



# Rancho Simi Trail Blazers



## Mountain Lion Sighting

On our Saturday, May 24 hike in Happy Camp Canyon, Margarita Marsh and Don Steeley encountered a mountain lion. They looked at it and it looked at them and then it headed off up the road. Mike Kuhn, the one with the camera with the long lens, of course, was back about a hundred yards, delayed by wildflower picture taking. Margarita and Don were thrilled by the sighting.



## MOORPARK

[Based upon R. E. Harrington, *Early Days of Simi Valley* (1961), page 46.]

Moorpark occupies the Little Simi Valley, which is an area along the Arroyo Simi that broadens into wide valley. A tiny center of Fremontville was established a few miles west of the present community center. When a railroad stop was needed, it was established where Moorpark is today in order to have a level enough grade to be able start up uphill freight trains.

Since the railroad was the only practical way to get crops to market, the location was dictated by the needs of the railroad. R. W. Poindexter, the former secretary of the Simi Land & Water Co., laid out the new town in a sandy strip of sand. His first act was to plant Peruvian pepper trees along the streets of the town. Many of those trees remain today. The town was named Moor Park. The Moor apricot was an important dry-land crop of the area. Unincorporated new settlements at the time were referred to as "parks." Very soon Moor Park became Moorpark.

## JUNE WORK PARTY

The next work party will be held **Saturday June 7** in conjunction with National Trail Day on the **Lower Stagecoach Trail** out of Corriganville. The majority of work will involve removing mustard plants, which are choking off the trail.

We will meet in the parking lot of Corriganville Park at **7:00 AM** and work to **1:00 PM**. You can also work for a shorter period if you have to leave earlier. Bring plenty of water if the weather is hot, as there is little shade on the lower portion of the trail. Hope to see you there.

Work Parties Chair



## 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

## RSTB CLUB MEETING

The monthly club meeting will be held at the  
Community Center  
Room B-1  
1692 Sycamore Drive  
At 7:00 PM  
On

## WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Spanish surnames taken by the Chumash elite shortly after secularization of the missions often reflected their professions or ceremonial positions in Chumash society. Their first names were their Christian names.

Travis Hudson and Ernest Underlay, in *Crystals in the Sky: An Intellectual Odyssey Involving Chumash Astronomy, Cosmology and Rock Art* (1978), page 58, offer a number of examples. These include Rafael Solares, a solar shaman whose last name means "belonging to the sun"; Jose Sudon, chief (*wot*), whose name was taken from "*sudor*", meaning "to sweat," alluding to his custom of taking sweat-baths; Jose Venadero, whose surname means "a place frequented by deer and other animals", because he knew where to look for animals; Juan Justo, a *wot*, whose surname means "just and pious"; Louis Cantor, an '*antap*' singer, whose name means "singer", just as a Jewish cantor is a singer; Narciso, an '*antap*' bard ("poet's Narcissus"); Arabio, an '*antap*' dancer ("to be incomprehensible"); Iluminado, an '*antap*' astronomer ("enlightened"); Mileton, an '*antap*' bard-astronomer ("ridiculous tales for pastime"); and Pomposa, a *wot* ("pompous, magnificent").

Is this so different than central European naming practices from the Middle Ages: Miller, Mason, Carpenter, Singer, Smith, Cooper, Hunter, Farmer, Dichter (poet), Goodman, Armstrong, Freeman, Altschuler (old scholar) or Kuhn (bold)?



## SESPE - BEAR CREEK BACKPACK

We had a very enjoyable 3-day backpack trip in the Sespe Wild & Scenic River Area in the Los Padres National Forest on May 16-18. The 17 backpackers who participated were: Arlene Altshuler, Phil Ankrom, Bob Altieri, Caroline Carroll, Bill Cespedes, Ursula Christie, Gary Cremeans Martin DeGoey, Jodene Downey, Mike Kuhn, Margarita Marsh, Louise Pomes, John Sabol, Doug Temple and Carol Tucker. Dave Kuhn and his friend Beyla hiked in separately and joined us later Friday evening.

We met at 7:00 AM Friday and our 4 vehicles headed up to Ojai. We stopped at McDonalds, took a short break and then met at the Ojai Ranger Station to join up with Doug Temple and sign for our fire permit.

After a winding drive up Route 33 to Rose Valley, we parked just before a locked gate near the Middle Lion Campground turnoff (Lion's Camp and Piedra Blanca Campgrounds are closed to camping). We all got our gear together and, instead of following the paved road to Lion's Camp as we had in the past, we took a new trail. The new trail, while

shorter, was steep and somewhat rocky and you had to watch your step. We had been warned, earlier in the week, that the first stream crossing at Lion's Camp would be knee to waist deep, so everyone had river sandals and I brought along 100 feet of polypropylene rope. It turned out the crossing was only to mid-thigh and the rope was not needed.

After the stream crossing, we headed out for a 3.5-mile pack into camp. The morning was clear and warm as we made our way towards our Bear Creek Campground. Everything was green and wildflowers were everywhere.

There were no other campers in Bear Creek Campground when we arrived so we had our pick of campsites. Everyone pitched tents and set up camp. We then filtered water, collected firewood for the evening fire, swam in the Sespe and just sat around enjoying the scenery.

Later everyone fixed dinner. After dinner we cleaned up, hung our food in trees and as the temperature cooled we sat around the campfire and talked. Even though we had nets over our faces, the

Even now a week later, my bites are itching like crazy. (I've got to start using repellent). We turned in for the evening, as we planned an early start to a day hike on Saturday.

Saturday morning, everyone was up early and had the stoves heating water for cereal and coffee. The morning was overcast and after breakfast nine of us packed our gear for a 10-mile round trip hike downstream to Willett Hot Springs. It was an adventure! We made five stream crossings to get there, two of which were a little dicey. One person slipped and fell but soon dried off. We were fortunate to have light cloud-cover until mid afternoon, which kept things cool. Again wildflowers were in profusion. On a plateau, midway through the hike, we came across a huge field of Butterfly Mariposa Lilies - a really spectacular sight.

After visiting the hot spring, we ate lunch and headed back to camp. On the way back we saw numerous Horned Toads (which are actually Spiny Lizards) and one rattlesnake. There was some Poison Oak but it was easily avoided. For some reason, the 5 crossings didn't seem as difficult on the way back. The cool water felt great, as it was much hotter on the return trip.

Back in camp, after a long day of hiking we rejoined the rest of the group. They had gone upstream during the day, where they found another swimming hole with a chute through some rapids and spent part of the day swimming. Again we ate and enjoyed visiting around the campfire.

Sunday morning, we ate, took down tents, packed gear and prepared to leave. We left in groups of 2 and 3 and made our way up the trail and out of the canyon. The group reassembled at the cars and headed back to Ojai. Everyone had a great time. You should have been with us!!!

John Sabol



*The Bear Creek "Group", left to right: Martin DeGoey, Mike Kuhn, Bill Cespedes, Bob Altieri, Doug Temple, Margarita Marsh, Caroline Carroll, Ursula Christie, Arlene Altshuler, Carol Tucker, and Jodene Downey.*

## HOT PEPPERS

The American Indian contributed many important domesticated crops to the world food supply, many of which we cannot imagine life without. Potatoes (Life without French fries?), corn (Life without popcorn?), tomatoes, vanilla, chocolate, coffee, and hot peppers - to name a few. Here, I would like to discuss hot peppers and how and why their "spicy" character came about..

Hot peppers are members of the nightshade family and of the genus *Capsicum*. They are an important food spice and a vegetable throughout the world. The cuisines of dozens of nations are dominated by the use of hot peppers. Yet, the very basis for its survival as a species is that most mammals won't eat peppers. People are a little strange that way.

Peppers have evolved with very fragile seeds (unlike tomatoes, for example, also a nightshade, but able to survive being processed through all of those stomachs and the guts of cows), which still need to be eaten by animals in order to successfully spread and reproduce. The pass-through time in the digestive tracks of most mammals is about eight hours, during which time the seeds of hot peppers are partially digested and otherwise pretty beaten up. Relatively few of the pepper seeds that go through the digestive tracks of mammals can germinate.

However, the pass-through time for small birds is about one hour – not enough time to destroy the seeds. Now it just happens that birds have no sense of taste, so the "hot/spicy" effect that mammals experience is not experienced by birds. Mammals leave the hundreds of species of hot peppers alone, while birds feast away. The birds, it seems, then roost in bushes and poop, which birds do frequently. The seeds then are deposited in the duff under those plants in the shade in a nutrient-rich environment - yes more hot pepper plants. Humans then are able to enjoy their spicy foods thank to this adaptive strategy. In effect, peppers that were more likely to survive in the presence of mammals, had a selective advantage.

Mike



Kuhn



Cooling off in Bear Creek swimming hole, left to right: Jodene Downey, Ursula Christie, Margarita Marsh, Martin DeGoey, Bob Altieri, and John Sabol.

## THE WYE TRACK

Did you ever wonder why there seems to be so much extra right-of-way just north of the railroad east of Tapo Canyon Road? In *Simi Valley: A Journey Through Time*, Ken Garges points out how the trains that entered Simi Valley before the Chatsworth Tunnel was completed in 1904 got turned around for the return trip to Oxnard. A "wye" track was constructed just north of the present day intersection of Los Angeles Avenue and Tapo Canyon Road. The "wye" track was just that - an inverted "Y" arrangement that was needed between 1900 and 1904.

The Southern Pacific Railroad arrived in Simi Valley in 1900. The only train service was from the west. A train that had just come up from Oxnard would stop at the Santa Susana Station, and then back up into the sweeping north-bound curving track, using a switch of course, until it was north of another switch. After that switch was thrown, the train would then pull forward through the switch into a sweeping curve to the west through another switch with the main line. Now the train was turned around for the return trip to Oxnard.

Once the tunnel under Santa Susana Pass was completed in 1904 the wye track was no longer needed. The track was extended to the north to the Tapo

Citrus Packing Plant, which was located slightly east and south of the City building that is located east of the Department of Motor Vehicles building and south of the County Court House on the Civic Center. That "drill track" crossed Tapo Canyon Road and made a sweeping curve to the west where it terminated at the Tapo Citrus Packing Plant. Once the packing plant had closed down, the track was abandoned and eventual removed. The "Wright Tract" (located north of the railroad between Winifred and Tapo Canyon Road) was built before the track was abandoned, so the southwestern corner of the subdivision reflects the curve of the tracts. The subdivision on the west side was built years after the track was abandoned, so the western side of the right of way was incorporated into that subdivision.

The City or County acquired the railroad right-of-way north of the main line since it would eventually be needed for the southern extension of Tapo Canyon Road. In those days the General Plan called for the eventual extension of Tapo Canyon Road south to the 101 and north to State Route 126. While Tapo Canyon Road has now been built between Cochran Street and Los Angeles Avenue, the plans for an interregional connection had been dropped.

The sweeping curve of the eastern portion of the wye track is still reflected in the development pattern of area. Historic inertia leaves patterns on the land.



# June

2003



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> <b>Rocky Peak</b> <b>5pm hike</b> <b>See Schedule</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> <b>Chumash Trail</b> <b>6pm hike</b> <b>See Schedule</b> <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Robert Knapp</i>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> <b>Nat'l Trails Day</b> <b>Lwr Stagecoach</b> <b>Trail Wk Party</b> <b>See Schedule</b>
<b>8</b> <b>Rocky Peak</b> <b>5pm hike</b> <b>See Schedule</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> <b>Chumash Trail</b> <b>6pm hike</b> <b>See Schedule</b>	<b>13</b> <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Carol Tucker</i>	<b>14</b> <b>Marr Ranch</b> <b>See Schedule</b>
<b>15</b> <b>Rocky Peak</b> <b>5pm hike</b> <b>See Schedule</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> <b>RSTB Meeting</b> <b>See Page 1</b> <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Maria Henriquez</i> <i>Belinda Cespedes</i>	<b>19</b> <b>Chumash Trail</b> <b>6pm hike</b> <b>See Schedule</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> <b>Latigo Cyn</b> <b>See Schedule</b> <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Phil Ankrom</i>
<b>22</b> <b>Rocky Peak</b> <b>5pm hike</b> <b>See Schedule</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> <b>Chumash Trail</b> <b>6pm hike</b> <b>See Schedule</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> <b>Upper Zuma</b> <b>See Schedule</b>
<b>29</b> <b>Rocky Peak</b> <b>5pm hike</b> <b>See Schedule</b> <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Al Bandel</i>	<b>30</b>					



# *Rancho Simi Trail Blazers*

## *Hiking Schedule*



- June 1 Sunday Evening Hike**  
Meet 5pm at Rocky Peak trailhead at the end of Rocky Peak Rd off Santa Susana Pass. (Strenuous, 5 MRT)
- June 5 Thursday Evening Hike**  
Meet at 6pm at Chumash trailhead. Directions - take 118 Fwy to Yosemite exit. Go north on Yosemite, turn right on Flana-
- June 7 Nat'l Trails Day - Lower Stagecoach Trail Work Party**  
Directions: Take Kuehner south, turn left onto Smith Rd, and follow it to the end of the street. Parking lot is on the left. Meet in Corriganville parking lot at 7am. We will be working from 7am - 11am. Tools will be provided. Bring 2 - 3 quarts
- June 8 Sunday Evening Hike**  
Meet 5pm at Rocky Peak trailhead at the end of Rocky Peak Rd off Santa Susana Pass. (Strenuous, 5 MRT)
- June 12 Thursday Evening Hike**  
Meet at 6pm at Chumash trailhead. Directions - take 118 Fwy to Yosemite exit. Go north on Yosemite, turn right on Flana-
- June 14 Marr Ranch Exploratory Hike**  
There's a brand new trail opening in Simi Valley! Come check it out! We'll be meeting at **10am**, at the north end of the North Ridge Trail. Directions: Go north on Yosemite until you reach Evening Sky Drive. Turn right on Evening Sky Drive. Park just after Rising Star Avenue, and walk east to the North Ridge Trailhead. Bring 2 qts of water, hat, and bug juice.
- June 15 Sunday Evening Hike**  
Meet 5pm at Rocky Peak trailhead at the end of Rocky Peak Rd off Santa Susana Pass. (Strenuous, 5 MRT)
- June 19 Thursday Evening Hike**  
Meet at 6pm at Chumash trailhead. Directions - take 118 Fwy to Yosemite exit. Go north on Yosemite, turn right on Flana-
- June 21 Latigo Canyon to Castro Peak**  
Strenuous 7 MRT hike with beautiful scenery. This hike is not within the jurisdiction of the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park district. Bring snack and 2 - 3 qts of water, bug juice. Wear boots. Meet 7am near Donut Delite at the corner of Madera
- June 22 Sunday Evening Hike**  
Meet 5pm at Rocky Peak trailhead at the end of Rocky Peak Rd off Santa Susana Pass. (Strenuous, 5 MRT)
- June 26 Thursday Evening Hike**  
Meet at 6pm at Chumash trailhead. Directions - take 118 Fwy to Yosemite exit. Go north on Yosemite, turn right on Flana-
- June 28 Upper Zuma Canyon**  
Moderate 5 MRT hike down into Upper Zuma Canyon. This hike is not within the jurisdiction of the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park district. Meet 7am near Donut Delite at the corner of Madera and Royal. Bring 2 - 3 qts. water and snack.
- June 29 Sunday Evening Hike**  
Meet 5pm at Rocky Peak trailhead at the end of Rocky Peak Rd off Santa Susana Pass. (Strenuous, 5 MRT)

**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. Hikes will be cancelled if it rains.

**RANCHO SIMI TRAIL BLAZERS**

EXECUTIVE CHAIR:	MIKE KUHN	HM (805) 583-2345, WK (805)583-6776
TREASURER:	PETER ELY	HM (805) 523-1409
SECRETARY:	STEFANI HOWARD	HM (818) 885-0407
PARK DISTRICT LIAISON:	COLLEEN JANSSEN	WK (805) 584-4453
WORK PARTIES CHAIR:	JOHN SABOL	HM (805) 583-2541
WORK PARTIES VICE CHAIR:	BOB ALTIERI	HM (805) 526-6749
HIKING CHAIR:	ARLENE ALTSHULER	HM (805) 581-9735
WAYS & MEANS CHAIR:	MARTY RICHARDS	HM (805) 526-4414
WAYS & MEANS VICE CHAIR:	CONNIE ANKROM	HM (805) 526-2747
COMMUNICATION / PUB.CHAIR:	ARLENE ALTSHULER	HM (805) 581-9735

-----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 630399, Simi Valley, Ca 93063-0399

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



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