



Santa Susana Mountain Park Association

October 1996

Historical Chatsworth - It's as old as the hills!

October's General Meeting will feature original research of Chatsworth's past from perhaps her finest researcher, Virginia Watson. Since Virginia's arrival in 1952, through her initial research in 1961, and continuing into her development of source material and publication of Chatsworth History, Virginia Watson has been instrumental in preserving much of what has been threatened by loss.

Beginning at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, October 21, 1996, Virginia will speak on the relationship of the Santa Susana Mountains and Simi Hills with the community of Chatsworth. A question and answer period will follow. (Make sure you ask about the Chatsworth Historical Society!) Don't miss this evening... and bring a friend!

Park Bonds by Dorian Keyser

We need your help to pass Proposition A, Los Angeles County Parks, Beaches, and Recreation Act of 1996, which was placed on the November ballot by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors to provide \$318 million, which is specified for (a) Park and recreation projects throughout the county; (b) acquiring new park and recreation lands and building new facilities; (c) developing at-risk youth recreation facilities and increasing park safety; (d) improving and restoring regional and neighborhood park and recreation facilities; (e) partial grants to cities' for their most pressing park projects; (f) competitive grants county-wide for trail, tree-planting, senior-facilities, and rivers; (g) protecting threatened natural lands, beaches, and the Santa Monica Bay; and (h) annual operating and maintenance funds. Specifically required by this proposition are: (1) \$4.1 million for the acquisition of all of the north-of-Stoney-Point-property and (2) \$5 million for the acquisition of the Santa Clarita Woodlands. We also will compete for additional funds for acquisitions in our area from the Santa Monica Mountain Conservancy funds that are available for this area from this proposition, should it pass. (Ed. note: "This will be a great benefit for so many people at a cost of only 50 cents per month.")

Elsmere Canyon Landfill Blocked (?) from L.A. Times article (see page 2...

On October 3, 1996, the United States Senate adopted a provision in its federal parks legislation that effectively blocks development of the contentious 720-acre dump. The measure, surreptitiously inserted by Rep. Howard "Buck" McKeon (R-Santa Clarita), effectively kills the project that opponents argued would have spoiled the area's pristine wilderness. The provision simply prohibits the secretary of agriculture from transferring any part of the Angeles National Forest out of federal ownership for use as a solid waste landfill. (Ed. note: This action was requested by SSMPA and many others concerned with the quality of life in the Santa Susana Mountains and surrounding areas, and we greatly thank Congressman McKeon. However, what strikes me so odd, is that U. S. Congress had to secretly outflank lobbyists from giant corporations to block the creation of the largest dump in the world. What's next?)

Santa Susana Field Laboratory - by Ted Dent

On September 24, four members of SSMPA attended the SSFL Workgroup Meeting, hosted by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9. As background, at one time Rocketdyne, who operates the Santa Susana Field Laboratory, operated nuclear research facilities and small nuclear reactors at its 2668-acre facility. Rocketdyne claims that all nuclear work ended in 1988, at which time final cleanup efforts were begun. They also claim that of the 25 facilities used, 20 have been clean up and that work is progressing to clean up the remaining facilities, which is scheduled to be complete in the year 2000 and no radioactive contamination will remain. They also state that "survey results have confirmed that Area IV (where nuclear research was conducted) does not pose a health risk to our neighbors." My personal opinion is that the more people involved in this process, the better the oversight and the better the outcome. If you would like to be added to Rocketdyne's mailing list, or would like to contact them for information, call Lori Circle, Manager, Environmental Communications, @ 818-586-6742. If you would like to contact the EPA, call Tom Kelly or Vicky Semones @ 800-231-3075. Information is also available at CSUN Urban Archives Center @ 818-885-2832; Platt Branch Library @ 818-340-9386; and at Simi Valley Library @ 805-526-1735.

Santa Susana Docents by Janet Lazik & the Editor

The Santa Susana Docents provide Nature/History walks for elementary school classes at Chatsworth Park South. On the walk, the children tour five stations, including a small display of local artifacts at the Visitors Center. This program has been very well received by hundreds of children, and hundreds more children could learn about the Santa Susana Mountains and the Simi Hills if... if... we had a couple of more docents. If you have a need to help others, have a couple of hours free on a regular basis, and want some really good times, this may be your great opportunity knocking. For more information on becoming a docent and joining the fun, sharing your love of nature with children, please call Pat at 818-998-5224 or Jan at 818-993-0508.

Visitors Center Docents by Susan Gerke & the Editor

Have you always wanted to tell people where to go? Have you never wanted to tell someone to come look at your rattlesnake? Every Sunday, people visit the SSMPA Visitors Center, located in Chatsworth Park South, open from 12:00 noon to 3:00 p.m., asking questions about the area, its history, the geology, archaeological sites, location of Devil's Slide, location of the rest rooms, etc. As a citizen/volunteer, you can become a Visitor Center docent and become fulfilled and have a great time doing it. Please call right now, or as soon as you can, 818-340-4011, and tell Susan that you know you are the right person (trained or trainable), you have three hours a month to give to others, and begin a great relationship.

Membership Thanks by the Editor

A Special Thank You is given to all who have renewed/maintained their membership or who have joined recently, including: Judith Rothman, Mrs. Sandra Struman, Bert & Bunny Levine, David Carstensen, Carl Wilkening, and Chris Van Schaack. SSMPA exists because of its caring/contributing members.

SSMPA Executive Board

Doreen Rusen, President (818-360-0894); Albert Knight, Vice President (818-252-3466); Theodore Dent, Secretary (818-882-4664); James Riley, Treasurer (805-526-0857); Janice Hinkston, Founder (818-884-9610); Member-at-Large: Pauline Aue (818-341-5872); Bette Butler (818-700-0220); Barbara Coffman (818-347-5603); Susan Gerke (818-704-9304); Lindsay Wilhelm (818-348-9682)

Phone List

Assemblywoman Paula Boland ----- 818-368-3838
California State Parks Department (general information) ----- 818-880-0350
Congressman Howard P. "Buck" McKeon ----- 818-885-1032; 805-254-2111
Governor Pete Wilson ----- 213-897-0322
Los Angeles City Park Headquarters (general information) ----- 213-665-5188
State Senator Cathie Wright ----- 800-458-8500

CALENDAR

Oct. 20 (Sunday) Weekly Hike; meet at Chatsworth Park South - 9:00 a.m.
Oct. 21 (Monday) General Membership Meeting
Oct. 27 (Sunday) Weekly Hike; meet at Chatsworth Park South - 9:00 a.m.
Oct. 28 (Monday) Deadline for articles for the November Newsletter
Nov. 3 (Sunday) Weekly Hike; meet at Chatsworth Park South - 9:00 a.m.
Nov. 3 (Sunday) Art & Environment Day (see insert)

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Stagecoach Trail Hikes by Barbara Coffman and the Editor

SSMPA hikes are conducted every Sunday, October - June (except fifth Sundays of the month) from the parking lot of Chatsworth Park South Recreation Building, which is located at the western terminus of Devonshire Street, about one mile west of Topanga Canyon Boulevard. Hikers meet at 9:00 a.m. with the hike leader for the 4 mile (700 ft. gain) loop up the Stagecoach Trail, which is in the hills west of the park. Hikers are advised to bring water and a snack in hiker's back pack or hip pack. Lugsole shoes or sturdy, closed shoes are advised as is the wearing of a hat. All hike leaders are knowledgeable and experience. Barbara Coffman is the hike leader for the first Sundays of the month; Judy Garris on the second Sundays; Lindsay Wilhelm on the third Sundays; and Lee Baum on the fourth Sundays.

Other Hikes by the Editor

The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority offer hikes on an irregular basis at Rocky Peak Park (SR118 at Chatsworth/Simi Valley border); Sage Ranch (Chatsworth, Valley Circle to Woolsey Canyon Road to Black Canyon Road); Santa Clarita Woodlands/Mentryville (I-5, Lyons, west to Pico Canyon, left at Y to end of road), and Towsley Canyon Park (I-5, Calgrove, west on The Old Road to Ed Davis Park, 1/2 mile to parking area by kiosk). There will be a hike at Sage Ranch on Sunday, October 20, from 2:15-4:15 p.m.; at Santa Clarita Woodlands on Sunday October 20 from noon to 4:00 p.m.; and at Towsley Canyon Park on Saturday, October 19 from 10:00 a.m. to noon. These hikes are free. Please call Nancy at 310-589-3200 for additional information.

Editor's Message - by Ted Dent, Editor

First, we would like to thank all four candidates who were kind enough to present their visions for the future of our Santa Susana Mountains. Jon Lauritzen and Virginia Neuman (candidates for the 38th Assembly District) accepted our invitation to speak and were very supportive. John Birke (candidate for State Senate in the 19th District) and Diane Trautman (candidate for U.S. Congress 25th District) also were present to present their supportive positions. We continue our invitation to all other candidates who would like to speak on the future of the Santa Susana Mountains to contact us, so we can provide time for them to speak. Secondly, I would like to repeat our request for storage space. If you have any insights on providing storage for our non-archival records, please contact any of the officers. Thank you.



SANTA SUSANA MOUNTAIN PARK ASSOCIATION

WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN/RENEW/REJOIN S.S.M.P.A.

Investing in the future of our communities and its resources is probably one of the best expenditures of our time and efforts. Please return this cutoff with your contributions to help ensure our futures.

Please make checks payable to SSMPA and send to P.O. Box 4831, Chatsworth, CA 91313-4831

_____ Senior or Student (\$5.00) _____ Individual (\$10.00) _____ Family (\$15.00)

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