



Santa Susana Mountain Park Association

Volume 30, Issue 5

September 2000 Newsletter

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

Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park (SSPSHP) Update

Work on the Interim Management Plan for the SSPSHP has finished. At midsummer, Nancy Razanski and Lindsay Wilhelm of the Foundation and Dorian Keyser of the Association met with Dan Preece to discuss the latest draft of the "Interim Management Plan for the Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park." Subsequently, Dorian and Judy Garris provided further written comments.

Dan now has the final version, which he will submit to State Parks officials in Sacramento for their approval. Hopefully, the availability of this plan will increase the likelihood of the Angeles District obtaining funds for additional land acquisitions and operations of our park. However, we need to continue working hard for this funding.

Dan said that the Angeles District has requested funds in the 2000-2001 State budget for three State Parks personnel for our park. He told us that the Angeles District has officially submitted that our park is one of the three most important ones to receive funds for expansion. Unfortunately, the Angeles District's requests for funds for the use of Proposition 12 funds for the expansion of our park were not approved along with the recently approved State budget.

A key element in the decision process for Proposition 12 and 13 funds is getting legislators from our district, e.g., Republican Assemblyman Tom McClintock, to actively support funding for the SSPSHP. Letters to him, as well as to Speaker Robert Hertzberg, Governor Gray Davis, Senator Pro-Tem John Burton, and other influential legislators are strongly urged.

We need to contact community groups to lobby for funds for our park. Hopefully, the squeaky wheel will get some grease!

Another source of funds will be the \$450,000+ settlement from Southern California Edison for the damage they did some years back to the SSPSHP — all funds to be used in the SSPSHP.

An important element in obtaining funds for our park is its use by the public. We need to increase the number of hikes, including special ones to view wild flowers and historical features; increase the number of activities for children and families; support the improvement of trails; help protect the archeological features of the park; schedule clean-up days by volunteers; discourage graffiti; help the State Parks interpretative rangers by becoming docents... The list goes on and on. ☼

Upcoming SSMPA General Membership Meetings

9/18/2000 • SSMPA member Jim Shirley, a resident of Box Canyon, will present a slide show on the earthquake faults of the Santa Susana Mountains and the Simi Hills.

10/16/2000 • Ray Savajot of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreational Area will present a slide show on the wildlife corridors of the Santa Susana Mountains and Simi Hills.

General Membership Program Meetings occur on the 3rd Monday of the months September through May, start at 7:30 p.m. and usually conclude by 9:00 p.m. The venue is a meeting room at Rockpointe Recreation Center, 22300 Devonshire, Chatsworth (south side of street), one block before entry to Chatsworth Park South. Refreshments are served at the program meeting.

All SSMPA members are welcome to attend both General Membership Program Meetings and Board of Directors Meetings. ☼

Upcoming Events

Annual Pioneer Day, Sunday, October 15, 2000, 11:00 am to 4:00 pm, at Homestead Acre in Chatsworth Park South (west end of Devonshire Street): The Chatsworth Historical Society presents Pioneer Day — Old-fashioned fun for all, exhibits, music, refreshments, and a chili cook-off contest! Donations: Adults, \$2, Children, \$1 -- Free under 5 years old. For more information, call: 818-882-5614.

9th Annual Calabasas Pumpkin Festival, Saturday and Sunday, October 21-22, 2000, 8:30 am to 6:00 pm, at Paramount Ranch: The Pumpkin Festival provides volunteers the satisfaction of contributing to the community and earning hours for charitable donations made to their non-profit organizations. Last year, volunteers earned \$11 per hour. This year, there will be hats and bandannas for volunteers, as well as on-site parking! Sign-up forms for 5-hour shifts will be available at SSMPA General Membership Meetings. For more information on volunteering for the 2000 Pumpkin Festival, call Sue Orgen at 818-224-4411, ext. 107. ☼

Ahmanson News

Web Wars, from the *L.A. Times*, Aug. 23, 2000

Washington Mutual, Inc., parent company of Ahmanson Land Co., is trying to make two groups, Save Open Space and Friends of Ahmanson Ranch, stop using these website addresses: <http://ahmanson.org>, <http://ahmansonranch.com>, and <http://ahmanson-ranch.com> (with hyphen), domain names they obtained before the developer did. The case is set for arbitration in September and the developer has also threatened to sue in Federal court, contending it has a right to protect its name.

At the same time, Washington Mutual has turned the tables and gobbled up what critics say is more than 50 domain names such as <http://saveahmansonranch.com> and <http://stopahmanson-ranch.org>.

"The only reason they could possibly be doing this is to prevent us from using the names, prevent public discourse," said Eve Wagner, L.A. attorney and member of Save Open Space.

Tim McGarry, a Washington Mutual spokesperson, said the company's purpose in registering such domain names is "to ensure that our mark is protected. We're very sensitive to the fact that our opponents have the right to criticize us on the Internet and elsewhere. We're not trying to harass anyone."

Wagner and others are betting that these recent domain name registrations will look hypocritical to arbiters for the World Intellectual Property Organization, the Geneva-based group considering Ahmanson's argument against critics' website addresses this month. ☼

In Case You Were Wondering...

The 47-acre "Eagle's Nest" and the 89-acre Val Kilmer properties, along with the 51-acre LA DWP-owned "outparcel 5," compose a critical wildlife corridor link between the SSPSHP and the Chatsworth Nature Preserve/Reservoir.

On July 17, 2000, a non-public meeting of Hal Bernson's Citizens Advisory Counsel was held. One agenda item was evaluation of Kilmer's informal request for rezoning to allow greater density of development on the Kilmer property. However, after 30 or so unexpected citizens arrived with the mistaken intention of attending the meeting, the chairman announced to the crowd that the agenda item would not be addressed as planned. Mr. Bernson's office subsequently stated that citizens will be allowed to testify at a public hearing, should the property owner apply for a zoning change.

Note: The public hearing held in June of 1999 regarding Eagle's Nest resulted in qualified non-approval by City Planning. ☼

Keeping in Touch

Chris Van Schaack, past native-plant Tarweed Nursery owner (Chatsworth Lake), made it to Oregon! In a letter to the SSMPA dated May 23, 2000, he said, "Thank you for the honor of being a member of such a worthwhile group. I hope all your efforts are rewarded greatly." He added, "If there is space in the newsletter, please print my new mailing address: 1257 Siskiyou Blvd. PMB 136, Ashland, OR 97520." ☼

PRIDE

By Judy Garris

One of SSMPA's Board members, Diana Dixon-Davis, is also a member of a well-known NW Valley group called PRIDE. Diana, a founding member of PRIDE in 1989, has specialized in the area of school and facilities needs assessment.

PRIDE publishes a bimonthly newsletter which informs the public about upcoming L.A. city planning and zoning meetings. These meetings give the public an opportunity to speak on property zoning and planning issues. Open public comment periods are of a few minutes per person; you must fill out a request speaker's card even if you change your mind and decide not to speak.

By presenting a schedule of city planning and zoning meetings, the PRIDE newsletter provides enough advance notice to read and interpret Draft Environmental Reports or other environmental reports, prior to attending these meetings. The newsletter improves upon notification of neighbors about proposed development in their area, information often difficult to obtain since developers usually notify only those land owners within 500 feet of the proposed development. This is the developers' policy; it is not in city code!!

If you hike, bike or walk regularly in an area, you may not know you are about to lose access to well-established trails. People living outside of the 500-foot area (often hillside land) who regularly use these trails — including city children brought in to learn about wildlife and plants, and others wishing to take a mini-vacation away from city life — should have a say in the development of the wildlands. PRIDE's newsletter thus helps activists, homeowners, and local nature lovers have a say in local property development planning.

Note: PRIDE maintains a 24-hour hotline to inform residents of last-minute activities. To receive a complimentary copy of the next issue, call the PRIDE Hotline at 89-PRIDE (897-7433), and leave your name and address. ☼



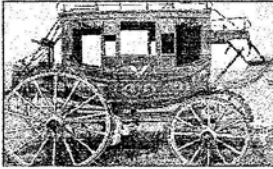
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September 2000 Hikes

Stagecoach Trail and Exploration Series hikes are offered by the Santa Susana Mountain Task Force (SSMTF) of the Sierra Club, and publicized by the SSMPA. This page also lists Rim of the Valley Hikes, which are sponsored by the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and the Mountains Recreation & Conservation Authority.

Note: For most hikes, hikers should wear sunscreen, hiking boots, socks, a hat & bring water. Also, serious rain cancels.



Stage Coach Trail Hikes

Sunday, September 24, 2000. Interpretative hike into history in our Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park. Meet at 9:00 am for the 4-mile (700 ft. gain) loop up the Stage Coach Trail. Bring water and a snack in a back or hip pack. From Topanga Canyon Boulevard, turn west on Devonshire and drive into Chatsworth Park South to the second parking lot by the Recreation Building. Call Lee Baum (818) 341-1850 for more information. ☼

More SSMTF Hikes

Devil Canyon into Ybarra Canyon, Sunday, Oct. 1, 2000, 1:00 pm: Easy, 5-mile, hike in Devil Canyon to Ybarra Canyon. Expect some stream hopping. SSMPA President and naturalist, Judy Garris, will be leading this hike. Meet at the north end of Topanga Canyon Blvd. Exit off 118 Freeway, turn left and park on Poema Place. Call Judy at 818-346-7654 for more information. ☼

Happy Camp - Halloween Potluck, Oct. 29, 2000, 1:00 pm: 5-mile, 200' gain, hike. Wear lugsoles; bring potluck dish for six, utensils, cup, plate, and water. Meet at the north end of Topanga Canyon Blvd. for rideshare to trailhead in Moorpark. Call Judy Garris at 818-346-7654, Rick Farber at 323-935-8990 or Rosemarie White at 818-769-1521 for more information. This is a joint SSMTF/Sierra Singles event. ☼

Rim of the Valley Hikes

Scented Plant Hike, Sunday, Sept. 10, 2000, 4:00-6:30 pm: Easy 3-mile round-trip, 100' gain/loss, naturalist-led hike exploring the scents of native plants. Meet at Sage Ranch entrance (take Valley Circle to Woolsey Canyon, west to Boeing, turn right and go 200' on Black Canyon to entrance, park inside gate). Call Tom at (805) 492-2184 for more info. ☼

Nature at Night, Friday, Sept. 15, 2000 7:00-8:45 pm: 2-mile evening hike in Wilson Canyon. This naturalist-led hike lets you discover the sights and sounds of nature at night. Take the 210 fwy to the Roxford exit, go north on Olive View Drive past hospital, turn into Park entrance road 200 yards east of Bledsoe before Fenton, park at trailhead at northwest terminus of entry road. ☼

Two Canyons Hike, Saturday, Sept. 16, 2000, 8:00 am-12:00 noon: 4-mile naturalist-led hike starts at Rice Canyon at 8:00 am, moves to Towsley Canyon by 10:00 am. Join group at either time. *Rice Canyon: Take I-5 north to Calgrove exit, go west under fwy, 1 mile south on Old Road, 300 yards past church, park on frontage road near Santa Clarita Woodlands: East Canyon/Rice Canyon Entrance sign. *Towsley Canyon: On I-5 freeway north, exit at Calgrove, drive west under fwy, turn south on the Old Road, turn on first driveway to right, look for Ed Davis at Towsley Canyon sign, park in back lot, meet at kiosk. ☼

Newsletter Submissions: We need your articles! To submit an article for publication in this newsletter, send it to SSMPA, Attn: Newsletter Editor, P.O. Box 4831, Chatsworth, CA 91313. - Patricia Milow, Newsletter Editor



SANTA SUSANA MOUNTAIN PARK ASSOCIATION

WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN / RENEW / REJOIN S.S.M.P.A. (Please 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 contributions to help ensure our futures. Please make checks payable to SSMPA and send to SSMPA, P.O. Box 4831, Chatsworth, CA 91313-4831.

- Senior or Student (\$5.00) Individual (\$10.00) Family (\$15.00)
- Business or Organization (\$25.00) Life Member (\$100.00)

Name: _____ Phone: _____
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Special Interest/Expertise: _____

Any type and amount of voluntary service is always appreciated. If you can't do much, you may still be able to help in part or in some small way. Maybe you can contribute articles for the newsletter or man a table selling SSMPA merchandise, maybe not. We also sometimes have special needs, like getting envelopes stamped for special mailings.

September 11, 2000, 7:30 PM Board of Director's Meeting: Chatsworth Park Visitor's Center.

September 18, 2000, 7:30 PM Program Meeting: Rockpointe Recreation Center.

October 2, 2000, 7:30 PM Board of Director's Meeting: Chatsworth Park Visitor's Center.

October 16, 2000, 7:30 PM Program Meeting: Rockpointe Recreation Center.

All SSMPA members are welcome to both General Membership Program and Board of Director's Meetings.

Many thanks to the folks at the Office Depot on Topanga Canyon south of Victory for the donation of printing services, i.e., the duplication of our newsletter. We very much appreciate it!

Native Plant Sale

Saturday & Sunday, Oct. 14-15, 10:00-4:00 pm: California Native Plant Society sale at Sepulveda Garden Ctr., 16633 Magnolia Blvd. (north side of Magnolia, west of intersection of Magnolia and Havenhurst) in Encino. ☼

Santa Susana Mountain Park Association &
Foundation for the Preservation of the Santa Susana Mountains
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