

# Santa Susana Mountain Park Association

Volume 39  
Issue 7

## October 2009 Newsletter

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

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

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Santa Susana Mountain Park Association  
Community Meeting  
October 19, 2009 at 7:15 PM

Presenter: Jerry England

Jerry England, cowboy activist, avid horseman, cowboy folk artist, Western movie historian and author of "Reel Cowboys of the Santa Susanas" will present video presentation that documents the significant landmarks and filming areas of the Iverson Ranch. He has incorporated a collection of movie stills, screen shots and actual video from dozens of movies. For Western Movie and history enthusiasts, this meeting is a must to attend! Iverson Ranch Movie Studios was the location for the 1912 filming of "Squaw Man", numerous western films and TV shows including The Lone Ranger and non-western films such as Tarzan, "Wee Willie Winkie" and "The Fighting Seebees"

You can order his book, "Reel Cowboys of the Santa Susanas" on his website: [www.cowboyup.com](http://www.cowboyup.com)

SSMPA Community Meeting take place every 3rd Month, September through November and January through May(or June) at the Rockpointe Clubhouse, 22300 Devonshire St, Chatsworth 91311, on the south side, 1 block before entering Chatsworth Park South. Our program meetings begin at 7:15pm and conclude



Chatsworth Nature Preserve

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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

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## Volunteers Needed

The SSMPA needs volunteers to hike (and ride) the trails in the Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park because of the drastic cuts in California's budget. If you are willing to help, please phone John (818-371-7918), Teena (818-703-1040) or Jack (818-227-4220).

Volunteers will be asked to attend one four-hour training session and to hike the Park wearing a shirt or hat that identifies them as State Park Volunteers. The training session is tentatively scheduled for October 18, 2009.

Please help. Call as soon as possible to let us know if you can volunteer. THANK YOU!

### Two Popular Trails Dedicated to Equestrians and Hikers

There is good news for equestrians, hikers and others who enjoy the spectacular trails around northern Chatsworth.

Paperwork has been filed with the City of Los Angeles to dedicate two popular trails and ensure that they will remain open and available to the public.

The Variel Trail, which follows Variel Avenue north from Rinaldi Street along the northwestern edge of the Sierra Canyon elementary school campus and the trail along Rinaldi will both be permanently protected for public use. This includes the newer Bypass Trail that is a spur of the Variel Trail. The bypass takes a less steep path across part of the school campus and rejoins the Variel Trail near the Browns Canyon wash on the northeast side of the school.

In addition, the gate to the historic Mission Trail near the entrance to the Sierra Canyon High School campus will be open during all regular school hours. Eventual full-access to the Mission Trail is a condition of construction of a future phase of the high school.

It is expected to take approximately six months to complete all legal requirements related to the trail dedication.

The Equestrian Committee of the Chatsworth Neighborhood Council has spent several years attempting to secure these trails for public use.

### Chatsworth Park South Status

At this time, most of Chatsworth Park South is closed for public use until the Los Angeles Dept. of Recreation and Parks decides on a cleanup plan however Chatsworth Historical Society's "Homestead Acre" in Chatsworth Park South will be OPEN on the first Sunday of each month from 1 PM until 4 PM.

### Access to Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park

The main entrance through Chatsworth Park South is closed however alternate entrances are available. The most convenient alternate access location is on Larwin Street, one block south of Devonshire Boulevard. Instead of driving into the (closed) park entrance, turn left (south) on Larwin Street and go one block until you come to a chain link fence on your right. This is very easy to locate because in addition to the fence, an old set of power lines runs directly overhead. Park along the curb and enter the park through the gap in the fence.

The other alternate entrances to the park are (1) from Santa Susana Pass Road in the northwest corner of the

**Ed. Note: The electronic newsletter is still a work in progress, so I thank you for your patience. Also, there were some errors on the dues notices which are being corrected. If you have any changes, corrections, please E-Mail us. And again, thank you for your patience.**



~~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)

October Activities

October 17th - Work Party - Wildlife Corridor in Corriganville. We'll be carrying out trash and painting over the graffiti at the Wildlife Corridor in Corriganville. This event is being held in conjunction with GeoCaching.com. Meet at the end of the Corriganville Park parking lot at 8 AM. The event will end at noon. The hike to the wildlife corridor is 0.7 miles and has a 300' elevation gain. The Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District will provide all that we need for the event. You must bring your own water, snacks, and sunscreen. Wear old work clothes, gloves, and a hat. We'll have a pizza lunch after the event, with free GeoCaching related prizes. This event is not recommended for young children, because of the somewhat graphic nature of the graffiti on the corridor walls.

October 24th - Simi Peak (via the Long Canyon trailhead) 9 MRT - Moderate to Strenuous (1300' elevation gain/loss) Directions: take 118 Fwy to First Street exit. Take First Street south (it becomes Long Canyon Rd) approx. 4 miles, until it intersects Wood Ranch Parkway. Meet at 8 AM at the intersection of Long Canyon Rd and Wood Ranch Parkway. Bring 2 - 3 quarts of water and lunch. Wear boots.

October 31st - Placerita Canyon - Los Pinetos Trail\* 9 MRT - Moderate to Strenuous (1800' gain/loss) Great views from the top of the canyon. Bring lunch, 2 - 3 quarts of water and sun screen. Wear boots Meet at 8 AM at the Stearns Street Park & Ride.

THERE IS AN E-MAIL WITH TERRIFIC GRAPHICS THAT DETAILS HIKES Website: Communityhikingclub.org Zulliebear@aol.com ATTN: Dianne

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

STAGECOACH TRAIL

Stagecoach Trail: Meet 9:00 am. 3rd Sunday of each Month, months November through June. No hiking in the summer-early fall due to hot weather. Interpretative hike into history of Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park. Hike is a 3 to 4-1/2 mile loop (400' gain) up the historic Stagecoach Trail. Directions: From Topanga Cyn. Blvd turn west on Devonshire St., to Larwin Avenue about 200 feet south of Devonshire on right. Meet at park entrance on Larwin Avenue. Park on street. Leader: Lee Baum (818-341-1850/ Sierra Club-Santa Susana Mtns. Task Force Outing.)



Santa Susana Mountain Park Association Invites you to JOIN/RENEW (circle 1) Investing in the future of our communities and its resources is probably on of the best expenditures of our time and efforts. Return this cutoff with your contribution and your support. AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2009 THE NEW YEARLY DUES ARE:  
 ( ) \$15.00 for Individuals ( ) \$20.00 for a Family ( ) \$30.00 for a Business or Organization ( ) \$150.00 for an Individual Life Membership ( ) \$200.00 for a Family Life Membership

Business

Make your check payable to SSMPA and mail it our post office box address (above), be sure to include your Name, Mailing Address, Phone, and Email Address. Please about any special interests, special skills or special expertise that you have.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ EMail \_\_\_\_\_



Santa Susana Mountain Park Association

**Officers:**

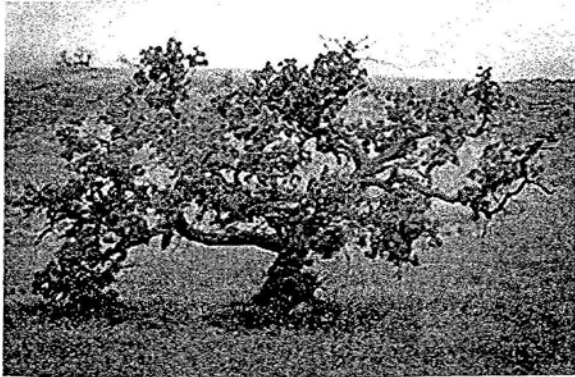
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**REMINDER: DUES ARE DUE SEPTEMBER 1, 2009 - \$15. Individuals, \$20. Families, \$30. Businesses, \$150. Ind. Life Member and \$200. Family Member.**



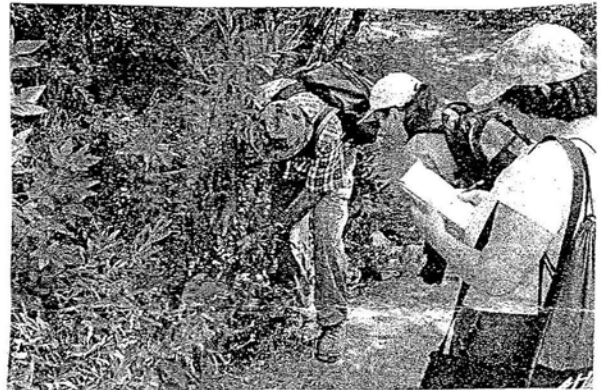
Box Canyon



Dayton Canyon



Mormon  
Canyon

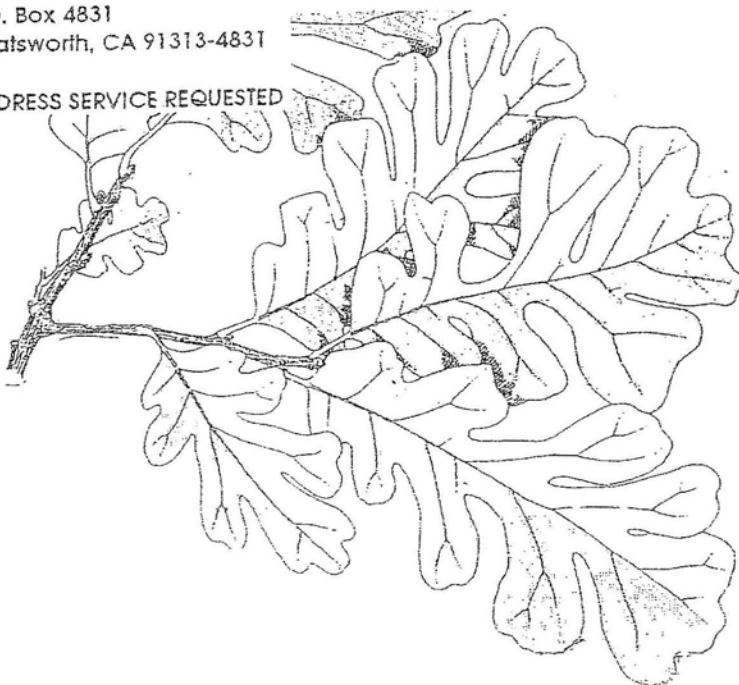


Dayton Canyon

All Photos came from the SSMPA.com website.

Santa Susana Mountain Park Association &  
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