



Santa Susana Mountain Park Association

Volume 30, Issue 60

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

February 2007 Newsletter

Dismissing Powerlessness

I often hear comments, offered up when conversation turns to development encroaching upon open spaces, like, "It's bound to happen sooner or later," and "You can't stop progress," and "Houses will be built here - there is nothing we can do." I used to nod my head in agreement, but I never fully believed the statements to be true, and I certainly didn't enjoy the victim-like attitude. I began using terms with more power behind them, such as "negotiate for green space" and "support smart growth", and hope appeared on the horizon for me.

SSMPA has worked for many years fighting the good fight to save open space for nature and for people to enjoy in passive recreation. Most recently it assisted authorities in halting illegal dumping and serious hillside alteration. It saw a S.L.A.P.P. lawsuit come and go when people stood up for their convictions, and it brought awareness of the law to a County agency thereby indefinitely halting inappropriate development in a small rural community whose residents mostly thought there was nothing they could do, that "growth was inevitable", and "progress can't be stopped."

There is a lot that can be accomplished when we work together. We won't stop working. You are welcome to join us. Thank you for your support in any way that works for you.

--Susan Gerke, Newsletter Editor

SSMPA is currently making a special effort to preserve trails and wildlife corridors in the Simi Hills, providing and encouraging continuity of the Rim of the Valley trail system.

General Membership Meeting

Monday, February 19, 2007 - 6:30 p.m.

Repeat performance - a favorite!

Local history buffs are in for a real treat if they attend our general meeting on February 19th. Years back, the founder of SSMPA, Janice Hinkston, compiled a slide show from the oldest photos and drawings she could find of the San Fernando Valley, piecing together a rich tapestry of local history. Perhaps you have seen the show with Jan, or maybe with Barbara Coffman, who has shown it many times. At this meeting, our very own Reid Bogert, SSMPA board member and original Valley resident, will narrate and present this fascinating slide show. Don't miss it!

SSMPA General Membership Program meetings take place every 3rd Monday of the months September through November and January through May at the Rockpointe Clubhouse, 22300 Devonshire St., Chatsworth, on the south side, 1 block before entering Chatsworth Park South.

At our February 19th general membership meeting, SSMPA will hold the annual election for the Board of Directors. Please bring your completed ballot (found in this newsletter) to the meeting. Note the early start time of 6:30 p.m.



SSMPA General Meeting Monday, 10/16/06. Mike Havstad spoke on California condors. From left to right: Art Langton, Mike Havstad, Jan Miller, Jack Unger & Lee Baum. Photograph by Reid Bogert.

Thank you for renewing your SSMPA membership: Nancy & Gene Krupa, Marty, Clara & Erik Woll, Jim & Leona Wolff, Tom Harrison, D. Gene Clark, Anna D. Combs, Patricia Milow, Al Cutt, George W. Banks, Hal & Marlene Lovett, Tom & Marilyn Stout (thank you for making a year-end donation to FPSSM), Frederic Lagrange, Merrily Lovell, Mike Stevens. **Welcome New Life Members:** Hal & Nancy Helsley. **Thank you for your donation:** Ted Dent.

SSMPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION INFORMATION

All paid-up SSMPA members can vote for the candidates whose statements appear in this newsletter, or you can write in the names of the candidates of your choice. Members can either mail in their ballots or bring them to the general membership meeting on **Monday, February 19th**. **Instructions:** Detach this page from the rest of the newsletter. If you are an individual member, indicate your votes in one of the ballots below. If you have a family membership, indicate your votes in both ballots. Mail this ballot page to SSMPA, P.O. Box 4831, Chatsworth, CA 91313-4831 – *OR PREFERABLY*, bring it to the February 19th meeting (see front page of this newsletter for details of meeting).

BALLOT - SSMPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2007

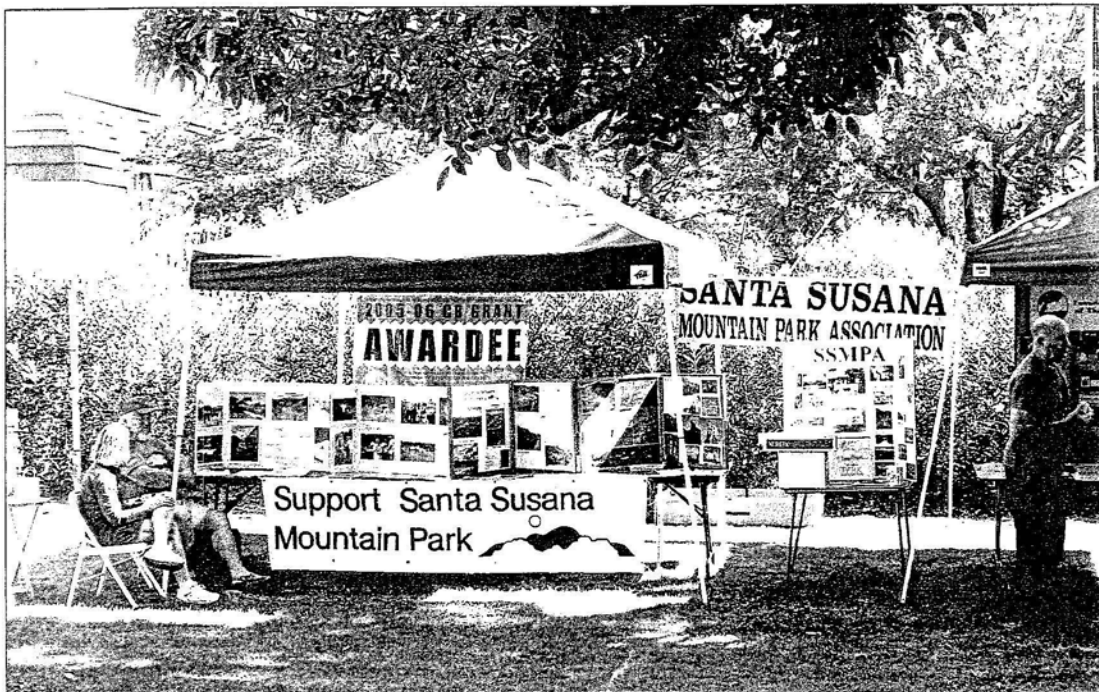
The Elections Committee of the Santa Susana Mountain Park Association has considered and approved the following candidates for the 2004 SSMPA Board of Directors. Please vote for ONE candidate for each of the following offices by circling the printed name or by writing in the name of a candidate of your choice.

PRESIDENT	JAN MILLER	OR _____
VICE PRESIDENT	TEENA TAKATA	OR _____
RECORDING SECRETARY	PATTY MILLER	OR _____
TREASURER	DIANA DIXON-DAVIS	OR _____
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY	SUSAN GERKE	OR _____
MEMBER-AT-LARGE	REID BOGERT	OR _____
MEMBER-AT-LARGE	TODD DOHERTY	OR _____
MEMBER-AT-LARGE	CARLA HENRY	OR _____
MEMBER-AT-LARGE	WARREN STONE	OR _____
MEMBER-AT-LARGE	JACK UNGER	OR _____

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MEMBER-AT-LARGE	WARREN STONE	OR _____
MEMBER-AT-LARGE	JACK UNGER	OR _____



U P C O M I N G H I K E S

Bring water, lunch, lugsoles, hat, sunscreen. Rain cancels.

Sun., 2/18+3/18: Stagecoach Trail - 9:00 a.m. Interpretative hike into history in Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park. Meet 9:00 am for a 4 mi (700' gain) loop up the Stage Coach Trail. From Topanga Canyon lvd., turn W on Devonshire, drive into Chatsworth Park S to the 2nd parking lot. Ldr: Lee Baum (818) 341-1850. *Sierra Club (Santa Susana Mtns Task Force) Outing.*

Tues., 3/6: Ahmanson Ranch Parklands - 8:30 a.m. Moderately-paced, 6 mi, 700' gain hike. Enjoy our newly acquired Santa Monica Mtns Conservancy land of oaks and rolling hills. Muddy when wet. Meet Van Owen trailhead (from 101 Ventura Fwy, take Valley Circle Blvd exit N 3 mi, L on Van Owen ¼ mi, gate on L side, park on street). Ldr: Steve Rudolph. Asst. Ramona Dunn. *Sierra Club (San Fernando Valley) Outing.*

Thurs., 3/8: Chumash Trail to Rocky Peak - 8:00 a.m. Moderate and moderately paced 8-mi, 1500' gain hike in Santa Susana Mtns. Meet at Simi trailhead (from 118 Fwy, take Yosemite Ave, exit N ½ mi, R on Flanagan Dr, continue ¾ mi to end, street parking). Ldrs: Margaret Vernallis & Bob Galletly. *Sierra Club (San Fernando Valley - Wilderness Adventure) outing.*

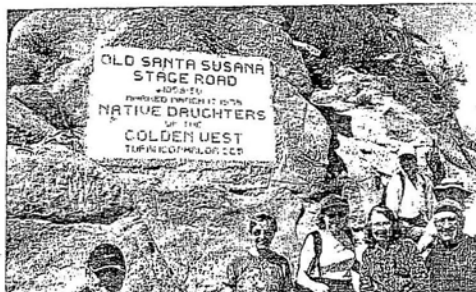


CHATSWORTH TRAILS PARK DEDICATION

Vanessa Watters planned and created a park out a plot of land owned by the Santa Monica Mountain Conservancy. She obtained a grant application and was responsible for the following achievements to date: clearing out homeless sites and trash, clearing non-native plant materials and weeds from the site, removing concrete and asphalt, purchasing a water tank and trailer for native planting, to name a few.

On December 11, 2006, Save Chatsworth, Inc. hosted the official dedication for Chatsworth Trails Park. As well as our honorary guest, Los Angeles County Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich, who presented scrolls commending various community organizations, schools and individuals for their service, in attendance were State Assembly Member Lloyd Levine, Paul Edelman and Rorie Skei from the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, Millie Jones from the County Supervisor's office, Virginia Watson, founder of the Chatsworth Historical Society and curator of the Chatsworth Museum, Betty Sommers, curator of the Homestead Acre Grounds and Hill-Palmer Cottage, Hans Giraud, Presidio Chatsworth, LLC, Linda Johnson from State Senator George Runner's office, John Bwarie from Los Angeles City Councilman Greig Smith's office, and Michael Espinosa and Rosa Benavides from the City of Los Angeles Board of Public Works, Office of Community Beautification.

NEWS FLASH!!! SAVE CHATSWORTH INC. has been awarded grand funding for 2007, enabling further improvements to be made to Chatsworth Trails Park.



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 SSMPA and send to SSMPA, P.O. Box 4831, Chatsworth, CA 91313-4831.

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior or Student ((\$10.00) | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual (\$15.00) | <input type="checkbox"/> Family (\$20.00) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Life Member (\$150.00) | <input type="checkbox"/> Business / Organization (\$30.00) | |

Name: _____ **Phone:** _____

Street Address: _____ **E-mail:** _____

City / State / Zip: _____

Special Interest / Expertise: _____

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.



LARRY'S STATION

Larry's or Mountain Station was operated by Lawrence Howard between 1861 and 1874 at the foot of the grade on the Ventura County side of Santa Susana Pass. It was a small tavern, where travelers could spend the night and be fed before or after traversing the pass. The Coastal Stage route traversed the pass between 1861 and 1875. Stage horse teams were changed at Larry's Station. Larry died in 1874.

We know that the site of the station was south of where the railroad currently exists. However, the ground elevation in the area has been raised because of the placement of the cuttings from the construction of the railroad tunnel, the cuttings from the construction of the tunnel for the Colorado River water line

(no longer used), and the State water project water tunnel.

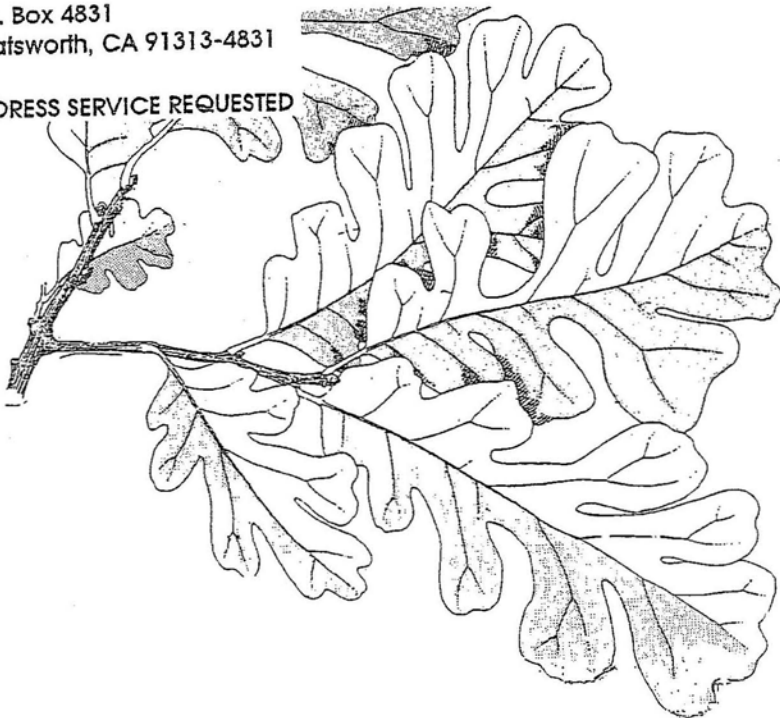
Some small water pipes do extend into the water tunnel cuttings just west of where the old freight road hits the valley floor. The presence of those lines suggests that water was conducted from a spring to a now buried facility, which may have been Larry's Station.

Simi Valley: A Journey Through Time (1997), pages 58-60, includes a first-hand account of Mrs. D.D. DeNure of a narrow brush with Tiburcio Vasquez, California's most feared bandit, and his band at Larry's Station. No date is given for the encounter, but it probably occurred during the early 1870s. The account is worth reading.

--Mike Kuhn, Rancho Simi Trail Blazers

Santa Susana Mountain Park Association &
Foundation for the Preservation of the Santa Susana Mountains
P.O. Box 4831
Chatsworth, CA 91313-4831

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



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