



SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS TASK FORCE



MARCH-APRIL 2014 - NEWSLETTER

THE RENDEZVOUS HIKE – STILL GOING STRONG

April 13, 2014, commemorated the 32nd year of the great annual Rendezvous Hike. A memorable occasion in which five hikes converge at Trippet Ranch to honor our Task Force hike leaders and to honor John Muir, founder of the Sierra Club.



Some 50 hikers celebrated the event and feasted on a giant birthday cake made in honor of Muir. Leaders of the hikes included Bob Baldwin, Ron Rosien, Wlodek Proskurowski, David Haake, Howard Strauss, M.A. & Ron Webster, Bill Crane, and Joan Weaver. We were joined by a group of hikers from the Temescal Canyon Association, led by Carol Leacock.

This picture shows the Fire Tower, top center, off of Stunt Road, and a portion of Hondo Canyon, lower left.

ENVIRONMENTAL VICTORY

The California Coastal Commission voted at a heavily attended public meeting on April 11, 2014, to protect the Santa Monica Mountains from over-development by unanimously certifying the Los Angeles County Local Coastal Plan (LCP). Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky and his staff were instrumental in formulating and refining this plan, which has been on the drawing board for almost three decades.

This LCP represents a significant improvement of current guidelines and sets a new and lasting standard for environmental protection of sensitive habitats in the Santa Monica Mountains. More than

50% of the Plan area is designated public parkland ... or open space. The plan area extends inland from the shoreline for approximately five miles and encompasses some 50,000 acres.

This wide-ranging document reinforces the mission of the Sierra Club to support the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreational Area as a great natural, cultural, and recreational resource and to strongly protect and preserve the precious resources it contains.

Some key points of the Los Angeles County Local Coastal Plan:

1. Resource protection has priority over development.
2. Prohibits development in the most sensitive habitat areas.
3. Gives high levels of protection for water quality.
4. Stricter control against the spread of invasive species.
5. Restrictions on development in critical view shed areas.
6. Bans development on all significant ridgelines.
7. Lowers zoning densities.
8. Saves oaks and native woodlands.

It will take a few more months to finalize and receive Coastal Commission support on the details of implementation. The completed Plan will then be given a final vote by the L.A. County Board of Supervisors.

DAVID BROWN HONORED

The environmental community, family, and friends gathered on March 1st to memorialize the life of Dave Brown, Conservation Chair of the SMMTF for decades, and whose passion was protecting and preserving the Santa Monica Mountains from development. King Gillette Ranch was the site of the memorial, and an impressive gathering of political leaders, friends of the environment, and friends, and family members reminisced about Dave's great contributions as an activist. Dave's efforts were so important to land preservation that the National Park Service has established a new award recognition - "Heroes of Conservation". Dave is its first recipient. Senator Fran Pavley presented a special resolution from the CA State Senate that will be displayed at the National Park Service building at King Gillette Ranch in Calabasas for the next year.

After the commemoration, many of the guests rode by tram to the David Brown Overlook on Piuma Road. Although the day was overcast with some rain, we were able to appreciate this beautiful overlook that features one of the most stunning views in these mountains. His contributions will help to ensure that the Santa Monica Mountains are protected for future generations.

TRAIL MANAGEMENT PLAN COMING . . .

Trail access and trail use has been a controversial issue in the local mountains. Recently, funding has been received to enable going forward with a comprehensive plan for the use of trails and trail access in the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreational Area. These are key issues for hikers and equestrians who use the local trails and want to experience a safe and enjoyable park experience.

This will jump-start the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Environmental Impact Report (EIR) that are needed in order to move forward. The result will be a comprehensive plan for trail uses and access on all trails in the National Recreational Area. The agencies who own and/or manage the land include the National Park Service, California State Parks, and the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy.

The public has had an opportunity to comment on the Plan and, in the future, can give additional input on the EIS/EIR. All of us who visit our parks and walk the trails look forward to a realistic interagency plan that protects the resources and provides a tranquil trail experience.

It is a lengthy process. Even after the Plan is finalized there will be a number of steps down the line before the plan is released and implemented. The State of California must prepare a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) document and the federal government a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). We thank the agencies who are working toward acceptance of the final plan.

LADYFACE MOUNTAIN ACREAGE PURCHASED

The [Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority](http://www.MRCA.ca.gov/), (www.MRCA.ca.gov/), has purchased a 525-acre tract on Ladyface Mountain, mostly along the south side. This land acquisition will facilitate the protection of wildlife habitat and provide some needed future trail connections to the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area. The vast majority of land around the mountain will now be in public hands and immune to future development. It spans more than 1.5 miles, connecting Triunfo Canyon Park to Kanan Road, and abuts several large Conservancy and Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority properties on the northern slope of Ladyface Mountain.

There are plans to build a trail connecting the Pentachaeta Trail in Westlake Village across Triunfo Canyon and into the heart of the Santa Monica Mountains. The site encompasses part of the headwaters of Triunfo Creek, a tributary to Malibu Creek. Also included in the purchase is an 86 acre tract in Escondido Canyon near Malibu featuring a deeply shaded creek that flows throughout the year.

SMMTF WEBSITE

Visit the Santa Monica Mountains Task Force website. You can access the website and be up-to-date on all Task Force conservation news, scheduled activities, events, trail work, outings, and other timely information: smmtf.org/

If you have conservation news, events, photos or other Sierra Club related information that could be posted on the website, email full descriptions to our webmaster Bill Vanderberg, so he can evaluate these items for posting: bill.vanderberg@ca.rr.com

If you prefer to receive future SMMTF Newsletters by email, please let us know by emailing Sue Palmer at: rumpuskat@sbcglobal.net

*Newsletter Written by Taskforce Management Committee Representative –
MaryAnn Webster, Chair
Joan Weaver, Editor*

The Santa Monica Mountains Task Force is an activist committee dedicated to encouraging the protection of the Santa Monica Mountains while promoting the understanding and awareness of their natural values. The goals encompass maintaining open space and acquiring additional parkland. To achieve these goals, members participate in monthly meetings, recommend policy on the Santa Monica Mountains, lead outings to acquaint the public with the mountains, build and maintain trails.

SMMTF Activities April-June 2014

Fri 4/25/14	O: 33rd Annual Santa Monica Mtns Trail Days/Pt Mugu State Park:	Angeles Chp SMMTF Subcom	Outing	Service/Stewardship	Moderate
Sat 4/26/14	O: 33rd Annual Santa Monica Mtns Trail Days/Pt Mugu State Park	Angeles Chp SMMTF Subcom	Outing	Service/Stewardship	Moderate
Sun 4/27/14	O: 33rd Annual Santa Monica Mtns Trail Days/Pt Mugu State Park	Angeles Chp SMMTF Subcom	Outing	Service/Stewardship	Moderate
Tue 4/29/14	O: Tuesday Conditioned Hikers: Malibu Cyn - Las Virgenes Rd to Saddle Pk	Angeles Chp SMMTF Subcom	Outing	Hike	Strenuous Map or Directions
Tue 4/29/14	O: Tue Moderate Hikers/ Stunt Road to Saddle Peak	Angeles Chp SMMTF Subcom	Outing	Hike	Moderate

Tue 4/29/14	O: Tue Tiger Hikers	Angeles Chp SMMTF Subcom	Outing	Hike	Strenuous	
Sat 5/3/14	O: Santa Monica Mountains Trail Work	Angeles Chp SMMTF Subcom	Outing	Service/Stewardship	Moderate	
Tue 5/6/14	O: Tuesday Conditioned Hikers: Topanga SP Loop via Wire Break, Hub Junction, Santa Ynez	Angeles Chp SMMTF Subcom	Outing	Hike	Strenuous	Map or Directions
Tue 5/6/14	O: Tue Moderate Hikers/ Bienvenida to Will Rogers	Angeles Chp SMMTF Subcom	Outing	Hike	Moderate	
Tue 5/6/14	O: Tue Tiger Hikers	Angeles Chp SMMTF Subcom	Outing	Hike	Strenuous	
Sat 5/10/14	O: Santa Monica Mountains Trail Work	Angeles Chp SMMTF Subcom	Outing	Service/Stewardship	Moderate	
Mon 5/12/14	Bi-Monthly Meeting	Angeles Chp SMMTF Subcom	Club Support Event	Committee meeting	--	
Tue 5/13/14	O: Tuesday Conditioned Hikers: Backbone Trail West from Kanan-Dume with a Side Trip to Buzzard's Roost Ranch	Angeles Chp SMMTF Subcom	Outing	Hike	Strenuous	Map or Directions
Tue 5/13/14	O: Tue Moderate Hikers/Backbone Trail - Dead Horse Trail to Eagle Rock	Angeles Chp SMMTF Subcom	Outing	Hike	Moderate	
Tue 5/13/14	O: Tue Tiger Hikers	Angeles Chp	Outing	Hike	Strenuous	
Sat 5/17/14	O: Santa Monica Mountains Trail Work	Angeles Chp SMMTF Subcom	Outing	Service/Stewardship	Moderate	
Sat 5/17/14	O: Temescal to Will Rogers	Angeles Chp SMMTF Subcom	Outing	Hike	Moderate	
Tue 5/20/14	O: Tuesday Conditioned Hikers: Temescal Cyn Loop via Temescal High Trail	Angeles Chp SMMTF Subcom	Outing	Hike	Strenuous	Map or Directions
Tue 5/20/14	O: Moderate Hikers/Zuma Canyon and Zuma Ridge Trail to "Peak 1237"	Angeles Chp SMMTF Subcom	Outing	Hike	Moderate	
Tue 5/20/14	O: Tue Tiger Hikers	Angeles Chp SMMTF Subcom	Outing	Hike	Strenuous	
Sat 5/24/14	O: Santa Monica Mountains Trail Work	Angeles Chp SMMTF Subcom	Outing	Service/Stewardship	Moderate	
Tue 5/27/14	O: Tuesday Conditioned Hikers: Sullivan Canyon Ramble	Angeles Chp SMMTF Subcom	Outing	Hike	Strenuous	Map or Directions

Tue 5/27/14	O: Tue Moderate Hikers/ Backbone Trail - Tapia Park to Mesa Peak (1844')	Angeles Chp SMMTF Subcom	Outing	Hike	Moderate	
Tue 5/27/14	O: Tue Tiger Hikers	Angeles Chp SMMTF Subcom	Outing	Hike	Strenuous	
Sat 5/31/14	O: Santa Monica Mountains Trail Work	Angeles Chp SMMTF Subcom	Outing	Service/Stewardship	Moderate	
Tue 6/3/14	O: Tuesday Conditioned Hikers: Seeking Wildflowers	Angeles Chp SMMTF Subcom	Outing	Hike	Strenuous	Map or Directions
Tue 6/3/14	O: Tue Moderate Hikers/Gizmo Peak (1927') from Mandeville Cyn Rendezvous Hike	Angeles Chp SMMTF Subcom	Outing	Hike	Moderate	
Tue 6/3/14	O: Tue Tiger Hikers	Angeles Chp SMMTF Subcom	Outing	Hike	Strenuous	
Sat 6/7/14	O: Santa Monica Mountains Trail Work	Angeles Chp SMMTF Subcom	Outing	Service/Stewardship	Moderate	
Sat 6/7/14	O: Malibu Creek State Park Exploratory Ramble	Angeles Chp SMMTF Subcom	Outing	Hike	Moderate	
Tue 6/10/14	O: Tuesday Conditioned Hikers: Malibu Creek SP Loop	Angeles Chp SMMTF Subcom	Outing	Hike	Strenuous	Map or Directions
Tue 6/10/14	O: Tue Moderate Hikers/Yellow Hill Trail & Coastal Slope Trail	Angeles Chp SMMTF Subcom	Outing	Hike	Moderate	
Tue 6/10/14	O: Tue Tiger Hikers	Angeles Chp SMMTF Subcom	Outing	Hike	Strenuous	
Sat 6/14/14	O: Santa Monica Mountains Trail Work	Angeles Chp SMMTF Subcom	Outing	Service/Stewardship	Moderate	
Tue 6/17/14	O: Tuesday Conditioned Hikers: Summer Holly in Lower Zuma Canyon	Angeles Chp SMMTF Subcom	Outing	Hike	Strenuous	Map or Directions
Tue 6/17/14	O: Tue Moderate Hikers/ Sycamore/Serrano Cyns	Angeles Chp SMMTF Subcom	Outing	Hike	Moderate	
Sat 6/21/14	O: Santa Monica Mountains Trail Work	Angeles Chp SMMTF Subcom	Outing	Service/Stewardship	Moderate	
Sun 6/22/14	O: Long Day's Night Hike	Angeles Chp SMMTF Subcom	Outing	Hike	Moderate	
Tue 6/24/14	O: Tuesday Conditioned Hikers: Leo Carrillo to Nicholas Pond via the Arroyo Sequit and the Malibu Springs Trails	Angeles Chp SMMTF Subcom	Outing	Hike	Strenuous	Map or Directions