



# Rancho Simi Trail Blazers

A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation



## Welcome New Members

Julie, Gary and Heather Mason

## Poison Oak

Poison oak (*Rhus diversiloba*) can be found at elevations below 4,000 feet, where rainfall is 8 inches or more per year. The plant emits a poisonous, oily irritant called urushiol from the plant's stems, roots, branches and leaves. Urushiol binds with skin proteins within 20 minutes after contact with the plant (alive or dead), or other objects which have been in contact with the plant (e.g., clothing, tools, or pets).

The allergic reaction to this irritant is a rash, which can start from a few hours to five days after contact. It starts as itchiness and swelling, proceeding to tiny pimples. Then blisters form, from which can ooze a clear fluid. If left untreated, the rash lasts from three to five weeks.

### One fact about poison oak:

While there is no cure for the rash, you can relieve the symptoms. Remove urushiol from skin and clothing. Over-the-counter anti-itch treatments containing zinc acetate, zinc oxide, or hydrocortisone can be applied to the skin. For severe cases, consult a physician.

## October Work Party Work Party - Wild Animal Corridor - Cache In Trash Out Event

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. This event is being held in conjunction with a GeoCaching.com CITO event. Meeting time is **8 AM**. The event will end at noon.

We will be painting out graffiti in the tunnel under the freeway.

For more information, see the Hiking Schedule on Page 5.



## 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



October

## RSTB CLUB MEETING

This month's RSTB meeting will be at:  
Sycamore Drive Community Center  
1692 Sycamore Drive – Room B-1

**October 17, 2012**

## Upcoming Events

### October 6th

**Ahmanson Ranch - Lasky Mesa\***

8.2-mile loop – Moderate (1400' elevation gain) - Meet - **8AM**

### October 13th

**Sisar Canyon to White Ledge\***

Moderate 9 MRT (2000' elevation gain) - Meet - **8AM**

### October 17th

**Club Meeting - 7PM**

### October 20th

**Work Party - Wild Animal Corridor**

**Cache In Trash Out Event - 8AM**

### October 27th

**Placerita Canyon - Los Pinetos Trail\***

9-mile loop – Moderate-to-strenuous (1800' elevation gain) - Meet - **8AM**

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

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

## EL PORTEZUELO

The 1834 report on the Santa Barbara Presidio District calls the road out of Simi Valley due west of the Simi Adobe El Portezuelo. The road leads to a small plain known as “Tierra Rajada.” El Portezuelo means “narrow pass.”

While the Tierra Rejada (a modern misspelling of rajada) Road through the pass between the Simi and the Tierra Rejada valleys is now quite wide, it is obvious from the existing topography that the route through the pass was widened from what must of been a narrow passageway. The name, El Portezuelo, seems appropriate for the time.

Mike Kuhn  
11-13-04 (revised 5-19-10)

## Kashiwey

The pass between Simi Valley and the San Fernando Valley was called “kashiwey” by the Chumash Indians in the area. The meaning of the word was given as “the pass” by John Peabody Harrington’s informants. (The stem word, -wey, means “to be notched.”) This naming pattern seems typical of the Chumash. Unlike ourselves, they did not name places after people or “saints.” Once a person had died, their name was not used again, and they were no longer spoken of. Names of places were utilitarian. One village (Simi) in the area was named for a type of cloud. Tierra Rejada valley was “cracked earth.” There are a number of examples throughout the Chumash area of passes that were simply known as “the pass” in the local Chumash dialect. This occurred because individual Chumash knew very little about the land outside of their immediate area, so there was little chance of confusion.

The U.S. Surveyor General’s 1861 plat of Rancho Simi lists two names in the

Santa Susana Pass area. One name is Bajos de Santa Susanna, which means Santa Susana Pass. The other is Puerta Suela, which means - yes, you guessed it - the pass. In effect, two names were common at the time. One was the name given by the Spanish and the other was the Spanish translation of the Chumash name.

The Chumash were still on the land. Indeed, the great majority of those who lived in Simi Valley - the laborers, the sheepherders and the vaqueros - were Chumash Indians. They were bilingual. The names of places remained, even if only in Spanish translations from the Chumash language.

This of course is not surprising. Many of those Chumash names in Spanish or English (from the Spanish) translation are still with us, as are purely Spanish names. We live in Simi Valley, we know Tapo Canyon, the Hummingbird’s Nest Ranch, Brea Canyon and Tierra Rejada Valley. We visit San Diego, La Jolla, Los Angeles, San Gabriel, San Bernardino, Paso Robles, San Luis Obispo and San Jose. Names are often not forgotten, even with the passing of the cultures that spawned them. This is historic inertia. We are one with the past, even if it is someone else’s.

Mike Kuhn  
12-5-04 (revised 6-17-10)

## THOSE STREET NAMES

Most local roadways in town have been named by the developers of subdivisions. The developer is primarily interested in finding names that the Simi Valley Police Department and the Ventura County Fire Protection District will approve and will serve future residents and businesses well. While we don’t have an “Ocean View Drive” in town, it is a name that people can spell, pronounce and are attracted

to - even if you can’t see the ocean from there. Police and fire officials are interested in avoiding duplications or names that sound the same or are close in some way. Tragedy may be the result from a 911 response that goes to the wrong place. For example, there are two Peppertree Lanes in the valley.

Street names in the Bridle Path Homeowners’ Association area were taken from Carefree, Arizona. At least one street name was changed almost immediately because, while everyone had the name in their spoken vocabulary, few knew how to spell it. With a little research, I could probably find out what it was. “Nonchalant” Drive remains and is on the edge of what people can be expected to handle.

Back in the mid-1970s the developer of the Indian Hills project asked me to come up with a list of “Chumash” names that could be used for streets in the development. I tried to keep it simple, but the real names were hard to pronounce and were unrecognizable. Nice easy ones like “ka’altish’eutsh’eu kashup” just weren’t appealing. (That’s “cracked earth” in English or “tierra rajada” in Spanish.) A quick look at the names we did get indicates that they fell back on familiar American Indian names from history. “Flanagan” is an exception. That was the name of the family that farmed the area.

No one seems to know where “Kuehner Drive” came from. Perhaps someone should have recorded the history as it happened.

Mike Kuhn  
12-6-04



## August 18th - Mugu Peak La Jolla Valley Loop



In this latest installment of the new RSTB Network's reality show "Beat the Heat", eleven happy contestants met at the La Jolla Canyon trailhead, in Pt. Mugu State Park. The object of this week's show was to beat the mid-nineties heat in Simi Valley, while hiking the 9.2 mile (1,685' elevation gain) loop. All contestants won the grand prize of 76 degrees when they returned back to the trailhead later that morning. Eight lucky contestants won the bonus round, also completing the trek to the top of Mugu Peak. Stay tuned for next week's "Beat the Heat" show, when more contestants will complete the Westward Beach to Paradise Cove out and back.

## August 25th - Westwood Beach to Paradise Cove



Seventeen hikers carpoled to the far end of Westward Beach Road, just north of Pt. Dume Sate Beach. Our hike quickly gained elevation, as we hiked the trail to the north of the Point, on our way to a well used stairway taking

us to Pt. Dume Cove Beach. It was overcast when we arrived, but by 10 AM, the skies cleared in time for us to enjoy the ocean views. Temperatures were in the comfortable range, as we walked along the beach to Paradise Cove. As always, Paradise Cove was a most inviting place. We relaxed in the Adirondack chairs, eating our trail snacks, taking in the ocean view, enjoying the sounds of the waves, and watching the busy seagulls create ever more tracks in the sand. On our way back, we saw many pods of dolphins, from observation point to the south of Pt. Dume. Along the beach, all the way back



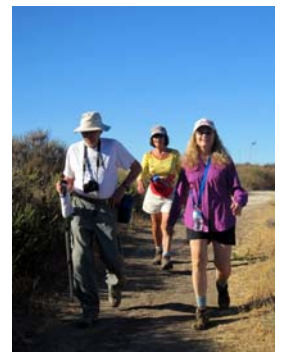
to our cars, we continued to see even more dolphin pods. We all had a most enjoyable hike, completing the 7.1 mile trek (with 650' of elevation gain), knowing that we would soon return to the ninety degree temperatures back in Simi Valley.

## September 1st - Big Sky Trail Loop



Fifteen Trail Blazers met at Big Sky Place at 8 AM this morning. It was unusually cool the night before, so we enjoyed comfortable hiking





temperatures, until the very end of the hike. Although it was just under 80 degrees when we returned the trailhead, the high humidity made it feel much warmer. The elevation gain part of the loop was complete before the temperature started to rise. It was a relatively clear day, so we were presented with some fine views for the first half of the hike. The whole hike took about 2 hours, so we were done well before the activities of the holiday weekend began. The loop was 4.4 miles, with 950' of elevation gain.





# RSTB Calendar October



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Las Lajas Canyon <b>6:30PM</b>  See Schedule	3	4 Chumash Trail <b>6PM</b>  See Schedule  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Marty Richards	5	6 Ahmanson Ranch - Lasky Mesa*  See Schedule
7 Rocky Peak Fire Road <b>5PM</b>  See Schedule	8	9 Las Lajas Canyon <b>6:30PM</b>  See Schedule	10	11 Chumash Trail <b>6PM</b>  See Schedule	12  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Paul Friedeborn	13 Sisar Canyon to White Ledge*  See Schedule
14 Rocky Peak Fire Road <b>5PM</b>  See Schedule	15	16 Las Lajas Canyon <b>6:30PM</b>  See Schedule  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Teresa Marasco	17 Club Meeting <b>7PM</b>  See Schedule  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Kathleen Quinn	18 Chumash Trail <b>6PM</b>  See Schedule	19  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Tere Trabert	20 Work Party - Wild Animal Corridor - Cache In Trash Out Event  See Schedule
21 Rocky Peak Fire Road <b>5PM</b>  See Schedule  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Mike Marasco Sarita Shoemaker	22  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Margarita Marsh	23 Las Lajas Canyon <b>6:30PM</b>  See Schedule	24	25 Chumash Trail <b>6PM</b>  See Schedule	26  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Lisa Klockenteger	27 Placerita Canyon - Los Pinetos Trail*  See Schedule
28 Rocky Peak Fire Road <b>5PM</b>  See Schedule  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Mark Gilmore	29  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Tracy Frank Enid Marasco	30 Las Lajas Canyon <b>6:30PM</b>  See Schedule	31 			



Due to unforeseen circumstances, all activities are subject to change without notice.  
Please see [www.simitrailblazers.com/activities/](http://www.simitrailblazers.com/activities/) for event details and the most up-to-date 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 on the 118 Freeway and head north over the freeway. Park at the trailhead or across the bridge on the Santa Susana Pass Road. (Strenuous - 4.8 MRT - 1,200' elevation gain)

### **Tuesday Evening - Las Lajas Canyon**

Meet at **6:30 PM** at the Evening Sky Drive trailhead. Take the 118 to the Yosemite Ave exit. Head north 1/3 mile (passing McDonald's) to 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 - 3.75 MRT - 348' total elevation gain)

### **Thursday Evening - The Chumash Trail**

Meet at **6 PM** at Chumash trailhead. Directions: Take the 118 Freeway to Yosemite exit. Go north on Yosemite and turn right on Flanagan Dr. The trailhead is at the end of Flanagan Drive. (Moderate to Strenuous - 5.4 MRT - 1,210' total elevation gain)

## OCTOBER HIKES AND ACTIVITIES

### **October 6th**

#### ***Ahmanson Ranch - Lasky Mesa\****

8.2-mile loop - Moderate (1,400' elevation gain/loss)

Meet at **8 AM** at the Donut Delite carpool point near the intersection of Madera Road and Royal Avenue in Simi Valley. Bring 2 to 3 quarts of water and a snack. Wear boots. View: <http://www.simitrailblazers.com/activities/index.html> for information on any hike.

### **October 13th**

#### ***Sisar Canyon to White Ledge\****

Moderate 9 MRT (2000' elevation gain)

Follow a creek up to the California Bay Laurel trees of the White Ledge campsite in the Topatopa Mountains. Bring 2 to 3 quarts of water, layered clothing, and lunch. Wear boots. Meet at **8 AM** near Donut Delite near the corner of Madera and Royal.

### **October 17th**

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

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

### **October 20th**

#### ***Work Party - Wild Animal Corridor - Cache In Trash Out Event***

Meeting time is **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. This event is being held in conjunction with a GeoCaching.com CITO event.

**Directions:** From Kuehner Drive and the 118, head South to Smith Road and turn left. Continue to the end Smith Road, passing the public parking area. Follow the CITO Event signs, past the normally locked gate where the pavement ends, to a designated parking area, adjacent the rail road track.

### **October 27**

#### ***Placerita Canyon - Los Pinetos Trail\****

9-mile loop – Moderate-to-Strenuous (1800' elevation gain/loss)

This hike consists of a clockwise loop including the Placerita Canyon Trail to Walker Ranch, then up the Los Pinetos Trail to Wilson Saddle, then a short distance northwest to the firebreak that leads mostly down (sometimes steeply) to the Manzanita Mountain Trail which leads down to the parking lot. Bring lunch, 2-3 quarts of water, and sunscreen. Wear boots. Meet at **8 AM** at the Stearns Street Park & Ride lot.

\* 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
Treasurer:	Craig Malin		
Park District Liaison:	Colleen Janssen	WK (805) 584-4453	volunteers@rsrpd.us
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Vice Hiking Chair:	Les Wilson	HM (805) 522-2642	les.wilson@roadrunner.com
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Ways & Means Chair:	Marty Richards	HM (805) 526-4414	mlrrdh@yahoo.com
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Newsletter Editor:	Linda Mann		linda.martins.mann@simitrailblazers.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 \_\_\_\_\_ 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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

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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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