



Rancho Simi Trail Blazers

A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation



It's Time to "Fall Back"

Daylight Saving Time ends the first Sunday in November. The time change affects the start time of the Sunday Rocky Peak hikes, which will now start at 4PM until the spring when the time changes again.



RSTB CLUB MEETING

This month's club meeting will be at:
Sycamore Drive Community Center
1692 Sycamore Drive - Room B-1
7:00PM – November 16, 2011

Upcoming Events

November 5th 
*Nicholas Flat from Leo Carillo State Park**

Moderate-to-strenuous 7 MRT w/1,900' elevation gain/loss

November 12th 
*Malibu Creek State Park**
Moderate 6-8 MRT w/600' elevation gain/loss

Hike to the old M*A*S*H site.

November 12th
Wild Animal Show
Rancho Santa Susana Community Center.

November 16th
Club Meeting - 7 PM

November 19th
Work Party (go to November Hikes and Activities for more information)

November 26th
Chivo Canyon
Moderate 7 MRT w/1,100' elevation gain/loss

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.

Be sure to check out the Calendar of Events on the RSRPD website at: <http://www.rsrpd.org/> to see what is happening next!



Happy Holidays!

Come and enjoy our casual and social holiday potluck!

Date: Saturday, December 3, 2011
Time: 6:30 p.m.
Host: Ursula Christie
Place: 576 Pinecliff Place
Simi Valley, CA

Directions: south on First St., right on Mellow Lane, right on Pinecliff Place to the end.

Please call Ursula to let her know what you're bringing:
527-5338

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



November 19 - Work Party
China Flat Trail. Meet at **8 AM** at the China Flat Trailhead in Oak Park on Lindero Canyon Road just east of King James Court.

Hope to see you there.



CAMULOS

Camulos is a place on State Route 126 east of Piru. The name was originally what the Ventureño Chumash Indians called a Tataviam (Alliklik) (a tribe of Shoshonean stock) village. The village was just on the line between the two linguistic groups. According to Applegate (1974), kamulus means "it is the juniper" (Single Chumash words could stand for whole sentences.). The village was named for a lone juniper near the Santa Clara River. Junipers are present in the headwaters of the Santa Clara River. One so far down the river would be unusual. According to Kroeber, it contains the root "mulus," the name of an edible fruit. Juniper berries are edible. In May 1821 a rancho called "Camulos" is mentioned, and the name "Camulos" appears in many Spanish documents. A diseño of the land grant Camulos, dated 1843, shows a Rio, a Lomeria and a Cañada de Camulos. Gudde (1969) indicates that the name doesn't seem to appear on early Anglo-American maps but seems to have been given by the Southern Pacific Railroad to the railroad station in the 1880s.

While it was a Tataviam (Alliklik) village, there must have been many Chumash living there. Piru also was Tataviam, while, to the south, Ta'apu was Chumash.

Mike Kuhn
10-15-11 (revised)

CAÑADA DE SOMIS

The 1887-88 Stow and Power "Map of the Lands of Rancho Simi" exhibits the name "Cañada de Somis" for what we now know as Happy Camp Canyon. Happy Camp Canyon is located west of Moorpark College. The name "Somis" is what we now call the small settlement just south of State Route 118 near the intersection with the road to Camarillo. "Somis" is derived from the name of the Indian village of "Somna," which means "big barranca." A barranca is an entrenched stream course, which is deeper than it is wide at the top of the entrenchment. The description aptly fits Calleguas Creek (the Arroyo Simi) where it descends down out of the Little Simi Valley onto the Oxnard Plain. "Somis" is the name of a Chumash village

north of the Ojai Valley. The name seems to have been substituted historically to the area around "Somna." Happy Camp Canyon is a valley - not a barranca. So why the reference to Somis? The canyon appears to be so named because the trail to Somna ran down it. This is another instance where a trail was named for the place to which it went.

Mike Kuhn
10-15-10 (revised)

CASTAC VALLEY AND LAKE

Southeast of the historic Fort Tejon is Castac Lake. Both Fort Tejon and Castac Lake are located in Castac Valley. The names "Castac" and Castaic" derive from the Chumash Indian village of kastiq. That village was located adjacent to the present lake. The name means "the eye, the face," or more specifically, it derives from ka-s-tiq, which means "it is its eye, face." When first encountered by the Spanish, the current lake basin was a salt-grass flat. Since that time the Tejon Ranch operation has maintained a lake in the basin. The trail to the village of kastiq from the south was called the kastiq trail. As a result, the name became displaced to the southern end of the trail - to the Castaic area. So Castac derives its name from the name of the Chumash Indian village, and Castaic derive its names from that of the trail to the village. (The source for the meaning of the name kastiq comes from Applegate [1974], pages 196 and 203.)

Mike Kuhn
10-15-10 (revised)

CHINESE LABORERS

During much of the last one hundred years of the Anglo-American period of settlement in California, labor from the Far East was little welcome in California. Individuals of Chinese origin could not own land, become citizens, marry Anglos and, while they may have entered California legally, they weren't necessarily here legally. As a result, there was a considerable underground traffic in Chinese laborers. During the mid-1980s, I was told by Ralph Chamberlain, an employee of the Simi Valley Unified School District, about a cave he and some of his young friends had visited on Burro Flats in about 1918. His recollection was

that a large sandstone rock outcropping included a ground level east-facing rockshelter with a small cave above which was largely hidden from view. He said that he remembered that there were rock paintings in the upper cave. He also said that they had been told at the time that the rockshelter and upper cave had been used by smugglers of Chinese laborers. The laborers, he explained, had been moved at night and were then hidden in the upper cave during the daylight period. The smugglers masqueraded as hunters and campers during the day and passed food and drank up to their charges. On a rainy Saturday morning, I was permitted to search for the rockshelter and cave - properly escorted of course.

I did find a rockshelter and cave that satisfied the description I was given. It was east facing, contained a small upper cave and was in approximately the location that had been described. The rockshelter exhibits evidence of use by the Indians and later by campers during the Anglo-American period. The upper cave could have been used to conceal a modest number of uncomfortable individuals. However, there are no pictographs or any signs of native American rock art in the cave. It is likely that Mr. Chamberlain had confused this cave with a memory of the rock art in other nearby caves.

The name "China Flats" is thought to have its origin in the use of the area for the movement through the high country of Chinese laborers. So, it is possible that the story of the use of the cave for that purpose is based upon a memory of local residents. On the other hand, like many stories, the basic features of the story may not be accurate.

Mike Kuhn
11-9-04



September 24th 2011 - Bicycle Ride: Ventura to Ojai

The weather was perfect for our annual bicycle ride. Ventura offered the usual coastal-influence overcast with temperatures in the low-sixties. Ojai was clear and in the mid-seventies. There was only a mild breeze near the end of the ride. We were plagued with three flat tires during our 34-mile round trip. We passed several bicyclists, making the necessary repairs along the way. Since Ojai was our half-way point, and turn-around point too, we piled our bicycles together, locked them up, and enjoyed a tasty lunch at Ojai Café Emporium. All seven of us agreed it was a fine ride on a beautiful trail.



September 29th - October 2nd 2011 - Big Bear Weekend Getaway

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2011 – Snow Summit Loop



After arriving at the condominium (~7,000') in which we stayed at the foot of the Snow Summit Ski Area on the south side of Big Bear Lake, we headed out for a late afternoon acclimatization hike.

We began by following a pleasant trail behind the condos westward about half a mile to a small stream which we hiked along for a short distance before climbing steeply up the forested slope on a “use” trail to a dirt fire road. We then continued along dirt roads through the forest to the top of Snow Summit (8,200') where we looked at the various skiing-related facilities and enjoyed views of Big Bear Lake and the surrounding mountains. We then descended along the Summit Run ski slope to the condominium.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2011 – Butler Peak Fire Lookout Tower

After breakfast we drove a short distance from Fawnskin (on the north side of Big Bear Lake) on Forest Service Road (FSR) 3N14 to a locked gate at the east end of FSR 2N13 where we parked and began hiking westward along the very good gravel road. The gate was locked because of the severe fire damage caused by a fairly recent wildfire; most of the conifers were severely burned but were still standing. Despite the fire damage, the hike was pleasant



since the smaller flora are well on the way to recovery, there were many stunning rock formations to view, the day was cool, and the road wasn't steep. When we reached the road junction with FSR 2N13C, we turned left and hiked along it until it ended immediately below the fire lookout tower (8,537'). After climbing steep steps up to the tower, we were treated to fantastic views in every direction including Big Bear Lake, Lake Arrowhead, the San Bernardino Forest, Mt. San Geronio, Mt. San Jacinto, Mt. Pinos, and the southern Sierra Nevada (though the latter three were quite hazy on this day). We returned to the trailhead via the same route.

October 8th 2011 - Temescal Canyon-Viewpoint Trail Loop and Will Rogers SHP via the Rivas Canyon Trail

13 hikers carpooled via Hwy 118, I-405, and Sunset Blvd to the lower parking lot at Temescal Gateway Park. A lovely refuge from the nearby urban congestion, it borders Topanga State



Park. Our hike began on a shady trail along the streambed in Temescal Canyon and led pleasantly past rustic buildings constructed in the 1920's for the Methodist Church as a west-coast center for the Chautauqua movement. The whole area is shaded by towering eucalyptus trees as well as oak trees and a variety of other non-native trees such as palms and conifers. The trail began rising in Temescal Canyon as it entered Topanga State Park and we soon reached a wooden bridge crossing the stream at a point where there was a series of cascades (a “waterfall”) though there wasn't much water at this time of year. Continuing westward along the trail we reached Temescal Ridge and were rewarded by panoramic views of the Santa Monica Mountains, the coastline, the Los Angeles skyline, and hazy views of Santa Catalina Island and the San Gabriel Mountains. We then descended along the Temescal Ridge (aka Viewpoint) Trail to the canyon bottom where we rested briefly and visited the restrooms and the small store which was open after a long closure. Then we hiked eastward on a shady trail over another ridge and down into Rivas Canyon where the trail followed a seasonal stream. Using a short connector trail, we reached Will Rogers State Historic Park where we took a lunch break on the front porch of the old ranch house and enjoyed the rocking chairs and the views of the spacious green lawn and the nearby polo field. Some of us met Will Rogers' great-granddaughter who happened to be visiting the park this day. We then returned to Temescal Gateway Park and our vehicles via the Rivas Canyon trail, completing an 8.8-mile hike with 1,978' of elevation gain/loss on a great day for hiking.



RSTB Calendar November



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Las Lajas Canyon 6:30PM See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Mary Martin	2 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Jolie Fradkin	3 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Don Hunt	4 	5 Nicholas Flat from Leo Carillo State Park* See Schedule
6 Rocky Peak Fire Road 4 PM See Schedule Daylight Savings Time Ends Set Clock Back	7 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Joe Ferrall	8 Las Lajas Canyon 6:30PM See Schedule	9 	10 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule	11 	12 Malibu Creek State Park* Wild Animal Show See Schedule
13 Rocky Peak Fire Road 4PM See Schedule	14 	15 Las Lajas Canyon 6:30PM See Schedule	16 Club Meeting 7 PM See Schedule	17 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule	18 	19 Work Party See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Randy Klockenteger
20 Rocky Peak Fire Road 4PM See Schedule	21 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Leslie Visser-Dumont Rick Koppel	22 Las Lajas Canyon 6:30PM See Schedule	23 	24 "NO HIKE" <i>Happy Birthday</i> Arlene Altshuler	25 	26 Chivo Canyon See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Isabel Johnson
27 Rocky Peak Fire Road 4PM See Schedule	28 	29 Las Lajas Canyon 6:30PM See Schedule	30 <i>Happy Birthday</i> William Sopoliga Mallory Ham			

REGULARLY SCHEDULED HIKES

(Rain cancels – No hikes on holidays)

Sunday Evening - Rocky Peak Fire Road

Meet at **4 PM** at the Rocky Peak Fire Road trailhead. Take the Rocky Peak exit from the 118 Fwy. Meet at the north end of the bridge; don't park on the bridge. (Moderate to strenuous, depending on distance hiked. 4.8 MRT)

Tuesday Evening - Las Lajas Canyon

Meet at **6:30 PM** at the Evening Sky Drive trailhead. Take the 118 Fwy to the Yosemite Ave exit; head north past McDonalds and 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-to-moderate depending on distance hiked, 3¾ MRT)

Thursday Evening - The Chumash Trail

Meet at **6 PM** at Chumash trailhead. Take 118 Fwy to Yosemite exit. Go north on Yosemite, turn right on Flanagan Dr. Trailhead is at the end of Flanagan Dr. (Moderate to strenuous, depending on distance hiked. 5.2 MRT)

NOVEMBER HIKES AND ACTIVITIES

November 5th

*Nicholas Flat from Leo Carillo State Park**

Moderate-to-strenuous 7.5 MRT w/1,900' of elevation gain/loss

See magnificent ocean views and a beautiful pond near Malibu. Bring 2-3 quarts of water and a snack. Meet at **8 AM** near Donut Delite at the corner of Madera and Royal. Please note, the parking fee is \$10 at the trailhead.

November 12th

*Malibu Creek State Park**

Moderate 6-8 MRT w/600' of elevation gain/loss

Hike to the old M*A*S*H site. Countless movies have been filmed in this park. There are several options on the way, depending on the desires of the group. We'll see Century Lake and the Rock Pool. Meet at **8AM** near Donut Delite at the corner of Madera and Royal. Bring 2-3 quarts of water and a snack. Wear boots.

November 12th

Wild Animal Show

Rancho Santa Susana Community Center. Please view

<http://www.simitrailblazers.com/activities/RSPD/WASSep18Nov12.pdf>.

November 16th

Club Meeting

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

November 19th

Work Party - China Flat Trail. Meet at **8 AM** at the China Flat Trailhead in Oak Park on Lindero Canyon Road just east of King James Court. We will be working from **8 AM** until Noon. Tools will be provided. Bring 2 - 3 quarts of water, hat, sunscreen, and gloves to work on the trail. Hope to see you there.

November 26th

Chivo Canyon

Moderate 7 MRT w/1,100' of elevation gain/loss

Meet at **8 AM**. Bring 2-3 quarts of water and a snack. Wear boots. Trailhead: In Simi Valley, take Hwy 118 to Yosemite Avenue and head north (past McDonald's). Drive 1.9 miles and then turn right (north) on Westwood St. Park near the junction of Yosemite Ave (aka Cottonwood Dr.) and Westwood St.

* 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

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

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