



Rancho Simi Trail Blazers

A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation



Volunteers Needed



If anyone is interested in volunteering, for either the **work parties** or the **publicity chair**, please view the

last page of the newsletter and contact Mike Kuhn at:

mike.kuhn@simitrailblazers.com

Weekly hikes



Has anyone ever told you to take a hike?

Well, did you know that in Simi Valley you can take many hikes with the Rancho Simi Trail Blazers 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 this photo.

Hikes are every Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday, and most Saturdays

Welcome New Members

Howard, Alex, Ian, & Koltenuk
Cynthia Vournas
Phil and Connie Ankrom
Guillermo Rios & Family
Lisa Hamilton & Brian Hoshide
Sandy Richeson
Vera Teller
Robert D'Alo
Sandy Richeson

February



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



December Holiday Potluck

Our Holiday Potluck was a success. Special thanks to Ursula Christie for opening her home for the event and to Ray Johnson for providing the festive music!



The January work party was focused on the Mt.

McCoy Trail. Volunteers included John Sabol, Bart Hibbs, Caroline Carroll, and Mike Kuhn.

The January work party was focused on the upper portion of the Lower Stagecoach Trail. We got the job done - thanks to the efforts of Martin DeGoey, Bart Hibbs and Mike Kuhn.

RSTB CLUB MEETING

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

Wednesday: February 19, 2014
5:30PM (NOTE: Early Start Time)
Everyone Welcome to attend!

Upcoming Events

February 1st Johnson Motorway to Rocky Peak
8 MRT - Moderate (1,600' of elevation gain/loss) **8AM**

February 8th Sulphur Mountain Shuttle
10.4 Mile Shuttle - Moderate (300' / 2,200' of elevation gain / loss)
8AM

February 15th Work Party - Coyote Hills Trail **8AM** Event will end at noon. All tools will be provided.

February 19th Club Meeting
5:30PM - (NOTE: Early Start Time)
Everyone Welcome to attend!

February 22nd Placerita Canyon - Los Pinetos Trail
7.5 MRT - Moderate to Strenuous (1,900' 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.rsprd.org> to see what is happening next!

TAPO STREET VERSUS TAPO CANYON ROAD

The presence in Simi Valley of a Tapo Street and a Tapo Canyon Road a mere one half mile apart has long caused some confusion, especially among visitors to the valley. Street names, unlike some things, are not accidents of nature, especially when historic roots are involved. So, just how did this repeat of the name "Tapo" come to be?

This story begins sometime during the prehistoric period with the first settlers of the valley - the Chumash Indians. The best watered place in the Simi Valley area is the lower half of Gillibrand and Tapo canyons. Beginning where the Gillibrand Quarry office is, at the former site of a *cienea*, i.e., a pond, water surfaced in the canyon in order to spill over a nearly vertical bedrock barrier. The downstream section of the canyon is underlain by a clayey stratum, which results in year round stream flow. As a result, the primary Chumash settlement in "the Simi" was established upstream from what is now Tapo Canyon Park.

That village was called "*Ta'apu*." According to A. L. Kroeber, the foremost anthropologist in California during the first half of the 20th Century, the word means "yucca." The yucca was very important to the Chumash in that they could get food from the plant any day of the year. However, based on the work of Jan Timbrook of the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, this meaning seems unlikely.

Ta'apu was the largest village in the Simi and the only village with a resident chief ("wot") at the beginning of the historic period. In a sense, all roads led to "*Ta'apu*." The trails to the north and to the south were the "*Ta'apu* Trails." They have come down to us in the form of the name Tapo Canyon. Indeed, the canyon on the northern side of the Santa Susana Mountains which leads south from the *Tataviam* (*Alliklik*) village of Camulos is also named Tapo Canyon. A trail ran

from *Ta'apu* to the southwest to the Chumash village of Simi' or *Shimiji*. Another probably ran to the west to Happy Camp Canyon and the village of *Quimisac*. The Dominguez Trail ran to the east to the head of Brown's Canyon and the San Fernando Valley beyond. *Ta'apu* was the geopolitical capitol of the area.

Still another trail must have run down Tapo Canyon and then to the southeast and eventually over the Santa Susana Pass. The trail is not noted on the 1858 federal survey. If it existed, it must have crossed the north-south line, which later became Tapo Road and still later became Tapo Street, in the general area of the present day intersection with Alamo Street.

As you may have guessed, *Ta'apu* eventually became "Tapo" during the historic period. While the village of *Ta'apu* ceased to exist after about 1812 (the date of the last raid by San Fernando Mission padres and soldiers for neophytes), Tapo persisted as a sheep herder camp and as the site of the "Tapo Adobe" sometime during the 1820s or 1830s. From 1858 on, the Tapo Adobe became the headquarters of El Rancho Simi under the De la Guerra family. As a result of the prominence of Tapo, even into the period of American settlement, the ownership of "the Tapo" was retained by Thomas Bard when most of the rest of Simi Valley was offered for sale in the late 1880s.

The 1858 federal survey established the township and range system of land division in much of Simi Valley and resulted in the layout of what eventually became the arterial street system. Tapo Road, i.e., Street, follows the boundary between Range 17 and 18 West. However, the road from Tapo persisted even when the arrival of the railroad resulted in the establishment of the steam engine watering point where the railroad, which followed Los Angeles Avenue, crossed that township boundary. The road north from the railroad station assumed the name of the road that it encountered - that is Tapo Road. At that point, the land was

becoming settled by farm families, with most property lines in the valley based on the township and range system (after all, those lines were surveyed, with the monuments available to local surveyors). The northwest-southeast portion of Tapo Road, which ran from approximately the intersection with Alamo Street to the mouth of Tapo Canyon, persisted for a while - running through someone's grain fields. However, the coming of orchard crops after the event of the railroad and tunnels through the mountains at the eastern end of Simi Valley resulted in the demise of that northwest-southeast road segment. Present day Tapo Street north of Alamo Street was known as Marr Road until the Belwood Tract was subdivided in the late-1950s.

The mouth of Tapo Canyon was aligned with the first north-south quarter section line west of Tapo Street, so it was natural that a road developed as far south as present day Cochran Street. That road was named Tapo Drive. A drill tract from the railroad extended north to the Tapo Citrus Packing Plant but was abandon, while preserving the railroad right of way. That general alignment was used during the late 1980s for the extension of Tapo Canyon Road south from Cochran Street to present day Guardian Avenue.

At one time, regional transportation planners envisaged Tapo Canyon Road being extended north to State Route 126 and south to U.S. Route 101, so an interchange with the 118 Freeway was built at Tapo Canyon Road rather than at Tapo Street. Those road connections no longer are on regional plans.

So, now you have it. That is why there is a Tapo Street and a Tapo Canyon Road in Simi Valley. It stems from historic inertia with the name of the largest Indian village in the area, the sheep herder camp and later rancho headquarters and the name of the trail which led to it.

Mike Kuhn
12-2-04 (revised 8-2-12)

December 28th - Big Sky Loop



Nine hikers met at Big Sky Place at 8 AM this morning. The previous week was very windy, so it was a pleasure to hike on a cool and still morning. The recent Santa Ana winds left us with a very clear day, so we were rewarded with some fine views on the first half of the hike. Our hike took only two hours, so we finished in plenty of time to get on with the day's activities. The loop was 4.5 miles, with 975' of elevation gain.

January 4th - Sage Ranch



24 hikers arrived at the parking lot in Sage Ranch Park in the Simi Hills on a pleasant winter morning. The 625-acre park is located just north of the Santa Susana Field Laboratory (SSFL) (aka Rocketdyne/Boeing) at an elevation of 2,000'. It is chock-full of world-class sandstone rock formations and has lots of picnic tables shaded by large oak trees. Shortly after we began our hike, we were rewarded with views of the east end of Simi Valley and the mountains to the north. We explored some side trails and then climbed up on Sandstone Ridge, a long, steep rock formation rising alongside the trail on the west side; it afforded us with excellent views of the once-bustling SSFL. The effects of the continuing drought were evident on the parched flora in the area. All too soon, we completed our short, but invigorating, post-holiday stroll (3.3 miles with about 500' of elevation gain).

January 11th - Sisar Canyon

14 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 pleasantly cool winter morning. The hike began on a shaded dirt fire road (4N15) which ascended to the north along the intermittently flow-

ing creek which required two easy crossings. 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 Upper Ojai Valley and Sulphur Mountain to the south. We encountered several hikers and bicycle riders. After hiking about 3.5 miles, the trail (21W08 aka Red Reef Trail)



leading to White Ledge Camp diverged from the fire road. We followed it about one mile to the trail camp which is situated along a creek 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'.

January 26th - Simi Peak via China Flat

27 hikers met at a trailhead on Lindero Canyon Road (near King James Court) in Oak Park on a beautiful "winter" morning. Our hike in the Simi Hills began along a single-track trail, but soon continued along an old dirt-and-rock road as it rose up the south side of the mountain, providing ever-expanding views to the south. Upon reaching the apex of the old road, we headed north and descended into lovely China Flat with its oak trees and sprawling meadows. The impact of the continuing drought was clearly evident on the flora in the area. After circling China Flat in a counterclockwise direction, we followed a trail westward and climbed to Simi Peak (2,403'), the highest point in the Simi Hills (which occupy the area between Simi Valley and Hwy 101 and between Hwy 23 and the San Fernando Valley), where we were greeted by unusually clear vistas. We



took a rest-and-lunch break atop the peak and enjoyed the panoramic view, including glimpses of two of the Channel Islands. After a while we returned to our vehicles, completing a 7.5-mile hike with about 1,900' of elevation gain/loss on a beautiful day.



RSTB Calendar February



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Johnson Motorway to Rocky Peak 8AM See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Caroline Carroll
2 Rocky Peak Fire Road 4PM See Schedule	3	4 Mt. McCoy Trail 6PM See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Stellan Niblett	5 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Mona Steffen	6 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Phil Pratt	7	8 Sulphur Mountain Shuttle 8AM See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> John Atwood
9 Rocky Peak Fire Road 4PM See Schedule	10 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Joyce Sua	11 Mt. McCoy Trail 6PM See Schedule	12 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Joey Simon	13 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule	14 <i>Happy Valentine's Day</i> <i>Happy Birthday</i> James Buchanan Doug Marsh	15 Work Party - Coyote Hills Trail 8AM Event will end at noon See Schedule
16 Rocky Peak Fire Road 4PM See Schedule	17 <i>Presidents Day</i>	18 Mt. McCoy Trail 6PM See Schedule	19 Club Meeting 5:30PM (NOTE: Early Start Time) See Schedule <i>Everyone Welcome to attend!</i> <i>Happy Birthday</i> Pete Lestrel	20 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Mary Ann Campbell	21 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Nancy Calderone	22 Placerita Canyon - Los Pinetos Trail 8AM See Schedule
23 Rocky Peak Fire Road 4PM See Schedule	24 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Connie Ankrom	25 Mt. McCoy Trail 6PM See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> David Seifert Tom Abernathy	26	27 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule	28	



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.)

FEBRUARY HIKES AND ACTIVITIES

February 1st Johnson Motorway to Rocky Peak

8 MRT - Moderate (1,600' of elevation gain/loss)

Upon reaching the fire road we follow it southward for about a mile to a spur trail leading to Rocky Peak, enjoying views of Simi Valley, the San Fernando Valley, and the surrounding mountains. We return the way we came. Meet at **8AM** at the trailhead. Bring 2 to 3 quarts of water and lunch/snacks. Wear boots.

Directions to Trailhead: Take Highway 118 east to the Rocky Peak exit in Santa Susana Pass. Turn right (south) and then turn left (east) onto Santa Susana Pass Road. Follow Santa Susana Pass Road 1.3 miles as it descends into the San Fernando Valley. Turn left (north) on Iverson Road and drive 0.3 mile to the Highway 118 overpass. Park alongside Iverson Road on either side.

February 8th Sulphur Mountain Shuttle

10.4 Mile Shuttle - Moderate (300' / 2,200' of elevation gain / loss)

The trail (actually a dirt road) loses elevation gradually as it passes through the beautiful pastoral countryside on the slopes of Sulphur Mountain providing continuous vistas of rolling hills dotted with oak trees, grassland meadows, and valleys. There are also views of the Oxnard Plain and several of the Channel Islands (visibility permitting). Eventually we'll be treated to views of the Ojai Valley and the distant towering mountains to the north and west and of Lake Casitas to the west. 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.

February 15th Work Party – Coyote Hills Trail

Meeting time is **8AM**. The event will end at noon. All tools will be provided. We will be removing rocks, doing some lopping to increase trail clearance and some trail trimming. Bring your own water, snacks, gloves, hat, and wear sunscreen. Boots are recommended. Drive south on Sinaloa Road to its junction with Valley Gate Road, then turn right (west) on Valley Gate Road, and drive a short distance to the park (it will be on your left).

February 19th Club Meeting - Everyone Welcome to attend! (NOTE: Early Start Time)


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

February 22nd Placerita Canyon - Los Pinetos Trail

7.5 MRT - Moderate to Strenuous (1,900' of elevation gain/loss)

A short walk to the southeast will provide us with an overlook of the San Fernando Valley. Resuming our hike we will follow Whitney Canyon Road a short distance to a firebreak which afford us with sweeping views to the west; we'll follow it down to the Manzanita Mountain Trail which will complete our loop hike. Meet at **8AM** at the 118 & Stearns St. Park & Ride. Bring 2 to 3 quarts of water and lunch/snacks. Wear boots.

For more information on **ALL HIKES**, go to: <http://www.simitrailblazers.com/activities/index.html>

* 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
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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.

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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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