



# Rancho Simi Trail Blazers

A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation



## Welcome, New Member!

Maria Julia Pantojo



## October Work Party

For this month's work party, we'll be cleaning up the Challenger Park drainage system debris. This event is being held in conjunction with a GeoCaching.com CITO event. What is CITO, you may ask? It stands for Cache In Trash Out, an environmental initiative supported by geocaching communities all over the world. Since 2002, geocachers have been cleaning up parks and other cache-friendly places around the world. Through these volunteer efforts, we help preserve the natural beauty of our outdoor resources! For more information, see the Hiking Schedule on Page 5.



OCTOBER

## Mt. Baldy Hike to Ski Hut

It's time once again for this special event! The ski hut is on the side of Mt. San Antonio (Mt. Baldy). The hike is listed as strenuous, but we'll only do 3 miles the first day and we have all day to do it. Coming back the next day is all downhill, rewarding everyone for their efforts on the way up! It's a beautiful hike, passing by San Antonio Falls on the way. If you're looking for a real challenge, you can hike to the top of Mt. Baldy (10,064'), using the hut as your base camp.



We'll spend the night in the hut. We'll cook a group dinner using the hut's wood-burning stove. There will be plenty of good stories shared by the hut custodian around the wood-burning stove on Saturday night.

The hut was built in 1937 by the Sierra Club Ski Mountaineers. Nestled in a pine forest, the hut is a large one-room cabin, complete with a sleeping loft, a wood burning stove, comfortable foam mattresses, running water, a full kitchen and toilet facilities. It is a picturesque and serene setting, and the views are spectacular! Visit the Activities page at [www.simitrailblazers.com](http://www.simitrailblazers.com) for more info.

**Space is limited and reservations are required.** The cost is \$10 for Sierra Club members, \$15 for non-members, and must be paid in advance of the trip. Email Mark to make a reservation: [markinthepark@simitrailblazers.com](mailto:markinthepark@simitrailblazers.com)

### RSTB CLUB MEETING

This month's club meeting will be held at: Sycamore Drive Community Center  
1692 Sycamore Drive - Room B-1  
**7:00 PM - October 20, 2010**

### UPCOMING EVENTS

See page 5 and visit the website at <http://simitrailblazers.com> for more details on any of these events.

#### October 2nd

*Camp Three Falls to Lilly Meadows\**  
6 MRT - Moderate (1,075' elev.gain)

#### October 9th

*Rocky Peak(via Hummingbird Trail)*  
8 MRT - Moderate to Strenuous  
(1750' elevation gain).

#### October 16th

*Work Party - Challenger Park*  
8:00 AM – 12:00 PM

#### October 20th

Club Meeting – 7 PM

#### October 23rd

*San Antonio Ski Hut & Mt. Baldy\**  
6 MRT - Strenuous overnighiter.  
(2,200' elevation gain)

#### October 30th

*Porter Ranch Loop Exploratory Hike*  
8.7 MRT - Moderate (950' elev. gain)

### RSTB LOGO T-SHIRTS

Sporting the beautiful RSTB logo, these are great shirts! call Marty if you'd like to order at 805-526-4414.

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



## How The Fernandenos Pronounced Simi

A Fernandeno informant of John Peabody Harrington indicated that while the Simienos pronounced Simi with the accent on the second "i" (Simi'), the Fernandeno said "si'mi," with the accent on the first "i." This pronunciation is much like our fate during the 1960s, when people in the San Fernando Valley said "See'me". Some things never change!

Mike Kuhn  
11-13-04



## Judge Scott's Cabin on Hummingbird Creek

On the west bank of Hummingbird Creek north of the 118 Freeway is the site of an old cabin that was built under several mature coast live oak trees. Only remnants of a concrete slab are visible today. Several of the original oak trees have been destroyed by fire. The once quiet corner of the valley, nestled up against the creek and the rocky hillside, has changed. For one thing, the freeway now passes within a few hundred feet to the south. The freeway blocks the view once enjoyed from the cabin site of the eastern end of Simi Valley. There must be a story there. Some piece of local history has slipped into oblivion.

A December 30, 1974 interview with Joe Bannon by Jan Hinkston in a nursing home in Jamestown, California sheds a little light on the matter. Around 1900 and extending into the second decade of the twentieth century, Joe Bannon's parents ran the old Southern Pacific Railroad quarry where the Santa Susana Park ball field is today. Joe indicated that Judge Joseph Scott had a cabin at the site referenced in the first paragraph. He and the judge's son, who was also a

judge in the Los Angeles area, used to hunt together.

A review of the Historical Atlas of Ventura County, California, compiled and published by W. E. Alexander in about 1912 indicates that the land where the cabin was, including much of the old Corriganville, was owned by Jonathan R. Scott. I can only presume that Joe Bannon's memory was somewhat off and that Judge Scott's first name was really Jonathan. Whether the son's name was Joseph or Jonathan is hard to say.

Mike Kuhn  
11-14-08



## A Sudden Stop

Back in the late 1970s I was on a site inspection for the City of Simi Valley of the then-vacant property astride Katherine Road where it then curved south to cross the railroad tracks into the Susana Knolls. On the outside of the curve was a very large blue gum (*Eucalyptus globulus*) tree. Impaled in that tree was the hood ornament of a 1953 Ford - with new growth calyxed engulfing a portion of the ornament.

I thought about what a tragic accident must have occurred. Perhaps the accident had happened at night. Perhaps the driver had simply tried to take the corner too fast and had lost control. Perhaps alcohol had been involved. What was certain was that the tree had not yielded, while retaining the hood ornament as a trophy of that event.

Some years later, that tree was the first in Simi Valley, as far as we know, to succumb to the Eucalyptus longhorned borer, which had invaded southern California the year before from its home in Australia. The tree died and eventually was removed. Since then hundreds of blue gum trees have come to the same fate - none, however, with

the hood ornament of a 1953 Ford impaled in it. The land itself has now been developed for homes. I will always remember that tree and its "trophy."

Mike Kuhn  
10-27-04

## Simi Valley 50+ Hiking Club

Have you heard? From October through June, the Simi Valley 50+ Hiking Club organizes two hikes each month on Monday mornings. The trails are in the nearby Simi Hills, the Santa Susana Mountains and the Santa Monica Mountains. A typical hike is about 5 miles round trip with several hundred feet of elevation gain/loss; hikes are on maintained trails and fire roads.

A current hiking schedule can be found on the Rancho Simi Trailblazers website. From the home page, click on "50 Plus" link on the left-hand side of the page at <http://www.simitrailblazers.com/>. This page has a link to the hiking schedule under "Hikes" and contact information. This is a great opportunity to get outdoors and hike the local trails with some real nice folks.

The club was founded by Stan Kalsman in 2006. Stan is a 50+ Recreation Coordinator with the Rancho Simi Recreation and Parks District with an office in the Simi Valley Senior Center. Anyone interested in joining the group or learning more about the hikes can contact Stan by sending an email to [seniors@rsrpd.us](mailto:seniors@rsrpd.us) or calling 805-583-6059.

## September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2010 - Montgomery Canyon Loop and Long Canyon Loop



The weatherman told us that Saturday would be the hottest day of the current heat wave. He was right. The plan was to start early and avoid the peak temperatures later

in the day. We split our group of 15 hikers in two, with about half of us completing only the Montgomery Canyon loop and the other braver half continuing on and also completing the Long Canyon Loop. By the time the turn off came for the

worked well and everything was on schedule. Because of the ample rainfall from the previous spring, Sycamore canyon was quite beautiful. Everyone enjoyed the day.



first loop, it was already 90 degrees. By the time the second loop was finished, it was 96 degrees at the trailhead. With a steady and somewhat slower pace and lots of water, we all completed the hike safely.

## September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2010 - Bicycle Ride: Ojai Valley Trail - Ventura River

On Saturday September 18th, six Simi Valley Trail Blazers met at Donut Delite for a bicycle ride starting in Ventura at the Main Street Parking lot. The men, Roger and Larry were outnumbered by the ladies, Betty, Carolyn, Denise, and Effie. It was a blue sky perfect day. It took us about an hour and a half to ride up to Ojai. Larry rode home but most of us stayed for lunch. There was a short walk thru main street in Ojai while window shopping. Then we got back on our bikes and rode the reverse trip to our cars and drove home. It was a good outing for us all.

## September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2010 - Sycamore Canyon Shuttle

It was yet another unseasonably cool summer day and perfect for a hike. Fifteen hikers gathered, at the Wendy Drive & Portrero Drive trailhead. We hiked past the Satwiwa Native American Indian Culture Center, and down through Sycamore Canyon and to the beach, where we enjoyed a leisurely lunch. Temperatures were in the high sixties at the beach. The shuttle logistics



## September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2010 - Coastal Cleanup Day

The scheduled day this year for the Coastal Cleanup turned out to be very hot, and the Arroyo Simi was like an oven. Even so, over 130 volunteers came out to help with the cleanup. One positive note is that there seemed to be less trash this time than in previous years. Thanks to everyone for helping in this worthwhile effort!





# RSTB Calendar October 2010



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	<p><b>Camp Three Falls to Lilly Meadows*</b></p> <p>See Schedule</p>
<p>3 <b>Rocky Peak Fire Road</b> <b>5:00PM</b></p> <p>See Schedule</p>	<p>4</p> <p><i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Marty Richards</i></p>	<p>5 <b>Long Canyon &amp; Oak Canyon</b> <b>6:30PM</b></p> <p>See Schedule</p>	<p>6</p> <p><i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Scott Kuhnly</i></p>	<p>7 <b>Chumash Trail</b> <b>6:00PM</b></p> <p>See Schedule</p>	8	<p>9 <b>Rocky Peak (via the Hummingbird Trail)</b></p> <p>See Schedule</p>
<p>10 <b>Rocky Peak Fire Road</b> <b>5:00PM</b></p> <p>See Schedule</p>	11	<p>12 <b>Long Canyon &amp; Oak Canyon</b> <b>6:30PM</b></p> <p>See Schedule</p> <p><i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Paul Friedeborn</i></p>	<p>13</p> <p><i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Bev Frye</i></p>	<p>14 <b>Chumash Trail</b> <b>6:00PM</b></p> <p>See Schedule</p>	15	<p>16 <b>Work Party - Challenger Park</b></p> <p>See Schedule</p>
<p>17 <b>Rocky Peak Fire Road</b> <b>5:00 PM</b></p> <p>See Schedule</p> <p><i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Debbie Buenconsejo</i> <i>Kathleen Quinn</i></p>	<p>18</p> <p><i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Nicadora Gusan</i></p>	<p>19 <b>Long Canyon &amp; Oak Canyon</b> <b>6:30PM</b></p> <p>See Schedule</p>	<p>20 <b>Club Meeting</b> <b>7:00PM</b></p> <p>See Schedule</p>	<p>21 <b>Chumash Trail</b> <b>6:00PM</b></p> <p>See Schedule</p> <p><i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Sarita Shoemaker</i> <i>Brian McKee</i></p>	<p>22</p> <p><i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Margarita Marsh</i></p>	<p>23 <b>Mt. San Antonia Ski Hut &amp; Mt. Baldy*</b></p> <p></p> <p>See Schedule</p>
<p>24 <b>Rocky Peak Fire Road</b> <b>5:00 PM</b></p> <p>See Schedule</p>	25	<p>26 <b>Long Canyon &amp; Oak Canyon</b> <b>6:30PM</b></p> <p>See Schedule</p> <p><i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Lisa Klockenteger</i></p>	27	<p>28 <b>Chumash Trail</b> <b>6:00PM</b></p> <p>See Schedule</p> <p><i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Mark Gilmore</i></p>	<p>29</p> <p><i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Tracy Frank</i></p>	<p>30 <b>Porter Ranch Loop Exploratory Hike</b></p> <p>See Schedule</p>
<p>31 <b>Rocky Peak Fire Road</b> <b>5:00 PM</b></p>						



# 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 **5 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 - Long Canyon & Oak Canyon Loop**

Meet at **6:30 PM** in Long Canyon parking lot. Directions: Take 1<sup>st</sup> 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 **6 PM** 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)

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### OCTOBER HIKES AND ACTIVITIES

#### **October 2nd**

##### ***Camp Three Falls to Lilly Meadows\****

6 MRT - Moderate (1,075' elevation gain)

Beautiful area with a waterfall about half way up. Bring lunch, water and wear boots. For those looking for a bit of a workout, there is an option of adding some mileage by taking the trail on up to Sheep Camp. Meet at **8 AM** at the Stearns Street Park & Ride. Bring 2 - 3 quarts of water and lunch. Wear sturdy boots.

#### **October 9th**

##### ***Rocky Peak (via the Hummingbird Trail)***

8 MRT - Moderate to Strenuous (1750' elevation gain)

Meet at **8 AM** at the trailhead. From Highway 118 Simi Valley Freeway, exit on Kuehner Drive and go north. Trailhead is on the right. Bring 2 quarts of water and lunch. Wear boots. Please view website for more detail: <http://www.simitrailblazers.com>

#### **October 16th**

##### ***Work Party - Challenger Park***

We'll be cleaning up the Challenger Park drainage system debris. This event is being held in conjunction with a GeoCaching.com CITO (Cache In Trash Out) event. Meet at the end of the Challenger 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. You must bring your own water, snacks, and sunscreen. Wear old work clothes, gloves, and a hat. Directions: Take First Street south and turn left at Challenger Park Drive. This is just before First Street becomes Long Canyon Road.

#### **October 20th**

##### ***Club Meeting***

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

#### **October 23rd**

##### ***Mt. San Antonio Ski Hut & Mt. Baldy\****

6 MRT - Strenuous overnighiter. (2,200' elevation gain)

It doesn't get much better than this! The hut is on the side of Mt. San Antonio (Mt. Baldy) at 8,200'. Space is limited. The fee that is payable to the hut custodian is \$10 for Sierra Club members and \$15 for non-members; fees must be paid in advance of the trip. We'll meet at **7 AM**, at the Stearns Street Park & Ride. We'll cancel if there is bad weather, so please be prepared for a substitute hike.

\* 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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~~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 \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Month \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone: work/home/cell \_\_\_\_\_

How do you want to receive the Newsletter? Check all that apply.

Mail Mailing address \_\_\_\_\_

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How did you find out about the RSTB? \_\_\_\_\_

Please make out tax deductible member dues check for the year to:

Rancho Simi Foundation and mail it to RSTB, P.O. Box 630445, Simi Valley, Ca 93063-0399



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