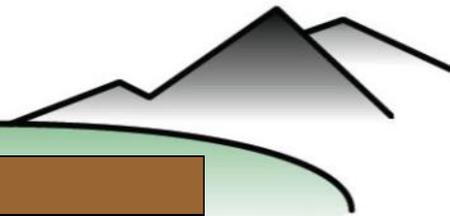


SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS TRAILS COUNCIL



SPRING 2014

Santa Monica Mountains Trail Days

The 33rd annual Santa Monica Mountains Trail Days will be on April 25-27 at Danielson Ranch in Pt. Mugu State Park. Come to have fun, meet other trail enthusiasts and contribute your effort to repair trails. Key hosts for this event are the Santa Monica Mountains Trails Council, the Sierra Club, the Concerned Off Road Bicyclist Association, in conjunction with State Parks and the National Park Service.

In previous years, volunteers have repaired up to five trail miles during the weekend. This year presents a unique opportunity to work on trails within the area damaged by the 2013 Springs fire and a chance to observe the natural revegetation of the area.

At the end of the day on Saturday, State Parks, National Park Service and the Trails Council will provide a delicious free BBQ dinner for volunteers. Please RSVP by April 21.

This event could never happen without many hands working very hard to organize and carry it out. We are grateful to those who are generous with their time and are thankful for the many companies and individuals who will donate raffle items and money to support the
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Coming Events

2014

- Santa Monica Mountains Trail Days – April 25-27
- Backbone Trek – May 3-10
- National Trails Day – June 7
(Details on page 3)
- Annual Dinner Meeting – October 23
(Dinner & meeting are free and open to the trails community. Details on page 4)

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 at 7:30 pm. There are three exceptions: Nov & Dec, meet on 1st Thursday and no meeting in August. For details on the Annual Meeting in October, please see page 4.

PRESIDENT'S VISION

Guarantors of Our Mission

Our public lands are the keys to our physical, emotional and spiritual health and strength. We rely upon and appreciate the land managers who are such dedicated public land stewards. Trails Council members are the essential means towards achieving our mission and goals to protect and preserve the area's resources and to make them accessible for the general public to enjoy. You are the underwriters of our mission with your financial support, your physical work with tools, and your spreading the word about our trail skills and leadership. The Santa Monica Mountains Trails Council is a stewardship organization. We protect trails, engage in public outreach, train volunteers, and collaborate with land agency partners and other trail organizations.

We are fortunate to represent a place where so many people have a genuine admiration and respect for one another, a place where people are open and thoughtful to try new things, a place where there is a strong commitment by many. There is truly a moral fiber that works its way as a thread through our organization.

Collaboration with land agencies plays a major part in our contributions to trails. We share their goals to preserve the resources, educate visitors, and provide recreation; and we appreciate the opportunities to work with them.

Each of your contributions has a strong influence towards maintaining all that trails offer to the present and next generation of public land users. You must each feel good and be rightly proud to be a part of the Trails Council, an organization that continually contributes for the benefit and general welfare of the community. All the pieces have to fall into the right place for success. Thank you for being the one of the very important pieces of the Trails Council.

Ruth

Trail Management Plan Restarted

The Trail Management Plan (TMP) has received funding to restart the TMP Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Environmental Impact Report (EIR). The partner agencies, NPS, California State Parks and SMMC/MRCA, are now staffed to do a comprehensive plan for trail uses, circulation and access throughout the National Recreation Area, based on identified conditions for natural, cultural and recreational resources.

The public scoping comment period ended on April 1, 2014. A draft TMP EIS/EIR will be released for public comment in Fall 2014. It is planned that the TMP will be finalized by Summer 2015. It will then be available for the state to prepare a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the federal government to prepare a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

For more information on the TMP, visit <http://www.nps.gov/samo/parkmgmt/tmp-index.htm>



Ladyface Mountain Acreage Purchased

MRCA has purchased a 525-acre tract on Ladyface Mountain, mostly along the south side, protecting wildlife habitat and for some future trail connections to the SMMNRA. 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 MRCA properties on the northern slope of Ladyface Mountain. MRCA 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 year-round.

The purchase of both properties, at a total cost of \$8.3 million, was funded by 3rd District funds generated by, among other sources, Proposition A, the parks measure approved by county voters in 1992 and 1996.



**2014 – Backbone Trail Trek – 2014
May 3-10**



This burned out area was once the La Jolla Valley campground.

Boy Scouts and Trails Council Repair La Jolla Valley Hike-in Campground

The Trails Council and Boy Scout Troop 730 of Newbury Park have teamed up to restore the La Jolla Valley Hike-in Campground, destroyed in the 2013 Springs Fire.

As the Springs Fire swept through Pt. Mugu State Park, this popular campground was almost completely destroyed. While the larger oak trees seem to have survived, most of the smaller trees and brush were consumed. Fortunately, the recently installed pit toilet survived.

Trails Council members and State Parks employees have surveyed the damage and developed an overall plan to rehabilitate the facility. The Trails Council will spend up to \$10,000 to purchase equipment and materials for the restoration. Four Eagle Scout candidates from Troop 730 have committed to perform the labor in four separate sub projects.

The plan has been approved by local State Park Officials. Eight individual campsites and two group campsites will be restored. A new information kiosk and new signage will be installed, and trails throughout the campground will be repaired.

The first of the four sub projects, restoration of two campsites and the information kiosk, will occur in early April. The remaining projects will be completed by mid-summer.



2014 Santa Monica Mountains Trail Days

Continued from page 1

event and make it fun. Please visit our website, www.SMMTC.org for a list of those folks who contributed in 2013 and some of the ones so far in 2014 and please support our raffle donors.

Directions: Ventura Freeway to Wendy in Newbury Park. Turn south to Potrero Road, left at Reino, left at first driveway (NPS service road). Cars will be escorted in and out of the park at the times listed below:

Arrive: Fri. - 5:00 pm and 7:00 pm

Sat. - 8:00 am, 4:30 pm

Sun. - 8:30 am

Depart: Sat. - 4:00 pm, 9:00 pm

Sun. - 8:00 am, 2:30 pm

Bring your lunch, beverages, snacks, water and insect repellent. Tools are provided, but you may bring a pick, shovel, Pulaski, McLeod, pruning saw or long-handled loppers. (Please, no light-weight tools or chain saws.)

Suggested: Trail Training Video and weekly trail maintenance schedule on www.smmtc.org

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

Camping: Bring your gear! Free camping Friday and/or Saturday nights for Trail Days workers at Danielson Ranch. Advance camping registration appreciated by April 23.

Patches: Trail Days patches will be available. \$3 each.

Information: Rain (unless torrential) does not cancel. Register on line at www.smmtc.org. For additional information, contact Barb Thomas at 805-492-0460 or 805-509-3426.

Etz Meloy Trail Closed

Because the Etz Meloy Trail crosses privately-owned land, the National Park Service has asked that trail users avoid that trail. Unauthorized usage could complicate efforts by NPS to eventually purchase the land. It is hoped that someday the entire Etz Meloy Trail will become publically owned and permit full usage.

SMMTC Website Features Trail Maintenance Calendar

Trails Council has an interactive calendar for the volunteer effort of helping to keep trails in the Santa Monica Mountains in good condition. Take a look at www.smmtc.org/trailwork/

Trail Maintenance Report

From September, 2013, through February, 2014, a total of 355 volunteers performed 2,028 hours of trail maintenance in the Santa Monica Mountains and nearby areas.

Agency	Volunteers	Labor Hours	Distance	
			(feet)	(miles)
COSCA	12	48.00	8,000.00	1.52
MTCA	18	75.00	2,600.00	0.49
NPS	93	523.50	12,150.00	2.30
State Parks	232	1,381.50	43,734.00	8.28
Totals	355	2,028.00	66,484.00	12.59

National Trails Day, June 7

Save the date and volunteer to fix the trails at Trippet Ranch in Topanga SP

Volunteer trail workers are invited to the annual National Trails Day on June 7, 8:30 am to 12:30 pm.

Directions: From 101 Ventura Freeway, exit Topanga Canyon Blvd. and head south about 7.5 miles to Entrada Road. Turn left and go about one mile to the Topanga State Park entrance. From PCH take Topanga Canyon Blvd north about 4.7 miles to Entrada Road. Turn right and proceed as above.

Volunteers are asked to bring their lunch or snack and water. Also recommended are hat, sunscreen, long pants and gloves. Trail tools will be provided. Children under 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. To register or for more information, contact: Ryan Stead, 805-418-3176

Email: ryan_stead@nps.gov

Boston University Students Help on Backbone Trail

In early January, 2014, a group of ten students of Boston University traveled to southern California for an "Alternative Winter Break" trip. The BU service center had previously contacted the Trails Council to arrange for two days of volunteer trail maintenance while in the Santa Monica Mountains. Five members of the Trails Council trail crew joined the students for two days of maintenance on the Backbone Trail in Upper Solstice Canyon. During the two days, the combined crew maintained approximately seven tenths mile of the BBT. The trail corridor was restored to the required eight foot width and minor erosion problems corrected. The students were extremely cheerful, inquisitive, demonstrated great initiative and worked very hard. The trail council "regulars" all agreed, "they were the best student group we have worked with. It was a pleasure working with these young folks and we greatly appreciated their trip across the country to help us maintain our local trails."

Save the Date: 4th Thursday of October

ANNUAL MEETING

The Trails Council Annual Dinner Meeting will be held

Thursday, October 23, 2014

at the home of Ruth 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 social hour begins at 6 pm, followed by a complimentary dinner hosted by the Trails Council at 7 pm and the meeting at 7:45 pm.

Please RSVP by Monday, October 20 to facilitate meal planning. Call Ruth at 818-991-1236 and leave your name, phone number and how many are in your group. The Gerson home is at Wolf Creek Ranch, 3450 Cornell Road, Agoura, CA 91301.

WHAT'S BEST FOR YOU?

A paper copy of this newsletter *OR* an electronic copy?

Please let us know by emailing to mail@smmtc.org

PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2014

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 PO 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: _____

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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).

Promote the Trails Council at Special Events

Trails Council members are invited to volunteer for outreach at public events to educate the public about the Trails Council and the important volunteer work that we do in maintaining trails in the Santa Monica Mountains. Most of the events occur on weekends where we would have a table displaying Trails Council brochures and other appropriate information.

Please contact Ruth if you can help when events are scheduled that may interest you. 

Enjoyment of Clean Trails

Please help keep our trails clean. Carry out any trash in a proper container. If you bring a dog into National Park land where they are permitted, or at the parking lots of State Parks, don't *just* put it into a plastic bag and stash it under a nearby bush! Please carry the refuse out to a trash receptacle. Thank you! 

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