



Rancho Simi Trail Blazers

A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation



WELCOME NEW MEMBER

Danny Milligan

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

Our bank will no longer accept dues or other checks made out to the Rancho Simi Trail Blazers. ALL CHECKS must be made out to the Rancho Simi Foundation.

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



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



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

RSTB CLUB MEETING

This month's RSTB meeting will be at:
Sycamore Drive Community Center
1692 Sycamore Drive – Room B-1
Wednesday: October 19, 2016
5:30PM Everyone Welcome to attend!

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

Upcoming Events

October 1st Long Canyon, Oak Canyon, Canyon View Trail Loop 8.1 Mile loop – Moderate-to-strenuous (1,430' elevation gain/loss) or 5.2 Mile loop – Moderate (950' elevation gain/loss) or Easy-to-moderate (4-mile loop w/500' elevation gain/loss) **8AM**

October 8th The Hummingbird Trail and Rocky Peak 4.6 MRT – Moderate to Strenuous (1,000' elevation gain) or 8 MRT – Moderate to Strenuous (1750' elevation gain) **8AM**

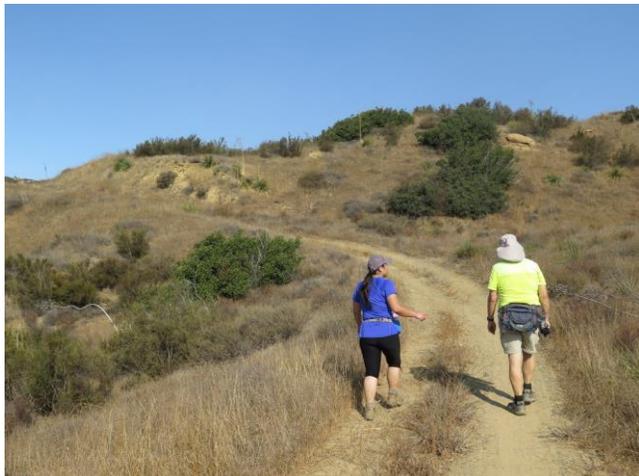
October 15th Chivo Canyon Loop 7 MRT – Moderate (1,400' elevation gain) **8AM**

October 19th Club Board Meeting The Sycamore Drive Community Center - 1692 Sycamore Drive - Room B-1 **5:30PM Everyone Welcome to attend!**

October 22nd Work Party – Wild Animal Corridor – Cache In Trash Out Event **8AM**

October 29th Simi Peak via the Hidden Meadows Trail and "The Secret Trail" 6.6 MRT – Moderate to Strenuous (1,700' elevation gain/loss) **8AM**

August 20th – Johnson Motorway to Chumash Trail Shuttle



13 hikers carpoled to the trailhead on Iverson Road just outside the gated southern entrance to Indian Springs Estates in Chatsworth on an already warm summer morning. After following the easement through the upscale gated community, we reached the beginning of the unpaved Johnson Motorway (once a toll road). The trail (an old dirt and sandstone roadbed) rose westward until it met a short “drive-way” leading north to the ruins of the ranch house that was built by Ann and Neils Johnson (for whom the motorway is named) in the late 1800’s. Continuing our hike we followed the Johnson Motorway as it passed through a landscape of dramatic rock formations, climbing steadily, but not steeply, toward the Rocky Peak Fire Road; the temperature also climbed steadily as the sun beat down on us mercilessly. After 3.5 miles we reached the fire road where we took a short break. We then headed northward along the Rocky Peak Fire Road enjoying views of the boulder-laden landscape at the eastern end of Simi Valley, soon reaching the upper end of the Chumash Trail which we followed down to the northeast end of Flanagan Drive where we left most of our vehicles. Having finished our one-way hike, we returned home having completed a 6.9-mile hike with 1,334’ of elevation gain and 1,499’ of elevation loss.

August 27th – Devil Canyon to Brown’s Canyon Road

28 hikers met at the starting point of the hike on Poema Place in Chatsworth on an unusually cool, but welcome, summer morning. Our hike began as we descended into the heavily shaded bottom of Devil Canyon where we followed the remnants of the Devil Canyon Motorway upstream as it frequently criss-crossed the dry creek bed. We spotted Chalk Live-Forever plants and beautiful “Naked Ladies” (aka. Surprise Lily) as we made our way up to the large dam at the junction with the mouth of Ybarra Canyon. After a brief rest break we continued

upstream along the trail which from this point on had been transformed a couple of years ago from single-track to a “one-lane” dirt road [the reason for this not being apparent though several short dirt “side roads” had also been created]. As the canyon widened we passed by grass-covered hillsides dotted with oak trees. As we reached the upper-canyon Cathedral-like oak woodland, the trail reverted to its natural undisturbed state. Upon reaching Brown’s Canyon Road we turned right (east) and hiked a short distance uphill where we took a break and enjoyed views to the south. We retraced our route back to our vehicles and returned home having completed a very pleasant 9.7-mile hike with about 1,200’ of elevation gain/loss.

September 3rd – Arroyo Simi Bike Path Ride: Madera Road to Ralston Street

It was an unseasonably cool September morning and perfect for a bicycle ride. Several species of water birds were frolicking in the arroyo today, especially at the western end of the valley. We saw a Great Blue Heron, more than a dozen egrets, and a multitude of mallards, coots and grebes. Still enduring severe drought conditions, many parts of the Arroyo were dry, but there was sufficient water to support a struggling ecosystem. After arriving back at the trailhead, we completed exactly 16.1 miles, and about 350’ of total elevation gain and loss. The bicycle ride was a great change of pace from our usual hiking schedule.

September 10th – Carpinteria Bluffs, Tar Pits Park, and Bates Beach



21 hikers met in the parking lot at Rincon Park a little south of Carpinteria on a cooler-than-normal late-summer morning. Our hike began along the Carpinteria Bluffs overlooking Bates Beach and the Pacific Ocean. The trail ran parallel to the railroad tracks for about a mile and a half and then led through a grove of eucalyptus trees over to the Carpinteria Harbor Seal Preserve which is home to almost 100 adult seals who give birth to their cubs on the Carpinteria shoreline;

it’s one of the four harbor seal rookeries remaining along the southern California coast. Luckily there were dozens of seals lounging in the sanctuary. We continued on to Tar Pits Park with its naturally occurring asphaltum and then took a break nearby and enjoyed the mild temperature and the ocean and beach views, though the Channel Islands were not visible due to the overcast sky. We continued northwest along Carpinteria Beach where we spotted the elusive “Simi Valley Merman” taking a dip in the ocean. We returned to a connector trail and descended to Bates Beach for a leisurely sandy stroll beside the ocean back to the picnic area at Rincon Park. We returned to Simi Valley, having completed a refreshing 7.2-mile hike with about 220’ of elevation gain/loss.



RSTB Calendar OCTOBER



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Long Canyon, Oak Canyon, Canyon View Trail Loop 8AM See Schedule
2 Rocky Peak Fire Road 5PM See Schedule	3 Happy Rosh Hashanah 	4 Mt. McCoy Trail 6PM See Schedule	5	6 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule	7	8 The Hummingbird Trail and Rocky Peak 8AM See Schedule
9 Rocky Peak Fire Road 5PM See Schedule	10 Happy Columbus Day 	11 Mt. McCoy Trail 6PM See Schedule 	12	13 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule	14	15 Chivo Canyon Loop 8AM See Schedule
16 Rocky Peak Fire Road 5PM See Schedule	17	18 Mt. McCoy Trail 6PM See Schedule	19 Club Meeting 5:30PM <i>Everyone</i> <i>Welcome to attend!</i> See Schedule	20 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule	21	22 Work Party – Wild Animal Corridor – Cache In Trash Out Event 8AM See Schedule
23 Rocky Peak Fire Road 5PM See Schedule	24	25 Mt. McCoy Trail 6PM See Schedule	26	27 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule	28	29 Simi Peak via the Hidden Meadows Trail and “The Secret Trail” 8AM See Schedule
30 Rocky Peak Fire Road 5PM See Schedule	31 Happy Halloween 					

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 (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:	VOLUNTEER NEEDED		Contact Mike Kuhn at: 805-583-2345
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:	VOLUNTEER NEEDED		Contact Mike Kuhn at: 805-583-2345
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

MONARCH

Old Monarch was the last captive California grizzly bear. During the prehistoric period, grizzly bears were the ecological dominant in California. Even the Indians were killed and eaten by grizzlies. The Indians simply had no defense against these predators. During the Spanish/Mexican period the California grizzly flourished on a diet of sheep, cattle and other livestock. Their predation was noticed, and they were hunted by vaqueros, who roped the great carnivores. With the coming of the Anglo-Americans, livestock had much greater value, and it was the destiny of the new settlers to conquer the land and all that roamed on it. The Anglo-American settlers were much better armed than their California neighbors, and they proceeded to hunt almost everything in the form of game animals into near oblivion. Nevertheless, one local traveler from the 1870s reported seeing more than 50 grizzlies on a ride between Piru and Ventura.

The California grizzly was the most formidable creatures that roamed the land, and it was chosen to occupy the state flag as the symbol of the new republic and later the state of California.

The grizzly bear became rare in most of northern California, the north coast seemed to have been an exception, much earlier than in the more sparsely settled southern California. Certainly, northern Ventura County became one of the last great bastions where a significant grizzly bear population remained.

In the 1880s William Randolph Hearst took over the *San Francisco Examiner* and sought to boost its circulation through sensational journalism. To this end, in 1889 he commissioned one of his newspapermen, Allen Kelly, to capture and to return to San Francisco with a California grizzly for the San Francisco zoo. The bigger, the better! Kelly later published a book, entitled *Bears I have Met and Others* (1903), and his reports were prominently featured in the *Examiner* during 1889. However, it is apparent

that both his reports and the contents of his book were largely fiction. Indeed, the two sources bear only superficial resemblance.

The late Charles F. Outland, in *Mines, Murders & Grizzlies: Tales of California's Ventura Back Country* (1969), includes a chapter about the hunt and capture of Old Monarch. In the chapter, he attempts to ferret out what really happened. We know that the hunt began in June 1889, and the bear was captured during October of the same year - reaching San Francisco by train in November of that year. The bear, "a live grizzly bear of large proportions," dubbed "Monarch," lived another 22 years in the zoo, being put down in 1911 due to old age, mange and general ill health. After its death, the bear was weighed for the first time in its life and was found to be 1,127 pounds. One can assume that Monarch was none too friendly during his life, and in a day before tranquilizers, no one tried to weigh him while he was alive.

While Kelly's party tried for five months to lure a grizzly into a log enclosure, Mr. Outland concluded that the bear, likely one known locally as "*Mucho Diablo*" and "Old Pinto," was probably captured the old fashioned way, using *riatas*, by vaqueros from the cattle operation of General Edward Fitzgerald Beale, who had, according to Outland (page 133), acquired some 265,000 acres in Ventura and Los Angeles counties. Outland credits the capture to the Mt. Pinos area, however, the Pine Mountain Lodge area is another possibility. While Mr. Hearst expended \$1,200 fielding a band of hunters for months on end, Mr. Kelly was forced to buy the grizzly from stockmen - for them a good morning's work. The failure of the expedition to capture its own grizzly and the source of their grizzly was not reported in the pages of Mr. Hearst's newspapers.

Northwest of Pine Mountain Lodge on a fork of Reyes Creek high in the mountains, we are left with a backpackers' camp called "Bear Trap No. 1." "Bear Trap No. 2" is still on the maps but is no longer identifiable. We

are both sad and glad that we no longer share the mountains with bears with names like "*Mucho Diablo*."

Mike Kuhn
11-19-04

MATILIJA

The name Matilija come down to us from the name of a Chumash village in the Ojai Valley. Applegate (1975) renders the name as *mat'ilha* and suggests that it means "division" in the Ojai dialect of *Ventureño* Chumash. Gudde (1969) suggests that since the Matilija poppy was valued by the Chumash for medicinal purposes, the name may refer to the poppy. (This latter explanation seems plausible but speculative at best - especially coming from a non-anthropologist.)

The mission archives includes a reference to *Arroyo de Matilija* and a *Rancharia de Matilija* on a *diseño de El Rincon* (1927). It was mentioned by Taylor as *Matilija* (1861) and as a Spanish spelling in 1863, also as *Matilija*. When the railroad was extended to Nordhoff (now Ojai) from Ventura in 1898 the station was given the name Matilija. Now it is applied to the name of the canyon, watershed and creek as in "the Matilija." There are also Matilija Hot Springs.

Mike Kuhn
9-28-12





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



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 on the northern side of the Rocky Peak exit from State Route 118. 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)

(We Meet at 5PM during daylight saving time.)

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 - 3.07 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.)

OCTOBER HIKES AND ACTIVITIES

October 1st Long Canyon, Oak Canyon, Montgomery Canyon, Challenger Park, Coyote Hills Park, Canyon View Trail Loop

8.1 Mile loop – Moderate-to-strenuous (1,430' elevation gain/loss) or 5.2 Mile loop – Moderate (950' elevation gain/loss) or Easy-to-moderate (4-mile loop w/500' elevation gain/loss) There are excellent views of the west end of Simi Valley from the ridges. Meet at **8AM** at the trailhead in the parking lot just west of the junction of Long Canyon Road and Wood Ranch Parkway. Bring 2 to 3 quarts of water and a snack. Wear boots.

October 8th The 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 **8AM** 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 15th Chivo Canyon Loop

7 MRT – Moderate (1,400' elevation gain) We'll complete our loop hike along a section of the old Marr Ranch Road and the Cliff Trail. Directions to meeting place: From Simi Valley, take Highway 118 to Yosemite Avenue. Drive 1.9 miles north to Westwood Street. Turn right on Westwood Street and park your car. Bring 2 to 3 quarts of water and a snack.

October 19th Club Meeting *Everyone Welcome to attend!*

5:30PM - The Sycamore Drive Community Center - 1692 Sycamore Drive - Room B-1

October 22nd 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 29th Simi Peak via the Hidden Meadows Trail and "The Secret Trail"

6.6 MRT – Moderate to Strenuous (1,700' elevation gain/loss) As our hike begins (1,445') we will ascend the Hidden Meadows Trail and the Oakbrook Vista Trail (1,582') to a spur trail that leads to an overlook (1,875') to the north. Meet at **8AM** near Donut Delite at the corner of Madera and Royal. Bring 2 to 3 quarts of water, lunch and sunscreen. Wear boots.

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>