



# Rancho Simi Trail Blazers

*A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation*



## Welcome New Members

Patricia Burgess, Joanne Sulkoske, and Keith Farrar & family

## EDDIE MAIER AND SIMI VALLEY

Sometime around 1912 Eddie Maier acquired the Haigh Ranch in Big Sycamore Canyon (now Meier Canyon), where the Brandeis-Bardin Campus of the American Jewish University is today. Mr. Maier owned the brewing company, which made Brew 102, and a baseball team. He built a large two-storied house on the property.

He was noted for his lavish parties at the ranch. One party of note was a barbecue for "several thousand Shriners" from Los Angeles. They were brought out by special train, which stopped opposite the road into the ranch. Tubs of Maier Beer, packed in ice, were placed along the road to the ranch so his guests would not go thirsty.

Whether or not there really were thousands of Shriners in attendance, we may never know. Certainly, one hundred or more Shriners would have seemed like a great number in those days. In any case, the liquid refreshments seem like a good idea.

(From R.E. Harrington, Early Days of Simi Valley (1961), pages 33 and 36.

Mike Kuhn  
7-13-06

## 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



## 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 RSTB meeting will be at: Sycamore Drive Community Center 1692 Sycamore Drive – Room C-1  
**November 14, 2012**

## Upcoming Events

### November 3rd

*Piedra Blanca Trail [aka Gene Marshall National Recreation Trail] (22W03) to Twin Forks Camp\** 7 MRT – Moderate (1,000' elevation gain/loss) - Meet - **8AM**

### November 10th

*Sulphur Mountain Shuttle \** 10 mile one-way shuttle - Moderate (2,200' elevation loss) - Meet - **8AM**

### November 14th

*Club Meeting - 7 PM - Meeting Date moved due to holiday*

### November 17th

*Work Party - The North Ridge Trail - 7AM*

### November 24

*Las Llajas Canyon, Rocky Peak Fire Road, and Chumash Trail clockwise Loop*

9.5-mile loop - Moderate-to-strenuous (1,800' elevation gain/loss) or 7 MRT - Easy-to-moderate (500' elevation gain/loss) - Meet - **8AM**

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!

## YOSEMITE, HETCH HETCHY, AHWAHNEE AND WAWONA

The Rancho Simi Trail Blazers have been visiting Yosemite National Park every year or so for some years. During the 2007 trip the question came up about the origin of the names Yosemite, Hetch Hetchy, Ahwahnee, and Wawona. Here is what I have found out:

**Yosemite:** Stephen Powers was a U.S. government employee, who visited the tribes of California during 1871 and 1872. His work, *Tribes of California*, was published by the U.S. Government Printing Office in 1877. In addition, he published at least 20 articles during the 1870s about California Indians. One of the chapters in *Tribes of California* is about Yosemite. At that time, he traveled about Yosemite with one of the male Miwok Indians who had been living in the valley when it was first discovered by the "white man." Powers says that the name Yosemite derives from a word that other nearby Indian groups used for the grizzly bear. Indians on the Stanislaus River and north used *u-zu-mai-ti*. At Little Gap, they used *o-so-mai-ti*. On the south fork of the Merced River, they used *uh-zu-mai-tuh*. Nothing in the Yosemite Valley was ever called Yosemite by the Indians. Erwin G. Gudde, *California Place Names*, cites sources, which suggest that the name may have meant "killer." Since the Indians were terrorized by the grizzly, the name may have been used for both the grizzly and killer. It is also possible that a long extinct band of Miwok Indians were called by that name by other Indians.

**Hetch Hetchy:** The modern version of the name is, according to Powers, derived from the original central Miwok *Hatchatchie*. Powers says it means "grass-seed valley." Since perennial grass seeds were the primary food source for the Indians in the old days (not acorns as now taught in

school), it is likely that the valley was visited in the late spring for the purpose of collecting grass seeds. The Indians would also have visited the valley in the fall to gather acorns.

**Ahwahnee:** According to Powers, *A-wa-ni* was the name of the main village in Yosemite Valley. That village was located near the foot of Yosemite Falls. The Indians also called the valley by the same name. Powers lists the name as roughly mean "ruling town." Gudde says the meaning is "deep (or grassy) valley." It is not clear what Gudde's source for this meaning was. L. H. Bunnell's *Discovery of the Yosemite* (1911) indicates the word means "deep grassy valley" and seems to be the source for Gudde. However, the name was communicated to him by sign, rather than spoken word. Elizabeth Godfrey, *Yosemite Indians* (1977), page 35, writes that "recent linguistic studies indicate that "Ahwahnee" should probably be translated as meaning 'place of a gaping mouth.' The Miwok stem word AWA means 'mouth' and it was the Miwok practice to name places after their fancied resemblance to a part of the human body."

**Wawona:** The Indian form of the word is *wohwoh'-nau*. The word is what the Indians called the giant sequoia (or big tree). It is an imitation of the hoot of the owl, which is the guardian spirit and deity of the giant sequoias. According to the Indians it is bad luck to fell this tree, or to mock or shoot the owl, or even to shoot in the presence of an owl. "Bethel states that they [the Indians] have often, in earlier years, tried to persuade him not to cut them down ...and that when they see a teamster going along the road with a wagon-load of lumber made from these trees, they will cry out after him, and tell him the owl will visit him with evil luck."

Mike Kuhn  
6-11-07

## THE TRIPAS

North of Whiteface and south of Oak Ridge, i.e., the ridge that marks the top of the Santa Susana Mountains, is a large valley that is tributary to Tapo Canyon and west of the historic Chumash village of *Ta'apu*. In our very first references to the valley, dating back to the middle of the 19th century, it is called "The Tripas." When I first encountered the name, I assumed that it referred to the intestines of a pig. Being familiar with the valley from the air, the meaning made sense. From the air, the fields of grain on the tops of the truncated and dissected alluvial fan, looked like intestines. However, since the name is old and predates grain production, and the Chumash Indians, the Spanish and the later Anglo-American settlers did not have airplanes, the meaning of the name, if it does refer to intestines, is puzzling. We now understand that most of the people who lived here during the Hispanic period, and those who actually worked the land, were Chumash Indians and their descendants. They were bilingual. The name *tripas* is probably translated from the Chumash name for the valley. So what does it mean?

A very common meaning for the word *tripas* in Spanish is the interior or insides of anything. This meaning seems more logical to me for the valley, deep in the interior of the Santa Susana Mountains. The Chumash did not seem to have names for mountain ranges, only names for discrete places. So giving a name to a place like the Tripas makes sense. This meaning conveys a sense of place - a special place of some importance to the Chumash.

Mike Kuhn  
11-21-04

## September 29th - Mt. Pinos to the Lockwood Valley Shuttle



Six hikers and Heidi (a dog) carpooled to the hike's end point at the gate on Boy Scout Camp Road in Lockwood Valley, dropped off a shuttle vehicle, and then drove to the trailhead at the Chula Vista parking lot on Mt.

Pinos Road. The hike began on a beautiful cool morning by following a dirt road through the forest to the Tumamait-Mt. Pinos Trail (21W03) trailhead at the Condor Observation Point (8,831') where there were excellent views to the south and west. A well-maintained dirt trail then entered the Chumash Wilderness as it descended the open western slope via switchbacks; it then crossed a saddle and ascended the forested eastern slope of Sawmill Mountain. We then followed a faint side trail to the Sawmill Mountain peak (8,818'), marked by a large cairn. Returning to the main trail we descended to a junction with the North Fork Trail (22W02) which we followed as it descended southward half a mile to Sheep Primitive Camp (8,200') under a stand of Jeffrey Pines. Continuing on we descended 22W02 through lovely forest to Lilly Meadows (6,500') and then on down to the dirt road leading to Camp Three Falls (5,400') and our shuttle car, passing several backpackers (including some boy scouts) along the way. We then retrieved the car left at the Mt. Pinos trailhead and returned home having completed a pleasant 10.9-mile hike with 957' of elevation gain and 3,435' of elevation loss.

## October 6th - Ahmanson Ranch - Lasky Mesa

13 hikers (+ Heidi, a cute dog) carpooled to the Upper Las Virgenes Canyon trailhead at the north end of Las Virgenes Road in the Simi Hills on a pleasantly cool morning. A short distance after the hike began we reached a T-junction and turned right onto the East Las Virgenes Canyon Trail (ELVCT), a well-maintained dirt road that winds through the Upper Las Virgenes Canyon Open Space



Preserve (aka Ahmanson Ranch) to the Victory trailhead at the west end of Victory Blvd in West Hills. The preserve consists of a vast expanse of rolling hills and grasslands dotted with large old oak trees. A short distance along the ELVCT we turned right and followed an unnamed dirt road

as it rose to Lasky Mesa which is named for Jesse L. Lasky, a key founder of Paramount Pictures. A number of famous movies were (partially) filmed here, including the sunrise scene in *Gone with the Wind* in which Scarlett O'Hara declares "As God is my witness, I'll never be hungry again." Heading north along Lasky Mesa we ascended to an overlook that provides a panoramic view of the San Fernando Valley (smog permitting). Descending past the Victory trailhead we rejoined the ELVCT and headed southwest to a connector trail that took us northwest to the Las Virgenes Canyon Road which we followed southeast along Las Virgenes Creek (headwaters for Malibu Creek), back to our cars. We then returned to Simi Valley having completed an 8-mile hike with over 1,000' of elevation gain/loss. NOTE: Refer to the following web site for an excellent and very interesting history of the Ahmanson Ranch (and surrounding) area:

<http://www.moviesites.org/laskymesa.htm>.



## October 13th - Sisar Canyon to White Ledge



9 hikers (and one cute dog) carpooled to the Sisar Canyon trailhead on Sisar Road just north of the Summit Community on Hwy 150 between Santa Paula and Ojai in the Los Padres National

Forest on a cool autumn morning. The hike began on a shaded dirt fire road (4N15) which ascended to the north along the flowing creek which provided a pleasant accompaniment – and required one careful crossing. Eventually the road turned southwestward and emerged into the sunlight as it headed ever-upward [toward its eventual end at the Nordhoff Ridge Road (5N08)]. We were treated to increasingly panoramic views of the surprisingly green hillsides of the surrounding mountains (including the Topa Topa Ridge to the north) and the Ojai Valley to the south. We encountered several hikers and horseback riders. After hiking about 3.5 miles, the trail leading to White Ledge Camp diverged from the fire road. We followed it about one mile to the trail camp which is situated between two creeks among towering conifers. After a welcome and refreshing respite at the trail camp, we retraced our steps downhill back to our vehicles and returned home, having completed a 9-mile hike with a total elevation gain/loss of about 2,000'.



# RSTB Calendar

## November



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<b>1</b> Chumash Trail <b>6PM</b>  See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Mary Martin	<b>2</b>  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Jolie Fradkin	<b>3</b> Piedra Blanca to Twin Forks Camp*  See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Don Hunt
<b>4</b> Rocky Peak Fire Road <b>4PM</b>  See Schedule 	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Las Llajas Canyon <b>6:30PM</b>  See Schedule	<b>7</b>  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Joe Ferrall	<b>8</b> Chumash Trail <b>6PM</b>  See Schedule	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Sulphur Mountain Shuttle*  See Schedule
<b>11</b> Rocky Peak Fire Road <b>4PM</b>  See Schedule	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Las Llajas Canyon <b>6:30PM</b>  See Schedule	<b>14</b> Club Meeting <b>7PM</b>  See Schedule <i>Meeting Date moved due to holiday</i>	<b>15</b> Chumash Trail <b>6PM</b>  See Schedule	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Work Party - The North Ridge Trail  See Schedule
<b>18</b> Rocky Peak Fire Road <b>4PM</b>  See Schedule	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Las Llajas Canyon <b>6:30PM</b>  See Schedule	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> <b>NO HIKE</b>  <i>Happy Thanksgiving! To You And Your Family</i>  See Schedule	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Las Llajas Canyon, Rocky Peak Fire Road, and Chumash Trail clockwise Loop  See Schedule  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Denise Cueba  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Arlene Altshuler
<b>25</b> Rocky Peak Fire Road <b>4PM</b>  See Schedule	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Las Llajas Canyon <b>6:30PM</b>  See Schedule	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> Chumash Trail <b>6PM</b>  See Schedule	<b>30</b>	



Due to unforeseen circumstances, all activities are subject to change without notice.  
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## 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 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)

### Tuesday Evening - *Las Llajas Canyon*

Meet at **6:30 PM** at the Evening Sky Drive trailhead. Take the 118 to the Yosemite Ave exit. Head north 1/3 mile (passing McDonald's) to 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 - 3.75 MRT - 348' total elevation gain)

### Thursday Evening - *The Chumash Trail*

Meet at **6 PM** 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 - 1,210' total elevation gain)

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## NOVEMBER HIKES AND ACTIVITIES

### November 3rd

#### *Piedra Blanca Trail [aka Gene Marshall National Recreation Trail] (22W03) to Twin Forks Camp\**

7 MRT – Moderate (1,000' elevation gain/loss)

The trail begins in Rose Valley in the Los Padres National Forest and soon crosses Sespe Creek. As it enters the Sespe Wilderness, it passes huge white sandstone outcroppings (piedra blanca). The trail then follows Piedra Blanca Creek upstream to heavily shaded Twin Forks Camp, the turnaround point. Mountain views abound. Meet at **8 AM** 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.

### November 10th

#### *Sulphur Mountain Shuttle \**

10 mile one-way shuttle - Moderate (2,200' elevation loss)

This old county dirt road follows the 2,600-foot Sulphur Mountain ridgeline from Highway 33 in Casitas Springs to Highway 150 in the upper Ojai. As the trail winds around the mountain the views alternate between panoramic views of the coast and Channel Islands, and the Ojai Valley and Los Padres National Forest. Also, there are views from Point Mugu to South Mountain, and from Lake Casitas to the Topatopa Mountains. Meet at **8 AM** near Donut Delight at the corner of Madera and Royal. Bring 2 - 4 quarts of water and lunch. Wear boots.

### November 14th

#### *Club Meeting*

**7 PM** - The Sycamore Drive Community Center - 1692 Sycamore Drive - Room C-1

### November 17th

#### *Work Party - The North Ridge Trail*

Meet at **8:00 AM** at the northern end of the trail along Evening Sky Drive (on the southern side of the road nearly opposite from the Las Llajas Canyon Trailhead). Wear boots if possible, gloves, a hat, sunscreen and pants. Bring water and a snack. All tools will be provided.

### November 24

#### *Las Llajas Canyon, Rocky Peak Fire Road, and Chumash Trail clockwise Loop*

9.5-mile loop - Moderate-to-strenuous (1,800' elevation gain/loss) or 7 MRT - Easy-to-moderate (500' elevation gain/loss)

Hike through a beautiful local canyon. Bring 3 quarts of water and a snack. Wear sturdy shoes. Meet at **8 AM** at the Las Llajas Canyon trailhead on Evening Sky Drive in Simi Valley. **NOTE:** Hikers desiring the shorter hike option will turn around at the Poe Ranch southern gate and return through Las Llajas Canyon.

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\* 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

Executive Chair:	Mike Kuhn	HM (805) 583-2345	hannahmike@me.com
Treasurer:	Craig Malin		
Park District Liaison:	Colleen Janssen	WK (805) 584-4453	volunteers@rsrpd.us
Work Parties Chair:	<b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</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
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**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 \_\_\_\_\_

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How did you find out about the RSTB? \_\_\_\_\_

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

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