



# Rancho Simi Trail Blazers

A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation



We hope that everyone had a very Happy Passover and Happy Easter in March!

## March 23rd -Tierra Rejada Park



16 hikers met at Stargaze Park in Simi Valley on a chilly spring morning. After introductions we head-

ed north toward Tierra Rejada "Park" and the Arroyo Simi, but soon headed uphill to the west along an Edison Road. The still-green hillsides were sprinkled with occasional wildflowers. We spotted a hawk perched high in an oak tree; later we watched as another hawk circled lazily overhead searching for a meal and a couple of turkey vultures flew by. 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 8.2-mile hike with 1,700' of elevation gain on a nice day for hiking with both old and new friends.

## 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



## March 16, 2013 Work Party

The March work party performed maintenance on the Lower Stagecoach Trail. Trail Blazers



included Bart Hibbs and Mike Kuhn. Two students from Royal High School included Niels Pineda and David McCarrell. In addition, approximately 20 Varsity Scouts and dads from units 6748, 6682, 6705, 6707, 6755, 6750, 6505, 6706, 6116, and 6756 of the Mormon Church also participated. Thanks everyone for the good work.



## RSTB CLUB MEETING

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

**Wednesday: April 17, 2013**

## Upcoming Events

### April 6th - Towsley Canyon

6.5 MRT - Moderate-to-Strenuous  
(1,305' elevation gain/loss) - **8AM**

### April 8th - 14th

### Sedona Camping & Hiking

**Event\*** - To get on waiting list, check the activities section of the website.

### April 17th - Club Meeting - **8AM**

### April 20th - Matilija Falls

9 MRT - Moderate-to-Strenuous  
(1,000' elevation gain/loss) – **8AM**

### April 27th - Work Party - North Ridge Trail - Meet at **8AM**

## New Members

Alice, James, and John Buchanan  
Barbara Westrum  
Christine & Barry Porter  
Joyce Sua & Family  
Kerrie Stiles  
Jack Miller

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.

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

## ANOTHER MEANING FOR SOMIS

One of John Peabody Harrington's informants indicated that *somna* was the name of the village where Calleguas Creek exits from the Little Simi Valley towards the Oxnard Plain. His informant gave the meaning of *somna* as "big *barranca*." Somis is now located where the village was located and is assumed to reflect the name of the village.

Applegate (1974) indicates that Somis may come from the *Ventureño* Chumash so *mis*, which means "water of the scrub oak." He states that the original somis was located near Ojai and the modern Somis is east of Saticoy. Applegate does not specify his source. Disagreement among sources was common among Chumash informants. However, it seems that somehow *Somis* was substituted for *Somna*. This change seems to have been effected by the late-1850s.

Mike Kuhn  
2-19-05 (revised 11-23-12)

## BAPTISMS AT MISSION SAN FERNANDO

C. Hart Merriam, "Village Names in Twelve California Mission Records," *Reports of the University of California Archaeological Survey No. 74* (July 1968), includes a tabulation of baptisms at the San Fernando Mission for villages in the Simi area. The tabulations include how many times specific spellings were used. Some baptisms for the Simi area were recorded at the Mission San Buenaventura. Indeed, most of the baptisms for the village of *Quimisac* were recorded at Ventura. However, the Ventura baptisms are not included in the subject publication.

The village of *Ta'apu* provided 43 baptisms: two in 1799; five in 1802; 18 in 1803; eight in 1804; four in 1805; two in 1811; two in 1812; one in

1816; and one in 1818. Chief *Palasuit*, 46 years of age, was baptized in 1804 and was given the name "Salvador." The spellings of the name of the village are *Taapu* (34 times), *Toapu* (one time), *Tapuu* (two times), and *Tapu* (four times).

The village of *Simí* lists only nine baptisms, all in 1803. *Simí* was used six times, and *Simii* was used once.

The village of *Quimisac* provided four baptisms – three in 1803 and one in 1810. The Spelling *Quimisac* was used three times and the spelling *Quimissac* was used once.

*Ta'apu* was clearly the largest village and had the only resident wot, i.e., chief. *Simi'* provided a little more than one fifth as many baptisms as *Ta'apu*.

The spellings listed for the name of the villages were simply that entered by the presiding priests – none of whom had any special training in linguistics. So, spellings varied. *Piru*, for example, provided 95 baptisms. The spellings listed are *Piru*, *Piiru*, *Piirubit*, *Piribit*, *Pirivit*, and *Piiruvit*. Malibu provided 75 baptisms. The spellings listed are *Humaliu*, *Humalibu*, *Humalibo*, *Humaligo*, *Omaliu*, *Oumaliu*, *Umaliu*, and *Umalivo*.

Mike Kuhn  
10-25-06

## BILL MUTAH

Mutau Flat is a valley of hundreds of acres deep in northern Ventura County. It is privately owned. It is located south southwest of Lockwood Valley and north of and high above the Sespe. The valley is named for William Mutah, who settled there with his wife, Vicente Chapman Mutah, and her son Juan Chapman. Bill is said to have been of French Canadian descent and to have been one of the most disliked of God's creatures. It was only fitting that he and his family lived in nearly complete isolation on their cattle ranch.

Bill Mutah met a violent death. He was

his stepson, under somewhat shot shot once in the head, apparently by his stepson, under somewhat questionable circumstances in 1874. While old Bill lingered for several days before dying, Juan traveled to his nearest neighbor, Mr. Cuddy (Cuddy Valley is present on the southeast side of Mt. Pinos.), who went to Bakersfield for a doctor. Juan then traveled to Ventura and turned himself in. After a brief trial, at which his mother testified, Juan was released. While a doctor had been sent to Mutau Flat to examine the body, the trial proceeded and the verdict rendered before the doctor returned to Ventura. It seems that no one liked Bill Mutah!

Mike Kuhn  
7-12-06

## 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

## March 2nd - Devil Canyon, Browns Canyon Road, Rocky Peak Fire Road, Las Llajas Canyon



14 hikers (including several new-to-the-group hikers) met at the Las Llajas Canyon trailhead in Simi Valley and then car-pooled to the Devil Canyon trailhead on Poema Place in Chatsworth. Our hike began by dropping into the heavily shaded canyon bottom where we followed the remnants of the Devil Canyon Motorway upstream as it frequently criss-crossed the creek. We enjoyed views of several varieties of blooming wildflowers and bushes as we made our way up to the large dam near the Ybarra Canyon junction. Continuing upstream the canyon soon widened and the surrounding hills were covered with bright green grass and intermittent oak trees which eventually became an oak forest in the upper portion of the canyon. Upon reaching (dirt) Browns Canyon Road, we took a lunch break while enjoying the beautiful surroundings and then hiked west to the three-way junction of Rocky Peak Fire Road, Las Llajas Canyon Road, and Browns Canyon Road where we headed south on Rocky Peak Fire Road with excellent views of the Santa Susana Mountains. We descended along an abandoned oil field



road to Las Llajas Canyon and then hiked out to the trailhead on Evening Sky Drive while admiring the stunning green mountainsides, completing a 10.5-mile hike (with about 1,600' of elevation gain).

## March 9th - Joughin Ranch to Oat Mountain

15 hikers met in the parking lot on Browns Canyon Road [the northern extension of De Soto Avenue in Chatsworth] at the Michael D.



Antonovich Regional Park at Joughin Ranch on a cold windy morning. After paying the \$5.00 parking fee, our hike began on the asphalt-paved road that climbs steadily to the western end of Oat Mountain. After 0.7 mile we passed through the abandoned site of a 1950's Nike missile site, once manned by U.S. soldiers but used more recently by LAPD SWAT for training. As we continued our upward climb, we were treated to increasingly beautiful views of the lush green mountainside (but were still buffeted by strong chilly winds). When we reached the ridge of Oat Mountain we hiked around to the north side of the "golf-ball tower" where we enjoyed panoramic views to the north, west, and south of the Santa Clarita Valley, the Santa Susana Mountains, Simi Valley, and the distant



snow-capped Topa Topa and San Gabriel Mountains. Many of the hikers then returned to the parking lot completing a 7-mile hike with 1,813' of elevation gain/loss. As the morning warmed and the wind let up, the remaining hikers strolled eastward on the Oat Mountain Motorway for a while enjoying views to the north and south. As we returned to the parking lot we watched a Los Angeles Fire Department helicopter as it was being used in a training exercise. We completed a 9.2-mile hike with 2,629' of elevation gain/loss.



# RSTB Calendar April



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Mt. McCoy Trail <b>6PM</b>  See Schedule	3	4 Chumash Trail <b>6PM</b>  See Schedule  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Anne Guibor	5	6 <i>Towsley Canyon</i> <b>8AM</b>  See Schedule
7 Rocky Peak Fire Road <b>5PM</b>  See Schedule	8	9 Mt. McCoy Trail <b>6PM</b>	10	11 Chumash Trail <b>6PM</b>	12	13
<i>Sedona Camping &amp; Hiking Event*</i> <i>April 8th - 14th</i>						
	<i>Happy Birthday</i> Louise Pomes	See Schedule	<i>Happy Birthday</i> Allison Cameron	See Schedule		See Schedule
14 Rocky Peak Fire Road <b>5PM</b>  See Schedule		16 Mt. McCoy Trail <b>6PM</b>  See Schedule	17 Club Meeting <b>7PM</b>  See Schedule  <i>Everyone Welcome to attend!</i>	18 Chumash Trail <b>6PM</b>  See Schedule	19	20  Matilija Falls <b>8AM</b>  See Schedule
<i>Sedona Camping &amp; Hiking Event*</i>						
<i>Happy Birthday</i> Richard Pealer Clifford Cameron						
21  Rocky Peak Fire Road <b>5PM</b>  See Schedule	22	23 Mt. McCoy Trail <b>6PM</b>  See Schedule	24	25 Chumash Trail <b>6PM</b>  See Schedule  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Cody Frank	26  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Gary Cremeans	27  Work Party - North Ridge Trail <b>8AM</b>  See Schedule  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Adelina Friedeborn
28 Rocky Peak Fire Road <b>5PM</b>  See Schedule  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Cynthia Zahorik	29  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Bill Gillespie	30 Mt. McCoy Trail <b>6PM</b>  See Schedule				



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Please see [www.simitrailblazers.com/activities/](http://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 **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 - Mt. McCoy Trail

Meet at **6 PM** 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 **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.)

## APRIL HIKES AND ACTIVITIES

### April 6th

#### Towsley Canyon

6.5 MRT - Moderate-to-Strenuous (1,305' elevation gain/loss)

Then we will begin a counterclockwise hike on the Towsley View Loop Trail. After passing through The Narrows section of Towsley Gorge, the trail begins rising eastward via switchbacks with views of the verdant mountains to the south. At the 2,450' high point on the trail much of the Santa Clarita Valley can be seen. We'll then drop into Wiley Canyon and take the Canyon View loop trail back to the nature center before returning to the parking lot. Meet at the 118 & Stearns St. Park & Ride at **8 AM**. For more information go:

<http://www.simitrailblazers.com/activities/index.html>

### April 8th - 14th

#### Sedona Camping & Hiking Event\*

This very special event is limited to Trail Blazer members only. This trip is for the entire family. You may join in on the hikes, or simply enjoy the sights. We will be tent camping at the Pine Flat Campground. There is a non-refundable campground and parking fee, shared equally among all those who sign up. Please plan to arrive the afternoon of April 8th. The event is currently filled. There is a waiting list, should there be cancellations. For email instructions, please visit: <http://www.simitrailblazers.com/activities/index.html> of the website.

### April 17th

#### Club Meeting - Everyone Welcome to attend!

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

### April 20th

#### Matilija Falls

9 MRT - Moderate-to-Strenuous (1,000' elevation gain/loss)

At about the two-mile mark we'll follow a narrow trail as it winds through a shady poison oak paradise [long pants and a long-sleeved shirt are recommended]. Our route will follow Matilija Creek the rest of the way and will involve some scrambling and boulder hopping as well as frequent short open stretches of trail and occasional stream crossings. The reward for our effort will be beautiful scenery including the flowing creek, many large pools of water, vast expanses of sedimentary rock layers, an extensive riparian oak woodland, towering canyon walls, occasional wildflowers and, eventually, the Matilija waterfalls. Meet at **8 AM** near Donut Delite at the corner of Madera and Royal. Bring 2 to 3 quarts of water and lunch/snacks. Wear boots. For more information go:

<http://www.simitrailblazers.com/activities/index.html>

### April 27th

#### Work Party - North Ridge Trail

Meet at **8 AM** at the northern end of the trail along Evening Sky Drive (on the southern side of the road nearly opposite from the Las Llajas Canyon Trailhead). Wear boots if possible, gloves, a hat, sunscreen and pants. Bring water and a snack. All tools will be provided.

\* 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
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## 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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Please make out tax deductible member dues check for the year to:

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