



Rancho Simi Trail Blazers



THE NORIEGA TRAIL

In 1858 the federal government surveyed the Simi Valley and other areas to establish the Township and Range system, complete with section numbers. The survey was horizontally precise. The map is exhibited on the wall of the northernmost room of the Simi Adobe at the Strathearn Historic Park. At the time of the survey, Jose De la Guerra still owned El Rancho Simi. On the map is shown a trail between the Simi Adobe ("Simi Ranch House") and the De la Guerra Adobe ("Noriegas Tapo"). The trail ran down Tapo Canyon, then westerly north of the first ridge on the northern side of the valley, just below the Whiteface escarpment ("Cuchilla de Huarache"), down Dry Canyon to its mouth (north of the Simi Valley Hospital), then hugged the foot of the mountains westerly to the mouth of Sand Canyon (west of Er-ringer Road), and finally south-westerly to the Simi Adobe ("Francisco de la Guerra y Noriega").

This trail represented the shortest route between the two adobes and included several sources of water between Tapo Canyon and the head of Dry Canyon. It also was the most logical and

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It's Election Time!

Time to think about who you want in office for the upcoming year. Make your vote count, by joining us at the October 18th meeting!

RSTB CLUB MEETING

**The monthly club meeting will be held at the Community Center
In the B-1 Room
1692 Sycamore Drive
At 7:00 PM
On
Wednesday
Oct. 18th.**



WELCOME NEW MEMBER

Robert D. Galletly

ALL RSTB MEMBERS

Check your mailing label on your RSTB Newsletter for **renewing** your **Yearly Membership**
Renewal Month is found after you name on the Newsletter Address

SEPTEMBER TRAIL WORK PARTY

We had a good work party on the Hummingbird Trail on September 9. We first cleared brush from the trail in the riparian area on the north side of the creek. We then crossed over and worked our way up the trail lopping brush and filling potholes. Three areas with a lot of Laurel Sumac were cleared increasing visibility and making trail travel easier. It was hot and dusty and everyone was happy to knock off work and head for Chuy's. Many thanks to the following workers:

Bob Altieri, Phil Ankrom, John Downey, Mike Kuhn, John Sabol, Doug Temple and Liz Williams.

Short cutting the trail continues to be a big problem on the Hummingbird. If you observe hikers or bikers taking shortcuts, please try to educate them in a nice way. Short cuts create unsightly areas, cause confusion for people unfamiliar with the trail and worst of all seriously increases erosion.

The next work party will be held October 19 on the Chumash Trail and we are changing the work hours to be from 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM. Hope to see you there.

Work Parties Chair

John Sabol

well watered route between the historic Chumash villages of *Ta'apu* and *Simi'*. Since nearly all of the residents of Simi Valley at that time were Chumash Indians, it undoubtedly followed the path of the Indian trail between the two villages. The increased opportunity for water was important, because during the prehistoric period, the primary source of transportation was by foot. Walking remained a primary source of transportation during the Spanish/Mexican period.

A trail seems to have existed from that trail near the divide between Tapo and Dry canyons which extended to the north over the first saddle in the Whiteface escarpment (Cuchilla de Huarache) east of Whiteface itself. That trail represented the shortest way into "the Tripas," which refers to the interior valley in the mountain range. A rock cairn of unknown origin is located near the trail junction.

The Chumash name of the trail between the villages was probably "*Ta'apu*" after the village that it went to. After all, *Ta'apu* was the largest village in the area, with a population that may have been about twice that of *Simi'*. The village of *Ta'apu* was the only village in the Simi with a resident chief ("*wot*"). Then, too, there was already a *Simi'* Trail, which ran between the Conejo Valley and the village of *Simi'*.

The Lost Canyon Golf Courses now occupy that route off of Tapo Canyon and through Dry Canyon. So, you have to be a golfer to see

BEEP BEEP

The greater roadrunner (*Geococcyx californianus*) inhabits the hills surrounding our valley and are frequently observed by hikers and residents on the edge of the City. They feed on any animal that they can swallow whole. Their food includes lizards, snakes, small rodents, birds and insects, which they stab with their nearly two inch long beak. During the spring and summer months, they also eat fruit and seeds. They depend upon speed and keen eyesight to catch their prey. They can run up to speeds of 15 miles per hour and when presses will fly for relatively short distances. They do not interact with coyotes, but do compete directly with them for food. They drink when water is available. Otherwise they can survive on the moisture they get from their prey.

The roadrunner is a member of the cuckoo family, the only other member of which in our area is the yellow-billed cuckoo. Cuckoos have slender bodies, long tails and two toes forward and two toes back - therefore, you can always tell a roadrunner's track.

Roadrunners maintain the same territory throughout the year and do not migrate. They can withstand great temperature extremes. When hot, they rest in the shade. At night, their normal body temperature of 101 degrees F can drop as much as seven degrees. In the morning or on cold days, they warm themselves in the sun, turning their backs to the sun and raising their back feathers to expose a large dark patch of skin.

They mate for life and build nests in low trees and brush. Both male and female birds sit on the nests. When the nest is threatened by a predator, the adults feign broken legs and lead the predator away from the nest.

Mike Kuhn



SIERRA NEVADA BACKPACKING TRIP

Several times a year the Rancho Simi Trail Blazers get away - way far away - on backpacking trips. Over the September 15-18 long weekend nine Trail Blazers traveled up the Owens Valley on the eastern side of the Sierra Nevada and deep into the high country. Participants included Arlene Altshuler, John Sabol, Margarita Marsh, John Downey, Carol Tucker, Mike Kuhn, Gary Cremeans, Terry Conrad, and Bill Cespedes. On the way up the valley we stopped at the Mt. Whitney Fish Hatchery, where they don't hatch fish anymore but display the monster rainbow trout brood fish. Some of the fish looked like they may run ten pounds. We lunched at Schout's Bakery in Bishop and got our permits for the trips.

Friday night we stayed at a drive-in camp below Rock Creek Lake at about 9400 feet mean sea level to help acclimatize ourselves to the high altitude. The next morning we departed from Mosquito Flats at 10,300 feet for a 4.5 hike over Morgan Pass, at 11,100 feet, and on to our second and third nights at Lower Morgan Lake (10,800 feet). For me it was the longest 4.5 miles I can remember - but then, I'm getting old. I do recall five people ahead of me near the top of the pass. Three were resting their heads on their walking sticks and two were sitting with their heads down and their hands on their



Fish Hatchery

Left to right: John Sabol, Mike Kuhn, John Downey, Terry Conrad, Arlene Altshuler, Margarita Marsh, Carol Tucker, and Bill Cespedes.



Little Lakes Valley Backpacking Trip

Left to right: Bill Cespedes, Terry Conrad, Gary Cremeans, John Downey, John Sabol Carl Tucker, Margarita Marsh, and Arlene Altshuler

foreheads. The sight suggested a combination of exhausting in the thin air and mountain sickness. Everyone seemed to be progressing at 50 to 100 foot intervals at that point in-between

rests. Of course, Gary Cremeans skipped over the summit. More on that later.

Gary went on a late afternoon hike into a tungsten mining dis-

trict after our hike in - while everyone else rested - some of us more soundly than others - after our ordeal of the morning. On our layover day most of the party hiked many miles into the high country, some as high as 13,000 feet, to see the mines. Some interesting mineral specimens were carried out - no gold as far as I could tell. That day we did not see another person - we had the whole mountains and lake to ourselves.

The weather was perfect - perhaps a little windy the first two days. It only dropped below freezing the last night - yes, while it was sizzling in Simi Valley. We saw perhaps 10-15 lakes and no bears. The scenery was spectacular. The quaking aspen had turned yellow, as had the golden bushes. It was marvelous and we had a great time. Our hike out took about two and a quarter hours. We lunched again at Schout's Bakery and then stuffed every nook and cranny with of our already over-stuffed cars with breads and other baked goods. Everyone performed well on the trip and seemed to have a good time.

Mike Kuhn





OCTOBER

2000



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Rocky Peak Trail Hike at 5 pm see schedule	2 Happy Birthday Cyntha Brewer	3	4 Happy Birthday Marty Richards	5 Chumash Trail Hike 6 pm see schedule	6 Happy Birthday KEN DOWNEY	7 Happy Birthday Bob Goodrich Canyon View Trail Hike, meet At 8:30pm See schedule
8 Rocky Peak Trail Hike at 5 pm see schedule	9 Happy Birthday MEAGAN CASSIDY	10	11 Happy Birthday Marilyn Mansell	12 Chumash Trail Hike 6 pm see schedule	13	14 Phantom Stagecoach Trail Loop See schedule Meet at 8 am
15 Happy Birthday Bill Funk Rocky Peak Trail Hike at 5 pm see schedule	16	17 Happy Birthday Darene Fowlks	18 Happy Birthday Mergan & Bailey Clark RSTB Club Meeting at 7 PM, at PDCC, B-1 Room, 1692 Sycamore Dr	19 Chumash Trail Hike 6 pm see schedule	20	21 Happy Birthday Brian McKee Chumash Trail Work Party at 8am -noon See schedule
22 Happy Birthday Margarita Marsh Rocky Peak Trail Hike at 5 pm see schedule	23	24	25	26 Happy Birthday Lisa Klockenteger Chumash Trail Hike 6 pm see schedule	27	28 Lower Zuma & New part of Backbone Trail, see schedule
29 Happy Birthday Joe Bremer Rocky Peak Trail Hike at 5 pm see schedule	30	31				

