



Rancho Simi Trail Blazers

A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation



ON THE EDGE

Do you want to get up close to a mountain lion and other wild animals you might encounter on the rural/urban fringe?

On **Saturday March 17, 2006 at 1 pm**, in the Multipurpose Room of the Rancho Santa Susana Community Center at 5005-C Los Angeles Avenue in Simi Valley, **The Mountain Lion Foundation** will present a program entitled:

"On the Edge"



Mountain Lion Cub
Photo is courtesy of the Mountain Lion Foundation

This program is a **live animal** presentation on wildlife/human conflict occurring on the urban edges, i.e., urban areas abutting natural areas, involving a variety of solutions to these encounters. The program will detail the specifics on each animal's biology and needs, resulting in an action/reaction resolution to the conflicts in urban backyards.

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:

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



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

THANK YOU !!!

Recently, the Acorn published an article about our China Flat work party, and John Sabol's picture made the paper.

Aaron Revoir from Gladstone's in Malibu noticed the article. Gladstone's has a program called "Local Hero's" wherein they recognize citizens of surrounding communities for their outstanding achievements and contributions.

Although John wanted to make sure that Mr. Revoir recognized that he was only one of seven volunteer workers that day, the Trail Blazers would like to offer John a big **THANK YOU** for all the trail work he has done, and the hikes he has led over the years.



ELECTRIC POWER COMES TO SIMI

Another excerpt from R. E. Harrington's *Early Days of Simi Valley* (1961), page 25:

"...About 1915...I remember having a representative of the Pacific Light and Power Co. talk about bringing in power...Power reached our valley shortly afterward and, while at first it was P. L. and P., it was later sold to the Southern California Edison Co."

Mike Kuhn

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
on
February 21, 2007

*** WANTED ***

Our group needs a few volunteers. If you are interested in either of these positions, please contact Mike Kuhn.

Newsletter Editor

Someone is needed to take over the newsletter. Training is available.

Publicity Chair

We need someone to get publicity out on Trail Blazer events.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH 1st - 4th

Death Valley Hiking & Camping Trip

Limited to Trailblazer members only. **Reservations are now closed**, but you can still send email to Mark Gilmore, to be placed on the waiting list. Tent camping at Furnace Creek, \$20/car entry fee.

MARCH 17th, 1pm

Mountain Lion Foundation presents "On the Edge" - See column 1 for more information.

APRIL 7th

Wildflower Walk - Antelope Valley

Meet at 8am near Donut Delite in the NE corner of Madera and Royal. This is an ALL DAY event.

More information on these events can be found at

<http://simitrailblazers.com>

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

Mishe Mokwa Hike



Split Rock picnic table, left to right: Shareece Veraldi, Roger Steffen, Mona Steffen, Shiela Kuntz, Louis Pomes, Carrie McCline, Margarita Marsh, Doug Marsh, and Raphael Zepeda.



Taking a break on Sandstone Peak, left to right: Carrie McCline, Doug marsh, Margarita Marsh, Mona Steffen, and Roger Steffen.

Sulphur Mountain Hike



Sulphur Mountain hike, left to right: Roger Steffan, Mona Steffan, Rafael Zepeda, Alan Cueba and Koby, Doug Marsh, Margareta Marsh, Caroline Carroll.

TAPO

Some names are borne by communities. They are so identified with a place that they are used over and over again. They fit like a glove and give comfort to long term residents, who may know nothing of their origins or meanings or connections to the community. Yet, they are cherished as though witness to something sacred to that place. “Tapo” is such a name to Simi Valley. Indeed, it appears no place else - is cherished by no other community. So, what does it mean and where does it come from?

The name “Tapo” is the Anglicized version of the name of the Chumash Indian village in Tapo Canyon. The village appears in various forms in the baptismal records of the San Fernando and the Ventura missions. Versions include *Taapu* (34), *Taapu'*, *Tapu* (4), *Taapa* and *Toapu* - among others. The most consistent rendition - offered by several Chumash Indian sources - is *Ta'apu*. (One Chumash and one Fernandeano source pronounced the name *Ta'a'pu*.) Certainly, the padres did not have a parallel to a guttural stop in Spanish. So, their rendition as “*Taapu*” is as close to the linguistic version of “*Ta'apu*” as they could come.

Ta'apu was the largest of the three villages in the Simi Valley area, being about twice the size of *Simi'* or *Quimisac*. *Ta'apu* was the only village with a chief, i.e., *wot*, and that *wot* was the overlord of the two other villages and the territory which was referred to as “the Simi”. The Simi extended from the tops of the hills to the north and the south and from Santa Susana Pass (*Kashiwe*) on the east to the western end of the Little Simi Valley – almost to Somis.

The trails to the village of *Ta'apu* were named after the village to which they led. As a result, there is a “Tapo Canyon” on the U.S. Geological Survey map on both the northern and the southern sides of the Santa Susana Mountains. Both trails (canyons) led to the village of *Ta'apu*.

As late as the 1930s, a number of sources refer to “Tapu” Creek, “Tapu” ranch and “the Tapu”. The linguist John Peabody Harrington noted that the “u” at the end of a word in the Ventureño Chumash language is possibly an unaccented “o”. Indeed, in the Barbareño dialect, the word is rendered as “*topo*”. So, this may explain how the final “u” became an “o”.

Richard VanValkenburg, in his 1933 notes on file at the Los Angeles County Museum, indicates that the word *ta'apu* means “yucca”, which refers to the *Yucca whipplei* ssp. *intermedia*, or more commonly referred to as “Spanish dagger” or “our lord’s candle”. Different parts of the yucca can be eaten at various times of the year. The plant supplied cordage and rope to the Indians. The bulb at the bases of the leaves provided food any time of the year. So, the yucca was a very important plant to the Chumash.

So, that’s it - no mystery - Tapo is our own. It is a link to the past of this place that we love.

Mike Kuhn

PIRU

The name “**Piru**” is derived from the name of a Serrano Indian village. It means "tule." The pronunciation of the name is listed by Harrington as "pi'iruk." The final "k" is half silent. The nearly silent "k" has been lost as foreign to our ears. A resident of pi'iruk was called "pi'irukvit". Kroeber lists the name as "pi'idhu-ku". Kroeber indicates that it is the name of a plant. *Arroyo de Piruc* is shown on a *diseño* in 1838. The name appeared as “Piro” in the Statutes of 1850 and as “Rio Piru” on the Parke-Custer map of 1854-1855. The town was laid out in 1888 and called Piru City after the Piru ranch - developed by the Chicago publisher David Cook.

Mike Kuhn

CHINA FLAT WORK PARTY

Our January work party was on the lower China Flat Trail out of Oak Park. Thank you to Eric Heideprien and his mother Jeanne Heideprien, John Sabol, Arlene Altshuler and her fury friends, Champ and Buffy, David Strong and his son Mark Strong and Mike Kuhn.

Fun was had by all, and we got a lot of very good work done! No one cut down any of the extremely rare chaparral beargrass, however, some complaints have been heard since about sore muscles.



left to right: Jeanne Heideprien and Arlene Altshuler



Left to right:
Mike Kuhn and Eric Heideprien



Left to right:
David Strong and Mark Strong

TOBACCO AS A CURE

(From Fernando Librado, *Breath of the Sun*, page 57)

“Once I had a lame arm from shearing sheep. Manual Borrego went and got a piece of a pesibata ball (A mixture of ground tobacco with fine, white lime and water. It was taken internally and would induce a form of intoxication as well as vomiting. Native tobacco contains approximately 100-200 times as much nicotine as domesticated tobacco. The native tobacco was traded in from the Tejon area. The Chumash smoked it in small pipes in ceremonial functions, and also made offerings of tobacco in ritual contexts. Small quantities were ingested to impart strength and endurance, often as a substitute for food.), made the Indian way, but without any lime in it. Sometimes the Indians made such balls without lime, and these were stronger than those with it. The lime moderated the tobacco, they said. Anyway, Manual put a piece of it on the palm of his hand with some water, and began to rub my arm with it. I felt almost immediate relief. Soon I was shearing sheep again. I have heard that there is much coyote tobacco, somewhere in Tejon or in the southern San Joaquin country, which has leaves sometimes as big as cultivated tobacco.”

Mike Kuhn

SIMI VALLEY IN 1874

Janet Cameron included in the *History of Ventura County, State of California, Its People and Resources* (Editor Emeritus Edwin M. Sheridan, 1940) page 182, the following description of Simi Valley in 1874, as told to her by Bud Taylor, one of the first Anglo-American ranchers in the valley.

Mr. Taylor indicated that the east end was covered by oak trees (*El Roblaro*) and the flats were covered by elderberries (*Sambucus mexicana*), while the foothills to the north were covered by prickly-pears. This description of the northern foothills is consistent with a heavily overgrazed landscape, especially where sheep were involved. Sheep and cattle had been a mainstay of El Rancho Simi.

Mrs. Cameron goes on to indicate the first men who farmed the valley raised sheep exclusively. Mr. Hoar, for example, ran 8,000 sheep on the 13,000 acres, which he leased through Mr. Bard. Mr. Taylor indicated that the ground was hard and dry and that the sheep ate everything, including the willows in the creek. Of course, they did not eat the prickly-pear cactus and that is why it thrived.

By the late-1870s, wheat and barley had displaced some of the sheep – although in the case of Mr. Hoar, who sublet portions of his 13,000 acres to grain (wheat and barley) farmers, he reserved the right to run sheep on the stubble.

Mike Kuhn



RSTB Calendar February 2007



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Chumash Trail 6pm hike See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Caroline Carroll</i>	2	3 Serrano Canyon See Schedule
4 Rocky Peak 4pm hike See Schedule	5 <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Mona Steffen</i>	6 Long Canyon 6:30pm hike See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Phil Pratt</i>	7 <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Tish Adams</i>	8 Chumash Trail 6pm hike See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>John Atwood</i>	9	10 Simi Peak via China Flat See Schedule
11 Rocky Peak 4pm hike See Schedule	12 <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Orly Shiler</i>	13 Long Canyon 6:30pm hike See Schedule	14 <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Doug Marsh</i>	15 Chumash Trail 6pm hike See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Corinne Foss</i>	16	17 Upper Chumash Work Party See Schedule
18 Rocky Peak 4pm hike See Schedule	19 <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Melissa Steffen</i> <i>Gloria Gormaz</i>	20 Long Canyon 6:30pm hike See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Mary Ann Campbell</i>	21 RSTB Meeting See Page 1	22 Chumash Trail 6pm hike See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Lorraine Ferrall</i>	23 <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Kathy Shalhoob</i>	24 Los Piñetos Trail See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Connie Ankrom</i>
25 Rocky Peak 4pm hike See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>David Seifert</i>	26	27 Long Canyon 6:30pm hike See Schedule	28			



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Hiking Schedule



REGULARLY SCHEDULED HIKES

(Rain cancels – No hikes on holidays)

Sunday Evening - Rocky Peak

Meet 4pm 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 First Street 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)

FEBRUARY HIKES

February 3rd - Serrano Canyon*

8.5 MRT - Moderate to Strenuous (1100' elevation gain)

Meet at 8 AM near Donut Delite at the corner of Madera and Royal. Bring 2 - 3 quarts water and wear boots. For anyone who elects to meet us at the trailhead, please note there is a parking fee of \$5 - \$10, depending on season, at the trailhead (Point Mugu State Park).

February 10th - Simi Peak via China Flat**

6 MRT - Moderate to Strenuous (1000' elevation gain)

Bring two quarts of water and a snack, wear boots. Directions: take 101 Fwy to Lindero Canyon. Follow Lindero Canyon to King James Court. Park on Lindero Canyon, near the arroyo just east of King James Court. Meet at 8 AM near the arroyo/trailhead.

February 17th - Work Party - Chumash Upper Trail

Meet at the Chumash trailhead on Flanagan Drive at 8:00 AM. Depending on the weather we will either carpool up the Rocky Peak Fire Road to access the upper trailhead or walk up from the lower trailhead. Tools will be provided. Bring 2 - 3 quarts of water, hat, sunscreen, and gloves to work on the trail.

February 24th - Placerita Canyon - Los Piñetos Trail**

9 MRT - Moderate to Strenuous (1800' gain/loss)

Great views from the top of the canyon. Bring lunch, 2 - 3 quarts of water, bug juice, and sun screen. Wear boots. 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 more 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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-----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 ____

Address _____

Email Address _____ Phone wk/hm _____

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

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



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