



# Rancho Simi Trail Blazers

A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation



## Weekly hikes!!



Has anyone ever told you to take a hike?

Did you know that in Simi Valley you can take many hikes with the Rancho Simi Trail Blazers and explore the beauty of Simi Valley and other beautiful locations? We have so much fun taking photos, talking and just viewing the beautiful scenery like the photo above. We even enjoy going on overnight events. **Please join us** and see for yourself how much fun we have!

**Hikes are every Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday, and most Saturdays**



## 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



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.

## RSTB CLUB MEETING

This month's RSTB meeting will be at:  
Sycamore Drive Community Center  
1692 Sycamore Drive – Room B-1  
**Wednesday: October 21, 2015**  
**5:30PM** Everyone Welcome to attend!

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

## Upcoming Events

### October 3rd Ahmanson Ranch - Lasky Mesa\*

8.2-mile loop - Moderate (1,400' elevation gain/loss) **8AM**

### October 10th Sisar Canyon to White Ledge\*

9 MRT - Moderate to Strenuous (2,000' of elevation gain/loss) **8AM**

### October 17th Mt. Pinos to Sheep Camp via Sawmill Mountain\*

9 MRT - Moderate to Strenuous (1,800' elevation gain/loss)

### October 21st Club Meeting

The Sycamore Drive Community Center - 1692 Sycamore Drive - Room B-1 **5:30PM** Everyone Welcome to attend!

### October 24th Work Party - Wild Animal Corridor - Cache In Trash Out Event

### October 31st Sandstone Peak via the Mishe Mokwa Trail\*

7 MRT Loop - Moderate to Strenuous (1,500' elevation gain/loss)

## Volunteers Needed!!



If anyone is interested in volunteering for the **Work Parties Chair** or the **Publicity Chair**

contact Mike Kuhn at:  
[mike.kuhn@simitrailblazers.com](mailto:mike.kuhn@simitrailblazers.com)

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

## July 25th - Highway 120 to Bennettville and up to Fantail lake (7.4 miles with 650' of elevation gain/loss)



Bennettville was a 19th century silver mining community. The Assay Office (small building) and Bark/Bunkhouse (large building) are all that remain of the original 14 buildings. Although short-lived (1882 - 1884), this community was the primary reason for the construction of the Tioga Pass Road (Highway 120). The US Forest Service and the State of California, restored these remaining structures to historic specifications during the summer of 1993. A 1,784' tunnel was blasted into solid rock by the Great Sierra Mining Company, in an attempt to intersect the silver lode from above, on the eastern side of the Tioga Pass summit. No silver ore was ever recovered. In 1889, a new company called the Great Sierra Consolidated Silver Company, extended the tunnel an additional 216', but again silver ore was never found.

Our hike started at the Tioga Pass Road, adjacent the northwestern side of Tioga Lake. We passed 3 unnamed lakes before reaching the tunnel in Bennettville. Near the tunnel, were some relatively well preserved mining equipment, including a two-cylinder steam engine, boilers, jackhammer and pump. Continuing up the drainage, we passed the picturesque Shell, Mine and Fantail Lakes. Two members of our group continued on to Spuller Lake, adding another mile and a few hundred feet of elevation gain to their hike. In all, this hike had everything you could ever want, including much evidence of glaciation and colorful wildflowers. Each lake we encountered seemed more beautiful than the last.

## August 1st - Newton Canyon

Thirteen hikers, met at the Donut Delite parking lot and carpoled to the Newton Canyon Trailhead, where we met two more hikers from Thousand Oaks. The Newton Canyon trail follows a segment of the Backbone Trail, known for its extensive riparian canopy. It is the shade, provided by this canopy, that makes this hike a good

choice in the hot summer months. A quick check with NOAA weather indicated that the forecast trailhead temperature, at the end of our hike, would be about 85 degrees. Humidity was very high today, so the comfort window was short. Turns out, NOAA's forecast was almost spot on. We stopped about a half-mile before the end of our hike, because the heat and humidity were becoming increasingly uncomfortable. There were no wildflowers in evidence, except a few Indian Pink blooms. The automobile AC felt very good, having completed just over about 6.2 miles, with 1,280' of total elevation gain.



## August 8th - Westward Beach to Point Dume to Paradise Cove



11 hikers carpoled to Malibu and Westward Beach Road where we took advantage of limited free parking along the road and then hiked to the parking lot trailhead.

The temperature was pleasant but there was high humidity as we began hiking up and over Point Dume. After an easy climb onto Point Dume, we followed a trail as it led down to Dume Beach. The tide was ebbing as we leisurely walked along a stretch of rocks and then sandy beach for two miles, enjoying the ocean sounds and sights, eventually arriving at the Paradise Cove Beach Cafe (<http://www.paradisecovemalibu.com>), a landmark for decades. We rested for a while in the free-of-charge Adirondack chairs facing the ocean outside the restaurant; there were lots of beachgoers enjoying the day. Since the rising tide threatened to cut off our return route, we soon resumed our hike and headed back along the beach the way we had come. After climbing back onto Point Dume, we hiked to an observation platform which afforded views of the ocean; we spotted numerous seals lounging on rocks. We continued on the trail around the point and descended to the parking lot where preparations for a wedding on the beach had been completed and guests were arriving. Agreeing that the outing was a nice change of pace, we then headed home having completed an easy 5-mile hike [plus a mile each way to/from where we parked] with about 350' of elevation gain.



# RSTB Calendar OCTOBER



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Chumash Trail <b>6PM</b>  See Schedule	2	3 Ahmanson Ranch - Lasky Mesa* <b>8AM</b>  See Schedule
4 Rocky Peak Fire Road <b>5PM</b>  See Schedule  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Marty Richards	5	6 Mt. McCoy Trail <b>6PM</b>  See Schedule	7	8 Chumash Trail <b>6PM</b>  See Schedule	9	10 Sisar Canyon to White Ledge* <b>8AM</b>  See Schedule
11 Rocky Peak Fire Road <b>5PM</b>  See Schedule	12	13 Mt. McCoy Trail <b>6PM</b>  See Schedule	14	15 Chumash Trail <b>6PM</b>  See Schedule	16	17 Mt. Pinos to Sheep Camp via Sawmill Mountain* <b>7AM</b> See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Kathleen Quinn
18 Rocky Peak Fire Road <b>5PM</b>  See Schedule	19	20 Mt. McCoy Trail <b>6PM</b>  See Schedule	21 Club Meeting <b>5:30PM</b> <i>Everyone</i> <i>Welcome to attend!</i> See Schedule  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Sarita Shoemaker	22 Chumash Trail <b>6PM</b>  See Schedule  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Margarita Marsh	23	24 Work Party - Wild Animal Corridor - Cache In Trash Out Event <b>8AM</b>  See Schedule
25 Rocky Peak Fire Road <b>5PM</b>  See Schedule  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Katie Prater	26       <i>Happy Birthday</i> Lisa Klockenteger	27 Mt. McCoy Trail <b>6PM</b>  See Schedule	28       <i>Happy Birthday</i> Mark Gilmore	29 Chumash Trail <b>6PM</b>  See Schedule	30	31 Sandstone Peak via the Mishe Mokwa Trail* <b>8AM</b> See Schedule  

**SANTA ANA WILDFIRE THREAT INDEX** - Provides a 6 day forecast of Santa Ana Winds Wildfire Threats on a color coded map <http://psgeodata.fs.fed.us/sawti/>

**CALIFORNIA FIRE WEATHER MAP** - Provides actual Red Flag Warnings and Fire Weather Watches [http://www.fire.ca.gov/communications/communications\\_firesafety\\_redflagwarning.php](http://www.fire.ca.gov/communications/communications_firesafety_redflagwarning.php) (Scroll down to map)

# RANCHO SIMI TRAIL BLAZERS

*A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation*

Executive Chair:	Mike Kuhn	HM (805) 583-2345	hannahmike@me.com
Treasurer:	Santiago Homsí		
Park District Liaison:	Jeannie Liss	WK (805) 584-4453	volunteers@rsrpd.us
Work Parties Chair:	<b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b>		<b>Contact Mike Kuhn at: 805-583-2345</b>
Hiking Chair:	Mark Gilmore	HM (805) 529-5581	markinthepark@sbcglobal.net
Vice Hiking Chair:	Les Wilson	HM (805) 522-2642	les.wilson@roadrunner.com
Website:	Mark Gilmore	HM (805) 529-5581	markinthepark@sbcglobal.net
Ways & Means Chair:	Marty Richards	HM (805) 526-4414	mlrrdh@yahoo.com
Publicity Chair:	<b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b>		<b>Contact Mike Kuhn at: 805-583-2345</b>
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.

- Mail Mailing address \_\_\_\_\_
- Email Email address \_\_\_\_\_

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 1231, Simi Valley, CA 93062



U.S. Postage

**RSTB**  
P.O. Box 1231  
Simi Valley, CA 93062

## WHAT DOES "SIMI" MEAN?

Perhaps our most authoritative source comes from the notes of John Peabody Harrington. Mr. Harrington worked for 35 years for the American Bureau of Ethnology, a branch of the Smithsonian Institute, and did field work among and accumulated ethnographic and linguistic notes from all north and central American Indian groups for 50 years. His notes contain two references to the meaning of "*Simí*." What is significant about the notes is that the proper form of the word was recorded directly from Chumash speakers by one of the foremost linguists of his time. The first note, attributed to an Indian of San Fernando, named Manuel Capon, lists the name as "*simijash*" and gives the explanation that: "...long ago the Tapo Ranch had something like a mist or cloud that could be seen sometimes in November. The thread-like clouds started at the Tapo and went south. *Kmi* 'my thread' *Lokakmiash*, 'it is my thread.'" The root of the word refers to a thread. Robert E. Harrington, in his book, *Early Days of Simi Valley* (1961), p. 3, states, "The name Simi came from the Indian name *Shimee* which means in the Indian language the little long fleecy white clouds which hover over the valley at times." He included the meaning of *Simí* in a May 21, 1969 article in the *Enterprise Sun and News*. He refers to the word meaning as: "Little white wind clouds so often seen when the wind blows up here and Indians living on the coast, as most of them did, would never venture up here when those wind clouds were in the sky. The word *Simiji* was contracted by whites to the word *Simi*." He gives his source as his brother, John Peabody Harrington. This explanation suggests that the name "*Simí*" originated at a time when there may not have been permanent settlement in the valley - in other words, prior to about 950 C.E. It is tempting to speculate that the "thread-like wind clouds," which sometimes first appear over the Tapo in November, refer to cirrus clouds and which are harbingers of storms and are concomitant with northwesterly and northerly wind, eventually followed by northeasterly and easterly, i.e., Santa Ana, winds. When a series of storms come through, cirrus clouds appear while northwesterly, northerly or Santa Ana winds are still blowing. The Chumash, of course, did not have the same global view that we enjoy today.

They had no way of knowing that cirrus clouds are so widespread when they appear.

Dr. John Johnson, in *Simi Valley: A Journey Through Time*, Simi Valley Historical Society and Museum (1997), page 8, suggests that the "...thread-like clouds" may refer to "...strands of mist from coastal fog that move into the Oxnard Plain and wind their way up Calleguas Creek and the Arroyo Las Posas into the Simi Valley." It seems to me that the "thread-like clouds" did not refer to encroaching coast fog for four reasons. First, any coastal fog hanging over the Tripas and extending down into Simi Valley could not have been observed from the Oxnard Plains. Fog is a near-surface phenomenon and could not have been observed from the Oxnard Plain. Second, the presence of fog would not have given the Chumash any good reason to cancel a planned journey from the coast to Simi Valley. Fog is not a harbinger of stormy weather. Third, fog in the Tripas would hardly have been referred to as "wind clouds." Fourth, I have not witnessed coastal fog hanging over the Tripas and extending down toward Simi Valley anytime during the 38 years I have lived here. I doubt that any weather phenomenon that was common in the past would not still occur during the past few decades.

Finally, a trunk full of John Peabody Harrington's notes and personal effects was found in the old R. E. Harrington house by his niece, Ruth Dempsey, in March 1981. One of the linguistic notes in the trunk listed the word "*sh'eme*" in linguistic notations. (In this case the two inverted "e's" represent relatively neutral sounds.) However, it is not clear what dialect of Chumash is being quoted since the informant is not noted. The meaning listed is "any cloud any color." The text goes on to give several phrases using the word "cloud." This Harrington note is not in reference to the place "*Simí*," rather, it is simply a linguistic note. It does seem to bolster the connection between *Simí* and some form of cloud. However, it may not be related to the source of the name *Simí*.

All of the Chumash sources of the meaning of the word "*Simí*" are in general agreement. We know that the name was that of the Indian village at the western end of Simi Valley and of the district

extending from Santa Susana Pass on the east to the eastern end of the Las Posas Valley on the west. The name seems to derive from the Chumash name for cirrus clouds, which clouds are "thread like" and could have been observed over the Tripas from the Oxnard Plain.

Mike Kuhn  
9-5-08 (revised 10-12-12)



## TREE SAYINGS

The true meaning of life is to plant trees under whose shade you do not expect to sit.

Nelson Henderson

I like trees because they seem more resigned to the way they have to live than other things do.

Willa Cather

Suburbia is where the developer bulldozes out the trees, then names the streets after them.

Bill Vaughn

Trees are poems that earth writes upon the sky; we fell them down and turn them into paper; that we may record our emptiness.

Kahlil Gibran

Alone with myself, the trees bend to caress me, the shade hugs my heart.

Candy Polgar

Flowers and plants are silent presence; they nourish every sense except the ear.

May Sarton



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## REGULARLY SCHEDULED HIKE (Rain cancels – No hikes on holidays)

### Sunday Evening - Rocky Peak Fire Road

Meet at **5PM** 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.

**(We Meet at 5PM during daylight saving time.)** (Strenuous - 4.8 MRT - 1,200' elevation gain)

### Tuesday Evening - Mt. McCoy Trail

Meet at **6PM** in the parking lot, located to the south of Donut Delite, near the NE corner of Madera and Royal. (Moderate - 4.0 MRT - 600' elevation gain)

### Thursday Evening - Chumash Trail

Meet at **6PM** 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 - 1300' total elevation gain.)

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## OCTOBER HIKES AND ACTIVITIES

**October 3rd Ahmanson Ranch - Lasky Mesa\*** 8.2-mile loop - Moderate (1,400' elevation gain/loss) The hike heads north-east to an overlook of the San Fernando Valley before descending to the East Las Virgenes Canyon Trail and eventually to the Bell Canyon Fire Road and the nearby creek in Las Virgenes Canyon and then back to the original trailhead. Meet at **8AM** 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.

**October 10th Sisar Canyon to White Ledge\*** 9 MRT - Moderate to Strenuous (2,000' of elevation gain/loss) We'll leave the dirt road and follow the Red Reef Trail the final mile to shady White Ledge Camp which is situated between two creeks among towering conifers. Meet at **8AM** near Donut Delite at the corner of Madera and Royal. Bring 2 to 3 quarts of water and lunch/snacks. Wear boots.


**October 17th Mt. Pinos to Sheep Camp via Sawmill Mountain\*** 9 MRT - Moderate to Strenuous (1,800' elevation gain/loss) After driving to the Chula Vista parking lot less than two miles from the top (8,831') of Mt. Pinos (near Frazier Park) in the Los Padres National Forest, we'll follow a dirt road through the forest to the summit where there are excellent views to the north, south, and west. Turning south we'll descend half a mile to Sheep Primitive Camp and take a rest/lunch break under cover of towering Jeffrey pines. We'll return the way we came. Meet at the 118 & Stearns St. Park & Ride at **7AM**. Bring 2 to 3 quarts of water and lunch/snacks. Wear boots.

**October 21st Club Meeting 5:30PM** - The Sycamore Drive Community Center - 1692 Sycamore Drive - Room B-1  
**Everyone Welcome to attend!**

**October 24th Work Party - Wild Animal Corridor - Cache In Trash Out Event** Meeting time is **8AM**. 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 31st Sandstone Peak via the Mishe Mokwa Trail\*** 7 MRT Loop - Moderate to Strenuous (1,500' elevation gain/loss) Our hike begins at the point where the Santa Monica Mountains Backbone Trail (BBT) crosses Yerba Buena Road at Triunfo Pass (2,100'). After enjoying the spectacular views we'll complete the loop back to the Mishe Mokwa Trail and our vehicles. Bring lunch and 2 to 3 quarts of water. Meet at **8AM** near Donut Delite at the corner of Madera and Royal.

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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.

**Full descriptions of these hikes and activities are available at <http://www.simitrailblazers.com/activities/index.html>**