

## 9. AC100 Volunteers and Trail Building



*The Echo Mtn/Sam Merrill trail day, March 31, '01. L to R, more or less: Dana Taylor, Ken Gregorich, Jennifer Johnston, Elena Sherman, Scott Sullivan, Linda McFadden, Robert Blair, Mark Marcelli, Duke Bartoo, Gary Kalina, Russ Raymond, and Dave Penney.*

### **SoCal Trail Work: First Installment**

Boys and girls, spring is here and that means one thing and one thing only—it's time for Hal Winton to lead a bunch of civic-minded fun-hawgs up into the San Gabriels for trail work.

Were you at home, perhaps decoding the mysteries of "Battlefield Earth" on DVD? Hint: Denise Richards was in "Starship Troopers", so you flunk.

The scene of all the hot action this day was on the Sam Merrill Trail about a mile below the Mt Lowe Rd/Idle Hour Junction. This alone brings tears to the eyes of many of you...I know, I'm the same way. One eye or the other, oh well!

The work: Oh yes, a long curved section that had gotten severely overgrown had been obligingly trimmed back by some of the Velo-Studs of the Mt Wilson Mtn Bike Association. Now, Enter the Winton.

This stretch of trail was leveled and buffed to a degree unthinkable when I

had passed thru there only a week earlier. I was bent over double like I had cramps and was getting a scalp massage from the overgrown manzanita. Of course matters were not helped by liberal dousings of slush and conservative foot-placing opportunities. It now has "Buckle Freeway" written all over it.

The day's assault was spearheaded by a fine collection of RDs and champions—notably Gary Kalina, Jennifer Johnston, Duke Bartoo, Dave Penny, Scott Sullivan, Elena Sherman, the ever-shirtless Mark Marcelli, Dana Taylor and yours truly LG.

Don't be shy about not showing up! Hal is only 69 and he's kicking all of our sorry asses out there, leading by example.

I'd like to share with you a little something that has changed for the better, that famous footbridge at Idle Hour from the Mt Wilson Toll Road. It has gone the way of all good things, it made many generations of termites fat and happy.

Here goes:

*Date: Sat, 7 Apr 2001 16:47:51 -0700*

*Subject: Idlehour Trail Bridge*

*Completion:*

*From: "Harold L. Winton"*

*To: Ken and Larry:*

*We finished the bridge Thursday. It looks very good to us. A hell of an overkill but for a few dollars more it won't fall down for a generation or two. Due to the blue print design and my own decisions we have effectively stringers that would hold up a 4 foot wide tractor (outside stringers are a total of 10X10 inches). Mike Roberts ANF Roads Engineer came up after we finished and took digital pictures for the records.*

Pretty cool huh? I think so. See you on the trails.

—Larry Gassan