



Rancho Simi Trail Blazers

A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation



VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

The Rancho Simi Recreation and Parks District Volunteer of the Year for 2005 is our own **Mike Kuhn**. Mike has been the Executive Chairman of the Rancho Simi Trail Blazers since October 1998.

Mike was presented his award at the RSRPD Board Meeting on April 20th.
Congratulations Mike !!!

CALIFORNIA TRAILS DAYS

California Trails Days saw the clearing of the entire Mt. McCoy Trail (April 22). Much thanks to Clifford Cameron, Alan Cueba, Bill Cespedes, John Sabol, Martin DeGoey, Linda Jordan-O'Connor, Michael Kuhn, and three others who failed to sign in.

A flower walk followed on the same trail on April 23. Highlights included skullcaps, tidy tips, Conejo dudleyas (on the federal "threatened" list), Catalina Mariposa lilies, red maids, fuchsia-flowered gooseberry, blue-eyed grass and white-flowered filarees (the only known population in Ventura County).



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. Prices are:

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



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



Clifford, Betty, and Allison Cameron

**Connie Kline, Maurice Dunmore,
and Corinne Foxx**



*Sunday Evening Hike on Rocky Peak
Sheila Kunz and Michele McLendon*

Photo by Mike Kuhn


RSTB CLUB MEETING

This month's club meeting will be held at the Community Center

Room B-1
1692 Sycamore Drive
at 7:00 PM
on
May 17, 2006

UPCOMING EVENTS


MAY 24TH - MAY 29TH

Yosemite Hiking/Camping Trip 
This very special event is limited to *Trailblazer members only*. Space is limited, so **RSVP as soon as possible**. We will be camping at the Upper Pines Campground. There will be a campground fee, and a \$20 per car park entry fee.

JUNE 9th, 10th & 11th

Deer Group Camp Backpack Trip – Big Bear Lake
Space is limited. Please **RSVP before May 19th**.

JUNE 24th

Santa Cruz Island 
Space is limited and fills up quickly; please **RSVP before May 12th**. The cost is \$46 per person. We must be at the Island Packers dock no later than 7:30.

AUGUST 3rd – 6th

Glen Aulin – Tuolumne Meadows Backpack Trip
This very special event is limited to *Trailblazer members only*. Space is limited. Please **RSVP before July 21st**.

SEPTEMBER 9th

Matilija Creek Backpack Trip
More information coming soon...

More information on these events can be found at

<http://simitrailblazers.com>

To make reservations, please email Mark Gilmore at markinthepark@sbcglobal.net.

APRIL 1ST WORK PARTY

The Simi Valley Presbyterian Church (**Mission: Possible/CommUNITY in action**) provided 15 very able volunteers: Dorissa Mitchell, Jill and Sean Upson, Nicole, Christin and Brianne St. Pierre, Marissa Reyner, Kurt & Betsy Fries, Ted E. Cundiff, Laura Malinowski, Robert & Elizabeth Coppock, Gary Griggs, and Gene Holsclaw. Trail Blazers included John Sabol, Mike Kuhn, and Arlene Altshuler.

The lower Stagecoach Trail was repaired up past the turnoff to the Wildlife Corridor.

Many thanks to everyone!!



VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR ANNOUNCED

Each year, one volunteer is selected to receive the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District's Volunteer of the Year Award. At the April 20, 2006 board meeting the 2005 recipient was announced.

Dr. Michael Kuhn has been a volunteer for Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District since January 28, 1993. For more than 13 years Dr. Kuhn has devoted enormous amounts of time and energy into the trail system owned by the District.

For more than a decade Kuhn has held leadership positions with the Rancho Simi Trail Blazers organization for which he currently serves as Executive Chair. In this capacity, he leads meetings of the organization, assuring that trail hikes, trail work, trips and other activities of the group are organized.

He writes articles for the Trail Blazer newsletter that share local historical information and facts. He assisted in organizing three presentations from the Mountain Lion Foundation and he is a reliable source for answers regarding flowers, plants, history and more for the entire community.

Dr. Michael Kuhn is an example of how one person can make a huge difference in the success of a volunteer project. The quality of the District's trail system shows how a partnership between the District and a volunteer, along with a volunteer organization, can result in a superior end product. Under his leadership, the work of the Rancho Simi Trail Blazers is well respected.



Mike Kuhn explaining the proper handling of tools while on the trail, to volunteers.

Photo by John Sabol



Simi Valley Presbyterian Church volunteers, working on the Lower Stagecoach Trail.

Photo by John Sabol

ILLEGAL TRAIL CONSTRUCTION

Recently, the Chumash Trail has been damaged and an illegal trail Near Rocky Peak has seen increased use and could pose serious problems.

Near the end of March we started noticing a few instances of damage on the Chumash Trail. A week later there were 6 areas where a bike rider or riders had cut ramps in the uphill sides of the trail to create jumps or pulled down the hillside to make banked turns that could be taken at high speed. Filling in the damage took 5 hours of hard work. Although no new ramps have since been constructed, bike tracks indicate that several are still being used.

Another problem is an illegal trail that starts above the flat area about one-half mile up the Rocky Peak Trail. The illegal trail drops straight downhill to the west and ends up near the train tunnel at the east end of Corriganville Park.

This trail is not used by normal mountain bikers but by riders known as "Downhillers" or "Droppers". Their special bikes are very strong as they take a severe beating with all the jumps or "drops" that they do. As a result, the bikes are also extremely heavy and the riders have to push them up the trail. The riders also wear a lot of protective gear, helmets, chest guards, leg guards, etc.

This dropper trail cuts across the Lower Stagecoach Trail about 100 yards south of where the Wildlife Corridor Trail branches off. There is the possibility of the downhillers hitting hikers on the Stagecoach Trail someday. The dropper trail cuts across the Lower Stagecoach at a right angle and with little visibility until almost at the crossing. With the steepness of the downhill trail, the droppers are probably airborne (with no ability to avoid people) as they cross the Stagecoach.

The MRCA and RSRPD Rangers have been made aware of the above problems. However they cannot do anything unless they personally witness illegal riding (off trail, unsafe speed, etc).

Please report any illegal activity on the Rocky Peak Trail to the **MRCA** emergency number **310-456-7049**.

Illegal activity on the Chumash Trail should be reported to the **RSRPD** main number **805-584-4400**. Be sure to make the calls with enough lead-time for a ranger to respond.

John Sabol



INDIAN HILLS

The Chumash Trail is named after the Chumash Natural Park, which lies on the eastern side of Flanagan Drive and was part of the Indian Hills Planned Development, approved by the City in 1975. So what? What is the connection to the Chumash Indians and how did it all come about?

When the Indian Hills project was first proposed, it was widely known throughout the community that part of the property contained massive sandstone outcroppings which were used by the Indians. Rock shelters are present with dozens of bedrock mortars (for pounding soft seeds into meal) and other evidence of the use of the area by the Indians. So the developer chose to honor the local tradition by naming the project "Indian Hills".

At the time, the developer (the late Evan Murphy) asked me if I could come up with Chumash Indian names that they could use as street names. I tried to explain to them that names that come from a completely different language, i.e., Ventureño Chumash, contain sounds that are difficult to render in English, let alone lend themselves to be remember, spelled, etc. However, I tried, giving them about 40 Chumash words that might possibly be usable. I assumed that company personnel would be forced to reject all of my suggestions for some names that would be more user-friendly. Even if they did not reject them, the Ventura County Fire Department probably would (They have right of refusal on street names so that responses to emergency calls are not accompanied by any confusion on where to send equipment and personnel.).

What came back were Indian names, with one exception, not Chumash names, that we all recognize. These other Indian names and their spellings have already been rendered into English. In that way, the project could still honor the first Americans – if not the specific group that settled the area. A few examples are Sioux, Seneca, Pawnee, Mohave, Maricopa, Cochise, Choctaw, Anasazi, Obsidian, Mescallero, Yana, and Chumash. They did have the good taste to include the name "Flanagan Drive" – after the family that had occupied and own the ranch during the late-historic period.

So, what we have is a project that is named for the local Indians – for a good reason – and street names that recognize Native Americans. The names of most developments are named for marketing purposes. I am surprised, for example, that we don't have an "Ocean View" development in town. You laugh, but I remember seeing an advertisement from the 1880s for a new subdivision in San Bernardino by that name.

The name of the Indian Hills development may be the most relevantly named projects in town.

Mike Kuhn





RSTB Calendar

May 2006



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Julie Szende</i>	2	3 <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Myrna Steinman</i>	4	5 <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Robert Lisenby</i> <i>Hannah Kuhn</i>	6 Upper Santa Ynez Canyon See Schedule
7	8	9 Long Canyon 6:30pm hike See Schedule	10 <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Jim Vandenberg</i>	11 Chumash Trail 6pm hike See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Fran Atkins</i>	12	13 Matilija Falls See Schedule
14 Rocky Peak 5pm hike See Schedule	15	16 Long Canyon 6:30pm hike See Schedule	17 RSTB Meeting See Page 1	18 Chumash Trail 6pm hike See Schedule	19	20 Ray Miller Trail See Schedule
21 Rocky Peak 5pm hike See Schedule	22	23 Long Canyon 6:30pm hike See Schedule	24 <i>Yosemite Hiking & Camping Trip</i> See Schedule	25 <i>Yosemite Hiking & Camping Trip</i> See Schedule	26 <i>Yosemite Hiking & Camping Trip</i> See Schedule	27 <i>Yosemite Hiking & Camping Trip</i> See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Alan Cueba</i>
28 <i>Yosemite Hiking & Camping Trip</i> See Schedule	29 <i>Yosemite Hiking & Camping Trip</i> See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Phyllis Tewfik</i>	30 Long Canyon 6:30pm hike See Schedule	31			



Rancho Simi Trail Blazers

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Hiking Schedule



REGULARLY SCHEDULED HIKES

(Rain cancels – No hikes on holidays)

Sunday Evening - Rocky Peak

Meet 5pm at Rocky Peak trailhead at the end of Rocky Peak Rd off Santa Susana Pass. (Strenuous, 4.8 MRT)

Tuesday Evening - Long Canyon

Meet at 6:30pm in Long Canyon parking lot. Directions: Take First Street 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. (Strenuous, 5.2 MRT)

MAY HIKES

May 6th - Upper Santa Ynez Canyon**

6 MRT - Moderate to Strenuous (1000' elevation gain)

Beautiful hike to a waterfall. Meet at 8 AM near Donut Delite at the corner of Madera and Royal. Bring 2 -3 quarts of water, a snack and bug juice. Wear Boots.

May 13th - Matilija Falls**

Moderate 9 MRT (950' elevation gain)

Hike up Matilija Creek, passing two waterfalls, turtle ponds and swimming holes. For more information about this hike, please see http://web.venturacountystar.com/hike/61_matilija_falls/index.shtml. Meet at 8 AM near Donut Delite at the corner of Madera and Royal. Bring 2 - 3 quarts of water and a snack. Wear boots.

May 20th - Ray Miller / La Jolla Valley Loop**

6.5 MRT - Moderate. (1000' elevation gain)

We will start and finish at the Ray Miller Trailhead. Meet at 8 AM near Donut Delite at the corner of Madera and Royal. Bring 2 -3 quarts of water, a snack and bug juice. Wear Boots.

May 24th - May 29th - Yosemite Hiking & Camping Trip**

This very special event is limited to Trailblazer members only. Space is limited, so please send email to markinthepark@sbcglobal.net as soon as possible, to guarantee your reservation. The last day to sign up is May 10th. This trip is for the entire family. You may join in on the yet to be planned hikes, or simply enjoy the sights. We will be camping at the Upper Pines Campground. There will be a campground fee, to be shared equally among all those who attend. There is also a \$20 per car park entry fee.

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

 No dogs allowed on trail(s).

For more 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@adelphia.net
Treasurer:	Peter Ely	HM (805) 523-1409	
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
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Ways & Means Chair:	Marty Richards	HM (805) 526-4414	
Publicity Chair:	Judi Sevcik	HM (805) 581-4340	judisevcik@earthlink.net
Newsletter Editor:	Arlene Altshuler	HM (805) 581-9735	arlene.altshuler@mindbox.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 ____

Address _____

Email Address _____ Phone wk/hm _____

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

Please list any extra names and birthdays of more than one member (Month & Day Only)



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