



Rancho Simi Trail Blazers

A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation



Welcome, New Members!

Rick Koppel
John Holroyd
Nicholas Martino
Mary, Larry, and Damon Derrick



RSTB LOGO T-SHIRTS

Are your old logo T-shirts worn out? We still have short sleeve, long sleeve, and sweat shirts in assorted sizes and colors. Prices are as follows:

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



Please call Marty if you'd like to place an order: 805-526-4414



RSTB CLUB MEETING

This month's club meeting will be held at the Community Center, Room B-1
1692 Sycamore Drive
at 7:00 PM
November 19, 2008

Happy Holidays!

Come and enjoy our casual and social holiday potluck!

Date: Dec.12 Friday
Time: 6:30pm

Place: Marty & Al Richards
2086 Elmdale Ave.
Simi Valley

Please call Marty to confirm what food you are bringing and to get directions to the house.

805-526-4414



Save the Date!

Free Wild Animal Shows

Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District and the Rancho Simi Trailblazers will sponsor two FREE family programs next March.

Simi Valley: Saturday, March 14

Oak Park: Saturday, March 28

Both programs will start at 10am. Watch for more details about these popular programs in upcoming newsletters! You may also call Colleen Janssen at (805)584-4453 or send email to volunteers@rsrpd.us for more information.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Please visit the website for details on any of the following hikes and events.

November 1

Santa Paula Canyon (8.1 MRT)

November 8

Sandstone Peak via the Mishe Mokwa Trail (7 MRT - Moderate)

November 15-16

San Antonio Ski Hut - Mt. Baldy (6 MRT - Strenuous overnighter.)

November 22

Work Party - Upper Chumash Trail Meet at Rocky Peak Trailhead

November 29

Matilija Falls (9 MRT - Moderate)

More information on these events can be found at

<http://simitrailblazers.com>

To make reservations, please email Mark Gilmore at markinthepark@sbcglobal.net

MALIBU

Chumash place names were recorded variously by various people throughout the historic period. Sometimes the names were recorded by people with linguistic training and "good ears", while

MALIBU – continued

most often those recording a place name had no training and a linguistic ear like my own - and that's bad. Many place names were repeated by Chumash informants, but often as much as 100 years after that "place" ceased to have any significance to the Indians. The Chumash themselves had no written language.

As an example of the difficulty of trying to decide what the place name might originally have been is the name we know as "Malibu". My collection of the original Chumash rendition, as processed by the Spanish includes: *Jumaliguo, Malivo, Umalibo, Humalibo, Humaliu, Oumaliu, Omaliu, Umaliu, Humaligo, Humaligo en la Playa, male-wu, Humaliwo, Hu-ma'-li-wu, and Maliwu.*

The meaning of Malibu is "the surf sounds loud all the time". The prefix "hu" means "over there".

You will also note another pattern that has come down to us from the Chumash via Spanish - we refer to "the Malibu", just as the Spanish and early Anglo-American settlers referred to "the Simi," "the Tripas," "the Hummingbird" and "the Tapo". In Simi, we have largely lost this pattern, except as a distant memory.

Mike Kuhn
12-5-04



THE MEANING OF ROCK ART

Archaeologist Dr. David S. Whitley is a leading authority on native American rock art. He lives in Fillmore and his business, W and S Consultants, which he shares with his partner Joe Simon, is based in Simi Valley. Dr. Whitley has concluded that most rock art was done by shamans, i.e., medicine men, at the

conclusions of shamans' visions. Like our own dreams, the visions of shamans were quickly forgotten because of the production of enzymes in the brain which destroy our short term memories of visions and other dreams. Consequently, shaman recorded their visions so they would not forget them. At the same time, those images and symbols on stone were indications to others of the power of that shaman.

Some symbols are entoptic designs. For example, when experiencing great pain or receive a blow to the head, you may see "stars". Similar images occur with some migraine headaches. During hallucinations while on drugs, edges of objects may seem to be outlined by bright points of lights. These universal patterns seem to appear in American Indian and other rock art. Those entoptic designs are common to all cultures - we all have the same biochemical reaction to stress.

Other images are symbolic or may represent metaphors that are unique to that culture. Wavy lines often symbolize rattlesnakes. In the Great Basin of the United States, big horned sheep, according to Dr. Whitley, are part of a metaphor relating to the activities of the rain-making shaman. There is no ethnographic evidence that they are related to hunting magic.

For the Chumash area, without good ethnographic information, we may never be able to "read" the rock art. Even when we think we know, we will probably be wrong most of the time. It is likely that even contemporaries of the makers of rock did not know. Nonetheless, pondering the imponderable gives meaning to life and is part of the human experience and destiny. Our thanks to David Whitley and other rock art specialists for shedding some light on the meaning of American Indian.

Mike Kuhn
12-5-04

Shutterbug Corner

The Resolution vs. Memory Card Space Conundrum

I recently received some wedding pictures from a friend, a new digital camera owner. She heard she could take more pictures if she used a lower resolution to save space on the memory card. Sadly, all of the snapshots she took at the wedding were of poor quality because of the low resolution setting.

Prices have really come down for memory cards, so consider buying extra memory for your camera. You never know when that really special photo opportunity will present itself, so the tip for the month is to always have the resolution at a high setting.



Dragonfly wing detail at high resolution



Low resolution example

If you take a lot of digital photos, here are some tips:

- Use a higher resolution setting any time when you might get that one great photo
- Carry an extra memory card, just in case you run out of space
- Make a habit of deleting bad or unwanted photos right away
- Set up a regular routine to download and organize your photos, keeping space available on your memory card

Let us know what you think!

Should we continue the Shutterbug Corner as a regular feature? Email the editor with your comments: simitrailrunner@gmail.com

Zion and Bryce Canyon 2008

This was the Trailblazer's first trip to Zion and Bryce. We've never traveled so far for one of our events, but it was well worth the trip. All our expectations were exceeded. To our surprise, it didn't take all that long to travel to southwestern Utah.

Most of us left on Monday afternoon and evening, with Las Vegas as our destination. Zion National Park is under three hours away from Vegas, so it made perfect sense to spend the night in Vegas on the way. We stayed at the Stratosphere, at the north end of the "Strip". It's hard to believe the rooms were only \$25 (single occupancy) and that's for a two-room suite, with two wide-screen TVs! The next five nights would be spent on the ground and in a tent, so this luxury night was well-deserved. On Tuesday morning, we treated ourselves to one of those well-known Vegas breakfast buffets and then took a short walk over to the Stratosphere tower where we boarded the elevator. We gained 1000' of elevation in short order by the time we reached the top. It was a relatively clear day, and the 360 degree view was spectacular.

We arrived at Zion early on Tuesday afternoon, set up camp, and assembled for our first dayhike. First up was the Watchman Trail (2 MRT – 368' elevation gain), which took us up to a picturesque overlook of the southern end of the canyon. From this vantage point, we had good views of both campgrounds, a commanding view up the canyon, and even off into the nearby town of Springdale. This short hike was a perfect taste of things to come.

Wednesday morning we awoke early and took the shuttle bus to the Angel's Landing (5 MRT – 1,488' elevation gain) trailhead. (The Park Service shuttles travel the length of the canyon. No doubt these shuttles



do much to keep the canyon pristine and keep out the automobile congestion.) It's difficult to describe the beauty of the scenery on the way to the top of the Landing. I can only imagine how difficult it must have been to build the trail. Many have compared this trail to Half Dome in Yosemite,

but it is in reality much easier to propel yourself up the last quarter mile with the well-located chains. Near the top, we saw three California condors flying below us in the canyon. Later, we learned that they were released in Northern Utah, but have since made their home in Zion.

On Thursday, we rode the shuttle to the very end of its route, to the Narrows Trailhead. The Narrows is one of those places that redefines your perception of what you



can personally accomplish. The idea of hiking over three miles up the narrows, and in the Virgin River, seems almost impossible. Still, once you get started, it's not long before your confidence builds your feel completely confident tromping around, sometimes waist deep, in the river. The water sure increases the drag on your body, especially going upstream, so by the end of the hike we all knew we got our exercise that day. The scenery on this hike is again difficult to describe. Pictures simply don't do it justice. It's something you must simply experience yourself.

On day four, we all piled into our vehicles and took the east road out of the Park. Destination: Bryce Canyon. We learned that Bryce Canyon is not actually a canyon, rather what geologists call an "amphitheater"; thirteen to be exact. Bryce is one of those National Parks that defies description since it is so very unique and scenic. The hike for the day was the Fairyland Loop (8 MRT – 2,309' elevation gain). Colorful formations and unique shapes were on the menu for the day. Filling up our camera's memory card was hard to avoid. It seemed no matter what direction you pointed your camera yielded a picture post card. We could have spent more time on the free shuttle, just being tourists, but the Park Service was conducting a controlled burn, on the far side of the park, so shuttle service was limited.

On Saturday, our final day in the Park, was a day for doing most any hike our hearts desired. Some of us scaled Observation Point (8 MRT – 2,148' elevation gain). Others took in the tourist sites (including soaking in the river near the campground), while others did a few of the short day hikes in the canyon. That evening, just across the river from the campground in the town of Springfield, we were treated to a free concert on an outdoor stage. The *Watchmen* were on stage that evening, playing golden oldies and audience requests. This was the perfect way to unwind from the week's activities and a perfect end to our stay in preparation for the long drive back home early the next morning.



Editor's Note: The photos accompanying this article don't even come close to showing the beauty and grandeur of Zion and Bryce Canyons. To see the whole gallery, be sure to visit the website at www.simitrailblazers.com/pix/zion08/.



RSTB Calendar November 2008



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Santa Paula Canyon See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Mary Martin</i>
2 Rocky Peak 4pm hike See Schedule Daylight Savings Time begins - remember to turn clocks back!	3 <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Don Hunt</i>	4 Long Canyon 6:30 pm hike See Schedule	5	6 Chumash Trail 6pm hike See Schedule	7 <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Joe Ferrall</i>	8 Sandstone Peak (via the Mishe Mokwa Trail) See Schedule
9 Rocky Peak 4pm hike See Schedule	10	11 Long Canyon 6:30pm hike See Schedule Veterans Day	12 RSTB Meeting 7:00 pm See Page 1	13 Chumash Trail 6pm hike See Schedule	14	15 San Antonio Ski Hut - Mt. Baldy See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Jim Kepler</i>
16 Rocky Peak 4pm hike See Schedule	17 <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Brandi King</i> <i>Joshua Jensen</i>	18 Long Canyon 6:30pm hike See Schedule	19 <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>D'Laurie Petro</i> <i>Randy Klockenteger</i>	20 Chumash Trail 6pm hike See Schedule	21	22 Work Party - Upper Chumash Trail See Schedule
23 Rocky Peak 4pm hike See Schedule	24 <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Arlene Altshuler</i>	25 Long Canyon 6:30pm hike See Schedule	26 <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Isabel Johnson</i>	27 Happy Thanksgiving!  No Hike (although we might need one!	28	29 Matilija Falls See Schedule
30 Rocky Peak 4pm hike See Schedule						



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Hiking Schedule



REGULARLY SCHEDULED HIKES

(Rain cancels – No hikes on holidays)

Sunday Evening - Rocky Peak

Meet 4 pm at Rocky Peak trailhead at the end of Rocky Peak Rd off Santa Susana Pass. (Strenuous, 4.8 MRT)

Tuesday Evening - Long Canyon

Meet at 6:30pm in Long Canyon parking lot. Directions: Take 1st 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 6pm 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. (Strenuous, 5.2 MRT)

NOVEMBER HIKES AND ACTIVITIES

November 1st *Santa Paula Canyon**

8.1 MRT - Moderate (1000' elevation gain)

The trail takes you through picturesque St. Thomas Aquinas College, then along the shady banks of Santa Paula Creek, with plentiful swimming holes, capped by a spectacular 25 foot waterfall just past Big Cone Camp. Bring 2 - 3 quarts water, lunch and a pair of shoes/sandals that you don't mind getting wet. Wear boots. More information is available on the website. Meet at 8 AM near Donut Delite at the corner of Madera and Royal.

November 8th *Sandstone Peak (via the Mishe Mokwa Trail)**

7 MRT - Moderate (1500' elevation gain/loss)

See a wide variety of vegetation, spectacular rock formations, and the highest peak in the Santa Monica Mountains. Meet at 8 AM near Donut Delite at the corner of Madera and Royal. Bring 2 quarts of water and lunch. Wear boots.

November 15th & 16th *San Antonio Ski Hut - Mt. Baldy**

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

It doesn't get much better than this! The Hut is at the base of Mt. San Antonio (Mt. Baldy) at 8,200'. The views are spectacular! Please see the website for additional important details. Space is limited, and there is a fee - \$10 if you are a Sierra Club Member and \$15 for non-members. To reserve your place, please email Mark at markinthepark@sbcglobal.net. We'll meet at 8 AM, at the Stearns Street Park & Ride. Bad weather cancels, so please be prepared for a substitute hike.

November 22nd *Work Party - Upper Chumash Trail*

Meet at the Rocky Peak Trailhead. We'll drive up the fireroad to where it intersects with the top of the Chumsh Trail. Bring 2 - 3 quarts of water, hat, sunscreen, and gloves to work on the trail.

November 29th *Matilija Falls**

Moderate 9 MRT (950' elevation gain)

Hike up Matilija Creek, passing waterfalls, turtle ponds and swimming holes. Bring 2 - 3 quarts of water, a snack and a pair of shoes/sandals that you don't mind getting wet. Meet at 8 AM near Donut Delite at the corner of Madera and Royal.

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

 No dogs allowed on trail(s).

For 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>

LANCHO SIMI TRAIL BLAZERS

A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation

Executive Chair:	Mike Kuhn	HM (805) 583-2345	hannahmike@roadrunner.com
Treasurer:	Peter Ely		
Park District Liaison:	Colleen Janssen	WK (805) 584-4453	volunteers@rsrpd.us
Work Parties Chair:		*** OPEN ***	
Hiking Chair:	Mark Gilmore	HM (805) 529-5581	markinthepark@sbcglobal.net
Vice Hiking Chair:	John Sabol	HM (805) 583-2541	jtsabol@sbcglobal.net
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Ways & Means Chair:	Marty Richards	HM (805) 526-4414	
Publicity Chair:	Carrie McCline		
Newsletter Editor:	Kelli Ham	HM (805) 577-1864	simitrailrunner@gmail.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(s) _____ Birth Mo. _____ Day _____

Please list any extra names and birthdays of more than one member (Month & Day Only)

Address _____

Email Address _____ Phone wk/hm _____

Would you like to receive periodic email announcements about club activities? Yes () No ()

How did you find out about the RSTB _____

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

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



U.S. Postage

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