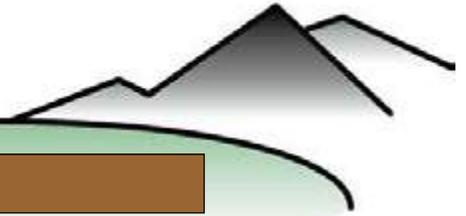


SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS TRAILS COUNCIL



SPRING 2017

Michelob Go The Extra Mile Update

Michelob Ultra and the American Hiking Society awarded a grant of \$21,800 to the Santa Monica Mountains Trails Council (SMMTC) through participation in the "Go The Extra Mile Fund" initiative. These funds will support improvements and maintenance of the Backbone Trail (BBT) within the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreational Area.

Aiming to give a BBT user a satisfying entry/exit to the trail, these improvements include information kiosks with a BBT map, picnic tables, trash cans and improved signage. Not all improvements will apply to every trailhead but will be applicable depending on usage and accessibility.

Implementation will be performed by a team comprising agency representatives, SMMTC members, and volunteer organizations. SMMTC will manage the projects and provide much of the funding for materials using the proceeds from the Michelob Ultra Extra Mile grant. Volunteer organizations, comprising Boy Scout Eagle projects, will implement the improvements and supplement funding for materials. Four projects will be rolling out in the next few months. Updates will be posted on our Facebook page. Stay Tuned!



Upcoming Events

- 36th Annual Santa Monica Mountains Trail Days – April 28-30
Danielson Ranch in Pt. Mugu State Park
- Backbone Trek – May 6 - May 13
- Annual Dinner Meeting – October 26
(Dinner & meeting are free and open to the trails community. Location to be announced.)

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 7:00 pm. There are three exceptions: Nov & Dec, meet on 1st Thursday; no meeting in August.

President's Vision

Last Spring I asked, "Where was all the rain we expected?" The rains bypassed us last year but more than made up for it this year! Water was flowing over our previously dry waterfalls; streams were overflowing their banks, lots of mud damaged trails and at last our flowering plants are blooming as if to make up for lost time. If you spend enough time on the trails, you may notice that in the year following a fire, debris sweeps over stream beds and can spread as a nice even layer over the previous channel. The first storms of 2017 created laser-like one to three foot deep channels in many areas and often took sections of the trail with it. Some locations experienced slides when water-saturated earth slid across trails. When the water table could not hold another drop, water pooled on flatter segments leaving behind lots of mud - making travel messy for those who would not wait for the water to dissipate. Avoidance of mud sets off a chain-reaction of users going around this obstacle and making the path wider. Just when it could not seem to get worse, another set of storms re-arranged the canyon floors in many locations obliterating sections of trail! All this rain creates lots of work for our trail crew and reinforces the trail worker's goals of "channeling water off the trail." Drains, swales, reverse grades and other methods of diverting water are the tools we use to preserve our trails from erosion. We may think of our trails as permanent, but they are permanent only when we work together to maintain them. Trail Days - April 28-30 - will be one such event where we repair damage to trails done by our Winter storms. Please come out and join us this year!

Working with other members of the trail crew is an excellent way to meet like-minded individuals. It is also a way to re-experience the trail because one of the best ways to become familiar with our trails is to work on them. When hiking, biking, running or riding a horse on our trails, it is so easy to get focused on a destination, heart rate, speed, a conver-

Article continues on Page 3

36th Annual Santa Monica Mountains Trail Days 2017



April 28, 29, 30
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!

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

DIRECTIONS: Ventura Freeway to Wendy in Newbury Park; South to Potrero Road, turn right; left at Reino, left at NPS service road (1st driveway). Cars will be escorted in and out of the park at times below.

ARRIVE: Fri.- 5 p.m., 7 p.m. **DEPART:** Sat.- 4 p.m., 9 p.m.
Sat.- 7:30 a.m., 4:30 p.m. Sun.- 8 a.m., 2:30 p.m.
Sun.- 7:30 a.m.

BRING: LUNCHES, BEVERAGES, SNACKS AND WATER, INSECT REPELLANT.
Tools are provided, but you can bring a pick, shovel, Pulaski, McLeod, pruning saw, or long-handled loppers. (Please, no light-weight tools or chain saws.) **Must See: Trail Training video and weekly trail maintenance schedule is on www.smmtc.org**

DINNER: Sat. Night Barbecue Free FOR VOLUNTEERS. Please RSVP by April 25. Bring appetizers and beverages. Thank-you raffles Sat. night AND Sun. after work!

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

CAMPING: Bring your gear! BE GREEN, BRING YOUR OWN MUG! Free camping Friday and/or Saturday nights for Trail Days 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 25.

PATCHES: Trail Days patches are available. \$3.00 each. Patches are also available from previous years.

INFORMATION: Rain (unless torrential) does not cancel. Return registration to: SMMTC, TRAIL DAYS, P.O. Box 345, Agoura Hills, CA 91376. REGISTER ON LINE AT www.smmtc.org SMMTC (818) 222-4531 or (805) 492-0460.

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 Statistics

From January 1, 2016, through December 31, 2016, a total of 733 volunteers performed 4,418 hours of trail maintenance in the Santa Monica Mountains and nearby areas. State Parks and NPS budgets are not near enough to maintain the hundreds of trails we have.

Agency	Events	Vol #	Hours	Feet	Miles
CINP	6	22	533	34,000	6.44
City of Malibu	1	15	50	1,500	0.28
COSCA	2	27	150	7,900	1.5
NPS	19	175	970	33,721	6.3
State Parks	47	494	2,713	119,594	22.7
Totals	75	733	4,418	196,265	37.2

COSCA - Conejo Open Space Conservation Agency
 CINP—Channel Islands National Park
 NPS - National Park Service
 State Parks - California State Parks



President's Vision Continued...

sation or only the path ten feet in front of you. When working a trail, you observe things you might ignore - finding undulations where the trail appears to slope up or down, rocks and plants often hide insects, bugs or snakes. Concentrate your attention on a small segment of the world for a moment and learn the names of the plants you are trimming. These plants are common enough and you are likely to encounter them time and again. That blur of purple is a large mass of individual Wild Hyacinth flowers - an important food source for the Chumash. When you tire of digging, chopping, raking and moving dirt around, note your surroundings. Can you view other trails you've traveled from your location? Can you follow where this trail goes? From my experience, you should be able to observe something for the first time no matter how many times you travel the same path.

Now more than ever we can use your help to repair trails for all to enjoy. Please take a look at our trail maintenance schedule and pick a date to come work with us on our shared passion! We look forward to seeing you on the trails. Thank you and "Happy Trails to You."

Howard



2016 Trail Crew Highlights

In some respects, our most significant accomplishment of the year was working with NPS to complete the last segment of the Backbone Trail, just in time for its designation as a National Recreation Trail. In short order, the Etz-Meloy bypass was surveyed and rough cut before several dozen volunteers came in and put the finishing touches on the trail. We now have a completed Backbone Trail running from Will Rogers State Historic Park to La Jolla Canyon in Point Mugu State Park. Volunteers from many organizations including the SMMTC played a huge part in the realization of this dream. We held twenty-two work events on various segments of the BBT in 2016.

The combination of the Springs Fire in 2013 and ongoing drought continues to fell trees in the park. The trail crew spent many extra days clearing downed trees and large limbs off of trails. It is sad to see how many trees we have lost this past couple of years. Donations to the Santa Monica Mountains

Trails Council (SMMTC) enabled us to purchase gas powered pole saws and other tools to clear the trails of these fallen trees.

Part of our success is due to our crew leaders—as a group, they averaged 225 hours per person last year. That effort shows some serious dedication to our trails and we are most appreciative of them!



Save the Date!!

The 36th Annual
 Santa Monica Mountains Trail Days
 April 28– 30, 2017

Wait List for 2017 Backbone Trek

On February 1st registration opened for the 16th annual Backbone Trek, we received thirty-five applications. Currently, twenty-eight registrants have been accepted for the hike several hikers are on a wait list and registration is closed.

Like us on Facebook!
[facebook.com/
 TrailWorkSMMTC/](https://www.facebook.com/trailworksmmtc/)



Comings and Goings on the Board

After many years of service, Ed Stauss and Jeanne Wallace have chosen to leave the Santa Monica Mountains Trails Council (SMMTC) Board of Directors.

Jeanne Wallace has served in many capacities since the SMMTC came into existence back in the 1970's! Jeanne served as the first treasurer in 1976, Vice President from 2010 to 2015 and on many committees. As an equestrian concerned with trails and access to those trails, Jeanne worked with other equestrians to help form the SMMTC. As other trail users joined the SMMTC, Jeanne became an essential member of the equestrian coalition - providing respect and guidance while reaching out to newcomers.

Ed Stauss has been the editor of our newsletters and brochures as well as our director of publicity for many years. His attention to detail and ability to articulate our message greatly benefited our organization. Thank you for making us look good!

Joining the board are Anne Russell and Don Brusselars. Anne is a health and fitness journalist and a former editor in chief of the women's fitness magazine Shape. Anne has volunteered more than one hundred and fifty hours as a regular on our trail crew.

Don Brusselars, a retired Aerospace employee, is a long-time geocacher who found his way into the SMMTC orbit by working with our dedicated trail crew. In his first year working as a volunteer, Don worked more than one hundred and fifty hours!



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

Dues are on a rolling 12-month basis. Membership dues will be effective the first of the month following receipt; membership will be effective for 12 months. 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.

<http://smmtc.org/membership/>

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 consecutive annual payments of \$120. SMMTC is a tax exempt, non-profit organization under IRS code 501(c)(3).

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

Howard Cohen Georgia Farinella
President Secretary

Barb Thomas Michelle Kemmer
Vice President Treasurer

DIRECTORS

Don Brusselars Susie Niebergall
Steve Clark Jerry Mitcham
Debbie DiMascio Anne M. Russell
Ruth Gerson Lylene Sheets
John Kross George Sherman
Cynthia Maxwell

CONTACTS

Santa Monica Mountains Trails Council

Mail P.O. Box 345
Agoura Hills CA 91376

Phone 818-222-4531

E-Mail mail@smmtc.org

Web www.smmtc.org

Howard Cohen, President
howard@gravityh.com — 805-732-9137

George Sherman, Newsletter Editor
mail@smmtc.org

The Trails Council newsletter is published twice a year, in the Spring and Fall.

©2017 Santa Monica Mountains Trails Council