



Rancho Simi Trail Blazers

A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation



**Aida E. Reyes
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TRAILS OF THE SIMI HILLS MAP

A new map has been recently published that will be of special interest to Simi Valley hikers.

A comprehensive trail map covering the Simi Hills, it shows the region bounded on the north by the 118 Freeway, south by the 101 Freeway, west by the 23 Freeway and on the east by Valley Circle Blvd. in the San Fernando Valley.

It is a full color, waterproof map that shows trail elevations and trail mileages between junctions and contains latitude-longitude as well as UTM coordinates. More detailed maps of Oak Park, Challenger Park and Oak Canyon Community Park are on the reverse side.

“Trails of the Simi Hills Recreation Map”, ISBN 0-89997-457-0, Wilderness Press \$9.95.

Many thanks to the author Gary Liss for his great work.

John Sabol 11/16/07

RSTB CLUB MEETING

This month’s club meeting will be held at the Community Center
Room B-1
1692 Sycamore Drive
at 7:00 PM
on
January 16, 2008



ON LINE MEMBER FORUM

The RSTB website now has a new and special feature: an on-line interactive Member Forum .

To access the Forum, go to <http://www.simitrailblazers.com> and click on Forum, found on the left-hand menu. The Simi Trailblazers Forum page will then open.

To use the Forum, you’ll first need to register (click on the Register icon). Once you’re logged in, you’ll have access to several great features, like on-line discussion groups and the Event Calendar. Other features include, sending private email to any other registered member and a Search feature to quickly find discussion topics.



RSTB LOGO T-SHIRTS

Are your old logo T-shirts worn out?

We still have short sleeve, long sleeve, and sweat shirts in assorted sizes and colors. Prices are:

- short sleeve \$12
- long sleeve \$14
- sweat shirt \$18



Please call Marty if you’d like to place an order: 805-526-4414.



UPCOMING EVENTS

JANUARY 5TH Mt. Hollywood Trail
Please see the website for more info.

JANUARY 12th Devil Canyon to Brown’s Canyon Road
Please see the website for more info.

JANUARY 19th...8:00 am - Noon Work Party-Hummingbird Trail
Please see the website for more info.

JANUARY 26th...Ahmanson Ranch-Lasky Mesa
Please see the website for more info

More information on these events can be found at
<http://simitrailblazers.com>

To make reservations, please email Mark Gilmore at
markinthepark@sbcglobal.net

DECEMBER WORK PARTY NEWS

Three Trail Blazers worked on the Hummingbird Trail on December 15th. Participants included Bill Cespedes, Mike Kuhn and John Sabol. Thanks to all for their efforts.

It would be great to have more people join us for the work parties. The work is quite rewarding.



FEATHERS

We are familiar with the idea that American Indians used feathers. The image contained on one of the Tapo Citrus labels was of an Indian in a full, plains Indian feathered headdress. The most widely known photograph of a full-blooded Chumash Indian is of Rafael Solares. He was photographed during the 1870s in the regalia of a solar shaman (He was the last of the solar shaman among the Chumash.) That picture shows him in a feathered headdress. Drawings of Indians performing dances usually include feathers in a headdress and often with feathered capes, i.e., a Chumash eagle dancer, feathered items in the hands, etc. An examination of California Indian baskets in the Hermitage, a museum in St. Petersburg, Russia, suggests that baskets were normally made with feathers incorporated in the full bodies of the baskets. So, what's with the feathers?

Feathers were used by some American Indians to denote status and achievement in battle. That Great Plains war bonnet that is shown on the Tapo Citrus orange crate label is not of a chief. On the Great Plains, Indians won the right to wear a feather after taking "coup", i.e., touching an enemy in battle. Sometimes a plains Indian would also receive from other Indians feathers they had received for their own acts in battle as recognition and esteem. Those feathers were intimately related to acquisition of power, which is related to their religious beliefs.

For the Chumash and for most other Indians, feathers were used for religious purposes. Their dances were religious rights. Rafael's headdress was used in ceremonies relating to the sun. The eagle dancers' feathered capes and headdresses were used during the eagle dance. I have written elsewhere that birds were thought to have access to the spirit world, i.e., they could fly to it. "The Hummingbird's Nest (as in the ranch at the northern end of Kuehner Drive) was a sacred Place. The shaman was widely thought to be transformed into a bird during a vision quest. Pictographs and petroglyphs of shaman often show them with three digits on each hand and each foot – in other words, in a state of transformation into a bird. The acquisition of feathers was not always something that everyone was allowed to do, and the use of feathers was not simply symbolic. So the use of feathers in American Indian culture should not be taken lightly.

Mike Kuhn 12-8-04



CHRISTMAS PARTY 2007



PORTOLA AND THE GRIZZLIES OF SAN LUIS OBISPO

[Drawn from Tracy I Storer and Lloyd P. Tevis, Jr., *California Grizzly* (1996), pp. 107-112]

In 1769 Captain Gaspar de Portola led a band of Spanish military personnel and representative of the Catholic Church from what is now southern Baja California north to

present day San Diego and from their north to find Monterey Bay, which had been discovered during the 1600s by the mariner Sebastian Vizcaino and which had been described by him in glowing terms as potentially a great port. In September of 1769 Portola and his small band came to a somewhat marshy valley near the present-day San Luis Obispo. In the valley they were astounded to see "troops" of grizzly bears in the process of digging up bulbs and other tubers. Having acquired a taste for grizzly bear meat further south in what is now Santa Barbara County and being critically short of food, a bear hunt was quickly organized. They hunted from horse and mule backs. The first bruin was hit nine times before going down – and then only after attacking the horsemen with great fury. Two mule mounts were injured by another bear, which was shot at "seven or eight times" – the final shot to the head.

The commander of the hunt was Lieutenant Pedro Fages. He was impressed by the skill and boldness of the bears. He wrote "They are ferocious brutes, hard to hunt; they attack the hunter with incredible quickness and courage...he can only escape on a swift horse. They do not give up unless they are shot either in the head or in the heart." Three days later, the Spanish band refused a gift of a grizzly bear cub from the Indians. The valley of the hunt was given the name La Canada de los Osos (The Valley of the Bears). On their return trip from the San Francisco area, Portola's men were in a near-starving condition, so they looked forward to another stay in The Valley of the Bears. There, they shot one bear and a cub – feasting on the meat. Two and half years later, in May of 1772, the supply ship for Missions San Carlos and San Antonio having failed to materialize, Pedro Fages and thirteen soldiers returned to The Valley of the Bears. They remained for three months, eating bear meat, and sent 25 loads, about 9,000 pounds, of jerked bear meat back to the missions. The Valley of the Bears provided the sustenance that the missions needed to see them through until the arrival of the next supply ship.

Mike Kuhn 7-6-07

December 1st 2007 - Devils Punchbowl to Devil's Chair

Today, six intrepid Simi Trail Blazers braved chilly temperatures and a biting wind to hike the Devil's Punchbowl Trail, from the Nature Center parking lot to the Devil's Chair on the north slope of the San Gabriel Mountains overlooking the Antelope Valley (the trailhead is several miles south of Pearblossom). There was a light dusting of snow on the ground; the air was crisp and clear.

The Devil's Punchbowl is the point where the San Andreas Fault and the Punchbowl Fault meet; it's part of the San Andreas Rift Zone. The resulting geological formations and their coloring were awe-inspiring. The hike was 8.3 miles with 2,180' of total ascent. Much of the hike is shaded by large pine trees and is sheltered from the wind. It was a very memorable and rewarding hike.





RSTB Calendar January 2008



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Happy New Year!! <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Gabe Sende</i> (No Hike)	2	3 Chumash Trail 6pm hike See Schedule	4	5 Mt. Hollywood Trail See Schedule
6 Rocky Peak 4pm hike See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Tom Siebert</i>	7	8 Long Canyon 6:30pm hike See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Glenida Billiot</i>	9	10 Chumash Trail 6pm hike See Schedule	11	12 Devil Canyon to Brown's Canyon Road See Schedule
13 Rocky Peak 4pm hike See Schedule	14	15 Long Canyon 6:30pm hike See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Emily Carroll</i>	16 RSTB Meeting See Page 1	17 Chumash Trail 6pm hike See Schedule	18	19 Work Party – Hummingbird Trail See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Steve Fowler</i> <i>Floyd Martin</i>
20 Rocky Peak 4pm hike See Schedule	21	22 Long Canyon 6:30pm hike See Schedule	23	24 Chumash Trail 6pm hike See Schedule	25 <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Carol Loessin-Maggart</i>	26 Ahmanson Ranch-Lasky Mesa See Schedule
27 Rocky Peak 4pm hike See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Rick Ehrecke</i>	28	29 Long Canyon 6:30pm hike See Schedule	30 <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Daniel DeGoey</i>	31		



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Hiking Schedule



REGULARLY SCHEDULED HIKES

(Rain cancels – No hikes on holidays)

Sunday Evening - Rocky Peak

Meet 4pm at Rocky Peak trailhead at the end of Rocky Peak Rd off Santa Susana Pass. (Strenuous, 4.8 MRT)
(Meet at 5pm during daylight savings time)

Tuesday Evening - Long Canyon

Meet at 6:30pm in Long Canyon parking lot. Directions: Take First Street South. Continue when the road's name changes to Long Canyon Road. The parking lot is at the intersection of Long Canyon Road and Wood Ranch Pkwy. (Moderate, 3.0 MRT)

Thursday Evening - The Chumash Trail

Meet at 6pm at Chumash trailhead. Directions - take 118 Fwy to Yosemite exit. Go north on Yosemite, turn right on Flanagan Dr. Trailhead is at the end of Flanagan Dr. (Strenuous, 5.2 MRT)

JANUARY HIKES

January 5th - Mt. Hollywood Trail*

5 MRT - Moderate (1,026' elevation gain/loss)

Mt Hollywood is by far the most popular hiking trail in all of Griffith Park. One of the reasons for its popularity is access and a million dollar view of Los Angeles, including the Pacific Ocean and eastern San Fernando Valley. Please see the RSTB website for more information about this hike. Meet at the 118 & Stearns St. Park & Ride at 8 AM. Bring 2-3 qts of water and a snack. Wear boots.

January 12th - Devil Canyon to Brown's Canyon Road*

9 MRT - Moderate (1,100' elevation gain)

The trail follows Devil Creek upstream through the heavily shaded Devil Canyon, gradually gaining elevation, until it meets Brown's Canyon Road near the northern end of the Rocky Peak Fire Road. Oak trees, interesting rock formations, a variety of flowering plants, and solitude abound. Meet at the 118 & Stearns St. Park & Ride at 8 AM. Bring 2 to 3 quarts of water and a snack. Wear boots.

January 19th - Work Party - Hummingbird Trail


Meet at the Hummingbird trailhead. Bring 2 to 3 quarts of water, hat, sunscreen, and gloves to work on the trail.

January 26th - Ahmanson Ranch - Lasky Mesa*

9.5 MRT - Easy (500' elevation gain)

The first part of our hike takes you through gently rolling hills dotted with huge, spectacular oak trees. After a loop around Lasky Mesa, the hike heads northwest to Las Virgenes Canyon where a small creek nurtures a more densely covered area along the banks of the stream. Please see the RSTB website for more information about this hike. Meet at 8 AM near Donut Delite at the corner of Madera and Royal. Bring 2 to 3 quarts of water and a snack. Wear boots.

* Not within the jurisdiction of the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District.

 No dogs allowed on trail(s).

For more information on hikes/work parties, contact the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District at 805-584-4400.

Special Note: - On all hikes and work parties, bring water and wear lug-soled boots.

<http://www.simitrailblazers.com>

LANCHO SIMI TRAIL BLAZERS

A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation

Executive Chair:	Mike Kuhn	HM (805) 583-2345	hannahmike@roadrunner.com
Treasurer:	Peter Ely		
Park District Liaison:	Colleen Janssen	WK (805) 584-4453	volunteers@rsrpd.us
Work Parties Chair:		*** OPEN ***	
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Ways & Means Chair:	Marty Richards	HM (805) 526-4414	
Publicity Chair:	Carrie McCline		
Newsletter Editor:	Linda Travis		linda.travis@bigfoot.com

-----cut out and return with your payment-----

MEMBERSHIP

Please enroll me as a New () or Renewing () member of the Rancho Simi Trail Blazers for the annual donation fee of:

Single.....\$10

Family..... \$15

Name(s) _____ Birth Mo. ____ Day ____

Address _____

Email Address _____ Phone wk/hm _____

Would you like to receive periodic email announcements about club activities? Yes() No ()

How did you find out about the RSTB _____

Please make out tax deductible member dues check for the year to:

“Rancho Simi Foundation” mail it to “RSTB, P.O. Box 630445, Simi Valley, Ca 93063-0399

Please list any extra names and birthdays of more than one member (Month & Day Only)



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