



Rancho Simi Trail Blazers

A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation



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



TICK REMOVAL

There are many ways to remove a tick - most of them wrong. Believe me, I've tried them all over the years. (By the way, I've not been infected with anything as a result. My father, however, tried to remove one from his navel cavity once - the wrong way. After the infection set in, he went to the doctor).

Basically, you need to get under the tick, on either side of its hypostome, and gently lift to extract the massively barbed hypostome. This can be done carefully with the side of a knife blade or with a commercial tick removing tool.

Never pull on the tick. All you will do is to expel its stomach and gut contents into the wound on your body, a quick source of infection. Don't put gasoline on the tick; don't touch it with a hot match head, don't smother it with Vaseline or sunscreen. All of these techniques may cause the tick to vomit into the wound. Not good! And don't stab it with an ice pick. You may find yourself mortally wounded.

Mike Kuhn
11-15-04



Due to unforeseen circumstances, all activities are subject to change without notice. Please see www.simitrailblazers.com/activities/ for event details and the most up-to-date schedule.

May 19th 2012 - Work Party - Chivo Canyon



Our May work party was conducted on the Chivo Canyon Trail. It was a beautiful day. Participants included Bart Hibbs, Alan Cueba, Martin DeGoey, Richard Pouley and Mike Kuhn. Thank you all for your time, sweat and effort.

Welcome, New Members!

Richard Pealer
Julie Warner
Mike Howard & Cheri Lanier

RSTB CLUB MEETING

This month's club meeting will be at:
Sycamore Drive Community Center
1692 Sycamore Drive - Room B-1
7:00PM - June 20, 2012

Upcoming Events

June 2nd

Switzer Falls and Bear Canyon Trail Camp*

Moderate - 8.0 MRT (1,000' elevation gain) - Meet at **8AM**

June 9th

Hummingbird Trail Work Party & Cache In Trash Out Event

Meet at **8AM**

June 16th*

Danielson Memorial

6 MRT - Moderate (1000' elevation gain) - Meet at **8AM**



June 20th

Club Meeting - 7 PM

June 23rd

Wildwood Park Loop: Arroyo Conejo Creek to Hill Canyon Wetlands to Wildwood Canyon (Paradise Falls) to the Lynnmere Trail*

7.9 MRT - Moderate-to-strenuous (1,200' of elevation gain/loss)
Meet at **8AM**

June 29th - July 2nd

Santa Rosa Island Backpack*

Easy-to-strenuous hikes and ranger-led tours are available. - email Mark Gilmore: markinthepark@sbcglobal.net for more information.

Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District events can be viewed at <http://www.rsrpd.org> to see what is happening next!

A SUMMER SOLSTICE SITTING SITE

In a remote cave in the City of Thousand Oaks is what appears to be a well used sitting place where a sequence of more than one Chumash Indian shaman stayed to observe the summer solstice - an important event in the Chumash religious beliefs. The site consists of a roughly east-west oriented north-facing cave. At the west northwestern end of the cave, a seat-like rock platform extends from the back wall of the cave. The surface conditions suggest considerable wear and use. The rock exhibits a polish and a darkening that suggests penetration of a lot of body oil. From that spot a round hole exists in the western end of the cave.

The summer solstice occurs each year in the Northern Hemisphere on June 21 or 22 and marks the point on the earth's orbit around the sun when the North Pole points most directly at the sun. In the Northern Hemisphere, it is the longest daylight period of the year. In other words, the daylight lasts the greatest number of hours during the 24-hour day, and the period of darkness is shortest. On the summer solstice, the sun rises and sets farther north of due east and west than at any other date of the year. For the Chumash, the summer solstice had to be predicted by observations so that ceremonies could be performed.

From the sitting place in the cave, when visibility is its usual hazy self in late-June, the sun is observed sinking in the sky. Nothing else is observed until the sun begins to set behind the top of a pointed hill far to the west northwest. The existence of the pointed hill becomes apparent as if by magic. The pointed hill simply pops out of the haze. This phenomenon takes place on each of several evenings around the solstice date. Before and after these several dates the sun sets south of the pointed hill as observed from this remote cave. If this site was indeed an observation place to determine the approach and day of the summer solstice, a shaman would have started making observations many days before the actual solstice event. Each evening, a shaman would sit on that seat. As the solstice grew near, it was possible

to predict that the event would occur in so many days. The call would go out for members of the antap cult to gather to perform the summer solstice ceremony at the appropriate time as determined by careful observation. We do not follow these practices, as celebration of the summer solstice is not part of our own belief structure. The summer solstice is shown on some of our calendars as it marks the first day of summer and is always listed in the farmers' almanac. It's just not the same. The seat remains empty and our collective memories are silent.

To access the cave today requires scrambling through 50 or more yards of solid poison oak - so the site is well protected and infrequently visited.

Mike Kuhn
7-12-06 (revised 5-26-08)

WOOD RANCH/MADERA ROAD

The Wood Ranch was originally purchased from the Simi Land and Development Company by Charles B. McCoy. Later, it became the Taylor Ranch and subsequently was purchased by A. G. Wood. At that time, the road running south from Los Angeles Avenue to the ranch was called Kujawsky Road. Since Nate Kujawsky, for which the road was named, had long since changed his last name to "Kern," and following the death of A. G. Wood, Mrs. Wood petitioned the County of Ventura to change the name to "Madera Road." "Madera" means "wood" in Spanish and the Woods had named their place "Madera Ranch." I remember an arched iron entryway to the ranch which contained the name "Madera Ranch." At some point it began to be referred to as the Wood Ranch. Madera Road was extended to the Conejo Valley as a shorter way to the Conejo Valley than the old route through the Tierra Rejada Valley to Santa Rosa Road and over the Norwegian Grade. The extension of Madera Road to connect with Olsen Road divided the ranch into a northern part and a southern part. When the ranch was sold for development in the late-1970s, the north ranch, including Mt. McCoy and the site of the Presidential Library, was sold off separately. Anyway - that's how we came to have a "Madera Road" and a Wood

Ranch development. Eventually, the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District developed the Rancho Madera Community Park within the Wood Ranch development.

Mike Kuhn
3-26-06 (revised 6-20-10)

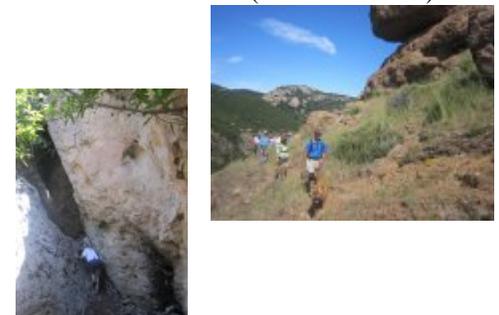
YUCCA

The yucca that we have on the hills around Simi Valley is treasured by all, for its magnificent two-meter high white flower stalk in the spring. These flower stalks are the largest flower stalks of any native plant in the area and are things of rare beauty. In botanical circles the plant is known as *Yucca whipplei* ssp. *intermedia*. Other common names are "Our Lord's Candle" and "Spanish Dagger." It is a member of the lily family.

This plant was so important to the Chumash Indians that they named their premier village in the Simi after it. A. L. Kroeber, the leading California anthropologist of the first half of the 20th century, indicated that the name of the village, i.e., *Ta'apu*, meant "yucca," which, named their premier village in the Simi Valley area after the plant. The village was located in Gillibrand Canyon. The trails to *Ta'apu* from both the Santa Clara River Valley on the northern slopes of the Santa Susana Mountains and from Simi Valley were both named for their destinations - the village of *Ta'apu*. They both come down to us as "Tapo Canyon."

The plant was important to the Chumash because food and fiber could be obtained from it at any time of the year. Today, we admire the beauty of the blooms and avoid the spines at the ends of the leaves.

Mike Kuhn
12-6-04 (revised 5-26-12)



April 28th 2012 - Towsley Canyon Loop

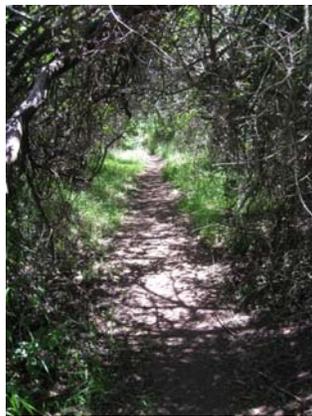


18 hikers carpooled to the “Ed Davis Park at Towsley Canyon” section of the 4,000-acre Santa Clarita Woodlands Park; one additional hiker joined us at the park. We

began hiking along a dirt road toward the ranger station and the Sonia Thompson Nature Center, crossing Towsley Creek on a concrete bridge. Soon we began a counterclockwise hike on the Towsley View Loop Trail. After passing through The Narrows section of Towsley Gorge, the trail soon began rising via switchbacks along the eastern slope of the canyon and we were treated to a variety of blooming plants. The verdant north-facing slopes of the Santa Susana Mountains rose steeply to the south. The single-track trail passed through sage scrub, stands of California walnut, bay laurel, and scattered oak trees as we made our way to the 2,450’ high point on the trail from which much of the Santa Clarita Valley could be seen. The area’s oil-production history was evidenced by the foamy water in Towsley Creek as well as a sulfurous smell in several places along the trail. The trail then began dropping into shady Wiley Canyon where the group took a lunch break near another creek. A short distance on, we took the left fork onto the Canyon View Loop Trail which rose back up the mountain before dropping to the Sonia Thompson Nature Center. After resting at the shady grassy area around the nature center, we followed the paved road back to our vehicles, having completed a 6.5-mile hike with 1,305’ of elevation gain/loss on a pleasant spring morning.

May 5th 2012 - Backbone Trail Part 8: Trippet Ranch to Will Rogers State Historic Park Shuttle

Nine hikers carpooled to the eastern Santa Monica Mountains to hike the eighth (and final) section of the 66-mile-long Backbone Trail. After a lengthy car shuttle, the hikers left the parking lot at Trippet Ranch (in Topanga State Park) and followed the Musch Trail as it climbed the heavily shaded mountainside, passing through several lush meadows. The trail was adorned with a variety of blooming wildflowers. The hike continued along the dirt fire road below Eagle Rock, climbing to “Hub Junction” to the east affording distant views to the north and the south.



Continuing mostly uphill to the east on the dirt fire road, the route passed Cathedral Rock. Soon we turned left onto an actual trail and began the long descent toward Will Rogers State Historic Park (WRSHP), catching brief glimpses of the Los Angeles basin along the way. After a short lunch break, we reached “Chicken Ridge,” a well-named narrow isthmus with dangerous drop-offs on both sides made navigable by two bridges which provided excellent views. Continuing downhill, we reached the end [or beginning] of the Backbone Trail in WRSHP where a polo match was underway, having hiked 11.2 miles with 1,500’ of elevation gain and 2,100’ of elevation loss.

May 12th 2012 - Tri-Peaks and the Mishe Mokwa Trail



13 hikers carpooled to the Mishe Mokwa trailhead at Triunfo Pass (2,100’) in the Santa Monica Mountains via Hwy 23, Mulholland Hwy, and Little Sycamore Canyon Road. As the counterclockwise loop hike began, the trail climbed quickly and then leveled out for a while before descending into Carlisle Canyon,

providing excellent views of the reddish-colored Echo Cliffs (a long stretch of sheer vertical sandstone rock faces) against the green background of Boney Mountain. We took a break at Split Rock where there’s a thick mini-grove of shade trees overhanging a large broken boulder. We then followed a “use” trail eastward to Balanced Rock, a huge house-sized boulder precariously balancing atop a smaller boulder. Returning to the main trail, our hike climbed southward to a junction with the Backbone Trail (BBT) on a mesa affording great views of various peaks surrounding the area. As the day grew hotter, we followed a rocky trail to the west and north and ascended to Tri-Peaks (3,010’). While there we explored an interesting cave formed by huge boulders. Returning to the BBT, we followed it to Sandstone Peak (3,111’), aka Mt. Allen, the highest peak in the Santa Monica Mountains. The peak is just a hunk of grayish-white rock, but it provides a stunning 360-degree view (depending on the air quality) of the ocean, the mountains, and the Oxnard Plain; visibility was only fair on this day. We continued eastward on the BBT to a junction with a short connector trail which led us again to the Mishe Mokwa Trail; we descended to the parking lot having completed an exhausting (due to the heat) 8.3-mile hike with ~2,000’ of elevation gain/loss.



RSTB Calendar June



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Janev Veettil	2 Switzer Falls and Bear Canyon Trail Camp* See Schedule
3 Rocky Peak Fire Road 5PM See Schedule	4	5 Las Llajas Canyon 6:30PM See Schedule	6	7 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule	8	9 <i>Hummingbird Trail Work Party & Cache In Trash Out Event</i> See Schedule
10 Rocky Peak Fire Road 5PM See Schedule	11	12 Las Llajas Canyon 6:30PM See Schedule	13 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Carol Tucker	14 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule	15	16 <i>Danielson Memorial</i>  See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Catherine Marasco
17 Rocky Peak Fire Road 5PM See Schedule  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Diana Prater	18	19 Las Llajas Canyon 6:30PM See Schedule	20 Club Meeting 7 PM See Schedule <i>ALL members are invited to attend</i>	21 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Phil Ankrom Ronald Slifka	22 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Linda Mann	23 <i>Wildwood Park Loop: Arroyo Conejo Creek to Hill Canyon *</i> See Schedule
24 Rocky Peak Fire Road 5PM See Schedule	25	26 Las Llajas Canyon 6:30PM See Schedule	27	28 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule	29 See Schedule June 29th - July 2nd <i>Santa Rosa Island Backpack*</i>	30 See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> James Hanley
					<i>Happy Birthday</i> Trystin Pydde	

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 on the 118 Freeway and head north over the freeway. Park at the trailhead or across the bridge on the Santa Susana Pass Road. (Strenuous - 4.8 MRT - 1,200' elevation gain)

Tuesday Evening - Las Lajas Canyon

Meet at **6:30 PM** at the Evening Sky Drive trailhead. Take the 118 to the Yosemite Ave exit. Head north 1/3 mile (passing McDonald's) to 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 - 3.75 MRT - 348' total elevation gain)

Thursday Evening - The Chumash Trail

Meet at **6 PM** at Chumash trailhead. Directions: Take the 118 Freeway to Yosemite exit. Go north on Yosemite and turn right on Flanagan Dr. The trailhead is at the end of Flanagan Drive. (Moderate to Strenuous - 5.4 MRT - 1,210' total elevation gain)

JUNE HIKES AND ACTIVITIES

June 2nd

Switzer Falls and Bear Canyon Trail Camp*

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

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.

June 9th

Hummingbird Trail Work Party & Cache In Trash Out Event

This event is being held in conjunction with a geocaching.com CITO event. Meet at **8 AM** at the Hummingbird Trail trailhead, just north of the 118 and Kuehner Drive. The event will end at noon. The Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District will provide all that we need. We will pick up trash and paint over graffiti. You must bring your own water, snacks, and sunscreen. Wear old work clothes, gloves, and a hat.

June 16th*

Danielson Memorial

6 MRT - Moderate (1000' elevation gain)

Visit a waterfall and the Danielson Memorial, view the Oxnard Plain and Channel Islands from Old Boney Road.

Meet at **8 AM** near Donut Delite near the corner of Madera and Royal. Bring 2 to 3 quarts of water and a snack. Wear boots.

June 20th

Club Meeting

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

June 23rd

Wildwood Park Loop: Arroyo Conejo Creek to Hill Canyon Wetlands to Wildwood Canyon (Paradise Falls) to the Lynnmere Trail*

7.9 MRT – Moderate-to-strenuous (1,200' of elevation gain/loss)

Bring 2-3 quarts of water and lunch. Wear boots. Weather permitting, meet at **8 AM** near Donut Delite at the corner of Madera and Royal. **NOTE:** 2 hiking poles are STRONGLY RECOMMENDED for the stream crossings. For more information go to:

<http://www.simitrailblazers.com/activities/index.html>

June 29th - July 2nd

Santa Rosa Island Backpack*

COST OF TRIP = \$111.13 each (boat trip \$98 + campsite \$13.13). The **DEADLINE FOR PAYMENT** is **THURSDAY, MAY 31, 2012**. To make your reservations, email Mark: markinthepark@sbcglobal.net. **Space is limited, so it's best to sign up early.** For more information go to: <http://www.simitrailblazers.com/activities/index.html>

* 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

Executive Chair:	Mike Kuhn	HM (805) 583-2345	hannahmike@me.com
Treasurer:	Craig Malin		
Park District Liaison:	Colleen Janssen	WK (805) 584-4453	volunteers@rsrpd.us
Work Parties Chair:	<i>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</i>		
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:	<i>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</i>		
Newsletter Editor:	Linda Mann		linda.martins.mann@simitrailblazers.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 _____ Birth Month _____ Day _____

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

Phone (provide up to two numbers): work/home/cell _____

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

Mail Mailing address _____

Email Email address _____

How did you find out about the RSTB? _____

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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