



# Rancho Simi Trail Blazers

A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation



## Save the Date! Eastern Sierra Hiking and Camping Trip

This very special event is limited to Trail Blazer members only. This trip is for the entire family. You may join in on the yet to be planned hikes, or simply enjoy the sights. We will be tent camping at the Oh Ridge Campground located in the Eastern Sierras, near the Town of June lake, at an elevation of 7,600 feet. This campground is situated off US 395, 350 miles north of Los Angeles, and 150 miles south of Reno.

Campsites are located on mostly open area above the shoreline of beautiful June Lake. Day use area has a swimming beach located adjacent to the campground. The outstanding lake and mountain views at this campground are a favorite spot for both families and anglers. To learn more about the campground, visit the RSTB website and click on the link in the description on the Activities page. You can also go directly to the [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov) website and search for Oh Ridge.

There is a fee for the campground which is non-refundable, shared equally among all those who sign up. Please plan to arrive the afternoon of July 5th. Please note this is the week after the July 4th Holiday, so the droves of holiday weekend campers will be gone! The last day to sign up is June 23rd. To inquire about reservations, please email Mark at [markinthepark@sbcglobal.net](mailto:markinthepark@sbcglobal.net). Space is limited, so sign up early!



### RSTB CLUB MEETING

This month's club meeting will be at:  
Sycamore Drive Community Center  
1692 Sycamore Drive - Room B-1  
**7:00PM** – June 15, 2011



### Welcome, New Members!

Calyn Foust, Jay & Jamie Gray & family, Michael Harris, Lara Pydde & family, Mary Rogers, and William Sopoliga

### RSTB LOGO T-SHIRTS

Sporting the beautiful RSTB logo, these are great shirts! Please call Mike Kuhn if you'd like to order at 805-583-2345.

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



## Upcoming Events

**June 4th – National Trails Day**  
Work Party – Corriganville

**June 11th**  
**Reyes Peak & Chorro Grande Shuttle\*** 8 miles one-way Moderate (900' elevation gain and 3,500' elevation loss)

**June 15th - Club Meeting**

**June 18th - Big Santa Anita Canyon – Chantry Flat to Sturtevant Falls and Sturtevant's Camp\***  
Moderate - 7.4 MRT (1,700' elevation gain)

**June 25th - Topanga Canyon State Park Eagle Springs Loop\***  
6.3 MRT - Moderate (1000' elevation gain)



More information about these events can be found on Page 5 and on the Activities page at <http://simitrailblazers.com>

## Trail Work Report

The May 21st work party was done on the Upper Stagecoach Trail between Lilac Lane and Santa Susana Pass Road. There was a lot of new growth, and it took quite a bit of effort to clear the trail. Participants included Richard Bradley, Caroline Carol, Martin DeGoe, Louise Pomes, Mary Rogers and John Sabol. Many thanks to everyone for your time and effort in improving and maintaining our trails.

## **Trailblazers Come to the Aid of a Dog in Trouble**

The Rancho Simi Trailblazers recently helped out a couple in need of assistance while hiking Rocky Peak. The Trailblazers have a weekly Sunday hike up Rocky Peak, and just below the top we encountered a couple with a large dog that had collapsed due to exhaustion and/or heat. The temperature was in the 80s that day.

Several of us shared water, as did some mountain bikers who came along. The dog took in a fair amount of fresh water, but was still too exhausted to continue the long trek back down to the parking area.

At first we helped carry the dog down a short distance using just a small white towel, but that quickly became very difficult. Eventually the woman's son arrived with a large blanket, two broom handles and some duct tape. From these materials we fashioned a makeshift stretcher. Taking turns at the four corners of this stretcher, we then proceeded to carry the tired animal down approximately a mile and a half, whereupon Mike Kuhn, of the Trailblazers, was able to bring his 4-wheel drive vehicle up the fire road to transport the dog down the rest of the way.

Since none of us are personally acquainted with the couple involved, we have no way of knowing how the animal fared after this ordeal, but we all felt very positive to have helped. It would have been extremely difficult, if not impossible, for the couple to carry the dog had we not come along, and the end of daylight was not far off.

Contributed by Kurt Godden

### **Safety Tips**

When hiking with an animal it may help to keep the following in mind:

Dogs can't cool off as easily as humans, so they are vulnerable to overheating. Dogs that are older, overweight or not accustomed to exercise are at much higher risk. Dogs need to work up to higher levels of physical activity, just as humans do. Also, certain breeds of dogs with flat faces or short noses cannot pant as efficiently, so are more likely to overheat.

Hike with the dog when it's cooler in the early morning or later in the evening; avoid the midday heat. Plenty of water is essential throughout the hike, and don't push the pace too hard.

If you notice symptoms of heat stroke (rapid breathing, excessive panting, drooling, refusal or inability to move), you must take immediate action to bring the dog's temperature down. Get your dog to shade and immerse in cool water (not cold) to bring its temperature down. Seek veterinary care as soon as possible.

### **A Thorny Situation**

Jan Hinkston's interview of Joseph Bannon in a nursing home in Jamestown, California, in 1974 describes a somewhat humorous event experienced by his father during the first decade of the Twentieth Century in the Chatworth area. The Bannon family had a sandstone quarry near the railroad tunnel near Stoney Point. (The Bannons later operated the Southern Pacific Railroad quarry where the Santa Susana Park baseball diamond is today and Mr. Bannon served on the school board in Simi Valley.) It seems that Mr. Bannon had several greyhound dogs. In those days most people simply fed their dogs whatever was available. So Mr. Bannon went rabbit hunting, using the dogs to scare up their own dinner. A jackrabbit was jumped by the dogs, and Mr. Bannon managed to shoot the rabbit just as it disappeared into a cactus patch. Mr. Bannon sighted the dead rabbit well inside the cactus patch. In order to retrieve the carcass, he climbed

out onto the main stem of a blue elderberry tree. The main stem extended conveniently a few feet over the dead rabbit. Now, everyone knows that elderberry stems are weak, but to Mr. Bannon it was worth a try. Somewhat predictably the branch gave way, and Mr. Bannon dropped into and onto the cactus patch. At that point the recovery of the dead bunny became secondary. While Mr. Bannon was not seriously injured, his son remembered that it was a painful experience and that his mother spent some time with pliers removing the cactus spines, which gave up their hold on Mr. Bannon only with great reluctance.

Mr. Bannon, his son and the cactus patch are no longer with us. Only the land remains. If it could speak, it would tell many stories worth remembering – associated with place over thousands of years. Our appreciation of where we live would be so much richer if we recorded even these small stories for future generations.

Mike Kuhn  
2-5-04

### **Croton**

Two or three time a year, the Rancho Simi Trail Blazers hike Happy Camp Canyon - dazzling the strangers among us with our seemingly unlimited knowledge of the plants of the park. Every once in awhile our luster becomes a bit tarnished because our response to "what is it?" is "beats me." One plant stumped us for years. Growing in the middle of the canyon on dry sandy soil, is a plant that none of us - so we swear - had seen elsewhere. Thanks to good photography and a consultation with botanist Rick Burgess, we now know that it is croton (*Croton californicus*).

Mike Kuhn  
11-11-04

## May 14th 2011 - Ray Miller Trail - La Jolla Canyon Loop

These photos say it all! To see more great pictures from the hike, go to [www.simitrailblazers.com/news](http://www.simitrailblazers.com/news).



## May 7th 2011 - East Canyon to Mission Point

12 hikers met at the Stearns Street Park-and-Ride lot in Simi Valley and then carpooled east and then north to the "East Canyon, Rice Canyon, and Michael D. Antonovich Open Space" section of the 4,000-acre Santa Clarita Woodlands Park via Hwy 118, I405, I5, and "The Old Road." Two additional hikers joined us at the trailhead and



we began hiking southward along the non-maintained and somewhat-eroded East Canyon Motorway as it followed the small creek in the canyon bottom. The route was lined with bay laurel, black walnut, cottonwood, sycamore, and oak trees. Soon the dirt road began rising more steeply along the western side of a wooded ridge and we were greeted by an abundance of wildflowers including lupine and sticky monkey flower. We enjoyed views of the steep slopes to the west and remnants of the bigcone Douglas-fir trees that once covered the mountain. The fog created by an onshore airflow kept us cool as the road led inexorably upward to a junction with Bridge Road (and the Oat Mountain Motorway) which is blocked by a SoCal Gas

fence and gate. Having reached the highest point in our hike, we headed southeast along the very pleasant Corral Sunshine Motorway to Mission Point which provides a panoramic view of the San Fernando Valley and beyond (though the view was restricted by the fog on this day). After resting, we retraced our route to the trailhead, enjoying the sunlight that appeared just as we started downhill. We reached our vehicles and returned home having completed a 9-mile hike with 1,618' of elevation gain/loss on a great day for mountain hiking.

## April 30th 2011 - Romero Canyon

15 hikers met at the carpool point near the intersection of Royal Avenue and Madera Road on a pleasant spring morning and then carpooled northwest to the trailhead in lovely Montecito via Hwy 23, Hwy 101, Sheffield Drive, Romero Canyon Road, and Bella Vista Drive. After securing parking, donning our hiking gear, and taking a group photo, the hike began along the east side of well-shaded Romero Creek. As the forested trail ascended through Romero Canyon, the creek cascaded soothingly over boulders on its way to the ocean and there were views of waterfalls and inviting pools. The trail climbed steadily and fairly steeply reaching unpaved Old Romero Canyon Road at the two-mile point. After a much-needed rest break, 7 of the hikers decided to complete a single loop by hiking downhill on Old Romero Canyon Road and then back to their vehicles, thus completing a 6.3-mile hike with 1,360' of elevation gain/loss. The other 8 hikers crossed the road and continued up the mountain via a trail that provided great views of Romero Canyon and the ocean. The trail eventually reached the



ridgeline and led westward to Romero Saddle at the east end of paved Camino Cielo (highway in the sky) at the 3.25-mile point. After taking a lunch break at the colorful graffiti-adorned water tank and enjoying the panoramic views, including the Santa Ynez River valley and the mountains of the Dick Smith Wilderness and the San Rafael Wilderness to the north/northwest, the hike continued downhill on unpaved and pleasantly overgrown flower-lined Old Romero Canyon Road. Portions of Santa Barbara as well as the silhouettes of Santa Cruz Island and Anacapa Island were visible as the road followed the mountain's contours. After



completing the double (figure-8) loop we reached our vehicles, having completed a gorgeous 10.3-mile hike with 2,385' of elevation gain/loss.



# RSTB Calendar June 2011



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Janev Veettil	2 Chumash Trail <b>6 PM</b>  See Schedule	3	4 National Trails Day: Work Party Corriganville <b>7:45AM</b>  See Schedule
5 Rocky Peak Fire Road <b>5 PM</b>  See Schedule	6	7 Las Lajas Canyon <b>6:30 PM</b>  See Schedule  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Rose Robbins	8	9 Chumash Trail <b>6 PM</b>  See Schedule  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Kurt L. Dahlgren	10	11 Reyes Peak & Chorro Grande Shuttle* <b>8AM</b>  See Schedule
12 Rocky Peak Fire Road <b>5 PM</b>  See Schedule	13  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Carol Tucker	14 Las Lajas Canyon <b>6:30 PM</b>  See Schedule	15 Club Meeting <b>7 PM</b>  See Schedule	16 Chumash Trail <b>6 PM</b>  See Schedule	17  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Diana Prater	18 Big Santa Anita Canyon Chantry Flat to Sturtevant Falls and Sturtevant's Camp* <b>6:30AM</b>  See Schedule
19 Rocky Peak Fire Road <b>5 PM</b>  See Schedule	20	21 Las Lajas Canyon <b>6:30 PM</b>  See Schedule  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Phil Ankrom Ronald Slifka	22  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Linda Martins-Mann	23 Chumash Trail <b>6 PM</b>  See Schedule	24	25 Topanga Canyon State Park Eagle Springs Loop*  <b>8AM</b>  See Schedule
26 Rocky Peak Fire Road <b>5 PM</b>  See Schedule	27	28 Las Lajas Canyon <b>6:30 PM</b>  See Schedule	29  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Trystin Pydde	30 Chumash Trail <b>6 PM</b>  See Schedule  <i>Happy Birthday</i> James Hanley		

## REGULARLY SCHEDULED HIKES

*(Rain cancels – No hikes on holidays)*

### **Sunday Evening - Rocky Peak Fire Road**

Meet at **5 PM** 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 - Las Lajas Canyon**

Meet at **6:30 PM** at the Evening Sky Drive trailhead. Take the 118 Fwy to the Yosemite Ave exit; head north past McDonalds and the stop sign at Alamo Street; continue 0.85 mile north on Yosemite Ave to the stop sign at Evening Sky Drive; turn right (east) and drive 0.5 mile to the trailhead; park on either side of the street. (Easy-to-moderate depending on distance hiked, 3¾ MRT)

### **Thursday Evening - The Chumash Trail**

Meet at **6 PM** at Chumash trailhead. 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)

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## JUNE HIKES AND ACTIVITIES

### **June 4th - National Trails Day: Work Party - Corriganville**

Meet at the eastern end of the Corriganville parking lot at **7:45AM**. Bring 2 to 3 quarts of water, hat, sunscreen, and gloves to work on the trail. Wear sturdy boots. Tools will be provided. Directions: Corriganville is located at the east end of Smith Road off of the south end of Kuehner Drive. As always, you are welcome to work for a shorter time period if you desire.. If you would like to join us for National Trail Days, please go to [www.simitrailblazers.com](http://www.simitrailblazers.com) and click on the National Trails Day Work Party link to sign up! Hope to see you there

### **June 11th - Reyes Peak & Chorro Grande Shuttle\***

8 miles one-way - Moderate (900' elevation gain and 3,500' elevation loss)

We will hike from the east end of Pine Mountain Road (6,980') to Reyes Peak (7,514') and back, then hike to the top (7,160') of the Chorro Grande (CG) Trail and descend it one-way to Hwy 33 (4,080') northwest of Ojai. The first two miles of the CG Trail are through a pine forest, passing the Chorro Spring campground (6,400') at 1 mile. There are spectacular views to the south. Bring 2-3 quarts of water and lunch. Wear boots. **Meet at 8AM near Donut Delite** at the corner of Madera Rd and Royal Ave.

### **June 15th - Club Meeting**

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

### **June 18th - 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 6:30AM at the 118 & Stearns St.**

**Park & Ride.** Bring your camera, water and lunch. Wear boots. For more information about this hike, please go to website:

<http://www.simitrailblazers.com>

### **June 25th - Topanga Canyon State Park - Eagle Springs Loop\***

6.3 MRT - Moderate (1000' elevation gain)

This loop begins in Topanga Canyon State Park. The highlight of the hike is a huge and impressive sandstone crag called Eagle Rock. We'll take a short side trip to Cathedral Rock and then return via the Musch Ranch Trail. Meet at 8 AM near Donut Delite at the corner of Madera and Royal. Bring 2 quarts of water and a snack. Wear boots.

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\* Not within the jurisdiction of the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District.  No dogs allowed on trail(s).

For additional 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*

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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 \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Month \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_

Family memberships: Please list names and birthdays of additional family members (Month & Day Only)

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How do you want to receive the Newsletter? Check all that apply.

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Please make out tax deductible member dues check for the year to:

Rancho Simi Foundation and mail it to RSTB, P.O. Box 630445, Simi Valley, CA 93063-0399



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