



Rancho Simi Trail Blazers

A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation



JUNE 4TH - NATIONAL TRAIL DAY LOWER STAGECOACH TRAIL WORK PARTY

National Trail Day is coming up quickly. This year, we will be working on the Lower Stagecoach Trail.

Directions: Take Kuehner Dr. 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 8 AM. We will be working until noon. Tools will be provided. Bring 2 - 3 quarts of water, hat, sunscreen, and gloves to work on the trail.



Tuesday evening Long Canyon Hiking group

SUGAR BUSH

Sugar Bush (*Rhus ovata*) is a member of the Sumac Family and is closely related to Lemonade Berry and Laurel Sumac. (Poison Oak is also in the Sumac Family.) It is an evergreen shrub with glossy, green leaves, which are folded along the midrib and pointed at the tip. Many, but not all, of the leaves are serrated along the margins. The leaves are somewhat more leathery and a lighter green than those of Laurel Sumac. Sugar Bush readily hybridizes with Lemonade Berry. Sugar bush is common on dry slopes in the Coastal Sage Scrub and in the Chaparral.

Mike Kuhn



Welcome!

**Florence Reichert
Fred Tonsing
John Atwood
Steve Geldman**

For more information on upcoming hikes and events, check out

<http://www.simitrailblazers.com>

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.

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
June 15, 2005

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 8th - 11th

Cottonwood Lakes Backpack

10 MRT - Moderate (1000' elevation gain) This is one of the most beautiful backpack trips in the Southeastern Sierra. The trailhead is 10,040'. We'll hike in five miles and set up our base camp. From base camp, there are several places to day hike. Campfires are not allowed on this trip. Wilderness Permit spaces are limited, so call or email Mark Gilmore to reserve your place. \$5 per person must be received no later than June 24th.

August 6th & 7th

Mt. San Antonio Ski Hut

6 MRT - Strenuous overnighter. (2,200' elevation gain) It doesn't get much better than this! The hut is at the base of Mt. San Antonio (Mt. Baldy) at 8,200'. We'll spend the night in the hut. All you need to bring is food and your sleeping bag. We can cook our food on the hut's wood burning stove. The cost is \$10 for Sierra Club members, and \$15 for non-members. Space is limited, so call or email Mark Gilmore to reserve your place.

August 25th - 28th

Dinky Lakes Backpack

6 MRT - Moderate (924' elevation gain) This backpack has some of the most beautiful lakes and meadows in the whole Southwestern Sierra. The trailhead is at 8,590'. We'll set up our base camp at First Dinky Lake (9,514'). From base camp, there are several picturesque lakes and peaks to day hike. Wilderness Permit spaces are limited, so call or email Mark Gilmore to reserve your place. \$5 per person must be received no later than August 12th.

SESPE - BEAR CREEK BACKPACK

Ten backpackers had an enjoyable 3-day backpack trip in the Sespe Wild & Scenic River Area in the Las Padres National Forest on May 20-22. The 10 who participated were: Arlene Altshuler, Phil Ankrom, Caroline Carroll, Caroline's son Nick and daughter Emily and two of their friends, Bill Cespedes, Gary Cremeans, and John Sabol. We met Friday morning and headed up the 118 to the 101 and then off on the 33 to Ojai where we stopped at the Ojai Ranger Station to 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 is closed to camping). We then took the new trail down into Lion's Camp. Two thirds of the way down the trail, there is a new, two unit restroom building and a picnic table.

Lion's Camp has changed since we were there 2 years ago. All of the campground restrooms, barbecue pits and campsites are gone. Everything has been removed. Also plastic fencing has been put up along the trail in some areas to keep people on the trail.

We made several stream crossings after Lion's Camp and river sandals were needed on some of them. After the stream crossings, 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 just a few other campers in Bear Creek Campground when we arrived so there was plenty of room for campsites. Everyone pitched tents and set up camp. We then filtered water, swam in the Sespe and just sat around enjoying the scenery until it was time to go to sleep.

Unfortunately not everyone slept well. There were two or three bullfrogs who kept up a chorus all night. These are North American Bullfrogs. In the past, they were only found east of the Rocky Mountains but were introduced into California. This was my first time hearing one bellow (not croak but bellow). I thought someone had released an alligator into the Sespe. It is unbelievable that a creature 8 inches in diameter can make that much noise. Mosquitoes and sand fleas were also a problem.



Saturday morning, everyone was up early and had the stoves heating water for cereal and coffee. The morning was warming up fast and after breakfast 8 of us packed our gear for a 12-mile round trip hike downstream to Willett Hot Springs. We only had to make 3 stream crossings to get there, thanks to a trail crew who had done an outstanding job cutting a new trail on the south side of the Sespe. This new section eliminated two river crossings which involved a lot of boulder hopping and crossings that were a little dicey. Again wildflowers were in profusion. We also saw Horned Toads (which are actually Spiny Lizards) and numerous, fence and alligator lizards. There was some Poison Oak but it was easily avoided.



After visiting the hot spring, we ate lunch and headed back to camp. Unfortunately on the way back the temperature continued to rise. It was a rough trip back in the extreme heat. Most cooled off at the river crossings and we drank a lot of water.



Back in camp, after a long day of hiking we rejoined the rest of the group. They had spent part of the day swimming, reading and napping. Again we ate and enjoyed talking.

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. Again the weather was very hot. We reached the cars and headed back to Ojai. Everyone had a great time. You should have been with us!!!

John Sabol



PRE-PORTOLA SPANISH CONTACTS WITH THE CHUMASH

Our history lessons tell about Spanish contact with the Chumash by the Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo expedition of 1542, the Sebastian Vizcaino voyage of 1602, the Portola expeditions of 1769 and 1770 and the de Anza expedition a few years later. But when you dig deeper into this poorly recorded early period of contact, what emerges is a fuzzy portrait of periodic contact with the Spanish and other Europeans.

Word of these contacts and a collective memory that something strange, exotic and excitingly different lay somewhere out to sea - beyond the horizon - must have been known by every coastal Chumash for a period of 200 years before settlement by the peoples of New Spain occurred. It must have been a time of exciting rumors and speculation. There must have been a sense that something was about to happen. Certainly, the effects of small pox, typhoid fever and venereal diseases must have taken a heavy toll on the indigenous people long before the event of the mission period of settlement.

Prior to colonization, Manila galleons used the Japanese and the California currents as the quickest route to Mexico. (They took the "trade wind" route, just north of the Equator, back to Manila.) That route took those vessels through the Santa Barbara Channel. Manila galleons came to Mexico at least every few years. Those ships needed to stop along the coast of California to make repairs, and to take on water and other provisions.

Yet, those contacts had largely gone unreported - I suppose because they were not "voyages of discovery". One petroglyph from Jalama Bay (CA-SBr-609) appears to show a three-masted ship with ratlines. The early vessels of discovery up the coast from New Spain were undecked and two masted. So, the petroglyph probably represents a Manila galleon.

Francis Drake, the English pirate, wintered over in California in 1578-79, presumably, according to his recorded latitude, in Drake's Bay. The discovery in the Goleta Slough of three cannon and one anchor, which fit the description of items left behind by Drake, suggests that he may have had a stay of many months in Chumash territory.

The first recorded stop by a Manila galleon occurred in 1587, when a ship commanded by Pedro de Unamuno stopped in Morro Bay. He had a violent encounter with the Indians. Another contact occurred in 1595 when Sebastian Rodriguez Cermeno stopped in San Luis Obispo Bay. Indeed, the 1602 Vizcaino voyage had as its objective the mapping of ports

along the Alta California coast suitable as respites for Manila galleons.

Hints of other ships are recorded. One shipwreck, believed to be a Manila galleon, is recorded off the northwest coast of San Miguel Island. Another shipwreck occurred off the north coast of Santa Catalina Island, just outside of Chumash territory. The Spanish attempted salvage of the vessel's cargo in 1601 and 1603. The Indians told Vizcaino about a shipwreck, perhaps the same one, during his visit of 1602. The salvage attempts imply that at least part of the crew managed to sail a small boat to Baja California. Finally, an old sailor told a Bancroft historian that in 1872 he opened a Spanish grave on Santa Cruz Island that was marked by a wooden headboard dated 1660.

Evidence of other galleon wrecks are recorded elsewhere along the California/Oregon coast. Bits and pieces of Chinese blue wear continue to wash up on the beach at Drakes Bay north of San Francisco.

All of this is evidence of a silent history of frequent contacts with the Indians of California and the Chumash prior to Spanish settlement. It was the beginning of worlds in collision - a collective event that the Chumash would not survive.

Mike Kuhn



WHY THE CONDOR DIDN'T GO EXTINCT AT END OF THE LAST ICE AGE

The end of the last ice age - 10,000-11,000 years ago - witnessed the extinction of many large herbivores, such as Imperial and Columbian mammoths, the western horse, a cameloid, mastodons, three species of ground sloths, mammalian predators such as the saber-toothed lion, the dire wolf, the short-faced bear, the American lion, and birds of prey including several species of eagles and vultures.

However, for some reason the California condor managed to survive and prosper until the mid-Twentieth Century. As reported in the November 26, 2004 issue of *Science*, pages 1466 and 1467, Kena Fox-Dobbs of U.C.S.B. has postulated that unlike the other large birds of prey, the condor also feed on beached sea mammals, such as seals. The abundance of sea mammals was little affected by the end of the last ice age. This broader diet enabled the California condor to flourish while much of its dietary menu slipped into extinction in the American West.

Mike Kuhn



RSTB Calendar

June 2005



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 Chumash Trail 6pm hike See Schedule	3	4 Lower Stage Coach Trail Work Party See Schedule <i>Happy birthday Alan Trzcinko</i>
5 Rocky Peak 5pm hike See Schedule <i>Happy birthday Robert Knapp</i>	6	7 Long Canyon 6:30pm hike See Schedule	8	9 Chumash Trail 6pm hike See Schedule <i>Happy birthday Kurt Dahlgren</i>	10	11 Strawberry Meadows See Schedule
12 Rocky Peak 5pm hike See Schedule	13 <i>Happy birthday Carol Tucker</i>	14 Long Canyon 6:30pm hike See Schedule <i>Happy birthday Fred Tonsing</i>	15 RSTB Meeting See Page 1	16 Chumash Trail 6pm hike See Schedule	17	18 Santa Cruz Island See Schedule
19 Rocky Peak 5pm hike See Schedule	20	21 Long Canyon 6:30pm hike See Schedule <i>Happy birthday Phil Ankrom</i>	22	23 Chumash Trail 6pm hike See Schedule	24	25 Lily Meadows See Schedule
26 Rocky Peak 5pm hike See Schedule	27	28 Long Canyon 6:30pm hike See Schedule	29	30 Chumash Trail 6pm hike See Schedule		



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Hiking Schedule



REGULARLY SCHEDULED HIKES

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)

JUNE HIKES

June 4th - National Trail Day - Lower Stagecoach Trail Work Party

Directions: Take Kuehner Dr. 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 8 AM. We will be working until noon. Tools will be provided. Bring 2 - 3 quarts of water, hat, sunscreen, and gloves to work on the trail.

June 11th - Strawberry Meadows

6.4 MRT - Moderate (approx 1300' elevation gain) The trail begins along Big Tujunga Canyon creek and ascends up into a dense pine forest with breathtaking views of the San Gabriel high country to the north, before heading southeast towards the highlight of the trip at Strawberry Potrero. Here we can rest while enjoying the view of Strawberry Peak's sheer north face and giant talus field. This hike is not within the jurisdiction of the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District. Meet at 7 AM, near Donut Delite on the corner of Madera and Royal. Bring 2 - 3 qts. of water and lunch. Wear sturdy boots.

June 18th - Santa Cruz Island - Scorpion Anchorage to Smuggler's Cove

9 MRT - Moderate **Reservations for this trip are now closed.** We will be traveling to Santa Cruz Island aboard an Island Packers boat. A wealth of information about what to expect can be found on their website. This trip is not within the jurisdiction of the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District. We'll meet at the Island Packers dock at 7:30 AM and the boat will be back for us at 4 PM. The boat trip takes about an hour. On the way, we will see dolphin pods and possibly some whales.

June 25th - Camp Three Falls to Lilly Meadows

6 MRT - Moderate (1,075' elevation gain) Beautiful area with a waterfall about half way up. For those looking for a bit of a workout, there is an option of adding some mileage by taking the trail on up to Sheep Camp. This hike is not within the jurisdiction of the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District. Meet at 7 AM, near Donut Delite on the corner of Madera and Royal. Bring 2 - 3 qts. of water and lunch. Wear sturdy boots.

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.

<http://www.simitrailblazers.com>

RANCHO SIMI TRAIL BLAZERS

A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation

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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 _____

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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

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



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