



Rancho Simi Trail Blazers

A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation



Happy Holidays!

Come and enjoy our annual casual and social potluck!

Ursula Christie's Home

Day: **December 7, 2013**

Time: **6:30PM**

576 Pinecliff Place
Simi Valley, CA 93065



(south on First Street, right on Mellow Lane, right on Pinecliff Place to end)

Weekly hikes

Take a hike or two with us and explore the beauty of Simi Valley and other beautiful locations. We have a lot of fun, taking photos, talking and just viewing the beautiful scenery like the one in the photo.



There are hikes every Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday.



RSTB LOGO T-SHIRTS

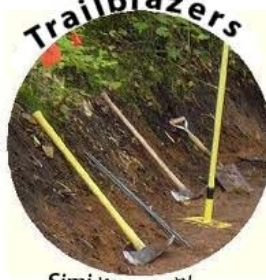
Sporting the beautiful RSTB logo, these are great shirts! Please call Mike Kuhn if you'd like to order at 805-583-2345.

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



Our November 16 work party was conducted on the Mount McCoy Trail. A great deal of rock removal and trail grooming was accomplished.

Participating were John Sabol, Bart Hibbs, Caroline Carroll and Mike Kuhn. Thank you for your good work.



Simi Work Party

RSTB CLUB MEETING

This month's RSTB meeting will be at: Sycamore Drive Community Center 1692 Sycamore Drive – Room B-1

Wednesday: December 18, 2013

5:30PM (NOTE: Early Start Time)

Everyone Welcome to attend!

Upcoming Events

December 7th - Danielson Memorial via the Fossil Trail

6 Mile Lollipop Loop - Moderate (1,000' of elevation gain/loss) **8AM**
Holiday Party – 6:30PM

December 14th - Vasquez Rocks - Pacific Crest Trail

9.1 mile one way - Moderate to Strenuous (1,485' of elevation gain/loss with short vehicle shuttle) **8AM**

December 18th - Club Meeting

5:30PM - (NOTE: Early Start Time)
Everyone Welcome to attend!

December 21st - Work Party - Lower Stage Coach Trail - 8AM

December 28th - Big Sky Loop – 4.5 Mile Loop - Easy to Moderate (815' of elevation gain/loss) 8AM

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.

Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District events can be viewed at <http://www.rsrpd.org> to see what is happening next!

JERUSALEM CRICKETS

A good Trail Blazer often encounters this rather large insect while constructing trails. If you find them, please, gently rebury them in loose soil where they won't get crushed. They are not venomous or otherwise harmful to human beings, so leave them alone. To one Indian tribe, they were known as *woh-tzi-neh* (old bald headed man). To the Spanish/Mexicans, they were known as *nino de la tierra* (child of the earth). We often call them "potato bugs." While not poisonous, they can bite. Because their mouth parts are so large, that bite can hurt. So, be careful. They are usually found in moist loose soil where they can tunnel underground.

Mike Kuhn
11-18-04

DES RAVINA

In 1861 the U.S. Surveyor General of California produced a map of El Rancho Simi that was part of the confirmation of the rancho to Jose de la Guerra Y Noriega. On that map, the canyon that extends from the present western orifice of the railroad tunnel at the eastern end of Simi Valley to present day Lilac Lane is labeled "Des Ravina." There are few names on the map, so it must be assumed that "the Ravine" was significant in the area and a well-known landform. Des Ravina contained the trail in and out of Simi Valley at the eastern end of the valley. It was critical to communication and transportation in the area. The presence of a Fernandean Indian shrine on Devil's Slide and a Chumash Indian temporary camp near the western end suggests that Des Ravina started as an Indian trail over Santa Susana Pass (Kashewi to the Chumash). Later, it became the El Camino Real during Spanish and early Mexican periods of settlement, it served as part of the Stagecoach Road from 1861 to 1875, and remained the only route over the

pass until the "Freight Road" was completed in 1899. In 1861 the construction on the western slope of the pass, through Des Ravina, of the Stagecoach Road would have been underway.

The name "the Ravine" is simple and descriptive. It seems to follow the Chumash tradition of naming places. The pass was simply called "the pass" by the Indians. The term "the Tripas" simply referred an interior space in the mountains. So, Des Ravina probably comes from the Chumash and was translated into Spanish by those Chumash Indians who remained on the land and became the laborers, the vaqueros and the shepherders. The Chumash had names for most things, just as we do. They did not name things for people. Once a person had died and the mourning ceremony had been performed, their name was never again spoken or used. Their universe was very limited, so too then was their choice of names.

During the prehistoric period, Des Ravina would have been relatively clear of the thick brush and poison oak that can be found there today. The Indians set fire to grass and brushlands each year as a way of improving the production of pioneer plants such as perennial grasses, red maids and chia. Those plants produced important seed crops. So the canyon was easily maintained as a travel route. During the Spanish/Mexican period, wildfires were much less frequent, so the brush must have been thicker in the canyon in those days. If you observe the canyon today, you will be struck by just how precipitous the walls of the canyon are. Des Ravina was an obvious route for the Indians and for Spanish/Mexicans for foot traffic and for people on mules, donkeys or horses. But when attempts were made to improve the trail so that it could accommodate wheeled vehicles, such as stagecoaches, it must have been very difficult to maintain a path that was wide enough for a single vehicle,

let alone for two vehicles to pass. Use by freight wagons must have been problematic.

With the coming of the railroad to Chatsworth and the desire of the new Anglo-American farmers to get their crops to market by the shortest and cheapest route, it was inevitable that public pressure would develop for a different and wider route over the mountain - which inevitably resulted in the abandonment of Des Ravina as a maintained transportation route. We do know that occasional stagecoach rides were taken over the old route into the first decade of the 20th Century. There is still graffiti in the canyon from the 1920s, so Des Ravina must have continued to attract the curious.

Mike Kuhn
11-11-04 (revised 10-9-12)

KA?ALISHAW-KASUP

Applegate (1975:29) lists ka?alishaw-kasup as meaning "hot earth" and being a geothermal spot near Simi. Harrington indicates that it is a place where the earth is warm and attributes this meaning to his informant "Sil," i.e., Jose Juan Olivas. Harrington wrote that Mr. Gillibrand says that there is a place near Strathearn's ranch where the earth is so hot you can't sit down. "Dig down a little way, and the earth is burning hot." Mr. Gillibrand found Indian beads and things at the place suggesting that the Indians must have taken steam baths there.

It is very likely that the place being referred to was located somewhere in the Happy Camp Canyon area and involved the natural burning of petroleum underground. Happy Camp Canyon was a primary source of fused shale, which was used for stone tool material, such as the making of arrowheads, during the Late Period of Indian occupation. Happy Camp Canyon was part of the Strathearn holdings.

Mike Kuhn
7-19-06 (revised 10-8-12)

October 19th - Work Party - Wild Animal Corridor - Cache In Trash Out Event



October 26th - Mt. Islip

Eight hikers carpooled via Highway 118, the I 210, and the Angeles Crest Highway, to Islip Saddle in the San Gabriel Mountains. The hike began along the Pacific Crest Trail, adjacent the Islip Saddle parking lot. The trail climbed eastward, skirting a large meadow, and then entering a pine-scented forest. Snow was still in display in the shady



northern parts of the trail, from a storm just over a week before. Two miles down the trail, we reached Little Jimmy Trail Camp. After a short break, we continued on to Windy Gap where we met and spoke with another group of friendly hikers. Next we followed the Islip Ridge Trail to the south as it ascended to the peak of Mt. Islip. Once there we took a lunch break and enjoyed the unobstructed 360 degree view of the surrounding mountains, the Antelope Valley, and the Crystal Lake Recreation Area. The view were only obscured by distant valley fog, on this cool and clear day. We descended the peak, via the trail through Little Jimmy Camp. We arrived back at the Stearns St. Park & Ride, having completed a very pleasant 7.3 mile hike, with 1954' of elevation gain.

November 2nd - Las Lajas Canyon, Rocky Peak Fire Road, and Chumash Trail Loop

Ten hikers met at the Las Lajas Canyon trailhead on a cool and clear autumn morning. The hike began by descending a short paved section of road into the canyon bottom, and from there a wide graded dirt road followed a stream north through the canyon, crossing the dry stream bed three times. The steep canyon walls provided shade as we enjoyed an easy 3.5 mile trek up the canyon. Taking the right (east) fork we

continued up the dirt road, past the now vacant oil fields, and then on up to a junction with the Rocky Peak Fire Road. After reaching the Rocky Peak Fire Road, we turned right and headed south toward the upper end of the Chumash Trail. Along the way we passed Fossil Hill, named for the shells of sea creatures left behind when the area was under a vast sea. We enjoyed the panoramic views of mountains and canyons to the east, south, and west. Upon reaching the upper end of the Chumash Trail, we took a much needed break and then rapidly descended the familiar trail from our Thursday evening hike. We then turned right (west) and followed a short trail to a closed, through a fence, at the east end of Evening Sky Drive. A short walk along Evening Sky Drive took us back to our vehicles, having completed a pleasant 9.3 mile hike with 1,963' of elevation gain.



November 9th - Mishe Mokwa Trail, Sandstone Peak loop



17 hikers traveled to Triunfo Pass (2,100') in the Santa Monica Mountains on a lovely fall morning. The counterclockwise loop hike began on the Mishe Mokwa Trail. The trail climbed quickly and then leveled out for a while before descending into Carlisle Canyon, providing excellent views of the reddish-colored Echo

Cliffs (a long stretch of sheer vertical sandstone rock faces) against the green side of Boney Mountain and Balanced Rock, a huge house-sized boulder precariously balancing atop a smaller boulder. We took a break at Split Rock where there's a thick mini-grove of shade trees overhanging a large broken boulder (Split Rock) and one deteriorating picnic table. We then followed a rugged side trail to Balanced Rock. As we resumed our hike, the trail climbed southward to a junction with the Backbone Trail (BBT) on a mesa affording great views of various peaks surrounding the area. We took the left (east) fork and continued along the BBT taking the short spur trail to Sandstone Peak (3,111'), aka Mt. Allen, the highest peak in the Santa Monica Mountains. The peak is just a hunk of grayish-white rock, but it provides a stunning 360-degree view (depending on the air quality) of the ocean, the mountains, and the Oxnard Plain. Visibility was only fair on this day, but the temperature was perfect for mountain hiking. Returning to the BBT we continued eastward to a junction with a short connector trail which led us again to the Mishe Mokwa Trail; we descended to the parking lot having completed a refreshing 7.3-mile hike with ~1,800' of elevation gain.

 RSTB Calendar December 						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Rocky Peak Fire Road 4PM See Schedule 	2 	3 Mt. McCoy Trail 6PM See Schedule 	4 	5 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule Hanukkah ends at sundown 	6 	7 Danielson  Memorial via the Fossil Trail 8AM Holiday Party See Schedule
8 Rocky Peak Fire Road 4PM See Schedule	9	10 Mt. McCoy Trail 6PM See Schedule Happy Birthday Robert D. Galletly	11 Happy Birthday Rae Knapp	12 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule	13 Happy Birthday Richard Carroll Rheann Roman	14 Vasquez Rocks - Pacific Crest Trail 8AM See Schedule Happy Birthday Randy Shoemaker
15 Rocky Peak Fire Road 4PM See Schedule	16	17 Mt. McCoy Trail 6PM See Schedule	18 Club Meeting 5:30PM (NOTE: Early Start Time) See Schedule Everyone Welcome to attend! Happy Birthday Gavin Niblett Chris Quinn	19 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule	20 Happy Birthday Stephanie Farrar	21 Work Party Lower Stage Coach Trail 8AM See Schedule
22 Rocky Peak Fire Road 4PM See Schedule	23	24 Mt. McCoy Trail 6PM See Schedule	25 Merry Christmas 	26 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule  Happy Birthday Nowell Niblett	27 Happy Birthday Beth Prentke	28 Big Sky Loop 8AM See Schedule
29 Rocky Peak Fire Road 4PM See Schedule	30	31 New Year's Eve 				



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.



REGULARLY SCHEDULED HIKES

(Rain cancels – No hikes on holidays)

Sunday Evening - Rocky Peak Fire Road

Meet at **4PM** 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 - Mt. McCoy Trail

Meet at **6PM** in the parking lot, to the south of Donut Delite, located on the north east side of the intersection of Royal Avenue and Madera Road. (Moderate - 4.0 MRT - 675' elevation gain)

Thursday Evening - The 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 end of Flanagan Drive. (Moderate to Strenuous - 5.4 MRT - 1,210' total elevation gain.)

DECEMBER HIKES AND ACTIVITIES

December 7th

Danielson Memorial via the Fossil Trail



6 Mile Lollipop Loop - Moderate (1,000' of elevation gain/loss)

Meet at **8AM** near Donut Delite at the corner of Madera and Royal. Bring 2 to 3 quarts of water and lunch/snacks. Wear boots. View website for more details: <http://www.simitrailblazers.com/activities/index.html>

December 7th

Come and enjoy our casual and social holiday potluck!

Time: 6:30PM

Place: Ursula Christie's Home

576 Pinecliff Place

Simi Valley, CA 93065

(south on 1st Street, right on Mellow Lane, right on Pinecliff Place to end)

December 14th

Vasquez Rocks - Pacific Crest Trail View website for more details: <http://www.simitrailblazers.com/activities/index.html>

9.1 mile one way - Moderate to Strenuous (1,485' of elevation gain/loss with short vehicle shuttle)

Meet at the 118 & Stearns St. Park & Ride at **8AM**. Bring 2 to 3 quarts of water and lunch/snacks. Wear boots.

December 18th

Club Meeting - Everyone Welcome to attend! (NOTE: Early Start Time)

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

December 21st

Work Party - Lower Stage Coach Trail

Meeting time is **8AM**. The event will end at noon. All tools will be provided. We will do trail grooming and widening, and cutting back some brush. Bring your own water, snacks, gloves, hat, and wear sunscreen. Boots are recommended.

Directions: From Kuehner Drive and the 118 Freeway, head south to the intersection of Kuehner Drive and Smith Road, where you turn right (east). Meet at the eastern end of the dirt parking lot.

December 28th

Big Sky Loop

4.5 Mile Loop - Easy to Moderate (815' of elevation gain/loss)

The return portion of the loop winds along the oak-lined stream that runs through the development. Meet at **8AM**. Bring 2 to 3 quarts of water and lunch/snacks. Wear boots. View website for more details: <http://www.simitrailblazers.com/activities/index.html>

DIRECTIONS TO THE TRAILHEAD: Take Hwy 118 to the Erringer Road exit. Head north 0.2 mile on Erringer Road (passing Alamo Street) to Big Sky Place (just before the entrance to the Big Sky housing development). Turn right on Big Sky Place, park on the left (west) side of the street close to its junction with Erringer Road

* 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:	VOLUNTEER NEEDED		Contact Mike Kuhn at: 805-583-2345
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
Publicity Chair:	VOLUNTEER NEEDED		Contact Mike Kuhn at: 805-583-2345
Newsletter Editor:	Linda Mann		linda.martins.mann@simitrailblazers.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 _____ 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 _____

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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 630445, Simi Valley, CA 93063-0399



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