



Rancho Simi Trail Blazers

A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation



JUNE WORK PARTY NATIONAL TRAILS DAY

The next work party will be held **Saturday June 5** in conjunction with National Trails Day. We will meet at the east end of the parking lot of Corriganville Park at **7:00 AM** and work to **12:00 Noon**. As always, you are welcome to work for a shorter time period if you desire.

We will continue work on the Lower Stagecoach Trail out of Corriganville. Lopping and trail clearing will be done above the burn area. If time permits, some follow-up Arundo removal and oak tree watering will be done. Hope to see you there.

John Sabol



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.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA NATIONAL FORESTS LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN

Forest plan revisions for the four Southern California National Forests, Los Padres, Angeles, Cleveland and San Bernardino are in their 90 day public comment period.

These land management plans will effect forest wide land use over the next 10 to 15 years.

There are 6 alternative plans proposed. Some of the alternatives are:

- No change
- Strong protection of all forest resources
- Increase in recreation opportunities
- Increased motorized access in the backcountry with emphasis on expanding forest resource development.

You have an opportunity to comment and make your preferences known. The plans can be reviewed and comments made at www.fs.fed.us/r5/scfpr. The last day comments will be accepted is Wednesday, August 11, 2004.

John Sabol



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

Wednesday June 16, 2004



WHY SNAKES DEVELOPED RATTLES

Rattlesnakes belong to the family Viperidae, or vipers, the most advanced family of reptiles in the world.

On the high plains of North America, at the dawn of the Pliocene epoch between 4 and 12 million years ago, rattlesnakes differentiated from their more generally adapted viperid ancestors by developing rattles.

The reason for this development was that during the early stages of rattlesnake evolution, the interior grasslands were crowded with vast herds of ancient horses, camels, and pronghorn antelope that moved together in animal rivers across the prairie. At this time most vipers and many species of nonpoisonous snakes vibrated the tips of their tails to produce a rattle against dry leaves to avoid being stepped on. Rattlesnakes, which evolved in this sea of cloven hooves, improved this protective technique by developing resonators on the ends of their tails to amplify this vibratory noise.

John Sabol

**THE PRIVATEER
ANDRE-PAUL “HIPOLITO” DE BOUCHARD**

During the days of sailing ships it was common for monarchs to license pirates to prey on ships and the people of other nations. Naturally, part of the bargain was that part of their ill-gotten gain would go to the sponsoring monarch and country. It was typical that such pirates also had other investors. Sponsorship by a monarch or country was rather like raising a private navy to strengthen the position of the sponsoring monarch and nation. The license, or its equivalent, provided a degree of legitimacy to the undertaking. It also meant that predation would be limited by the license, so the pirate could put in at ports of other nations without fear of being unwelcome. Reprovisioning was an absolute necessity during the tall ship era.

Perhaps the most famous of the privateers was Francis Drake. He managed to capture the annual Spanish treasure ship from Peru, circumnavigate the world and make himself, his crew, the Queen of England and his investors rich. Indeed, the value of his treasure rivaled the gross national product of England for the year he returned, rendered him famous – to this day – earned him a knighthood, and made him everyone’s, at least in England, favorite mariner.

Andre-Paul “Hipolito” de Bouchard, a Frenchman, who threw in with the Argentina, set out during the second decade of the 19th Century to plunder Spanish shipping and possessions. To do this, he had two ships, his flagship the Argentina and the Santa Rosa, and 350 cutthroats. By the time he got to the Sandwich Islands, i.e., Hawaii, he had already captured 26 Spanish ships.

In Hawaii, he plotted to raid Monterey, the colonial capital of California. However, a spy informed the California authorities, who made plans to defend these shores. The Californios raised a force of 200, 150 of which were Indian bowmen. The force was divided between Monterey and Santa Barbara. Needless to say, the Spanish residents of California panicked. People fled inland. From San Buenaventura, some took up residence in Simi. People buried their valuables and lookouts took up residence along the coastline of the thinly populated colony.

Flying the Argentine flag, Bouchard set sail for California, arriving in Monterey during a moonless night in November 1818. At first light, the Santa Rosa opened fire, but was badly damaged by shore batteries. The Santa Rosa’s crew swam to the Argentina under cover of night, leaving the injured aboard the Santa Rosa. Bouchard sent a letter to the governor demanding a surrender. The governor rejected his demand and the Argentina subsequently opened fire with its 40 guns and sent 300 pirates to invade the city. The Spanish were outnumbered and outgunned. They fled the City, leaving only inmates of the jail behind. Bouchard’s men captured one of those prisoners – the town drunk. They sacked the city, burning many buildings. No treasure was found, except for a fine cache of wine and brandy, of which Bouchard’s men made good use. The Santa Rosa was repaired and both ships sailed south to Rugio along the Santa Barbara coast. A large group of horsemen met the

pirates and captured three of them. Bouchard sacked Rancho del Refugio, burning its buildings, cutting down fruit trees and cutting the throats of the horses they could find.

Bouchard sailed on to Santa Barbara. There, during a heavy rain, the 30-man garrison of the presidio marched around and around a small knoll near the beach, changing clothes each time they disappeared behind the knoll. Bouchard formed the opinion that the garrison was at least 300 men strong. He called a truce and exchanged his one prisoner – the Monterey town drunk – for the three pirates. He then sailed south, stopping briefly to march inland to sack Mission San Juan Capistrano. So much for respect for the church. California had seen the last of Hipolito de Bouchard.

Of some note, two pirates jumped ship near Santa Barbara. One was Joe Fisher, the first black American in California. He gained some respect and the friendship of at least one powerful Californio. The other was Joseph Chapman, a native of Boston, may have been shanghaied by Bouchard in Hawaii. Chapman became a respected engineer and builder, was pardoned by the King of Spain, and eventually married the daughter of Don Jose Maria Ortega, the owner of Rancho del Refugio, which Chapman had helped sack.

Mike Kuhn

ORIGINAL AD FOR SIMI VALLEY REAL ESTATE

Our lives are awash with real estate ads. Some are for single family detached homes; some are for residential tract homes; and others are for those “20.13 acres available – will build to suit”. All real estate ads describe the merits of the offered property in the most glowing terms. I can just imagine what the Philistines said to their followers to get them to pick up their possessions and families and sail off to Canaan during the Twelfth Century B.C. The Romans must have said the same things - and so on.

What follows is that first ad for land in the Simi. The date seems to be 1886.

Simi Rancho
96,000 – Acres – 96,000
OF THE
Finest Land
In
SOUTHERN
CALIFORNIA
SITUATED IN
SAN BUENAVENTURA CO.

Choice Lands from \$10 to \$100 per Acre. Closest Investigation is solicited. Parties seeking Investments in California, or those seeking for Homes or Health, should call on or (sic) address

SIMI
LAND AND WATER
COMPANY
19 West First Street,
LOS ANGELES, CAL.

R.W. Poindexter, Secretary

MOUNT PINOS - SHEEP CAMP BACKPACK

The Trail Blazers held an overnight backpack trip in the Las Padres National Forest on May 22-23. The seven backpackers who participated were Phil Ankrom, Ursula Christie, Martin DeGoey, Jodene Downey, Margarita Marsh, Louise Pomes and John Sabol. Two regulars missed the backpack - Arlene Altshuler because of a broken ankle and Mike Kuhn due to an intestinal flu.

We met at 7:00 AM Saturday and headed up I-5 to Frazier Park in two vehicles. We took a short break at the Frazier Park Jack-in-the-Box and headed up to Mount Pinos. After a winding drive up, we reached the large paved parking lot at the top.

We all got our gear together and headed out for the 5-mile pack into camp. The morning was clear and cool as we made our way up the road to the 8831 foot peak and then down switchbacks towards Sawmill Mountain. On the way in we met Mike Kuhn's son Dave and 4 members of his group. Then some steep climbing until the 4 1/2 mile point where we dropped down into the Sheep Camp Campground.

All three campground areas were empty, so our group took the first campground. Dave's group followed a short time later and settled into the second campground. Everyone setup their tents and then sat around eating a light lunch and enjoying the scenery.

About this time, down the trail came 25 Boy Scouts and 4 - 6 leaders. There wasn't enough room for all of them in the remaining campsites so we shared our site with some of the older scouts and two of their leaders. The rest spread out in the remaining two campsites.

After lunch we relaxed, filtered water and gathered firewood. We relaxed and some took a nap. Soon it was time for dinner. The wind picked up and the temperature dropped. I was glad I had brought a down jacket. By about 8:00PM most of us had turned in to our sleeping bags. The last people awake carefully doused the campfire.

The wind howled most of the night but as a result the temperature didn't drop as much as it could have. In the morning, several early risers got the fire going and soon everyone was up and had the stoves heating water for cereal and coffee.

The morning was beautiful and after a leisurely breakfast we took down tents, packed gear and prepared to leave. Again the campfire was doused and the camp was policed. We packed out all our trash and some left by previous campers.

At this point we split into two groups. Three of us hiked out the way we had come in and the remaining four headed down trail for a 7 mile hike ending in the Three Falls Boy Scout Camp. Our two drivers then drove down the mountain and picked up the four downhill hikers.

We again stopped at the Jack-in-the-Box in Frazier Park for a well-deserved lunch, and then headed back to Simi Valley. A good time was had by all.

John Sabol



From left to right, back to front:
Margarita Marsh, Louise Pomes, Ursula Christie, Martin DeGoey,
Jodene Downey, John Sabol, and Phil Ankrom.

CHUMASH BELIEFS AND THEIR EVERYDAY WORLD

From Hudson and Blackburn, *The Material Culture of the Chumash Interaction Sphere* (1982), page 26:

“...every item made or used by the Chumash was more than just an inanimate, physical object – it usually had a supernatural dimension as well. We do not know whether a spirit was felt to be present within a lump of raw material or was imparted to it by the artisan who selected and shaped it, or both, but it is evident in many comments in Harrington's notes that material objects were conceived of as having supernatural powers in their own rights.”

Mike Kuhn



Bachelor Buttons
(*Centaurea cyanus*)
Found on the Chumash Trail.





RSTB Calendar

June 2004



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3 Chumash Trail 6pm hike See Schedule	4	5 Lower Stage Coach Trail Work Party See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday Robert Knapp</i>
6 Rocky Peak 5pm hike See Schedule	7	8	9 <i>Happy Birthday Kurt Dahlgren</i>	10 Chumash Trail 6pm hike See Schedule	11	12 Eagle Spring Loop See Schedule
13 Rocky Peak 5pm hike See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday Carol Tucker</i>	14	15	16 RSTB Meeting See Page 1	17 Chumash Trail 6pm hike See Schedule	18 <i>Happy Birthday Maria Henriquez</i>	19 Long Canyon to Simi Peak See Schedule
20 Rocky Peak 5pm hike See Schedule	21 <i>Happy Birthday Phil Ankrom</i>	22	23	24 Chumash Trail 6pm hike See Schedule	25	26 Newton Canyon See Schedule
27 Rocky Peak 5pm hike See Schedule	28	29	30			



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Hiking Schedule



- June 3 Thursday Evening Hike**
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, 5 MRT)
- June 5 Lower Stage Coach Trail – Work Party**
We will be working on the Lower Stagecoach Trail out of Corriganville for National Trails Day. Lopping and trail clearing will be done above the burn area. Directions – take 118 Fwy to Keuhner. Go south on Keuhner, to Smith Rd. Turn left onto Smith Road. The parking lot is at the end of the road. Meet at the east end of the parking lot. We'll be working from 7:00am to Noon. Tools will be provided. Wear Boots. Bring 2 - 3 quarts of water, hat, sunscreen, and gloves to work on the trail.
- June 6 Sunday Evening Hike**
Meet 5pm at Rocky Peak trailhead at the end of Rocky Peak Rd off Santa Susana Pass. (Strenuous, 5 MRT)
- June 10 Thursday Evening Hike**
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, 5 MRT)
- June 12 Eagle Spring Loop**
Strenuous 7 1/2 MRT hike with 800' elevation gain/loss. We'll be hiking from Trippet Ranch, up to Eagle Rock, down to Eagle Spring, returning to Trippet Ranch via the Musch Ranch Trail. This hike is not within the jurisdiction of the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District. Meet 8am near Donut Delite at the corner of Madera and Royal. Bring 2 - 3 qts. of water and lunch, wear boots.
- June 13 Sunday Evening Hike**
Meet 5pm at Rocky Peak trailhead at the end of Rocky Peak Rd off Santa Susana Pass. (Strenuous, 5 MRT)
- June 17 Thursday Evening Hike**
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, 5 MRT)
- June 19 Long Canyon to Simi Peak**
Strenuous 9 MRT with 1300' elevation gain/loss. Directions: take 118 Fwy to First Street exit. Take First Street south (it becomes Long Canyon Rd) approx. 4 miles, until it intersects Wood Ranch Pkwy. Meet at 8:30am at the intersection of Long Canyon Rd and Wood Ranch Pkwy. Bring 2 - 3 quarts of water and lunch. Wear boots.
- June 20 Sunday Evening Hike**
Meet 5pm at Rocky Peak trailhead at the end of Rocky Peak Rd off Santa Susana Pass. (Strenuous, 5 MRT)
- June 24 Thursday Evening Hike**
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, 5 MRT)
- June 26 Newton Canyon**
Moderate 5 MRT hike with approx. 1200' elevation loss/gain. 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 8am near Donut Delite at the corner of Madera and Royal.
- June 27 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

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	
Secretary:	David Wagner	HM (805) 577-5931	centmfgdavid@sbcglobal.net
Park District Liaison:	Colleen Janssen	WK (805) 584-4453	volunteers@rsrpd.us
Work Parties Chair:			
Hiking Chair & Website:	Arlene Altshuler	HM (805) 581-9735	arlene.altshuler@mindbox.com
Vice Hiking Chair:	John Sabol	HM (805) 583-2541	jtsabol@juno.com
Ways & Means Chair:	Marty Richards	HM (805) 526-4414	
Publicity Chair:	Ursula Christie	HM (805) 527-5338	ursulachristie@yahoo.com
Newsletter Editor:	Arlene Altshuler	HM (805) 581-9735	arlene.altshuler@mindbox.com

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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

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



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