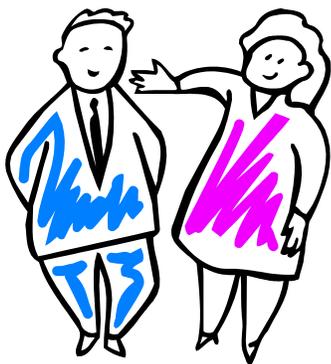




Rancho Simi Trail Blazers

A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation



Welcome, New Members!

Robert Goodwin
Richard Bradley
John, Nicadora, & Christine Gusan

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



Happy Holidays!

Come and enjoy our casual and social holiday potluck!

Date: Friday, Dec. 11th
Time: 6:30 p.m.
Host: Ursula Christie
Place: 576 Pinecliff Place
Simi Valley, CA

Directions: South on 1st St., right on Mellow Ln., right on Pinecliff Place to end

See the Activities Schedule on the website for more details. Hope to see you there!



November Work Party

Our November work party was on the Chumash Trail. Much was accomplished thanks to John Sabol, Armida Saldana, Mike Kuhn, Caroline Carroll, Alan Cueba and Bart Hibbs.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

December 5th

Bike Ride

Simi Valley out and back on the Arroyo Bike Path

December 11th

Holiday Party

Come and enjoy our casual and social holiday potluck!

December 12th

Chumash Trail & Las Lajas Canyon Loop

9.5 MRT - Moderate to Strenuous (1,800' elevation gain)

December 16th

Club Meeting Not strenuous

December 19th

Work Party – China Flat Trail

December 26th

Big Sky Ranch: Whiteface Mountain Exploratory Hike

Up-to-date information on these events can be found at

<http://simitrailblazers.com>

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



QUIMISAC

At the time of Spanish contact with the Chumash Indians in the Simi (a territory that included both the Little Simi and Simi valleys) there were three Indian villages. They were *Ta'apu*, *Simi'* and *Quimisac*. *Quimisac* was located in what is now Happy Camp Canyon west of Moorpark College. The village is said to have controlled much of the "fused shale" trade in the region. Fused shale is formed by the burning of petroleum underground in the geological formation in which the petroleum occurs. In this area, it is called the Modelo Formation. Elsewhere, it is generally referred to as the Monterey Formation. Depending on how hot the material gets, i.e., the degree of fusion, colors may vary from yellow, orange, red or black. The black form is glassy, similar to obsidian. Fused shale was an important stone tool material for the Chumash and other Indian of the region.

Prior to 1,000 years ago, the fused shale from Grimes Canyon is said to have been the primary source in the area. Larger pieces of fused shale were available from the Grimes Canyon source than from Happy Camp Canyon. Points for atlatl darts required larger pieces of raw material than did the more diminutive arrowheads. With the diffusion of the bow and arrow into this area about 1,000 years ago, Happy Camp Canyon seems to have become a more important source of fused shale. The small pieces of fused shale that could be found there were adequate for the manufacture of arrowheads.

Quimisac Baptisms

About half of the baptisms listings which cite *Quimisac* (or other spellings) occurred at the San Buenaventura Mission and about half at the San Fernando Mission. Based upon the number of baptisms from the village recorded at the two missions, *Quimisac* seems to have been about the same size as the

village of *Simi'*. *Quimisac* apparently ceased to exist by the end of the first decade of the 19th Century. The various spelling of the name of the village, as reflected in the baptismal records of the San Fernando Mission, are *Quimisac*, *Quimisa*, and *Quimissac*. The Spanish language does not include words that end in a hard "c" sound, so *Quimisa* is the form most often found in the records. John Peabody Harrington, the noted linguist and anthropologist, listed the name as *kimichaq*. (The mission priest cannot be counted on to have had good linguistic ears.)

Quimisac Trail

The Chumash trail from *Simi'* to *Quimisac* was called the *Quimisac* trail. Later, the trail/road from the headquarters of El Rancho Simi at the western end of Simi Valley to the west along the Arroyo Simi was called the Quimisa Road. (Spanish report on the precinct of the presidio of Santa Barbara – 1834). However, according to City Historian Patricia Havens, during the early Anglo-American period of settlement no road existed along the arroyo west of Simi Valley. The land had been subdivided into individual ranches and fences had been erected. Nonetheless, the short little public road between Los Angeles Avenue and Oak Park, west of the County Animal Control Facility, still carries the name "Quimisa Drive" – truly an echo of the past.

Mike Kuhn
9-11-04



ACORN PESTS

Acorns are usually attacked by two insect genera. They are the filbertworm (*Cydia latiferreana*) and several species of filbert weevils (*Curculio* spp.). Small closed blemishes are egg laying sites and can be found on viable acorns. Small holes, about the size of small pencil lead, are insect exit holes. Those acorns are usually quite chewed

up inside and full of insect feces. Acorns that are light in weight or which deform easily when squeezed are usually abortive or insect damaged. If the acorns are intended for planting or eating, the long-used flotation test is as good as any. All acorns are put into a bucket of water. Those that sink are usually viable.

Birds seem to know the difference between a good and a bad acorn. When an equally large number of good and bad acorns are left out on a feeding tray for scrub jays, the birds almost always take only the viable acorns.

Various fungi can also colonize and decay acorns. Since the damp cool environment found in a refrigerator is similar to the winter environment in nature, the loss of some acorns kept in refrigerators is expected.

Nature compensates for bad acorn years by producing persistent seedlings in the understories of mature oaks. Seedlings can persist for years as only a few inches tall. During this period, they develop robust root systems, eight or more feet deep. Consequently, if the overstory tree or trees perish, the seedlings are in a good position to take off. The production of a massive root system of small seedlings is the reason that acorns that are germinated in pots should only be kept in the pots for one year.

Over the last 200 years or so, oak seedlings have had to contend with new environmental factors, such as hotter fires, livestock predation and introduced weedy species of grasses that can shade out the oak seedlings. Hopefully, man as the new environmental agent that has caused a decline in the rate of oak regeneration will get his collective act together so that our native oak trees do not disappear within the next thousand years or so.

Mike Kuhn
10-27-04

October 31st - Placerita Canyon - Los Pinetos Trail

Twelve hikers (and Kobi, a dog) met at the Stearns Street Park-and-Ride lot in Simi Valley on a cool morning. They traveled to the Placerita Canyon County Park via Hwy 118, I405, I5, Hwy 14, and Placerita Canyon Road. After parking near the Nature Center (1,550') and donning hiking gear, the group began hiking briskly eastward along the Placerita Canyon Trail.

The air was chilly at first, but warmed up some as sunlight penetrated the canyon. The creek in the canyon was completely dry as a consequence of a prolonged drought in the region. After two miles, the group reached the Walker Ranch site (1,800') and headed south on the Los Pinetos Trail, climbing steadily upward toward Wilson Saddle (3,100') and the Santa Clara Divide Road. After the first steep mile or so, the trail entered a pleasant live oak forest for the remainder of the three-mile-long trail, passing Los Pinetos Spring along the



way. The group enjoyed a break at Wilson Saddle which has comfortable seating and bathroom facilities, followed by a short walk to the southeast to an overlook of the San Fernando Valley (and the tops of the tallest buildings in downtown Los Angeles). The hike resumed along a short portion of Whitney Canyon Road, but soon turned northward onto an unmarked firebreak leading down toward the Nature Center. This firebreak is not a fire road; it has many steep downhill stretches as it heads to the northwest, as well as several short and sometimes steep uphill stretches. It is challenging and strenuous, particularly if one is heading up (rather than down as we were). We were buffeted by strong winds as we hiked along the firebreak; fortunately they kept us cool since there is no shade on the firebreak. Eventually we reached an unnamed trail leading down to a large water tank overlooking the Nature Center. We then descended to the parking lot via the Hillside Trail. Despite the drought, there was a sprinkling of wildflowers along the trail. After a lunch break by the Nature Center, we returned to the carpool point in Simi Valley, having completed a pleasant 7.5-mile hike with 1,842' of elevation gain.

November 7th 2009 - Sandstone Hills Trail and Hillcrest Open Space Preserve Shuttle

Twelve hikers (and Heidi, a dog) met at the designated carpool point near the intersection of Royal Avenue and Madera Road on a cool fall morning. Since it was to be a one-way hike, we took six vehicles to



the trail's end via Madera Road, Hwy 23, and Hillcrest Drive and left three of them parked nearby on Blue Mesa Street. Everyone boarded the other three vehicles and we drove to the trailhead on Pathfinder Avenue via Westlake Blvd, Kanan Road, and Falling Star Avenue. The Sandstone Hills Trail immediately ascended to the north into the sandstone hills below Simi Peak, then turned to the northwest and continued its ascent. At 1.4 miles from the trailhead, we followed a dirt access road 0.6 mile east to an Edison power transmission tower where we were rewarded by a close-up view of a variety of interesting rock formations including "caves" and arches. It seems likely that one could climb to the ridge from here and then make one's way east to Simi Peak, but we left that exploration for another day. Returning to the main trail, we continued to the west and soon began descending into Hidden Meadow. Avoiding a couple of left forks, we continued northwest along the Oakbrook Vista Trail which provided us with sweeping views to the north/northwest including the Albertson Motorway and the Topatopa Mountains in the distance. About four miles from the trailhead, we took a left fork to the southwest and followed it a little over a mile through rolling grasslands past a large water tank and into a gated upscale housing enclave at Allyson Court. There we were fortunate to encounter a helpful resident who opened the locked gate for us (which was not mentioned in the hiking book we were using) so that we could reach Westlake Blvd without backtracking and taking a different route. After crossing Westlake Blvd, we headed south along the unnamed trail (dirt road) that bisects the Hillcrest Open Space Preserve. As this part of the hike led us through rolling grassland hills, we encountered several surprisingly steep uphill and downhill stretches with panoramic views of the area available from the highest points. Fortunately our luck held and we were caressed by cool breezes as we ascended the hills. Inevitably we eventually reached the end of the trail at Hillcrest Drive, having completed a somewhat strenuous 8.9-mile hike with 2,214' of elevation gain. We returned by vehicle to the trailhead, retrieved the other three vehicles, and returned to Simi Valley.



RSTB Calendar December 2009



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Long Canyon 6:30pm hike See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Gino Zarcone	2 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Aida Reyes	3 Chumash Trail 6pm hike See Schedule	4 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Linda Travis	5 Bike Ride See Schedule
	6 Rocky Peak 4pm hike See Schedule	7	8 Long Canyon 6:30pm hike See Schedule	9	10 Chumash Trail 6pm hike See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Robert Galletly	11 Holiday Party See Schedule Happy Hanukkuh <i>Happy Birthday</i> Rae Knapp
13 Rocky Peak 4pm hike See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Bill Cespedes Sven Michaelson Gary Valle Richard Carroll	14 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Randy Shoemaker	15 Long Canyon 6:30pm hike See Schedule	16	17 Chumash Trail 6pm hike See Schedule	18	19 Work Party See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Tom Travis
20 Rocky Peak 4pm hike See Schedule	21 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Terry Baker	22 Long Canyon 6:30pm hike See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> David Percival	23 RSTB Meeting 7:00 pm See Page 1 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Carol Maheux	24 Christmas Eve No hike tonight	25 Merry Christmas	26 Big Sky Ranch: Whiteface Mountain Exploratory Hike See Schedule
27 Rocky Peak 4pm hike See Schedule	28	29 Long Canyon 6:30pm hike See Schedule	30	31 New Years Eve No hike tonight		



Rancho Simi Trail Blazers

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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)

DECEMBER HIKES AND ACTIVITIES

December 5th **Bicycle Ride: Arroyo Bike Path - Simi Valley**

13 MRT - Easy (220' elevation gain)

Dust off those bikes and come join us on our annual bike ride. We'll ride from Madera Road to LA Avenue near the Metrolink Station on the Simi Valley Arroyo Bike Path. Bring 2 - 3 quarts of water, sunscreen and your bike. Meet at **8 AM at the intersection of Madera and Easy Street**. Park on the northeast corner of the intersection in the 123 Ink Jets parking lot.

December 11th **Holiday Party**

See front page and the website for more details.

December 12th **Las Lajas Canyon and Chumash Trail**

5 MRT - Easy (400' elevation gain) or 9.5 MRT - Moderate (1200' elevation gain).

Hike through a beautiful local canyon. Bring 3 quarts of water and a snack. Wear sturdy shoes. Meet at **8am at the Las Lajas / Northridge trailhead on Evening Star Drive**. Longer hike option: continue on past the gate at the end of the Las Lajas trail and hike the Chumash Trail out. Once we arrive at Flannigan Rd, we'll walk a couple of blocks, through the local neighborhood, and take the Northridge Trail back to our cars.

December 16th **Club Meeting**

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

December 19th **Work Party China Flat Trail 8:00am to Noon**

The Trail Blazers December trail work party will be held Saturday December 19 on the China Flat Trail in Oak Park. Meet at the **trailhead on Lindero Canyon Road just east of King James Court at 8:00am**. DO NOT PARK IN THE BIKE LANE - YOU MAY BE TICKETED! Bring 2 to 3 quarts of water, hat, sunscreen, and gloves to work on the trail. Wear sturdy boots. Tools will be provided. As always, you are welcome to work for a shorter time period if you desire. Hope to see you there.

December 26th **Big Sky Ranch: Whiteface Mountain Exploratory Shuttle Hike**

8 MRT – Moderate to Strenuous (1,200' elevation gain)

Let's go exploring! Meet at **Big Sky Park *2251 Lost Canyon Dr., Simi Valley) at 8am**. Bring 2-3 quarts of water and lunch. Wear boots.

* 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>

RANCHO SIMI TRAIL BLAZERS

A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation

Executive Chair:	Mike Kuhn	HM (805) 583-2345	hannahmike@me.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:	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	
Publicity Chair:	Carrie McCline		
Newsletter Editor:	Kelli Ham		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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