



Rancho Simi Trail Blazers

A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation



New Members

Dave & Beth Prentke & Family
 Ravi Ramnath & Family
 Deborah Wink
 Rheann Roman
 Don Brown

Weekly hikes

You definitely do not want to miss out this month on the weekly hikes. If you do miss just one of the hikes you could miss out on seeing some incredible views such as this waterfall, flowers and all the camaraderie that we have as a group. With that said, there are hikes every Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday. Here is another view you could possibly miss out on seeing this month!



The May Work Party

The May trail work party focused on cutting back the brush on the Mt. McCoy Trail. Trimming was completed on the entire trail. Much thanks to Bart Hibbs, Alan Cueba, Mike Kuhn and Caroline Carroll.




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.

RSTB CLUB MEETING

This month's RSTB meeting will be at: Sycamore Drive Community Center 1692 Sycamore Drive – Room B-1
Wednesday: June 19, 2013 – 7:00PM

Upcoming Events

- June 1st - Hummingbird Trail Work Party & Cache In Trash Out Event - National Trails Day** 
8AM the Hummingbird Trail trailhead
- June 8th - Eaton Canyon Park to Henninger Flats***
 6 MRT - Moderate-to-Strenuous (1,400' elevation gain/loss) Optional: 6.5 MRT trek to Idlehour Trail Camp via the Wilson Toll Road - Moderate-to-Strenuous (1,500' elevation gain/loss) - **8AM**
- June 15th Devil's Punchbowl Trail to Devil's Chair***
 8 MRT - Moderate-to-Strenuous (2,100' elevation gain/loss) – **8AM**
- June 19th Club Meeting - 7PM**
- June 22nd The Secret Trail, Calabasas Peak, Red Rock Canyon***
 5 Miles one-way - Moderate-to-Strenuous (900' elevation gain/loss) Requires a short car shuttle – **8AM**
- June 29th East Canyon, Corral Sunshine Motorway, Mission Point***
 9 MRT - Moderate-to-Strenuous (1,500' elevation gain/loss) – **8AM**

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



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

HUMMINGBIRD CREEK DAM

The Hummingbird Creek Trail starts at the northern end of Kuehner Drive and descends rapidly to the filled in reservoir behind a concrete and stone dam. The dam and reservoir are off stream. Originally, the soil behind the dam was placed on the face of the dam, creating a bedrock basin to contain water. The lower part of the dam is made of mortared native sandstone, while the upper part of the dam is made out of concrete. The dam is arcuate. A finished concrete dip in the eastern wall of the dam is dated 1917.

The reservoir was probably fed from upper Hummingbird Creek by gravity by pipeline. Such devices were a common way of conveying water from springs at the time. However, I have seen no direct evidence of a feeder line or ditch. Archaeologist Robert Pence indicated (personal communication) that he had found evidence of a red-wood siphon over the top of the dam. I have seen one reference to the reservoir being used to water a garden someplace below the dam. We do know that Judge Joseph Scott had a cabin a short distance below the dam under the small oak grove next to Hummingbird Creek just north of the 118 Freeway. Whether Judge Scott used the water to water his garden is not known. However, since the dam was on his property, it is likely.

There is some reason to believe that it may have been built by or at the direction of Charles E. Hoar, the first "American farmer" in the Simi. Mr. Hoar leased the 13,000 acre eastern half of Simi Valley in 1872 or 1873 and occupied the Hummingbird's Nest Ranch at that time. Janet Cameron reports that he bought the ranch from Juan Pucillo, who continued to reside on the ranch with his mother as employees of Mr. Hoar. We now know that that information is not accurate,

even though we know that Mr. Hoar lived with the Janet Scott Cameron family during his last years. Juan Pucillo and his mother lived on the Hummingbird when Mr. Hoar leased those 13,000 acres. Indeed, Mr. Hoar lived in the Pucillo adobe house with the Pucillos while he built his wood-framed house. We also know that Juan and his mother remained on the Hummingbird with Mr. Hoar.

When the Simi Land and Water Company wanted to offer the land in the valley for sale to farmers and ranchers, Mr. Hoar still held the lease on the eastern-most 13,000 acres of the valley, including the Hummingbird's Nest. He relinquished his lease in 1887 in exchange for an agreement for his purchase of the ranch. Mr. Hoar agreed to furnish the soon to be built Simi Hotel with two minor's inches of water - something Mr. Hoar had and the hotel would need. We know that Mr. Hoar paid \$12,000 for one parcel, but only \$5.00 for another. The \$5.00 price may have been in exchange for giving up the lease and for the water. The hotel, which was located where Simi Valley High School now stands, was opened in April 1888. Mr. Hoar had to tap the spring at the Hummingbird to furnish that water. The dam and reservoir, at least the lower portion of what now stands, may have been the device that was necessary to ensure a constant flow by providing some storage. The demands of the hotel would not have been great since little irrigation was involved and the nine-room hotel had but one bathroom. The dam is not on the land acquired by Mr. Hoar.

The hotel ceased to function in 1910 or before. Thereafter it served as a private residence and was torn down in 1918 (See *Simi Valley: A Journey Through Time*, Simi Valley Historical Society and Museum (1997), p. 77.). It is probably not a coincidence that the upper concrete portion of the dam

was added in 1917 – the year that it was no longer used as a residence. Did Judge Scott improve the function of the dam for his own use? As the dam stood a few years ago, someone sitting or walking on top of the dam could easily have been injured if they fell the eight to ten feet into the bottom of the empty reservoir. In association with the abortive attempt to develop the land at the northeastern corner of the intersection of State Route 118 and Kuehner Drive, the land on which the reservoir is located was dedicated to the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District. That dedication was coincident with the recording of the residential subdivision, i.e., Tract 2908. While preparing the land for development, fill dirt was placed behind the dam in order to abate the hazard. With a little more fill, the top of the dam will make an attractive resting place for picnickers, mountain bikers and hikers.

So, was Mr. Hoar responsible for building the dam? At this point in time, we don't know for sure. However, the foregoing scenario seems most likely.

Mike Kuhn
11-15-04 (revised 9-30-08)



April 20th - Matilija Falls



Seven hikers carpoled to the trailhead at the west end of Matilija Road a few miles northwest of Ojai on an already warm, soon-to-be-hot morning; one other hiker met the group at the trailhead. The hike began along a road that headed west through the private Matilija Canyon Ranch Wildlife Refuge where we were greeted by several loud, but beautiful peacocks. The first stream crossing at the 0.4-mile mark was easy since the water level was relatively low. After a little over a mile our route crossed through a lovely private ranch via a dirt road that hikers are restricted to. At about the 2-mile mark the dirt road became a narrow trail as it wound through a shady poison-oak-paradise stretch. In fact, since the route closely followed Matilija Creek the rest of the way, poison oak was frequently present [long pants and a long-sleeved shirt are recommended]. After a while we stopped by the stream at a particularly lovely spot and took a short break (and some photos). Continuing upstream the maintained trail ended and we began to scramble and boulder hop, frequently finding short open stretches of trail. Occasionally we were required to cross the stream in order to continue; fortunately the lower water level made this possible without having to wade. We were rewarded for our effort by beautiful scenery including the flowing creek, several large pools of water, vast expanses of sedimentary rock layers, an extensive riparian oak woodland, towering canyon walls, and occasional wildflowers. At about the 4.5-mile mark we reached a 30-foot cascade and a beautiful shaded campsite just above it. We took a rest-and-lunch break in this idyllic location. Continuing on upstream we soon reached the two fabled waterfalls, took some photos, and rested briefly. The scrambling and boulder-hopping going downstream seemed somewhat easier than going upstream and the scenery was just as beautiful though the temperature rose to 88 degrees Fahrenheit. We made it back to our vehicles with only minor scratches, cuts, and bruises. We returned home after a 9.5-mile hike with around 1,300' of elevation gain/loss.

May 4th - Trail Canyon to Big Cienega Meadow

Eighteen hikers (and three dogs) carpoled to the Trail Canyon trailhead in Big Tujunga Canyon a few miles northeast of Sunland, CA, on a pleasant spring morning. The August, 2009, Station Fire in the San Gabriel Mountains resulted in the closure of the Big Tujunga Canyon area including this trail. The area was reopened to the public on May 25, 2012, and this was our group's first hike in the area since the fire. The trail, a dirt road at first, passed several homes that survived the fire near the mouth of the canyon and then began a long, but not steep, climb along a gently flowing stream in the verdant canyon



bottom, crisscrossing the stream several times. The trail, adorned with a variety of blooming plants, then climbed along and around a mountainside until at the two-mile mark we were treated with views of the pretty Trail Canyon Waterfall.

Continuing past the waterfall, we hiked another mile to the Tom Lucas Trail Camp where we rested for a while. The trail to

this point was in good condition. However, as we continued another mile up the canyon it soon became more challenging since it hasn't been maintained since the Station Fire. The riparian environment was still lush, but the trail was significantly overgrown and required trail-finding skills; there was also lots of poison oak. We turned around at the four-mile mark without having reached/identified Big Cienega, "a lush meadow," but having tired of the bushwhacking. We returned the way we came and headed home having completed an enjoyable 8-mile hike with around 1,700' of elevation gain/loss.













May 4th - Wildwood Park Loop





RSTB Calendar June



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 <i>Hummingbird Trail Work Party & Event</i> 8AM  See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Ralph Davis
2 Rocky Peak Fire Road 5PM See Schedule	3	4 Mt. McCoy Trail 6PM See Schedule	5	6 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Janev Veettil	7	8 <i>Eaton Canyon Park to Henninger Flats*</i> 8AM See Schedule
9 Rocky Peak Fire Road 5PM See Schedule	10	11 Mt. McCoy Trail 6PM See Schedule	12	13 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule	14	15 <i>Devil's Punchbowl Trail to Devil's Chair*</i> 8AM See Schedule
16 Rocky Peak Fire Road 5PM See Schedule 	17	18 Mt. McCoy Trail 6PM See Schedule	19 Club Meeting 7PM See Schedule <i>Everyone Welcome to attend!</i>	20 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Anne-Marie Calderone	 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Phil Ankrom Barry Porter	22 <i>The Secret Trail, Calabasas Peak, Red Rock Canyon*</i> 8AM See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Linda Mann Alice Buchanan
23 Rocky Peak Fire Road 5PM See Schedule	24	25 Mt. McCoy Trail 6PM See Schedule	26	27 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Chessa Hiebert Rick Pealer	28 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Vannessa Zanders	29 <i>East Canyon, Corral Sunshine Motorway, Mission Point*</i> 8AM See Schedule
30 Rocky Peak Fire Road 5PM See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> James Hanley						



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.



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 - Mt. McCoy Trail

Meet at **6 PM** in the parking lot, to the south of Donut Delite, located on the north east side of the intersection of Royal Avenue and Madera Road. (Moderate - 4.0 MRT - 675' 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 1st

Hummingbird Trail Work Party & Cache In Trash Out Event - National Trails Day

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 the tools 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. For more information view: <http://www.simitrailblazers.com/activities/index.html>

June 8th

*Eaton Canyon Park to Henninger Flats**

6 MRT - Moderate-to-Strenuous (1,400' elevation gain/loss) Optional: 6.5 MRT trek to Idlehour Trail Camp via the Wilson Toll Road - Moderate-to-Strenuous (1,500' elevation gain/loss)

Our route will follow the Wilson Toll Road up to Henninger Flats, a forested notch sitting high on the mountain slopes above Altadena. **NOTE:** There will be an option for an additional moderately strenuous 6.5-mile RT trek (with an additional 1,500' of elevation gain/loss) on up the Wilson Toll Road to Idlehour Trail Camp. Meet at the 118 & Stearns St. Park & Ride at **8 AM**. Bring 2 to 3 quarts of water and lunch/snacks. Wear boots. For more information view: <http://www.simitrailblazers.com/activities/index.html>

June 15th

*Devil's Punchbowl Trail to Devil's Chair**

8 MRT - Moderate-to-Strenuous (2,100' elevation gain/loss)

Meet at the 118 & Stearns St. Park & Ride at **8 AM**. Bring 2 to 3 quarts of water and lunch/snacks. Wear boots. For more information view: <http://www.simitrailblazers.com/activities/index.html>

June 19th

Club Meeting

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

June 22nd

*The Secret Trail, Calabasas Peak, Red Rock Canyon**

5 Miles one-way - Moderate-to-Strenuous (900' elevation gain/loss) Requires a short car shuttle

The Calabasas Cold Creek Trail (aka "The Secret Trail") initially heads south through an oak woodland and then crosses a ridge to the east and rises to meet the Calabasas Motorway. Meet at the 118 & Stearns St. Park & Ride at **8 AM**. Bring 2 to 3 quarts of water and lunch/snacks. Wear boots. For more information view: <http://www.simitrailblazers.com/activities/index.html>

June 29th

*East Canyon, Corral Sunshine Motorway, Mission Point**

9 MRT - Moderate-to-Strenuous (1,500' elevation gain/loss)

Meet at the 118 & Stearns St. Park & Ride at **8 AM**. Bring 2 to 3 quarts of water and lunch/snacks. Wear boots. For more information view: <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:	VOLUNTEER NEEDED		Contact Mike Kuhn at: 805-583-2345
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:	VOLUNTEER NEEDED		Contact Mike Kuhn at: 805-583-2345
Newsletter Editor:	Linda Mann		linda.martins.mann@simitrailblazers.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 _____ 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.

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



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