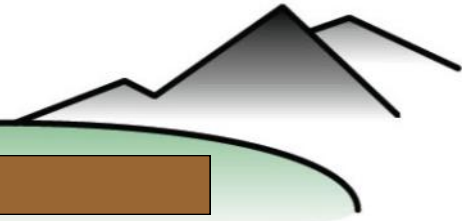


SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS TRAILS COUNCIL



SPRING 2010

PRESIDENT'S VISION

Nature Deficit

As Spring blooms through the sunny days, warmer weather, wildflowers everywhere, and flora bursting from the shrubs and trees, we are reminded how fortunate we are to be able to enjoy Nature's local bounty. Consequently, I hope you will feel morally responsible, as I do, for helping others, especially the children, to enjoy Nature. They are the next generation of trail and land stewards, and we must see to it that they have the same appreciation and love that we have for the trails and all that these lands offer us. As the kids spend enormous amounts of time indoors with electronics, it is even more imperative that they have time outdoors.

Adults, also, need to be made aware of the benefits of our local lands. Take your city friends for a short walk or bike ride along an easy pathway so they realize how much more enjoyable that is than going along a sidewalk and street with cars going by. Invite your horse friends who only ride in an arena to go for a short, easy trail ride. It is up to each of us to introduce others to the values that we hold dear. It may take several times for your friends to become comfortable in the new surroundings that are so different from their usual way of life. You and they will remember the experiences for a long time.

Both children and adults who have not had the opportunity to go to the mountains will enjoy the adventure as they cross a stream, walk along a dirt path, see an egret, watch a hawk floating on the wind, or see the magnificent vistas that we savor. For some people it may take them awhile to realize why we treasure the mountains as we walk, bike and horseback along the trails. I hope you will make it a goal to introduce others at least once a month, if not more, to our magnificent mountains and Nature's bounty.

Ruth

Annual BBT Trek starts May 1

The 8th annual seven-day trek along the Santa Monica Mountains' Backbone Trail will begin on May 1, 2010, providing a 67-mile guided backcountry experience within sight of the metropolis of Los Angeles. Hikers will assemble at the western end of the trail just off Pacific Coast Highway in Ventura County and hike about 10 miles daily until arriving on May 8 at Will Rogers State Historic Park just off Sunset Blvd. in Pacific Palisades.

The Santa Monica Mountains Trails Council has organized Backbone Trek 2010 to provide an opportunity to enjoy the entire Backbone Trail that travels along ridges and valleys in the Santa Monica Mountains.

The guides are experienced volunteers with a passion for trails, mountains and vistas. As interpreters, they can answer most questions on flora, fauna, geology and history of the region. Hikers can expect to see colorful wildflowers, interesting geologic formations and beautiful vistas.

A support team will carry the camping equipment and sleeping bags and provide meals each morning and evening. Hikers will travel the trails each day including average elevation gains and losses of 1500 feet. They will also carry a light daypack with water, lunch and other incidentals.

There is a fee to cover campgrounds, equipment transportation, insurance and meals. Participation is open to the public. The Trek is limited to 25 hikers.

To receive more information on Backbone Trek 2010, go to www.smmtc.org/bbtrek or contact the event coordinator, Jerry Mitcham, at backbone-trek2010@roadrunner.com or 818-406-1269.

Further information on the Backbone Trail may be obtained at the National Park Visitor Center, 401 West Hillcrest Drive, Thousand Oaks, CA 91360, 805-370-2301 or www.nps.gov/samo.

29th Santa Monica Mountains Trail Days - 2010

April 23, 24, 25

POINT MUGU STATE PARK

All Volunteers Welcome!

For a day or the weekend!

No trail work experience needed!

There's a fun job for everyone!

Help improve trails and parks for all of us to enjoy!

Help restore native plants with Restoration Crew!



Trail Days is a weekend for individuals and groups to build new trails and restore old ones. Partners with California State Parks include Santa Monica Mountains Task Force of Sierra Club, Santa Monica Mountains Trails Council, California Native Plant Society, CORBA, Crenshaw Eco Club, National Park Service, SMM Natural History Assn., Malibu Creek Docents, Temescal Canyon Association and Conejo Sierra Club.

DIRECTIONS: Ventura Freeway to Wendy in Newbury Park; S to Potrero Road, turn right; at Reino bear left to NPS service road (first driveway). Cars will be escorted into and out of the park at designated times.

ARRIVE: Fri.- 5 p.m., 8 p.m.
Sat.- 8:00 a.m., 4:30 p.m.
Sun.- 8:30 a.m.

DEPART: Sat.- 4 p.m., after campfire
Sun.- 8 a.m., 3:30 p.m.

BRING: LUNCHES, BEVERAGES, SNACKS AND WATER.
Tools are provided, but you can, bring a pick, shovel, Pulaski, McLeod, pruning saw, or long-handled loppers. (But, please, no light-weight tools or chain saws.)

DINNER: Sat. Night Barbecue Free FOR VOLUNTEERS. Please RSVP by April 18.
Bring appetizers and beverages.

WEAR: Gloves, hat, long pants, protective clothing, and work boots or sturdy shoes.

CAMPING: Free camping Friday and/or Saturday nights for trails day workers at the Danielson Multi-use Area located under the sycamores and oaks in the heart of Point Mugu State Park.

Advance camping registration *appreciated* by April 18. Return tear-off and SASE (self-addressed, stamped envelope) to: SMMTC, TRAIL DAYS, P.O. Box 345, Agoura Hills, CA 91376, or fax to: 818-889-4540.

PATCHES: Trail Days patches are available. \$3.00 each.

INFORMATION: Rain (unless torrential) does not cancel. SMM Trails Council (818)222-4531 www.smmtc.org

REGISTRATION

Name _____ Day Phone (_____) _____
Address _____ City _____ Zip _____
Camping: Fri Sat Group Name/Troop # _____ Age Level of Troop _____
HOW MANY IN GROUP/TROOP? _____ BARBECUE: HOW MANY FOR DINNER? _____
Patches Ordered _____ @ \$3.00 = _____ Number of years participated _____

Trail Maintenance Report

"I can't recall ever being rained out as many times as we have this year," said trail maintenance coordinator Burt Elliott. As recently as March 6 Burt reported a rain-shortened day. Jerry Mitcham said he counted five projects that were canceled due to rain since early December.

On trails with sandy or loamy soils, the damp soil makes tread work very easy, but wet clay or adobe soils get very sticky and tread work is difficult, with poor results.

During the period from February through June, Trails Council workers frequently team with the Sierra Club Task Force led by Ron Webster. Large numbers of experienced workers arrive for these joint projects, resulting in significant trail improvement.

Trail Crew leaders (alphabetical)

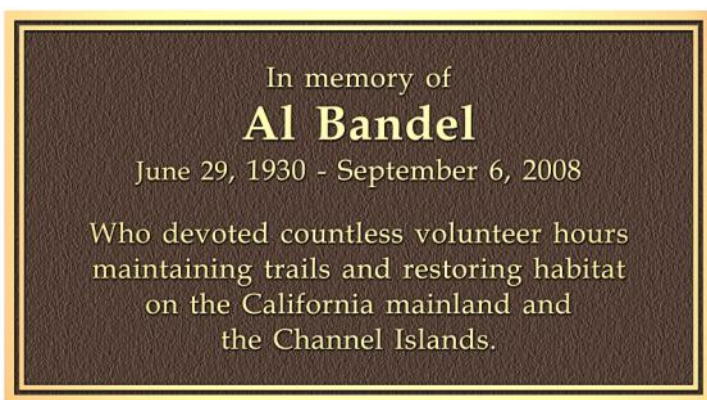
Barry Dydyk	Greg Sweel
Dave Edwards	Barb Thomas
Burt Elliott	
Casey Gonzalez	<i>Assistant Crew leaders</i>
Jerry Mitcham	Howard Cohen
Chris Morneau	Jon Van Gorder
Frank Padilla, Jr.	Virginia Grue
Linda Palmer	Ed Reid
Tom Siebert	Sharon Simmonds
Norm Simmonds	Mark Simril

Memorial for Al Bandel

The late Al Bandel is being memorialized with a picnic table and plaque on Santa Cruz Island.

Al was a long time member of the trails council and was very active in the trail maintenance program. Over the years, he devoted countless hours maintaining trails in the Santa Monica Mountains and on Santa Cruz Island. On the island, he not only worked many hours on trails in Channel Island National Park, but also devoted numerous hours to restoration projects with The Nature Conservancy.

Because Al loved it so much, his widow, Evelyn, has requested that the memorial be placed on the island. The trails council is procuring the table and plaque to be installed by trails council members near the main ranch on the Nature Conservancy Property.



National Trails Day, June 5:

Volunteer trail workers are invited to Malibu Creek State Park on June 5 when National Parks will partner with State Parks for the annual National Trails Day.

Volunteers are asked to bring their own lunch or snack and water. Also recommended are hat, sunscreen, long pants and gloves. Trail-working tools will be provided. Children under 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. No reservation is necessary. For more information, call 805-338-7150 (Burt Elliott).

This event is held at many locations across the nation, coordinated by the American Hiking Society.

Coming Events

2010

- SMM Trail Days – April 23-25
- Backbone Trek – May 1-8
- National Trails Day – June 5
- SMMTC Annual Meeting – October 28

Trails Council Board Meetings

Board Meetings are open to the public and held at Diamond X Ranch, 26412 Mulholland Highway, Calabasas, CA 91302, on the 4th Thursday of the month with three exceptions: in Nov & Dec, meet on 1st Thursday; no meeting in August.

Trails Council on the Web

This paper won't self-update, but our website will.

www.smmtc.org

Mounted Volunteer Patrol

Whether mounted on a horse (Mounted Volunteer Patrol) or a bike (Mountain Bike Unit), volunteers patrol trails in the SMMNRA offering assistance to all trail users: first aid, CPR and search and rescue. They also support law enforcement rangers in helping educate visitors on park rules and regulations. The volunteers have signed agreements with NPS, State Parks and MRCA so they can patrol each agency's trails. Park rangers from each agency are assigned to coordinate. More information on the horse unit is at www.samo-vip.org and for the bike unit, www.mountainbikeunit.com.



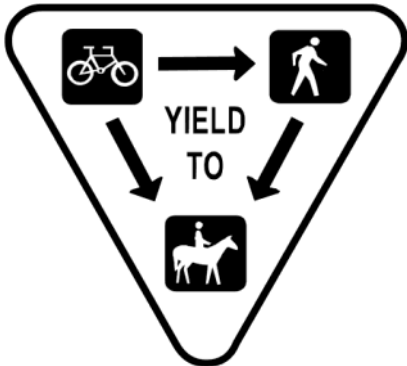
Save the Date: 4th Thursday of October

ANNUAL MEETING

The Trails Council Annual Dinner Meeting will be held

Thursday, October 28, 2010

at the home of Ruth and Grant Gerson, providing an opportunity to meet people who share an interest in trails. Members and trail enthusiasts are invited to bring their spouse and friends. The complimentary dinner is hosted by the Trails Council. Dinner will be followed by a meeting.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ruth Gerson President	Jeanne Wallace Vice President
Georgia Farinella Secretary	Michelle Kemmer Treasurer

DIRECTORS

Howard Cohen	Annie Solerno
Linda Mackinnon	Lylene Sheets
Cynthia Maxwell	George Sherman
Jerry Mitcham	Ed Stauss
Susie Niebergall	Barb Thomas

PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2010

Payments in October and later are credited to the following year. Dues are on a calendar year basis. Please make your check payable to SMMTC and mail it to P.O. Box 345, Agoura Hills, CA 91376 or you may use your credit card with PayPal, www.paypal.com

Thank you for your continued support.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ ZIP _____

E-mail: _____

Phone: _____

Check to have newsletter sent by e-mail

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

Individual Memberships

Annual Membership — \$35

Life Membership — \$360*

Business Memberships

Supporter — \$100

Patron — \$250

Benefactor — \$500

Donation \$ _____

* Life membership may be paid in three annual payments of \$120.

SMMTC is a tax exempt, non-profit organization under IRS code 501 (c) (3)

Let's Fix Trail Problems

Please report issues and situations that need attention such as signage repair, vandalism, trails overgrown, eroded, or dangerous and other issues. Call 818-222-4531 or email to mail@smmtc.org.



CONTACTS

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The Trails Council newsletter is published twice a year, in the spring and fall.

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