



Rancho Simi Trail Blazers

A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation



JANUARY WORK PARTY NEWS

The January Work Party was held on the 19th, on the central section of the Hummingbird Trail. Work was concentrated in the area above the caves. Severe erosion damage was repaired in three areas. In two areas, rock was used to fill deep ruts, then covered with dirt. Two large boulders, causing a choke point on the trail, were moved off trail. Rock barriers were laid down in several areas, to keep hikers/bikers on the trail. Many thanks to Bill Cespedes, Allen Cueba, Martin DeGoey, Bart Hibbs and John Sabol for their efforts.

It would be great to have more people join us for the work parties. The work is quite rewarding.



ORIGIN OF NAME TOPATOPA

There is a Topatopa Mountain and Topatopa creek northeast of the upper Ojai. Early in the efforts to save the California condor from extinction, a condor egg was taken from a ledge on the northern face of Topatopa Mountain. The resulting hatchling was named Topatopa – a name of Chumash Indian origin. Applegate (1974) gives the Ventureño Chumash name as *sitoptopo*, which means “the carrizo patch”. The name is now reflected in the name of the mountain, the creek and a really big bird.

Mike Kuhn
2-19-05

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 13th, 2008



HI'IM

Applegate lists the name "*hi'im*" as a place at Santa Susana in Simi Valley. Harrington lists the work "*qi'im*". An informant of Harrington, "Qui", reported that a Fernandeno Indian reported that Santa Susana is called "*qi'im*", which means mystery. He said that there was a gold mine there south of the tracks and west of the tunnel. Another informant, "Sil", pronounced the word "*qi'im*". He said that it is in the hills between the *cieneegas* of Simi and the Tierra Rejada Valley. (The "*cieneegas*" were ponds or wetlands at the western end of the valley.) He said something about there being a rock shaped like a "*qi'im*" there. Another time Sil said that it is a hill that is "*atravesado*", i.e., crosses below, Simi. In any case, "*hi'im*" and "*qi'im*" may be the same name. It is likely that "*hi'im*" refers to the hills at the western end of Simi Valley where the presidential library is located.

I have found "*qi'im*" discussed in another Harrington note. It is apparent that Harrington knew what a *qi'im* is. However, the note was for his own use, so *qi'im* is never identified.

Hi'im means “gathering basket.” Among western Indian groups the term “basket” was used to mean a rock art site. Baskets were female paraphernalia and symbolized a womb.

Mike Kuhn
11-15-04



UPCOMING EVENTS

February 2nd, 2008:
Mt. Hollywood Trail
Please see the website for more info.

February 9th, 2008:
Sisar Canyon to White Ledge
Please see the website for more info.

February 16th, 2008:
Work Party: Upper Hummingbird Trail Pls.see the web site for more info.

February 13th, 2008: Club Meeting

February 23rd, 2008:
Placerita Canyon – Los Pinetos Trail
Please see the website for more info.

March 5th-9th, 2008:
Death Valley Hiking and Camping Trip (Trailblazer Members Only)
Please see the website for more info.
(Trip Reservations for both Death Valley and Yosemite (5/28 – 6/1) are almost full. Make your reservations now, so you don't miss out!!)

More information on these events can be found at
<http://simitrailblazers.com>
To make reservations, please email Mark Gilmore at
markinthepark@sbcglobal.net



SAN AUGUSTIN AND DRAKES BAY

In November 1595 the Spanish Manila galleon, San Augustin, carrying a diverse cargo of Chinese trade goods, including porcelain, silk, and other luxury items, to Mexico from the Philippines, put into *Tamal-Huye*, the Coast Miwok name for Drakes Bay in Point Reyes National Seashore, for reprovisioning and to assemble a small launch for coastal exploration. However, the San Augustin was driven ashore during a severe storm. For more than a month, both before and after the storm, the crew interacted with the native peoples of the area. Using the launch, the surviving crew successfully returned to Mexico, abandoning the San Augustin and its cargo.

What is now clear as a result of excavations at numerous archaeological sites in the Drakes Bay and Point Reyes areas is that the Coast Miwoks salvaged as much of the San Augustin and its cargo as possible. The timbers of the ship, including the iron spikes, were used as fuel in campfires, and porcelain plates and vessels were used by the Indians in much the same way as they would have been used by the Spanish in Mexico – that is for food and storage. Once broken, the porcelain items were discarded. In addition, the introduced material culture may have been used as raw materials for traditional indigenous artifact classes, such as scrapers, beads, and pendants. It is possible that even broken pieces of porcelain were cherished for their unique character and as symbols of power or magic. In this context, they may have had a very long life – being passed on and on for the next 150 years until Spanish colonialism of the late-18th Century overwhelmed them. Most of the excavations conducted by archaeologists found that approximately 20 percent of recovered objects were of European or Asian origin. Considering that these items were superimposed on a fully developed material culture, that number is truly astounding.

So, what we have was an early, prolonged contact between the Spanish and the Indians. For the Indians, it must have represented a momentous event – a time of wonder and great excitement. After the Spanish had sailed away, there was



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probably a prolonged period of salvage efforts by the Indians. Imagine the Indians with metal objects, beautiful Chinese porcelain objects and what we have come to know as “Spanish shawls” – which were silk shawls from China. In what ways did this event impact the Indians of the area? Did porcelain objects and other items end up in long-distance trade with other groups? Did they affect religious practices?

This event is interesting when considering that Francis Drake may have wintered over in “Drakes Bay” in 1579 – only 16 years before the arrival of the San Augustin. While no physical evidence of Drake and his ships has been found in or around Drakes Bay, his log describes a south-facing bay at the same latitude as Drakes Bay. Drake is known to have left behind two banded-iron canons and one bronze canon and a ship’s anchor – one would think each of which should have been discovered during magnetometer surveys of Drakes Bay. If Drake had wintered over in Drakes Bay in 1579, the Coast Miwoks would have been exposed to 2 foreign, yet similar cultures within the memory or many individuals. It is possible that Drake wintered over in San Francisco Bay or in the Goleta Slough (which was a navigable bay until the late-1800s). Two iron-banded canons and one bronze canon and a large ship’s anchor have been found in the Goleta area.

In any case, 1595 was an interesting time for the Indians around Drakes Bay and their Spanish visitors. The feat of sailing an over-crowded launch from Drakes Bay to Mexico during the height of winter remarkable by itself.

Mike Kuhn 8-8-07

BAPTISMS AT MISSION SAN FERNANDO

C. Hart Merriam, “Village Names in Twelve California Mission Records,” Reports of the University of California Archaeological Survey No. 74 (July 1968), includes a tabulation of baptisms at the San Fernando Mission for villages in the Simi area. The tabulations include how many times specific spellings were used. Some baptisms for the Simi area were recorded at the Mission San Buenaventura. Indeed, most of the baptisms for the village of *Quimisac* were recorded at Ventura. However, the Ventura baptisms are not included in the subject publication.

The village of *Ta’apu* provided 43 baptisms: two in 1799; five in 1802; 18 in 1803; eight in 1804; four in 1805; two in 1811; two in 1812; one in 1816; and one in 1818. Chief *Palasuit*, 46 years of age, was baptized in 1804 and was given the name “Salvador.” The spellings of the name of the village are *Taapu* (34 times), *Toapu* (one time), *Tapuu* (two times), and *Tapu* (four times).

The village of *Simi’* lists only nine baptisms, all in 1803. *Simi* was used six times, and *Simii* was used once.

The village of *Quimisac* provided four baptisms – three in 1803 and one in 1810. The Spelling *Quimisac* was used three times and the spelling *Quimissac* was used once.

Ta’apu was clearly the largest village and had the only resident *wot*, i.e., chief. *Simi’* provided a little more than one fifth as many baptisms as *Ta’apu*.

The spellings listed for the name of the villages were simple that entered by the presiding priests – none of whom had any special training in linguistics. So, spellings varied. *Piru*, for example, provided 95 baptisms. The spellings listed are *Piru*, *Piiru*, *Piirubit*, *Piribit*, *Pirivit*, and *Piiruvit*. Malibu provided 75 baptisms. The spellings listed are *Humaliu*, *Humalibu*, *Humalibo*, *Humaligo*, *Omaliiu*, *Oumaliu*, *Umaliiu*, and *Umalivo*.

Mike Kuhn 10-25-06

January 12th 2008 - Devil Canyon to Brown's Canyon Road

Seventeen of us hiked a total of 9.8 miles today. What a group! A mild Santa Ana condition pushed temperatures into the mid-seventies by the time the hike was over. There were numerous stream crossings, or even *stream followings*, especially during the first few miles. None of the crossings were very deep or fast running. The canyon was already quite green from our recent rains. Devil Canyon is a place like no other and so very close to home too.





RSTB Calendar February 2008



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 <i>Happy Birthday Caroline Carroll</i>	2 Mt. Hollywood Trail See Schedule
3 Rocky Peak 4pm hike See Schedule	4	5 Long Canyon 6:30pm hike See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday Mona Steffen</i>	6 <i>Happy Birthday Phillip Pratt</i>	7 Chumash Trail 6pm hike See Schedule	8 <i>Happy Birthday John Atwood</i>	9 Sisar Canyon to White Ledge See Schedule
10 Rocky Peak 4pm hike See Schedule	11	12 Long Canyon 6:30pm hike See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday Orly Shiler</i>	13 RSTB Meeting See Page 1	14 Chumash Trail 6pm hike See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday Doug Marsh</i>	15	16 Work Party: Upper Hummingbird Trail See Schedule
17 Rocky Peak 4pm hike See Schedule	18	19 Long Canyon 6:30pm hike See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday Melissa Steffen</i>	20 <i>Happy Birthday Mary Ann Campbell</i>	21 Chumash Trail 6pm hike See Schedule	22 <i>Happy Birthday Chris Winfield Lorraine Ferrall</i>	23 Placerita Canyon - Los Pinetos Trail See Schedule
24 Rocky Peak 4pm hike See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday Connie Ankrom</i>	25 <i>Happy Birthday David Seifert</i>	26 Long Canyon 6:30pm hike See Schedule	27	28 Chumash Trail 6pm hike See Schedule	29	



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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)
(Meet at 5pm during daylight savings time)

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 2nd

*Mt. Hollywood Trail**

5 MRT - Moderate (1,026' elevation gain/loss)

Mt Hollywood is by far the most popular hiking trail in all of Griffith Park. One of the reasons for its popularity is access and a million dollar view of Los Angeles, including the Pacific Ocean and eastern San Fernando Valley. Please see the website for spectacular views and for more information about this hike. Meet at the 118 & Stearns St. Park & Ride at 8 AM. Bring 2 to 3 quarts of water and a snack. Wear boots.

February 9th

*Sisar Canyon to White Ledge**

9 MRT - Moderate (2000' elevation gain)

Follow a creek up to the California Bay Laurel trees of the White Ledge campsite in the Topatopa Mountains. Bring 1 to 2 quarts of water, water purifier, layered clothing, and lunch. Wear boots. Meet at 8 AM near Donut Delite at the corner of Madera and Royal.

February 16th

Work Party - Upper Hummingbird Trail

Meet at 8:00 AM at the Rocky Peak trailhead. We'll drive up the Rocky Peak Fire Road in a minimum number of vehicles to access the upper trail head. We'll work from 8:00 AM until noon. Tools will be provided. Bring 2 to 3 quarts of water, hat, sunscreen, and gloves to work on the trail.

February 23rd

*Placerita Canyon - Los Pinetos 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 at the 118 & Stearns St. Park & Ride.

* 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>

LANCHO SIMI TRAIL BLAZERS

A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation

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

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

Would you like to receive periodic email announcements about club activities? Yes () No ()



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