



# Santa Susana Mountain Park Association

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

## June 2009 Newsletter

Volume 39 Issue 6

Do to California's budget crisis, the following appeared in the Sacramento Bee. This is a partial list and applies to Southern California

### State Park System Units To Be Placed in 'Caretaker' Status

Published Thursday, May. 28, 2009

#### District Name Unit Name

- Angeles District Leo Carrillo SP
- Angeles District Los Angeles SHP
- Angeles District Los Encinos SHP
- Angeles District Malibu Creek SP
- Angeles District Malibu Lagoon SB
- Angeles District Pio Pico SHP
- Angeles District Point Mugu SP
- Angeles District Rio de Los Angeles SP
- Angeles District Robert H. Meyer Memorial SB
- Angeles District Santa Susana Pass SHP
- Angeles District Topanga SP
- Angeles District Verdugo Mountains
- Angeles District Will Rogers SHP

#### UPDATE OF 6-2-09

Recorded Budget deliberations 6-2-09. Regarding resources and parks, 5 hours of prisons and parks. The Governor recommends drilling off the coast of Santa Barbara. Stopping all rehabilitation programs (including drug treatment) in prisons. Releasing thousands of prisoners. Breaking up Cal-EPA and closing 80% of State Parks. For live feeds: <http://www.calchannel.com/channel/viewVideo/430>

Update provided by John Luker SSMPA VP

### GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING June 15, 2009

Our scheduled guest will be our own VP, John Luker, with a presentation about photography, sharing wonderful photos and great insight.

SSMPA General Membership Program meetings take place every 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

#### SEND US YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS:

[chrissmpa@gmail.com](mailto:chrissmpa@gmail.com)

This allows us to notify you of last minute news and changes in our meetings. SSMPA is also working on Saving Trees by e-mailing our newsletter rather than mailing. WE ARE WORKING TO GET THE NEWSLETTER SENT OUT VIA E-MAIL IN SEPTEMBER. IF YOU HAVE NOT ALREADY DONE SO, GET US YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS.



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.

Your Editor came up with a "bright idea". I was looking up Santa Susana Mountains on Google and came across a Wikipedia entry for the mountains. I copied most of the entry and thought it might be fun to look over what information they have and if it is correct. If you don't know, Wikipedia is an interactive encyclopedia. People are free to add or correct the information listed. What I would like to happen is that our members look at this article. If anything needs corrections, go to [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Santa\\_Susana\\_Mountains](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Santa_Susana_Mountains) , find the category, click on Edit and follow the instructions.

## Santa Susana Mountains-From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The **Santa Susana Mountains** are a transverse range of mountains in southern California, north of the city of Los Angeles, in the United States. The range runs east-west separating the San Fernando Valley and Simi Valley on its south, from Santa Clara River Valley to the north, and Santa Clarita Valley to the northeast. The Oxnard Plain is to the west of Santa Susana Mountains.

### [edit] Description

The Newhall Pass separates the Santa Susana Mountains from the San Gabriel Mountains to the east. Newhall Pass is the major north-south connection between the San Fernando Valley and the Santa Clarita Valley, and Interstate 5 and a railroad line share Newhall Pass. The Santa Susana Pass (containing SR 118) connects the Simi and San Fernando valleys, and separates the Santa Susana Mountains from Simi Hills to the south. Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park is located in the Simi Hills, just south of the Santa Susana Pass, at the northwestern edge of the San Fernando Valley. The Santa Susana Mountains are not as steep as the San Gabriel Mountains.

The western half of the range lies in Ventura County, and the eastern half of the range lies in Los Angeles County. The southeastern slopes of the Santa Susana Mountains are part of the City of Los Angeles, and housing subdivisions, including Porter Ranch, have been built on the lower slopes of the range. The city of Simi Valley lies southwest of the range. To the north of the range is the fast-growing city of Santa Clarita, and several large subdivisions in unincorporated Los Angeles County, including Lyons Ranch and Newhall Ranch, have been approved for development. The Sunshine Canyon Landfill is at the mountains' eastern end, and several canyons in the northwest corner of the range have been proposed for more landfills.

The first discovery of oil in California was in Naco Canyon, on the north side of the mountains. The California Star Oil Works, later Chevron, succeeded with Well No. 4. It became famous not only as the first well in California, but also as the longest-producing well in the world, having been capped in September, 1990 after 114 years. Today it is a National Historic Landmark. The surrounding town, Mentryville, is maintained as an oil "ghost town". Unocal Corporation still operates oil wells in the mountains.

The mountains are within the acquisition area for the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, which operates several parks, including Santa Clarita Woodlands Park, Rocky Peak Park, and Happy Camp Canyon Park in the Santa Susana Mountains through the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority. The City of Los Angeles maintains O'Melveny Park at the eastern end of the mountains.

Note: the Santa Susana Field Laboratory, once operated by Rocketdyne, is actually in the Simi Hills, which are to the south of the Santa Susana Mountains.

### [edit] Plants and Animals

The south-facing slopes are mostly covered in chaparral, grassland, and oak savanna. The north-facing slopes are home to magnificent oak woodlands, some of which have been protected in the Santa Clarita Woodlands Park. The mountains are part of the California chaparral and woodlands ecoregion. As far as oaks go, the non-deciduous Coast Live Oak, the deciduous Valley Oak, and the Scrub Oak all can be found in the area. Spring wildflowers include the Redbush Monkey Flower, Mariposa Lily, and Canyon Sunflower. Poison Oak is also an important member of the community .

Visitors to the mountain range may observe many bird species. Perhaps the most common raptors seen soaring over the brushy landscape are Turkey Vultures, Red-tailed Hawks, American Kestrels, and Red-shouldered Hawks. From the cover of chaparral, California Towhee and California Quail can often be heard, while the occasional Greater Roadrunner is glimpsed from a rocky perch. Evening is sometimes embraced by the eerie yet beautiful call of the Common Poorwill. As for owls, Great Horned Owls and the more often seen phantom-like Barn Owl both call the mountains home.

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# Activities Schedule

Rancho Simi Trailblazers

## 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 - 1,100' elevation gain)

### 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 - 450' elevation gain) NOTE: This hike is divided into two groups with two leaders: one for beginners and the other for intermediate hikers.

**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 - 1,100' elevation gain)

## June Activities

**June 13th - Matilija Falls\*** - Moderate - 9 MRT (950' elevation gain) Hike up Matilija Creek, passing two waterfalls, turtle ponds and swimming holes. For more information about this hike, see Rancho Simi Trailblazer website. Meet at 8 AM near Donut Delite at the corner of Madera and Royal. Bring 2 - 3 quarts of water, a snack and a pair of shoes/sandals that you don't mind getting wet. Wear boots.

**June 20th - Switzer Falls and Bear Canyon Trail Camp** - Moderate - 8.0 MRT (1,000' elevation gain)

Take the shady trail from the Switzer Picnic Area, downstream in the Arroyo Seco, then ascend the only sunny stretch of trail to get past a narrow gorge. Visit Switzer Falls, then hike downstream to the Bear Canyon fork and follow Bear Canyon Creek upstream to the Trail Camp. Return the same way. Meet at 8 AM at the 118 & Stearns St. Park & Ride. Bring your camera, water and lunch. Wear boots. For more information, see Rancho Simi Trailblazer website.

**June 27th - Big Santa Anita Canyon ? Chantry Flat to Sturtevant Falls & Sturtevant's Camp**

Moderate - 7.4 MRT (1,700' elevation gain) Chantry Flat to Sturtevant Falls, via the Gabrielino Trail, along the creek in the canyon bottom. Ascend through dense forest cover to Sturtevant Camp and then return via the Zion Trail and the Lower Winter Creek Trail. Meet at 7 AM at the 118 & Stearns St. Park & Ride. Bring your camera, water and lunch. Wear boots. For more information see Rancho Simi Trailblazer website.

## July Activities

**July 18th - 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 7 AM the Stearns St. Park & Ride. The drive is 1 1/2 hours each way.

**July 25th Solstice Canyon** - Moderate - 7 MRT (1,500' elevation gain) Take the Solstice Canyon Trail to the Sostomo Trail, continuing on the Deer Valley Loop Trail, then to shady Tropical Terrace/waterfall. Return on the Rising Sun Trail. Meet at 8 AM near Donut Delite at the corner of Madera and Royal. Bring 2 - 3 quarts of water and lunch. For more information see Rancho Simi Trailblazer website

## August Activities

**August 1st - Palos Verdes Peninsula Trail\*** - Easy - 10 MRT (300' elevation gain) Cliffs, coves, caves, beautiful ocean views, and the Pt. Vicente Lighthouse all above the ocean on the Palos Verdes Peninsula. Meet at 8 AM at the 118 & Stearns St. Park & Ride. Bring your camera, water and lunch. Wear boots.

**August 8th - Carpinteria Bluffs\*** - 5 MRT - Easy (300' elevation gain) A beautiful walk overlooking the ocean along the bluffs above Carpinteria. Meet at 8 AM, near Donut Delite on the corner of Madera and Royal. Bring 1 to 2 quarts of water and lunch.

## STAGECOACH TRAIL

STAGECOACH TRAIL - 9:00AM. INTERPRETATIVE HIKE INTO HISTORY OF SANTA SUSANA PASS STATE HISTORIC PARK. MEET AT 9:00AM FOR A 2 1/2 MI (400' GAIN) LOOP UP THE STAGECOACH TRAIL. Corrections: change Trail head (meeting place) to park entrance on Larwin Ave. about 200 feet south of DEVONSHIRE on right. Park on Street. LEADER: LEE BAUM (818-341-1850/SIERRA CLUB-SANTA SUSANA MTNS TASK FORCE OUTING). STAGECOACH TRAIL HIKE WILL BE ON THE 3<sup>RD</sup> 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: \_\_\_\_\_

**UPCOMING HIKES**  
Bring water, lunch,  
lugsoles, hat, sunscreen.  
**RAIN CANCELS**

THERE IS AN E-MAIL  
WITH TERRIFIC GRAPHICS  
THAT DETAILS HIKES  
Website: [Communityhikingclub.org](http://Communityhikingclub.org)  
[Zullebear@aol.com](mailto:Zullebear@aol.com)  
ATTN: Dianne





Santa Susana Mountain Park Association

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**Santa Susana Mountains-From Wikipedia – cont.**

A handful of fascinating amphibians live in the area. Streams and creeks support populations of Pacific Tree Frog, the small amphibian whose signature chorus contributes much to the beauty of the surrounding atmosphere. Western Toads make their appearance at nightfall, emerging from burrows in search of water and insects, while California Slender Salamanders are often found under the cool leaf litter and canopy of oak woodlands. Many reptiles thrive in the Santa Susana range. Lizards that are likely to be observed on any given day include the common Western Fence Lizard and the equally abundant Side-blotched Lizard. Somewhat less frequently observed but still present are the Southern Alligator Lizard, Western Skink, Whiptail, and increasingly rare Coast Horned Lizard. While perhaps Southern Pacific Rattlesnakes are the most commonly observed snakes along the trail, Striped Racer, Gopher Snake, and California Kingsnake make their occasional appearance as well.

Mammals commonly observed in the mountains include smaller critters such as California Ground Squirrel, Brush Rabbit, Desert Cottontail, and Bats including California Myotis, though mostly in the evening. Other smaller mammals include the Dusky-footed Woodrat and Agile Kangaroo Rat. The two larger mammals that you are perhaps mostly likely to glimpse are the California Mule Deer and Coyote. Other mammals in the range that are more secretive and therefore less often encountered include the Gray Fox, Bobcat, Ringtail, American Badger, and the Mountain Lion.

**[edit] Climate**

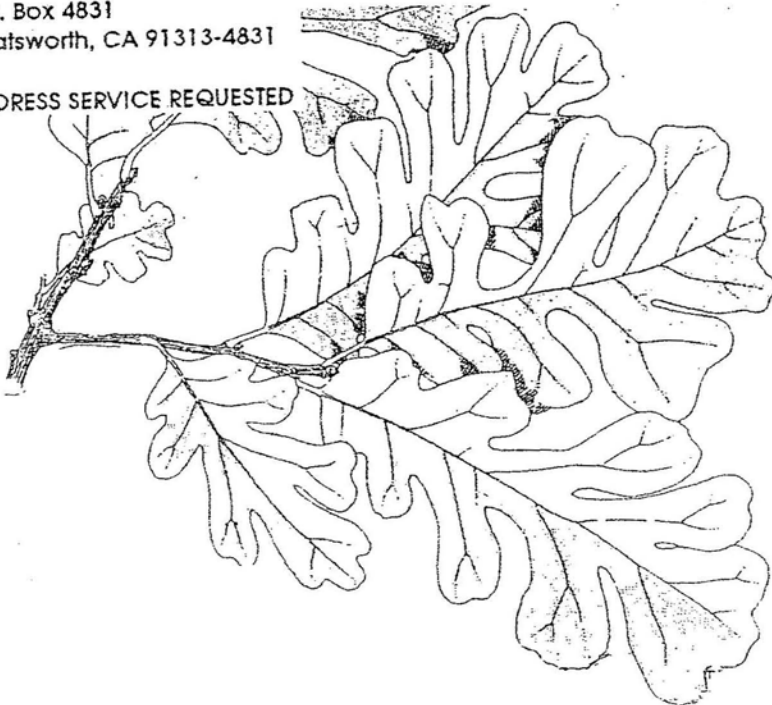
The mountains have a mild to humid, dry summers and are prone to wildfires. Though not as steep as San Gabriel Mountains, winters are wet, tepid to cold winters, and snow occurs in some higher areas, such as Oat Mountain, though only cold winter storms are enough to receive plentiful snow in the area.

**[edit] Peaks**

The highest peaks in the range are Oat Mountain (1,142 m; 3,747 feet), Mission Point (845 m; 2,771 feet), Rocky Peak (827 m; 2,714 feet), and Sand Rock Peak (765 m; 2,511 feet). The peak of Rocky Peak itself lies directly atop the county line separating the counties of Ventura and Los Angeles and is indicated by a battered marker imbedded into the sandstone boulder summit.

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