

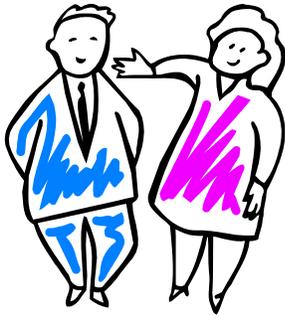


Rancho Simi Trail Blazers

A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation



Welcome New Members!



Marilyn Green
Laurie Deasy

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 as follows:

- 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, 7:00 PM June 17, 2009

National Trails Day



Work Party Lower Stagecoach Trail June 6th, 8:00am to Noon

The Trail Blazers June trail work party will be held Saturday, June 6th in conjunction with National Trail Day. We will continue work on the Lower Stagecoach Trail out of Corriganville. 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.

Are you reading this newsletter on the web? Become a member and receive your copy at the beginning of each month! See page 6 for details.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Please visit the website for details on any of the following hikes and events.

June 6th
Work Party - National Trails Day
Lower Stagecoach Trail

June 13th
Matilija Falls
Moderate - 9 MRT (950' elevation gain)

June 17th
Club Meeting

June 20th
Switzer Falls and Bear Canyon Trail Camp
Moderate - 8.0 MRT (1,000' elevation gain)

June 27th
Big Santa Anita Canyon - Chantry Flat to Sturtevant Falls and Sturtevant's Camp
Moderate - 7.4 MRT (1,700' elevation gain)

More information on these events can be found at

<http://simitrailblazers.com>

For trips that require reservations, please email Mark Gilmore at

markinthepark@sbcglobal.net



THE MANILA TRADE

Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo's voyage of 1542 was a dud as far as the Spanish were concerned. There was no Northwest Passage to be found and Alta California did not produce any cities of gold or silver. Alta California was quickly forgotten. Even Francis Drake's entry into the waters of Alta California did not raise any particular interest per se other than that it became apparent that English privateers could wreak havoc with Spanish shipping. Drake's presence in California waters went unnoticed. However, interest in Alta California was again raised to the forefront due to the emerging Manila trade.

The Spanish had desperately sought a way to tap the rich trade with the orient. However, the Arabs and the Portuguese effectively blocked access to the orient via the Cape of Good Hope. In 1565 Miguel Lopez de Legaspi conquered the Philippine Islands which opened access to oriental markets via New Spain. The trade between the Philippines and the orient was already well established, and for the Spanish it was immediate and immensely profitable. Also in 1565 Andres de Urdaneta established the great circle route that followed the wind and currents north from Manila past Japan and the Aleutian Island to Cape Mendocino to Acapulco on the western coast of New Spain. All sorts of luxury goods from China and other places made their way to New Spain. The silk shawls so prized in 18th and 19th century Alta California were of Chinese manufacture. Spanish galleons returned to Manila using the trade winds just north of the equator.

After the long voyage from Manila to the coast of northern California, the sailors on Spanish galleons suffered horribly from dysentery, scurvy, starvation and thirst. What the Spanish desperately needed was a sheltered harbor with a Spanish

settlement that could restock the galleons. That harbor could also provide a warship escort on the continued voyage to Acapulco. The Spanish galleons were the obsolete battleships of Spain that had been converted to trading vessels. The English privateers were smaller but faster and had longer ranging guns. So the Spanish galleons were easy prey to the English freebooters – as the defeat of the Spanish Armada by the English in 1588 would so soundly demonstrate.

In 1587 Pedro de Unamuno sailed a galleon out of Manila with instructions to locate a suitable harbor along the coast of what later became known as Alta California. He landed at Morro Bay and explored inland a few miles but was driven back to the sea by hostile Indians. Some eight years later, Sebastian Rodriguez Cermeno set sail from Manila in another galleon with the same assignment. He landed at Drake's Bay, north of San Francisco. After being plummeted by a southeast gale for several days, his ship broke up on the beach. He and 70 crew members set sail for Acapulco in an overloaded launch. Against all odds, they made it to port – arriving with the first detail survey of the coast between 41 degrees North Latitude and 30 degrees North Latitude. He managed to miss San Francisco Bay and failed to identify a suitable harbor.

Then in 1602 Sebastian Vizcaino sailed north from New Spain in search of the illusive "good harbor." He was promised command of a galleon if he was successful. Perhaps for this reason, he returned with tales of "...a noble harbor", which he named after viceroy who had authorized the voyage – Conde de Monterey. Vizcaino explored the California coast as far north as Cape Mendocino and left us with most of the Spanish place names we have for coastal prominences. He too missed San Francisco Bay. Viceroy Monterey was succeeded by Viceroy Marques de Montesclaros, who thought little of

Vizcaino and his bay. He pointed out that by the time galleons got as far as Monterey Bay, they enjoyed favorable winds that would carry them quickly south to New Spain. Nonetheless, the merits of the "good harbor" grew with the telling. While Spain's position in Europe weakened, little interest in either Baja or Alta California was evidenced. Still, if needed, the "good harbor" was still in their mind's eye.

The Spanish court was embroiled in war over monarchical succession and then was debilitated by the Seven Years War. For the remainder of the 17th Century, Spain expressed little interest in either Baja or Alta California. Still the Indians were ravaged by one or more European diseases, which were carried overland by person to person contact from New Spain. The population of the most heavily populated coastal southern California may have been reduced by as much as 40 percent. More was yet to come, when during the late-18th Century, the Spanish decided to settle the coastal regions of California in response to the Russian presence in the Pacific Northwest and pressure from the English presence.

Mike Kuhn
12-23-04



May 23rd - Mt. McCoy Trail and the Reagan Library



A baker's dozen worth of hikers showed up for a cool and foggy Memorial Day weekend hike. Spirits were high, on this brief respite from the holiday weekend, so the poor visibility did not put a damper on the morning. It good to have a short, and nearby event, to add spice to our holiday.

May 16th - Malibu Creek State Park

A dozen hikers joined together on a long exploratory hike of the beautiful and diverse Malibu Creek State Park. We did so much exploring that we were not sure how far we went, but we knew we were "hiked-out" by



the time we returned. The hike started at the parking lot and the group headed to the M*A*S*H site via the Cage Creek Trail and Craggs Road.

We were amazed that the flowers were so abundant this year. We saw blankets of lilac and golden Mariposa lilies, golden yarrow, and orange colored monkey flowers. 150 birds have been observed by bird watchers in this area, which explains why we saw and heard so many. After visiting the M*A*S*H site, we went on to the Malibu Lake Dam that had some nice picnic tables, but not much to see. Next, we doubled back and explored the Forest Trail, which was cool and shady with a view of some large ducks on Malibu Creek. It unfortunately had a lot of poison oak, which we had to dodge coming and going. This trail led to Century Lake. Next, we took Craggs Road to the other side of Century Lake and saw a small family of ducks and stopped to rest. Then, it was on to the Visitor's Center, which had information on the area and was air-conditioned. Lastly,



we headed home with one group blazing a trail through Lookout trail and the rest returning via Cage Creek Trail.



Overall, this trail received a lot of praise from the folks hiking. It was really pretty and overall not too warm until the end. It is really a beautiful trail.

May 9th - Sisar Canyon to White Ledge

Ten hikers met at the Simi Valley car pool point on a cool, foggy morning. The drive to the trailhead led through Moorpark, Fillmore, and Santa Paula to Sisar Road, a narrow paved lane leading to a final half-mile of rocky, rutted dirt road [Note: if you decide to drive on the dirt road, a high-clearance, four-wheel-drive vehicle will make the journey easier]. The sky was clear as the hike began on a shaded dirt fire road ascending to the north along the creek in the canyon; the creek provided the pleasant sounds of flowing water as a welcome accompaniment. Eventually the road turn westward and emerged into the sunlight as it headed



ever-upward toward its eventual end at the Nordhoff Ridge Road and we were treated to increasingly panoramic views of the mostly green hillsides of the nearby mountains, including the Topa Topa Ridge. After hiking about 3.5 miles, the trail leading to White Ledge Trail Camp diverged from the fire road. We followed it over a mile to the trail camp which is situated near the creek among towering conifers, admiring various wildflowers along the way.

After a welcome and refreshing respite at the trail camp, we retraced our steps downhill back to our vehicles. Upon reaching Highway 150, we stopped at a convenient store for much-needed libations (the day had warmed up as we hiked!). The hike starting from the end of the pavement was about 10 miles with a total elevation gain of about 2,000'; it was about 9 miles for those who drove up the dirt road to the trailhead.



RSTB Calendar June 2009



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Long Canyon 6:30pm hike See Schedule	3	4 Chumash Trail 6pm hike See Schedule	5	6 Work Party – Lower Stagecoach Trail See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday Becky Stewart</i>
7 Rocky Peak 5pm hike See Schedule	8	9 Long Canyon 6:30pm hike See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday Kurt L Dahlgren</i>	10	11 Chumash Trail 6pm hike See Schedule	12	13 Matilija Falls See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday Carol Tucker</i>
14 Rocky Peak 5pm hike See Schedule	15	16 Long Canyon 6:30pm hike See Schedule	17 RSTB Meeting 7:00 pm See Page 1	18 Chumash Trail 6pm hike See Schedule	19	20 Switzer Falls and Bear Canyon Trail Camp See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday Mike Naheux</i>
21 Rocky Peak 5pm hike See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday Phil Ankrom Ronald Slifka</i>	22 <i>Happy Birthday Monique Zarcone</i>	23 Long Canyon 6:30pm hike See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday Amar Nadig</i>	24	25 Chumash Trail 6pm hike See Schedule	26	27 Big Santa Anita Canyon – Chantry Flat to Sturtevant Falls and Sturtevant’s Camp See Schedule
28 Rocky Peak 5pm hike See Schedule	29	30 Long Canyon 6:30pm hike See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday Paul Stewart</i>				





Rancho Simi Trail Blazers

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Hiking Schedule



REGULARLY SCHEDULED HIKES

(Rain cancels – No hikes on holidays)

Sunday Evening - Rocky Peak

Meet 5 pm 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 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. (Strenuous, 5.2 MRT)

JUNE HIKES AND ACTIVITIES

June 6th Work Party - National Trails Day - Lower Stagecoach Trail

8:00 AM to Noon. The Trail Blazers June trail work party will be held Saturday June 6 in conjunction with National Trail Day. We will continue work on the Lower Stagecoach Trail out of Corriganville. 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.

June 13th Matilija Falls*

Moderate - 9 MRT (950' elevation gain)

Hike up Matilija Creek, passing two waterfalls, turtle ponds and swimming holes. For more information about this hike, please visit the website. Meet at 8 AM near Donut Delite at the corner of Madera and Royal. Bring 2 - 3 quarts of water, a snack and a pair of shoes/sandals that you don't mind getting wet. Wear boots.

June 17th Club Meeting

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

June 20th Switzer Falls and Bear Canyon Trail Camp*

Moderate - 8.0 MRT (1,000' elevation gain)

Take the shady trail from the Switzer Picnic Area, downstream in the Arroyo Seco, then ascend the only sunny stretch of trail to get past a narrow gorge. Visit Switzer Falls, then hike downstream to the Bear Canyon fork and follow Bear Canyon Creek upstream to the Trail Camp. Return the same way. Meet at 8 AM at the 118 & Stearns St. Park & Ride. Bring your camera, water and lunch. Wear boots. More information about this hike is available on the website.

June 27th Big Santa Anita Canyon - Chantry Flat to Sturtevant Falls and Sturtevant's Camp*

Moderate - 7.4 MRT (1,700' elevation gain)

Chantry Flat to Sturtevant Falls, via the Gabrielino Trail, along the creek in the canyon bottom. Ascend through dense forest cover to Sturtevant Camp and then return via the Zion Trail and the Lower Winter Creek Trail. Meet at 7 AM at the 118 & Stearns St. Park & Ride. Bring your camera, water and lunch. Wear boots. For more information about this hike, please visit the website.



Hikes marked with this symbol means no dogs allowed on trail(s).

* Not within the jurisdiction of the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District.

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>

LANCHO SIMI TRAIL BLAZERS

A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation

Executive Chair:	Mike Kuhn	HM (805) 583-2345	hannahmike@roadrunner.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



U.S. Postage

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