



# Rancho Simi Trail Blazers

A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation



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.**

## September 23rd – Solstice Canyon



20 hikers carpooled to Solstice Canyon the Santa Monica Mountains National

Recreation Area near the Pacific Ocean on a cool early-autumn morning. Our out-and-back hike began by following trickling Solstice Creek along the nearly-level, well-shaded Solstice Canyon Trail (a dirt road), taking advantage of two short trails paralleling the dirt road along the way, and reaching the Sostomo Trail junction after about one mile.

At one point we were treated to a view and the loud squawks of several beautiful green wild South American parakeets flying from sycamore tree to sycamore tree. Next we followed the Sostomo Trail as it climbed steadily toward a junction with the Deer Valley Loop Trail, enjoying an intermittent light ocean breeze along the way. As the somewhat-shaded trail rose we had clear views of Solstice Canyon and the Rising Sun Trail across the canyon. After reaching Deer Valley, we followed the loop trail in a clockwise direction as it ascended the mountainside to an overlook of the Pacific Ocean. As we neared the overlook a much-appreciated marine breeze cooled us and we took a break as we enjoyed the panoramic views of the area. After the break we completed the loop and then returned along the Sostomo Trail to the Solstice Canyon Trail (road).

If you want to read more stories, go to: <https://www.simitrailblazers.com/index.php/2017-2/>

## Welcome NEW Members

Dare & Malissa Damiani



## 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**

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.rsrpd.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 18, 2017**

**5:30PM**

**Everyone Welcome to attend!**

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

## Upcoming Events

**October 7th Work Party – Wild Animal Corridor – Cache In Trash Out Event 8AM**

**October 14th Sisar Canyon to White Ledge Camp \***

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

**October 18th Club Board Meeting The Sycamore Drive Community Center - 1692 Sycamore Drive - Room B-1 **Everyone Welcome to attend! 5:30PM****

**October 21st Las Llajas Canyon and Chumash Trail Loop** 9 MRT – Moderate to Strenuous (2,000' elevation gain/loss) **8AM**

**October 28th Westward Beach to Pt. Dume and Paradise Cove \***

5.0 MRT – Easy to Moderate (425' elevation gain/loss) **8AM**

## 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



## **September 2nd – Carpentaria Bluffs to Tar Pits State Park**



This time of year is often the hottest, so we typically schedule hikes in locations that afford us a break from the heat. Having endured over a week of 100 degree plus temperatures, it was a welcome relief to find that it was only 76 degrees at the trailhead. 15 hikers began our hike along the Carpentaria Bluffs overlooking Bates Beach. This year there were no seals to be seen at Carpentaria Seal Sanctuary.

Passing Carpentaria Bluffs Nature Preserve, Tar Pits Park was the next stop on our hike. It is second only in size to the famous La Brea Tar Pits in Los Angeles. Next the trail took us to Carpentaria State Beach, where we left the trail to begin the first beach segment of our hike. We stopped briefly at the San Miguel Campground facilities, where several of us took off our boots to better enjoy the walk on the beach. The beach was busier than usual, probably because of Labor Day, and because many others planned to avoid the inland heat. The beach was especially inviting, and a welcome change of pace from our usual hikes. Continuing past Marsh Park, we saw many beautiful familiar and exotic birds that inhabit our shoreline. The turn-around point of our hike was Sand Point, where we stopped to enjoy the majestic ocean, and have some lunch and snacks. A welcome and cool ocean breeze started just in time for our return trip. Just past the Nature Preserve, we took a short and steep connector trail that took us down to Bates Beach. On the way back to Rincon Park, we enjoyed exploring the unusual rock formations, and finding shells along the tide-line. Our hike was 7 ¼ miles with 225' of elevation gain/loss.

## **September 9th – Charmlee Wilderness Park Loop**

Seventeen hikers gathered in the main parking lot (\$4 parking fee) at Charmlee Wilderness Park in the Santa Monica Mountains overlooking Malibu on a pleasantly cool late-summer morning. The park has a somewhat bewildering network of trails crisscrossing it but our route this day was

a clockwise loop mostly around the outer edges of the park.

We began our hike at the picnic area a short distance south of the information board along the Botany Trail as it rose through an oak grove to a three-way trail split. We continued straight ahead on the main trail as it passed between the eastern edge of the grassy meadow that occupies much of the park on one side and copses of oak trees and rock outcroppings on the other (east) side. Eventually we reached "Ocean Vista" overlooking the Pacific Ocean which lay more than 1,000' below (unfortunately the distant views were largely obscured). We continued as the trail rose through chaparral to an abandoned reservoir bordered by eucalyptus trees where we enjoyed cool ocean breezes. The West Meadow Trail led us down to an old well and water pump after which we hiked around the "Black Forest," partially on the Clyde Canyon Trail which provided views to the west. After rejoining the West Meadow Trail we soon turned left and headed northwest along an unnamed trail through a pleasant oak woodland until we reached Potrero Road which we followed up to a road junction where we turned right and explored the Ranch House ruins before following Carmichael Road and the Botany Trail back to the parking lot. We returned home having completed a short-but-satisfying 3.5-mile hike with 680' of elevation gain/loss in this park with an amazing diversity of botany and geology on another great day for hiking.

## **September 16th – Pt. Mugu State Beach Walk**



12 hikers carpooled to Malibu via Kanan Dume Road and, as soon as we headed west on Pacific Coast Highway (PCH), our hiking plans were dashed as we discovered that the 31st Annual Nautica Malibu Triathlon was underway. Traffic slowed

to a snail's pace and all access to the beach was blocked by highway patrol officers for the next 11 miles as traffic crawled westward between runners and bicyclists on both sides of the road.

Once we "escaped" from the path of the triathlon, we decided to explore Thornhill Broome Beach State Park which is located along PCH between the giant sand dune and Mugu Rock. It was a pleasant morning as we strolled along the beach watching the waves and lots of seashore birds. The beach was surprisingly sparsely populated (with humans) to our delight. We eventually reached the western end of the beach near Mugu Rock and across the PCH from the entrance to La Jolla Canyon. After a leisurely rest/snack break during which our own "merman" made a short appearance, we then ambled back along the beach to our vehicles and headed back to Simi Valley via Camarillo having walked on sand for 2.4 miles with a "whopping" 35' of elevation gain/loss (and having turned "lemons into lemonade"). NOTE: The original Westward Beach to Point Dume to Paradise Cove hike will be rescheduled in October.



# RSTB Calendar

## OCTOBER



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Rocky Peak Fire Road <b>5PM</b>  See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Deidre Roberts	2	3 Mt. McCoy Trail <b>6PM</b>  See Schedule	4	5 Chumash Trail <b>6PM</b>  See Schedule	6	7 Work Party – Wild Animal Corridor – Cache In Trash Out Event <b>8AM</b> See Schedule
8 Rocky Peak Fire Road <b>5PM</b>  See Schedule	9	10 Mt. McCoy Trail <b>6PM</b>  See Schedule	11	12 Chumash Trail <b>6PM</b>  See Schedule	13	14 Sisar Canyon to White Ledge Camp <b>8AM</b>  See Schedule
15 Rocky Peak Fire Road <b>5PM</b>  See Schedule	16	17 Mt. McCoy Trail <b>6PM</b>  See Schedule  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Kathleen Quinn	18 Club Board Meeting The <i>Everyone Welcome to attend!</i> 5:30PM	19 Chumash Trail <b>6PM</b>  See Schedule	20	21 Las Llajas Canyon and Chumash Trail Loop <b>8AM</b> See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Sarita Shoemaker
22 Rocky Peak Fire Road <b>5PM</b> See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Margarita Marsh	23	24 Mt. McCoy Trail <b>6PM</b>  See Schedule  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Micke Miller	25	26 Chumash Trail <b>6PM</b>  See Schedule  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Lisa Klockenteger	27	28 Westward Beach to Pt. Dume and Paradise Cove <b>8AM</b>  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Mark Gilmore
29 Rocky Peak Fire Road <b>5PM</b> See Schedule	30	31 Mt. McCoy Trail <b>6PM</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	<a href="mailto:hannahmike@me.com">hannahmike@me.com</a>
Treasurer:	Santiago Homsi		
Park District Liaison:	Jeannie Liss	WK (805) 584-4453	<a href="mailto:volunteers@rsrpdpd.us">volunteers@rsrpdpd.us</a>
Work Parties Chair:	<b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b>		<b>Contact Mike Kuhn at: 805-583-2345</b>
Hiking Chair:	Mark Gilmore	HM (805) 990-1460	<a href="mailto:markinthepark@sbcglobal.net">markinthepark@sbcglobal.net</a>
Vice Hiking Chair:	Les Wilson	HM (805) 522-2642	<a href="mailto:les.wilson@roadrunner.com">les.wilson@roadrunner.com</a>
Website:	Mark Gilmore	HM (805) 529-5581	<a href="mailto:markinthepark@sbcglobal.net">markinthepark@sbcglobal.net</a>
Ways & Means Chair:	Marty Richards	HM (805) 526-4414	<a href="mailto:mlrrdh@yahoo.com">mlrrdh@yahoo.com</a>
Publicity Chair:	<b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b>		<b>Contact Mike Kuhn at: 805-583-2345</b>
Newsletter Editor:	Linda Mann	Cell: 805-501-5229	<a href="mailto:linda.martins.mann@simitrailblazers.com">linda.martins.mann@simitrailblazers.com</a>

**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**

## THE TAPO CANYON BRIDGE

Until the mid-1980s the Pepper Tree Lane bridge over the Arroyo Simi was a one lane wooden affair dating from who knows when. As holes in the rotting wood of the roadbed developed, workers from the Brandeis-Bardin Institute would shovel in dirt. The bridge was used by buses, delivery trucks and fire vehicles of all sorts as well as by automobiles. Norman Fogel, the facility manager at the institute, was very concerned that the bridge was a threat to public safety and wanted the Ventura County Flood Control District to replace the structure. In about 1976, to marshal the support of the City, Norm invited the then City Manager (Dick Malcolm) and City Engineer/Director of Public Works (Byron Johnson) to the Institute and expounded upon just how dilapidated the bridge had become. Since the bridge was within the City Limits, Mr. Johnson decided that he should inspect it and did so on his way back to his office. A half hour later the bridge was condemned and closed to use.

This event led to the bridge being taken apart and rebuilt, with deteriorated members being replaced. Curiously, I noticed that the bridge had had iron "icebreaker bars" installed on the upstream side. Those bars were intended to cause ice sheets in the stream to ride up and to break up due to water pressure without loading the bridge too much - an important feature in the northeastern and midwestern parts of the country. No doubt, a standard one-lane bridge design had been acquired from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Whoever had originally built the bridge had no idea what all that iron work was for, but they remained true to the construction drawings. Byron Johnson knew and commented on the matter.

A few weeks later I again looked at the bridge. Guess what? The icebreaker bars had been re-mounted on the bridge! We were all set again for a hard winter. (The City, I might note, had nothing to do with the reconstruction of the bridge.)

The bridge episode had created a crisis. While the bridge was down, the only way for patrons of the institute, fire trucks, farm vehicles and other emergency vehicles to come and go was to use a "dry crossing" of the Arroyo Simi at the southern end of Tapo Street. (The Tapo Street Bridge did not come along for many years.) The trouble with that was that the crossing was not always dry. There were more than 100 buildings in the canyon, and, sometimes there were 700-900 peo-

ple on the property. While the old bridge was dismantled, raging waters came to Simi. Office workers from the Brandeis-Bardin Institute had to be escorted over the rushing waters by firemen on double 2" x 12" planks extending from abutment to abutment. Some of those workers finished their day drinking at the old El Gallito Restaurant on Tapo Street. (That restaurant is now an El Patio.) Quieter nerves were needed.

Four to five feet of erosion had occurred around the bridge piling, and there was no way of knowing how deep the pilings had been driven when the bridge had originally been constructed. When reopened to vehicular use, a 2.3 ton load limit was posted. "Light vehicles" were allowed on the bridge, but nothing heavier was permitted. Heavier vehicles had to use the "dry" crossing at Tapo Street. This wasn't a very satisfying solution, since the crossing wasn't always dry.

Immediately upstream of the bridge, on the southern side of the arroyo, was a small triangular privately owned parcel over which access from the dry crossing at Tapo Street was taken. That route was needed for those heavy emergency and delivery vehicles. The parcel had been acquired in a poker game by a contractor. One day, he began grading the parcel to turn it into a "storage yard" for his heavy equipment and materials - there went the emergency access! The grading was being conducted without benefits of a "grading permit" from the city or an environmental review. No special use permit for the intended use had been applied for or approved. Since this was a public safety issue, I contacted the City's Department of Public Works - they vacillated. I then contacted the Ventura County Fire Protection District - they vacillated. So I contacted the Ventura County Flood Control District - and they vacillated. When I left my office at the end of the day, it seemed that none of those agencies would respond. However, the next morning, at 8:00 a.m., representatives from all three agencies showed up at the work site and ordered the grading stopped. I surmise they had needed to talk it over in their respective office before deciding to act. Eventually, a new concrete bridge was built by the Ventura County Flood Control District to replace the infamous one-lane structure. Thus passed into history the last wooden bridge over the Arroyo Simi in Simi Valley and certainly the only bridge with ice-breaker bars.

Mike Kuhn  
12-1-04 (revised 11-17-12)

## THE SIMI-SANTA ROSA FAULT

The Simi-Santa Rosa fault extends from the Oxnard Plain through Camarillo and the northern side of the Tierra Rejada Valley, south of the railroad at Madera Road, and marking the base of the Santa Susana Mountains as far east as Las Llajas Canyon. The fault may connect with and become the Northridge fault. The fault is a relic of the collision of the North Pacific Plate and North American Plate. The San Andreas fault marks the boundary between those two great plates. The angular collision of those plates, starting in the Palms Spring area and extending into northwestern Ventura County, has resulted in the North Pacific Plate having to alter its course to the west northwest near Palm Springs and then again to the north northwest east of the Cuyama Valley. The net result is a shortening, i.e., thickening, of the Earth's crust in the form of folding and faulting. The Transverse Ranges Physiographic Province, consisting of the San Bernardino Mountains, the San Gabriel Mountains and the Santa Monica Mountains, including the mountains of Ventura County and the Simi-Santa Rosa fault, are part of the complicated topography that has resulted. The fault is a high angle thrust fault with the hanging wall, i.e., the up thrust portion, on the north northwest side of the fault.

*(Continued in November)*





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 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 north end of Flanagan Drive. (Moderate to Strenuous - 5.4 MRT - 1300' total elevation gain.)

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## OCTOBER HIKES AND ACTIVITIES

### October 7th 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 14th Sisar Canyon to White Ledge Camp

9 MRT – Moderate to Strenuous (2,000' elevation gain/loss) 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. 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.

### October 18th Club Meeting Everyone Welcome to attend!

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

### October 21st – Las Llajas Canyon and Chumash Trail Loop

9 MRT – Moderate to Strenuous (2,000' elevation gain/loss) Meet at the Chumash Trail trailhead at **8AM**.

**Directions to Trailhead:** Just before reaching the Poe Ranch gate we'll follow a dirt road leading up to an abandoned oil field and then on up to a junction with the Rocky Peak Fire Road. After reaching the Rocky Peak Fire Road, we'll head south toward the upper end of the Chumash Trail. Along the way we'll pass Fossil Hill (named for the shells of sea creatures left behind when the area was under a vast sea) and will be treated to panoramic views of mountains and canyons to the east, south, and west. Upon reaching the upper end of the Chumash Trail we'll follow it down to a connector trail to Evening Sky Drive to complete our loop hike.

### October 28th – Westward Beach to Pt. Dume and Paradise Cove

5.0 MRT – Easy to Moderate (425' elevation gain/loss) 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. The return hike follows the beach back to Point Dume where there are observation points for whale, seal, and dolphin watching.

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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/index.php/calendar/>**