

# SANTA SUSANA MOUNTAIN PARK ASSOCIATION

*Dedicated to the Preservation of the Santa Susana Mountains and Simi Hills*

A Non-Profit 501(c)(4) Incorporated Nov. 30, 1971

Email: [mail@ssmpa.com](mailto:mail@ssmpa.com)

Founded Nov. 20, 1970

Website: [ssmpa.com](http://ssmpa.com)

Spring, 2nd QUARTER, 2014 Newsletter

Volume 48.10

## **SSMPA COMMUNITY MEETINGS: 7:00 pm**

*(Community Meetings are Free to SSMPA Members and Public.)*

**Rockpointe Clubhouse: 22300 Devonshire Street, Chatsworth, CA 91311**

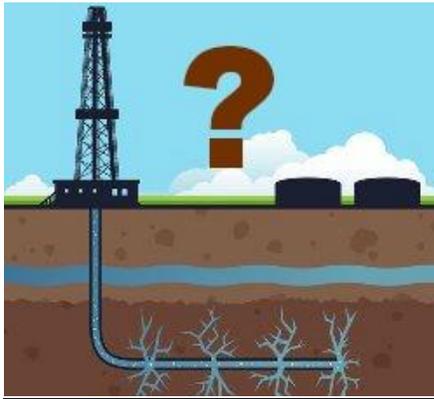
(On the south side, one block before entrance to Chatsworth Park South)

### **Monday, April 21, 2014**

#### **What's Fracking in SoCal?**

**Presenter: Tom Nachtrab, SSMPA Board Member**

Learn about the controversial technique for pulling more gas and oil out of the earth. Penn., NY, ND have all been debating it. Now the Los Angeles City Council has placed a moratorium on it, and Sacramento is buzzing about it.



Learn what fracking is. Learn how it works, and where it is done. What are its advantages, its risks? Why is it a political issue as well as a technical issue? Hear from proponents and opponents.

### **Monday, May 19, 2014**

#### **Personal Wildfire Action Plan ...**

##### **READY - SET - GO**

The Fire Captain from LA County Lake Manor Firehouse will discuss how to best prepare for wildfires in the Chatsworth and surrounding areas, what to do and not do, to best protect your family and home. Included in the presentation will be information on the fire department's emergency use of the heliport located in the Chatsworth Nature Preserve when there are bushfires in the area. You will not want to miss this meeting with the approaching summer, Santa Ana winds, and extra-

dry season that fuels wildfires. Fire safety handouts will be provided at the meeting.



© Mike Peters <http://MikesPhotos.us>

### **What is in your hiking backpack?**

#### **What should be in your hiking backpack?**

Our March presenter, Bruce Freeman, "Aqua Dulce Snake Guy" gave an informative discussion on local area snakes from rattlers to gophers. He assured us that if bitten by a rattlesnake, keep calm, keep your breathing normal, don't panic, local hospitals have supplies of anti-venom and a car ride to the hospital emergency room is the best response. Just as important in his discussion was his recommendation for anyone in the outdoors on what to put inside your backpack that might save your life ...

**Bruce Freeman's Backpack fill:** Flashlight (check batteries or bring extra) • cloth rag • jack-knife • banana & water (for cramps and hydration) • breath mints w/slippery elm ingredient • jacket & hat • gloves • lighter • extra pair of prescription glasses • any medications • mobile phone, set up with an app for GPS. He noted if your battery is low, a text message will often go through even if the cell phone isn't working.

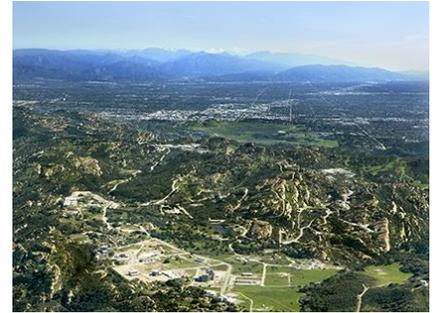
#### **Other hiking safety measures:**

Wear hiking boots with good ankle support and good tread to prevent slipping/falling. Wear jeans, loose fitting unless it's too hot and you want to wear shorts. Cover your exposed face and body with sunscreen (don't forget back of neck.) Even in hot weather, lightweight long sleeve shirts can add protection from the sun, sharp branches cutting your skin, and poison oak. Wear dark sunglasses to protect your eyes from ultra-violet sunrays.

## SSMPA's Commitment to the Santa Susana Field Laboratory Lands

### SSMPA's Goal:

The 2850-acre former Santa Susana Field Laboratory (SSFL), sometimes referred to as "Rocketdyne," sits in the Simi Hills at the top of Woolsey Canyon Road. Rocket engine testing (1947-2006) and nuclear energy research (1953-1988) were conducted at SSFL. The testing and research operations caused chemical and radiological contamination of land and water at SSFL. Cleanup of SSFL has been underway for years and is not yet complete. Three parties are responsible for cleanup: NASA, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), and the Boeing Company. The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) is responsible for overseeing and coordinating the cleanup.



SSMPA is very concerned about the **future** of the former Santa Susana Field Lab. SSFL's 2850 acres sit in the center of a threatened, narrow wildlife corridor connecting the Santa Monica Mountains with the Santa Susana Mountains and northward. SSMPA has been working to ensure that, after completion of the cleanup, the SSFL lands will be preserved forever as open space and parkland.

### End Use:

In the past year SSMPA has gathered over 800 signatures of citizens who support prompt action by the National Park Service to arrange acquisition of property in the Santa Susana Field Laboratory and preserve it forever as open space and parkland. SSMPA has also successfully requested more than a dozen local organizations and neighborhood councils to write letters in support of the same goal. We have sent our petitions and letters to twenty key public office holders and requested meetings with them.

Most recently we met with **U.S. Congressman Brad Sherman**, in whose district the SSFL lies. Congressman Sherman assured SSMPA that he supports future use of SSFL properties as open space and parkland after the cleanup is completed. SSMPA also visited **California Senator Fran Pavley** on October 28, 2013, to discuss our campaign to arrange responsibly for the future of the former Santa Susana Field Laboratory. Senator Pavley also stated her support for end use of SSFL properties as open space and parkland after the cleanup is completed.

NASA's property (450 acres) at SSFL will be transferred or sold by the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA). So far the **National Park Service** has not involved itself. **The Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians** is the only party that has officially notified GSA of interest in acquiring the NASA property. On the land are the Burro Flats Caves and pictographs, and the area has a history as a ceremonial gathering place for the Chumash people. The Tribe has requested ownership of the NASA land by fee title, which prevents it from being used as a casino.

Boeing owns the rest of the SSFL land, about 2400 acres. Boeing has stated publically that it wishes to preserve its land at Santa Susana "as open space and voluntarily donate it to serve the public for future generations," but Boeing has no legal obligation to do so.

### Cleanup:

NASA just (March 2014) released its **Final** Environmental Impact Statement for completion of its cleanup. NASA's statement reports that completion of the cleanup will create significant negative impacts on Soils and Topography, Cultural Resources, Biological Resources, and Traffic and Transportation. NASA will begin to demolish the Coca area rocket engine test stands immediately, expects to remove 320 to 500 thousand cubic yards of soil, and has not yet found any source of soils suitable for backfilling any of the removed soil.

Despite a legal agreement that requires the entire cleanup to be complete by 2017, the Department of Energy is just now about to begin working on its **Draft** Environmental Impact Statement, and DTSC is just now beginning its **Draft** Environmental Impact Report. **SSMPA has called for the cleanup completion date to be extended to 2020.** It has become obvious that the 2017 completion date is not realistic and that trying to adhere to it could result in a flawed cleanup.

### SSMPA's Commitment:

SSMPA remains committed to do what we can to influence:

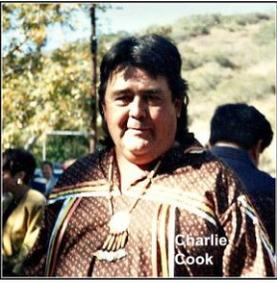
- cleanup of SSFL that is thoroughly protective of human health and the environment, and
- preservation of the SSFL lands as open space and parkland forever.

See: <http://ssmpa.com/issues-and-positions> and <http://ssmpa.com/nasa-at-ssfl>

See also website of Community Advisory Group for SSFL: <http://ssflcag.net>

-Tom Nachtrab

## Tribute to Charlie Cook



SSMPA appreciates all the contributions made by **Charlie Cook**, spiritual leader of Southland Indian tribes, his heritage, Tataviam (Santa Clarita Valley), Kitanemuk (Antelope Valley), Tongva (San Fernando Valley), and Chumash (Ventura-Santa Barbara.) Charlie died September 21, 2013 and he will be remembered for all his accomplishments, as an advocate protecting Native American cultural assets and historical sites, and open spaces throughout Northern Los Angeles and Ventura County and as a spiritual leader. Charlie performed a spiritual blessing at two important dedications for the leaders of Santa Susana Mountain Park Association, November 20, 1995, SSMPA's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and May 16, 1998 when SSPSHP became a State Park. Nancy Razanski remembers that Charlie Cook said at the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, "Just think positive about the Earth. It's up to us to preserve it."



**Ted Garcia**, Charlie Cook's cousin, became the successor of the Southern Chumash band of Indians. Ted recalls they were at a Playa Vista dedication reburial ceremony, 2008, for the 1200-1400 bundles of Tongva tribal remains found during excavation-development. Charlie brought Ted into the circle and passed his chief's staff to Ted. There were many holes in the staff, each one representing a victory won in the fight for Indian traditions. Ted reports Charlie taught him, "It's important to reach down and touch Mother Earth and know where you come from, always remember who we are." SSMPA sends our blessings to Charlie's family and all our Chumash friends.

## SPRING HAS SPRUNG - MANY ACTIVITIES TO ENJOY

### **Sunday, April 6: 10 am – 3 pm Chatsworth Nature Preserve Earth Day Celebration**

A free family event, celebrating Earth Day Month in the Chatsworth Nature Preserve (on Valley Circle Boulevard, between Plummer and Roscoe ... parking on side of road after the turn on Plummer. In the morning there will be a Chumash blessing led by Dennis Garcia and after the opening ceremony there will be interpretive hikes around the Ecology Pond led by hike leaders from participating conservation groups. Free family fun! [www.savechatsworthpreserve.org](http://www.savechatsworthpreserve.org)



**Saturday, April 26, 8 – 11 am Santa Susana Field Lab Nature Walk**, sponsored by Boeing, SSMPA, SW Herpetologists Society and SFV Audubon. Information: 818-466-8793 Come see the beauty of the Santa Susana Field Lab in the Simi Hills.

### **Sunday, April 27: 11 am – 4 pm Chatsworth Historical Society – A Garden Festival – Homestead Acre**

A day of Roses and Crafts! The Homestead Acre, 10385 Shadow Oak Dr. – Parking with shuttle bus from Chatsworth Train Depot. Vendors and garden clubs • Live Plant Sale • White Elephant Sale • Quilt Display • Tours of 1911 Homestead Cottage \$5 Admission-Donation; \$1 Children and kids under 5 free [www.historicalsocieties.net](http://www.historicalsocieties.net) • [chatsworthhistory@gmail.com](mailto:chatsworthhistory@gmail.com)

### **Sunday, May 18: 11 am – 3 pm Chatsworth Day of the Horse**

10861 Andora Avenue – Stoney Point Ranch 11A – 3P

Free Entrance! Family fun with exhibitions • vendors • food vendors • crafts for youngsters • Conejo Valley Riders and other entertainment.

### **Saturday, May 24: 1 pm – 4 pm Foundation for the Preservation of Santa Susana Mountains and SSMPA are celebrating Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park (SSPSHP) 16th year anniversary**

Nancy Razanski's copy of a video of SSPSHP's 1998 opening ceremonies will be presented and other topics.

### **Sunday, May 18: 10 am – 3 pm Live Reptile & Amphibian show**

Sponsored by Southwestern Herpetologists Society and Western National Parks – King Gillette Ranch: Santa Monica Mountains Interagency Visitor Center: [www.samo@wnpa.org](http://www.samo@wnpa.org) • Phone: 805-370-2302

## HIKES

**Welcome Walks:** Interpretive hikes in the Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park (SSPSHP): Facebook: [Friends of the Santa Susana Mountains](https://www.facebook.com/Friends-of-the-Santa-Susana-Mountains) and [www.fpssm.org](http://www.fpssm.org)

**SSPSHP Volunteer Hikes:** Contact: Jennifer Dandurand, park interpretive specialist, Los Encinos SHP: 818.784.4849; [jdandurand@parks.ca.gov](mailto:jdandurand@parks.ca.gov)

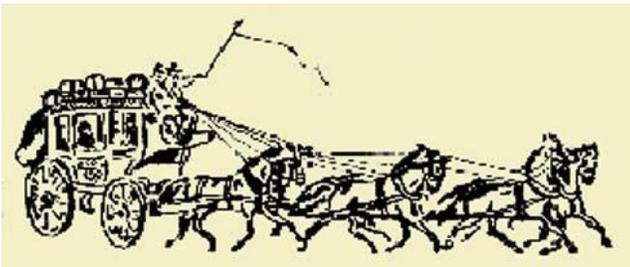
**Rancho Simi Trail Blazers:** [www.simitrailblazers.com](http://www.simitrailblazers.com) **Sierra Club:** [www.angeles.sierraclub.org/sfv/](http://www.angeles.sierraclub.org/sfv/) Meetings, hikes



Santa Susana Mountain Park Association (SSMPA)  
 P. O. Box 4831  
 Chatsworth, CA 91313-4831  
 ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Mail label here

**WHY WAIT UNTIL SEPTEMBER?**



**MEMBERSHIP is due for all annual members in September. Please fill in the membership renewal form below and submit your renewal. If you do not receive your newsletter via e-mail and must receive by snail mail, please send an additional \$10.00. If you have moved, please be sure to let us know your new address.**

*Your membership (new and renewal) and donations help SSMPA efforts and continued success in providing free community meetings; advocacy for open space/nature preserves; keeping or reopening local parks; acquiring easement land parcels to protect native plants and habitat, wildlife corridors and park space; environmental educational opportunities; preservation of Chatsworth and surrounding area's local history, cultural, and archaeological sites.*

**SSMPA MEMBERSHIP IS A VOICE IN YOUR COMMUNITY!**

**YOU CAN NOW USE YOUR CREDIT CARD OR PAYPAL ACCOUNT: Go to our website: [ssmpa.com](http://ssmpa.com)**

Sign up for a LIFE MEMBERSHIP and/or a DONATION of \$50.00 and receive a FREE Chumash designed [T-Shirt](#) (image on [ssmpa.com/membership](http://ssmpa.com/membership) ) Let us know your size when you mail in your check.

We greatly appreciate your over-and-above special donation: Life Member Sandra Fernandez

THANK YOU for your membership, new or renewal, and/or donations:

- PLEASE SEND IN YOUR MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL OR NEW MEMBERSHIP TODAY**  
 \$20.00 for individuals     \$25.00 for a family     \$30.00 for a business or organization  
 \$150.00 for Individual Life Membership     \$200.00 for a Family Life Membership

**Make your check payable to SSMPA** and mail to: SSMPA, P.O. Box 4831, Chatsworth, CA 91313-4831

Be sure to fill in the following information ....

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Special interests or skills \_\_\_\_\_

**IMPORTANT: Please send today your e-mail address or changes to your e-mail address to: [mail@ssmpa.com](mailto:mail@ssmpa.com).**  
 Your e-mail address is used exclusively for SSMPA newsletter and community announcements.