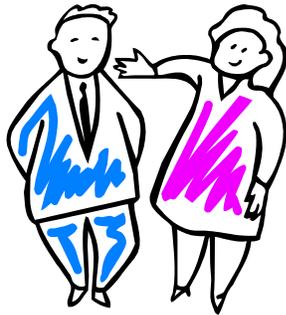




Rancho Simi Trail Blazers

A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation



Welcome, New Members!

Lori Richards
Collette Bertrand
Philip Dumont & Leslie Visser-Dumont
Fernando & Debbie Buenconsejo and family

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 as follows:

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



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



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
October 21, 2009

Work Parties



During the summer months we suspend the monthly work parties – the days are just too hot. Now that fall is here, we are once again back to doing work and improvements on local trails. The October work party will be a special event to clean up graffiti in the Wildlife Corridor in Corriganville. This will be held in conjunction with GeoCaching.com. Have you heard about geocaching but you're not sure what it is? "Geocaching is a high-tech treasure hunting game played throughout the world by adventure seekers equipped with GPS devices." The Trailblazers website has more information under the Activities section. Be sure to join us for this worthwhile cleanup effort and maybe you'll find a geocache at the same time! If you'd like to know more about wildlife corridors, please see the following article from the archives which explains attempts that are being made to minimize loss of natural habitat for wildlife due to urban expansion.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Please visit the website for details on any of the following hikes and events.

October 3rd

Hummingbird Trail and Rocky Peak

4.6 MRT - Moderate to Strenuous (1,000' elevation gain) or 8 MRT - Moderate to Strenuous (1750' elevation gain)

October 10th

Serrano Canyon

8 MRT - Moderate (700' elevation gain)

October 17th

Work Party - Wildlife Corridor in Corriganville

October 21st

Club Meeting

October 24th

Simi Peak

9 MRT - Moderate to Strenuous (1300' elevation gain/loss)

October 31st

Placerita Canyon - Los Pinetos Trail

9 MRT - Moderate to Strenuous (1800' gain/loss)

More information on these events can be found at

<http://simitrailblazers.com>

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

WILDLIFE CORRIDORS

The rapid expansion in urban areas throughout much of California is resulting in fragmentation of natural areas that are too small for most large and medium-sized species to survive in and are more vulnerable to competition from domestic cats and introduced urban species such as black and Norwegian rats. Animals that require large habitat areas must be able to move from one isolated patch to another in order to find enough food resources and to limit inbreeding. To avoid the loss of wildlife, biologists have advocated the maintenance of "wildlife corridors" connecting isolated patches of natural habitat.

Examples of isolated area occur in our own area as urban development expands up the outlying canyon areas. Roadways tend to connect one canyon with another - thus creating barriers to movement. The several hundred-acre area now bisected by the Canyon Overlook Trail in Wood Ranch is an example. The area is completely isolated by housing and roadways. In order to move in and out of the area, larger species must cross roadways at the peril to life and limb. Coyotes, deer, raccoons and other animals are doing just that. However, they also tend to end up flat on the roads. Freeways, because of their size and chain link fencing, are nearly impassible.

Isolated pockets of natural areas are also impacted by domestic cats and dogs, which roam into those areas and prey on birds and rodents. The edge effect also works the other way in that coyotes, deer, bobcats, skunks, field and deer mice, and even mountain lions forage to one degree or another into the urban fringe. Those missing cats that are taken by coyotes and owls may have become victims by roaming into the wild areas or in their own back yards.

Little is known about the effectiveness of wildlife corridors. One study suggests that most animals will not use small culverts under roadways. Many species are known to use large culverts, such as the "wildlife corridor" under the freeway above Corriganville. Wildlife overpasses

have been suggested for fostering movement in and out of the Santa Monica Mountains over the 101 Freeway. However, those studies that have examined this option have not been encouraging. Riparian corridors hold the most promise. However, those corridors tend to concentrate exotic species, such as cats, rats and house mice. So, without wide areas, riparian corridors have limited benefits. Hopefully, we will gain a greater understanding about what works and doesn't - before it's too late.

Mike Kuhn
12-7-04

THE TREASURE OF MEIER CANYON

A tale comes down to us from the Overland Monthly, a popular travel magazine of the late Nineteenth Century. A copy of the article is cleverly filed somewhere in my study where it can easily be retrieved. The problem is that I have been unable to locate it. To the best of my recollection, the author of the article took down the story sometime during the mid-1860s from one of the two vaqueros mentioned in the story. It seems that the two vaqueros came upon a derelict small adobe in what was probably the eastern branch of Meier Canyon sometime in the 1830s. The vaqueros were looking for stray cattle and had ventured over the hill from the Calabasas area. Investigating, they found that the adobe contained an old table and three skeletons. On the dirt floor was an old, small leather-bound wooden chest. Scattered about the table and the room were about a dozen Spanish coins. From the evidence at hand, they surmised that the three individuals had argued over the treasure and had mortally wounded each other in the process. The argument and the fight must have occurred during the 1820s, probably following secularization of the missions. California remained very isolated during that time, and life was hard, with few luxuries and little money. A dozen silver and copper coins would have represented a substantial sum in those days - apparently enough to kill over. The two vaqueros agreed to tell no one, divided up the money and went on their way. According to the account, one of the coins still hung on a thong around the neck of the dying vaquero.

Death comes to us all, but those three individuals died anonymously without anyone knowing what had happened to them. In the 1820s in southern California, people did not have access to banks. Valuables were buried or otherwise hidden in order to protect them from thieves. When one died, the location of any horde usually died with them. The decline of the San Fernando Mission, for example, was followed by decades of individuals digging in the grounds and in the buildings searching for treasure. Perhaps those three got lucky, only to succumb to greed and violence.

Is the story true? Or is it simply the kind of romantic tale we all like to hear? We will never know.

Mike Kuhn
Date Unknown

TARANTULAS

These creatures are the terror of the night. If you don't think so, just imagine waking up with one of these giant spiders crawling on your face. Fortunately, when we encounter them on the trail, they generally don't move very quickly (even though they can move quickly if need be.) They do carry a venom. However, the poison is very mild, and you really have to threaten them to get bitten.

They sometimes seem so gentle that some people like to handle them. However, there are little hairs covered with barbs on the end of their abdomen. When you molest tarantulas, they can rub those tiny hairs off onto your fingers. Those fingers then go into your eyes, where those tiny hairs can be transferred into your eyes. The hairs are very irritating. Some tropical tarantulas, which end up in pet stores, are more poisonous and have even more irritating hairs than our local species. So, as cute and cuddly as one person in 10,000 thinks they are, they are best left alone.

Mike Kuhn
12-3-04

September 5th - Sycamore Canyon Shuttle

Four Rancho Simi Trailblazers volunteered to drive shuttle vehicles met at 7:30 a.m. so that they could leave three shuttle vehicles in the Sycamore Cove Beach parking lot [the parking fee is now \$12.00 for day use] – after which they returned to the Wendy Trail trailhead in Newbury Park to join the other hike participants.



The temperature was in the 70's as the eleven hikers headed southwest on the Wendy Trail to the Satwiwa Native American Indian Culture Center where we learned that several of the local rattlesnakes had been given names; fortunately we didn't encounter any of them! We continued our one-way hike along the Big Sycamore Canyon Trail as it descended into the canyon. Many bicycle riders were taking advantage of the relatively low morning temperature in the canyon, so we were frequently passed on the wide fire road by friendly cyclists, a few runners, and an occasional hiker. There was no water in the seasonal stream that runs through the canyon bottom. Nevertheless the towering California sycamore trees had bright green leaves, there were a few flowers, and there was lots of pretty red poison oak (which will turn green again in the spring). The temperature remained in the 70's, and as we drew closer to the ocean, we were caressed by cool breezes. After taking a break in the shade of a large tree at the point where the Backbone Trail meets the Big Sycamore Canyon Trail on the west side of the road, we continued downstream. As we got closer to the Big Sycamore Canyon Campground, the bicycle and foot traffic increased; many of the people we encountered were children (with their parents for the most part), a clear indication that we were drawing nearer to our destination. Eventually we crossed under Highway 1 (PCH) through a tunnel and were immediately on Sycamore Cove Beach with a great view of the ocean. We found a picnic table, had lunch, visited the shore, and then carpooled back to the trailhead in Newbury Park (where it was noticeably warmer than when we started our hike). We dispersed and headed home

having completed a pleasant 9-mile hike with less than 200' of elevation gain.

September 12th - Camp Three Falls to Lilly Meadows





RSTB Calendar October 2009



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Chumash Trail 6pm hike See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Gabe Sende</i> <i>Karleen Volz</i>	2 	3 Hummingbird Trail and Rocky Peak See Schedule
4 Rocky Peak 5pm hike See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Marty Richards</i>	5 	6 Long Canyon 6:30pm hike See Schedule	7 	8 Chumash Trail 6pm hike See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Damon Derrick</i>	9 <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Michael</i> <i>Anderson</i>	10 Serrano Canyon See Schedule
11 Rocky Peak 5pm hike See Schedule	12 <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Paul Friedeborn</i>	13 Long Canyon 6:30pm hike See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Bev Frye</i> <i>Kevin Stroud</i>	14 	15 Chumash Trail 6pm hike See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Adrian Carcione</i>	16 	17 Work Party – Wildlife Corridor in Corriganville See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Debbie Buenconsejo</i>
18 Rocky Peak 5pm hike See Schedule	19 <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Terry Werth</i>	20 Long Canyon 6:30pm hike See Schedule	21 RSTB Meeting 7:00 pm See Page 1 <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Brian McKee</i> <i>Sarita Shoemaker</i>	22 Chumash Trail 6pm hike See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Margarita Marsh</i>	23 	24 Simi Peak See Schedule
25 Rocky Peak 5pm hike See Schedule	26 <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Lisa Klockenteger</i> <i>Yasa Rasakhoo</i>	27 Long Canyon 6:30pm hike See Schedule	28 <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Mark Gilmore</i>	29 Chumash Trail 6pm hike See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Paul Nemeth</i> <i>Tracy Frank</i>	30 	31 Placerita Canyon – Los Pinetos Trail See Schedule



Rancho Simi Trail Blazers

A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation

Hiking Schedule



REGULARLY SCHEDULED HIKES

(Rain cancels – No hikes on holidays)

Sunday Evening - Rocky Peak

Meet 4 pm at Rocky Peak trailhead at the end of Rocky Peak Rd off Santa Susana Pass. (Strenuous, 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. (Strenuous, 5.2 MRT)

OCTOBER HIKES AND ACTIVITIES

October 3rd Hummingbird Trail and Rocky Peak

4.6 MRT - Moderate to Strenuous (1,000' elevation gain) or 8 MRT - Moderate to Strenuous (1750' elevation gain)

Meet at **8 AM** at the **Hummingbird Ranch Trailhead**. You have the option of hiking only the Hummingbird Trail, or continuing on to Rocky Peak. From Highway 118 Simi Valley Freeway, exit on Kuehner Drive and go north. Trailhead is on the right. Bring 2 - 3 quarts of water and lunch. Wear boots.

October 10th Serrano Canyon*



8 MRT - Moderate (700' elevation gain)

This hike follows the Sycamore Canyon trail for about 1.5 miles, then to the junction with Serrano Canyon Trail. The Serrano trail takes you east into a densely wooded narrow canyon, with a lovely seasonal stream criss-crossing the trail numerous times, and abundant wildlife. As the trail begins to gain elevation and move north away from the stream, a stunning vista begins to emerge. Gently rolling grasslands set against the steep outlines of Boney Mountain. Simply wonderful! Meet at **8 AM near Donut Delite** at the corner of Madera and Royal. Bring 2 - 3 quarts of water and a snack. Wear boots. Note: There is a \$10 per car parking fee at the trailhead.

October 17th Work Party - Wildlife Corridor in Corriganville.

We'll be carrying out trash and painting over the graffiti at the Wildlife Corridor in Corriganville. This event is being held in conjunction with GeoCaching.com. Meet at the end of the **Corriganville Park parking lot at 8 AM**. The event will end at noon. The Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District will provide all that we need for the event. You must bring your own water, snacks, and sunscreen. Wear old work clothes, gloves, and a hat. We'll have a pizza lunch after the event, with free geocaching related prizes. This event is not recommended for young children, because of the somewhat graphic nature of the graffiti on the corridor walls.

October 24th Simi Peak (via the Long Canyon trailhead)

9 MRT - Moderate to Strenuous (1300' elevation gain/loss)

Meet at **8 AM** at the **Long Canyon trailhead parking lot**, which is at the intersection of Long Canyon Rd and Wood Ranch Parkway. 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. Bring 2 - 3 quarts of water and lunch. Wear boots.

October 31st Placerita Canyon - Los Pinetos Trail*

9 MRT - Moderate to Strenuous (1800' gain/loss)

Great views from the top of the canyon. Bring lunch, 2 - 3 quarts of water and sun screen. Wear boots. Meet at **8 AM at the Stearns Street Park & Ride**.

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



No dogs allowed on trail(s).

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>

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 ***	
Hiking Chair:	Mark Gilmore	HM (805) 529-5581	markinthepark@sbcglobal.net
Vice Hiking Chair:	Les Wilson	HM (805) 522-2642	les.wilson@simitrailblazers.com
Website:	Mark Gilmore	HM (805) 529-5581	markinthepark@sbcglobal.net
Ways & Means Chair:	Marty Richards	HM (805) 526-4414	
Publicity Chair:	Carrie McCline		
Newsletter Editor:	Kelli Ham	HM (805) 577-1864	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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