



# Rancho Simi Trail Blazers

A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation



## APRIL WORK PARTY

The April 21 work party was held on the lower Hummingbird Trail. The moisture content of the trail was perfect for grooming the trail and being assured of good soil compaction. Some pruning and removal of shrubs was also accomplished. Much thanks to John Sabol, Bill Cespedes and Mike Kuhn.

Next month's work party will be **Invasive Plant Removal at Corriganville Park, May 5<sup>th</sup>**, for California Trail Days. Meet at **8 AM** in the Corriganville parking lot. Bring 2 - 3 quarts of water, hat, sunscreen, and gloves to work on the trail.

## TIERRA REJADA PARK CLEANUP

A large group of adult and teen volunteers showed up on Saturday April 7<sup>th</sup> to help clean up Tierra Rejada Park in western Simi Valley. The park was littered with trash deposited by the homeless, who had occupied the park for the past several years. The park is adjacent to the Arroyo Simi. The trash needed to be removed to keep the refuse from being washed into the Arroyo that eventually empties into the ocean.

Prior to the volunteer cleanup, Rancho Simi Recreation and Parks personnel used heavy equipment to remove 21 tons of trash from the 150-acre park. The April 7<sup>th</sup> effort was to remove trash from areas inaccessible to heavy equipment.

Over 120 volunteers from the Kiwanis Club of Simi Valley, members of local key clubs, Boy Scouts Builders Club and Park District, and community volunteers aided by Rancho Simi Recreation and Parks employees were involved in this effort. Nearly 6 tons of additional trash was removed from the park.

John Sabol

## EDDIE MAIER AND SIMI VALLEY

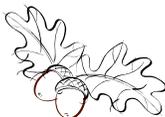
Sometime around 1912 Eddie Maier acquired the Haigh Ranch in Big Sycamore Canyon (now Meier Canyon), where the Brandeis-Bardin Institute is today. Mr. Maier owned the brewing company, which made Brew 102, and a baseball team. He built a large two-storied house on the property.

He was noted for his lavish parties at the ranch. One party of note was a barbecue for "several thousand Shriners" from Los Angeles. They were brought out by special train, which stopped opposite the road into the ranch. Tubs of Maier Beer, packed in ice, were placed along the road to the ranch so his guests would not go thirsty.

Whether or not there really were thousands of Shriners in attendance, we may never know. Certainly, one hundred or more Shriners would have seemed like a great number in those days. In any case, the liquid refreshments seemed like a good idea.

(From R.E. Harrington, *Early Days of Simi Valley* (1961), pages 33 and 36.

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 16, 2007**



**Jim, Chris, Pat, Danielle,  
 & Kendall Winfield**

## 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.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**MAY 5<sup>th</sup> 8am – Noon**  
**Work Party – Corriganville Park**

**JULY 6<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>**  
**Onion Valley Backpack Trip**  
 Trailblazer members only. Please see the web site for more information.

**AUGUST 16<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup>**  
**Dinkey Lakes Backpack Trip**  
 Trailblazer members only. Please see the web site for more information.

More information on these events can be found at  
<http://simitrailblazers.com>

To make reservations, please email Mark Gilmore at  
[markinthepark@sbcglobal.net](mailto:markinthepark@sbcglobal.net)

## THE PLAGUE

The "Black Death" is universally recognized as one of the plagues which over and over again ravaged the world, killing about one quarter of the human population (about 25 million) in Europe alone during a 15-year period during the 1300s. As a result, we tend to get rather alarmed to find out that it is now a permanent part of our Santa Barbara and Ventura County experience, with about half of the reported cases in California over the years being contracted in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada.

The disease is a bacterium, which is transmitted by fleas. Throughout most of the world, it has been carried by black and Norwegian (brown) rats. In the United States our black and brown rat populations are plague free. Rather, the plague has settled into our wild rodent populations - primarily among ground squirrels.

There are three forms of the plague in human populations. The most common is *bubonic* plague, which is the most mild form. It is characterized by swollen lymph glands (buboes) in the groin, neck and armpits. *Septicemic* plague invades the bloodstream and causes septicemia (blood poisoning). The most dangerous form is *pneumonic* plague, which occurs when the bacterium invade the respiratory system. Without treatment, pneumonic plague kills within two to four days. Pneumonic plague can be spread by the victim's cough. In all forms, people get sick within two to six days.

You can get sick by being bitten by an infected flea or by handling an infected animal. When camping, you should avoid all contact with chipmunks, squirrels or other wild animals. Do not feed them. Do not camp, rest, or sleep near animal burrows. Protect your pets, thereby protecting yourself, with flea powder, drops or collars, or leave your pets at home. See your doctor if you become ill within a week of your visit to the out-of-doors. Do not touch sick or dead animals, and notify authorities when they are encountered near a camp.

All of this being said, those mountain trails and campsites are probably the safest places to be. You stand a greater chance of being killed or injured in the city or on your way to or from camping or hiking than you do from contracting the plague, being bitten by a rattlesnake or eaten by a bear or mountain lion. So relax. Have we talked about rabies yet?

Mike Kuhn



## CALIFORNIA BUCKWHEAT

California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*) is one the most common plants of the Venturan coastal sage scrub vegetation association. It has "fascicled" (bunched together) gray-green leaves. Flowers are small and lack petals, but there are six showy sepals. Color of the flowers varies from white to pinkish.

## EARLY POPULATION OF AMERICAS BY THE COASTAL ROUTE

A recent professional paper, to be published in the *Journal of California and Great Basin Anthropology*, by John Johnson and Joseph Lorenz (See L.A. Times [September 11, 2006], pages A1 and A17.) provides DNA evidence for the early settlement of the west coast of the Americas by Asians during the late-Pleistocene. This settlement occurred prior to an ice-free corridor through central Canada, so necessarily involved diffusion using watercraft in the open ocean. The evidence cited involves mitochondrial DNA, which is passed down through the female lineage only. The unique markers were first found in a 10,300 year old tooth from a human jaw found on the Prince of Wales Island off the coast of southern Alaska. A search of a database of DNA patterns from 3,500 Native Americans resulted in just 1% with the same markers. More than half of the matches were from the Cayapa tribe of Ecuador. Others were from the Chinuahua area of Mexico, and some from the southern tip of South America, i.e., Tierra del Fuego. Four were from Chumash Indians. One that has been identified was from China. (The only significance of this, is that the same unique signature has been found in Asia.).

The oldest human remains found in the new world so far are from Arlington Springs on Santa Rosa Island. Those bones have been firmly dated at 13,000 years of age. All of this suggests a Pacific Coast route for early settlement of the Americas. The 13,000-year date probably does not indicate the date of first entry of man into the new world. Indeed, the Monte Verde site in southern Chile has yielded firm dates of 12,500 years with controversial dates as early as 33,000 years. Santa Rosa Island was an island 13,000 years ago, so it would have required watercraft to access the island. Assuming that early settlement of the Americas was by a marine-based people, who settled along the coast, their first settlements would now be submerged by 300-400 feet of water. Indeed, nearly all evidence of their presence would likely have been destroyed by the wave action of a rising sea.

It is natural to think that the people who lived 10,000 to 20,000 years ago would have been too technologically primitive to have high-latitude ocean-going watercraft. Certainly these people were just as smart as we are and coastal settlement would have offered the richest and most diverse environment for human settlement. Since the sea is full of fish and marine mammals, one would have expected the development of ocean-going watercraft early in the history of modern man. Australia, for example, is thought to have been settled by modern man by 50,000 years ago. Even then it was a long boat ride to get to Australia. Certainly, once man had ventured down the coast of what is now North America by watercraft, it would have taken thousands of years to make it to the southern tip of South America. It is satisfying to know that the Chumash are descendant from these first migrants.

Mike Kuhn



## A BUMPY ROAD

Over the years at work I was often called to the counter to answer questions from Moorpark College students, who were enrolled in a geology class. They want to know why the 118 Freeway west of Madera Road is "so bumpy". CalTrans fixes it, but the bumps return. (You could write a script for a Hollywood thriller entitled, "The return of the bumps!" Well, maybe that wouldn't be such a good idea.)

The bumps are there because the freeway cuts across the middle Sespe Formation, which is replete with what are referred to as "red" and "blue" beds. You've no doubt noticed them. Because of the strike and dip of the Sespe Formation (strike northeast-southwest and dip 30-40 degrees to the northwest), the beds cross under the freeway diagonally somewhat on end. Unlike the predominately sandy strata of the Sespe, the red and blue beds are high in clay. When they get wet, they expand - lifting whatever is on top, at least the first couple of feet. So, up goes the concrete pavement on the road with each winter - cracking the concrete and providing a very interesting ride for vehicles on the road. If you're traveling on the freeway, your right front wheel goes up and over first, followed shortly by your left front wheel, then by your right rear wheel, and then by your left rear wheel. If you watch the beds in the road cut, you will pass them, and then be

twisted. This is because of the northeast-southwest strike of the beds. When the beds dry out to some degree, the road does flatten somewhat, but never goes back completely.

Every once in awhile CalTrans will grind down the concrete or apply some asphalt, only to have the worsened state return in one to three years, depending upon how much rain we've had. Had those roadbeds been provided with two more feet of road base when they were originally constructed, the problem might have been eliminated or greatly reduced. That however would have required deviating from the standard construction plate - something that apparently was not considered at the time.

The Sespe Formation in this area is a non-marine deposit from a tropical forest environment of Eocene/Oligocene age - about 24 million years old and younger as you go west. The red and blue beds are "overbed" strata formed when the river flooded onto the adjacent valley floor and deposited its clay load. In the process, small animals and occasionally large mammals were drowned. Mice, for example, were drowned in their burrows. As a result, the Sespe Formation in this area has produced about half of the recorded vertebrate fossils known for the Oligocene period. Still, the bumps go on.

Mike Kuhn

## TOWSLEY CANYON HIKE



Left to right: Bill Cespedes, Tom Travis, Alan Cueba and Kobe, Michele Sumandra, Roger Steffan, Cliff Cameron, Linda Travis, Rafael Zepeda, Margarita Marsh, and Doug Marsh

## TIERRA REJADA CLEANUP



Volunteers and crew leaders head out



A group of volunteers shows off their work



Volunteers loading tools at end of day



# RSTB Calendar May 2007



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>1</b> <b>Long Canyon</b> <b>6:30pm hike</b> <b>See Schedule</b> <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Julie Szende</i>	<b>2</b> <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Sudershan Numma</i>	<b>3</b> <b>Chumash Trail</b> <b>6pm hike</b> <b>See Schedule</b> <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Myrna Steinman</i>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> <b>CA Trail Days</b> <b>Corriganville</b> <b>Work Party</b> <b>See Schedule</b> <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Robert Lisenby</i> <i>Hannah Kuhn</i>
<b>6</b> <b>Chumash Trail</b> <b>Flower Walk</b> <b>9:30am</b>  <b>Rocky Peak</b> <b>5pm hike</b> <b>See Schedule</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> <b>Long Canyon</b> <b>6:30pm hike</b> <b>See Schedule</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> <b>Chumash Trail</b> <b>6pm hike</b> <b>See Schedule</b> <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Jim Vandenberg</i>	<b>11</b> <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Fran Atkins</i>	<b>12</b> <b>Danielson</b> <b>Memorial</b> <b>See Schedule</b>
<b>13</b> <b>Rocky Peak</b> <b>5pm hike</b> <b>See Schedule</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> <b>Long Canyon</b> <b>6:30pm hike</b> <b>See Schedule</b>	<b>16</b> <b>RSTB Meeting</b> <b>See Page 1</b>	<b>17</b> <b>Chumash Trail</b> <b>6pm hike</b> <b>See Schedule</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> <b>Talepop Trail</b> <b>Loop</b> <b>See Schedule</b>
<b>20</b> <b>Rocky Peak</b> <b>5pm hike</b> <b>See Schedule</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> <b>Long Canyon</b> <b>6:30pm hike</b> <b>See Schedule</b>	<b>23</b> <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Luke Michaelson</i>	<b>24</b> <b>Chumash Trail</b> <b>6pm hike</b> <b>See Schedule</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> <b>Los Robles Trail</b> <b>See Schedule</b>
<b>27</b> <b>Rocky Peak</b> <b>5pm hike</b> <b>See Schedule</b> <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Alan Cueba</i> <i>Alisha Michaelson</i>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> <b>Long Canyon</b> <b>6:30pm hike</b> <b>See Schedule</b> <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Phyllis Tewfik</i>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> <b>Yosemite Hiking</b> <b>&amp; Camping Trip</b>	<b>1</b> <b>Yosemite Hiking</b> <b>&amp; Camping Trip</b>  <div style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em; letter-spacing: 0.5em;">J u n e</div>	<b>2</b> <b>Yosemite Hiking</b> <b>&amp; Camping Trip</b>



# Rancho Simi Trail Blazers

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## Hiking Schedule



### REGULARLY SCHEDULED HIKES

(Rain cancels – No hikes on holidays)

#### Sunday Evening - Rocky Peak

Meet at 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)

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### MAY HIKES

#### May 5th - Work Party - Corriganville Park - California Trail Days

Invasive Plant removal day. Meet at 8 AM in the Corriganville parking lot. Bring 2 - 3 quarts of water, hat, sunscreen, and gloves to work on the trail.

#### May 6th - Flower Walk - The Chumash Trail - California Trail Days

Meet at the Chumash Trailhead at 9:30 AM.

#### May 12th - Danielson Memorial\*\*

6 MRT - Moderate (1000' elevation gain) Visit a waterfall and the Danielson Memorial, view the Oxnard Plain and Channel Islands from Old Boney Road. Meet at 8 AM near Donut Delite near the corner of Madera and Royal. Bring 2 to 3 quarts of water and a snack. Wear boots.

#### May 19th - Talepop Trail Loop\*\*

5 MRT - Moderate (500' elevation gain)

This relatively easy hike takes you through the grasslands of Malibu Creek State Park, with pleasant views of oak studded rolling hills. The hike starts out on the Grasslands Trail, crosses over Liberty Creek, and connects with the Talepop trail which climbs a ridgeline with nice vistas of both Liberty and Malibu Canyon. Meet at 8 AM near Donut Delite near the corner of Madera and Royal. Bring 2 to 3 quarts of water and a snack. Wear boots.

#### May 26th - Los Robles Trail\*\*

Moderate - Leader's Choice

Bring a snack and 2 to 3 quarts of water, wear boots. Meet at 8 AM near Donut Delite at the corner of Madera and Royal.

#### May 31st - June 3<sup>rd</sup> - Yosemite Hiking & Camping Trip\*\*

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\*\* 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@roadrunner.com
Treasurer:	Peter Ely	HM (805) 523-1409	
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Work Parties Chair:		*** OPEN ***	
Hiking Chair:	Mark Gilmore	HM (805) 529-5581	markinthepark@sbcglobal.net
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-----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 \_\_\_\_\_

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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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