



Santa Susana Mountain Park Association

Volume 39
Issue 8

November 2009 Newsletter

A Non-Profit 501(c)(4) Organization
Incorporated August 31, 1971

Website: SSMPA.com

E-Mail:

Mail@SSMPA.com

VOLUNTEER TRAINING - NOV. 16th at 5:00 PM

Next SSMPA Community Meeting will be held January 18, 2010 at regular place and time



In lieu of a regular meeting and presenter, we are fortunate enough to be able to do another Volunteer Workshop. 31 new volunteers participated in the Sunday Oct 18th training at Santa Susana Pass SHP and went far better than may have been expected. Karma Graham, District Interpretive Specialist who did the October training, and agreed to do another training session at our November meeting.

The volunteer training session beginning at 5 pm instead of our regular 7:15 PM start time. A light dinner (sandwiches and drinks) starting at 5pm, and most likely the training that State Parks teaches will start a bit after that. Please RSVP if you plan to attend, so we have a good head count for food and training materials, to Jack Unger [junger@ask-wi.com].

SSPSHP is expected to remain open during the California State Budget Crisis because the sound of alert was heard and wonderful Volunteers from our community signed up to keep our park open.

Special thanks to Board Members, John Luker, Teena Takata, Jack Unger, and Warren Stone for the extra hours spent working with California State Park officials to set up the volunteer program and all the other activities involved with this project.

A tremendous amount of work has been done by Karma Graham, Lee Hawkins, and Jennifer Dandurand with the California State Parks working with SSMPA to set up a Volunteer Program.

If you would like to help our Park by becoming a State-Trained Volunteer, please rsvp that you will attend our community meeting November 16 – which will be the last planned State Park Volunteer Training for our Park. RSVP to John Luker (jcluker2@yahoo.com) at 818-371-7918, Teena Takata (teena@besttax.com) at 818-326-1533 or Jack Unger (junger@ask-wi.com) at 818-227-4220. Include SSPSH or State Park in the subject line of your email.

The SSMPA Board of Directors has recently reviewed the Bylaws of the SSMPA and proposes several changes. This constitutes notice to all members that a vote on the new Bylaws will occur at the general/community meeting to be held January 18, 2010, at 7pm. A limited number of copies of the new Bylaws will be available at the November 16 meeting for State Park Training at Rockpointe, and will also be available at the January 18, 2010 general/community meeting prior to the vote. You can also request a full copy of the new Bylaws be mailed (or emailed) to you, by requesting them from mail@ssmpa.com, or by sending us a letter at P. O. Box 4831, Chatsworth, CA 91313.

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.

MANSIONIZATION OF SIMI HILLS by Carla Henry

Simi Hills is a crucial wildlife corridor between the Santa Susana Mountains and Santa Monica Mountains. There are several Bills, both in California State Legislature, Cameron Smyth's AB110 and a Federal Rim of the Valley Trail Corridor Study Act, Adam Schiff and Brad Sherman's H.R. 1835 that passed congress and is in the U.S. Interior Department which recommends annexation to the Santa Monica National Recreation Area. The Simi Hills/Santa Susana Mountains is a crucial link with the Los Padres Forest, Angeles National Forest, San Gabriel Mountains and Santa Monica Mountains in maintaining an ecosystem for wildlife habitat.

Unfortunately, each new mansion built in the Simi Hills jeopardizes this critical link forever. Along with the wildlife, many oak trees have been sacrificed both legally and illegally and endangered plants and animals are compromised. The Simi Hills saddles both Ventura County and Los Angeles County so preventing the mansionization of this region has been near to impossible. There's also the loss of the raw beauty of this area as one home after another is built into the boulders. The landscape is disappearing! Try to imagine if the Grand Canyon had development from corporations and builders! Actually, even the Grand Canyon did have the development pressure, even mining, but fortunately was saved by the Federal Government as a National Park. The Simi Hills/Santa Susana Mountains are our Grand Canyon.

Write your House of Representative for your area, Brad Sherman, San Fernando Valley, and Elton Gallegly, Simi Valley, both senators, Barbara Boxer and Diane Feinstein your objection to the destruction of the Simi Hills/Santa Susana Mountains and that you are in support of the Rim of the Valley Wildlife Corridor, You can easily access their e-mail on the websites (Google).

California State Legislators to write to for environmental issues:

California Senate: Fran Pavley, 23rd Senate District: senator.pavley@outreach.senate.ca.gov

California Legislature: Bob Blumenfield, 40th District: assemblymember.blumenfield@outreach.assembly.ca.gov

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Bored, feeling depressed because life has become meaningless - we have solutions! Volunteers are needed and appreciated to help with so many projects: Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park monitors/hike leaders, SSMPA grant and letter writers, various environmental projects from weed and invasive plant clean up, replanting native plants, special activities from organizing and documentation of historical records, and many other activities. Various volunteer activities are listed on our website: www.ssmpa.com and to sign up as a California State-Trained Volunteer, RSVP to John Lucker (iclucker2@yahoo.com; ph. 818-371-7918, Teena Takata (teena@besttax.com; ph. 818-326-1533) or Jack Unger (junger@ask-wi.com; ph. 818-227-4220) Include SSPSHP or State Park in the subject line of your e-mail.

WORTHY CAUSES IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA by: Carla Henry

SAVE ANTELOPE VALLEY POPPY RESERVE: As reported in the Southern Sierra Club Newsletter: Motorsports park supporters outnumbered Poppy Field preservationists two to one in the recent meeting of the Planning Commission. Having a motorsports park adjacent to the Poppy Field will have a significant environmental impact on the Poppys and other wildflower fields in the area. Show your support to stop the proposed racetrack. Write to: Attention: Jodie Sackett, County of Los Angeles Dept. of Regional Planning, 320 West Temple Street, Room 1382, Los Angeles, CA 90012, Reference: Fairmont Butte Motorsports Park Case # 02-176, or e-mail:

jsackett@planning.lacounty.gov

This is in Supervisor Antonovich's district.

PRESERVE VERDUGO HILLS GOLF COURSE: Developer plans to build 229 single family houses on the 63-acre golf course site and destroy 97 full-grown oak trees. Join V.O.I.C.E. in stopping this development.

Let these public officials know your opposition:

Councilmember: Wendy Greuel, greuel@council.lacity.org

Supervisor Michael Antonovich, fifthdistrict@lacbos.org

A WIN AT CITY HALL: For the moment, pressure to implement a fee of \$500 on HOA's, Neighborhood Councils, and environmental groups has been voted down at City Hall. Led by City Councilman, Ed Reyes, chair of the Planning and Land Use Management Committee, environmental groups and others stopped the proposed increase from \$74 to \$500 for citizens to fight bad developments. City Council plans to study this further because citizens, raised such a ruckus at the recent City Council meeting - one small victory for citizens against irresponsible developers.

THANK YOU TO OUR NEW LIFE MEMBERS: Fred & Lucy Russo. And a THANK YOU to Sherry Noice for your generous donation

"Welcome Walks" in Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park

The Santa Susana Docents had their first interpretative hike in the park last Sunday, November 1st. A splendid time was had by all. 20 people showed up at 8:30 in the morning and the hike lasted for approximately 3 hours. Starting from the Larwin Street Gate, we had a discussion about living in the Wilderness / Urban interface, geology and a timeline for historical events in and around the park. We walked through the old Quarry operations area and saw how the land has been scarred. We also walked through an area that has had indigenous people living in it for over a thousand years. Quite a contrast.

Walking up to the waterfall area, we paused to look at the damage done by Taggers. We also commented on the damage done by concerned citizens who've come up with sprayers to cover up the graffiti. Everyone very concerned about this blight and everyone wants to pitch in to help clean up. We are looking forward to training in graffiti removal.

We came down through the open fields above the Memorial Park and talked about how all of the eras were interconnected with our own. The hike ended at the large cistern.

Many of the people who attended were quite knowledgeable about history and the assets in our area. Linda van der Valk and Jelena Csyani from Chatsworth Historical Society had tons of knowledge to draw from. Jerry Condit is a Docent at large and does interpretative hikes based on movie production in our park and Iverson, Corriganville and Garden of the Gods. He's even been in Roy Rogers House! Teena Takata was "Sweep" for the hike and was quite helpful with her huge knowledge of native plants. Thank you so much for all your help.

WELCOME WALK #2

The Date; Saturday, November 14th, 9:30am-1pm

The Place; The Top of Santa Susana Pass, in the parking lot immediately south of the Rocky Peak off-ramp of the 118 fwy

The next hike will take us to Manson Caves. It's about a 4 mile loop that starts from the top of Santa Susana Pass and loops around through some of the most undeveloped land in the Park. Included is a tour of a complex of caves with lunch at one of the most spectacular overlooks above the park. It will involve some scrambling over rocks, but, should be no problem for someone in reasonably good shape. The route back will have great overlooks of the Devil's Slide. We return to our cars from Lilac Lane and the park entrance there. Bring a sack lunch, WATER! Boots, walking sticks, hat, sunscreen.

WELCOME WALK #3

The Date; Sunday, November 29th. For Time and further information, contact John at 818 371-7918
Peace, John Luker

RANCHO SIMI TRAILBLAZERS-for November Hike Schedule please go to simitrailblazers.com-Activities

STAGECOACH TRAIL

Stagecoach Trail: Meet 9:00 am. 3rd Sunday of each Month, months November through June. No hiking in the summer-early fall due to hot weather. Interpretative hike into history of Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park. Hike is a 3 to 4-1/2 mile loop (400' gain) up the historic Stagecoach Trail. Directions: From Topanga Cyn. Blvd., turn west on Devonshire St., to Larwin Avenue about 200 feet south of Devonshire on right. Meet at park entrance on Larwin Avenue. Park on street. Leader: Lee Baum (818-341-1850/Sierra Club-Santa Susana Mtns. Task Force Outing.)

Santa Susana Mountain Park Association

Invites you to **JOIN/NEW** (circle 1). Investing in the future of our Communities and its resources is probably one of the best expenditures of our time and effort. Return this cut off with your contribution and your support. AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2009 THE NEW YEARLY DUES ARE: ()\$15.00 for Individuals ()\$20.00 for a Family ()\$30.00 for Business or Organization ()\$150.00 for an Individual Life Membership ()\$200.00 for a Family Membership () GIFT Membership. make your check payable to SSMMPA and mail it to our Post Office Box Address (see last page). Please be sure to include your Name, Mailing Address, Mail Address. Please tell us about any special interests, special skills or special expertise that

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____ E-MAIL _____



Santa Susana Mountain Park Association

Officers:			
President	Jack Unger	Members at Large:	Newsletter Editor
Vice President	John Luker	Warren Stone	Chris Beauvais
Secretary	Teena Takata	Reid Bogert	Honorary Member
Treasurer	Diana Dixon Davis	Jan Miller	Jan Hinkston
Back up Sec	Carla Henry	Patty Miller	

New Dues Structure

This past spring, the SSMPA Officers voted to simplify the dues structure for SSMPA and raise and or eliminate some categories.

The reasons for these changes were; many members could not remember when they had joined and forgot to renew. It was a burden to the Secretary, to continually update the mailing labels. SSMPA has been very lenient up to now, and just continued to send out our newsletter but because of the increased cost of printing, postage, and post office fees, and the decrease in interest from our savings account we have begun to spend more on the newsletter than income from memberships and savings. And lastly, a simplified annual dues structure means we all can easily determine when to renew and just do so once per year.

Memberships will no longer extend like magazine subscriptions, for a year from the point of membership/renewal but instead run for the "school year", from September to the next August. If you first join in the summer months (June through August) your membership will extend through to the next August. Please see the revised membership form elsewhere in this issue. Diana Dixon-Davis, Treasurer, SSMPA

GIFT MEMBERSHIPS to SSMPA—

Perfect for the difficult to buy for person –

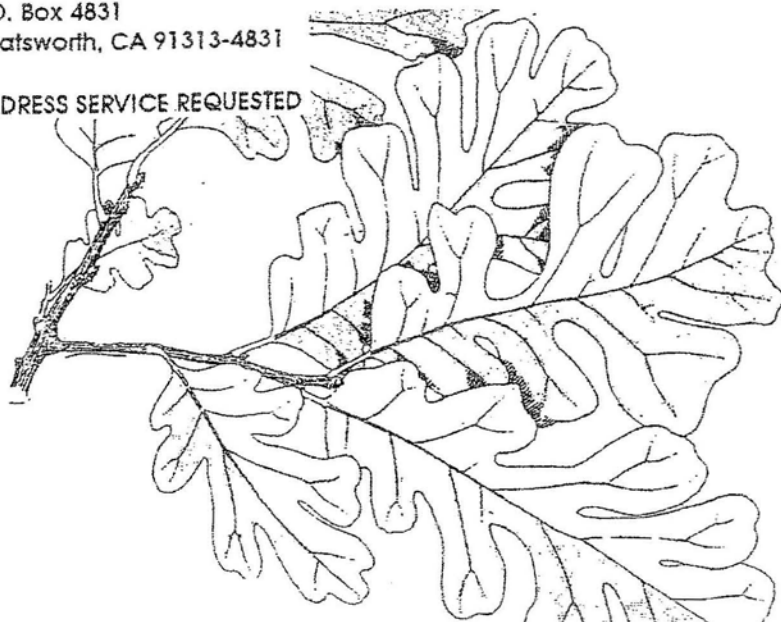
It will be the right size and color and they will learn more about our great park and hikes in the area.

A long time member of SSMPA sent us an e-mail and asked if we accepted gift memberships to SSMPA? The officers thought it was a great idea. Just fill out the SSMPA Membership/Renewal form in this issue and mail it in or give it to a SSMPA officer. We will begin sending him/her the newsletter and announce your gift with a beautiful note card of Chumash Indian art.

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Santa Susana Mountain Park Association &
Foundation for the Preservation of the Santa Susana Mountains
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Chatsworth, CA 91313-4831

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