



*Santa Susana Mountain Park Association*

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Volume 29, Issue 2

A Non-Profit Organization  
Incorporated August 31, 1971

*February 1999 Newsletter*

## *Candidates' Forum*

*By Patricia Milow*

On Monday, February 15, 1999, starting at 7:30 p.m., the SSMPA will hold its Candidates' Forum. Candidates for the March 1999 Election of the SSMPA Executive Board will make verbal statements about why they should be elected to the Board. They will also be available to answer questions from members who are concerned about the future of the SSMPA, as well as the future of the nearby wild lands that we as an organization are trying to save.

As of this writing, there are fewer candidates than Board positions. SSMPA members who have thrown their hats in the ring include:

Jeff Johnston — President  
Dorian Keyser — Vice President  
Patricia Milow — Corresponding Secretary  
Susan Gerke — Treasurer  
Judy Garris — Member-At-Large  
Holly Huff — Member-At-Large  
Doreen Rusen — Member-At-Large

Still needed are a candidate for Recording Secretary and candidates for two Member-At-Large offices. Of course, more than one person can run for each of the Executive Board positions!

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## *Bylaws Wake-Up Call*

*By Patricia Milow*

SSMPA members recently received a packet of materials with proposed new bylaws. This new set of bylaws, put together by Ted Dent, proposed that the SSPMA Board change from 10 members, including a President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer, to a board consisting of a "Chief Facilitator," 15 "Facilitators of the Standing Committees," plus the Founder, Jan Hinkston. It also detailed the tasks to be accomplished by the 15 proposed standing committees.

About 25 SSMPA members, including 7 current Executive Board members, attended the meeting called by Ted on January 23, 1999, at 10:00 a.m., in the Chatsworth Park South Visitor's Center to decide on the fate of these newly introduced bylaws. Al Knight, current SSMPA Vice President, was present to chair the meeting.

After some discussion, a vote was called on the bylaws proposed by Ted Dent. A majority of those present voted against the new "Facilitator" bylaws. Discussion then ensued about what was to be done about SSMPA's bylaws. A motion was made and was carried for the following:

1. The bylaws would be sent back to the Bylaws Committee, which would have until the end of February 1999 to come up with a new set of bylaws.

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The next SSMPA General Membership Meeting will take place Monday, February 15, 1999, at 7:30 p.m. at the Rockpointe Recreation Center, 22300 Devonshire St., Chatsworth (south side of street, 1 - 1/2 blocks before entry to Chatsworth Park South). This meeting will feature the Candidates' Forum, where SSMPA Executive Board candidates will have the opportunity to talk about their qualifications and experience.

## Candidates' Forum

Continued . . .

If you run and win a post on the SSMPA Board of Directors, the term of your office lasts one year. Responsibilities include attendance at two meetings per month, spending 2-3 hours at each meeting. Benefits include the opportunity to be involved in the guardianship of our new Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park, as well as other nearby parks, open space, wild lands and wildlife corridors.

Call Election Committee Chair Susan Gerke at (818) 704-9304 if you'd like to run for an SSMPA office, or if you want more information on these elections. ❁



## Meeting with Indian Falls Estates Homeowners Associations

By Dorian Keyser

Judy Garris and I met with Neil Eberhardt of the Indian Falls Estates Homeowners Association, Hans Giraud, project manager for the Indian Springs Phase II developer, and representatives of Equestrian Trails, Inc. Corral 54 to discuss the implementation of the "Conditions for Agreement of the Indian Springs and Falls Homeowners Associations to Vacation of Public Streets of Tract 42353 — Indian Falls Estates." This document contains the requirements for easy access to trails that the public is entitled to reach on foot, horseback, or mountain bicycle.

Neil agreed to implement all requirements, including signs, in a timely manner. Still to be implemented is the conveyance of 272 acres of the 338 acres of the Indian Springs Phase II tract to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy by owner Chatsworth Ridge Estates as a condition for developing the remaining 66 acres. The SSMPA will be involved to ensure that the developer abides with all of the requirements for the development as defined in the Memorandum of Agreement between the SSMPA and the developer.

We will schedule a hike for those who wish to experience this beautiful area, which 25 years ago we hoped would become a state park. The 272 acres abuts part of the eastern boundary of the 4,369-acre Runkle Ranch, which is now owned by the Conservancy. ❁

## Bylaws Wake-Up Call

Continued . . .

2. This new set of bylaws would be presented by the outgoing board to the incoming board at the April 1999 Executive Board meeting.
3. The new SSPMA Executive Board would decide on the disposition of the new bylaws proposed by the Bylaws Committee.

All things considered, I believe a vote of thanks should go out to Ted Dent for taking the bylaws off of the back burner. I have heard discussion among some members of the Bylaws Committee that many of the new items contained in Ted's "Facilitator" bylaws will be worked into the bylaws to be presented this spring to the Board. For example, all SSMPA member activities, tasks, and responsibilities will no doubt find a place in the next bylaws revision.

Thanks, Ted, for waking us up and activating us to complete the work on the SSMPA bylaws! ❁



## Chatsworth Reservoir Update

By Dorian Keyser

DWP Commission President Rick Caruso failed to appear before the L.A. City Council for a scheduled January 20 meeting to present the results of his findings concerning the Chatsworth Nature Preserve/Reservoir.

Since this was a repeat of his no-show on January 13, which was a postponement of his scheduled December 13 appearance when he was ill, the City Council approved Councilman Hal Bernson's motion that a hearing be scheduled for March 1999 in Chatsworth, at which time Mr. Caruso will be "invited" to present the results of his studies.

As a courtesy to the five of us who came to testify on January 13 and then on January 20, we were all allowed to testify, including Chris Van Schaack and myself from SSMPA. ❁

## **60th Anniversary of the Placing of the Plaque**

*By Nancy Razanski, FPSSM President*

Back on March 17, 1939, the Native Daughters of the Golden West placed a mosaic plaque as a landmark along a cliff face bordering the Devil's Slide. This steep grade was a segment of the Old Stage Coach Trail which was the only land link between Los Angeles and San Francisco during the Civil War.

Devil's Slide and 178 surrounding acres was later placed on the National Register of Historic Places in January 1974. On January 27, 1998, Devil's Slide and 670 surrounding acres became the Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park.

The Foundation for the Preservation of the Santa Susana Mountains is hosting the *60th Anniversary of the Placing of the Plaque* to commemorate the work done by the then existing Topanga Parlor #269 Chapter of the Native Daughters of the Golden West.

The event will take place on Saturday, March 20, 1999 at 10:00 a.m. in our new Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park and the bordering Chatsworth Park South.

Trail hikes to the plaque, entertainment, food and displays will be offered, as well as the opportunity to purchase, for a \$10 tax-deductible donation, an 11" x 14" color print of the "Scaling the Devil's Slide" watercolor painted by William Razanski. This piece spotlights a scene of early pioneers' struggle by stagecoach up the treacherous Devil's Slide.

Chatsworth Historical Society and the SSMPA also plan to participate in the event and will set up their own displays. In addition, we hope to be honored by the presence of some of the original members of the Topanga Parlor #269 Native Daughters of the Golden West to help us celebrate this historic occasion. ❀

## **Second Native American and Cowboy Heritage Day Planned**

*By Nancy Razanski, FPSSM President*

The Foundation for the Preservation of the Santa Susana Mountains is pleased to announce that it is helping the California Department of Parks and Recreation put on the *Second Native American and Cowboy Heritage Day*. The event will take place on Saturday, February 27, 1999, from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., in Chatsworth Park South, which borders our Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park.

State Park Interpreter Mike Allan will teach cowboy-style roping to children ages 5-12. Janet Lazik, chair of the Santa Susana Children's Docents, will set up a Native American Cultural Display and teach a craft.

The event is free but reservations are required. Call Mike soon at (310) 573-7261, since space is limited. Don't miss out on what promises to be a very fun-filled day! ❀



**Scaling the Devil's Slide**

*Artist: William Razanski*