



Rancho Simi Trail Blazers

A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation



February



Weekly hikes!!



Has anyone ever told you to take a hike?

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 so much fun taking photos, talking and just viewing the beautiful scenery like the photo above. We even enjoy going on overnight events. **Please join us** and see for yourself how much fun we have!

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

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!

COMMENTS TO THE FOREST SERVICE

The following are actual comments left during 2000 on Forest Service registration sheets and comment cards by backpackers completing wilderness outings:

"A small deer came into camp and stole my bag of pickles. Is there a way I can get reimbursed?"

"Escalators would help on steep uphill sections."

"Instead of a permit system or regulations, the Forest Service needs to reduce worldwide population growth to limit the number of visitors to wilderness."

"Trails need to be wider so people can walk while holding hands."

"Ban walking sticks in wilderness. Hikers who use walking sticks are more likely to chase animals."

"Found a smoldering cigarette left by a horse."

"Trails need to be reconstructed. Please avoid building trails that go uphill."

"Chair lifts need to be in some places so that we can get to wonderful views without having to hike to them."

"The coyotes made too much noise last night and kept me awake. Please eradicate these annoying animals."

"Reflectors need to be placed on trees every 50 feet so people can hike at night with flashlights."

"Need more signs to keep area pristine."

(Continued on page 3, Column 3, bottom of page)

RSTB CLUB MEETING
This month's RSTB meeting will be at:
Sycamore Drive Community Center
1692 Sycamore Drive – Room B-1
Wednesday: February 17, 2016
5:30PM Everyone Welcome to attend!

** Not within the jurisdiction of the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District.*

Upcoming Events

February 6th Franklin Trail to the Los Padres National Forest Boundary 10.4 MRT - Strenuous (1,700' elevation gain/loss) **8AM**

February 13th Santa Paula Peak SPECIAL EVENT – RESERVATIONS REQUIRED 10.3 MRT - Strenuous (3,700' elevation gain/loss) **7:30AM**

February 17th Club Meeting
The Sycamore Drive Community Center - 1692 Sycamore Drive - Room B-1 **5:30PM Everyone Welcome to attend!**

February 20th Work Party - The Chumash Trail **8AM - NOON**

February 27th Slide Mountain Fire Lookout from Frenchman's Flat 13 MRT - Strenuous (2,800' elevation gain/loss) **8AM**

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 12th - Zuma Ridge Trail and Ocean View Trail Loop Hike



11 hikers carpoled to the trailhead in the Santa Monica Mountains at the north end of Busch Drive in Malibu near Point Dume on a chilly almost-winter morning. After a group photo was taken, our hike began steadily (but not steeply) uphill for 2.9 miles northward along the well-maintained Zuma Ridge Trail (dirt road). The air quality was good and the views - including Zuma Beach, Point Dume, the Pacific Ocean, and Santa Catalina, Santa Barbara, Anacapa, and Santa Cruz islands - steadily improved as we gained elevation. Next we descended eastward into Zuma Canyon and crossed the dry streambed at the bottom in a pleasant riparian environment. Continuing along the dirt road we began the demanding climb up the eastern wall of the canyon, stopping for a lunch/rest break part way up. Eventually we reached the Zuma Canyon Connector Trail (an actual trail) and followed it and the Kanan-Edison Road southward to a junction with the Ocean View Trail, enjoying the mountain and ocean views along the way. Finally, we followed the Ocean View Trail and the Ridge Canyon Access Trail back to our vehicles. We then headed home having completed a pleasant 11-mile hike with nearly 3,000' of elevation gain/loss on a beautiful day for hiking.

January 2nd - Charmlee Natural Area Loop



12 Trail Blazers met at Donut Delite, and carpoled to the Charmlee Natural Area parking lot, where we met 3 more hikers. It was a cool and mildly over-cast morning and the

light was especially good for taking scenic pictures. As we climbed to several good lookout points along the trail, we could see Santa Catalina,

Santa Barbara, Anacapa and Santa Cruz Islands in the distance. In 1950, Leon and Charmian Schwartz bought the Park, hoping to build a golf course on the property. The name "Charmlee" is a combination of the first parts of their first names. We visited the remains of the only permanent structure in the Park, an A-frame ranch house, which burned to the ground in 1978. There's something special about Charmlee that is difficult to express. Hiking its beautiful wooded canyons, experiencing the many colors of the eroding sandstone rocks, and of course taking in the expansive views, all contribute to this peaceful and tranquil place. Our leisurely hike was enjoyed by everyone. Total distance was 4 miles, with about 625' of elevation gain and loss.

January 9th - Mugu State Park - Hidden Pond Trail Lollipop Loop

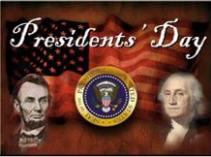


7 hikers carpoled to the main parking lot at the Rancho Sierra Vista site in Point Mugu State Park in the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area (SMMNRA) on a chilly overcast winter morning. Our hike began as we hiked past the Satwiwa Native American Indian Culture Center and descended southward down a paved road into Big Sycamore Canyon. When we reached the bottom of the hill and the paved road became a dirt road, we turned right (west) onto the Hidden Pond Trail and followed it nearly three miles as it rose and fell on its way to Hidden Pond (which held no water) enjoying "backcountry" views along the way, including a flock of bright-green South American parrots. Our hike continued southward along the 2.2 mile Coyote Trail as we climbed along a ridge that provided excellent canyon and mountain views of the surrounding area. When we reached the Two Foxes Trail we stopped for a lunch/rest break. We then headed northward along the Two Foxes Trail and the Sin Nombre Trail (with its pleasant oak woodland) to a section of the Hidden Pond Trail and retraced the first part of our hike back to our vehicles, thus completing a 12.1 mile hike with about 2,400' of elevation gain/loss on what turned out to be a good day for hiking.



RSTB Calendar FEBRUARY



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Caroline Carroll	2 Mt. McCoy Trail 6PM See Schedule	3	4 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule	5	6 Franklin Trail to the Los Padres National Forest Boundary 8AM See Schedule
7 Rocky Peak Fire Road 4PM See Schedule	8 <i>Happy Birthday</i> John Atwood	9 Mt. McCoy Trail 6PM See Schedule	10 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Rex Jarrett, Jr.	11 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule	12	13 Santa Paul Peak SPECIAL EVENT RESERVATIONS REQUIRED 7:30AM See Schedule
14 Rocky Peak Fire Road 4PM See Schedule  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Doug Marsh Paula Lightfoot James Taylor	15  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Doug Marsh Paula Lightfoot James Taylor	16 Mt. McCoy Trail 6PM See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Ursula Christie	17 Club Meeting 5:30PM <i>Everyone Welcome to attend!</i> See Schedule	18 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Joey Simon	19 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Diane Webb	20 Work Party - Chumash Trail 8AM See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Mary Ann Campbell
21 Rocky Peak Fire Road 4PM See Schedule	22 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Lorraine Farrell	23 Mt. McCoy Trail 6PM See Schedule	24 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Connie Ankrom	25 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> David Seifert	26	27 Slide Mountain Fire Lookout from Frenchman's Flat 8AM See Schedule
28 Rocky Peak Fire Road 4PM See Schedule	29					

SANTA ANA WILDFIRE THREAT INDEX - Provides a 6 day forecast of Santa Ana Winds Wildfire Threats on a color coded map <http://psgeodata.fs.fed.us/sawti/>

CALIFORNIA FIRE WEATHER MAP - Provides actual Red Flag Warnings and Fire Weather Watches http://www.fire.ca.gov/communications/communications_firesafety_redflagwarning.php (Scroll down to map)

RANCHO SIMI TRAIL BLAZERS

A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation

Executive Chair:	Mike Kuhn	HM (805) 583-2345	hannahmike@me.com
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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 _____
- Email Email address _____

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 1231, Simi Valley, CA 93062



U.S. Postage

RSTB
P.O. Box 1231
Simi Valley, CA 93062

TIBURCIO VASQUEZ AND LARRY'S MOUNTAIN STATION

The early days of Anglo-American settlement in Simi Valley were marked by an isolated existence with few other settlers, no post office, doctor, school, church, store, bank and only primitive lines of communication with the outside world. There were no telephone, no telegraph, no radio or television. Indeed, no law enforcement. The first Anglo-American settlers came in the early 1870s. Mrs. Eva Crinklaw in 1929 recalled traveling through the valley in 1873. She indicated that the only trees were the oak forest at the eastern end of the valley and four old sycamore trees in the middle. (This recollection was from a traveler – not a resident. However, it may be a fairly apt description of the lack of trees on the valley floor.) She described the valley as “a vast sheep ranch.” Sheep have a way of creating rather bleak vistas. Added to this hard-scrabble life was the fear of bandits and horse thieves.

One description of a presumed near encounter with the bandit Tiburcio Vasquez and his merry men comes down to us from Mrs. D. D. DeNure. Her account appeared in “Legends and Lore of Long Ago” (1929), which was published by the Club Women of Ventura County. The tale is quoted in *Simi Valley: A Journey Through Time* (1997). The text is by Mrs. Patricia Havens, our City Historian. (If you don't own a copy of this wonderful volume, it is available at the Strathearn Historic Park. The book contains a photograph of Vasquez.) Vasquez now takes on the mantle of a Robin Hood type of character. He is described as “darkly handsome, whimsical, irresistible, and chivalrous towards women.” In reality, he terrorized everyone from San Francisco to San Diego over a 20-year career as an outlaw. Mothers invoked his name with their children as we still do with the mental image of the “big bad wolf.”

Mrs. DeNure and her family had just re-settle at Hueneme, when she got word that her mother, who lived in Downey, was ill. Mrs. DeNure resolved to rush to her mother's side. Transportation was provided by an itinerant Methodist preacher, a Rev. Leach, who was going that way. The latest Vasquez raid had occurred at a ranch that was along their route, but Mrs. DeNure was determined to go anyway.

The first night they planned to stay at Larry Howard's Mountain Station at the western approach to the track over Santa Susana Pass. Larry Howard is remembered as a “joyful young Irishman.” As she recounts, she had stayed at Larry's Mountain Station before. Since they arrived late, they dared not attempt the traverse of the pass road, which was barely a one-wagon track, in the dark. Even during the daylight, it was an “E-ticket” ride. During the dark of night, it would be especially hazardous. While Larry Howard had always been especially hospitable with food and lodging, this night he said that his station would be fully engaged and they must, therefore, continue on. Mrs. DeNure pleaded that she and her baby were exhausted. Larry, however, was unyielding. Finally, he agreed that they could camp in the yard and dug up some quilts and blanket.

“Toward midnight there was a loud clatter of hoofs on the lonely road, and a great band of horsemen galloped into the yard. With a mighty creaking of leather, clinking of spurs, laughter, oaths, jests, they dismounted, tied their horses, and swarmed into the inn. Instantly it blazed with lights. More buzz of voices, the scraping of chairs, the clink of dishes, as Larry scurried about to serve midnight meat and drink at the long table. So this was why there was not room for us at Larry's. The inn had been commandeered by Vasquez.”

Stricken with the fear that they would be discovered and at any moment suffer who knows what at the hands of Vasquez and his party, the Rev. Leach and Mrs. DeNure hurriedly packed the wagon and hitched the horse to the wagon and, as silently as possible, rolled out of camp and over the pass. The hazard of attempting a crossing of the pass in the dark became secondary to the desire to avoid an encounter with the Vasquez gang!

Larry Howard had no choice about playing host to the Vasquez gang. There were no telephones, and any civil authorities were in Los Angeles and Ventura. Besides, any affective challenges of the Vasquez gang under these circumstances would have required a large well-armed posse or the U. S. Army.

The site of Larry's Mountain Station is located just west of the foot of the old freight road under eight to ten feet of water tunnel cuttings. Larry Howard died as

a young man – however, not from being a bad host.

Mike Kuhn
1-25-07 (revised 6-20-10)

THE TRIPAS

North of Whiteface and south of Oak Ridge, that is the ridge that marks the top of the Santa Susana Mountains, is a large valley that is tributary to Tapo Canyon and west of the historic Chumash village of *Ta'apu*. In our very first references to the valley, dating back to the middle of the 19th century, it is called “The Tripas.” When I first encountered the name, I assumed that it referred to the intestines of a pig. Being familiar with the valley from the air, the meaning made sense. From the air, the fields of grain on the tops of the truncated and dissected alluvial fan, looked like intestines. However, since the name is old and predates grain production, and the Chumash Indians, the Spanish and the later Anglo-American settlers did not have airplanes, the meaning of the name, if it does refer to intestines, is puzzling. We now understand that most of the people who lived here during the Hispanic period, and those who actually worked the land, were Chumash Indians and their descendants. They were bilingual. The name tripas is probably translated from the Chumash name for the valley. So what does it mean?

A very common meaning for the word tripas in Spanish is the interior or insides of anything. This meaning seems more logical to me for the valley, deep in the interior of the Santa Susana Mountains. The Chumash did not seem to have names for mountain ranges, only names for discrete places. So giving a name to a place like the Tripas makes sense. This meaning conveys a sense of place - a special place of some importance to the Chumash.

Mike Kuhn
11-21-04

(Continued from page 1, Column 2)

COMMENTS TO THE FOREST SERVICE

“The places where trails do not exist are not well-marked.”

“Too many rocks in the mountains.”

Thank you John Sabol for bring this list to our attention.



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 HIKE (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.

(We Meet at 5PM during daylight saving time.) (Strenuous - 4.8 MRT - 1,200' elevation gain)

Tuesday Evening - Mt. McCoy Trail

Meet at **6PM** in the parking lot, located to the south of Donut Delite, near the NE corner of Madera and Royal. (Moderate - 4.0 MRT - 600' elevation gain)

Thursday Evening - 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 - 1300' total elevation gain.)

FEBRUARY HIKES AND ACTIVITIES

February 6th Franklin Trail to the Los Padres National Forest Boundary

10.4 MRT - Strenuous (1,700' elevation gain/loss)

We'll hike up to the boundary of the Los Padres National Forest at an elevation of 1,703' where we'll turn around and return to the trailhead. **NOTE:** In the future the final/higher 2.7-mile section of the historic trail will be restored and will lead up to the top of the mountain (3,270') where it will intersect Camino Cielo (aka Divide Peak OHV Road); the trail will then join the Alder Creek Trail and lead down to Jameson Lake/Reservoir to the north. 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 13th Santa Paula Peak **SPECIAL EVENT - RESERVATIONS REQUIRED**

10.3 MRT - Strenuous (3,700' elevation gain/loss) This special event is limited to Active Trail Blazer Members only. Please go to <http://www.simitrailblazers.com/activities> to make your reservations. **Reservations are only available via our website.**

February 17th Club Meeting

5:30PM - The Sycamore Drive Community Center - 1692 Sycamore Drive - Room B-1
Everyone Welcome to attend!

February 20th Work Party - The Chumash Trail

8AM to Noon. Meet at the northern end of Flanagan Drive. All tools will be provided. Bring two quarts of water, snacks, gloves and sun glasses. Wear a hat, long pants, and hiking shoes or boots.

February 27th Slide Mountain Fire Lookout from Frenchman's Flat

13 MRT - Strenuous (2,800' elevation gain/loss)

After driving to the parking area (2,068') at Frenchman's Flat on Old Highway 99 near Pyramid Lake, we'll hike 1.6 miles along the old highway toward the dam until we reach the entrance (2,210') to Forest Service Road/trail 18W04 which will take us up to Slide Mountain, a lookout peak straddling the Sespe Wilderness boundary in the Los Padres National Forest. Upon reaching the summit we'll visit the Slide Mountain Fire Lookout (4,631') and enjoy panoramic views of the area including Pyramid Lake, Piru Creek, and on clear days the Santa Clara River Valley and points to the southwest all the way out to the Pacific. We'll return the way we came. Meet at the 118 & Stearns St. Park & Ride at **8AM**. Bring 2 to 3 quarts of water and lunch/snacks. Wear boots.

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.

Full descriptions of these hikes and activities are available at <http://www.simitrailblazers.com/activities/index.html>