



# Rancho Simi Trail Blazers

*A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation*



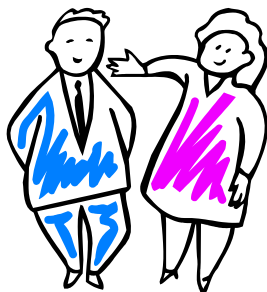
## Weekend Trip to Carrizo Plain National Monument and KCL Campground, April 16th - 18th

The picture above tells it all! With the recent rains, the wildflowers should be very good and will be a focus of the trip to the Carrizo Plain National Monument. The planned short hikes and locations we will visit include the Goodwin Educational Center, Soda Lake, Wallace Creek Interpretive Trail of the San Andreas Fault, and/or Painted Rock, a Native American sacred site, for which we will need to be escorted by a BLM ranger or docent. Car camping at the monument's KCL campground is primitive with tables, fire rings, and portable toilets. All water has to be packed in and all trash has to be packed out. Driving is approximately 350 miles roundtrip. 2WD passenger vehicles are suitable for the dirt road driving within the monument.

There are still a few spots available; please email Mark if you are interested. Much more information is available on the website.

### RSTB CLUB MEETING

This month's club meeting will be at the Community Center, Room B-1  
1692 Sycamore Drive  
at 7:00 PM  
April 21, 2010



Welcome, New Member!

Karen Schroder

### 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.

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



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



### UPCOMING EVENTS

Please visit the website at <http://simitrailblazers.com> for details on any of the following hikes and events.

**April 3<sup>rd</sup>**  
**Wildflower Walk - Antelope Valley\***

**April 10<sup>th</sup>**  
**California Trail Days: Work Party - Lower Stagecoach Trail**

**April 16th - 18th**  
**Carrizo Plain National Monument**

**April 21<sup>st</sup>**  
**Club Meeting** Not strenuous

**April 24<sup>th</sup>**  
**Towsley Canyon Loop Trail\***  
6.5 MRT - Moderate (1670' elevation gain)

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

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)

## DEMISE OF THE MEGAFUNA IN NORTH AMERICA

A long debate within the archaeological community in the United States has raged over the cause of the decline and eventual extinction of 34 genera of megafauna in North America around the transition from the Pleistocene-Holocene deglaciation (eighteen to six thousand years ago). The lost species included, for example, ground sloths, the saber-toothed cat, the short-faced bear, mammoths, the mastodon, the dire wolf, horses, camels, two species of bison, tapirs, the American lion, and musk oxen. Simply put, many scientists have held that the extinctions were caused by climate change, while others have attributed the decline to the arrival of man in the new world. Still others have said that both were causes.

While climate change was catastrophic in many ways, the Pleistocene was marked by four major glaciations in the northern hemisphere with rapid changes in climate both going into and out of each glacial period. The die-off of the megafauna (species of 34 kg or greater in weight) in North America occurred only during the last turnaround.

Until recently, most archaeologists have held that man first arrived in the new world about 11,600 years ago, i.e., following the retreat of continental glaciers. Evidence of earlier occupations were rejected out of hand because "it could not be," because the dating of the finds were questionable, or because the finds were of questionable human origin.

A new article by Gill, Williams, Jackson, Lininger and Robinson, "Pleistocene Megafaunal Collapse, Novel Plant Communities, and Enhanced Fire Regimes in North America, *Science*, (November 20, 2009), pp. 1100-1103, provides compelling evidence to suggest that the arrival of man or the event of a new technology in the hands of man

was the cause of the demise of the megafauna. The new evidence is derived from cores from the bottoms of three lakes - one in Indiana and two in New York. Dung fungus *Sporormiella* requires herbivore digestion to complete its life cycle. Runoff through the dung of the herbivore megafauna ended up in the lakes. What was found was that the high concentration of *Sporormiella* spores began to sharply decline around 14,800 years ago. By 13,700 years ago only minute traces of the spores were present. Only with the event of colonization of the western hemisphere by European man with his cattle, horses and other herbivores has the concentration of *Sporormiella* gone up again. The basic finding of the study is that the decline of the megafauna began well before the end of the Pleistocene Epoch and the rapid warming in North America that resulted. At the same time, there is now good evidence that man was present south of the glacial ice sheets by 14,800 years ago. Man was the new wild card in the environment. This suggests that man may well have overhunted the herbivores, which resulted in their demise. Some herbivore species survived - possibly because they could outwit those who would hunt them or because, as with the short-horned bison, their numbers and favorable habitat were overwhelming.

Something we do not think about as a result of the "kill-off" of the megafauna is that it resulted in a massive change in habitat. For example, during the Pleistocene in Indiana, the land was dominated by spruce forests. Some broadleaf species were present but their size and number were greatly limited by herbivore pressure. Once most of the large herbivores were gone the forest became dominated by broadleaf trees, such as ash, elm and ironwood. Charcoal from fires also began to appear. The charcoal reflected the increased fuel available and the use of fire by the Indians to modify their surroundings and drive game. Pine and oak forests emerged with the end of the Pleistocene and ash, elm and ironwood trees remained but were less dominant.

Prior to the arrival of man in the western hemisphere the megafauna were the dominant animal influence on our biota aside from climate. The removal of those megafaunal species from the environment in and of itself resulted in massive changes in the environment, however, man's use of fire also became a major environmental factor. More recently, the introduction of widespread agriculture and irrigation has greatly changed the face of the earth.

Mike Kuhn  
12-20-09

## AN EARLY VINEYARD

The 1858 federal survey of the Simi Valley area exhibits a vineyard at the present day intersection of Township Road and Lemon Drive. The presence of a vineyard at that location in 1858 without irrigation seems unlikely. One is left with the conclusion that the vineyard was irrigated as part of the De la Guerra farm operation - probably an extension of the plantings in Tapo Canyon.

The Arroyo del Tapo has running surface water year around, and it can be assumed that those plantings of grapes were irrigated. The depth to ground water at the intersection of Township Road and Lemon Drive exceeds 90 feet, so one is forced to the conclusion that the De la Guerras were conveying water for irrigation from well up Gillibrand Canyon or Tapo Canyon. Evidence of what may be that ditch can still be seen in places on the western side of Gillibrand Canyon. However, that ditch may well have been limited to irrigating crops in Gillibrand Canyon in the vicinity of the De la Guerra adobe. Water diversion from Tapo Canyon is the most likely source of that water.

Mike Kuhn  
5-31-04

**March 6<sup>th</sup> – Las Lajas Canyon – Abandoned Mining Operation – Chivo Canyon Loop**

Despite the possibility of some rain, ten hikers met at the Las Lajas Canyon trailhead on Evening Sky Drive in Simi Valley on a chilly morning. We began the hike under a beautiful blue sky by descending a short paved section of road into the canyon bottom; from there we followed the dirt road upstream to the north 1.8 miles, crossing the flowing creek three times. We then took a “use” trail to the west, climbing up the wildflower-covered slope of the mountain toward a peak overlooking Chivo Canyon on which there is an abandoned mining operation. Many mining equipment artifacts are strewn about near the mining site, most notably a P&H Model 206 steam shovel. We walked over to a pair of high points nearby and enjoyed panoramic views of Las Lajas Canyon, Chivo Canyon, and the rolling green countryside to the north and west. We then followed fire breaks and cow paths to upper Chivo Canyon. The trail then led through a pleasant oak woodland to a “slot canyon” section; at that point it began to rain. After donning our rain gear, we continued hiking downstream through the narrow section, passing the skeletons of a cow and a deer along the way. Upon reaching lower Chivo Canyon, we headed directly to the mouth of Chivo Canyon at Cottonwood Drive, at which point the rain stopped. We walked back to our vehicles along the sidewalk, completing an 8.9-mile hike with 1,305’ of elevation gain, somewhat wet and muddy, but happy to have hiked.



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**March 13<sup>th</sup> - Tierra Rejada Park Exploratory Hike**



17 hikers (and one cute dog) met at the Tierra Rejada Park trailhead at the north end of Stargaze Place on a pleasant southern California “winter” morning. The trail initially headed toward the Arroyo

Simi, but soon headed uphill to the west along an Edison road. The verdant hillsides were sprinkled with a variety of wildflowers, including California poppies, thanks to the recent rains, and visibility was excellent. We spotted a large hawk’s nest near the top of one of the utility towers. Eventually the trail headed south and then climbed west/northwest along an abandoned, somewhat overgrown, flower- and grass-covered ridge road affording excellent 360-degree views of the surrounding mountains and valleys, including the Reagan



Presidential Library and Moorpark College. After taking a lunch/rest break atop a high ridge from which we could see Fairweather Crossing, we retraced our steps to our vehicles, having completed an 8.5-mile hike with 1,686’ of elevation gain on a beautiful day for hiking.

**March 20<sup>th</sup> - Runkle Canyon Loop Exploratory Hike**

19 hikers (and three dogs) met at Vista Del Arroyo Park on Chicory Leaf Place just east of Sequoia Avenue and south of Royal Avenue for a hiking adventure in the beautiful springtime Simi Hills (which could easily be mistaken for Ireland this time of year). The trail initially headed east along the Arroyo Simi with views of the Arroyo Simi



Equestrian Center to the south. Soon the trail turned south and began climbing a north-south ridge along the Edison Road toward the Albertson Motorway which runs east-west atop the Simi Hills. Soon we were rewarded with stunning views of the mountains and canyons and the Brandeis-Bardin campus of the American Jewish University to the east and Runkle Canyon and beyond to the west, as well as sweeping views across Simi Valley to the north including the Santa Susana Mountains. The trail then descended a bit until it reached a junction with a connector trail heading west to the Runkle [Canyon] Fire Road. Ignoring the connector trail, we continued climbing to the south. As we did so, the Arness Fire Road appeared to the east and several unusually shaped structures on the Santa Susana Field Laboratory property [aka Boeing/Rocketdyne] loomed into view. Pretty wildflowers were abundant and green grasses had grown high due to the recent rains. Eventually we reached the Albertson



Motorway (which stretches westward to the east end of Lang Ranch Parkway) where we took a rest/lunch break in the shade of some trees. After leisurely enjoying the pastoral surroundings, we returned to our vehicles, having completed an 8.5-mile hike with about 1,400’ of elevation gain.



# RSTB Calendar April 2010



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<b>1</b> <b>Chumash Trail</b> <b>6pm hike</b>  See Schedule	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> <b>Wildflower Walk -</b> <b>Antelope Valley</b>  See Schedule  <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Mike McCrary</i>
<b>4</b> <b>Rocky Peak</b> <b>5pm hike</b>  See Schedule  <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Anne Guibor</i>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> <b>Long Canyon</b> <b>6:30pm hike</b>  See Schedule	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> <b>Chumash Trail</b> <b>6pm hike</b>  See Schedule  <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Louise Pomes</i>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> <b>Work Party</b> <b>California Trail</b> <b>Days: Lower</b> <b>Stagecoach Trail</b>  See Schedule  <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Allison Cameron</i>
<b>11</b> <b>Rocky Peak</b> <b>5pm hike</b>  See Schedule	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> <b>Long Canyon</b> <b>6:30pm hike</b>  See Schedule	<b>14</b>   <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Clifford Cameron</i>	<b>15</b> <b>Chumash Trail</b> <b>6pm hike</b>  See Schedule  <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>John Sabol</i>	<b>16</b>   <b>April 16-18 :</b> <b>Carrizo Plain National Monument</b>	<b>17</b>   See Schedule
<b>18</b> <b>April 16-18:</b> <b>Carrizo Plain</b> <b>National</b> <b>Monument</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> <b>Long Canyon</b> <b>6:30pm hike</b>  See Schedule  <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Steve Zarcone</i>	<b>21</b> <b>RSTB Meeting</b> <b>7:00 pm</b>  See Page 1	<b>22</b> <b>Chumash Trail</b> <b>6pm hike</b>  See Schedule	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> <b>Towsley Canyon</b> <b>Loop Trail</b>  See Schedule
<b>25</b> <b>Rocky Peak</b> <b>5pm hike</b>  See Schedule  <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Cody Frank</i>	<b>26</b>   <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Gary Cremeans</i>	<b>27</b> <b>Long Canyon</b> <b>6:30pm hike</b>  See Schedule  <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Adelina</i> <i>Friedeborn</i>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> <b>Chumash Trail</b> <b>6pm hike</b>  See Schedule  <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Darin</i> <i>Buenconsejo</i>	<b>30</b>   <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Sharon Hamilton</i>	



# Rancho Simi Trail Blazers

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## Hiking Schedule



### REGULARLY SCHEDULED HIKES

(Rain cancels – No hikes on holidays)

#### Sunday Evening - Rocky Peak Fire Road

Due to Daylight Saving Time, meet at **5PM** at the Rocky Peak Fire Road trailhead. Take the Rocky Peak exit from the 118 Fwy. Meet at the north end of the bridge; don't park on the bridge. (Moderate to strenuous, depending on distance hiked. 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. (Moderate to strenuous, depending on distance hiked. 5.2 MRT)

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### APRIL HIKES AND ACTIVITIES

#### April 1st *Appalachian National Scenic Trail Shuttle\**

2,175 miles one-way - Strenuous

We'll be hiking at least 10 hours a day for six months. Typically, less than 10% of those who attempt the hike actually complete it. You will be responsible for your own food, bug repellent, equipment and transportation to the trailhead. The trailhead is at Springer Mountain, Georgia and the end of the trail is at Mount Khatadin, Maine. Weather will range from extreme cold and snow to extreme heat and drought, so please dress accordingly. If you cannot complete the hike, you will be responsible for your own rescue and the associated expenses. Please visit the website for more information.

#### April 3rd *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

#### April 10th *California Trail Days: Work Party - Lower Stagecoach Trail*

**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.

#### April 16th - 18th *Carrizo Plain National Monument*

Join us for this very special trip to view spectacular wildflowers and visit many interesting sites. Sites and short hikes will include the Goodwin Educational Center, Soda Lake, Wallace Creek Interpretive Trail of the San Andreas Fault, and/or Painted Rock, a Native American sacred site, for which we will need to have an escort with a BLM ranger or docent. To find out all about the trip and to make reservations (required), see the Activities section of the website.

#### April 21th *Club Meeting*

7 PM - The Sycamore Drive Community Center - 1692 Sycamore Drive - Room B-1

#### April 24th *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 at 8 AM at the 118 & Stearns St. Park & Ride.** Bring your camera, water and lunch. Wear boots. For more information about this hike, please visit the website

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

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>



No dogs allowed on trail(s).

**RANCHO SIMI TRAIL BLAZERS**

*A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation*

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