



# Rancho Simi Trail Blazers

A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation



## 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

**RSTB CLUB MEETING**  
 This month's club meeting will be held at the Community Center, Room B-1 1692 Sycamore Drive, 7:00 PM April 15, 2009

## Community Service Project Benefits Local Trails



Our March Work Party was held on Friday, March 20th. Baxter BioScience, a Thousand Oaks-based firm, had to close down their facility for one day. While their employees were still paid, they asked each to give one day of community service. The following employees took part in our maintenance effort on the Lower Stagecoach Trail: Tony Tamac, Estrella Bergstrom, Yue Wang, Jesus Cunanan, John Morris, Stan Enomoto, Dennis Du, Scott Owens, James Kreuger, Coby Wheeler, Myriam Arily, Susan Nanziri, Enyi Li, Rey Catuciano, and one other person whose name we couldn't decipher. Trailblazers in attendance were Martin DeGoey, John Sabol and Mike Kuhn. Many thanks to Baxter BioScience and all of the individual participants.

*Are you reading this newsletter on the web? Become a member and receive your copy at the beginning of each month! See page 6 for details.*



## UPCOMING EVENTS

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

- April 1<sup>st</sup>**  
**Pacific Crest Trail\***  
 2,650 Mile One-Way Shuttle Backpack Trip
- April 4<sup>th</sup>**  
**Backbone Trail Pt 8: Trippet Ranch to Will Rogers State Park**  
 11 Miles - (1,422' elevation gain) - Moderate to Strenuous
- April 11<sup>th</sup>**  
**Wildflower Walk - Antelope Valley**
- April 15<sup>th</sup>**  
**Club Meeting** Not strenuous
- April 18<sup>th</sup>**  
**Towsley Canyon Loop Trail**  
 6.5 MRT - Moderate (1670' elevation gain)
- April 25<sup>th</sup>**  
**Work Party - Arroyo Simi**
- April 28<sup>th</sup> - May 3<sup>rd</sup>**  
**Las Vegas Hike-A-Palooza**

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)

The City of Simi Valley  
 Neighborhood Councils' Seventh Annual  
**Arroyo Cleanup**  
 Saturday, April 25, 2009  
 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.



Wear sturdy shoes or rubber boots, bring work gloves, and the signed waiver on the back of this flyer.

The Arroyo Cleanup is a physical activity and is not recommended for the very young or physically challenged.

For more information, contact the Neighborhood Council Coordinator at 805.583.6756 or e-mail at [MMAlch@simivalley.org](mailto:MMAlch@simivalley.org).

Special thanks to Waste Management for providing a complimentary continental breakfast for volunteers and donating trash bins and recycling containers.

**Join the Trailblazers for the annual Arroyo Cleanup on Saturday, April 25!**

## BRINGING BACK THE WHIPPING POST

I've started going back through the old newspapers for the Simi Valley/Moorpark area. A synopsis of an article that appeared in the August 8, 1912 issue, page 1, of the *Moorpark Enterprise* (Moorpark was the "big town" in the area at the time, so the Simi Valley news was covered in the *Moorpark Enterprise*.):

A keynote speaker at a police convention in Los Angeles was advocating the return of the use of the "whipping post" for those who physically abused their wives, for prowlers who break into homes, and for jail inmates who physically abuse other inmates. The speaker noted that in years gone by he had been told by many inmates that they intended not to do anything that could land them back in jail because they feared the whipping post. The speaker was serious; however, the reporter noted that the modern goal of jails is to reform prisoners and that the lash, with its dehumanizing effects, would hardly be reformatory.

Mike Kuhn  
3-9-09

## CHUMASH USES OF CANCHALAGUA

[Source: Jan Timbrook, *Chumash Ethnobotany*, Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History (2007), p. 53]

No Chumash name has been recorded for the plant known as canchalagua (*Centaurium venustum*). According to previously published sources cited by Timbrook, the plant was boiled into a tea and drunk as a tonic and blood purifier. According to John Peabody Harrington's consultants, they were aware of medical uses of the plant but were divided as to whether those uses were from the old

Indian days or passed to the Chumash by white settlers. Timbrook cites other published sources for use of the plant for medical purposes by other Indian groups and by the Spanish Californians. Today, the plant is rarely seen in our area. One small patch does appear in Corriganville Park following wet springs.

Mike Kuhn  
2-16-09

## ECHOES OF THE PAST

Every moment has its time. Stuck in time and in space, we look out onto our visual landscape, and we see that place in that moment. There is no beginning, and there is no end. That is the way that we view the unfamiliar. During the Fall 1998 I visited Eureka, California, with my wife. After a week of sunshine and seeing the term "fog city" on many signs, she queried, "Does it get foggy here?" Her scope of experience in that place was limited. What she knew about Eureka was limited to that scant period in time.

When we view a familiar landscape, no matter how big or how small, we see more than what is there. The familiar clouds our cognitive senses. We see the past as well as the moment. In our kitchen, we see the moment. The dishes need to be put away, the newspapers taken out, and we note for the one hundredth time that the latch on one of the cabinet doors needs to be fixed or replaced. But we don't know how to fix it or if that specific latch is still available. Our mind is flooded with past memories. That mini-landscape is not static. It is a compilation of both the present and the past. The same is true of all landscapes, and that may account for why people become very attached to places. It is in part why people come to love places and why my wife and I will remain in Simi Valley.

To best appreciate Simi Valley, you must be aware of the past - both its history and pre-history. For the more you know, the more you see; the past is in part mystery and wonder. There is its dynamic geological past - always changing and evolving, usually slowly but sometimes catastrophically. There is its natural history. To understand the present, you must understand its past. The first human residents were what we refer to as "Indians." They came with a culture and that culture evolved over time. Other people came and went. Some left an imprint on the land. Others did not. We have been left with archaeological deposits from their lives. Many of their place names - from their last cultural existence - are still with us whether or not we recognize what is before us. "Simi" was the name of the Chumash village at the western end of the valley. "Tapo" was the name of the large village in Tapo Canyon. The names of most of the canyons and places that have come down to us from the Spanish were derived from the Chumash Indian names for those places. Even some of our transportation routes, especially during the Spanish/Mexican and early Anglo-American periods, started out as Indian trails. The Spanish/Mexican settlement period too left its imprint on the land. The most unequivocal place name of Spanish origin is Santa Susana.

Our perception of and attachment to place may be why some residents of our fair valley resist change. It may be an attachment to the past, a longing to not lose the present and a feeling that somehow those echoes of the past are tied in with our own mortality.

Mike Kuhn  
11-9-04

**March 7, 2009 - Backbone Trail Pt 5: Latigo Canyon Trailhead to Malibu Canyon Trailhead Shuttle**

Sixteen hikers tackled the fifth section of the Santa Monica Mountains Backbone Trail on another crisp, cool, late-winter morning (perfect for hiking). The hike began at the Latigo Canyon trailhead and headed northwest down into a heavily shaded canyon; it then led northeast through a riparian woodland along a seasonal creek passing several meadows filled with bright green grass; the trail then rose and fell as it wound along chaparral-covered slopes on its way to Corral Canyon Road.



After crossing the road, we soon found ourselves walking among (and on) a variety of stunning sandstone rock formations. We decided to take our lunch break atop the highest such formation where we examined the ruins of an old dwelling and enjoyed the panoramic views afforded by our high perch. After lunch, we headed east along the Mesa Peak Fire Road toward (but not to) Mesa Peak. This section of the hike provided excellent views of both the mountains to the north and the ocean to the south. About seven miles into the hike we turned



north and began a three-mile descent through an oak woodland into Malibu Canyon where we had left our shuttle vehicles, thus completing a 9.8-mile one-way hike with about 1,290 ft. of elevation gain. We retrieved the vehicles we had left at the Latigo Canyon trailhead and headed home, already anticipating hiking the next section of the Backbone Trail.

**March 14, 2009 - Backbone Trail Part 6: Malibu Canyon Road Trailhead (Piuma Road) to the Saddle Peak/Stunt Road Trailhead Shuttle**

Fifteen hikers assembled for a crack at the sixth section of the Santa Monica Mountains Backbone Trail on another hiker-friendly crisp, cool, late-winter morning.



The hike began at the Malibu Canyon trailhead which is actually located a couple of hundred yards east of Malibu Canyon Road on the south side of Piuma Road (there is a sign).



The trail immediately crossed a seasonal creek and began climbing to the east along the heavily shaded north side of the mountain; ferns were abundant and various wildflowers were blooming.

The trail provided an excellent warm-up as it gained about 350 ft. per mile for the first 2.5 miles. It then climbed noticeably more steeply through continuing shade for the next 2.5 miles as the trail reached a junction near Stunt Road. After a quick lunch break, we took the right fork and continued up the mountain toward (but not to) Saddle Peak. As we neared the highest point of our hike, we were presented with a stunning view of some beautiful rock formations that towered above us.



We continued on up the trail to the final fork in the trail; we took the left fork and descended past a large water tank to Stunt Road and our shuttle vehicles, thus completing a 7.1-mile one-way hike with about 2,700 ft. of elevation gain.



# RSTB Calendar April 2009



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<b>1</b> Pacific Crest Trail Shuttle	<b>2</b> Chumash Trail 6pm hike  See Schedule	<b>3</b>   <i>Happy Birthday</i> Mike McCrary	<b>4</b> Backbone Trail Pt 8: Trippet Ranch to Will Rogers State Park Shuttle See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Anne Guibor
<b>5</b> Rocky Peak 5pm hike  See Schedule	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Long Canyon 6:30pm hike  See Schedule	<b>8</b>   <i>Happy Birthday</i> Louise Pomes	<b>9</b> Chumash Trail 6pm hike  See Schedule	<b>10</b>   <i>Happy Birthday</i> Allison Cameron	<b>11</b> Wildflower Walk - Antelope Valley  See Schedule  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Alice Comer
<b>12</b> Rocky Peak 5pm hike  See Schedule  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Oliver Grimsley	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Long Canyon 6:30pm hike  See Schedule  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Clifford Cameron	<b>15</b> RSTB Meeting 7:00 pm  See Page 1  <i>Happy Birthday</i> John Sabol	<b>16</b> Chumash Trail 6pm hike  See Schedule  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Melanie Gnad	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Towsley Canyon Loop Trail  See Schedule
<b>19</b> Rocky Peak 5pm hike  See Schedule	<b>20</b>   <i>Happy Birthday</i> Steve Zarcone	<b>21</b> Long Canyon 6:30pm hike  See Schedule	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Chumash Trail 6pm hike  See Schedule	<b>24</b>   <i>Happy Birthday</i> Vivian Zarcone	<b>25</b> Work Party – Arroyo Simi See Schedule  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Shasha Tan Cody Frank
<b>26</b> Rocky Peak 5pm hike  See Schedule  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Gary Cremeans	<b>27</b>   <i>Happy Birthday</i> Adelina Friedeborn	<b>28</b> Las Vegas Hike- A-Palooza  See Schedule	<b>29</b> Las Vegas Hike- A-Palooza  See Schedule	<b>30</b> Las Vegas Hike- A-Palooza  See Schedule  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Sharon Hamilton		





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## Hiking Schedule



### REGULARLY SCHEDULED HIKES

(Rain cancels – No hikes on holidays)

#### Sunday Evening - Rocky Peak

Meet 5 pm 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)

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### APRIL HIKES AND ACTIVITIES

#### April 1st **Pacific Crest Trail\*** 2,650 Mile One-Way Shuttle Backpack Trip\*

This very special event is limited to Trailblazer members only. Please remember, this hike requires ample shuttle cars for hikers and gear, so be prepared to drive your car from Donut Delite to both the beginning and ending trailheads. Half of our shuttle cars will be left at the Canadian border, and other half will be left at the Mexican border where we'll begin our trip. Shuttle car driving directions will be distributed at Donut Delite. You are responsible for your own food drops along the trail. We are not responsible for starving hikers. Expect to average 20 miles per day, with one day of rest per week. Wear VERY sturdy boots. The last day to sign up is February 29th. To make your reservations, email Mark.

#### April 4th **Backbone Trail Part 8: Trippet Ranch to Will Rogers State Park Shuttle\***

11 Miles - (1,422' 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 from Donut Delite to the beginning and ending trailheads. The parking fee at both trailheads is \$5. Parking fees will be shared between all hikers. Bring 2 - 3 quarts of water and lunch. Wear sturdy boots.

#### April 11th **Wildflower Walk - Antelope Valley\***

It's flower season again, and we'll be driving out to the Antelope Valley Poppy Preserve to check out the plant life and beautiful scenery. This will be an ALL DAY event. Meet at the 118 & Stearns St. Park & Ride at 8 AM. Bring your camera, water and lunch. A high-clearance vehicle is required to drive on the roads inside the preserve.

#### April 18th **Towsley Canyon Loop Trail\*** 6.5 MRT - Moderate (1670' elevation gain)

Incredible show of wildflowers, spectacular geological formations, rugged mountain views, tar pits, canyon narrows, frothy streambeds and more. Meet 8 AM at the 118 & Stearns St. Park & Ride. Bring your camera, water and lunch. Wear boots.

#### April 25th **Work Party - Arroyo Simi** Please visit the website for more information about this special event.

**April 28th - May 3rd Las Vegas Hike-A-Palooza\*** Valley of Fire, Red Rock Canyon, Mt. Charleston, the Stratosphere Hotel & More! This special event is for the entire family and for Trailblazer members only. The Stratosphere Hotel will be our base camp, as we take in some of the best hikes in the Vegas area. Luxury hotel, super hikes, fine food, good friends, and Vegas at night. Trip logistics will be posted soon...

\* 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. <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

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