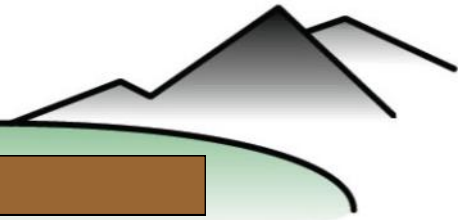


SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS TRAILS COUNCIL



FALL 2014



Our Trails Have Lost Burt Elliott

By Mike Malone

Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area lost a true gentleman and a tireless trail volunteer with the recent passing of Burt Elliott. In a quote from the Santa Monica Mountains Trails Council where he served as trail coordinator for many years, "Burt loved to hike and be outdoors, that was his passion."

In addition to his years out on the trails, Burt also volunteered at the National Park Service Visitor Center in Thousand Oaks from the day it opened in

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Coming Events

2014

- *Annual Dinner Meeting – October 23*
(Dinner & meeting are free and open to the trails community. Details on page 4)

2015

- 34th Annual Santa Monica Mountains Trail Days – April 24-27
- Backbone Trek – May 2-9

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.

PRESIDENT'S VISION

Victory For The Santa Monica Mountains National Recreational Area

The Trails Council Board voted unanimously to support Los Angeles County's Local Coastal Plan (LCP) and had a major victory when the California Coastal Commission unanimously approved the Los Angeles County's Land Use Plan (LUP) and the Local Implementation Program (LIP) - - the two components of the Santa Monica Mountains Local Coastal Program (LCP). On Aug. 26 the plan went back to the L.A. County Board of Supervisors for final approval and was passed three to one.

We are grateful to Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, who championed the LCP, for his extraordinary efforts to protect our trails, coastal resources, homeowners, horse owners and communities in the Santa Monica Mountains.

We give a special thanks to Ben Saltzman, Zev's Planning and Land Use Deputy and to Gina Natoli, Supervising Regional Planner for Los Angeles County for taking their time to attend our Board meeting and inform us and answer questions so that we clearly understood the LCP and could make a unanimous decision for support.

Jeanne Wallace
Vice-President,
Santa Monica Mountains Trails Council

Our Condolences and Best Wishes to President Ruth Gerson who is at home recovering from complications of hip surgery. We wish her a speedy recovery and look forward to seeing her soon.

Burt Elliott
(Continued from Page 1)

1998 until it moved over to Gillette Ranch in 2012. His total contribution of time to the National Park Service was 3800 hours. Burt was a true asset to the parks as few people could match his knowledge of the trails throughout the Santa Monica Mountains. When I think of Burt at the visitor center I can still see him leaning on the counter top with a map in front of him advising visitors as to which trails might suit them best.

But it was out on the trails where he was likely his happiest and most content. As a Volunteer Trail Crew Leader with the Santa Monica Mountains Trails Council, Burt, along with his fellow trail crew leaders, could always be counted on when NPS hosted its annual National Trails Day. Sometimes he preferred taking a crew the longer distances where work was needed and at other times working on some of the more strenuous jobs.

I can't help but feel Burt's footprints will forever be embedded somewhere on one of our mountain trails. Like so many other volunteers past and present, we are a better National Park because of Burt Elliott's dedication as a volunteer.



Rec Fest at Paramount Ranch

On Saturday, October 25 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, Rec Fest will introduce new audiences to the healthy recreational activities offered by parks. About 1000 kids and their families from LAUSD and 1000 people from the surrounding communities are expected.

Attendees can practice how to cast a rod and reel, get on a horse, learn how to set up a tent, climb a wall, take a hike, and much more at the inaugural event. It's all free.

Volunteers are needed to guide runners along the route on the family fun run, to help with parking, to staff an art zone, to help store lunches, to staff the info booth and to help with set up and clean up.



**Backbone Trail Trek
May 2-9, 2015**

Save the Date!!

The 34th Annual
Santa Monica Mountains Trail Days
April 24 – 27, 2015!

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



Ruined table on left has been replaced by new table on right. Photo Courtesy of the Acorn

In May 2013, the Springs fire destroyed Point Mugu State Park's La Jolla Valley campground. Four 16-year-old Boy Scouts in Troop 730, Trent Seybold, Francesco Dimola, Will Stark and Nathan Gough, took on the restoration project as they worked toward the rank of Eagle Scout.

Damage from the fire wasn't necessarily a bad thing, according to Jerry Mitcham of the Trails Council. The campground was in dilapidated condition when further destruction by the fire provided the inspiration to mount the restoration effort. "When the fire came through, people were suddenly more willing to step up and help the state park," he said.

Trails council member Barry Dydyk, who has longtime ties to the troop, approached its leaders to see if the Scouts wanted to help. The four scouts took on the challenge as their Eagle Scout projects.

Each year, the troop spends time restoring Serrano Canyon Trail, another area of the state park, so working in the dry brush and chaparral was nothing new to them.

"The boys do trail clearing. They build sets of steps. When part of the trail washes away, they help rebuild it," Dydyk said.

But for the La Jolla Valley project, the boys had to do even more.

Scoutmaster Mike Marangola explained that to earn the rank of Eagle Scout, the boys have to plan a project on their own from start to finish.



Lisa Mangat is new State Parks Director

Lisa Mangat, whose résumé includes tours of duty with several state departments, is taking the helm of the \$654 million California Department of Parks and Recreation following Anthony L. Jackson's abrupt resignation. Mangat served as Jackson's special assistant starting in October 2013, according to an internal memo that announced her promotion. Before that, Mangat was a program manager at the Department of Finance, worked at the Legislative Analyst's Office and was a consultant in the Legislature. She launched her state career in 1988 as an analyst for the Department of Social Services.

Jackson abruptly announced his retirement on May 21, just 19 months after he took control of a department that had been rocked by years of fiscal mismanagement. A retired Marine Corps major general, he said in a statement that his tenure "has been a challenging, but ultimately fulfilling" one. Parks department spokeswoman Vicky Waters said Jackson's decision was prompted not by health concerns or other reasons but was "just a decision to retire after 40 years of public service." "He spent the last year and a half setting us on the right path," she said.

She added that Jackson helped the department regain the public's trust.

Mangat has bachelor's degree in philosophy from the University of California, Davis, and an MBA from the California State University, Sacramento, according to her biography on the Department of Finance website.

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.

Trails Council on the Web

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

www.smmtc.org

Trail Maintenance Report

From September 1, 2013, through August 12, 2014, a total of 727 volunteers performed 4,521 hours of trail maintenance in the Santa Monica Mountains and nearby areas.

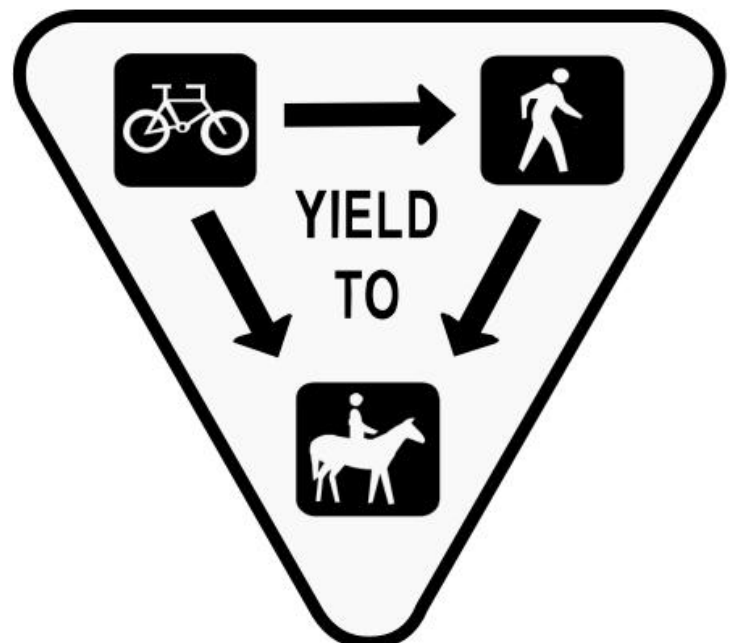
Agency	Volunteers	Labor Hours	Distance	
			feet	miles
COSCA	22	88.0	9,000	1.70
MRCA	18	75.0	2,600	0.49
NPS	143	814.5	18,820	3.56
NPS CI	15	380.5	32,700	6.19
State Parks	529	3,163.0	78,154	14.80
Totals	727	4,521.0	141,274	26.74

2015 Backbone Trek — May 2 through 9

Registration for the 2015 Backbone Trek will open February 1st. The registration forms will be available on our website, www.smmtc.org, on February 1st. Registrations must be mailed with a check. Priority will be based on the post-mark date.

Let's Fix Trail Problems

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



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 2015

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

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