



# Rancho Simi Trail Blazers

A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation



## Report: Raise Entrance Fees to Keep More State Parks Open

"If we had the money to operate the park we would keep it open ourselves," said State Parks Department Spokesman Roy Stearns. "The whole goal here is to find partners who can provide the funding to keep the parks open."

Source: The Bay Citizen  
(<http://s.tt/15j9j>)

Many California parks would not have to close, if the state charged entrance fees and transferred ownership of some parks to local governments, non-profits, and even some for-profit corporations, according to a report issued by the Legislative Analyst's Office Friday.

As many as 70 state parks are slated to close by July, after Gov. Jerry Brown and the Legislature agreed last year to cut \$22 million from the Department of Parks and Recreation's budget.

According to the report, the state could generate revenues "in the low millions" by charging entrance fees instead of parking fees at more parks and increasing the dollar amounts at those that already charge. Currently, the majority of park visitors do not pay entrance fees.

California could also transfer ownership from some state parks, especially those that "do not have unique or historical components of broad state interest," to non-profits or local governments. But "it is uncertain if a significant number of cities and counties would be interested in taking ownership of a state park," given the

(Continued on Page 2)



### 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



### Heart Felt Thanks and Our Sympathy

A donation of \$136 has been received in the memory of Jeffrey Harmon. Jeff was an avid runner and outdoorsman. He passed away on March 5, 2012.

### California Buckwheat

*Eriogonum fasciculatum* var. *polifolium*  
<http://mojavedesert.net/wildflower/california-buckwheat.html>



### RSTB CLUB MEETING

This month's club meeting will be at:  
Sycamore Drive Community Center  
1692 Sycamore Drive - Room B-1  
**7:00PM – April 18, 2012**

### Upcoming Events

**April 7th**

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

6.6 Miles (785' elevation gain) – Moderate Meet at **8 AM**



**April 14th**

**Backbone Trail Part 8: Trippet Ranch to Will Rogers State Historic Park Shuttle\***

11 Miles - (1,422' elevation gain) - Moderate to Strenuous Meet at **8 AM**



**April 18th**

**Club Meeting - 7 PM**

**April 21st**

**Work Party - Chivo Canyon**  
Meet at **8 AM**

**April 28th**

**Towsley Canyon Loop\***  
6.5 MRT - Moderate (1670' elevation gain)

Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District events can be viewed at <http://www.rsrpd.org> to see what is happening next!

Due to unforeseen circumstances, all activities are subject to change without notice. Please see [www.simitrailblazers.com/activities/](http://www.simitrailblazers.com/activities/) for event details and the most up-to-date schedule.

**(Continued from Page 1)**

limited financial resources of many local governments, the report said. The National Park Service signed a cooperative management agreement last year that saved two state parks in Marin County — Samuel P. Taylor and Tomales Bay State Park — until at least 2013.

In January, the town of Benicia offered to maintain and manage Benicia State Recreation Area in exchange for \$80,000, half of the park's annual operational costs. A state park spokesman was critical of the request for cash, maintaining that the parks needed to find organizations able to foot the whole bill.

The state could also transfer some parks to corporations, which could result in "operational savings — potentially in the low tens of millions of dollars annually," according to the report.

The parks department could also save money by "eliminating the use of peace officers for certain park tasks (such as providing information to visitors and leading school groups on park tours)," the analysts suggest.

Finally, the analysts recommend expanding the use of concessions agreements with restaurants, caterers, fee collection servicers, and parking management companies, which could generate an additional \$10 million.

"We attempt to find a balance between the need to achieve budgetary savings or increase park revenues and the goal of preserving public access to the parks," the report's authors wrote.

"While we recognize that some parks may need to be closed in the short run, we believe that our recommendations would reduce the number of parks that would need to be closed in the long run."

Source: The Bay Citizen  
(<http://s.tt/16bjz>)

**WATCH YOUR STEP!**

Warm weather has been with us for the

last two months or so. Many of us have been running into some slithering creatures that spark our interests and sometimes our fear and respect. Really, the only snake that we have to fear in California is the rattlesnake. In southern California we have seven different species of rattlesnake – no, they are not all the same. However, they all can bite and should be avoided. Approximately 8,000 people each year in the United States are bitten by venomous snakes. Rattlesnakes account for about 800 of those bites, with only one or two deaths out of the 8,000. Small children are often the ones to die because they are small. The potential for running into a rattlesnake should not deter anyone from venturing out on trails. However, you do have to use some common sense in order to avoid the unthinkable.

When hiking, stick to well defined trails where you can see the ground where you are stepping with some clearance of vegetation on either side of the path; wear boots that cover your ankles and loose fitting long pants (I've been struck twice on my padded boot by one rattlesnake and three times on a pant leg by another very panicked rattlesnake. While traumatic, no damage was done.); do not step or put a hand where you cannot see; avoid wandering around in the dark without lighting; step on logs and rocks rather than over them (My boot puncturing experience occurred when I stepped between two rocks – one of which had about a three-inch vertical space under it.); be especially careful when climbing rocks or gathering firewood; avoid walking through dense brush or high grass or willow or other thickets; and be careful when stepping over doorsteps, because snakes like to lie flush against a wall where they are protected on one side.

Many useful and non-threatening snakes have been killed because they are mistaken for rattlesnakes. Gopher snakes, for example, will often mimic rattlesnakes when they feel threatened by coiling, vibrating their tails, flattening their heads and bodies,

hissing and striking. These are attempts to bluff their adversaries. Rattlesnakes have flat triangular-shaped heads with a distinct neck behind the head. The tails are blunt with one or more rattles. There is distinct banding just in front of the rattles. The best way to keep rattlesnakes out of your yard is to attach a rattlesnake-proof fence around your back yard. Trees and bushes should be cut well away from your fence because rattlesnakes are reasonably good climbers. The rattlesnake-proof fence should be either solid or a screen with openings no larger than a quarter of an inch. The fence should be at least three feet high with the bottom several inches buried beneath the soil level. The fence should be angled away from your main fence by at least 30 degrees. Of course, the ever-popular block wall will serve the same purpose. Rattlesnakes will take advantage of any opening. You should remove piles of wood in your backyard and other materials that may provide hiding places for rattlesnakes. Keeping a gopher snake, king snake or racer in your yard will discourage rattlesnakes because they offer competition for rodents. King snakes will kill and eat rattlesnakes.

If bitten by a rattlesnake, remain calm. If practical, elevate the bite area. Notify the hospital or other medical facility that you are coming. The chances are that the facility will not have any antivenom on hand, so it will have to be delivered to the facility on an emergency basis. Long term effects of rattlesnake bites usually are limited to tissue damage in the wound area.

[Much of this article has been drawn from Alexia Retallack, "Enjoy the Outdoors, But Take Caution with Your Steps," *Outdoor California*, Volume 68, No. 2 (March-April 2007), pp. 22-23.]

Mike Kuhn  
6-19-07

## March 3rd 2012 - Backbone Trail Part 4: Encinal Canyon Road Trailhead to Latigo Canyon Road Trailhead Shuttle



On a warmer-than-usual winter morning 8 hikers carpoled from Simi Valley to the point at which the Backbone Trail (BBT) crosses Encinal Canyon Road in the Santa Monica Mountains. The trail immediately dropped into shady Trancas Canyon where it followed the stream up-canyon through a pleasant woodland. After crossing the stream on a second bridge, the trail began

climbing to the east through chapparal and ceanothus. It then wound through upper Zuma Canyon, again providing lots of shade, until we reached Kanan Dume Road just north of tunnel #1. After a brief rest stop, we followed the trail as it led uphill to the south and then eastward over the tunnel and into more woods in Newton Canyon. At a high point on the trail we were treated to a panoramic view of the Pacific Ocean and several of the Channel Islands. We encountered various blooming wildflowers and lots of ferns along the heavily shaded trail. Eventually the trail rose to meet Latigo Canyon Road, across which we had parked our shuttle vehicles. We returned to Simi Valley having completed a 7.2-mile one-way hike with 1,756' of elevation gain and 1,335' of elevation loss.

## March 7th - 11th 2012 - Havasupai Indian Reservation, AZ – Havasu Falls

### DAY 1 – Travel from Simi Valley to Supai Village, AZ and Havasu Falls Campground



The participants carpoled 465 miles to the trailhead at Hualapai Hilltop (5,187') at the north end of Tribal Road 18 on the Hualapai Indian Reservation near the Grand Canyon (the route included I-40

east to Kingman, AZ and then Route 66 northeast to Tribal Road 18). Since there are no roads leading down into Supai Village on the Havasupai Indian Reservation, visitors (and residents) must hike, ride a horse, or ride in a helicopter to travel the 7.5 miles to the village. Electing to hike in, we followed the trail as it descended quickly 1,100' to the bottom of scenic Hualapai Canyon with continuous views of red- and cream-colored sandstone cliffs and interesting rock formations. As we hiked down the canyon, we encountered many pack-mule trains heading up the canyon; in some cases the mules were not tied together, but were running free ahead

of the wranglers, necessitating quick dashes to safety beside the trail. After hiking about six (6) miles we reached Havasu Canyon with dense stands of cottonwood, mesquite, and willow trees and lovely Havasu Creek with its blue-green water burbling along near the trail. Continuing downstream we soon reached dilapidated Supai Village (3,209') where we checked in at the Tourist Office and paid entrance, environmental, and campground fees. After visiting the general store and the Supai Café, we continued hiking through town and then headed downstream two (2) miles to the entrance to the Havasu Falls Campground (2,848'). Along the way we had our first views of stunning Nevada Falls (and cascades) and beautiful Havasu Falls; we took many photos. The campground stretches 0.6 miles from its entrance to the top of Mooney Falls. We selected a nice fairly secluded campsite on high ground about 0.4 miles from the campground entrance and set up camp. Each campsite had one or more picnic tables with benches. Drinking water was available at Fern Spring not far from the campground entrance and there were several very nice composting outhouse buildings located throughout the campground. The weather and temperature were perfect during our trip and the campground was sparsely populated (until the weekend) since it was very early in the tourist season. Havasu Creek provided a soothing “white noise” sound and we had no trouble falling asleep.

## March 24th 2012 - Backbone Trail Part 5: Latigo Canyon Trailhead to Malibu Canyon Trailhead Shuttle



Six hikers met at Donut Delite and carpoled to our appointed ending trailhead on Malibu Canyon Road. From there we carpoled to the beginning trailhead on Latigo Canyon Road to

begin our hike. The morning started out very cold and damp, but shortly before noon, the clouds parted and the welcome sunshine warmed us up. It was fine hiking weather. The multitude of unusual sandstone formations and caves along our route, reminded us of the backbone of some huge dinosaur. With a bit of imagination it was easy to pick out faces, and even a well-formed elephant, in the huge and ancient sandstone. Although there was a good marine layer present, we were treated to expansive ocean views for miles along the trail. The wildflower showing was much better than expected, given our unusually dry winter. All in all, this segment of the Backbone Trail had it all, from riparian woodland, chaparral, majestic rock formations, panoramic views, and even a labyrinth. The hike was 9.8 miles long, with 1,430' of elevation gain and 2,850' of elevation loss.



# RSTB Calendar April



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> Rocky Peak Fire Road <b>5 PM</b> See Schedule	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Las Llajas Canyon <b>6:30PM</b> See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Mike McCrary	<b>4</b> <i>Happy Birthday</i> Anne Guibor Theresa Bush	<b>5</b> Chumash Trail <b>6PM</b> See Schedule	<b>6</b> 	<b>7</b> Backbone Trail Part 7: Saddle Peak (Stunt Road) to Trippet Ranch Shuttle* <b>8AM</b>  See Schedule
<b>8</b> No Hike due to Holiday See Schedule  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Louise Pomes	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Las Llajas Canyon <b>6:30PM</b> See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Allison Cameron	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Chumash Trail <b>6PM</b> See Schedule	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Backbone Trail Part 8: Trippet Ranch to Will Rogers State Historic Park Shuttle* <b>8AM</b>  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Clifford Cameron
<b>15</b> Rocky Peak Fire Road <b>5PM</b> See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> John Sabol	<b>16</b> <i>Happy Birthday</i> Melanie Gnad	<b>17</b> Las Llajas Canyon <b>6:30PM</b> See Schedule	<b>18</b> Club Meeting <b>7 PM</b> See Schedule <i>ALL members are invited to attend</i>	<b>19</b> Chumash Trail <b>6PM</b> See Schedule	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Work Party - Chivo Canyon <b>8 AM</b> See Schedule
<b>22</b> Rocky Peak Fire Road <b>5PM</b> See Schedule	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Las Llajas Canyon <b>6:30PM</b> See Schedule	<b>25</b> <i>Happy Birthday</i> Cody Frank Joe Marasco	<b>26</b> Chumash Trail <b>6PM</b> See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Gary Cremeans	<b>27</b> <i>Happy Birthday</i> Adelina Friedeborn	<b>28</b> Towsley Canyon Loop* <b>8 AM</b> See Schedule
<b>29</b> Rocky Peak Fire Road <b>5PM</b> See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Bill Gillespie	<b>30</b>					

## REGULARLY SCHEDULED HIKES

*(Rain cancels – No hikes on holidays)*

### **Sunday Evening - Rocky Peak Fire Road**

Meet at **5 PM** at the Rocky Peak Fire Road trailhead. 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 - Las Lajas Canyon**

Meet at **6:30 PM** at the Evening Sky Drive trailhead. Take the 118 to the Yosemite Ave exit. Head north 1/3 mile (passing McDonald's) to the stop sign at Alamo Street. Continue 0.85 mile north on Yosemite Ave to the stop sign at Evening Sky Drive. Turn right (east) and drive 0.5 mile to the trailhead. Park on either side of the street. (Easy - 3.75 MRT - 348' total elevation gain)

### **Thursday Evening - The Chumash Trail**

Meet at **6 PM** 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)

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## APRIL HIKES AND ACTIVITIES

### **April 7th**

#### ***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. 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 is no parking fee at Saddle Peak/Stunt Road Trailhead. Parking fees will be shared between everyone in attendance. Shuttle car driving directions will be distributed at Donut Delite. Bring 2 - 3 quarts of water and lunch. Wear sturdy boots.

View Trail map here: <http://www.simitrailblazers.com/activities/bbtm/Day7.jpg>

View the National Park Systems Backbone Trail System flier here: <http://www.simitrailblazers.com/activities/BackboneTrail.pdf>



### **April 14th**

#### ***Backbone Trail Part 8: Trippet Ranch to Will Rogers State Historic 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. The parking fee at both trailheads is \$12. Parking fees will be shared between everyone in attendance. Shuttle car driving directions will be distributed at Donut Delite. Bring 2 - 3 quarts of water and lunch. Wear sturdy boots. To view map or National Park Systems Backbone Trail System flyers, go look at April 7th.



### **April 18th**

#### ***Club Meeting***

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

### **April 21st**

#### ***Work Party - Chivo Canyon***

**8 AM** to Noon. All tools will be provided. Bring two quarts of water, snacks, gloves and sun glasses. Wear a hat, long pants, and hiking shoes or boots. Directions: From Simi Valley, take Hwy 118 to Yosemite Avenue and head north (past McDonald's). Drive 1.9 miles and then turn right (north) on Westwood St. Park near the junction of Yosemite Ave (aka Cottonwood Dr.) and Westwood St. Please do your best to minimize the impact on the residents of the neighborhood.


### **April 28th**

#### ***Towsley Canyon Loop\****

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 view: <http://www.lamountains.com/>

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

## 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:	<b><i>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</i></b>		
Hiking Chair:	Mark Gilmore	HM (805) 529-5581	markinthepark@sbcglobal.net
Vice Hiking Chair:	Les Wilson	HM (805) 522-2642	les.wilson@roadrunner.com
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Ways & Means Chair:	Marty Richards	HM (805) 526-4414	mlrrdh@yahoo.com
Publicity Chair:	<b><i>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</i></b>		
Newsletter Editor:	Linda Martins-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 \_\_\_\_\_

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