



# Rancho Simi Trail Blazers

A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation



## Welcome, New Members!

Curtis Ball  
Susann Bachel

### 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 as follows:

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



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



## Free Wild Animal Shows

Bring the family! Once again, the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District and the Rancho Simi Trailblazers are sponsoring two programs featuring live wild animals. The Nature of Wildworks will present a program featuring LIVE WILD ANIMALS. See page 5 for details.

Simi Valley: Saturday, March 14, 10am  
Oak Park: Saturday, March 28, 10am



### 805 Boot Camp "Love Run" Fundraiser a Big Success!

For the past three years, a local fitness organization called 805 Boot Camp has sponsored a trail run at Rocky Peak. The weather cooperated and quite a few runners took on the challenge. All of the proceeds from the run were donated to the Trailblazers.



We would like to extend a big thank you to Randy and Sarita Shoemaker for supporting the Trailblazers with their generous donation!

### RSTB CLUB MEETING

This month's club meeting will be held at the Community Center, Room B-1 1692 Sycamore Drive, 7:00 PM March 18, 2009



### UPCOMING EVENTS

Please visit the website for details on any of the following hikes and events.

**March 7th**

**Backbone Trail Part 5: Latigo Canyon Trailhead to Malibu Canyon Trailhead**  
9.8 Miles Moderate to Strenuous

**March 14th**

**Backbone Trail Part 6: Malibu Canyon Road Trailhead (Piuma Road) to the Saddle Peak/Stunt Road Trailhead**  
7.2 Miles Strenuous

**March 18th**

**Club Meeting** Not strenuous

**March 20th**

**Friday Morning Work Party**

**March 21st**

**Wildwood Park: Paradise Falls Loop and Santa Rosa Trail Loop**  
8 MRT Moderate

**March 28th**

**Backbone Trail Part 7: Saddle Peak (Stunt Road) to Trippet Ranch**  
6.6 Miles Moderate

More information on these events can be found at

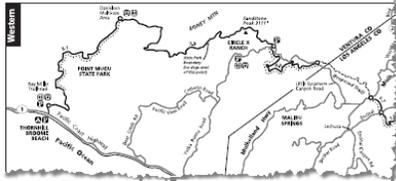
<http://simitrailblazers.com>

To make reservations, please email Mark Gilmore at [markinthepark@sbcglobal.net](mailto:markinthepark@sbcglobal.net)

## Backbone Trail

If you've ever wanted to experience the trail along the ridgeline of the Santa Monica Mountains, a fabulous series of hikes has been put together by Les Wilson to hike the Backbone Trail. We started with the Ray Miller Trail to Big Sycamore Canyon on Jan. 31, and there will be eight hikes in all. Come and join us!

Backbone Trail System



Many thanks to Les for organizing these hikes. See page 5 for more information, and check out the website for links to maps and the National Park Service flyer on the Backbone Trail System.



The Trail Blazers website is a rich source of information such as the News section for hike reports and photos. Thanks to Mark Gilmore for making this great resource available!



### CHUMASH USE OF MULE FAT

Mule Fat (*Baccharis salicifolia*, *wita'y* in Ventureno Chumash) was much used by the Chumash for firesticks, i.e., fire drill. The drill was about the thickness of a pencil. The point of the drill rested in a cup-shaped depression in a hearthstick, usually made out of California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*) wood. Some Chumash

consultants said the hearthstick was sometimes made out of mule fat, in which case another type of wood would be used for the fire drill. Fish traps, to be used in streams during the steelhead and salmon runs, were made using mule fat.

Source: Jan Timbrook, *Chumash Ethnobotany*, Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History (2007), pp. 44-45.

Mike Kuhn  
12-30-08

### Thefts from Vehicles on the Rise

Recently, several cars have been broken into at hiking trailheads and parking lots in general around Simi Valley, including Flanagan and Evening Sky Drive. It's happening all over the city. According to police, 92 vehicle break-ins were reported in Simi between Dec. 10 and Jan. 30<sup>th</sup>. Purses, wallets and bags were targeted in more than 70 percent of the thefts.



### Words to the Wise

Don't leave anything of value visible in your car at the trailhead or anywhere else you park, for that matter. These thefts are crimes of opportunity. It takes just a second for a thief to break a window and be off with the goods.

### THE OAK GALL WASPS

Galls are very common on many native plants. They are an unusual growth on leaves, stems, roots, flowers, stems and

other parts of plants and take on a number of forms, including hard knots, balls, and star-shaped or spiny projections. In the case of oak galls, they more often take the form of large, smooth, reddish spheres. On oaks, they are often called oak apples. In some cases, they take on more than one form even though the same species of wasp is involved.

Many species of wasps infest oak trees of various species. For our area, they are the live oak gallfly (*Callirhytis pomiformis*), which lays its eggs on the coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*), a type of red oak, and the California gallfly (*Andricus californicus*), which lays its eggs on the valley oak (*Quercus lobata*) and the scrub oak (*Quercus berberidifolia*), both of which are classified as white oaks.

The live oak gallfly exhibits an alternation of generations in their life cycle. In one phase of development both males and females are produced and reproduction is sexual. In another phase only females are present, and reproduction is asexual. Apple galls are caused as a result of asexual reproduction and mushroom leaf galls are caused by sexual reproduction.

The mechanism by which the female wasp or feeding larvae cause the galls to be formed is not understood. Some chemical stimulus is thought to be involved which causes excessive tissue growth in specific shapes. The gall is used by the larvae as food, with the adults eventually burrowing to the surface and leaving an exiting hole.

Mike Kuhn  
12-5-04

**January 31st 2009 - Backbone Trail Part 1: Ray Miller Trailhead to the Big Sycamore Canyon Trailhead Shuttle**

On a clear unseasonably warm winter day 23 hikers assembled near the Ray Miller trailhead in La Jolla Canyon in the Santa Monica Mountains, ready to embark on the first of eight Saturday day-hikes which will cover the entire Backbone Trail.

The nearly 70-mile long Santa Monica Mountains Backbone Trail (BBT) winds through the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area from the mouth of La Jolla Canyon in Point Mugu State Park to Will Rogers State Historical Park in Pacific Palisades. On its way it crosses three major canyons – Big Sycamore Canyon, Malibu Canyon, and Topanga Canyon. It travels along ridgelines that offer spectacular views of the Pacific Ocean, the Channel Islands, unique rock formations, deep canyons, and, given a normal rainfall, a dazzling array of wildflowers in season. It passes through grasslands, valleys, and oak woodlands and crosses seasonal creeks.



As the Ray Miller trail climbed via gentle switchbacks up to the Overlook Fire Road, it afforded views of the Pacific Ocean and Santa Cruz Island, the largest of the Channel Islands. The mountainside was pleasantly green and a few wildflowers were blooming (perhaps



confused by the recent warm weather). The BBT (Backbone Trail) then followed the fire road to the Wood Canyon Vista Trail (also part of the BBT). Along the way the hikers were treated to panoramic views of La Jolla

Valley to the west and Boney Mountain, Serrano Valley, and Big Sycamore Canyon to the east. The trail then descended into Big Sycamore Canyon until it met the dirt road in the bottom of the canyon. The hikers took a lunch/rest break at the junction, taking advantage of the availability of drinking water (from a faucet), a nice log to sit on, and a good vantage point from which to watch the bicycle riders go by on their way down the canyon. As we resumed our hike and headed downstream toward our shuttle vehicles, we were serenaded by beautiful bright green South American parrots in the sycamore trees (the birds are not native to the area, but were released or escaped into the wild some years ago). We eventually arrived at our shuttle vehicles, completing a 9.8-mile one-way hike with 1,126' of elevation gain, and looking forward to hiking the second section of the BBT.

**February 14th 2009 - Backbone Trail Part 3: Backbone Trailhead (across from Mishe Mokwa Trailhead) to Encinal Canyon Road Trailhead Shuttle**

On a clear, chilly winter morning, 15 hikers assembled at the Simi Valley carpool point ready to tackle the third section of the Backbone trail. A couple of days of rain immediately preceding the hike had washed the smog from the sky and left the newly washed foliage sparkling brightly in the sunlight; a few stretches of the trail were a little muddy, but most of the trail was in good shape. The road to the trailhead wound through the Santa Monica Mountains providing beautiful views along the way, particularly to the north where the Topa Topa (Chumash for village) mountains wore a mantle of fresh snow. The trail began at the edge of the parking lot directly across Yerba Buena Road from the Mishe Mokwa trailhead. It headed east along the south flank of the mountain for several miles until it met Little Sycamore Canyon Road.



There were excellent views of mountains, coastal valleys, the Pacific Ocean, and a couple of the Channel Islands. There were also a few patches of early wildflowers near the trail. After a short walk along the paved road, the trail continued along the Etz Melloy Motorway (an old dirt road); there were panoramic views to the north (all the way to the Topa Topa Mountains) and to the south (over the ocean). Eventually we left the old motorway and descended to Mulholland Drive via the newest section of the Backbone Trail, a wide gently sloping serpentine section that was built in 2006/2007 and opened to the public in late 2007. After crossing Mulholland Drive, the final portion of the Day 3 hike led us along a pretty section of trail to our shuttle vehicles parked along Encinal Canyon Road, completing a 10.2-mile one-way hike with about 1,300' of elevation gain. As he was returning home along Westlake Boulevard, but still in the mountains, one of the hikers was startled when a bobcat raced down a slope to his right and sprinted across the road a very short distance in front of his car. Fortunately there was no collision and the driver was grateful for this rare sighting.



# RSTB Calendar March 2009



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> <b>Rocky Peak</b> <b>4pm hike</b>  See Schedule  <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Laurie Prince</i> <i>Roger Steffen</i>	<b>2</b>       <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Martin DeGoey</i>	<b>3</b> <b>Long Canyon</b> <b>6:30pm hike</b>  See Schedule	<b>4</b>       <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Mary Derrick</i>	<b>5</b> <b>Chumash Trail</b> <b>6pm hike</b>  See Schedule  <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Shareece Veraldi</i>	<b>6</b>       <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Geeta Bayyaram</i>	<b>7</b> <b>Backbone Trail Pt 5:</b> <b>Latigo Canyon</b> <b>Trailhead to Malibu</b> <b>Canyon Trailhead</b>  See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Geeta Bayyaram</i>
<b>8</b> <b>Rocky Peak</b> <b>5pm hike</b>  See Schedule <b>Begin Daylight</b> <b>Savings</b>  <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Colleen Janssen</i>	<b>9</b>       	<b>10</b> <b>Long Canyon</b> <b>6:30pm hike</b>  See Schedule	<b>11</b>       <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Jim Winfield</i>	<b>12</b> <b>Chumash Trail</b> <b>6pm hike</b>  See Schedule  <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Daniel Hamilton</i>	<b>13</b>       	<b>14</b> <b>Backbone Trail Pt 6:</b> <b>Malibu Canyon Road</b> <b>Trailhead (Piuma</b> <b>Road) to the Saddle</b> <b>Peak/Stunt Road</b> <b>Trailhead</b>  <b>Wild Animal Show</b>  See Schedule
<b>15</b> <b>Rocky Peak</b> <b>5pm hike</b>  See Schedule	<b>16</b>       	<b>17</b> <b>Long Canyon</b> <b>6:30pm hike</b>  See Schedule	<b>18</b> <b>RSTB Meeting</b> <b>7:00 pm</b>  See Page 1	<b>19</b> <b>Chumash Trail</b> <b>6pm hike</b>  See Schedule	<b>20</b> <b>Friday Work</b> <b>Party – 8am</b> <b>Lower</b> <b>Stagecoach</b> <b>Trail</b>	<b>21</b> <b>Wildwood Park:</b> <b>Paradise Falls Loop</b> <b>and Santa Rosa Trail</b> <b>Loop</b>  See Schedule
<b>22</b> <b>Rocky Peak</b> <b>5pm hike</b>  See Schedule	<b>23</b>       <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Goldie Parazoo</i> <i>Judy Cohen</i>	<b>24</b> <b>Long Canyon</b> <b>6:30pm hike</b>  See Schedule	<b>25</b>       	<b>26</b> <b>Chumash Trail</b> <b>6pm hike</b>  See Schedule	<b>27</b>       <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Vivian Zarcone</i>	<b>28</b> <b>Backbone Trail Pt 7:</b> <b>Saddle Peak (Stunt</b> <b>Road) to Trippet</b> <b>Ranch</b>  <b>Wild Animal Show</b> <b>See Schedule</b>





# Rancho Simi Trail Blazers

A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation

## Hiking Schedule



### REGULARLY SCHEDULED HIKES

*(Rain cancels – No hikes on holidays)*

#### Sunday Evening - Rocky Peak

Meet 4 pm (5pm starting Mar. 8<sup>th</sup>) 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 1<sup>st</sup> Street heading 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)

---

### MARCH HIKES AND ACTIVITIES

#### March 7th **Backbone Trail Part 5: Latigo Canyon Trailhead to Malibu Canyon Trailhead Shuttle\***

9.8 Miles - (1,286' elevation gain) - Moderate to Strenuous

Meet at 8 AM near Donut Delite at the corner of Madera and Royal. Please remember, this hike requires ample shuttle cars, so be prepared to drive your car from Donut Delite to both the beginning and ending trailheads. There are no parking fees at either trailhead. Shuttle car driving directions will be distributed at Donut Delite. Bring 2 - 3 quarts of water, lunch, and wear sturdy boots.

#### March 14th **Backbone Trail Part 6: Malibu Cyn Rd Trailhead (Piuma Road) to the Saddle Peak/Stunt Rd Trailhead\***

7.2 Miles - (2,300' elevation gain) - Strenuous

Meet at 8 AM near Donut Delite at the corner of Madera and Royal. This hike requires ample shuttle cars, so be prepared to drive your car from Donut Delite to both the beginning and ending trailheads. Bring 2 - 3 quarts of water and lunch, and wear sturdy boots.

#### March 14th **Free Wild Animal Show**

Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District, along with the Rancho Simi Trail Blazers, will sponsor a free family program on Saturday, March 14, 10:00 am at the Rancho Santa Susana Community Center, 5005-C Los Angeles Ave., Simi Valley. The Nature of Wildworks will present a program of LIVE WILD ANIMALS.

#### March 20th **Friday Morning Work Party** Lower Stagecoach Trail 8:00am to Noon

The Trail Blazers March trail work party will be held Friday March 20 on the Lower Stagecoach Trail out of Corriganville. This will also be a volunteer activity for Baxter BioScience employees. Meet at the eastern end of the Corriganville Parking lot at 8:00 AM. Corriganville is located at the east end of Smith Road off of the south end of Kuehner Drive. Bring 2 to 3 quarts of water, hat, sunscreen, and gloves to work on the trail. Wear sturdy boots. Tools will be provided. As always, you are welcome to work for a shorter time period if you desire. Hope to see you there.

#### March 21st **Wildwood Park: Paradise Falls Loop and Santa Rosa Trail Loop\***

8 MRT (800' elevation gain) - Moderate

Two tried and true favorite loop hikes in Wildwood Park. Meet: 8am at Donut Delite at the corner of Madera and Royal. Bring 2-3 quarts of water and lunch.

#### March 28th **Backbone Trail Part 7: Saddle Peak (Stunt Road) to Trippet Ranch Shuttle\***

6.6 Miles (785' elevation gain) - Moderate

Meet at 8 AM near Donut Delite at the corner of Madera and Royal. This hike requires ample shuttle cars, so be prepared to drive your car to both the beginning and ending trailheads. The parking fee is \$5 at Trippet Ranch (Topanga State Park). Parking fees will be shared by all. Shuttle car driving directions will be distributed at Donut Delite. Bring 2 - 3 quarts of water and lunch. Wear sturdy boots.

#### March 28th **Free Wild Animal Show**

A repeat of the March 14th free family program, 10 am at the Oak Park Community Center & Gardens, 1000 N. Kanan Rd, Oak Park.

\* 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. Website: <http://www.simitrailblazers.com>

# LANCHO SIMI TRAIL BLAZERS

*A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation*

Executive Chair:	Mike Kuhn	HM (805) 583-2345	hannahmike@roadrunner.com
Treasurer:	Peter Ely		
Park District Liaison:	Colleen Janssen	WK (805) 584-4453	volunteers@rsrpd.us
Work Parties Chair:		*** OPEN ***	
Hiking Chair:	Mark Gilmore	HM (805) 529-5581	markinthepark@sbcglobal.net
Vice Hiking Chair:	Les Wilson	HM (805) 522-2642	les.wilson@simitrailblazers.com
Website:	Mark Gilmore	HM (805) 529-5581	markinthepark@sbcglobal.net
Ways & Means Chair:	Marty Richards	HM (805) 526-4414	
Publicity Chair:	Carrie McCline		
Newsletter Editor:	Kelli Ham		simitrailrunner@gmail.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(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Mo. \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone wk/hm \_\_\_\_\_

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

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



U.S. Postage

RSTB  
P.O. Box 630445  
Simi Valley, CA 93063-0399