

**January 21** A rainy morning. We worked a short day as we were getting cold and wet.

We parked at the campground and went down to the Nature trail to remove a large fallen knob-cone pine. We trimmed it up but left the trunk standing since it was dangerous to remove and was not in anyone's way.

We removed another small tree on the Nature trail then proceeded to Russell Point, removing 4 more trees including a large madrone.

We next went up the Ridge Trail cleaning drainage and trimming up another tree that, again, was not in the way but was difficult to remove.

**February 18** Starting from the campground we continued brushing the north section of the "Face Trail", Ellen Peterson joining the usual four. Starting from where we left off in December we brushed about 1,000' of trail which only needed a minimum of tread work.

**March 17** We continued brushing the north end of the Saratoga Gap Trail but stopped soon after lunch as the weather worsened. We brushed about 600 -700 foot of trail, leaving about another 1,000 feet to do.

**April 21** We were joined today by François and André, father and young son. It was a very hot day but it was cooler up at Castle Rock. We parked by the campground and brushed the Nature Trail and on up to Russell Point. The heat was not oppressive so we kept with with our original intention to finish the brushing of the "Face Trail".

That job completed we had heard rumors of fallen trees by the main parking lot and considered going there to take those trees out but heard other tales that all parking at the main lot and nearby was full. Having seen the continuous stream of hikers in both directions we decided that we would not get to park our four cars there and we went to brush the Frog Flat Trail instead. When there we removed two small fallen madrone trees, 6 inches and 5 inches in diameter.

**April 28** We had a total of 15 volunteers for Trail Days. We parked at Partridge Farm near the Interpretive shelter.

A small group, Ken, Frank and Ed La Pointe, Removed berm and leveled the tread between the Interpretive Shelter and Goat Rock. They then checked out the short loop along the Ridge Trail and back to the Interpretive Shelter. On their way they removed branches from a large fallen oak (24inch) between the Ridge Trail and the shelter.

The remainder, Kevin, Martin and Jayne Kos along with the 9 volunteers from Santa Clara University brushed the Ridge Trail down from Goat Rock.

**May 5** Martin scouted Skyline Trail & Loughry Woods Trail.

### **Skyline Trail**

The CCC crew have done major rock work on the trail section above Hwy 9. Not much was needed on the following road section and beyond that trees close to the trail have been removed and the trail widened as the connector for horse traffic.

A fence has been erected there and signs added, directing hikers to the narrow trail section and bicycle and horse traffic to the connector leading to Skyline Blvd. There is a reroute now to get to the road.

The slide area has been re-worked and to the south the trail has been re-aligned.

There has been no work yet on the pedestrian section and the poison oak patch is presently very bad.

I removed one fallen tanoak, about 8 inches diameter, that was blocking the trail shortly before where the trail narrows.

### **Loughry Woods Trail**

I still don't know if it's "Loughry" or "Loghry"

The section from the end of the wooded area to just past the "Switchback from Hell" needs brushing. Otherwise the trail is in good shape except for brush in the area of fallen tanoaks.

There is one tree down, about 18 inches diameter shortly before the fallen tanoak area. it is an easy "duck-under" and I trimmed some limbs (up to 4 inches) to make passage easier.

I removed a small 6 inch log shortly before the small slide

The small slide needs some shovel work again.

There is a step-over log (8 inches) shortly past the creek bridge.

The chaparral section closest to the Service Road and campground is in particularly good condition.

**May 18** Ed joined our usual crew for this TM session and we worked the Travertine Springs Trail. Leaving Frank at "the Waterworks" we walked down to the Magnetometer Site, took out one small 6 inch tree, then brushed our way back up. Frank has done a really nice job on the horsetails and brush at the wet slide area.

**May 26** Ken and Martin worked the west side of the Travertine Springs Trail. We parked at Tin Can Ranch and cross-countried down to the Toll Road by Tin Can Creek. It is now even more difficult getting up and down there due to the growth of horsetails that hide one's footing.

The area around Tin Can Creek is badly overgrown and is in desperate need of brushing. The big slide area is in similar condition. We did not have time to attend to either of those two jobs on the Toll Road but we did take out our first log (10-inches) at the west end of the slide.

Past Travertine Springs we took out:

- 9-inch oak
- 6-inch and 8-inch old madrone
- 6-inch overhanging branch
- 4 small (to 4-inch) old Madrone
- 9-inch oak east side of San Lorenzo

We brushed on our way back including two places where the brush was bad.

Photos can be seen at <https://picasaweb.google.com/106610948947790867941/120526CastleRockTM>

**June 16** A super hot day. Since Ken was off fire-fighting and Martin could not come that day there was just the three, Frank, Kevin and Ed. They started brushing Travertine Springs Trail from where we left off last month but when the heat got really bad they moved up to the shade of the "Waterworks", then did some light brushing as they retreated after lunch.

**June 23** Ken and Martin made up for missing last weeks TM session by returning to Travertine Springs Trail and carrying on where the others left off. We got to about 300-feet of the “Waterworks”, leaving about 900-feet to complete brushing of the trail. It was a nice COOL day to work down there.

**July 22** Loughry Woods Trail. Another super hot day for the third Saturday. Ken and Frank drove to the campground and worked up, dropping off Kevin, Ed and Martin at the top to work down.

We brushed from the wooded section down to the switchback and a little beyond. We did some brushing by the fallen tanoaks but did not quite complete due to it being sunny and hot there.

Parks Trail Crew had removed the high log noticed earlier but we removed another high one, about 12-inches and a couple of overhead branches. We shoveled and leveled the small slide.

**July 25** Martin scouted the Skyline Trail to see whether any work was needed on that trail. A log was down just at the junction with the bypass trail for horses and is blocking most of the trail. The big saw will be required to take it out. The poison oak patch is very bad again and several places on the hikers-only trail need brushing We should also improve the trail edge in the area close by the big rock.

The northern section does not need any work.

**August 18** A pleasant day for trail-work at last. We missed Ken this month, presumably out fighting fires, but Ed joined the crew again and we had 3 newcomers, Dmitry Sarah and Tim.

We parked by the CDF repeater, half-way along Skyline, and went to work the Skyline Trail southward. At the horses/hikers junction we found not only the known log but a new one too. This big log had fallen, at an angle CLEAN through the “gate” causing no damage to the fence at all. There cannot have been more than 1 mm clearance each side. Dmitry took a photo with his cell-phone camera. I hope he sends me a copy.

We took out both logs. Frank had to return home to fetch wedges and axe to take out the new log since we were afraid to get the saw stuck otherwise (Ken always has wedges and axe). We cleared the poison oak patch and brushed and scraped. We used rock to reinforce the outside edge of tread near the big rock. We had a busy day.

**September 15** Only Ken and Kevin were able to work the September TM session this year. We hope to have the full crew back for October. They worked down from the parking lot to The Falls and beyond to the start of the chaparral. On the way down they removed a 10-inch step-over log and beyond the falls shored up the edge of the trail with rock in two places. They also did the usual brushing.

**October 17** Martin (with Stu Langdoc) scouted the Castle Rock Trail for two reasons: to check out trees that have fallen against an important climbing rock and to check sources of rock close to a deteriorating puncheon before building a rock drain instead.

The fallen trees do impact the rock but removing one of them would not be an easy job. A dangerous cut has to be made from on top of the rock before the lower part may be tackled. It is a teeter-totter situation. I do not feel that our group is competent to handle this.

Regarding removal of the puncheon and replacing with a rock drain, I believe that there is enough rock nearby to do just that.

We also cut and removed a 9-inch duck-under oak close to the deteriorating puncheon

**October 20** We had the full crew, Martin, Frank, Ken, Kevin and Ed. We worked the Travertine Springs Trail, brushing from where Ken and Martin left off on June 23, to the top. We also took out a dead 7-inch tree, that seemed in danger of falling, on the road trail by the creek.

**October 27** Ken and Martin met to finish off work that still needed to be done on the Skyline Trail. We mainly scraped and leveled from where we left off in August to the south end of the “hikers only” section of trail. The horse trail to Skyline Blvd and the multi-use trail south to Skyline did not need work. We also built two small sections of rock wall to reinforce the trail edge.

**November 17** A wet day today, rain gradually diminished during the day but stayed to the end.

We met Stu Langdoc at Saratoga Gap, then drove to the main parking lot. Our plan was to see what we could do about the trees that had fallen against “Parking Lot Rock” and also replace the damaged puncheon on the Castle Rock Trail, and attend to any other problems nearby.

It was too wet and slippery to get up on the rock so Frank and Ken cut out the bottom half of one of the two trees. Kevin and Martin, meanwhile, worked on the puncheon, removing the old rotting structure and replacing it with a rock drain “armored crossing”. We all then headed down to a job that needed doing beyond the falls but came across a 11/12-inch fallen tan-oak on the way down. that tree took considerable time to deal with as it slid down to the trail as each cut removed the lowest section that had previously caused the trail blockage.

**December 8** Martin and Ken went looking for downed trees after the recent storms. From the main parking lot they went down past the falls, then up the Connector Trail to the Ridge Trail and Goat Rock, along the way clearing:

1. 12” oak on way to falls
2. 11” madrone on way to falls
3. 10” madrone on way to falls
4. 6” fir bottom of Ridge Trail;
5. 14” oak past falls
6. 8” oak on Ridge Trail
7. 9” oak on Ridge Trail
8. 8” oak on stairs by side of Goat Rock

on the way to Martin’s car left at Partridge Farm.

**December 15** Ken, Kevin and Martin parked at Partridge Farm to work on an eroded section of the Saratoga Gap Trail just south of the Connector Trail. On our way down we removed a 9-inch oak just past the Interpretive Shelter, then found a large oak across the trail by Emily Smith. We cut a tunnel through the mess since we deemed it too dangerous to remove the large limbs holding up the trunk and did not want to reroute through the meadow.

We started tread renovation on the Saratoga Gap trail but did not get very far as there were only three of us and rain shortened our day.

**December 29** Ken went out on his own. He walked the Ridge Trail, the Connector Trail, part of the Saratoga Gap Trail and the Nature trail by the campground. He removed numerous small limbs, particularly on the north side of the Ridge Trail, just trimming up a 12-inch oak duck-under between the campground and the Connector Trail.