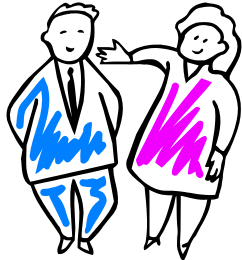




Rancho Simi Trail Blazers

A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation



Welcome, New Members!
Jennifer Jackson

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.

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



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

EARLY DAYS ON THE SIMI

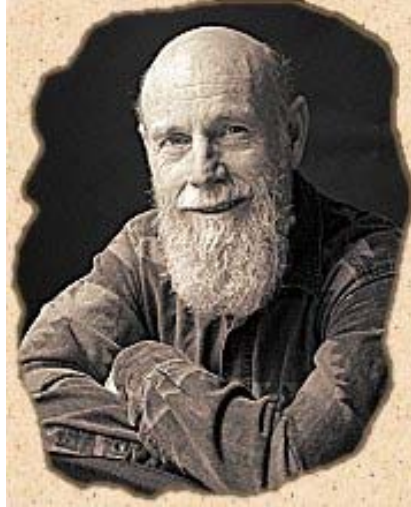
(summarized from a work by Janet Cameron, *History of Ventura County, State of California*, (1940))

During the 1860s, a syndicate, founded by Thomas Scott of the Pennsylvania Railroad, acquired all of the land of El Rancho Simi, except for 1,400 acres in the Tapo. David Perkins and General Miles, John Erringer and a Mr. Greene were associates in the land purchase. After 1865 Thomas Bard acted as the General Manager of the land. Once it was determined that oil was not present in great quantities, Thomas Scott withdrew, Greene (Continued on Page 2)

Special Event

The Teaching American History Project is proud to bring Lee Stetson to Moorpark to present his one-man show on John Muir.

In the Ken Burns series on our National Parks, Mr. Stetson was the voice of John Muir, explaining the important role of John Muir in our nation's preservation of parklands. Mr. Stetson also spends much of each summer in Yosemite Valley presenting his show. The talk is free and open to the public.



Date: Thursday, May 20, 2010
Time: 4:30pm-6:00pm
Place: Walnut Canyon School
280 Casey Road, Moorpark
(just off of Moorpark Avenue above the City Hall and Library)

To learn more about Lee Stetson and his performance, please visit www.johnmuirlive.com/



UPCOMING EVENTS

Please visit the website at <http://simitrailblazers.com> for details on any of the following hikes and events.

May 1st
Vasquez Rocks + Pacific Crest Trail Section 9.2 miles one-way – Moderately strenuous (2,611' elevation gain; 2,356' elevation loss)

May 8th Work Party
Lower Stagecoach Trail

May 15th Danielson Memorial & Waterfall
6 MRT - Moderate (1000' gain)

May 19th - Club Meeting

May 22nd
Sandstone Peak (via the Mishe Mokwa Trail)
7 MRT - Moderate (1500' gain/loss)

May 29th
Ray Miller La Jolla Valley Loop
6.5 MRT - Moderate (1000' elevation gain)

RSTB CLUB MEETING

This month's meeting will be at the Community Center, Room B-1
1692 Sycamore Drive
at 7:00 PM
May 19, 2010

(Continued from Page 1)
and Erringer were given the hills south of the valley (2,780 acres), and Bard retained the remaining 96,000 acres.

From 1861 through 1875 a stage ran from Los Angeles through Simi Valley and on to Santa Barbara. Mr. Larry Howard maintained a "Mountain Station" at the foot of the grade on the Simi Valley side to service travelers, until his death in 1874. Mr. Howard was one of the first Anglo-American settlers in the valley. A family named Penlan lived near the station. Their son, according to Janet Cameron, was the first "white" child born in Simi Valley. In 1866 the Taylor family, including their four year old child, Bud, arrived in Simi Valley, remaining a short while. Bud Taylor returned to Simi Valley in 1874 and spent the rest of his life here, raising bees, grain and some cattle and horses. About that time the Barnetts settled on the old Scott place near the northeastern corner of the intersection of Erringer Road and Royal Avenue – the general site of the first Spanish-era settlement, Casa Vieja, in the valley. In 1874 Steve Easley came, joining Bud Taylor. Ten years later, he sent for his family, and they settled in Sycamore Canyon (now Meier Canyon – south of the southern end of Tapo Canyon Road). Also in 1874 Bates, Brown and Company leased the western half of Simi Valley and moved into the Simi Adobe, where the Strathearn Historical Park is today.

Charles Emerson Hoar came in 1871 (according to Janet Cameron) or about 1872 (according to Patricia Havens, *Simi Valley: A Journey Through Time*, 1997). According to Mrs. Cameron, who knew him well, he was a brilliant man. He was the

nephew of Massachusetts Senator Hoar and son of a President of Harvard University. His mother was an Emerson of the prominent Concord family and a cousin of Ralph Waldo Emerson. Charles graduated first in his class from Harvard during the 1860s. After a short stint as a railroad lawyer on the mid-western frontier, he moved to Simi Valley and became its first gentleman farmer. Mr. Hoar was offered Simi Valley for \$1.00 per acre. He and Bates, Brown and Company agreed to take it, but in the end Bates, Brown and Company could not come up with their share of the money, so the sale did not go through. Mr. Hoar then leased everything east of Arroyo del Tapo and moved onto the Humming Bird's Nest. Mr. Hoar moved into an adobe on the Humming Bird which was occupied by Juan Pucillo and his wife, later building a small home nearby. Juan Pucillo and his family stayed on to work for Mr. Hoar. A Mr. Saviers leased everything north of "Simi Creek" west of Arroyo del Tapo, and a Mr. Barnett leased everything south of Mr. Saviers' lease. In 1884 and 1885 Mr. Hoar purchased the Humming Bird's Nest property, along with several other parcels in the valley – in part in consideration for the termination of his lease on the 13,000-acre east end. Mr. Hoar planted numerous fruit trees on the Humming Bird, which became a show place for prospective buyers of land in Simi Valley during the late 1880s. Mr. Hoar, according to Janet Cameron, "...was very generous and shared what he had with his neighbors."

Mr. Brown moved to Ventura in 1883, after which the Philbrooks lived in the Simi Adobe until 1885. After that a French family named Herrega moved into the adobe. The Herregas established the first school in Simi Valley. (The school was taught in French.)

Early farmers rented land from Thomas Bard. They paid Mr. Bard one sixth of their crops. No leases were ever signed, nor did Mr. Bard ever question his take of the harvest.

Harvesting of the grain crops was done through Chinese contractors, who would also haul the grain to the threshers. The grain was then hauled to Port Hueneme by eight-horse-drawn wagons – a two-day trip.

Men and women worked hard. Occasionally farm families were invited to a dance or barbecue at the De la Guerras on the Tapo or to the hacienda of another Spanish/Mexican family.

When a young man wanted to marry, he borrowed a modest sum and rode a horse to Ventura with his fiancée, where they obtained a license, found a justice of the peace, got married - returning to Simi Valley in time for work the next morning.

According to Janet Cameron, Mr. Taylor said that there was little quarreling between settlers because they lived too far apart and worked too hard. Life had passed from the hands of the Chumash Indians; the Mission system was long gone; and the Spanish/Mexican period of settlement was slipping away. In some sense, it was still life on the frontier. There was no railroad or public roads. Law was present in Ventura – but it was a hard day's travel from Simi Valley. Little could these early settlers imagine what the late 20th early 21st centuries would bring.

Mike Kuhn
8-20-06

April 3rd 2010 - Wildflower Walk - Antelope Valley

9 hikers met at the Stearns Street Park-and-Ride lot in Simi Valley on a cool spring morning and then carpooled



north and east toward the Antelope Valley California Poppy Reserve via Hwy 118, I405, I5, Hwy 138, and 170th Street, stopping in Gorman for a short "pit stop" along the way.

Although the Gorman area was foggy, the sky cleared as we approached our destination. We turned eastward

from 170th Street onto a dirt road a couple of miles northwest of the actual Poppy Reserve and began driving through a beautiful wildflower-covered landscape. Not only were there many swaths of orange-colored California poppies, but there were also several types of purple flowers and a vast carpet of yellow flowers on the hillsides. The day was windy and chilly so most of the poppies hadn't opened, but they were nonetheless quite stunning. After stopping several times to walk among the flowers and taking many photographs, we returned to Hwy 138 and returned home.



After stopping several times to walk among the flowers and taking many photographs, we returned to Hwy 138 and returned home.

Road (some sections are paved; others are graded dirt) which runs through the entire monument between Highways 166 and 58. We camped at the first come-first served KCL Campground which has several large trees, picnic tables and toilet facilities, but no running/potable water or RV hookups; water must be brought in by the campers and all trash must be carried out by them. The CPNM occupies nearly 250,000 acres and is bordered by the Temblor Mountains on the northeast and by the Caliente Mountains on the southwest - Caliente Mountain



(5,106') is the highest peak in San Luis Obispo County. The San Andreas Fault runs through the monument and is particularly visible near Wallace Creek. We arrived near the peak of the wildflower season and were rewarded with stunning vistas of the plain and nearby mountain slopes covered by a dazzling variety of beautiful wildflowers. We drove to Selby Campground (no trees) on Friday afternoon and hiked steeply up a "use" trail to Caliente Ridge Road and then completed a clockwise loop back to Selby Campground while enjoying the panoramic views of the Carrizo Plain. That night we were serenaded by a very vocal owl and awakened the next morning to the sounds of the many birds nesting in the campground trees [there are very few trees on the plain]. We drove to the Goodwin Education Center on Saturday morning and participated in a ranger-led nature walk including Overlook Hill (with great views of Soda Lake, the plain, and the surrounding mountains), the Soda Lake boardwalk, and Painted

April 16-18, 2010 - Carrizo Plain National Monument



13 campers/hikers carpooled to the Carrizo Plain National Monument (CPNM) via Hwy 118, I405, I5 north and Hwy 166 west through Maricopa, CA to Soda Lake



Rock which was probably used for religious ceremonies by Native Americans. We then drove to the Wallace Creek Trail via Seven Mile Road and Elkhorn Road. Once there we viewed the San Andreas Fault and hiked through a rolling grassland in the foothills of the Temblor Range. We struck camp on Sunday and returned home (about 150 miles), grateful for the opportunity to visit such a beautiful place.



RSTB Calendar May 2010



| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|--|---|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | | | 1 Vasquez Rocks and Pacific Crest Trail Section See Schedule |
| 2 Rocky Peak 5pm hike See Schedule | 3 | 4 Long Canyon 6:30pm hike See Schedule | 5 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Hannah Kuhn Robert Lisenby | 6 Chumash Trail 6pm hike See Schedule | 7 | 8 Work Party Lower Stagecoach Trail See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Melanie Ashen |
| 9 Rocky Peak 5pm hike | 10 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Jim Vandenberg | 11 Long Canyon 6:30pm hike See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Fran Atkins | 12 | 13 Chumash Trail 6pm hike See Schedule | 14 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Fernando Buenconsejo | 15 Danielson Memorial & Waterfall See Schedule |
| 16 Rocky Peak 5pm hike See Schedule | 17 | 18 Long Canyon 6:30pm hike See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Lisa Poley | 19 RSTB Meeting 7:00 pm See Page 1 | 20 Chumash Trail 6pm hike See Schedule | 21 | 22 Sandstone Peak (via the Mishe Mokwa Trail) See Schedule |
| 23 Rocky Peak 5pm hike See Schedule | 24 | 25 Long Canyon 6:30pm hike See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Alan Cueba | 26 | 27 Chumash Trail 6pm hike See Schedule | 28 | 29 Ray Miller La Jolla Valley Loop See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Phyllis Tewfik |
| 30 Rocky Peak 5pm hike See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Bonnie Bouley | 31 | | | | | |



Rancho Simi Trail Blazers

A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation

Hiking 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 from the 118 Fwy. Meet at the north end of the bridge; don't park on the bridge. (Moderate to strenuous, depending on distance hiked. 4.8 MRT)

Tuesday Evening - Long Canyon

Meet at 6:30pm in Long Canyon parking lot. Directions: Take 1st Street heading 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. (Moderate to strenuous, depending on distance hiked. 5.2 MRT)

MAY HIKES AND ACTIVITIES

May 1st - Vasquez Rocks + Pacific Crest Trail Section*

9.2 miles one-way - Moderately strenuous (2,611' elevation gain and 2,356' elevation loss)
Requires a fairly short vehicle shuttle. We will hike a section of the Pacific Crest Trail from Soledad Canyon Road to Vasquez Rocks County Park (near Agua Dulce) which has been filmed in many movies, TV shows, and commercials. Meet at 8 AM at the 118 & Stearns St. Park & Ride. Bring 2 quarts of water and lunch.

May 8th - Work Party - Lower Stagecoach Trail

Meet at the eastern end of the Corriganville Parking lot at 8:00 AM. Corriganville is located at the east end of Smith Road off of the south end of Kuehner Drive. Bring 2 to 3 quarts of water, hat, sunscreen, and gloves to work on the trail. Wear sturdy boots. Tools will be provided. As always, you are welcome to work for a shorter time period if you desire. Hope to see you there.

May 15th - Danielson Memorial & Waterfall*

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 - Club Meeting


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

May 22nd - Sandstone Peak (via the Mishe Mokwa Trail)*

7 MRT - Moderate (1500' elevation gain/loss)
See a wide variety of vegetation, spectacular rock formations, and the highest peak in the Santa Monica Mountains. Meet at 8 AM near Donut Delite at the corner of Madera and Royal. Bring 2 quarts of water and lunch. Wear boots.

May 29th - 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.

* Not within the jurisdiction of the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District.  No dogs allowed on trail(s).
For 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 |
| Treasurer: | Peter Ely | | |
| 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 |
| Vice Hiking Chair: | Les Wilson | HM (805) 522-2642 | les.wilson@roadrunner.com |
| Website: | Mark Gilmore | HM (805) 529-5581 | markinthepark@sbcglobal.net |
| Ways & Means Chair: | Marty Richards | HM (805) 526-4414 | mlrrdh@yahoo.com |
| Publicity Chair: | Carrie McCline | | |
| Newsletter Editor: | Kelli Ham | | simitrailrunner@gmail.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 _____

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

Address _____

Email Address _____ Phone wk/hm _____

Would you like to receive periodic email announcements about club activities? Yes () No ()

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”



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