



Rancho Simi Trail Blazers

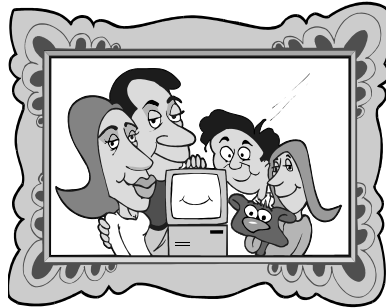


SEPTEMBER WORK PARTY

Eight Rancho Simi Trail Blazers turned out on Saturday 21 September to help with Inland Waterway Cleanup in conjunction with California Coastal Cleanup Day. We signed in and picked up 2 different colored plastic bags, blue for trash and green for recyclables. The goal for the 3 hour effort was to clean up the 2 miles of the Arroyo Simi wash between First Street and Sycamore Drive. Workers walked down into the Arroyo at Erringer Road and moved both up and down stream. When bags were filled, they were placed, along with other large items, by the side of the access roads on each side of the Arroyo. Pickup trucks were then used to haul the items back to a large dumpster at Erringer Road.

Attending this year were 85 people, almost triple last years' participation of 30. This was a very good turnout considering that the Simi Valley Days Parade and Coastal Cleanup Day always occur in the morning on the same day. Jason Franklin, a Boy Scout with Troop 622, helped coordinate the effort to fulfill a requirement for the Boy Scouts' Hornady Conservation Award. We have worked with Jason and Troop 622 in the past on trail projects. A reporter from the Simi Valley Star was also present and a picture of Chuck Portoghesi working in the water was included in Sunday's edition along with an article on the cleanup. Many thanks to the following workers:

Arlene Altshuler, Phil Ankrom, Bill Cespedes, Martin DeGoey, Mike Kuhn, Chuck Portoghesi, John Sabol and Chuck's granddaughter Sabrina Tribble.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

**Myra Medley
Gabe Sende
Alice Comer**

OCTOBER WORK PARTY

The next Trail Blazers work party will be on **Saturday, 19 October** on the **Chumash Trail**.

This work party will perform repair on the central portion of the trail.

Meet at the trailhead at the end of Flanagan Drive, in Simi Valley at **8:00 AM**. (From the 118 Freeway, go north on Yosemite, right on Flanagan).

We will work from 8:00 AM to 12:00 Noon. Hope to see you there.

Work Parties Chair

RSTB CLUB MEETING

The monthly club meeting will be held at the
Community Center
Room B-1
1692 Sycamore Drive
At 7:00 PM
On
Wednesday, October 16th

MORE FROM PEDRO FAGES

As you will recall, Pedro Fages was second in command to Gaspar de Portola on the 1769 expedition through Chumash territory. Fages later served as Governor of California from 1782 through 1791. The following observations are on the San Luis Obispo area, the northern-most part of the Chumash territory.

"Their houses, shaped like half-globes, are neatly built; each one is capable of sheltering four or five families which, being kin, are accustomed to living together. The houses have one door on the east, and one on the west, with a skylight in the roof, halfway between.

Their beds are built up high on bedsteads, which are here called "tapextles", of heavy sticks; a reed mat serving as a mattress, and four others as curtains, forming bedrooms. Beneath the bedsteads are the beds of the little Indians, commodiously arranged.

The men do not often sleep in their houses at night; but, carrying with them their arms, bow and quiver, they are accustomed to congregate in numbers in great subterranean caves, where they pass the night in sheer terror; [if they stayed at home] they might be surprised in their beds by the enemy whilst defenseless on account of the presence of their wives and children. They also congregate thus in order to keep watch, spy upon, set traps for and surprise those who may be taken off their guard, for they are a warlike people, always roaming from village to village at odds with everyone."



DINKEY LAKES BACKPACK

Nineteen people and two dogs joined together for the 4 day Dinkey Lakes Backpacking trip on Aug. 23-26 2002. Participants included Arlene Alshuler and her two dogs Champ & Buffy, Caroline Carroll, Bill Cespedes, Ursula Christie, Gary Cremeans, Martin DeGoey, Terry DeSilva, Jodene Downey, Kenny Downey, Tom Frye, Gary Hartung, Mike Kuhn, Margarita Marsh, John Sabol, Tom Siefert, Doug Temple, Sam Tewfik, Phyllis Tewfik and Carol Tucker.

On Friday morning we started out from Simi Valley, headed up I-5 to CA-99 and Fresno. We then turned east through Clovis to Prather, CA. We gassed up our vehicles, had lunch in Prather and picked up our wilderness permits at the nearby Pineridge Ranger Station. Then on past Shaver Lake for another 40 miles through a maze of primary and secondary logging roads to the Dinkey Lakes Wilderness area. We used a GPS unit and although I got confused several times, it really helped verify our locations as the roads were poorly marked.

We donned our backpacks and started out from the trailhead at an elevation of 8700 feet. Our destination - First Dinkey Lake about 3½ miles in at a 9240 foot elevation. The trail was beautiful, winding up through Lodgepole Pine forest and we were in the shade most of the time.

At the Lake, we met up with Mike Kuhn's son, Dave and his friend Beyla who had come in one day earlier. We then had to break into 2 groups, as our Wilderness Permits were limited to a maximum of 15 persons per campsite. As it was getting late we set up camp, ate and just explored around First Dinkey Lake.

The next two days were spent on day hikes to some of the dozen lakes within a two-mile radius of our campsites. One hike involved South, Swede and Mystery lakes. A second involved Second Dinkey, Rock and Island Lakes. Some braver souls went swimming. Some of us climbed an unnamed granite dome to the

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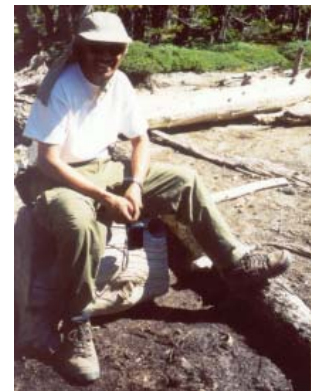
Dinkey Lakes Backpack Group (above, left to right): Tom Frye, Gary Cremeans, Doug Temple, Arlene Alshuler, Mike Kuhn, Gary Hartung, Martin DeGoey, John Sabol, Carol Tucker, Tom Siefert, Kenny Downey, Ursula Christie, Caroline Carroll, Margarita Marsh, Jodene Downey, Phyllis Tewfik, Sam Tewfik, and Bill Cespedes. Terry DeSilva (below) took the picture.

south of our camps, as well as a jagged spire called Dogtooth Peak (10302 ft.) and one or more of the Three Sisters (10432-10612 ft.). The scenery and vistas were truly spectacular.

The weather during the day was very nice, the ground was dry and joy of joys – No Mosquitoes. In the evening we gathered around a campfire. Although bear canisters were recommended for storing our food, we detected no sign of bears.

We did have a few problems however. The first was minor, a rash of stove failures. Several people, believing there were plenty of stoves, brought along an older stove, “Just to see if it still works”. When one stove leaked gas and couldn't be used and several others didn't work in the cold, one campsite had only one working stove on the last morning. The second problem was nighttime temperature. Weather reports stated night temperatures would be in the low forties. Not so!!! The first night got down to +15 degrees F. The following nights were not much warmer. Frost on everything outside and ice on the inside of your tent. Although some didn't sleep well because of the cold, most managed to put on a warm hat or extra clothes to stay warm.

Cont. in Col. 3



sickness. Symptoms included headaches, upset stomach, and difficulty breathing at night. With no chance to acclimate to the high altitude, this sometimes happens. Heavy packs and dry air contribute to the issue by dehydrating you on the way in. Usually, drinking a lot of fluids and eating, even if you don't feel hungry, will preclude problems. But sometimes nothing helps.

On Monday after breakfast, we packed up camp and hiked out to the trailhead. On the way out, we thought part of the group had made a wrong turn but they hadn't. We again had lunch in Prather and headed home with memories of a wonderful backpack. Everyone said they had a great time. It was one of our most scenic, interesting and fun filled backpacks to

THE ORIGIN OF WHITEFACE

Many people over the years have asked me whether the Whiteface escarpment was created by faulting. The presence of a bold linear south facing cliff, approximately 600-700 feet high, certainly suggest a great cataclysmic earthquake resulting in a dramatic landform. Fault-like features do show up when trenching is done near the foot of the escarpment. However, those features appear to be fissures associated with compressional flexing, with only minor offsets on either sides.

The bedrock geological formation south of Whiteface is called the Sespe Formation. It is made up of non-marine deposits of tropical forest environments of Eocene through Oligocene age, i.e., roughly 25-45 million years ago. Bedrock of the Sespe Formation is generally very poorly consolidated, i.e., soft, sandstone, interbedded with red and blue overbank strata, which are high in clay. Some conglomerates, i.e., cobble and gravel, strata are present. The Sespe Formation is very weak and highly subject to erosion. As a result, the formation has experienced rapid headward erosion over time as the Santa Susana Mountains have experienced uplift, just as occurred during and following the January 17, 1994, Northridge Earthquake.

So, why is Whiteface there?

On a clear day, you can see large white boulders on top of the escarpment that extends westerly from Tapo Canyon. Those boulders have been eroded from the Modelo Formation, which caps the Whiteface escarpment. The Modelo Formation is made up of gray to brown diatomaceous claystone and siltstone that weathers white and is more resistant to erosion than the Sespe Formation. As a result, erosion of the Sespe Formation has eaten headward into the foot of Whiteface, while the relatively resistant Modelo Formation has protected the top of the

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Byers "John" Downey Bench Dedication on Mt. McCoy

Whiteface escarpment from the same headward erosion.

Crumbling of the top of the escarpment does occur, especially following soaking periods of rain. The burrowing of ground squirrels also weakens the edge. As we saw in January 1994, strong earthquakes and their aftershocks can result in rapid loss of cliff faces. So, if you ever find yourself at the top of Whiteface, don't stand near the edge! The Modelo Formation is middle Miocene in age, roughly 10-15 million years old. It is unconformably deposited on top of the Sespe Formation. In other words, whatever formation was previously deposited on top of the Sespe Formation was eroded away before the Modelo Formation was laid down.



MISSION SQUIRREL SHOOTERS

[from Travis Hudson (ed.), *Breath of the Sun* (1980), pp. 15-16]

Fernando Librado noted that one of the jobs at the Mission San Buenaventura was that of squirrel shooter. He related that "Some of the roof beams at the Mission were of cedar, while others were of red pine. All of these and the cross beams for the roof were tied with rawhide. Ground squirrels got to breeding

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there, and it got so that there were a lot of them on the Mission's tile roof. [I suspect that the concern was that the squirrels were eating the rawhide that the beams were tied with.]



So Fray Alejandro [Branchi, present there 1849-1851], who originally came from Chile, ordered two Indians, Ivon Jose, and Ramaldo [*Winai?*], to stand in front of the Mission and shoot the squirrels when they made their appearance on the roof. Ivon Jose, who was still middle-aged by this time, and Ramaldo, were noted archers here in Ventura. Jose's quiver was undecorated and made of buckskin. The Indians then would never make a quiver from a raccoon skin, but rather preferred that of fox.

It was an old saying of the Indians that the ideas of the raccoon were not as progressive as those of the fox, for the coon was too much of a thief. [The reference probably related to beliefs that the behavior of certain animals is a supernatural characteristic which may be inherent in objects made from parts of the animal. Fernando's statement also reflects a ranking of animals in terms of a code of morality.]

Anyway, Ivon and Ramaldo killed the squirrels in this manner: whenever a squirrel came out on the roof, Ivon would say *hi hi* and then shoot. The animal would drop to the ground with an arrow in it."



October

2002



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3 Chumash Trail 6pm hike See Schedule	4 <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Al Richards</i>	5 Dough Flat Exploratory Hike See Schedule
6 Rocky Peak 5pm hike See Schedule	7	8	9	10 Chumash Trail 6pm hike See Schedule	11	12 Upper Las Vir- genes Canyon Trail See Schedule
13 Rocky Peak 5pm hike See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Bev Frye</i>	14	15 <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Bill Funk</i>	16 RSTB Meeting See Page 1	17 Chumash Trail 6pm hike See Schedule	18	19 Work Party - Chumash Trail See Schedule
20 Rocky Peak 5pm hike See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Alexander Berger</i>	21 <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Brian McKee</i>	22 <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Margarita Marsh</i>	23	24 Chumash Trail 6pm hike See Schedule	25	26 Sulfur Mtn. See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Lisa Klockenteger</i>
27 Rocky Peak 5pm hike See Schedule	28	29	30	31 Chumash Trail 6pm hike See Schedule		



Rancho Simi Trail Blazers

Hiking Schedule



- October 3 Thursday Evening Hike**
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, 5 MRT)
- October 5 Dough Flat Exploratory Hike**
5 - 8 MRT exploratory hike. This hike is not within the jurisdiction of the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District. Meet 8am near Donut Delite at the corner of Madera and Royal. Wear boots, bring bug juice, snack, and 2 - 3 quarts of water.
- October 6 Sunday Evening Hike**
Meet 5pm at Rocky Peak trailhead at the end of Rocky Peak Rd off Santa Susana Pass. (Strenuous, 5 MRT)
- October 10 Thursday Evening Hike**
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, 5 MRT)
- October 12 Upper Las Virgenes Canyon Trail**
8 - 10 MRT exploratory hike on a recently opened trail. This hike is not within the jurisdiction of the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District. Meet 8am near Donut Delite at the corner of Madera and Royal. Wear boots, bring bug juice, lunch, and 2 - 3 quarts of water.
- October 13 Sunday Evening Hike**
Meet 5pm at Rocky Peak trailhead at the end of Rocky Peak Rd off Santa Susana Pass. (Strenuous, 5 MRT)
- October 17 Thursday Evening Hike**
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, 5 MRT)
- October 19 Work Party—Chumash Trail**
Help maintain one of the most traversed trails in Simi Valley. Directions - take 118 Fwy to Yosemite exit. Go north on Yosemite, turn right on Flanagan. Trailhead is at the end of Flanagan. We will be working from 8am – noon. Tools will be provided. Bring 2 - 3 quarts of water, hat, sunscreen, and gloves to work on the trail.
- October 20 Sunday Evening Hike**
Meet 5pm at Rocky Peak trailhead at the end of Rocky Peak Rd off Santa Susana Pass. (Strenuous, 5 MRT)
- October 24 Thursday Evening Hike**
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, 5 MRT)
- October 26 Sulfur Mountain**
Moderate to strenuous 6 – 10 MRT hike. This is a beautiful area in the mountains between Ventura and Ojai. This hike is not within the jurisdiction of the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District. Meet 8am near Donut Delite at the corner of Madera and Royal. Wear boots, bring bug juice, lunch, and 2 - 3 quarts of water.
- October 27 Sunday Evening Hike**
Meet 5pm at Rocky Peak trailhead at the end of Rocky Peak Rd off Santa Susana Pass. (Strenuous, 5 MRT)
- October 31 Thursday Evening Hike**
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, 5 MRT)

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. Hikes will be cancelled if it rains.

RANCHO SIMI TRAIL BLAZERS

EXECUTIVE CHAIR:	MIKE KUHN	HM (805) 583-2345, WK (805)583-6776
TREASURER:	PETER ELY	HM (805) 523-1409
SECRETARY:	STEFANI HOWARD	HM (818) 885-0407
PARK DISTRICT LIAISON:	COLLEEN JANSSEN	WK (805) 584-4453
WORK PARTIES CHAIR:	JOHN SABOL	HM (805) 583-2541
WORK PARTIES VICE CHAIR:	BOB ALTIERI	HM (805) 526-6749
HIKING CHAIR:	ARLENE ALTSHULER	HM (805) 581-9735
WAYS & MEANS CHAIR:	MARTY RICHARDS	HM (805) 526-4414
WAYS & MEANS VICE CHAIR:	CONNIE ANKROM	HM (805) 526-2747
COMMUNICATION / PUB.CHAIR:	ARLENE ALTSHULER	HM (805) 581-9735

-----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 _____

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 630399, Simi Valley, Ca 93063-0399**
 Please list any extra names and birthdays of more than one member (Month & Day Only)



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