



Rancho Simi Trail Blazers

A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation



Welcome New Member

Kristine and John Coyle
Daisy Wang



The March 21 Work Party was conducted on the Mt. McCoy Trail. Most of the effort

involved removing vegetation that has ingrown the trail and blocking off bandit trails. Thanks so much to Bart Hibbs, Julia Sample, Mona Agrawal, Martin DeGoey and Mike Kuhn for a job well done.

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



Volunteers Needed!!



If anyone is interested in volunteering for the **work parties chair** or the **Publicity chair**

contact Mike Kuhn at:
mike.kuhn@simitrailblazers.com

Weekly hikes!!



Has anyone ever told you to take hike?

Did you know that in Simi Valley you can take many hikes with the Rancho Simi Trail Blazers and explore the beauty of Simi Valley and other beautiful locations? We have so much fun taking photos, talking and just viewing the beautiful scenery like the photo above.

Hikes are every Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday, and most Saturdays

RSTB CLUB MEETING

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

Wednesday: April 15, 2014
5:30PM Everyone Welcome to attend!

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

Upcoming Events

April 4th Descanso Gardens*

2.0 MRT - Easy (~250' elevation gain/loss) **8AM**

April 11th Towsley Canyon

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

April 15th Club Meeting

The Sycamore Drive Community Center - 1692 Sycamore Drive - Room B-1 **Everyone Welcome to attend!**
5:30PM

April 18th Work Party - The

Chumash Trail 8AM

April 25th Romero Canyon -

Santa Barbara* Option One: 6.3 MRT - Moderate-to-strenuous (1,360' elevation gain/loss) | Option Two: 9.6 MRT - Strenuous (2,400' elevation gain) **8AM**

Due to unforeseen circumstances, all activities are subject to change without notice. Please see 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.rsprd.org> to see what is happening next!

(Continued from last month)

DON'T FEED WILDLIFE

All of the species being fed, as well as your pets, are prey for those high-on-the-food-chain species. (They too don't mind a little cat or dog food when they can get it.) For this reason, it is illegal in California to put food out for deer and bears. Your neighbors may not want some of these animals in their yards. Coyotes, especially, have become very embolden during broad daylight and have been known to attack children and adults.

Now for some examples in my own neighborhood. We have a resident population of raccoons. They are intelligent enough to wander widely, often staying in one area for no more than two days. Recently I found that something had chewed through a stout nylon rope that held up a mobile hanging in our backyard American mulberry tree. The next night, I heard some activity in the backyard and went out with a flashlight. The mobile was again down and the tree contained six young raccoons. Their mother was in a flower bed beneath the tree. The next day I again hung the mobile in the tree with the same rope. The next morning the mobile was again down. This time the rope was nowhere to be found. I later replace the rope with a steel chain wrapped around an eight-inch limb. I know that the raccoons were fascinated by the mobile, because in spite of my presence, I had watched the young ones hang over a branch and reach down to spin the mobile. Perhaps the nylon rope had accumulated salt, so they liked to chew on it. The nights that they spend in my yard, they raise lots of havoc. Flower stalks are broken, bulbs are dug up, expensive pots have been overturned and some broken, and holes are dug everywhere. A year or two ago, a family of raccoons used the cat door into my neighbor's garage to gain access to the garage. The bags of cat and dog food were targeted, but, of course, a mess was made of the garage. Unfortunately, they then used the cat door between the garage of the house to gain access to the kitchen –

where they had a very good time! Of course the resident of the house had been negligent – expecting the raccoons to respect the sanctity of her home. Finally, a year or two ago, a coyote spent a couple of months living in our subdivision, which is in the middle of Simi Valley between Cochran Street and Los Angeles Avenue. Residents often reported seeing it strolling down the sidewalk in the middle of the day. Numerous cats and dogs, it is claimed, became food for the coyote. One of that same neighbor's cats was mauled by the coyote, we assume, leaving blood and body fluids all over my concrete driveway. The cat drug its ravaged body back to its home a few days later. It did not survive. I doubt that anyone was intentionally feeding the coyote, but I also suspect that it was enjoying its rounds of back patio feasts of cat and dog food.

Much of this piece was adopted from: "DFG Warns: Leave Wild Animals Alone, Don't Feed Them," *Outdoor California*, Vol. 69, No. 3 (May-June 2008), p. 4.

Mike Kuhn
7-20-08

C.E. HOAR PURCHASES THE HUMMINGBIRD'S NEST

Janet Cameron cites Charles Emerson Hoar as having purchased the Hummingbird's Nest Ranch from Juan Pucillo in 1872 or 1873. Certainly, Janet Cameron was in a good position to have that information, because Mr. Hoar had lived with the Cameron family towards the end of his life. However, it now seems that that information was not accurate. Mr. Hoar occupied "the Hummingbird" as part of his lease of 13,000 acres of land from the Simi Land and Water Company. His lease holding was everything east of Arroyo del Tapo.

Bill Appleton found the records of the 1887 and 1888 sales of the ranch parcels by the Simi Land and Water Company to Mr. Hoar. It seems that the land passed from the hands of the de la Guerra family into those of an eastern

petroleum investment company, which later formed the Simi Land and Water Company. The coming of the railroad to southern California during the 1880s triggered a real estate boom in southern California. The Simi Land and Water Company was formed to offer the land of the company for sale for town and farming purposes. Since Charles Hoar still held a valid lease on those 13,000 acres, a deal was cut with Mr. Hoar to give up his lease while retaining the Hummingbird's Nest Ranch. The three sales transactions conveyed 160 acres of land for \$12,000, 50 acres for \$500 and 46.68 acres for \$5.00. The lands involved totaled 256.86 acres. When Paula Meehan owned it during the 1990s (then called the "Ballymeehan Farm") the ranch included only 96.68 acres.

The \$5.00 price for a 46.86-acre parcel seems very low. However, the sale included relinquishing of the lease and the conveyance of one miner's inch of flow of water to the Simi Land and Water Company. One miner's inch of flow is the water that can flow through a one square inch opening with four inches of hydraulic head. (That amount was enough to operate a long tom or rocker in gold mining operations.) This then resulted in the two-inch water line for the Simi Hotel that was constructed to house prospective buyers of real estate. (The hotel was located on a hill at the present site of Simi Valley High School. When the high school was built, the hill was graded away.) Mr. Hoar's relinquishing of the lease on those 13,000 acres was apparently handled by a separate agreement but accounts for the \$5.00 price for the 46.86 acre parcel.

The sale of 50 acres for \$500 indicates that those 50 acres were not usable for farming. The Simi Land and Water Company's flatter land was offered for as much as \$100 per acre.

The 160 acre parcel for \$12,000 represented a sales price of \$75 per acre and included a great deal of rocky territory.

(Continued in May Newsletter)

February 14th - Johnson Motorway to Rocky Peak



11 hikers met at the trailhead on Iverson Road just outside the gated southern entrance to Indian Springs Estates in Chatsworth on a nice winter morning. After following the easement through the upscale gated community, we reached the beginning of the unpaved Johnson Motorway (once a toll road). The trail (an old dirt and sandstone roadbed) rose westward until it met a short "driveway" leading north to the ruins of the ranch house that was built by Ann and Neils Johnson who were the first English-speaking homesteaders in the San Fernando Valley; they had built their primary home in "Chatsworth Park" in the 1870's. Leaving the ruins, we followed the Johnson Motorway as it passed through a landscape of dramatic rock formations, climbing steadily, but not steeply, toward the Rocky Peak Fire Road; the temperature also climbed steadily. After 3.5 miles we reached the fire road where we took a short break. We then headed southward along the Rocky Peak Fire Road enjoying views (enhanced by lots of bright green grass and some wildflowers) of Simi Valley. A short spur trail led us to an overlook of the San Fernando Valley near Rocky Peak. We retraced our route downhill back to our vehicles and returned home having completed a pleasant 9.5-mile hike with about 1,836' of total elevation gain.

February 28th - New Millennium Loop Trail

Despite a threat of rain, 7 hikers (+ one dog) met at the Bark Park on Las Virgenes Road in Calabasas on a crisp late-winter morning. We began our hike under sunny skies along a 1.2-mile gently rising connector trail to a junction with the New Millennium Loop Trail that circles around mountainous terrain in the Santa Monica Mountains. Electing to hike in a counterclockwise direction, we headed south and then east along stunningly beautiful hillsides carpeted with bright green grass interspersed with splashes of color provided by a variety of blooming wildflowers including lupine, sunflowers, California poppies, mariposa lilies, and other species. Reaching the southeast corner of the loop, the trail climbed via a series of exposed switch-

backs to panoramic views of the area, including Calabasas Peak to the east and the mountain-top enclave of Calabasas Park Estates immediately to our west. As we headed northward the trail rose and fell near the fence line of the mountain-top community before dropping through a verdant grassland dotted with oak trees to Parkway Calabasas (and the gated entrance to the Oaks of Calabasas community). Continuing northward we climbed via exposed switchbacks to a large water tank at the crest of the mountain. After taking a lunch/rest break we continued as the trail dropped down the beautiful grassy, oak-dotted mountainside and began heading westward and then climbed back up the mountain to an old dirt road. Ignoring the noise pollution from Hwy 101, we followed the dirt road until it dropped into a canyon to the south. The trail then followed a stream to a junction at which we took the left fork and followed long easy switchbacks as the trail made its final climb southward. We soon reached the junction with the trail connecting to Bark Park and followed it down to the parking lot completing a magnificent 14-mile hike with 2,500' of elevation gain/loss on a lovely day for hiking.

March 7th - North Malibu Creek State Park Loop



14 hikers carpooled to the starting (and ending) point of our planned loop hike in Malibu Creek State Park on a pleasant late spring morning. We began hiking northward along the North Grassland Trail as it passed

through the lovely verdant landscape. We soon reached the dirt Liberty Canyon Fire Road which we followed through the oak-dotted rolling hills of the Liberty Canyon Natural Preserve to the Phantom Trail's northern trailhead. We soon climbed steadily up a heavily wooded slope heading southward until we emerged into the sunlight high on a ridge. Continuing southward along the ridge we encountered beautiful meadows of bright green grass, California poppies, lupine, and mariposa lilies as well as distant views of the surrounding area. Eventually the trail dropped down to Mulholland Drive which we crossed to the Cistern Trail which led us to the Lookout Trail. As we descended the Lookout Trail we had views of Century Lake and the surrounding craggy mountains as well as more displays of blooming wildflowers. We followed Crags Road eastward to the picturesque Rock Pool (along Malibu Creek) where we took a leisurely lunch/rest break. Next we visited the park's Visitor Center where we enjoyed the displays of endemic animals and birds. We then searched for and found the ruins of the Mott Adobe Ruins along Mott Road before completing our loop by rock-hopping across Malibu Creek and following the Grassland Trail northward to our vehicles, thus completing a very scenic 9.3 mile hike with 1,400' of elevation gain/loss.



RSTB Calendar April



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule	3 <i>Passover Starts</i>  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Mike McCrary	4 Descanso Gardens* 8AM See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Anne Guibor Theresa Bush
5 Rocky Peak Fire Road 5PM See Schedule 	6	7 Mt. McCoy Trail 6PM See Schedule	8 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Louise Pomes	9 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule	10 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Allison Cameron	11 <i>Passover ends</i> Towsley Canyon Loop* 8AM See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Gerald Pitstick
12 Rocky Peak Fire Road 5PM See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Daniel Rios Howard Koltenuk	13	14 Mt. McCoy Trail 6PM See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Clifford Cameron Richard Pealer	15 Club Meeting 5:30PM <i>Everyone</i> <i>Welcome to attend!</i> See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> John Sabol	16 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Melanie Gnad	17	18 Work Party - The Chumash Trail 8AM See Schedule
19 Rocky Peak Fire Road 5PM See Schedule	20	21 Mt. McCoy Trail 6PM See Schedule	22	23 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule	24 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Kayle Harper	25 Romero Canyon - Santa Barbara* 8AM See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Shasha Tan
26 Rocky Peak Fire Road 5PM See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Gary Cremeans	27 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Adelina Friedeborn	28 Mt. McCoy Trail 6PM See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Cynthia Zahorik	29 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Bill Gillespie	30 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule		

SANTA ANA WILDFIRE THREAT INDEX - Provides a 6 day forecast of Santa Ana Winds Wildfire Threats on a color coded map <http://psgeodata.fs.fed.us/sawti/>

CALIFORNIA FIRE WEATHER MAP - Provides actual Red Flag Warnings and Fire Weather Watches http://www.fire.ca.gov/communications/communications_firesafety_redflagwarning.php (Scroll down to map)



Due to unforeseen circumstances, all activities are subject to change without notice. Please see 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 **5PM** 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.
(We Meet at 5PM during daylight saving time.) (Strenuous - 4.8 MRT - 1,200' elevation gain)

Tuesday Evening - Mt. McCoy Trail

Meet at **6PM** in the parking lot, located to the south of Donut Delite, near the NE corner of Madera and Royal. (Moderate - 4.0 MRT - 675' elevation gain)

Thursday Evening - Chumash Trail

Meet at **6PM** 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 - 1300' total elevation gain.)

APRIL HIKES AND ACTIVITIES

April 4th Descanso Gardens*

2.0 MRT - Easy (~250' elevation gain/loss)

The name *Descanso* means "place of rest" in Spanish. Once the family estate of E. Manchester Boddy, publisher of the *Los Angeles Illustrated Daily News* and commercial camellia grower, Descanso Gardens today is loved by residents and visitors from around the world. Come with us and enjoy the beauty of the California Natives Garden, Oak Woodland and Forest, Rose Garden and Japanese Garden. Adults \$9, \$6 students/seniors (65+). Be sure and bring a camera, comfortable walking shoes, and lunch. There is a good on-site cafe if you would rather eat your lunch there. Meet at the 118 & Stearns St. Park & Ride at **8AM**. If you want to view the Descanso Gardens website, then go to: <https://www.descansogardens.org/>

April 11th Towsley Canyon Loop*

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

The Ed Davis Park at Towsley Canyon is located in the 4,000-acre Santa Clarita Woodlands Park on the northeastern slope of the Santa Susana Mountains. Our hike will begin along a dirt road toward the ranger station and the Sonia Thompson Nature Center, crossing Towsley Creek on a concrete bridge. 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 **8AM**. Bring 2 to 3 quarts of water and lunch/snacks. Wear boots.

April 15th Club Planning Meeting - Everyone Welcome to attend!

5:30PM - The Sycamore Drive Community Center - 1692 Sycamore Drive - Room B-1

April 18th Work Party - The Chumash Trail

Meet at **8AM** 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. Bring a hat, gloves, water and a snack, if desired. Tools will be provided.

April 25th Romero Canyon - Santa Barbara*

Option One: 6.3 MRT - Moderate-to-strenuous (1,360' elevation gain/loss) | Option Two: 9.6 MRT - Strenuous (2,400' elevation gain) Beautiful and shady canyon with a small creek. Great views of the Channel Islands, Santa Barbara and the coast from Point Mugu to Goleta. The summit is one of the highest elevations of any of the trails in the front country of the Santa Ynez Mountains. Meet at **8AM** near Donut Delite at the corner of Madera and Royal. Bring 3 - 4 quarts of water, a snack and bug juice. Wear sturdy boots.



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.

Full descriptions of these hikes and activities are available at <http://www.simitrailblazers.com/activities/index.html>

RANCHO SIMI TRAIL BLAZERS

A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation

Executive Chair:	Mike Kuhn	HM (805) 583-2345	hannahmike@me.com
Treasurer:	Santiago Homsí		
Park District Liaison:	Jeannie Liss	WK (805) 584-4453	volunteers@rsrpd.us
Work Parties Chair:	VOLUNTEER NEEDED		Contact Mike Kuhn at: 805-583-2345
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:	VOLUNTEER NEEDED		Contact Mike Kuhn at: 805-583-2345
Newsletter Editor:	Linda 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 _____

How do you want to receive the Newsletter? Check all that apply.

Mail Mailing address _____

Email Email address _____

How did you find out about the RSTB? _____

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

Rancho Simi Foundation and mail it to RSTB, P.O. Box 630445, Simi Valley, CA 93063-0399



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