



Rancho Simi Trail Blazers

A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation



December Work Party



The December work party involved clearing a portion of the Bus Canyon stream bed in Challenger Park. The purpose was to reduce the potential for flooding. Thanks so much to Martin DeGoey, Bart Hibbs, Mike Kuhn and Jan Dab for a job well done.

RSTB LOGO T-SHIRTS

Sporting the beautiful RSTB logo, these are great shirts! Please call Mike Kuhn if you'd like to order at 805-583-2345.

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



December, 2011 RSTB Christmas Party

The 2011 RSTB Christmas Party was again hosted by Ursula Christie at her lovely home. Several dozen Trailblazers attended the potluck party dinner and enjoyed a wide variety of tasty appetizers, entrees, and desserts. More importantly the gathering offered the opportunity to catch up on the past year with friends, swap tales of past Trailblazer experiences, and to discuss potential future adventures. Glad to be members of the Trailblazers "family," everyone had a wonderful time. Thanks again to Ursula for her hospitality.

--- SPECIAL OUTING ---

March 7th – 11th, 2012
*Havasupai Indian Reservation – Havasu Falls**

Camping (in Havasu Canyon), **hiking** (Hualapai Canyon, Havasu Canyon, Supai), and **sightseeing** (Havasupai Falls, Beaver Falls, Mooney Falls) in perhaps the most unique natural and cultural area in the Grand Canyon. Havasu Creek has towering red walls, travertine pools with turquoise waters, stunning cascades, and world-renowned hiking.



--- Rest In Peace --- 1928 – 2011

Tom Frye, a longtime member of the Rancho Simi Trail Blazers, died recently. He was 83. The OTP Hiking & Debating Society donated \$320 to the Trail Blazers in his name. Those of us who knew Tom had great respect for his gentle humanity. We also have received a \$100 donation from Martin DeGoey and family.

RSTB CLUB MEETING

This month's club meeting will be at:
Sycamore Drive Community Center
1692 Sycamore Drive - Room B-1
7:00PM – January 18, 2012

Upcoming Events

January 7th

*La Tuna Canyon Park to Plantation Lateral**

8 MRT - Moderate to Strenuous (1,900' of elevation gain) – **8 AM**

January 14th

*Liebre Mountain via the Pacific Crest Trail**

9 miles one-way with a 5-mile car shuttle - Moderate-to-strenuous with 2,100'/1,900' elevation gain/loss – **7 AM**

January 18th

Club Meeting – 7 AM

January 21st

Work Party - Our January work party will be on the Chumash Trail, **8 AM to NOON.**

January 26 - 29th

*Anza-Borrego Desert State Park**

Due to unforeseen circumstances, all activities are subject to change without notice. Please see www.simitrailblazers.com/activities/ for event details and the most up-to-date schedule.

Rancho Simi Recreation and Parks District events can be viewed at <http://www.rsrpd.org> to see what is happening next!

CHUMASH AND RATTLESNAKES

Rattlesnakes were pets of the sun (as the chief deity). The threat of a rattlesnake bite begins in the early spring and continues through most of the fall. An *'antap*, i.e., a shaman, would perform a rattlesnake dance to protect the entire community against rattlesnake bites. Rattlesnakes only bite those individuals who are bad. It was also believed that the folklore of the Chumash could only be told during the winter months when the rattlesnakes were in hibernation. Otherwise, someone would be bitten by a rattlesnake. (Source: Travis Hudson and Ernest Underhay, *Crystals in the Sky: An Intellectual Odyssey Involving Chumash Astronomy, Cosmology and Rock Art*, page 136.)

Mike Kuhn
7-4-01

CHUMASH AND THE BLACK BEAR

What is clear from paleontological remains and archaeological excavations is that prior to the event of the Anglo-American period of settlement the black bear did not extend further south in California than San Luis Obispo County and the Central Valley. As grizzly bear numbers dwindled, primarily as a result of poisoning and only secondarily by shooting them, the range of the black bear extended southerly and into the high country. Certainly grizzly bears were masters of their domains and were given wide berths by black bears.

Pedro Fages' account of his travels in California, which represent the first detailed descriptions of California Indians, includes two interesting observations about the Chumash in the San Luis Obispo area. He describes one occasion when Indians coming to

greet him and his party were accompanied by a bear cub. Elsewhere he indicates that the Indians hunted bears and would capture any surviving (I presume young) cubs, subsequently raising them in their villages until they were old enough to slaughter as food. Young bear cubs are fun, cute and cuddly and bond easily with humans. As they grow older, their presence becomes more problematic. Since the reference is to hunting bears, I presume that their quarry was the black bear – grizzly bears being too formidable a prey.

Mike Kuhn
6-24-05

CHUMASH CLOTHING ACCORDING TO FERNANDO

[from Travis Hudson (ed.), *Breath of the Sun*(1980), p.5]

“Every year in Mission times the priests gave cloth to the Indian women to make dresses. The yearly ration was some cloth for a silk shawl, eight feet long and four feet wide of various colors and fringed, a piece of cloth for sheets, and a piece of cloth, maybe two, three, or four yards long, also of various colors. The nuns [unmarried women] were given better cloth, for they belonged to the priests. Each man received three yards of yellow muslin for a G-string, and six yards for a sheet for wrapping about himself. A man also received a serape, with a hole to put his head through. Children were given, say, two yards of yellow muslin for G-strings, according to the needs of the child. The priests gave the vaqueros a saddle, a vest, pants, jacket, and several yards of yellow muslin for sheets and for handkerchiefs. [The clothing consisted of coarse wool or sack-cloth. The men wore a short tunic, called a *coton*’, G-string (about 1.5 yards long by 0.5 yards wide) and a blanket. The women also received a blanket, a white cotton blouse, and a woolen skirt, the latter in any of several colors. Alcaldes received

the same type of clothing that the Spanish or Mexican people wore. This included leggings, hat, boots, and a manga blanket.] The vaqueros were the only ones who wore short pants; the Indian men ...wore only a G-string and a blanket. It was only in 1847 that Indian men in Ventura began to wear pants, and then they wore the G-string underneath.”

An *alcade* was an Indian official of the mission, elected by the neophytes each year. His duties consisted of acting as justice of the peace as well as bringing before the priest anyone accused of a crime. He also carried out punishment and was exempt from corporal punishment.

In most cases Indians possessed only one set of clothing. Men, for example, washed themselves with a sweat, washed their G-string, then returned to the *temescal* (sweathouse) while their G-string dried.

The pattern of clothing reflects the strict class structure in colonial Spain and Mexico. Indian men wore G-strings, while the Spanish and later Mexicans wore pants. Vaqueros, while Indians, were of higher status, having horses, as were the Alcaldes. Indians went barefoot, while mestizos wore sandals and Spaniards and Mexicans wore shoes or boots (vaqueros were an exception). If Indians were caught making sandals for themselves, they were punished.

Mike Kuhn
12-23-04



November 12th 2011 - Malibu Creek State Park



It was one of those drizzly and gloomy days, just perfect for staying in bed late. Still, this didn't stop seven intrepid Trail Blazers from enjoying a fine hike. Because of all the rain the previous night, and fear of a very muddy trail, we thought it might be wise not to enter the Park at our usual Cornell and Mulholland trailhead. Instead, we took the Grassland Trail, to Craig's Road, heading north into Park headquarters.

Only a few minutes into our hike, we saw five deer to the left of the trail. Moments later, there were four coyotes to the right of the trail. The day would prove to be one of our very best wildlife hikes ever. Two more deer and another coyote were spotted before the hike was over.

After a brief stop at Park headquarters, we visited the Rock Pool. Soap must have been introduced into the Malibu Creek system, much further upstream. There were mini-glacier like soap suds floating all the creeks, lakes and ponds, and all the way to the Malibu Dam. Our hike continued to Century Lake, the Redwood Forest, The M*A*S*H site and then on to the Malibu Dam. Retracing our steps back to the trailhead, we covered just under 10 miles, with just under 600. of elevation gain. The hike was enjoyed by all in attendance.

November 26th 2011 - Chivo Canyon



18 hikers met on a mild Saturday morning in Simi Valley near the mouth of Chivo Canyon in the Marr Ranch Open Space in northeast Simi Valley. Our hike began along Trail #22 (as shown on

the RSRPD "Park Facilities Directory Map of Simi Valley and Oak Park") as it headed up Chivo Canyon. At 0.7 mile

we turned left (west) on Trail #23 and followed it through a side canyon as it climbed westward to an overlook that revealed Tapo Canyon. Returning (via a loop) to Chivo Canyon we continued north to the head of lower Chivo Canyon where several of the hikers turned around and returned to the parking area. The remaining hikers continued carefully through a narrow gorge into upper Chivo Canyon and its large oak woodland. Eventually we climbed out of the canyon and made our way to a rocky promontory on the east side of lower Chivo Canyon where we had sweeping 360-degree views of the entire area. We then returned via the same route to the parking area. Our very pleasant outing covered 10 miles with a total elevation gain/loss of about 1,800'.

December 3rd 2011 - Simi Peak via China Flat

Eleven hikers met on a chilly Saturday morning in Simi Valley to car pool to the Nicholas Flat Trail trailhead.




We drove through the Santa Monica Mountains via Hwy 23 to Pacific Coast Highway (Hwy 1) and then headed west to the parking lot at Leo Carrillo State Park where we were met by two other hikers. Our journey provided magnificent views of mountains, valleys, and a clear blue sky. Once the group had assembled, we began a steady ascent toward Nicholas Pond, gaining about 1,600' in about 2.5 miles and testing our circulatory systems. The chilly morning temperature and a cool breeze combined perfectly to keep us from overheating. There were great views of the mountains and the ocean as well as somewhat murky views of several of the Channel Islands. The rain the day before had washed the dust from the trees and bushes and the air was fresh and clean. We crested the mountain, descended through a large meadow, and followed the trail down to Nicholas Pond which was surprisingly full; two ducks were busy at its far end. We then followed a short trail up to some large boulders and enjoyed a lunch break. As we did so we also enjoyed the view toward the ocean looking out over San Nicholas Canyon. After lunch we returned the way we came, taking the Willow Creek Trail on the last leg of our journey. We had most of the hike to ourselves; we encountered no other hikers until we had nearly finished our hike. Our very pleasant outing covered 7.4 miles with a total elevation gain of nearly 2,200' of elevation gain/loss.



RSTB Calendar January



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Rocky Peak Fire Road 4 PM See Schedule 	2	3 Las Lajas Canyon 6:30PM See Schedule	4	5 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule	6	7 La Tuna Canyon Park to Plantation Lateral* 8AM See Schedule
8 Rocky Peak Fire Road 4 PM See Schedule	9	10 Las Lajas Canyon 6:30PM See Schedule	11 Happy Birthday Jim Lightfoot	12 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule	13	14 Liebre Mountain via the Pacific Crest Trail* 7AM See Schedule
15 Rocky Peak Fire Road 4PM See Schedule Happy Birthday Emily Carroll	16	17 Las Lajas Canyon 6:30PM See Schedule 	18 Club Meeting 7 PM See Schedule	19 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule Happy Birthday Floyd Martin	20	21 Work Party 8AM to 12PM See Schedule
22 Rocky Peak Fire Road 4PM See Schedule Happy Birthday Marlene Bradley	23	24 Las Lajas Canyon 6:30PM See Schedule	25	26 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule	27	28 See Schedule
				Anza-Borrego Desert State Park* The last day to sign up is January 12th		
29 See Schedule Anza-Borrego Desert State Park*	30 Happy Birthday Anand Janev Daniel DeGoey	31 Las Lajas Canyon 6:30PM See Schedule Happy Birthday Bill Grant Katie Martinez Anne Guibor				

REGULARLY SCHEDULED HIKES

(Rain cancels – No hikes on holidays)

Sunday Evening - Rocky Peak Fire Road

Meet at **4 PM** 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 - Las Lajas Canyon

Meet at **6:30 PM** at the Evening Sky Drive trailhead. Take the 118 Fwy to the Yosemite Ave exit; head north past McDonalds and the stop sign at Alamo Street; continue 0.85 mile north on Yosemite Ave to the stop sign at Evening Sky Drive; turn right (east) and drive 0.5 mile to the trailhead; park on either side of the street. (Easy-to-moderate depending on distance hiked, 3¼ MRT)

Thursday Evening - The Chumash Trail

Meet at **6 PM** at Chumash trailhead. 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 7th

La Tuna Canyon Park to Plantation Lateral *

8 MRT - Moderate to Strenuous (1,900' of elevation gain)

From the trailhead (1,347') on La Tuna Canyon Road, the shady heavily wooded La Tuna Canyon Trail follows two canyons and Horny Toad Ridge two miles up to the Verdugo Motorway (2,300') which the hikers follow for another two miles to the turnaround point at Plantation Lateral (2,988') where there are benches, shade, and 360-degree views of the Verdugo Valley, the San Gabriel Mountains, Griffith Park, the Los Angeles skyline, the Santa Ana Mountains, the Santa Monica Mountains, and even Santa Catalina Island on a clear day. Bring 2-3 quarts of water and lunch. Wear boots. Weather permitting, meet at **8 AM** at the 118 & Stearns St. Park & Ride.

January 14th

Liebre Mountain via the Pacific Crest Trail *

9 miles one-way with a 5-mile car shuttle - Moderate-to-strenuous with 2,100'/1,900' elevation gain/loss

From the trailhead (4,000') on County Road N2 follow the Pacific Crest Trail as it climbs through manzanitas, digger pines, black oaks, and then Bigcone Douglas-fir to unpaved Liebre Road (7N23) on the oak-dotted crest line (5,759'). The hike continues along 7N23 providing a unique view of the Tehachapis, the southern Sierra Nevada, the Angeles and Los Padres National Forests, and the Mojave Desert, and then descends to the Old Ridge Route road (8N04) via the Golden Eagle Trail. Bring 2-3 quarts of water and lunch. Wear boots. Weather permitting, meet at **7 AM** at the 118 & Stearns St. Park & Ride.

January 18

Club Meeting

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

January 21st

Work Party - Our January work party will be on the Chumash Trail, **8 AM to NOON**. Meet at the northern end of Flanagan Drive. All tool will be provided. Bring 2 quarts of water, snacks, gloves, sun glasses. Wear a hat, long pants and hiking shoes or boots.

January 26 - 29th

Anza-Borrego Desert State Park*

This very special event is limited to Trail Blazer members only. To make your reservations, email Mark at: markinthepark@sbcglobal.net. **Space is limited, so it's best to sign up early.** The last day to sign up is January 12th. TBA

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



No dogs allowed on trail(s). For additional 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>

RANCHO SIMI TRAIL BLAZERS

A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation

Executive Chair:	Mike Kuhn	HM (805) 583-2345	hannahmike@me.com
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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 _____ Birth Month _____ Day _____

Family memberships: Please list names and birthdays of additional family members (Month & Day Only)

Phone (provide up to two numbers): work/home/cell _____

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