

Trails and Tales

News for VIP Volunteers in the Montane Sector

May 2014



VIPEVENTS

May 3rd - Annual VIP Training

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

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

All photos by Michele Hernandez unless otherwise noted.

Important IAU News!



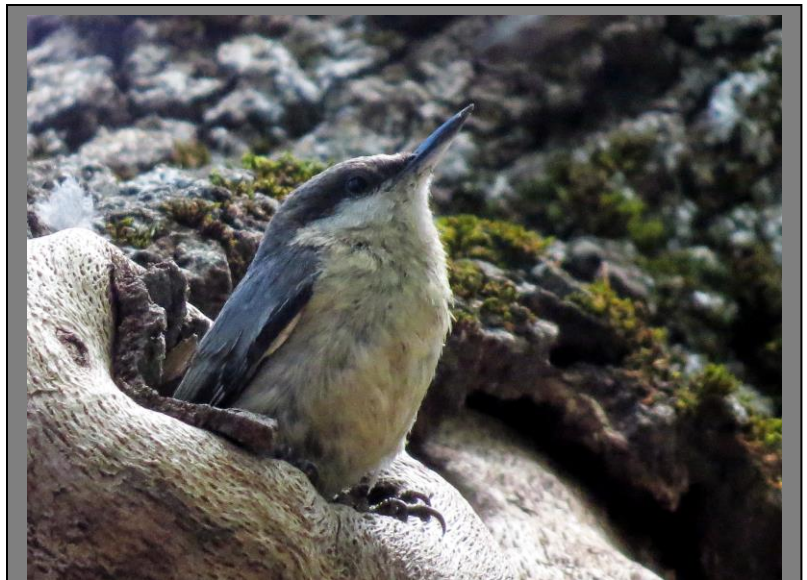
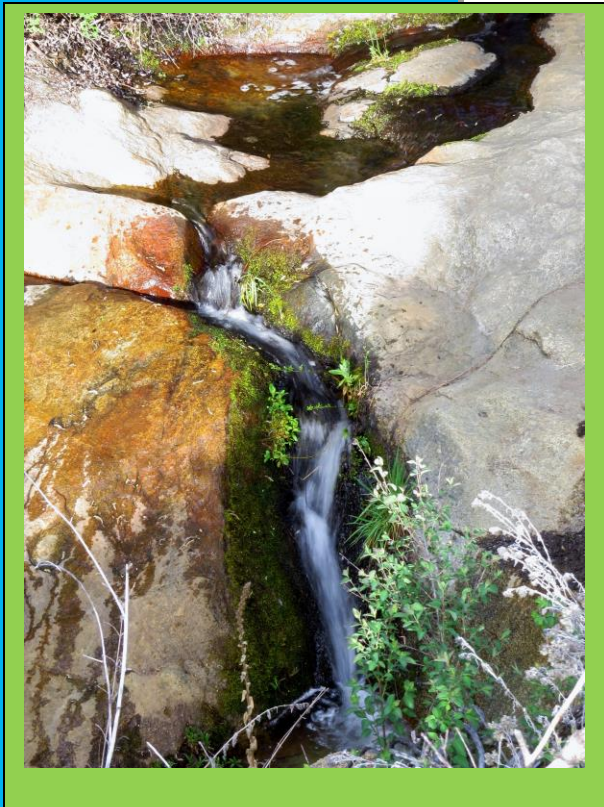
Hello VIP Volunteers,

I am Carol Roberts, your new Interpretive Specialist at Cuyamaca Rancho State Park and am looking forward to getting acquainted and creating long term relationships with all of you.

I have a B.A. In Early Childhood Education and have taught for 20 years in San Diego wearing different hats in the education field with ages birth through 12.

I have recently returned to my native state of Ca. after 15 years at The Lake of the Ozarks to be with my 2 children, almost 6 grandchildren, family, many friends and live in Poway. The Lake has been my second home since 1972 and is a vacation destination with seasonal employment. The Lake is about everything outdoors, riding horses, hunting, fishing, artifact hunting, camping, 4 wheelin' and big time boating adventures in multiple crafts. In 1999 I moved there full time where my parents retired from San Diego and I had two sisters living there. I worked for the University of Missouri on a grant for 5 years in Early Childhood Education in 3 rural counties surrounding the lake and subsequently substituted full time for 8 years at our local elementary allowing a flexible schedule when needed to help with my parents care. I became a full time Para Educator in Elementary and Special Education for the past three years.

I'm starting a new chapter in an exciting education and interpretation field in CA. State Parks and know my love for the backcountry, Jeeps, Julian (I've been trying to move here since '79), my past, present and future experiences will complement each other with room to grow for knowledge, happy wandering and memories.



Safety Message by Jim Dascoulias

Trail Work Safety

- ❑ **Maintain at least 8-10 feet between you and other workers, both when working and when walking.**
- ❑ **DO NOT carry tools on your shoulders.**
- ❑ **Carry tools on the downhill side.**
- ❑ **If you fall, drop your tool downhill, away from you. DO NOT THROW IT!**
- ❑ **When swinging tools check overhead and all around for clearance.**
- ❑ **When passing workers on the trail, announce that you are "coming through." wait for them to stop work before passing.**
- ❑ **When lifting heavy objects ask for assistance. Don't do it yourself.**
- ❑ **When you get tired or overheated, take a break. Drink some water and cool down.**
- ❑ **If you think you have poison oak, ask your crew leader to identify it so you can avoid it.**

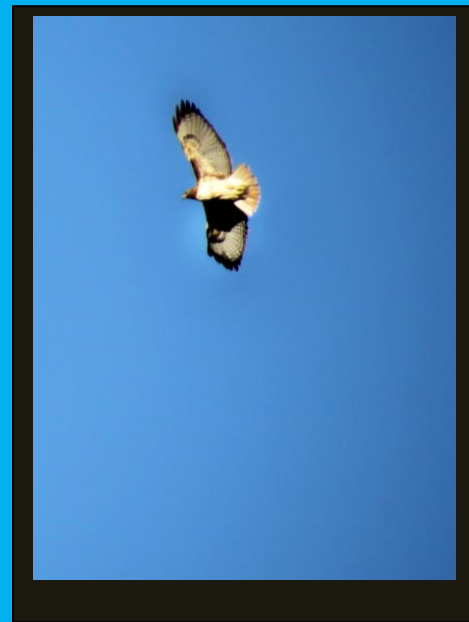
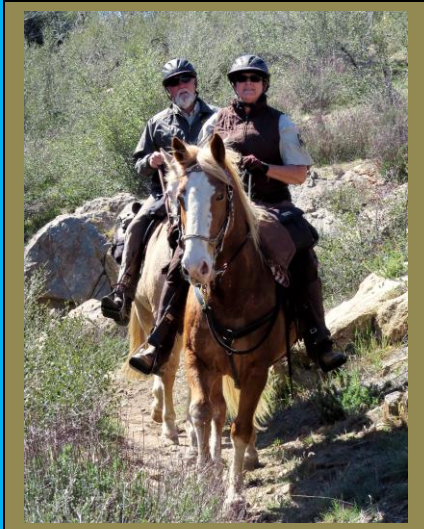


Photo by Jim Dascoulias

Garrett and Cole, District Roads and Trails Crew, on new pedestrian route over the seep from Cold Spring



MOUNTED ASSISTANCE UNIT

By Bonnie Slager

Spring weather in Cuyamaca is really amazing. Sunny and warm to rain and snow. It changes so fast. I was talking to a retired member of the unit recently and he said it has snowed 4 times for May training. I remember one year the training was at Los Vaqueros campground and some people came and camped on Friday night. It snowed on Friday night so the people that were there were snowed in and no one else could get there. The worst part was the person bringing the donuts could not get there.

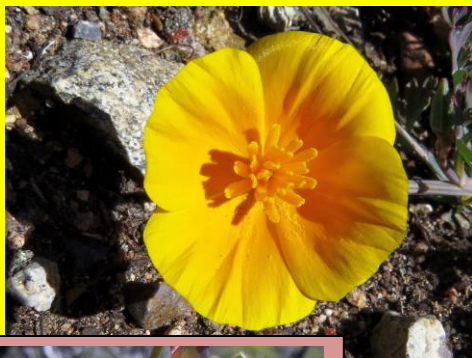
When I patrolled at the beginning of April the wild flowers were beginning to pop up. Even with the small amount of rain we have had the flowers are breath-taking. It always fascinates me how different the flowers look each year depending on the amount of rain. Also, they don't look like the flower brochure and I have trouble deciding which little yellow or pink or blue flower is which. Maybe I will figure it out if I ride here another 20 years or so.

I am looking forward to seeing all of you at May training. This is the one time we all get together, so be sure and plan to be there for the day. I think Ranger Adam has planned an interesting day for us.

The June campout for "Friends of Clyde" is coming up soon. There are still some corrals if you have not made a reservation yet.

Finally, the Benefit Ride will be here before you know it. I will be asking for everyone to help somehow. There are many things to do before the event as well as that day so think about what you do best and be ready to help.

Enjoy the Park and I will see you May 3.



TMU News by Michele Hernandez

Photos by Daniel Saum

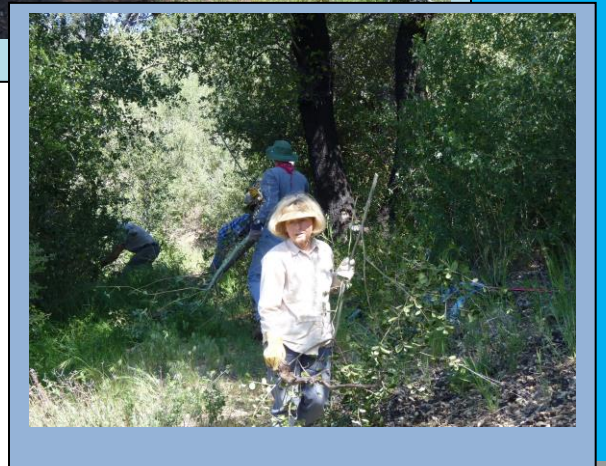
My goodness, it's already the end of April! I hope the April showers bring May flowers. I really like our wild flowers.

First, a big thank you to Mark Campbell, who sent some wonderful information about trail work he has done in the park. Unfortunately, the info is out in cyberspace floating around because of a computer glitch. Thanks for your hard work and info Mark. I just wish I could be more specific.

Milo's work party went out and worked on the Cold Spring reroute with our Mountain Bike brethren. A scratched up good time was had by all along with good food and drink

Our Earth Day work party/ celebration saw a work party of park staff and volunteers doing fencing on Stonewall Peak to deter hikers from going places they really shouldn't go. CRSPIA provided food for the after work party.

Thanks to everyone for their hard work in April. Remember, have fun and keep safe no matter what you're doing in the park. Ciao-a-derci.





MBAU Article & Photos by Phil Ohme

Sexual Encounters of the Turkey Kind

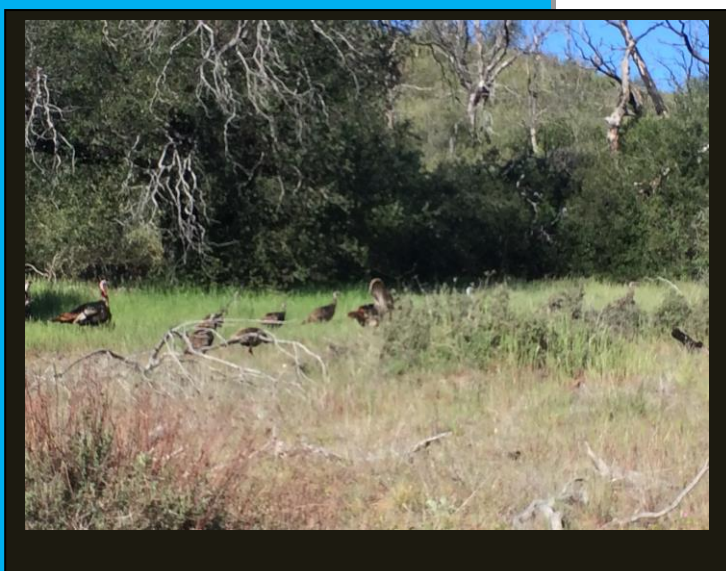
We headed out on our patrol – 4 official MBAUers and 2 potentials along for the ride. It was quite an interesting day that had us seeing things we have never before witnessed, including mating, unique bike mechanical trouble, and what 3 MBAUers must look like to a mountain lion!

We headed north and not 10 minutes into our ride we came across what seemed to be a turkey pouncing on his prey, right in the middle of the fire road. Only, he was pouncing on this prey over and over. It looked dead enough – no movement from the animal underneath the turkey's legs. We got a little

closer and watched, as did about 5 other turkeys, gathered in a circle around the large pouncing turkey. That's when we realized that the big male turkey was mating with a female. After 10 minutes, one of our crew had enough and approached them further. Someone had heard that turkeys can become very aggressive when provoked, so we wished him good luck and he spooked them enough to interrupt their session enough to have them relocate off the road. That's when we snapped the photo. I'm sure they resumed just off the road, and we were on our way.

After a nice ride up Green Valley and Lucky 5, one of our guys took a spill on some rocks right off to the side of the trail and the landing lined a rock up exactly with his rear derailleur, bending it into the spokes of his wheel.

When he went to bend it back, it snapped off and was left dangling there. This rendered the mountain bike unridable.



But another guy had a great toolkit, including a chain breaker, which we used to open up the chain, free the derailleur, and turn the bike into a singlespeed with a shorter chain. Since we were at just about the highest point on the ride, this worked great to get him back to the car – little pedaling and much downhill.



Photo by Phil Ohme

Near the end of the ride, 3 of the 4 remaining riders were headed downhill when we heard shouts. Thinking someone was being attacked or in trouble, we came to a halt and then realized it was none other than Steve Boland calling out from above. He was on the Cold Spring Trail reroute, finishing up when he saw some MBAU jerseys and wanted to say hi. His view and the picture he took of us perfectly captured what it must look like for a mountain lion before pouncing on 3 mountain bikers!

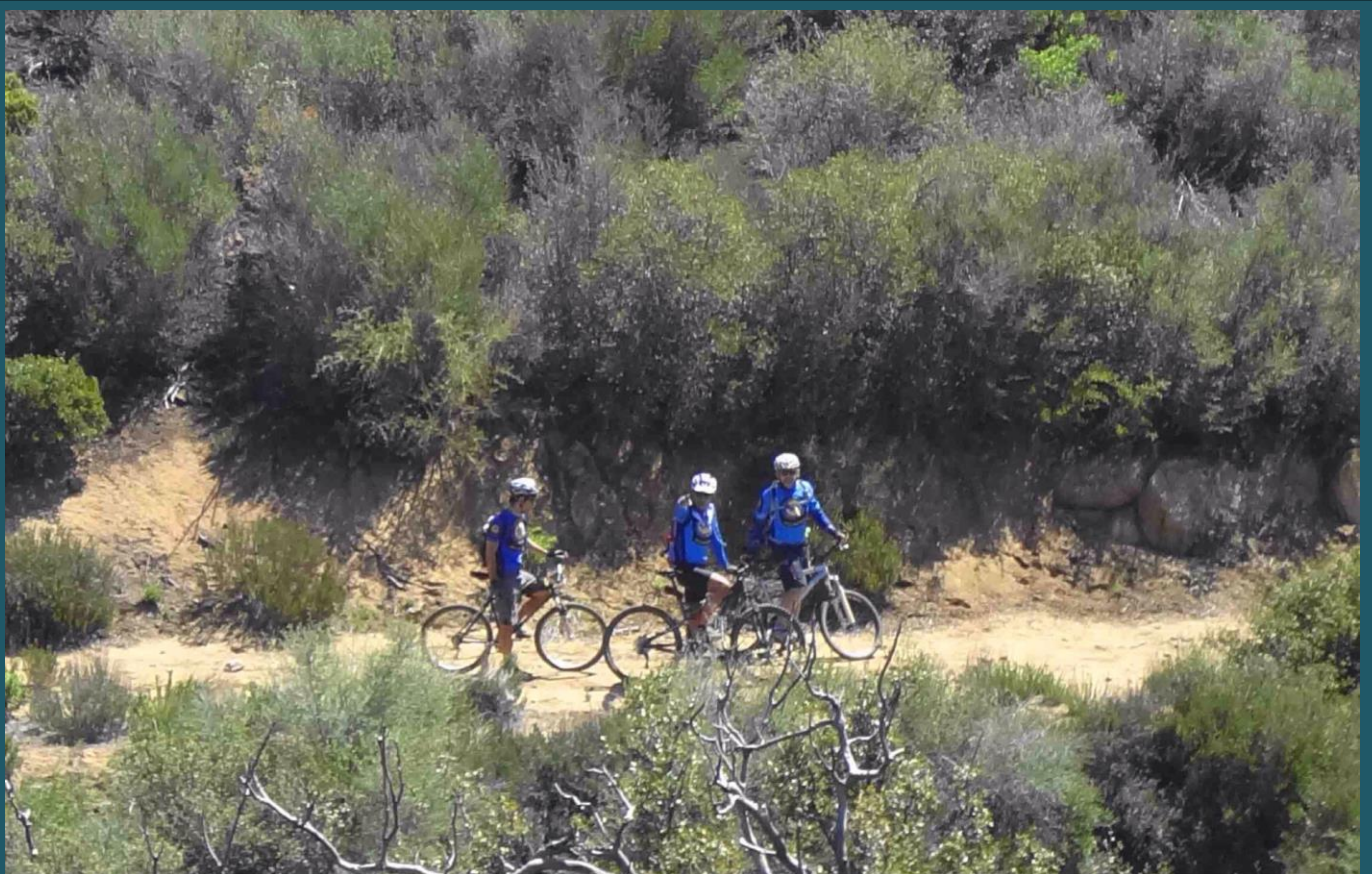
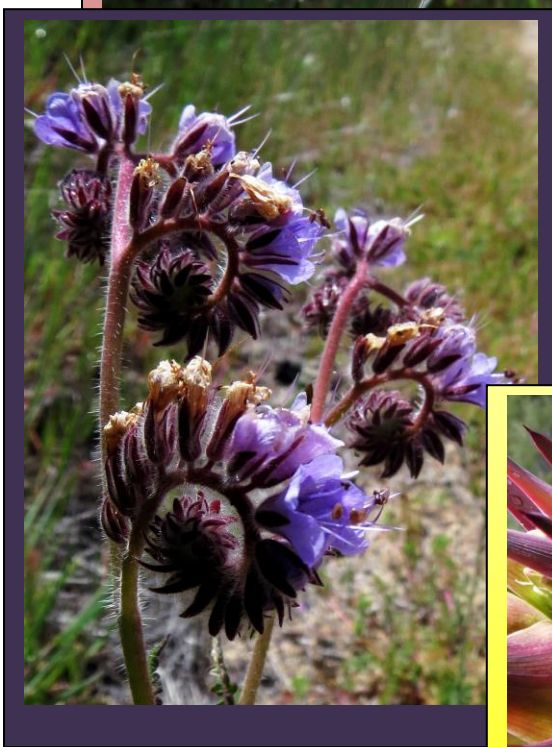
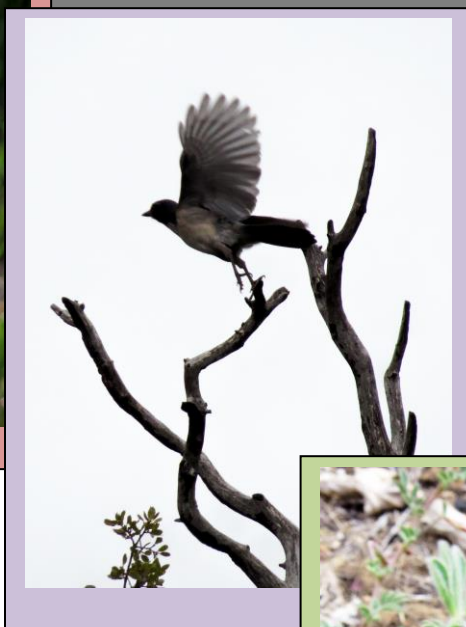
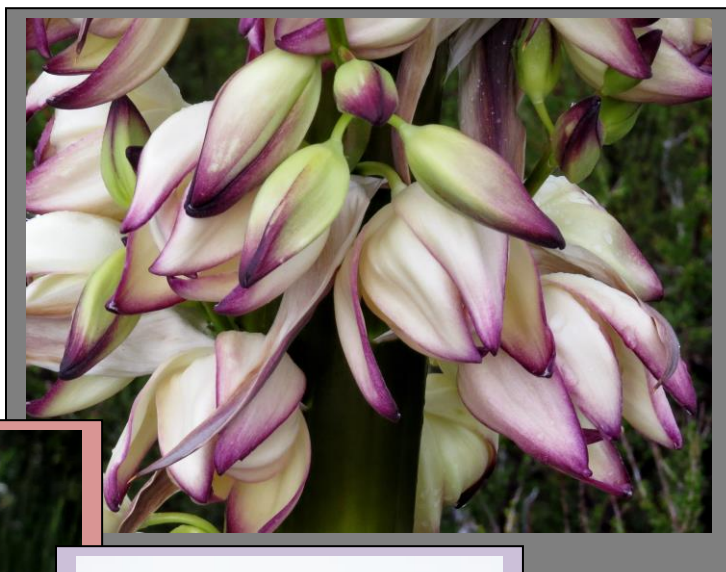
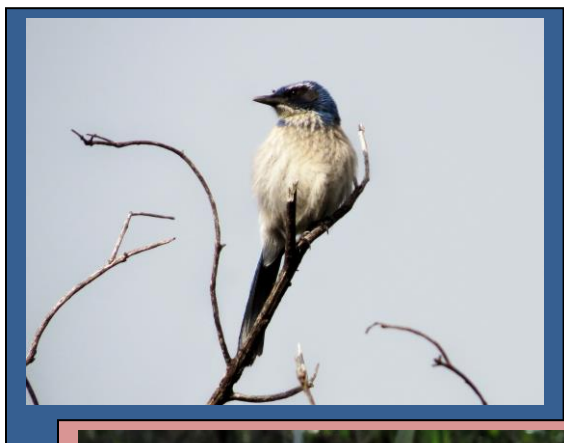
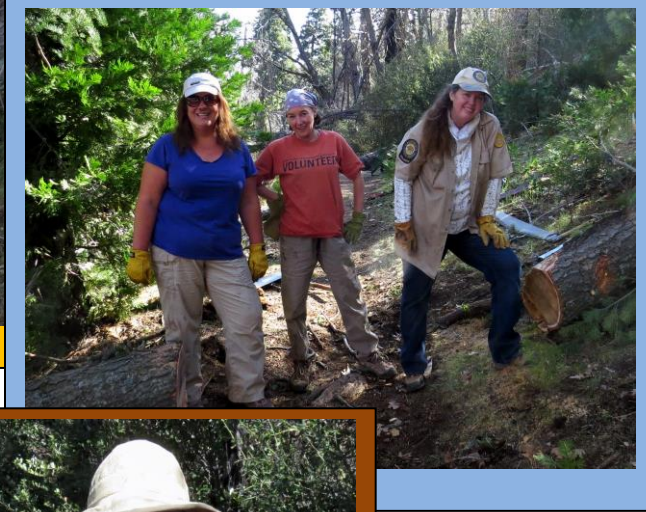


Photo by Steve Boland

Spring Has Sprung



Hike and Hack Strikes Again...



Historical Names and Place names of Cuyamaca and San Diego County by Dave Hernandez

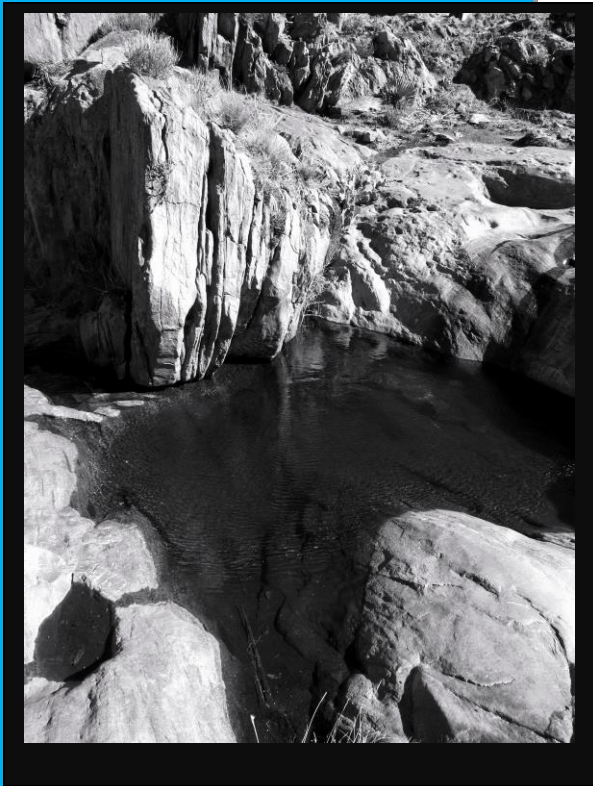
Hi all you Cuyamaca Volunteers, Visitors, and Supporters. Here is an explanation of some place names of Cuyamaca, and some other name-related tidbits I felt like including. For more information you might want to read a book such as "San Diego County Place Names from A to Z" by Leland Fetzer.

First the park name, Cuyamaca. Like lots of words in San Diego it is a roughly phonetic approximation in Spanish of how to say a word in Kumeyaay (From here on I will use the shorter version of Kumeyaay, which is Kumei). The word that Cuyamaca is approximating has been stated as, "ah-Kwee-ah-mak". The two Kumei base words are "ekwii & Emak and they roughly translate as clouds and behind. This makes it the place beyond (behind) the clouds.

The features named Dyar are named for Ralph and Helen Dyar, who are the last private owners of the Cuyamaca Rancho before it was sold to the State in 1933. They sold it for \$125K, a 50% discount from the previously appraised value, a generous thing to do for our future generations. It had been a vacation ranch for them, not their full time home.

Harper Creek, is named for the Harper family. Akim Eli Harper and his two sons Julius and Amby were listed as farmers on the 1870 census. They were early settlers of Rattlesnake Canyon which is to the East of CRSP. They also tried to establish a cattle ranch in the Pinyon Mountain area of what is now ABDSP, and are mentioned in Lester Reed's book of old time cattlemen of Borrego.

I am not aware of a current physical feature named Waterman, nor one named Lassator or Mulkins. However all three were prominent in CRSP's past. James Ruler Lassator settled in Green Valley in 1857. He moved up from Vallecito, where he ran a stage station. He lived in Green Valley with his son James Ruler Lassator Jr, his wife Sarah Mulkins Lassator, and her 3 children. One child was John Mulkins who inherited the Green Valley house when James Ruler Lassator was murdered in Arizona in 1863. Some of the stone from that house was used to build the Dyar house.



Robert W. Waterman was one of the owners of the Stonewall mine. He was the last to make a real go of it, using money from his Silver Mine near Barstow and the knowledge of his son Waldo who was a college educated engineer. He owned it from 1886 to 1891 and pulled about \$1M out of it at about 20 dollars an ounce. He had been elected the Lt. Governor in 1886 and ascended to be the Governor in 1887 when the elected Governor died. Robert Waterman died of pneumonia in 1891.

Kelly's Ditch is named for James Kelly, a rancher who owned the land it was built on. Made in 1894 to divert water to the lake, it washed out that same year.

The Minshall trail is named for Margaret (Marti or Mardi) Minshall who owned a ranch near the junction of Stonewall mine road and the road to Los Caballos. She was a parks supporter who donated that ranch to CRSP, & Oak Oasis to the county park system.

Airplane Monument honors the memory of two pilots, Lieutenant Webber and Colonel Marshall who crashed there in 1922 while trying to fly to Arizona and establish a southern air route across America. The crash and search were big news and an all-out effort was made, but the bodies were not found until May of 1923.

If you want to find out more about these and other place names, see me at May training!



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**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**