



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



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



RSTB CLUB MEETING

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

Wednesday: March 19, 2014 5:30PM

(NOTE: Early Start Time)

Everyone Welcome to attend!

Upcoming Events

March 1st Danielson Memorial via the Fossil Trail*

6 Mile Lollipop Loop - Moderate (1,000' of elevation gain/loss) **8AM**

March 8th Devil Canyon to Las Lajas Canyon*

9.5 Miles one-way - Moderate (1,250' elevation gain) **8AM**

March 15th Work Party - Upper Chumash Trail

The event will end at noon. All tools will be provided. **8AM**

March 19th Club Meeting

5:30PM - (NOTE: Early Start Time)
Everyone Welcome to attend!

March 22nd Edison Road, Albertson Motorway, Upper Las Virgenes Trail*

9 MRT - Moderate to Strenuous (1,700' elevation gain/loss) **8AM**

March 29th Happy Camp Canyon, Middle Range Fire Road loop*

10 MRT - Moderate to Strenuous (1,300' of elevation gain/loss)

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!

Welcome New Members

Janelle & Neil Samples
Cynthia Vournas & Howard
Koltenuk & his children Alex & Ian



March

The February Work Party was conducted on the Coyote Hills Trail. Much thanks to Bart Hibbs, John Sabol and Mike Kuhn for jobs well done.



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

TRAIL SAFETY

Know where you are going. Perhaps you have done the hike before. If not, get a map.

Let someone know where you are going and when you expect to return. Carry through.

Don't hike alone. Stay together. If you get separated, those in the lead should stop at any fork in the trail so those behind don't go off in a different direction.

Stay on the trail. If you are injured or incapacitated you will be found. If you are incapacitated while off the trail, it can be life threatening.

Small children should remain close to an adult and should be discouraged from running as much as possible. (Mountain lions tend to be far more interested in children than adults, and running can trigger the prey instinct in large cats.)

Wear stout footwear – preferably with good ankle support. Footwear should have good tread, which will reduce the risk of falling.

Dress appropriately for the weather – light clothing if it is warm, warm clothing if it is cold or may become so. Wear a hat for protection from the sun or to keep warm. Dark glasses should be worn during the day to protect your eyes from ultraviolet radiation and to protect your eyes from protruding branches.

Wear sunscreen between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Long-sleeved shirts can help reduce sun-damage to your skin.

Bring more water than you will think you need given weather conditions and some snack food.

Do not approach wildlife. Learn to recognize rattlesnakes and never try to handle them.

Do not mix alcoholic beverages with hiking. Your safety depends on you keeping alert.

Carry a cell phone with you.

Learn to recognize poison oak – even

without leaves (wintertime) – and avoid it. If you have been hiking where your clothing or your dog may have come in contact with it, wash your clothing or your dog after the hike. The contact dermatitis from poison oak can be very unpleasant for several weeks.

Be aware that you may be sharing the trail with other hikers, bikers and horses. Be alert.

Keep dogs on leashes. This will keep other hikers, bike riders, people on horses and other dogs safe.

Do not overexert yourself. Rest if tired and know when to turn around.



BEARS AND US

Approximately one fourth of the state of California is inhabited by black bears. (The famed California grizzly bear was exterminated about 80 years ago.) During the early 1980s, the black bear population in California was estimated to be about 10,000. Since then, the population is thought to have more than doubled and may be as high as 35,000. At the same time, the range of the bear has been increasing. Man/bear encounters have increased because development has increasingly encroached into bear country.

Adult female bears weigh between 100 and 200 pounds, while adult males run between 150 to 350 pounds. (The estimated weight and size of a bear increases with each telling.) While an occasional male bear has been taken that weighed 600 pounds.

Bear habitat can be characterized as mountainous with diverse under story vegetation and an abundance of seasonal fruits, berries and nuts. Trees are important to bears because they provide food, escape from predators and winter dens for some. Meadows are important during the spring and early summers when they provide food. Black bears are omnivorous, eating anything from ants to sedges. In our area, acorns are a favorite food in the fall. During the mid- to late summer, bears near the margins of urban development may show up in garbage

cans, in trees in Glendale or Chatsworth (once in my memory in a tree in Simi Valley) or strolling through the lobby of a hotel in Camarillo.

Bears are generally docile and non-confrontational. When they are seen in the wild, they usually are running away or they simply are unaware of your presence.

If you encounter a bear, which may happen even in the Santa Susana Mountains, you should give them as much room as possible to pass. Most bears will avoid confrontation if they can. Do not run – you cannot out run a bear! Stand and face the bear, pick up small children so they do not panic and run. Give the bear every opportunity to avoid you. If you encounter a bear cub, never, never try to pick it up. Mama bear may be near. Such an attempt may result in an attack – by the mama bear, for good cause. If you think that a cub has been orphaned, notify the California Department of Fish and Game. It is their bear.

If attacked by a black bear, you should fight back. Many a camper has avoided serious injury by doing so. Throwing rocks or hitting a bear with a chunk of wood has proven effective for many. According to the California Department of Fish and Game, there have been fewer than 10 attacks by bears on humans in California during the last 10 years. This statistic does not imply that those 25,000 to 35,000 bears in California are particularly aggressive. About half of those attacks have involved bears approaching people asleep in a tent – perhaps searching for food. All of this said, every few years in the United States, a black has been known to specifically target a human being as their next meal. While this is very unusual behavior, it can happen. So be cautious around bears.

Mike Kuhn
12-24-04

February 1st - Johnson Motorway to Rocky Peak



15 hikers met at the trailhead on Iverson Road just outside the gated southern entrance to Indian Springs Estates in Chatsworth on a chilly winter morning. After following the easement through the upscale gated community, we reached the beginning of the unpaved Johnson Motorway (once a toll road). The trail (an old dirt and sandstone roadbed) rose westward until it met a short "driveway" leading north to the ruins of the ranch house that was built by Ann and Neils Johnson who were the first English-speaking homesteaders in the San Fernando Valley; they had built their primary home in "Chatsworth Park" in the 1870's. Leaving the ruins, we followed the Johnson Motorway as it passed through a landscape of dramatic rock formations, climbing steadily, but not steeply, toward the Rocky Peak Fire Road. After 3.5 miles we reached the fire road where we took a short break. We then headed southward along the Rocky Peak Fire Road enjoying views of both Simi Valley and the San Fernando Valley and then followed a short spur trail to a very windy overlook near Rocky Peak. We retraced our route downhill back to our vehicles and returned home having completed a pleasant 9.25-mile hike with about 1,925' of total elevation gain.

February 8th - Sulphur Mountain Shuttle



8 hikers carpoled to the paved west end of Sulphur Mountain Road (off Highway 33) near Ojai on a chilly winter morning. Leaving two vehicles parked near the gate, we boarded the other two vehicles for a scenic drive through the Ojai Valley to the eastern trailhead via Highway 150 and the paved east end of Sulphur Mountain Road which wound uphill through an oak forest. After assembling our hiking gear, we headed westward along

the Sulphur Mountain Recreation Trail (SMRT). It was a pleasant day for hiking and we were soon treated to sweeping views of the beautiful rolling green terrain between our trail and the ocean. However, as we continued westward the deleterious effects of the continuing drought were quite evident; the hillsides were severely desiccated though the numerous oak trees still seemed to be in fair condition. The sky kept changing from bright blue with puffy white clouds to sun-blocking gray cloud cover and back again, but no rain fell. The water-level in distant Lake Casitas was alarmingly low. We eventually reached our vehicles, having completed a pleasant 10.3-mile stroll with 400' of elevation gain and around 2,500' of gradual elevation loss.

February 22nd - Placerita Canyon - Los Pinetos Trail

20 hikers gathered in the main parking lot in Placerita Canyon County Park in southeastern Santa Clarita Valley on a beautiful "winter" morning. After a group photo near the



Nature Center (1,550') we began hiking briskly eastward along the Placerita Canyon Trail. The air was cool since the canyon is shaded in the early morning. The creek in the canyon was completely dry as a consequence of ongoing drought. After about two miles, we reached the Walker Ranch site (1,800') and headed south on the Los Pinetos Trail, climbing steadily toward Wilson Saddle (3,100') and the Santa Clara Divide Road. After the first steep mile or so, the trail entered a pleasant live oak forest adorned with bright green grass for the remainder of the nearly three-mile-long trail, passing Los Pinetos Spring along the way. The group enjoyed a break at Wilson Saddle which has comfortable seating and bathroom facilities, followed by a short walk to the southeast to an overlook of the San Fernando Valley. The hike resumed along a short portion of Whitney Canyon Road, but soon turned northward onto an unmarked firebreak leading down toward the Nature Center. This firebreak is not a fire road; it has many steep downhill stretches as it heads to the northwest, as well as several short sometimes-steep uphill stretches. It is challenging and strenuous, particularly if one is heading up it (rather than down it as we were). Eventually we reached the Manzanita Mountain trail leading down to a large water tank overlooking the Nature Center. We then descended to the parking lot via the Hillside Trail. We returned to the carpool point in Simi Valley, having completed a pleasant 8-mile hike with 1,981' of elevation gain.



RSTB Calendar March



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Danielson Memorial via the Fossil Trail* 8AM  See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Roger Steffen
2 Rocky Peak Fire Road 4PM See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Alex Koltenuk Martin DeGoey	3	4 Mt. McCoy Trail 6PM See Schedule	5	6 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule	7	8 Devil Canyon to Las Lajas Canyon* 8AM See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Colleen Janssen Bonnie Bastian
9 Rocky Peak Fire Road 5PM See Schedule  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Sava Ramnath	10	11 Mt. McCoy Trail 6PM See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Pat Peters	12	13 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule	14	15 Work Party Upper Chumash Trail 8AM See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Gary Hartung
16 Rocky Peak Fire Road 5PM See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Athul Janev	17 <i>Happy St. Patrick's Day</i> 	18 Mt. McCoy Trail 6PM See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Deborah Wink	19 Club Meeting 5:30PM (NOTE: Early Start Time) See Schedule <i>Everyone Welcome to attend!</i> <i>Happy Birthday</i> Robert Bastian	20 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule	21	22 Edison Road, Albertson Motorway, Upper Las Virgenes Trail* 8AM See Schedule
23 Rocky Peak Fire Road 5PM See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Judy Cohen	24	25 Mt. McCoy Trail 6PM See Schedule	26	27 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule	28	29 Happy Camp Canyon, Middle Range Fire Road loop*  8AM See Schedule
30 Rocky Peak Fire Road 5PM See Schedule	31 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Larry Ribbeck					



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 only on March 2 n2 2014. Meet at **5PM** after and including daylight savings. 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.)

MARCH HIKES AND ACTIVITIES

March 1st Danielson Memorial via the Fossil Trail*

6 Mile Lollipop Loop - Moderate (1,000' of elevation gain/loss)

Our hike in the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area (SMMNRA) will begin by following the Wendy Trail in Newbury Park to the Satwiwa Native American Indian Culture Center at Rancho Sierra Vista. 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.

March 8th Devil Canyon to Las Lajas Canyon *

9.5 Miles one-way - Moderate (1,250' elevation gain)

The hike will begin as we drop into lower Devil Canyon just north of Hwy 118 near Topanga Canyon Blvd in Chatsworth and will end at the Las Lajas Canyon trailhead in Simi Valley on Evening Sky Drive.

DIRECTIONS TO THE CAR-SHUTTLE LOCATION IN SIMI VALLEY: Take Highway 118 to the Yosemite Avenue exit in Simi Valley. Head north 1.2 miles on Yosemite Avenue to the stop sign at the junction with Evening Sky Drive. Turn right (east) on Evening Sky Drive and drive 0.5 mile (through a stop sign) until you see the signed gated entrance to Las Lajas Canyon on your left (which is where our hike will end). Park on either side of Evening Sky Drive. Meet at **8AM**. Bring 2 to 3 quarts of water and lunch/snacks. Wear boots.

March 15th Work Party - Upper Chumash Trail

The event will end at noon. All tools will be provided. Meet at the Las Lajas Canyon trailhead at **8AM** (on the northern side of Evening Sky Drive about a third of a mile up from its intersection with Yosemite Avenue). Bring your own water, snacks, gloves, hat and wear sunscreen. Boots are recommended.

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

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

March 22nd Edison Road, Albertson Motorway, Upper Las Virgenes Trail*

9 MRT - Moderate to Strenuous (1,700' elation gain/loss)


Our hike will begin at Vista del Arroyo Park and will follow a trail parallel to the Arroyo Simi until it reaches an Edison Road. We'll take a different route back to Vista del Arroyo Park. Meet at **8AM**. Bring 2 to 3 quarts of water and lunch/snacks. Wear boots.

Directions to trailhead: Take Hwy 118 to the Tapo Canyon Road exit in Simi Valley. Head south 1.8 miles on Tapo Canyon Road to its junction with Royal Avenue. Turn right (west) onto Royal Avenue and drive 1.8 miles to its intersection with Sequoia Avenue. Turn left (south) onto Sequoia Avenue and drive 0.1 mile to its junction with Chicory Leaf Place. Turn left (east) onto Chicory Leaf Place and park next to Vista del Arroyo Park on the left (north) side of Chicory Leaf Place.

March 29th Happy Camp Canyon, Middle Range Fire Road loop*

10 MRT - Moderate to Strenuous (1,300' of elevation gain/loss)

Our hike we'll climb up the steep gets-your-heart-pumping connector road to the Middle Range Fire Road. Once there we'll head west along the ridge, enjoying spectacular views of the surrounding area as we complete the loop portion of the hike and then return to the parking lot. 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.

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

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
Hiking Chair:	Mark Gilmore	HM (805) 529-5581	markinthepark@sbcglobal.net
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.

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 630445, Simi Valley, CA 93063-0399



U.S. Postage

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