



# SANTA SUSANA MOUNTAIN PARK ASSOCIATION

Dedicated to the Preservation of the Santa Susana Mountains and Simi Hills

A Non-Profit 501(c)(4) Organization

Incorporated August 31, 1971

Website: [www.ssmpa.com](http://www.ssmpa.com)

E-mail: [mail@ssmpa.com](mailto:mail@ssmpa.com)

## October 2010 Newsletter

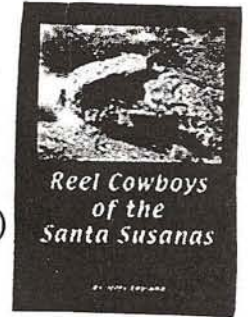
Volume 40/Issue 7



Community Meeting  
October 18, 2010 • 7:15 pm  
Rockpointe Clubhouse

22300 Devonshire Street, Chatsworth CA 91311

(on the south side, one block before entrance to Chatsworth Park South)



**Presenter: Jerry England**  
Author, Historian of Western Films

Jerry England, Author of "Rendezvous at Boulder Pass: Hollywood's Fantasyland" and "Reel Cowboys of the Santa Susanas" will discuss film making in the Santa Susana Mountains/Simi Hills. Movie studios such as Iverson Ranch (north of the 118 Freeway), Burro Flats (Santa Susana Field Lab), and other small movie studios in the area produced TV/Films such as Roy Rogers, The Lone Ranger, and thousands of Western "Oaters". England will present his video of movies stills shot on location throughout our area, covering Westerns and films such as Tarzan and The Fighting Seebes featuring John Wayne.

If you are interested in purchasing England's' books, you can order in advance on his website: [www.cowboyup.com](http://www.cowboyup.com) and he will arrange to bring your "signed" book to the meeting. You will not want to miss this event!

### SAVE THESE DATES – UPCOMING COMMUNITY MEETINGS

- November 15: Presenter - Boeing and NASA: Rocket History at the Santa Susana Field Lab
- December: No community meeting
- January 17: Presenter - Corina Roberts, Redbird, Recovery at LA National Station Fire Forest Documentary-Presentation
- February 21: Photo Night – SSMPA Members present photos taken in our region.

**SSMPA VISION:** SSMPA envisions a future in which we preserve and protect the historic Santa Susana Mountains/Simi Hills. We seek to realize a vision where the community values and we are actively engaged with the protection of the Santa Susana Mountains and Simi Hills as urban wilderness of ethnological, archaeological and historical interest. The future is one in which the Santa Susana Mountains/Simi Hills are accessible to all to enjoy throughout the greater Los Angeles region.

**SSMPA MISSION:** Our mission is to serve as stewards of the Santa Susana Pass Historic Park (SSPSHP) and surrounding areas and to continue to preserve and protect habitats for plants and animals native to the location, unique geological formations, and sites of ethnological, archaeological, and historic interest. We also seek to provide passive recreational and environmental education opportunities, support the acquisition of new public parks, open space and conservation easements, expand existing natural parks, and to participate in the planning of park infrastructure and programs.



**From the very informative presentation by Captain Daum of the Los Angeles County  
Chatsworth Lake Fire Station  
given at the SSMPA May 2008 General Meeting  
FIRE SAFETY CHECKLIST**

**LANDSCAPE (ORNAMENTAL)**

Y 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.

Y 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.

Y 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.

Y 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.

Y For trees taller than 18 feet, prune lower branches within 6 feet of the ground.

Y For trees and shrubs of less than 18 feet, prune lower branches to one third of their height.

Y Choose landscaping plants that are fire resistive.

Y Maintain all plants by regularly removing dead branches, leaves, and related materials.

**YARD**

Y Stack wood at least 30 feet from structures; remove flammable vegetation within 10 feet of the woodpile.

Y Remove all stacks of construction materials, pine needles, leaves, and debris.

Y Locate fixed butane/propane tanks at least 10 feet from any structure and give them 10 feet of clearance.

**Y ROOF**

Y Remove dead branches overhanging your roof.

Y Clean all dead leaves from your roof and rain gutters.

Y 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.**

## Hikes in the Santa Susana Pass State Historical Park and the Local Area

Hikes are canceled if it rains. There are no hikes on holidays. Bring water, snack, lug soles shoes, hat, and sunscreen. No hiking in the summer-early fall due to hot weather.



Welcome Walks are organized  
and led by SSMPA.  
Please confirm, when requested,  
with the leaders indicated.



"WELCOME WALKS"

AT SANTA SUSANA PASS

STATE HISTORIC PARK

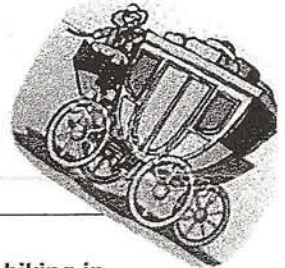
John Luker, SSMPA Vice President, is in the park most weekends. Give him a call and he will help you to get the most out of our park.

[jcluker2@yahoo.com](mailto:jcluker2@yahoo.com) 818-371-7918



*Get to know your park - get to know your history.*

Also check out the hikes for Simi Trail Blazers ([/www.simitrailblazers.com](http://www.simitrailblazers.com)) and/or Email: [Zuliebear@aol.com](mailto:Zuliebear@aol.com)



### **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 MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION**

#### **Time for SSMPA Membership Renewal!**

We appreciate your membership and support of SSMPA. Last year we changed membership renewal to September of each year rather than the month you joined. Membership for 2010/2011 is due September, 2010 so we thank you in advance for sending in your renewal. Some of you paid during the summer and your membership is set for September, 2011.

Membership dues: ( ) \$15.00 for individuals ( ) \$20.00 for a Family ( ) \$30.00 for a business or organization ( ) \$150.00 for Individual Life Membership ( ) \$200 for a Family Life Membership. Make your check payable to **SSMPA** and mail it to: **SSMPA, P.O. Box 4831, Chatsworth CA 91311** Please be sure to fill in the information as follows:

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Special interests or skills you have and if you would like to volunteer for any activities:

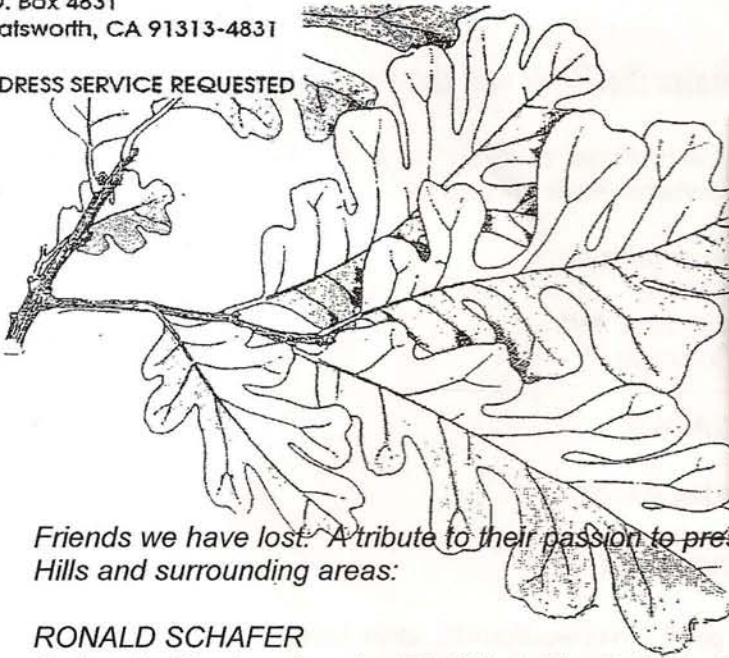
*Thank you for your support!*

Samuel 9/30/11

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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Friends we have lost: A tribute to their passion to preserve and protect our Santa Susana Mountains/Simi Hills and surrounding areas:

#### RONALD SCHAFER

As head of the Los Angeles District, California State Parks, he served the need to develop urban parks in the heartland of Los Angeles. Ruth Coleman, director of California State Parks said, "Schafer did everything in life with tremendous passion" and left behind a legacy of park protection." He strengthened the State Parks' relationship with Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area (SMMNRA) and the Santa Monica Conservancy. As Woody Smeck, Supervisor for SMMNRA said, "Schafer oversaw 18 state park units in Greater Los Angeles. Despite deep budget cuts he managed to increase access to parks and programs through a variety of creative partnerships. His loss will be deeply felt and mourned by those who care about our state park system, including many national park rangers."

#### Dorian Keyser, *vice president V.P.*

Dorian Keyser, former SSMPA Board Member President and life member, and delegate on behalf of SSMPA and Santa Susana Mountains Task Force-Sierra Club at Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy meetings, recently passed away after a battle with cancer. Keyser was a fighter for the environment, knew the history of our area, and worked tirelessly to protect open space. He worked with the Conservancy on the Rim of the Valley (ROV) Wildlife Corridor north of the 118 Freeway to the Eagle's Nest property south of the SSPSH. Along with representative, Hal Bernson, he contributed/achieved the conversion of the Chatsworth Reservoir to the Chatsworth Nature Preserve. He will be remembered for his lifetime work to protect and preserve the Santa Susana Mountains/Simi Hills.

From Board Member, Carla Bollinger: I thought it was time to update the SSMPA "look" for our newsletter, website, banners, and other materials to start our new 2010/2011 season. I drew/illustrated the new SSMPA image in the center of the logo and enlisted my graphic designer friends to help me create the logo. In recognition:

Special thanks to Hana Na Graphic Design ([hana@omegasushibar.com](mailto:hana@omegasushibar.com)) for her expertise in creating the new SSMPA logo for the board member business cards and newsletter heading. Also helping on a few SSMPA art projects, SSMPA T-shirt and Banner: Roland Vega ([artdog3050@yahoo.com](mailto:artdog3050@yahoo.com)).

Both Hana Na and Roland Vega helped with the artwork for very little financial reward that included a hamburger & fries and a burrito!

Santa Susana Mountain Park Association  
 Website: [SSMPA.com](http://SSMPA.com) EMail: [Mail@SSMPA.com](mailto:Mail@SSMPA.com)

Jack Unger - President  
 John Luker - Vice President  
 Teena Takata - Secretary  
 Diana Dixon - *Deputy* Treasurer  
 Jan Hinkston

Members-at-Large: Carla Henry (and back up sec'y)  
 Warren Stone (Web Master)  
 Chris Beauvais (Newsletter Editor)  
 Reid Bogert  
 Robert Dagers  
 Beth Harris

