



Rancho Simi Trail Blazers

A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation



Save the Date!



Free Wild Animal Shows

Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District and the Rancho Simi Trailblazers will sponsor two FREE family programs in February and March.

Oak Park

Saturday, February 20, 10:00 am
Oak Park Community Center
1000 N. Kanan Road, Oak Park

Simi Valley

Saturday, March 20, 10:00 am
Rancho Santa Susana Community Center, 5005-C Los Angeles Ave,
Simi Valley



Both programs will start at 10am. Watch for more details about these popular programs in upcoming newsletters! You may also send email to volunteers@rsrpd.us for more information.

A HAPPY
NEW YEAR

DECEMBER WORK PARTY

The Trail Blazers December trail work party was held on the China Flat Trail in Oak Park. We were joined by five members of Boy Scout Troup 10 Reseda, consisting of two leaders and three boy scouts. A considerable amount of work was accomplished with major sections of rutted trail repaired and brush blocking the trail removed.



Many thanks to Trail Blazers Martin DeGoey and John Sabol, Troup 10 leaders Brad Haehnel and Tamber Johnson and scouts Hayden Johnson, Ryan Lake and Griffin Thill.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Please visit the website at <http://simitrailblazers.com> for details on any of the following hikes and events.

January 2nd

Long Canyon & Lang Ranch Loop
6-mile loop OR optional 8.5-mile loop
(Moderate w/ 1,100' gain)

January 9th (Rescheduled from December 12, 2009) Las Lajas Canyon and Chumash Trail Loop
7 MRT (Easy w/ 400' gain) OR optional 9.5-mile loop (Moderate w/ 1,200' gain)

January 16th (Work Party Rescheduled to January 23rd) Cheeseboro Canyon / Palo Comado Canyon Loop

10.3-mile loop (Moderate w/ 1,200' gain) OR an optional shorter RT w/ less gain

January 20th

Club Meeting Not strenuous

January 23rd (Rescheduled from January 16th)

Work Party - Upper Hummingbird Trail

January 30th

Danielson Memorial

6 MRT - Moderate (1000' elev. gain)

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.

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



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

THE 1861 PLAT OF RANCHO SIMI

In January 1861, the Rancho Simi was finally confirmed to Jose de la Guerra y Noriega by the U.S. Surveyor General. The actual signature on the map, by J. W. Mandeville, U.S. Surveyor General California, is dated March 19, 1861. Ironically, the confirmation came about two years after the death of Jose de la Guerra.

The map provides compass headings and distances in "chains" (ten square chains equals one acre). The perimeter of the Rancho Simi measured 4,614.23 chains, which equals 57 miles 54 chains and 23 links - a good trivia question and answer! According to the survey, the rancho contained 113,009 and 21/100 acres. True to the surveyors' craft, the scale of the map is 160 chains to the inch. (Boy, am I glad we don't use that scale any more.)

The location of the Simi Adobe is shown and is labeled "Francisco Noriega". The rancho headquarters had moved up to the Tapo by then. No doubt the surveyors were unaware of the move.

As with the 1858 survey of the area, the mountains north of Simi Valley seem to be unnamed. However, Oak Ridge seems to be called "Loma Barancosas", or Barancosas slope.

The hills south of Simi Valley are labeled "Sierra de Santa Susanna". As with the 1858 survey, what we now call the Simi Hills were then called the Santa Susanna Mountains. It is very clear from this map that the Spanish/Mexican name for the mountains was the Santa Susanna Mountains, and only later, during the Anglo-American period of settlement, was the name changed. Hopefully, this was not another mistake by the federal government (remember that the U.S. Geological Survey seemed to have changed "Las Lajas" to "Las Llajas").

The "road to Simi" is shown as going through the "Las Posas Valley", while a trail is shown as going up the canyon ("Des Ravina") at the eastern end of Simi Valley near the orifice of the railroad tunnel. Also labeled there is "Trail in Puerta Suela or Bajos de Santa Susanna". The first reference is to "the pass" and the second is to the Santa Susana Pass. This is interesting in that we can conclude from the geometry of what is shown on the map that the trail over Santa Susana Pass was probably the same route followed in 1861 by the Stagecoach Road. Indeed, the route followed by the El Camino Real over the pass was undoubtedly an Indian trail before it was used by the Spanish. Being intentionally vague, a Ferandeno shrine appears to be present along the old Stagecoach Road.

The other road that is shown on the map in the Simi Valley area is the "Conejo and Simi road in Puento".

Since the road is shown in the pass where the old Simi Road ran between present day Wood Ranch and the Lang Ranch, it is tempting to suggest that "Puento" should have been "Puerta" (pass). However, "Puento" seems to be clearly written.

The lowlands which now connect the upper reaches of Skeleton and Lindero canyons seems to be labeled "Canada del Puerta Suela", although there is some question whether "Suela" might not be something else. If it is "Suela," then it means canyon of the pass - which seems to fit.

"Canada de Lindero" is there, where Lindero Canyon is today. The "boundary" between the Rancho Simi, El Conejo Rancho and Rancho Los Vergines is a straight line running just west of Simi Peak down to the old "Santa Barbara-Los Angeles Road" (now the "101"). "Lindero" of course means "boundary." The survey line terminated at a "Dead Sycamore."

The survey corner markers include a "Manzanita Bush" (southwestern

corner), an oak, and several "rock mounds." One corner (north-central) is established by a compass heading and is 60.00 chains from "some double oak witness corner." It would be very interesting to see if some of the "rock mounds" are still present. At least two of the rock mounds are shown where their locations are somewhat accessible. If present, they may date to the late 1700s or perhaps a little later.

To cap it all off, it seems that the Surveyor General's Office of California didn't have a seal. So they drew one.

Mike Kuhn
1-20-98

BAKED IN COALS

One of John Peabody Harrington's Chumash informants remembers that they made balls of meal and baked them by burying them in the *rescolda*, i.e., coals of the fire. Those that he saw made that way were of wheat flour. He ate these many times. Instead of baking them on a "*comal*" (a steatite slab used by the Indians as frying pans and for heating water) or anything else, "they baked it thus." The cakes were about five inches in diameter, two inches thick and round in shape. They were called *ikujash*. (from the notes of John Peabody Harrington)

This technique of cooking was traditional among the Chumash. Ground seed, including sages, islay (holly-leaf cherry), various grasses, and acorns were included. While wheat flour was done this way, the method of cooking seems to have remained the same. The wheat flour may or may not have included preparation with yeast.

Mike Kuhn
12-1-04

December 11th 2009 - Holiday Party

The Trail Blazers 2009 Christmas Party was held Friday, December 11 at Ursula Christie's home. Approximately twenty-five adventurers attended the annual potluck event which had an international flair. All the dishes were scrumptious and Betty Cameron's paella was the talk of the dinner. Thanks to lots of delicious food, drink and good companionship, a great time was had by all. Special thanks to Ursula for extending the hospitality of her home to the Trail Blazers for the evening.



December 5th 2009 - Bicycle Ride: Arroyo Simi Bike Path - Simi Valley



On a sunny and cool morning, we gathered in what was the old 123 InkJets parking lot, located conveniently across the street from the western entrance to the bike path. The western end of the Arroyo has quite a bit of water and supports a good deal of wildlife, mostly birds. Soon after the ride began, we spotted a great blue heron in the Arroyo. There were also number of egrets and ducks of several species. The path extended a bit further than expected, so in total we rode about 14 miles round trip.



The morning was over all too quickly and everyone enjoyed this very different Trail Blazer activity.



November 28th 2009 - Wildwood Park: Santa Rosa Trail Loop and Paradise Falls Figure Eight Loop

The Wildwood Park hike on Saturday the 28th of November was on a perfect Fall day. We hit the Santa Rosa trail first/ With a few missteps, we made it to the Paradise Falls trail.

We hiked to the falls and had our lunch there. We turned around and hike to our cars. There were 9 of us: Doug and Margarita, Cliff and Betty, Lori, Caroline, Sherrie, Beth, Bart and Roger. It was about a 9-mile hike with our missteps, but a success for the exercise alone.





RSTB Calendar January 2010



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 HAPPY NEW YEAR! <i>Happy Birthday</i> Gabe Sende Karleen Volz	2 Long Canyon & Lang Ranch Loop See Schedule
3 Rocky Peak Fire Road 4pm hike See Schedule	4	5 Long Canyon 6:30pm hike See Schedule	6 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Tom Siebert	7 Chumash Trail 6pm hike See Schedule	8	9 Las Lajas Canyon and Chumash Trail Loop See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Angie Zarcone
10 Rocky Peak Fire Road 4pm hike See Schedule	11 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Densen Buenconsejo Jim Lightfoot Nick Stantzos Andrew Anderson	12 Long Canyon 6:30pm hike See Schedule	13 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Brianna Baker	14 Chumash Trail 6pm hike See Schedule	15 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Emily Carroll	16 Cheeseboro Canyon / Palo Comado Canyon Loop See Schedule
17 Rocky Peak Fire Road 4pm hike See Schedule	18	19 Long Canyon 6:30pm hike See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Steve Fowler Floyd Martin Mark Zorick	20 RSTB Meeting 7:00 pm See Page 1	21 Chumash Trail 6pm hike See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Sherri Borden	22 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Linda Anderson	23 Work Party Upper Hummingbird Trail See Schedule
24 Rocky Peak Fire Road 4pm hike See Schedule	25 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Carol Loessin-Maggart Bradford McCoy	26 Long Canyon 6:30pm hike See Schedule	27	28 Chumash Trail 6pm hike	29	30 Danielson Memorial See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Lori Richards Daniel DeGoey
31 Rocky Peak Fire Road 4pm hike See Schedule						



Rancho Simi Trail Blazers

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Hiking Schedule



REGULARLY SCHEDULED HIKES

(Rain cancels – No hikes on holidays)

Sunday Evening - Rocky Peak Fire Road

Meet at 4PM at the Rocky Peak Fire Road trailhead. Take the Rocky Peak exit from the 118 Fwy. Meet at the north end of the bridge; don't park on the bridge. (Moderate to strenuous, depending on distance hiked. 4.8 MRT)

Tuesday Evening - Long Canyon

Meet at 6:30pm in Long Canyon parking lot. Directions: Take 1st Street heading 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. (Moderate to strenuous, depending on distance hiked. 5.2 MRT)

JANUARY HIKES AND ACTIVITIES

January 2nd - Long Canyon & Lang Ranch Loop 6-mile loop OR optional 8.5-mile loop (Moderate w/ 1,100' gain)
A fine local hike with plenty of good views. Directions: take 118 Fwy to First Street exit. Take First Street south (it becomes Long Canyon Rd) approx. 4 miles, until it intersects Wood Ranch Parkway. Meet at **8 AM at the intersection of Long Canyon Rd and Wood Ranch Parkway**. Bring 2 - 3 quarts of water and trail snacks. Wear boots.

January 9th - Las Lajas Canyon and Chumash Trail Loop **(Rescheduled from December 12, 2009)**

7 MRT (Easy w/400' gain) OR optional 9.5-mile loop (Moderate w/1,200' gain)
Hike through a beautiful local canyon. Bring 3 quarts of water and a snack. Wear sturdy shoes. Meet at **8 AM at the Las Lajas / Northridge trailhead on Evening Star Drive**. Longer hike option: continue on up to Rocky Peak Fire Road and hike the Chumash Trail out. Once we arrive at Flannigan Drive, we'll walk a few blocks, through the local neighborhood, and take the Northridge Trail back to our cars. A map is available here: <http://www.lamountains.com/maps/rocky.peak.pdf>.

January 16th* - (Work Party rescheduled for January 23rd) Cheeseboro Canyon / Palo Comado Canyon Loop*

10.3 MRT (Moderate w/ 1,200' gain) OR an optional shorter RT w/ less gain
Walk among the oaks, follow a stream past Sulphur Springs to Shepherd's Flat and Sheep Corral, and return via Palo Comado Canyon. Meet at **8 AM near Donut Delite** near the corner of Madera and Royal. Please visit the website for links to additional information about this hike.

January 20th - Club Meeting

7 PM - The Sycamore Drive Community Center - 1692 Sycamore Drive - Room B-1

January 23rd - Work Party - Upper Hummingbird Trail **(Rescheduled from January 16th)**

Meet at **8:00 A.M. at the Rocky Peak Trailhead**. We will drive to the top of the trail and work down. Bring 2 to 3 quarts of water, hat, sunscreen, and gloves to work on the trail. Wear sturdy boots. Tools will be provided. As always, you are welcome to work for a shorter time period if you desire. Hope to see you there.

January 30th* - **Danielson Memorial**  - 6 MRT - Moderate (1000' elevation gain)

Visit a waterfall and the Danielson Memorial, view the Oxnard Plain and Channel Islands from Old Boney Road. Meet at **8 AM near Donut Delite** near 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.

For 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>



No dogs allowed on trail(s).

RANCHO SIMI TRAIL BLAZERS

A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation

Executive Chair:	Mike Kuhn	HM (805) 583-2345	hannahmike@me.com
Treasurer:	Peter Ely		
Park District Liaison:	Colleen Janssen	WK (805) 584-4453	volunteers@rsrpd.us
Work Parties Chair:		*** OPEN ***	
Hiking Chair:	Mark Gilmore	HM (805) 529-5581	markinthepark@sbcglobal.net
Vice Hiking Chair:	Les Wilson	HM (805) 522-2642	les.wilson@roadrunner.com
Website:	Mark Gilmore	HM (805) 529-5581	markinthepark@sbcglobal.net
Ways & Means Chair:	Marty Richards	HM (805) 526-4414	mlrrdh@yahoo.com
Publicity Chair:	Carrie McCline		
Newsletter Editor:	Kelli Ham		simitrailrunner@gmail.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 _____

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

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”



U.S. Postage

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