



# Rancho Simi Trail Blazers

A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation



## SEED PLANTING

On Saturday, **April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2004** from 8am – 12pm, join local residents, scout groups, and service club members who will volunteer to plant donated oak seedlings at Corriganville Park.



Many of the trees and plants at the site were destroyed in the wildfires last fall. We all can make a difference in bringing the site back to beauty. When the planting is finished, volunteers may assist with a clean up of the site.

*All volunteers need to bring/wear the following:*

**Wear:** closed-toed sturdy shoes, hat/sunscreen, and gloves.  
**Per person, bring:** a digging tool or shovel, a 1-gallon jug of water to water the plants, a paper grocery bag for trash.

Colleen Janssen



## 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:

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

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

## THE BUDDY SYSTEM

Given the recent tragedies in Orange County where one mountain bike rider was attacked and kill by a mountain lion which went on to attack another mountain bike rider the same day, and two recent mountain lion encounters in Simi Valley, we request that participants in hikes led by the Rancho Simi Trail Blazers hike with at least one other person. This procedure will help ensure personal safety and a quick response to any emergency.

Mike Kuhn  
 Executive Chair

## WORK PARTY CHAIR NEEDED

After nearly eight years as both Work Party Vice Chair and Chair, I will be resigning my position as Work Parties Chair, effective June of this year. It is time for someone else to assume this task.

I will be available to train the person assuming this role and I intend to continue attending the Trail Blazer work parties.

John Sabol



## CALIFORNIA TRAIL DAYS APRIL WORK PARTIES

The next work party will be a two-day event held Saturday April 24 and Sunday April 25 in conjunction with California Trail Days. **We will meet in the parking lot of Corriganville Park at 8:00 AM and work to Noon on both days.** As always, you are also welcome to work for a shorter time period if you desire.

On Saturday **April 24** we will join other groups in **planting donated oak seedlings** in Corriganville Park. All volunteers need to bring a digging tool or shovel, a 1-gallon jug of water to water the plants and a paper grocery bag for trash. See the related article for more details.

On Sunday **April 25** we will work on the **Lower Stagecoach Trail** out of Corriganville. Treadwork will be done as well as some lopping above the burn area. Bring plenty of water if the weather is hot, as there is little shade on the lower portion of the trail. Hope to see you there.

John Sabol

## SUNDAY HIKE TIME CHANGE

It's that time again... Daylight Savings Time, that is!

Starting in April, the Sunday Evening Hike will begin at **5pm**, rather than 4pm. Be sure to mark your calendars!

Arlene Altshuler  
 Hiking Chair

## 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  
**Wednesday March 17, 2004**

**MISSION INDIAN PUNISHMENT**  
[from Travis Hudson (ed.), *Breath of the Sun* (1980), p. 17]

Many Indians came to the mission system voluntarily - sometimes out of hunger and sometimes because they perceived that the padres, and the Spanish in general, had enormous inherent power. Others came to the mission system under duress. They were, in effect, captured at the point of a pike or sword, and taken into the mission system as converts to the church and as slave labor. They had some rights, but the right to come and go - to leave the mission system, was not one of them.

Like most people of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, the priests recognized that life was hard and saw this life as only the prelude to the next life. So the duty of each priest was to save the souls of the Indians. At the same time, they were the law at their mission, so the priests also rendered judgment and punishment.

Fernando Librado describes punishment at the Mission San Buenaventura. One form was the placement of an individual's foot into a shaped wooden shoe, which was joined to an iron ring above the knee, which in turn was attached by straps to a belt to which weights could be added. Men and women worked in the fields for three days wearing this apparatus.

Indians often had their feet shackled together and sometimes more than one Indian was shackled together. The lash was also administered, as were switches. Indians who refused to work were tied to a post and lashed. Runaways were sometimes jailed for four to five days. Stocks were used with victims being placed in them for three days. This was the most common form of punishment for women.

Fernando tells the story of *Maneho* who was sent by the priest at the Santa Barbara mission to Tapo for a keg or wine (Our Tapo was famous for its wine and brandy throughout the mission/Spanish and Mexican periods). The keg was tied to a mule.

When *Maneho* reached *Canada de los Sauces*, the mule lay down to rest. Unfortunately, it lay down on the nest of wasps and was stung many times. When the animal ran away, the keg broke. Upon his return, the priest ordered 25 lashes. However, because of *Maneho's* quick wit, the lashes were never administered.

Mike Kuhn

**THE SIMI HOTEL**

Janet Scott Cameron, in her book, *Simi Grows Up* (1963), describes the Simi Hotel. Following the formation of the Simi Land and Water Company in 1887, "The company immediately built a very pretentious hotel on a knoll in the eastern end of the valley. (footnote - The hotel was located on a small knoll on the western side of what is today the Simi High School campus. The knoll was leveled in order to build the campus. The purpose of the hotel was to house prospective buyers of farm and ranchlands.) Water was piped down from a spring on Mr. Hoar's Humming Bird's Nest. The first story of the hotel contained seven rooms: a huge kitchen and butler's pantry, a forty by twenty foot dining room, a reception room and office, a hall and stairway leading upstairs. On the second floor were nine bedrooms and a very inadequate bathroom. The third story was used for storage and also as quarters for the men who worked on the ranch. There was a separate cellar for food storage just back of the kitchen. The grounds were nicely landscaped with palm trees along the circular driveway and the entrance from Los Angeles Avenue."

"Mr. Bard made Charles B. McCoy local manager of the 96,000 acres of the Simi Land and Water Company with headquarters in the hotel. Besides being the local sales manager and running the hotel, Mr. McCoy was also foreman of the company's farming operations on the land which remained unsold. This took in practically the whole Roblaro. Mr. McCoy would not allow any of the

oak trees to be felled. If a tree died it was cut up for use in the hotel stoves and fireplace or given to a settler to be so used. Grain was planted among the trees."

The real estate business is not much different today. You had to house prospective buyers because travel was slow and arduous. Even getting to Simi from Los Angeles was an adventure, with the last phase by stagecoach from San Fernando over Santa Susana Pass via Devil's Slide and Des Ravina.

Here we have confirmation that water for the hotel came from the Humming Bird's Nest (ranch) and we also find that C.B. McCoy attempted to stem the tide of the cutting of the oak trees on the land that he managed. Unfortunately, the act of running livestock and growing grain amongst the oak precluded any regeneration of the valley oak forest. At least one later land owner boasted that he made more money cutting down his oak trees and selling firewood than did on farming. Only a couple of dozen of the oaks remain and a few of those are lost each year.

Mike Kuhn



Jouquin Ranch hike, left to right: Gary Cremeans, John Sabol, Arlene Altschuler, Chuck Portoghesi, and Carol Tucker.



Two common flowers this time of year are the Star Lily (*Zygadenus fremontii*) and Stinging Lupine (*Lupinus hirsutissimus*).

## MORE WORK PARTY NEWS

### CUTTING OF THE COYOTE HILLS TRAIL STARTED

On Monday March 8, Mike Kuhn and I met at Coyote Hills Park to help with the cutting of the Coyote Hills Trail with the Park District's Sweco Trail Cat. Unfortunately things did not go well.

The first problem was discovered prior to the Sweco's arrival. As I started up the canyon to take some digital photos prior to the trail being cut, I encountered a paintball gaming area. There were old doors, metal shelves, shopping carts, pallets and other items used by shooters to hide behind. The trenches and foxholes that were dug were so extensive and numerous we had to bring in a skip loader to fill them in. Even then it took 2 park workers and myself over an hour to smooth the damaged areas. Five skip loader buckets of trash were removed from the area.

Meanwhile the Sweco made good progress and was about an eighth of a mile in making a full bench cut on the canyon side when the left track locked up. It took several hours to determine that one of the driving hubs had been damaged and needed replacement. Unfortunately there was no way a vehicle could be brought in to extract the Sweco.

Several days later, after parts had arrived, and on a really hot day, the bad hub was replaced in the field. The Sweco was then driven out and returned to the Park District Maintenance yard. Since the new hub was a stronger unit, the right hub also had to be replaced.

The Sweco is now functional and cutting of the trail should resume soon.

John Sabol

### INVASIVE PLANT REMOVAL IN CORRIGANVILLE

On Friday March 12 four Trail Blazers met in Corriganville to remove two invasive plant species from Corriganville Park.

At the northeast end of the parking lot near the stream, we removed Tree-of-Heaven, botanical name *Ailanthus altissima*. A native of China, it produces copious root sprouts creating thickets over large areas and displacing native vegetation. Most of the root sprouts were small and could be cut with loppers. A dozen or so had to be cut down with a saw. Immediately after cutting, the stumps were sprayed with an herbicide to prevent re-sprouting. The herbicide was mixed with a blue dye so we could easily determine which cut stumps had been treated.

We then continued further east and to the south edge of the park. We removed a large patch of Giant Reed, botanical name *Arundo donax*. This plant is a hardy perennial grass, nine to thirty feet tall and indigenous to the Mediterranean Basin. Similar in appearance to Bamboo, it spreads rapidly from horizontal rootstocks below the soil and forms large colonies many yards across. Basically, it creates an ecological desert. None of our insects attack it, birds don't nest in it and none of our native wildlife eats it or uses it for shelter. The Arundo stumps were also sprayed with the herbicide to prevent re-sprouting.

We worked from 8:00 till 11:30 AM and with the cut plants stacked in 3 neat piles for later pickup by Park District workers, we went to Chuys for lunch.

Many thanks to the following workers:

Ursula Christie, Mike Kuhn, Marty Richards, and John Sabol.

Special thanks to Rancho Simi Recreation and Parks Supervisor of Marketing and Volunteers Colleen Janssen for taking care of permits and RSRPD Senior Maintenance Supervisor Jim Keppler for providing the herbicide and sprayer.

John Sabol

### MARCH WORK PARTY

On Saturday March 20, we were finally able to access the Chumash Upper Trailhead via Rocky Peak Fire Road. After loading supplies and tools into wheelbarrows we headed down the trail and split into three groups.

The first two groups worked on tread repair at the top and at the badly eroded section at the 2-mile mark. Two of us traveled further down trail several hundred yards to an area where peeler logs were used to reinforce an outer trail edge at a narrow choke point. The logs had burned and the trail edge was collapsing. We installed two heavy redwood timbers fixed with metal stakes and sections of rebar. We also added dirt to the rock retaining wall ramp we built in January, to fill in some erosion damage. Several workers also passed us to work further down the trail.

We worked from 8:45 till Noon and experienced unusually heavy trail use by both hikers and bikers. The day turned out to be brutally hot and with the recent fire there was no shade to be found anywhere. We were all exhausted as we climbed up the trail to our vehicles.

Many thanks to the following workers who did a great job under really oppressive conditions:

Arlene Altshuler, Martin DeGoey, Tom Frye, Mike Kuhn, Chuck Portoghesi, Mark Scheele and John Sabol.

John Sabol



## RSTB Calendar April 2004



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Chumash Trail 6pm hike See Schedule	2	3 Red Box to Valley Forge See Schedule
4 Rocky Peak 5pm hike See Schedule	5	6	7	8 Chumash Trail 6pm hike See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday Louise Pomes</i>	9	10 La Jolla Valley Loop See Schedule
11 Easter Sunday No Hike	12 <i>Happy Birthday David Wagner</i>	13	14 <i>Happy Birthday Dayana Jamine</i>	15 Chumash Trail 6pm hike See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday John Sabol</i>	16	17 Solstice Canyon See Schedule
18 Rocky Peak 5pm hike See Schedule	19	20	21 RSTB Meeting See Page 1	22 Chumash Trail 6pm hike See Schedule	23	24 CA Trail Days Tree Planting in Corriganville See Schedule
25 Lower Stagecoach Work Party See Schedule	26 <i>Happy Birthday Gary Cremeans</i>	27	28	29 Chumash Trail 6pm hike See Schedule	30	



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## Hiking Schedule



- April 1 Thursday Evening Hike**  
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. (moderate, 5 MRT)
- April 3 Red Box Ranger Station to Valley Forge Campground**  
6 MRT with 1500' elevation gain/loss in the Angeles National Forest. This hike is not within the jurisdiction of the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District. Meet 8am near Donut Delite at the corner of Madera and Royal. Bring 2 -3 qts. of water and snack, bug juice. Wear boots.
- April 4 Sunday Evening Hike**  
Meet 5pm at Rocky Peak trailhead at the end of Rocky Peak Rd off Santa Susana Pass. (Strenuous, 5 MRT)
- April 8 Thursday Evening Hike**  
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. (moderate, 5 MRT)
- April 10 La Jolla Valley Loop**  
Some strenuous, some easy terrain, 6 MRT hike with 1200' elevation gain/loss. View the Channel Islands, and walk through meadow areas. This hike is not within the jurisdiction of the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District. Meet 8am near Donut Delite at the corner of Madera and Royal. Bring 2 -3 qts. of water and snack, bug juice. Wear boots.
- April 11 Easter Sunday – No Hike**
- April 15 Thursday Evening Hike**  
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. (moderate, 5 MRT)
- April 17 Solstice Canyon**  
Part easy, part steep 6 MRT with 600' elevation gain/loss with a great view of Point Dume and the ocean from the ridge of the canyon. This hike is not within the jurisdiction of the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park district. Bring snack and 2 - 3 qts of water, bug juice. Wear boots. Meet 8am near Donut Delite at the corner of Madera and Royal.
- April 18 Sunday Evening Hike**  
Meet 5pm at Rocky Peak trailhead at the end of Rocky Peak Rd off Santa Susana Pass. (Strenuous, 5 MRT)
- April 22 Thursday Evening Hike**  
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. (moderate, 5 MRT)
- April 24 CA Trail Days – Tree Planting in Corriganville**  
Join us and other service groups in planting donated oak seedlings in Corriganville Park. All volunteers need to bring a digging tool or shovel, a 1-gallon jug of water to water the plants and a paper grocery bag for trash. Directions: Take Kuehner south, turn left onto Smith Rd, and follow it to the end of the street. Meet in parking lot on the left at 8am. We will be working from 8am – 12 noon. Wear hat/sunscreen, gloves, closed-toe sturdy shoes.
- April 25 Lower Stagecoach Work Party**  
Directions: Take Kuehner south, turn left onto Smith Rd, and follow it to the end of the street. Parking lot is on the left. Meet in Corriganville parking lot at 8am. We will be working from 8am – 12 noon. Tools will be provided. Bring 2 - 3 quarts of water, hat, sunscreen, and gloves to work on the trail.
- April 29 Thursday Evening Hike**  
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. (moderate, 5 MRT)

**For more 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. Hikes will be cancelled if it rains.

<http://rstb.topcities.com>

**RANCHO SIMI TRAIL BLAZERS**

*A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation*

Executive Chair:	Mike Kuhn	HM (805) 583-2345	hannahmike@adelphia.net
Treasurer:	Peter Ely	HM (805) 523-1409	
Secretary:	David Wagner	HM (805) 577-5931	centmfgdavid@sbcglobal.net
Park District Liaison:	Colleen Janssen	WK (805) 584-4453	volunteers@rsrpd.us
Work Parties Chair:			
Hiking Chair & Website:	Arlene Altshuler	HM (805) 581-9735	arlene.altshuler@mindbox.com
Ways & Means Chair:	Marty Richards	HM (805) 526-4414	
Publicity Chair:	Ursula Christie	HM (805) 527-5338	ursulachristie@yahoo.com
Newsletter Editor:	Arlene Altshuler	HM (805) 581-9735	arlene.altshuler@mindbox.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 \_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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



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