



Rancho Simi Trail Blazers

A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation



Weekly hikes!!



Has anyone ever told you to take a 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. We even enjoy going on overnight events. **Please join us** and see for yourself how much fun we have!

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



APRIL



April 29, 2017
8AM



Our bank will no longer accept dues or other checks made out to the Rancho Simi Trail Blazers. ALL CHECKS must be made out to the Rancho Simi Foundation.

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



Due to unforeseen circumstances, all activities are subject to change without notice. Please see <http://www.simitrailblazers.com/index.php/calendar/> 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!

RSTB CLUB MEETING

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

Wednesday: April 19, 2017

5:30PM Everyone Welcome to attend!

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

Upcoming Events

April 1st Towsley Canyon Loop 6.5 MRT – Moderate (1670' elevation gain) **8AM**

April 8th Backbone Trail Part 7: Saddle Peak (Stunt Road) to Trippet Ranch Shuttle Reservations are required to attend. Please click [here](#) to make your reservation. This special event is open to active Trail Blazer members only. 6.6 Miles (785' elevation gain) – Moderate

April 15th Backbone Trail Part 8: Trippet Ranch to Will Rogers State Historic Park Shuttle Reservations are required to attend. Please go to our website calendar to make your reservation. This special event is open to active Trail Blazer members only. 11 Miles – (1,422' elevation gain) – Moderate to Strenuous **8AM**

April 19th Club Board Meeting The Sycamore Drive Community Center - 1692 Sycamore Drive - Room B-1 **Everyone Welcome to attend! 5:30PM**

April 22th Descanso Gardens 2.0 MRT – Easy (~250' elevation gain/loss) **8AM**

April 29th Work Party – North Ridge Trail **8AM**

February 4th – Backbone Trail Part 2: Backbone Trailhead (across from Mishe Mokwa Trailhead) to Encinal Canyon Road Trailhead Shuttle



After dropping off several shuttle vehicles at the Big Sycamore Canyon Campground parking lot, sixteen hikers carpoled to the northern (upper) end of Yerba Buena Road at Triunfo Pass to hike the second section of the Santa Monica Mountains Backbone Trail (BBT) on a cool foggy winter morning. The hike began at the “Mushy” Mokwa trailhead.

The muddy trail rose to the west through heavy chaparral to a junction with a short very muddy connector trail which led to the Sandstone Peak Trail (the remainder of our route was nearly “mudless.” As we gained elevation we had clear views to the north of the reddish-colored Echo Cliffs (a long stretch of sheer vertical sandstone rock faces) against the green side of Boney Mountain, and Balanced Rock, a huge house-sized boulder precariously balancing atop a smaller boulder. We passed by the spur trail leading up to Sandstone Peak and continued hiking near Tri-Peaks, the tops of which were covered in fog. We then began our long descent into Big Sycamore Canyon along the Chamberlain Trail which was bordered by beautiful bright green grasses, blooming ceanothus trees, moss-and-lichen-covered boulders, and scattered wildflowers. After a while we were treated to awe-inspiring views of Big Sycamore Canyon and beyond as well as Serrano Valley. We stopped briefly at Chamberlain Rock (named for Henry Chamberlain, a beloved local who died in 1945). Continuing our descent we were greeted by a variety of blooming wildflowers. At the junction of the Chamberlain Trail and the Old Boney Trail we took a lunch/rest break. We then followed the Old Boney Trail as it descended to the main fire road in the bottom of Big Sycamore Canyon. Along the way there was an amazing number of shooting stars. As we walked the four miles through the canyon to the campground we observed a variety of wildflowers and tall

bright green grasses and encountered several easy water crossings. We reached our shuttle vehicles having completed a gorgeous 12.6-mile hike with 1,400’ of elevation gain and over 3,000’ of elevation loss.

February 25th – Backbone Trail Part 4: Encinal Canyon Road Trailhead to Latigo Canyon Road Trailhead Shuttle



On a clear chilly winter morning after dropping off several shuttle vehicles along Latigo Canyon Road, nineteen hikers carpoled from Simi Valley to the point along Encinal Canyon Road at which the Santa Monica Mountains Backbone Trail (BBT) begins its descent into Trancas Canyon.

Shortly after we began our hike

along the fourth section of the BBT, we began hearing the pleasant sound of rushing water, a sound seldom heard in recent years. Soon we could see the nearby stream which was swollen by recent rain. We crossed the stream on a bridge and then followed the stream up-canyon through a pleasant woodland. After trading pleasantries with a large National Park Service ranger-led group of hikers and crossing the stream on a second bridge, the trail began climbing to the east through chaparral and ceanothus. It then wound through upper Zuma Canyon, providing excellent views of a nice waterfall to the northwest, until we reached Kanan Dume Road just north of tunnel #1. After a lunch/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. The erosive effects of recent downpours along most of our hike’s route were quite evident, but the scenery was beautiful as were blooming flora (such as Indian paintbrush, blooming ceanothus trees, miner’s lettuce, ferns, bright green grasses, and Indian warrior plants) and the various flowing streams lent a soothing quality to much of the hike. 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 7.6-mile one-way hike with around 2,000’ of elevation gain and 1,400’ of elevation loss on yet another beautiful day for hiking.



RSTB Calendar APRIL



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Towsley Canyon Loop 8AM See Schedule 
2 Rocky Peak Fire Road 5PM See Schedule	3	4 Mt. McCoy Trail 6PM See Schedule	5	6 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule	7	8 Backbone Trail Part 7: Saddle Peak 8AM See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Louise Pomes
9 Rocky Peak Fire Road 5PM See Schedule	10 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Allison Cameron	11 Mt. McCoy Trail 6PM See Schedule	12	13 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule	14 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Clifford Cameron	15 Backbone Trail Part 8 8AM See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> John Sabol
16 Rocky Peak Fire Road 5PM  Happy Easter See Schedule	17	18 Mt. McCoy Trail 6PM See Schedule	19 Club Meeting 5:30PM <i>Everyone Welcome to attend!</i> See Schedule	20 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule	21	22 Descanso Gardens 8AM See Schedule
23 Rocky Peak Fire Road 5PM See Schedule	24	25 Mt. McCoy Trail 6PM See Schedule	26 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Gary Cremeans	27 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule	28	29 Work Party 8AM See Schedule
30 Rocky Peak Fire Road 5PM 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)

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
Website:	Mark Gilmore	HM (805) 529-5581	markinthepark@sbcglobal.net
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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 1231, Simi Valley, CA 93062



U.S. Postage

RSTB
P.O. Box 1231
Simi Valley, CA 93062

(Concluded from March)

THE TAPO SUBDIVISION

Southern California and coastal California in general, with its Mediterranean climate, i.e., summer drought, provided little surface water during the critical summer and fall months. The slow nature of this transformation occurred because methods of getting water out of the ground in order to irrigate crops were an evolving technology. Hand dug wells or water derived from springs were used for domestic water supply. Indeed, water for the Simi Hotel, located where Simi High School now stands, was piped from the spring on the Hummingbird's Nest Ranch. No one here had any experience with extracting water from the ground in large enough quantities to keep field crops and orchards going. At the western end of the valley, artesian wells and the windmill enabled some broad-scale irrigation. How to effect large-scale irrigation became a quest, which resulted in the emergence of the California agricultural landscape.

A good local example of this emergence was the development of the Tapo subdivision. That effort was begun about 1910 by the Patterson Ranch Company. It involved the land north of Alamo Street, east of Sycamore Drive and west of Tapo Street. Subdivision #1 extended from present day Tapo Canyon Road [then Tapo Drive – yes, there was also a Tapo Road (now Tapo Street)]. The sale included trees that had been planted in 1910. California fan palms were planted on the northern side of Palm Drive (now Alamo Street) about 1917 or 1918. Subdivision #2 extended from Lemon Drive to Sycamore Drive. These subdivisions include roads, an irrigation system and a domestic water supply. Subdivision #s 3 and 4 began in 1918 and includes lands north of Subdivision #s 1 and 2. Subdivision # 5 extended easterly to Tapo Street. By 1920 all parcels had been sold. Some of the original ranch houses are still present in amongst the later residential subdivisions.

R. E. Harrington, in his book, *Early Days of Simi Valley* (1961), page 39,

discusses the quest for water for the Tapo subdivision. Mr. Oxnard, the president of the Patterson Ranch Company and one of the founders of the town of Oxnard, first had wells drilled along Alamo Street – no success. They then went into Tapo Canyon, where little water was found, despite surface flow. Then they went into the *cienaga* up where the Gillibrand office is today. That water was taken by open ditch to the two reservoirs at the northern end of the subdivisions. This seemed to have happened about 1911. One reservoir was at the northern end of Reservoir Drive and the other at the northern end of Lemon Drive. Still more water was needed as the subdivision was expanded. A submerged dam at the narrows below the *cienaga* was tried, with little success. Finally, they found out what everyone else in California would conclude – deeper wells with air-lift pumps were needed. In the end, the subdivisions were great successes.

Mike Kuhn
5-4-03 (11-17-12)

HEAT EXHAUSTION

Well, we are back into the hot season when we have to be more aware of what the heat can do to us while we are hiking or working on a trail. I think that it was last August, on the hottest day of the year as it turned out, when we started our Sunday afternoon Rocky Peak hike. My memory is that it was 107 or 108 degrees Fahrenheit. When we when we finished the hike, it was still 97 degrees. Fortunately, everyone did just fine. There was a breeze most of the time, and everyone was in good hiking shape.

In order to do warm weather hiking it is important to be properly dressed, including sun glasses and loose-fitting, light-weight clothing. A good hat with a broad brim is also good. Primarily, it is important to bring lots of water with you, to drink more than you are inclined to drink (Even so, when I get back from a hot hike, I still drink two or more liters of water before I feel that I'm topped off.), and to have enough water with you so that

you can provide first aide to a fellow hiker and simply to weather an unforeseen delay on the trail.

The biggest threat this time of year is "heat exhaustion." It can happen to anyone. However, people who are not in shape (those whose capillary systems are not in shape to provide rapid cooling during hot weather under high activity) or who are medicated with antihistamines are at greater risk of developing heat exhaustion.

Heat exhaustion typically occurs when people exercise heavily or work in warm, humid places where body fluids are lost through heavy sweating. Fluid loss causes blood flow to decrease in the vital organs, resulting in a form of shock. As you dehydrate, your body loses it ability to keep itself cool.

The symptoms of heat exhaustion are cool, pale, and moist skin; heavy sweating; dilated pupils; headache; nausea; dizziness; and sometimes vomiting. Body temperature is nearly normal. The condition is serious and must be treated aggressively - even if it means interrupting a hike.

The first aide for heat exhaustion is to get the person to a cooler place, such as the shade or immersion in cool water. Place the person in a shock position by lying on their back with their feet elevated slightly above the head. Remove excess clothing, loosen clothing and wet their clothing with that excess water you are carrying. Have the victim drink water – a few ounces at a time every ten to fifteen minutes if the victim is conscious and can tolerate it. (A victim may not want to drink, however, it is critical to get their fluid level up.) These steps should bring marked improvement within a half hour.

Mike Kuhn
5-18-08





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 HIKE (Rain cancels – No hikes on holidays)

Sunday Evening - Rocky Peak Fire Road

Meet at **5PM** at the Rocky Peak Fire Road trailhead on the northern side of the Rocky Peak exit from State Route 118. 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) **(We Meet at 5PM during daylight saving time.)**

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 - 3.07 MRT - 600' 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 north end of Flanagan Drive. (Moderate to Strenuous - 5.4 MRT - 1300' total elevation gain.)

APRIL HIKES AND ACTIVITIES

April 1st 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 **8AM** at the 118 & Stearns St. Park & Ride. Bring your camera, water and lunch. Wear boots.

April 8th Backbone Trail Part 7: Saddle Peak (Stunt Road) to Trippet Ranch Shuttle

Reservations are required to attend. Please click [here](#) to make your reservation. *This special event is open to active Trail Blazer members only.* 6.6 Miles (785' elevation gain) – Moderate 11 Miles – (1,422' elevation gain) – Moderate to Strenuous Meet at **8AM** 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.

April 15th Backbone Trail Part 8: Trippet Ranch to Will Rogers State Historic Park Shuttle

Reservations are required to attend. Please click [here](#) to make your reservation. *This special event is open to active Trail Blazer members only.* 11 Miles – (1,422' elevation gain) – Moderate to Strenuous Meet at **8AM** 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.

April 19th Club Meeting *Everyone Welcome to attend!*

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

April 22nd Descanso Gardens 2.0 MRT – Easy (~250' elevation gain/loss)


Meet at **8AM** at the 118 & Stearns St. Park & Ride. **DESCRIPTION OF TWO-PART OUTING**

FIRST: Descanso Trail Hike (before visiting Descanso Gardens) – 4.8 MRT – Easy (574' elevation gain/loss)

This is “A recently constructed route above Descanso Gardens to an old Cold War watchtower, this winding trail through the San Rafael Hills provides tremendous views of the San Gabriel and Verdugo mountains.” **SECOND: Visit Descanso Gardens** (after the Descanso Trail Hike) – An easy two-mile stroll around the grounds with ~250' of elevation gain/loss. The name Descanso means “place of rest” in Spanish. **BE SURE TO BRING YOUR CAMERA.** Hours are **9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.** (open daily except for Christmas). Admission is **\$9.00/person**; seniors 65 and over (and students) **\$6.00**; children (5 to 12 years) **\$4.00**. Parking is **free**. **NOTE:** Check website.

April 29th Work Party North Ridge Trail

8AM The event will end at noon. All tools will be provided. We will be removing rocks, doing some lopping to increase trail clearance, and some trail trimming. Bring your own water, snacks, gloves, hat, and wear sunscreen. Boots are recommended. Meet on northern side of Flanagan Drive at intersection with Yosemite Avenue.

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/index.php/calendar/>