

**A PROPOSAL THAT THE  
SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY  
NAME A TRAILHEAD  
IN HONOR AND MEMORY OF HOWARD KAYTON.**

For presentation to the Conservancy Board at its May 21, 2012 meeting.

Presenter: Ernest M. Scheuer<sup>1</sup>, on behalf of many hikers and several hiking groups.

• **Who is Howard Kayton and why should the Conservancy honor him?**

Howard Kayton's efforts strongly advanced a key element of the Conservancy's Mission:

*... to strategically buy back, preserve, protect, restore, and enhance treasured pieces of Southern California to form an interlinking system of urban, rural and river parks, open space, trails, and wildlife habitats that are easily **accessible to the general public*** (emphasis supplied).

The Conservancy does not acquire, preserve, protect, restore, and enhance land in a vacuum. Its efforts would go for naught if members of the public did not use this land. Howard Kayton furthered the Conservancy's Mission by encouraging members of the public to make responsible use of Conservancy land in the Santa Monica Mountains.

Howard was for many years an influential and beloved member of the local (Angeles) Chapter of the Sierra Club. He was a dedicated activist for the Club, with emphasis on Santa Monica Mountains. He was the mainstay of the Tuesday Conditioned Hikers and Tuesday Moderate Hikers groups. He planned and led hikes, recruited and mentored hike leaders, devised new hikes, advocated enjoying the Santa Monica Mountains, brought young people into the mountains through the inner-city outings program, and organized an annual multi-weekend traversal of the entire Backbone Trail. When his terminal illness required him to give up his duties, they had to be split up among three people; no one person was able to carry out all that he did.

---

<sup>1</sup> For purposes of identification, Ernest M. Scheuer, Ph.D. is a retired academic (Professor Emeritus of Management Science and Professor Emeritus of Mathematics at California State University, Northridge). He is a Sierra Club hike leader, Safety Chair of the Santa Monica Mountains Task Force of the Sierra Club's Angeles Chapter, and coordinator of the Tuesday Conditioned Hikers, a group within the SMMTF. Contact him at: 10390 Wilshire Blvd., #1016, Los Angeles, CA 90024; 310-274-7987; ems728@gmail.com.

Mary Ann Webster, Chair of the Santa Monica Mountains Task Force of the Sierra Club's Angeles Chapter, wrote the following item for the March-April 2012 issue of the Chapter's *Southern Sierran* publication:

*Southern Sierran*  
**Obituaries**



**Howard Kayton, Leader, Outings Chair**

Howard Kayton, Sierra Club member, treasured friend, leader and Outings Chair for the Santa Monica Mountains Task Force died of pancreatic cancer Sept. 4 at the age of 74. Howard was the ultimate volunteer and the driving force behind our successful outings programs in the Santa Monica Mountains. As Outings Chair, he did an incredible job for many years of organizing hikes, doing the paperwork and spending countless hours recruiting new hike leaders and discovering new routes in the Santa

Monicas.

Howard likely will be best remembered for the many, hikes he led and the encouragement he gave to members who would become new leaders. He also was a consistent, strong supporter of the task force's environmental activities. Howard leaves behind a loving family and a large community of Sierra Club friends.

—Mary Ann Webster

• **What location is proposed for the Howard Kayton Memorial Trailhead?**

It is the terminus of Stunt High Trail at Stunt Road (Los Angeles County Thomas Guide, p. 589, column E, on the boundary between rows 5 and 6, labeled there as "Cold Creek Fire Rd".) To further fix the location, it is just across Stunt Road from the south end of the Calabasas Peak Motorway.

Howard hiked and led hikes all over the Santa Monica Mountains. He greatly enjoyed hiking from the mentioned trailhead up to Saddle Peak. Accordingly, it is highly appropriate that this trailhead be designated the *Howard Kayton Memorial Trailhead*.

- **Does the proposed trailhead-naming establish a precedent within the Conservancy?**

Not at all. The Conservancy has honored many individuals who have advanced its Mission, for example, Michael Antonovich Open Space, Marvin Braude Mulholland Gateway Park, Jerome Daniel Overlook, Ed Davis Park, Summit Valley Ed Edelman Park, Lois Ewen Overlook, Alisa B. Katz Overlook, Sara Wan Trailhead.

Howard Kayton's contributions to the Conservancy's Mission are of a different nature than those of the aforementioned persons, but nevertheless of high importance. It is directly in line with the Conservancy's *raison d'etre* that it acknowledge the efforts of persons, like Howard, who actively promote the enjoyment of the Santa Monica Mountains by members of the public. Naming a trailhead in Howard Kayton's memory would establish a lofty standard that others would have to meet to be similarly honored.

- **Is it expensive to name a trailhead in honor and memory of Howard Kayton?**

There would be only a minimal cost to make and install a sign reading *HOWARD KAYTON MEMORIAL TRAILHEAD*. There would be no recurring costs.

- **Who is making this proposal?**

As mentioned, it is made on behalf of many hikers and several hiking groups. Virtually all of us are members of the Sierra Club, but we do not speak on behalf of the Club or its Angeles Chapter.

\*\*\*\*\*