



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

E-mail: mail@ssmpa.com

November 2010 Newsletter

Volume 40/8

Community Meeting

November 15, 2010 7:15 pm

Rockpointe Clubhouse

22300 Devonshire Street, Chatsworth, CA 91311

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

BLAST OFF WITH ROCKET HISTORY!

Presenters: Boeing: Paul Costa NASA: Allen Elliott

Our presenters from Boeing and NASA will cover the rocket history that happened at the Santa Susana Field Lab (SSFL). America's unmanned space rocket engines were tested by North American Aviation/Rocketdyne/Boeing and NASA in the SSFL "rocky bowls" surrounded by the Simi Hills boulders. Great scientists, engineers, including Wernher von Braun, and approximately 10,000 workers made President Kennedy's 1961 commitment to land a man on the moon by the end of the decade propelling us from Sci-Fi to living history. SSFL rocket engine testing for manned flights from the Saturn 1B booster and successor, Saturn V rocket, Apollo manned space missions (Apollo 11 – moon landing July 20, 1969) and the Space Shuttle Main Engine (SSME) ... rocket engine development and testing is part of our local space flight history. Come hear and enjoy this amazing testimony of mankind's flight into outer space!

SAVE THESE DATES – UPCOMING COMMUNITY MEETINGS

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.

Janice "Jan" Hinkston

Founder of SSMPA

(March 25, 1927 – September 27, 2010)

A Memory and Tribute – please see next page

Santa Susana Mountain Park Association

First meeting held by Jan Hinkston, November 20, 1970

40 Years of Dedication to preserving and protecting the Santa Susana Mountains and Simi Hills

SSMPA MISSION: *Our mission is to serve as stewards of the Santa Susana Pass State 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.*

Janice "Jan" Hinkston

(March 25, 1927 – September 27, 2010)

Founder of Santa Susana Mountain Park Association (SSMPA)

Why did Jan dedicate her life to preserving and protecting the Santa Susana Mountains, Simi Hills, and Chatsworth Nature Preserve? In her own words ...

"For over ten years now, from my house and yard, I have seen one of nature's greatest artistic masterpieces ... with all the elements of art right there – unsurpassed – line, form, color, rhythm, variety, and unity too, as only nature can unify. Each day I see the west end of the San Fernando Valley, and the rugged escarpments above. Each day I feel how lucky I am to live in what still feels like the countryside, and to work within view of the breathtaking and unique rock formations of the Simi Hills.

As a teacher of young children, I feel strongly that they need the freedom to explore the hills and canyons, trees and flowers, and birds and animals that nature has placed so beautifully around our vast city.

Not only children, but people of all ages, all backgrounds, respond to the freshness, openness, unplanned, unstructured beauty in our mountains. With so many millions of us tied to concrete and asphalt, how crucial it is for us to have close access to nature and all its works."

These words Jan wrote in the publication, "SANTA SUSANA over the pass ... into the past", copyright © 1973.

And so her fight began to preserve and protect the open space, habitat for wildlife, the beauty of the natural surroundings in the northwest area of the San Fernando Valley.

The crime against nature that triggered Jan to take action: As she drove by the Chatsworth Reservoir on her way to teach at Chatsworth Park Elementary School, she was stricken by the sight of hundreds of ancient oaks laying severed on the ground on the north side along Valley Circle Blvd. This violent thing occurred without warning. She got involved with community life for the first time. Chatsworth Beautiful began forming committees, May 1969, to stop a dump site in the beautiful canyon just south of Santa Susana Pass Road. Jan joined the committee and became the voice to save the Chatsworth Reservoir and surrounding mountains.

In the beginning . . . 1969/1970: Jan met with Sierra Club Conservation Committee and member, Jean Searle, who also tried to create a park. Later, Jan attended a conference on Environmental Action, met Executive Director, Bruce Dowling, of "America the Beautiful". With Jean Searle's help they followed up on an aerial reconnaissance and submitted to Dowling a proposal with photos for a seed grant. Dowling then sent \$100.00 "seed grant" money to start the project of a regional "Park".

Jan began exploring and studying the history, geology, plant life and archaeology of the Simi Hills. Simi Valley Beautiful voted for funds and manpower assistance for her Park work. She began her "political activism" by sending batches of letters to Congressman Barry Goldwater Jr., Supervisor Warren Dorn, and Senator Alan Cranston, who were all encouraging.

Hike-ins led by Jan up the steep Stagecoach Trail, community slide shows and an appearance on TV, Baxter Ward News in conjunction with the Iverson Ranch auction, all led to Simi

Valley Recreation and Parks District recognizing that a large recreation area is needed for the increasing population densities on both sides of the mountains and endorses the creation of the Santa Susana Mountain Park.

Nov. 1970: Santa Susana Mountain Park Association becomes a separate organization from Chatsworth Beautiful. First meeting held November 20.

Footnote: Dec. 1970: A 150-acre Santa Susana Mountain Park site is recommended for acquisition by L.A. County Parks and Rec. Dept., later deleted from budget as one of many cuts in L.A. County Budget. Jan and SSMPA felt the sting of many losses throughout the years but tenacity triumphed over setbacks.

Jan's accomplishments are legendary: After the 1971 earthquake, she convinced the DWP to preserve a large ecology pond in Chatsworth Reservoir, now Chatsworth Nature Preserve, so migratory waterfowl such as Canada Geese could land-feed here. She received an award from the SFV Audubon Society for this preservation effort. In 1987, working with Glenn Bailey, and 350 volunteers, collected approximately 31,000 petition signatures to place Proposition 70 on the state ballot for acquisition of parkland/open space, resulting in the SSMPA project getting \$10 million to purchase 55 acres of the old Stagecoach Trail National Register property. Also annexed, ~~1,556~~ ¹⁵⁶ acres to the north of Oakwood Cemetery were obtained by the State Dept. of Parks and Recreation. Jan received an award for Lifetime Achievement by the Chatsworth Community Coordinating Council for her 28-year work to acquire the 670 acre Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park (SSPSHP.)

Jan's battle to create the SSPSHP was a lifetime commitment engaging her heart and soul along with many other devotees such as Jean Searle (Sierra Club) Marge Feinberg (Rim of the Valley Wildlife Corridor visionary.) She saw SSPSHP become an official State Park in ^{Jan 27 1998} ~~December~~ 1998, 28 years of dedication to save a corner of open space, stagecoach history (The Old Stagecoach Trail) listed in the National Register of Historic Places, Native American archaeological sites, Bannon's Quarry, hiking and equestrian trails, wildlife and habitat, native plants, chaparral, riparian woodlands, and unique sandstone outcrops. Janice Hinkston's voice is heard loud and clear by her followers ... past, present and future SSMPA Board Members, Foundation Members, and all members to continue her/our mission to preserve and protect the Santa Susana Mountains/Simi Hills.

A memorial service for Jan will be held spring, 2011 in the SSPSHP she helped form and preserve. A dedication and celebration honoring her will also be announced by SSMPA in the near future.

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!

2010

**SANTA SUSANA MOUNTAIN PARK ASSOCIATION
CELEBRATING 40TH ANNIVERSARY**

First SSMPA Meeting Held November 20, 1970

Janice Hinkston realized that the task was so great to save the Santa Susana Mountains, Simi Hills, and Chatsworth Reservoir that she broke away from the organization, Chatsworth Beautiful, to form the Santa Susana Mountains Park Association. She detailed her action plans in a newspaper article which posted her phone number for interested people to call her. Ten people responded and they held the first SSMPA meeting, November 20, 1970, in Jan's home.

The efforts of Jan, all SSMPA Board Members and Members through the 40-year history is legendary: Creation of 670 acres of state park, Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park (SSPSH,) which took 28 years of campaigning and dedication to make this happen. SSMPA, as stewards of SSPSH when state budget crisis threatened to close the park, enlisted volunteers to keep the park open; provide interpretative hikes for the community; achieved the listing of Santa Susana Stagecoach Trail as a Point of Historical Interest by the California Historical Landmarks Committee and National Register of Historic Places (includes L.A. City and L.A. County portion of Stagecoach Trail); on-going work with City, State, National Parks and Santa Monica Conservancy for acquisition of property in the region to protect open space/wildlife corridors; and archaeological studies. SSMPA works with other community groups to establish hiking and equestrian trails, open space/parkland and community activities with Sierra Club, Audubon Society, Chatsworth Historical Society, Homeowners Associations, SAVE Chatsworth, equestrian groups, preservation of Native American cultural and archaeological sites, and currently is involved with the Rim of the Valley Wildlife Corridor Study. SSMPA, a non-profit 501(c)(4), incorporated in August, 1971, works with the Foundation for the Preservation of the Santa Susana Mountains (FPSSM), 501(c)(3) formed in 1974, to hold land and accept large donations for the continuation of goals to preserve open space/wildlife corridors.

Other projects that SSMPA has and is working on: Joining with rock climbing enthusiasts, Sierra Club and others, SSMPA helped Chatsworth's landmark Stoney Point became a City Park; Santa Susana Field Lab clean up and conversion to an open space/historic park; Chatsworth Nature Preserve remains protected as an ecology pond/wetlands for migratory birds, waterfowl (Canada Goose Project) and abundant wildlife; hikes for children and adults, museum/visitor's center; on-going participation in community activities such as Pioneer Days, Earth Day, native plant and tree planting, trail maintenance, litter and graffiti cleanup, continuation of serving the SSMPA Mission to preserve and protect the Santa Susana Mountains and Simi Hills.

In recognition of SSMPA's 40 years, we honor the past and current board presidents: Janice Hinkston, Zelma (Skillman) Van, Pearl Turbish, Cynthia Fichtner, Glen Bailey, Bill Scott, Doug Wobser, John Otter, Daniel Cooper, Nancy Razanski, Dorian Keyser, Barbara Coffman, Doreen Rusen, Jeff Johnston, Judy, Garris, Jan Miller, and Jack Unger

Special recognition for exemplary work, years of dedication, founders and partners: Leslie Goldman, Pearl Turbish, Nancy Razanski, Glen Bailey, Teena Takata, Diane Dixon-Davis, Susan Gerke, Virginia Watson, Albert Knight, Art Langton, Lee Baum, Judy Garris, and our friends and members who are deceased: Ronald Schafer, Jean Searle, Marge Feinberg, Mary Gorman, and Joy Totscher,

Very special recognition: John Luker, SSMPA VP, has the energy of an atomic bomb, the creativity of Ansel Adams, and the dedication of Frodo-Lord of the Rings! His work on behalf of SSMPA is known to the community.

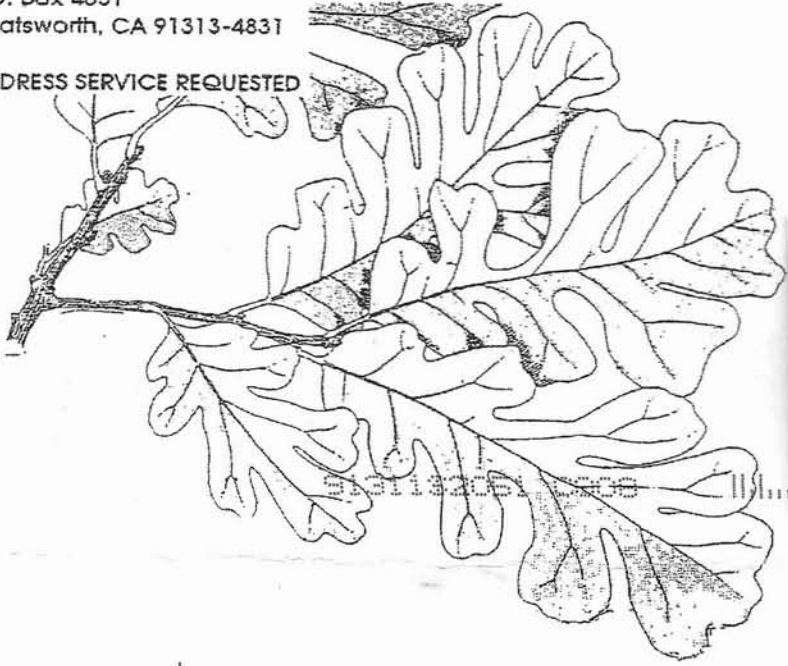
SSMPA Board Members, 2010/2011: Jack Unger, John Luker, Diane Dixon-Davis, Teena Takata, Carla Bollinger, Warren Stone, Chris Beauvais, Reid Bogert, Robert Dagers, Dr. Elizabeth Harris ...

The SSMPA Board Members are honored to carry the torch of Janice Hinkston, dedicated to the SSMPA Mission and we appreciate your support!

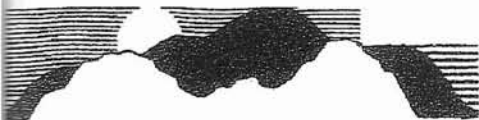
Santa Susana Mountain Park Association &
Foundation for the Preservation of the Santa Susana Mountains
P.O. Box 4831
Chatsworth, CA 91313-4831

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit
US Postage
Paid
Canoga Park, CA
Permit No. 848



JAN HINKSTON
Founder SSMPA
You will be missed



Santa Susana Mountain Park Association
Website: SSMPA.com E-Mail: Mail@SSMPA.com

Jack Unger - President
John Luker - Vice President
Teena Takata - Secretary
Diana Dixon-Davis - Treasurer
Jan Hinkston, Founder/Honorary Member

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