

Trails and Tales

News for Volunteers in the Park
in the Montane Sector
December 2017



HAPPY HOLIDAYS



VIP EVENTS

For the TMC work party schedule see the page near the end

Park Champions Trail work dates:

Saturday, December 16th

Saturday, Jan 20, 2018

Saturday, Feb 17, 2018

Please check out the webpage for up-coming events and information!

<http://www.crspia.org/events.php>



IAU article and photos by Chris Jones

IAU rove Sat. & Sun., Nov. 11 & 12

Just when you think you're not going to see anything very interesting at the park, you do. November 11 and 12 were both beautiful, cool days for roving. I arrived early for the Awards Banquet, so I went down to Green Valley Falls, and the turning leaves were beautiful that late in the day. There was still water in the falls and in the river.



The next day I roved with Michele and Carmen from East Mesa parking onto South Boundary Fire Road, Blue Ribbon Trail, and Merrigan Fire Road. The red berries on the toyon bushes and the red flowers on the sugar bushes brought a nice contrast to the more subdued fall colors. There were plenty of acorns on a number of bushes, so we could see them close up. From Merrigan Fire Road, we went down to the little falls off Dead Horse Trail. It, too, still has water in it. However, the amazing thing, and the highlight of the day, were all the tiny frogs jumping around below the falls. They were less than an inch long, and I wouldn't have seen them without Michele telling me they were there and then seeing them move. Can you pick out the one camouflaged in the sand in my photo?





TMU Wednesday Crew on Tues 21st Nov, Crisp Morn

and photos by K.Mac

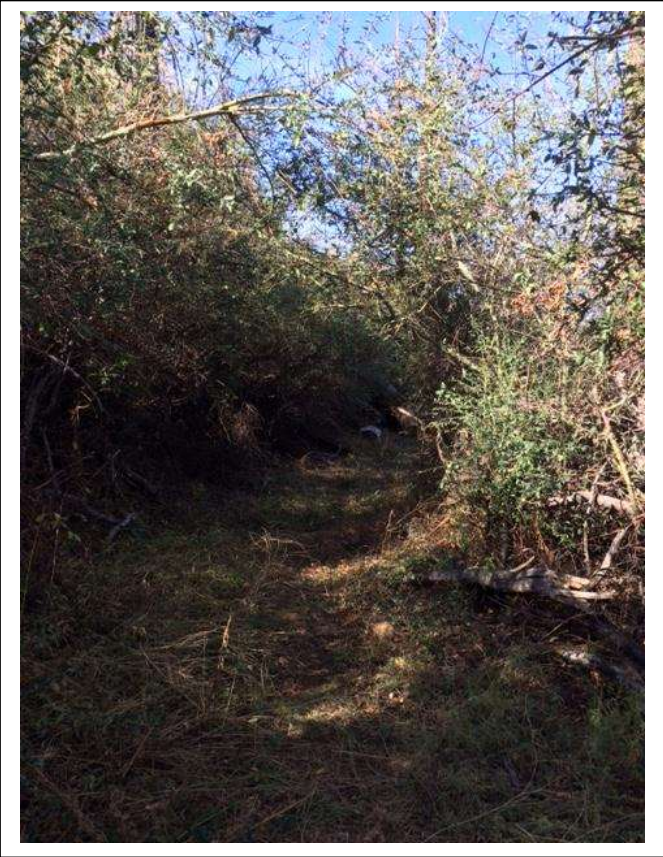
Pole Hedger, (w/ Harness) Mini-McLeod, mini loppers & trusty Samauri. . . .
Straight to Spring x-ing - Cut grasses
revealed additional Stepping stones, & Hedger allowed more light.

Skip on up to Culver Corner - pic shows corner opened, line-of-sight
improved.

Multitude of 'mustard seed? '&
relatives of various configured Grasses slain on short hike up to the
3 Overhead Cedars. Lotta Hedger
action lets in more Light, 3 Cedars
still Overhead!

Pics 3 & 4 are higher on Trail - where
last we stopped brushing. New light!

Fun morning - Sugar Pine nearly back
to Former Fall Glory 🐾. K. Mac





MOUNTED ASSISTANCE UNIT

By Bonnie Slager



Winter is here but the Park still has lots of visitors and they still need directions and some do not carry enough water when they hike. Our patrols were out helping Park guests all month and as you can see from the pictures, cutting a tree about the size of the saw John Saxer and Ron Robillard had with them. That took some sawing.

Diana had an equipment failure on the trail but as you can see from her picture, was able to fix it with the equipment she was carrying and finished her patrol. All in a day's work at the Park.



Riding along my snap broke on my Reins so I was riding with one rein and got off to fix it. I found a snap on something else and got out my knife to cut the zip tie off my rein and I found my spare cord in my bag. I was able to fix it on the trail, that's the cowgirl way.



Now, the Park mystery. What is happening to the "No Bike" signs? The sign on the Mardy Minshall trail entrance going in to Los Vaq. as well as the sign going to the Stonewall mine have vanished. In addition, the sign on the Vern Whitaker trail from Stonewall Creek Fire Road has been deeply scratched making it unreadable. I hope this vandalism does not continue in the Park as there are not enough of us to keep it from happening. Please be on the lookout for this issue as it is bad for the Park and a problem for the Park staff to enforce the trail rules when the signs are missing. Thanks for your help with this problem.



When you are scheduled to patrol, please watch the weather. I will try to let you know by Thursday if the weather is too bad to patrol but if you see something in the forecast that I miss, make your own decision. I was snowed in there once and don't want it to happen again. Clyde was not happy with the snow.

Merry Christmas. Enjoy the beautiful fall colors while they last and the winter park.



TMU by Michele Hernandez



November was another busy month for the TMU. TMU Gothic was out working on Sugar Pine keeping it passable. They have worked on this trail many times. Without them the trail would not stay open. Thanks guys. The Usual Suspects worked on getting things ready for the CSPF work day plus did some trail re-routed planning and did actual trail work, too. Janet Mc-P helped set up the town hall for the awards banquet and then went and fed the Usual Suspects and park staff a delicious lunch. CSPF park champions continued on the fencing project at the Cedar Grove volunteer camp and then tidied up the wood piles in the area.

This year's TMU Volunteer of the Year is Ken Marsh who didn't make it to the banquet because he was off helping other people in Louisiana. He is one volunteering machine. Thanks Ken for all you do for Cuyamaca and others.



Cuyamaca Poems Natural Nugget NOV 30 2017 Two joking and three others by Dave Hernandez

Mustelids near Lake

Drive new craze Nature Hit Songs

POP goes the Weasels

East of Alpine where mountains rise higher

Some folks' ranch had the State for a buyer

The price tag they rifted, said half would be gifted

Give thanks to those folks name of Dyar

Wet peaks creeks places

Glaciers gone their echo stays

Where White Firs now grace

Summer heat lifts air

Above hikers dust clad

Pines tickle my nose

Ever flying loud

A Woodies cache clash create

Pine barns upward





Cuyamaca Rancho State Park Interpreter News by Michele Hernandez

The awards banquet was great fun once again. For me, it is one of the highlights of the year at Cuyamaca. I always look forward to the various side dishes that people bring and the fact that there will be too many desserts and Andrew's slide show. This year Bonnie out did herself with her bag o' fun. I especially liked the purple duct tape.

This is also the time of year when we get to thank each unit for all their hard work. We also get to acknowledge certain individuals for going beyond their unit and state requirements. Each year winnowing down the number of volunteers to these few individuals is a difficult task. So many of our volunteers deserve to be volunteers of the year that picking just a few is tough. Here are this year's volunteers of the year:

TMU: Ken Marsh

IAU: Dennis DeZur

MBAU: James Murren

MAU: Ernie Smith

Overall Volunteer of the Year: Kandhy Franklin

All of these volunteers go the extra mile to keep Cuyamaca a safe and inviting place for its visitors. Thank you for all your hard work



Information for all volunteers:

<https://youtu.be/5hQIbHFZQUQ>

Check out this basic trail maintenance video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GFnSPIkgr2M>

Safety message on how to identify poison oak



Trails Maintenance Unit Work Party Schedule



All units are welcome to work with us.

Please email the host, so we know you are joining us. We want to be sure to bring enough tools and FOOD (sometimes beer, shhhh) or to let you know if we have to cancel and if the meeting place changes!

Schedule for December 2017

Cuyamaca Rancho State Park

Try to email our hosts by Wednesday before the weekend you would like to join us. Winter hours are 9am start time.

Saturday, Dec 2nd – Hike and Hack with Susan nebulae3sma@hotmail.com

Saturday, Dec 9th -with Milo and Janet mprodanovi@aol.com

Saturday, Dec 16th - Park Champions register at <http://www.calparks.org/help/park-champions/?referrer=https://www.google.com/>

Saturday, Dec 23rd – Happy Holidays! Ho, Ho, Ho

Contact Ken McIntyre ksacmac@hotmail.com and Ken Marsh marsh.ken@gmail.com to arrange to volunteer on Wednesdays

Send your hours to Janet at the end of each month. Her email is jmacneillo1@att.net

An Ode to the Kens by Mark Campbell

In the spirit of the Holiday season and to honor this triumvirate for the great work that they do in the park, I bring you this "Ode to the Kens" (Ken Bonus, Ken McIntyre, and the 2017 TMU Volunteer of the Year Ken Marsh. This little ditty is sung to the tune of "We Three Kings".



We three Kens of Cuyamaca are;
Bearing chainsaws we traverse afar,
Sugar Pine and fountain, Azalea Glen and mountain,
Following yonder downed trees.

Oh oh, downed tree of wonder,
downed tree in the night,
downed tree with squid beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to that perfect unobstructed trail!



Photo by Carmen Aurrecochea

For Volunteer Opportunities
and information contact our



Official Interpreters:

Michele Hernandez- Michele.Hernandez@parks.ca.gov
and
Carmen Aurrecochea-
Cuyamaca.interpreter@parks.ca.gov



Photo by Michele Hernandez



Unit Coordinator Contacts:

MAU- Bonnie Slager- slagerb@sbcglobal.net

MBAU- Chad Leptich- leptich@juesd.net

IAU- Greg Meckstroth- greg.meckstroth@att.net

IAU Scheduling - Charlene Bradbury char.brad48@gmail.com

TMU- Mike cmcurtis@pacbell.net

TMU Vice-Coordinator- Dave Hernandez- jerrydave1@sbcglobal.net

Visitor Center Gift Shop Manager- Barbara McCoy- bmccoy1492@gmail.com

CRSP Park Headquarters (weekdays only) -- 760-765-3020

Paso Picacho Kiosk (for weekends) -- 760-765-3023

Green Valley Kiosk -- 760-765-3024

Palomar Headquarters -- 760-742-3462

Send articles and photos (Please, include photographer's name) for next month
BEFORE noon of the last day of the month to-

Susan Russo - nebulae3sma@hotmail.com



T'was the Night before Christmas

When all through the park
Not a creature was stirring, not even a lark.
(or quail for that matter)



The acorns were hung from the oak tree with care,



In the hopes that the Ranger soon would be there...

