

Santa Susana Mountain Park Association

Volume 38 Issue 6

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

June 2008 Newsletter

Website: SSMPA.COM
E-Mail: MAIL@SSMPA.COM



GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
June 16, 2008 at 7:15PM

At this month's meeting, Ray and Ann Vincent. They are residents of Chatsworth, members of SSMPA, Chatsworth Historical Society, and Friends of the Chatsworth Library.

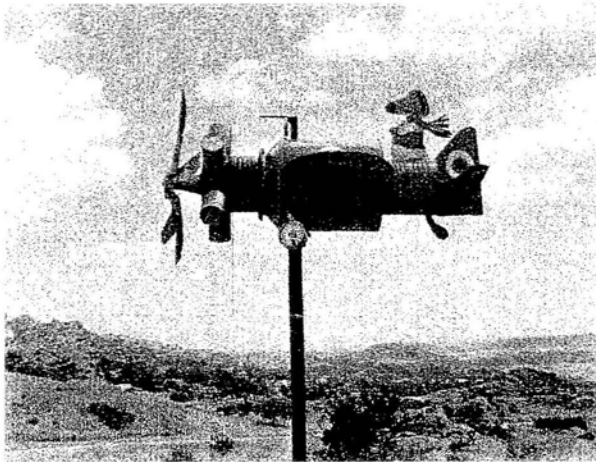
As members of the Historical Society they were intrigued with the engineering and construction of the Chatsworth Railroad tunnels. Through the years they gathered research from local historians, traveled to the Railroad Museum in Sacramento, and contacted Bruce Petty, the author of several Southern Pacific Railroad books, who shared photographs of the actual railroad tunnel construction.

Their presentation covers historical transportation routes in Chatsworth, focusing on the construction of the Montalvo cutoff completed in 1904.

Last month's meeting, with Captain Daum and 3 members of the Lake Manor Fire Station, was very informative. They brought handouts, one of which has been particularly reproduced on the next page.

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.

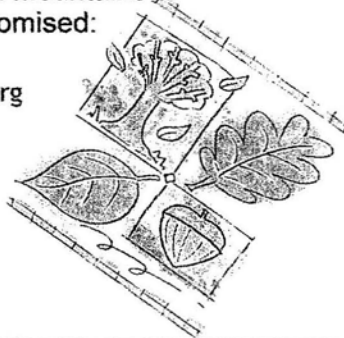
SCULPTURES AT WOOLSEY CANYON



THE SKIES ABOVE THE SANTA SUSANA MOUNTAINS ARE SAFE TONIGHT FROM THE BLOODY RED BARON!

Folk art displayed on the Woolsey Canyon Road turnoff Simi Hills-Santa Susana Mountains area. Information as promised:

Folk artist: Norm Wareberg
Photos: Henry Bollinger



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.

FIRE SAFETY CHECKLIST

LANDSCAPE (ORNAMENTAL)

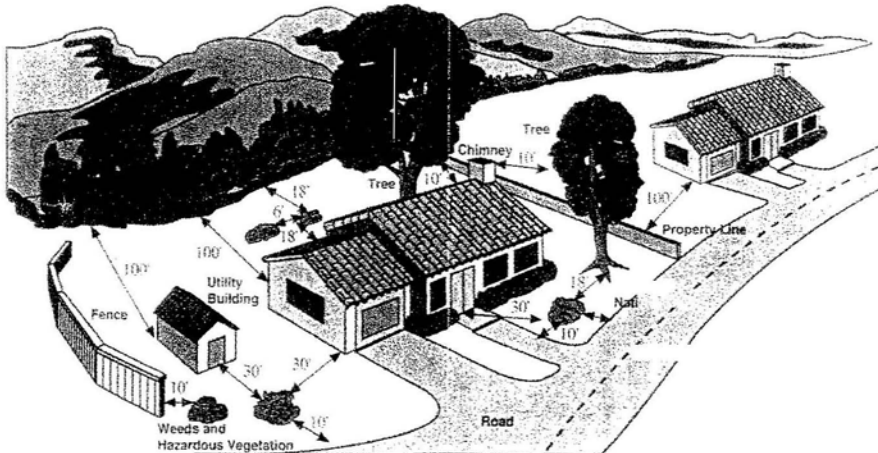
- Remove all flammable vegetation or other combustible growth within 30 feet of any structure or within 50 feet of any structure in areas determined to be high hazard. Single trees, ornamental shrubbery or cultivated ground covers may be permitted provided they are maintained in such a manner that they do not readily transmit fire from native vegetation to the structure.
- Special attention should be given to the use and maintenance of ornamental plants known or thought to be high hazard plants when used in close proximity to structures. Some of these plants are, but not limited to, Acacia, Cedar, Cypress, Eucalyptus, Juniper, Pine, and Pampas Grass. Such plantings should be properly maintained and are not allowed to be in mass plantings in such a manner that they could transmit fire from the native growth to any structure.
- Thin out or remove additional vegetation an additional 70 feet from the structure for a total of 100 feet. The inspecting officer, with the approval of the Fire Chief, may require an additional 100 feet for a total clearance of 200 feet because of a high fire hazard.
- Space trees and shrubs a minimum of 15 feet or three times their diameter from other shrubs. Trees should be spaced to allow a minimum of thirty feet between canopies at maturity.
- For trees taller than 18 feet, prune lower branches within 6 feet of the ground.
- For trees and shrubs of less than 18 feet, prune lower branches to one third of their height.
- Choose landscaping plants that are fire resistive.
- Maintain all plants by regularly removing dead branches, leaves, and related materials.

YARD

- Stack wood at least 30 feet from structures; remove flammable vegetation within 10 feet of the woodpile.
- Remove all stacks of construction materials, pine needles, leaves, and debris.
- Locate fixed butane/propane tanks at least 10 feet from any structure and give them 10 feet of clearance.

ROOF

- Remove dead branches overhanging your roof.
- Clean all dead leaves from your roof and rain gutters.
- Cover your chimney outlet with a spark arrestor consisting of a metal or non-flammable screen of 1/2 inch or smaller mesh.



Defensible Space **NOTE:** small lots may make these clearance distances impossible. You are only responsible to clear up to your property line. Clearance of property adjacent to your lot is the responsibility of the property owner.

HOME ACCESS:

Identify at least 2 exit routes from your neighborhood.
Post road signs to show traffic restrictions such as dead-end roads and height & weight limits.
Clear back flammable vegetation at least 10 ft. from roads and driveways
Cut overhanging tree branches about roads to provide minimum 16ft. of clearance
Make sure street names and numbers are visible at intersections.

Additional information and flyers can be obtained from the Fire Department.



UPCOMING HIKES

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



THERE IS AN E-MAIL WITH TERRIFIC GRAPHICS THAT DETAILS HIKES THROUGH DECEMBER 2007
Zuliebear@aol.com
ATTN: Dianne

Regularly Scheduled Hikes

(Hikes are canceled if it rains. There are no hikes on holidays.)

Sunday Evening - Rocky Peak

Meet at 4 PM at the Rocky Peak trailhead at the end of Rocky Peak Road on the Santa Susana Pass. (Meet at 5 PM during daylight savings time.) (Strenuous - 4.8 MRT)

Tuesday Evening - Long Canyon

Meet at 6:30 PM in the Long Canyon parking lot. Directions: Take First Street South. Continue when the road's name changes to Long Canyon Road. The parking lot is at the intersection of Long Canyon Road and Wood Ranch Parkway. (Easy to Moderate - 3.0 MRT)

Thursday Evening - The Chumash Trail

Meet at 6 PM at Chumash trailhead. Directions: Take the 118 Freeway to Yosemite exit. Go north on Yosemite and turn right on Flanagan Dr. The trailhead is at the end of Flanagan Drive. (Moderate to Strenuous - 5.2 MRT)

June Activities

June 7th

Switzer Falls*

4.5 MRT - Moderate (600' elevation gain) - (Optionally another 4.5 miles and 500' elevation gain.)

Waterfalls, small cascades, lovely pools, wooded streamside trail, and deep canyons. This is National Forest land, so you will need an **Adventure Pass** to park your car at the trailhead. Meet at 8 AM at the 118 & Stearns St. Park & Ride. Bring 2 - 3 quarts of water, a snack and bug juice. Wear boots.

June 14th

Sheep Camp Day Hike*

10.5 MRT - Moderate to Strenuous (elevation change from 8900' to 8250')

Great panoramic views from the Condor Observation Point, and beautiful scenery hiking through Jeffery Pines. There is a spring box with year round water at the camp. The water does need to be filtered. Bring 2 to 3 quarts of water (and/or a water filter), and lunch. Wear boots. Meet at 8 AM at the 118 & Stearns St. Park & Ride. The drive is 1 1/2 hours each way.

June 28th

Ocean's Edge - River's Edge Loop & San Buenaventura State Beach to the Ventura River Estuary*

8 MRT - Easy (no elevation gain)

Avoid the Summer heat. Take a walk along the beach from San Buenaventura State Beach to Emma Wood State Beach. Bring a snack and 2 to 3 quarts of water and sunscreen. Meet at 8 AM near Donut Delite at the corner of Madera and Royal.

July Activities

July 5th

Rocky Peak (via the Hummingbird Trail)

8 MRT - Moderate to Strenuous (1750' elevation gain)

Meet at 8 AM at the trailhead. From Highway 118 Simi Valley Freeway, exit on Kuehner Drive and go north. Trailhead is on the right. Bring 2 quarts of water and lunch. Wear boots.

OPTION: Continue on the Rocky Peak fire road, down the Chumash Trail and then on a lesser-known trail back to the Hummingbird Ranch trailhead. (adds about 2.5 miles)

July 19th

Solstice Canyon Loop*

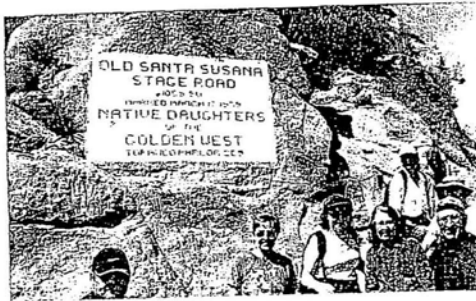
3 to 6 MRT - Easy to moderate (500' to 1000' elevation gain)

Beautiful creek, 30 ft waterfall, mysterious ruins, hidden statue, and ocean views. Meet at 8 AM near Donut Delite, at the corner of Madera and Royal. Bring 2 - 3 quarts of water, a snack and bug juice. Wear boots.



STAGECOACH TRAIL

STAGECOACH TRAIL - 9:00AM. INTERPRETATIVE HIKE INTO HISTORY OF SANTA SUSANA PASS STATE HISTORIC PARK. MEET AT 9:00AM FIR 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 MTNS 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 SSMPPA and send to SSMPPA, 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 (\$30.00)

Name: _____ Phone: _____
 Street Address: _____ E-mail: _____
 City / State / Zip: _____
 Special Interest / Expertise: _____



Santa Susana Mountain Park Association

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Diana Dixon Davis

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Patsy Miller
Newsletter Editor
Chris Beauvais

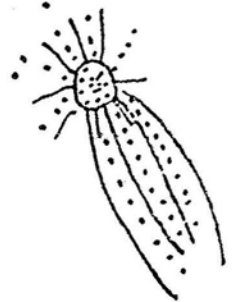


Accomplishments of the Santa Susana Mountain Park Association



This is a new section to the NEWSLETTER. In it will be a list of some of the things SSMPA has been doing, including but not limited to environmental and community involvement.

- Earth Day Chatsworth Park North clean up 4-27
- Mayor's Day of Service - Clean up at Stoney Point and Chatsworth Trails 5-3
- Bio-Blitz 2008, Santa Monica Mountains Nat'l Recreation Area - observing and recording critter species (Jan Miller and John Luke) on 5-30/31
- Chatsworth Art Show - Chumash Rock Painting conducted by Diana-Dixon 6-1 Davis. Diana and her husband are part of the archaeological site stewardship program, which is sponsored by California State Parks and the Society for California Archaeology.
- Chatsworth Nature Preserve Community Hike with Councilman Greig Smith 4-6
- Outreach to the community for Chatsworth Nature Preserve, by table and at the Chatsworth Historical Society
- Members went on a local native vegetation tour, to take over, then eradicate remaining castor beans (used to produce ricin).
- Santa Monica Mountain Conservancy Meeting: attended by board member Teena Takata to discuss Wildlife Corridor in May
- SSMPA has been involved in and reviewed a wetlands improvement project sponsored by BFI mitigation and touring.
- Members work with other groups to count the Canadian geese and count birds at a local bird preserve, as well as catalog plants on that site.
- AB 1842, Camryn Smyth's bill, related to the creation of the new Santa Susana State Park and provided input to structure the community-based monitors.



SSMPA needs volunteers to help in many community projects, trail/hiking leaders, fund raisers, and presenters. Contact Jack Unger, President (or e-mail SSMPA at MAIL@SSMPA.COM). We even need a volunteer coordinator!



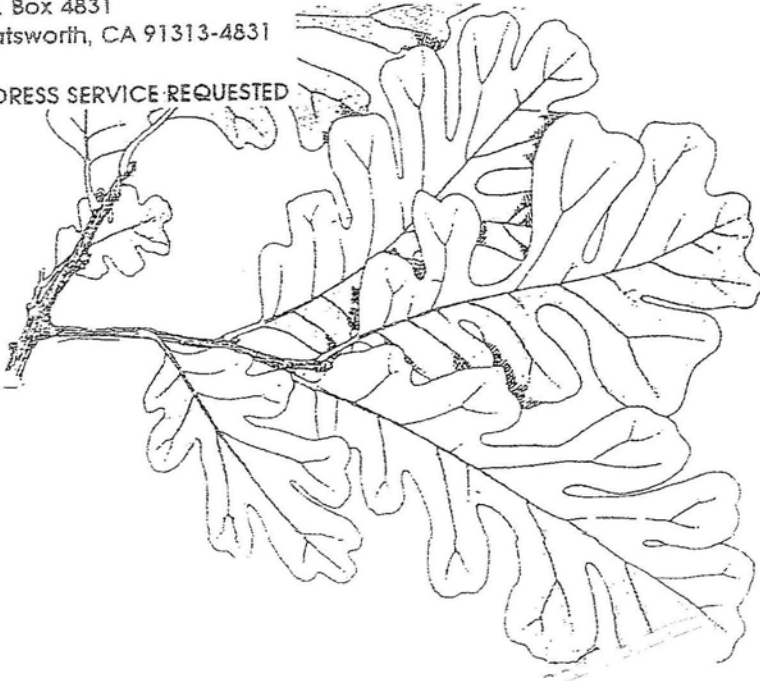
This list will be updated on a regular basis to let everyone know the great things SSMPA and all its members do.



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Foundation for the Preservation of the Santa Susana Mountains
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