



# Rancho Simi Trail Blazers



Volume 5 Issue 6

June 1999

## IT'S TICK TIME AGAIN

Ticks are members of the arachnid order *Acari*, which includes about 24 families of mites. Yes, they have eight legs. There are 49 species of ticks in California. While we tend to think of them living and breeding exclusively to make our trips in the hills singularly unpleasant, they actually feed on a whole host of vertebrates, including dogs, cats, horses, cows, chickens, deer, rabbits, lizards, snakes, birds, turtles, mice, woodrats, squirrels and many other animals. Some species feed exclusively on single species, while others will feast on just about anything they can catch.

Ticks climb vegetation to a height that is about right for the species it is seeking. Some climb to the tips of branches several feet off of the ground, while others climb only grass - seeking much shorter prey. When a prey animal comes along and brushes up against the plant, ticks are transferred to their host. This behavior is called "questing." Ticks are attracted to carbon dioxide - a sure sign of a living, breathing animal.

If you find a tick on you, don't panic. They often will wander around on you and your clothing for up to 24 hours before feeding. That's plenty of time for the

## Welcome New Members



**Carol Tucker**

**James Langford**

**Charles P. Portoghesi**

**Robert Blomquist**

**Maria Henriquez**

**Linda Spears**

**Robert Lisenby**

## CLUB MEETING

**The scheduled June Membership Meeting will be at 1692 Sycamore Drive in the Community Center, Room( B-1 ) at 7 :00 PM on Wednesday, June, 16th.**

## Corriganville Park Trails

The Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District is currently developing a series of trails in Corriganville Park. One trail, (interpretive trail) already exists.

The four trails include:

1. Loop trail: 1.2 mile-long trail that "loops" the large sandstone rock outcropping in the middle of the park. The trail is considered to be easy to moderate and can be reached from all directions. Views along the Loop Trail are movie sites, vistas, wildlife, and oak forests. **(COMPLETED)**
2. Wildlife Corridor Trail: This .5 mile-long trail starts at the southeast side of the Loop Trail by the Camp Rotary campground. This moderate-to-strenuous trail contains switchbacks up to the corridor on the south side of the SR 118 freeway. The views are spectacular along the trail to the corridor. During the spring season many wild flowers can be seen as well as wildlife. **(COMPLETED)**
3. Hummingbird Connector Trail: The .25 mile-long trail is about one fourth completed. This short segment starts at the northwest terminus of the Loop Trail. Views

normal person to detect their presence, to shower or to change clothes two or more times. There is little chance of disease transmission until they start feeding. Even if a tick does bury its hypostome into you, there is relatively little danger of disease transmission, other than infection. So, proper tick removal is important.

**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

**MAY TRAIL WORK PARTY**

We were joined by CORBA (Concerned Off Road Bicycle Association) for the May 15 work party on the Chumash Trail. Much needed work was accomplished on the center portion of the trail. Work was concentrated on the section that contains a lot of heavy cobblestones. The trail had become rutted and littered with loose stone and was very slippery. A great job was done by all in leveling, removing the cobble and smoothing this section of trail.

A lot of lopping and brushing was also done. Overhanging brush was trimmed and brush choked areas were cleared. Some brush was removed on turns to allow more visibility for both hikers and bikers. Several rocky areas near the top of the trail were also improved by filling with dirt.

Most of us worked from 8:30-12:00 although three CORBA people worked until 2:00 PM. As usual we met at Chuy's after finishing. Many thanks to CORBA and all of the following workers:

- RANCHO SIMI RAILBLAZERS
- Michael Kuhn, Don Steeley, John Downey, Terry Trudel, Arlene Altshuler, John Sabol, Gary Cremeans, Bill Cespedes, Charles Portoghesi,

along the trail include large rock outcroppings with many wild flowers. The trail is considered easy with little difficulty while hiking. The trail now ends at Foothill Neighborhood Park at the gate on the north side of the park, **(COMPLETE TO FOOTHILL PARK)**

- 4. Stagecoach Trail, This 1 mile long trail starts on the top of the Wildlife Corridor Trail. It extends south through a canyon, a section of which was part of the Butterfield Stage Lines used during the late 1800's. The El Camino Real once traveled through the same canyon. The trail includes views that are spectacular vistas and oak groves. A stream winds its way down the canyon that attracts animals throughout the year. The trail is moderate and ends at the Santa Susana Pass Road at Lilac Lane. **(NOT COMPLETE)**

More information can be attained through the brochures located at three kiosks located inside Corriganville Park or at the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District office, 1692 Sycamore Drive, Simi Valley.

Jim Kepler  
Senior Maintenance Supervisor  
Grounds





# June



## 1999

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>1</b> Happy Birthday Denis Feehan	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 6:00 pm Chumash Trail Hike See schedule	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> National Trails Day Work Party at King James Court Trail read schedule
<b>6</b> Hummingbird Trail Hike 5 pm Read schedule	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 6:00 pm Chumash Trail Hike See schedule	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Lily Meadows Lockwood Valley Hike Read schedule Meet at 7 am
<b>13</b> Happy Birthday Carol Tucker Hummingbird Trail Hike 5 pm Read schedule	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Happy Birthday Maria Henriques RSTB Club Meeting 7:00 pm See page 1`	<b>17</b> 6:00 pm Chumash Trail Hike See schedule	<b>18</b> Happy Birthday Belinda Cespedes	<b>19</b> Sulfur Mountain Exploratory Hike Read schedule Meet at 7 am
<b>20</b> Hummingbird Trail Hike 5 pm Read schedule  Fathers Day	<b>21</b> Happy Birthday Phil Ankom	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 6:00 pm Chumash Trail Hike See schedule	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> Circle X- Mishe Mokwa Trail Read schedule Meet at 7 am
<b>27</b> Hummingbird Trail Hike 5 pm Read schedule	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> Happy Birthday Al Bandel	<b>30</b>			





*A few of the Rancho Simi Trail Blazers at the May Club meeting.*

### A STONE CAIRN

During an archaeological survey of a portion of the Big Sky Ranch in 1989, a large cairn of field stones was identified. The pile of stones is approximately nine feet across and two and one half feet high. Some of the stones are more than a foot in diameter. The pile of stones is certainly man made, but there is no way of telling when it was assembled, by whom and for what purpose. Its physical nature is clear, but its origin is an enigma.

There are archaeological resources in the immediate area, but not directly associated with the pile of stones. The Chumash Indians did create rectangular or oval shaped piles of stones, usually two or three stones high, as shrines associated with winter solstice ceremonies. This pile of stones doesn't seem to be strategically located to serve as a shrine. There is no indication that any form of cultivation took place in the immediate area. Ar-

chaeological testing by RMW Paleo Associates, under archaeologist Ron Bissell, yielded no answers.

Cairns were assembled for many purposes throughout prehistory and history. Sometimes they covered burials, sometimes they represented shrines, sometimes they were boundary, claim or trail markers, and sometimes they were simply piles of stones cleared from fields during cultivation.

Ron Bissell relates a story about a large cairn near an excavation that he was involved with. Local residents told him that a retired gentleman built the cairn. On his daily constitutional, he would add a stone - and sometimes a flower. This practice went on for more than 20 years. Many local citizens are now convinced that the cairn conceals something of importance!

Some things are best left a mystery,

Mike Kuhn

Louise Pomes and a woman member, who joined us a little later and who I forgot to sign in.

### **CORBA WORKERS**

Rich Pinder, Fred An-saldi, Jeff Crisp, Bert Elliott, Mansoor Sabbagh, Franny Filzen, Andrew Filzen and Matthew Filzen.

The next work party will be NATIONAL TRAIL DAYS on June 5 and we will work from 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM. We hope to complete the rerouting of the China Flat Trail, in Oak Park, that was started during CALIFORNIA TRAIL DAYS in April.

Come out and join us. All levels of work effort are needed, from light lopping of brush to very strenuous stump removal. You can choose the tools and a task you are comfortable with and the amount of time you wish to work. It's a great way to show your appreciation for all the great hiking/biking/equestrian trails that we have available for our use.

Hope to see you there.

Work Parties Vice Chair  
John Sabol

