*

7 MRT - Moderate (1,600' elevation gain)

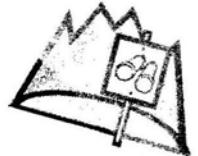
This 7,510' peak affords great views of the Piedra Blanca and the Sespe Wilderness. On a clear day the Channel Islands are visable. Much of the trail is well shaded and in the pines. Meet at 8 AM near Donut Delite at the corner of Madera and Royal. Bring two to three quarts of water and lunch. Wear sturdy boots. This event will take the better part of the day.

October 11th

Camp Three Falls to Lilly Meadows*

6 MRT - Moderate (1,075' elevation gain)

Beautiful area with a waterfall about half way up. Bring lunch, water and wear boots. Go to website for more information about this hike. For those looking for a bit of a workout, there is an option of adding some mileage by taking the trail on up to Sheep Camp. Meet at 8 AM at the Stearns Street Park & Ride. Bring 2 - 3 quarts of water and lunch. Wear sturdy boots.



THERE IS AN E-MAIL
WITH TERRIFIC GRAPHICS
THAT DETAILS HIKES

Zuliebear@aol.com
ATTN: Dianne



EEEEEE



STAGECOACH TRAIL

STAGECOACH TRAIL - 9:00AM. INTERPRETATIVE HIKE INTO HISTORY OF SANTA SUSANA PASS STATE HISTORIC PARK. MEET AT 9:00AM FOR A 2 1/2 MI (400' GAIN) LOOP UP THE STAGECOACH TRAIL. FROM TOPANGA CANYON BLVD., TURN W. ON DEVONSHIRE STREET, DRIVE INTO CHATSWORTH PARK S. TO PARKING LOT NEXT TO THE AUDITORIUM. LEADER: LEE BAUM (818-341-1850/SIERRA CLUB-SANTA SUSANA MTHS TASK FORCE OUTING). STAGECOACH TRAIL HIKES WILL BE ON THE 3RD SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH, STARTING OCTOBER.

Santa Susana Mountain Park Association

Invites you to JOIN / RENEW (circle one).

Investing in the future of our communities and its resources is probably one of the best expenditures of our time and efforts. Return this cutoff with your contribution lend your support. Make your check payable to SSMPA and send to SSMPA, P.O. Box 4831, Chatsworth, CA 91313-4831.

- Senior or Student (\$10.00)
- Individual (\$15.00)
- Family (\$20.00)
- Life Member (\$150.00)
- Business / Organization (\$50.00)

Name: _____ Phone: _____
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Santa Susana Mountain Park Association

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 Treasurer Diana Dixon Davis

Members at Large:
 Reid Bogert
 Carla Henry
 John Luker
 Jan Miller
 Betty Miller
 Newsletter Editor
 Chris Beauvais



Three Men on a Couch

Bird Watching

Daybreak I draw the drapes
 see the shenanigans of
 House Finches, Song Sparrows
 spar on the bird feeder,
 plunge into the fountain,
 sip and muck about in cool water,
 loop and land on succulents,
 geraniums and lavender shrubs.

I watch for visitations
 of blazing Yellow Warbler,
 Black-headed Grosbeak or
 Bullock's Oriole, both dressed
 in vibrant orange-black frock --

These celebrities evoke an "ah...."
 But it is the local fellows,
 Finches, Sparrows, I rely on
 to join me for breakfast and
 coffee, my daily pleasure.

Carla Henry



4 Photos: John Luker & can be seen on the ssmpa.com website



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