



Rancho Simi Trail Blazers

A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation



CHIVO CANYON

Chivo Canyon is the main tributary of Las Llajas Canyon. The two canyons join just northeast of the northern end of Texas Street, with Chivo Canyon coming in from the north and the main Las Llajas Canyon coming from the northeast. "Chivo" means goat in Spanish, so it is unlikely a direct translation from the Chumash.

Most of Chivo Canyon is extremely steep sided. So it is easy to imagine that the name makes reference to the canyon only being fit for goats. Certainly, any attempt to graze sheep or cattle there in the early days would have been hazardous to the animals and rendered herding difficult. So, the canyon seems aptly named.

Mike Kuhn



RANCHO SIMI IN 1818

In 1818 a French privateer, sailing under license to Argentina to plunder Spanish ships and territories, reprovisioned in the Sandwich Islands, i.e., Hawaii. His plans to raid Alta California became known. Letters were sent out from the presidio in Santa Barbara to ranchos asking for whatever help could be offered. El Rancho Simi responded that they could offer three civilians (males) with one rifle, one sword and one lance. In 1818 the ranchos were not the centers of wealth and comfortable living that some of them became after the California gold rush. Clearly, the Spanish would have been ill-equipped in event of a general uprising by the native American community.

Mike Kuhn

SATURDAY MORNING HIKE TIME CHANGE

During July and August,
Saturday morning hikes
will start at 7am
to take advantage of
cooler morning weather.

Arlene Altshuler
Hiking Chair



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:

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
at 7:00 PM

on

Wednesday July 21, 2004

JUNE WORK PARTY NATIONAL TRAILS DAY

We had a disappointing turnout for National Trails Day on Saturday June 5th. A large church group was expected, but only three Trail Blazers showed up. Still, we did an impressive amount of work.

We started off the day at 7:00 am cutting down the many Trees of Heaven that had re-grown at the east end of the Corriganville parking lot. We then drove back to the base of the Lower Stagecoach Trail, hiked up to just beyond the Wildlife Corridor Trail and started clearing trail. Most of the work was just clearing weeds from the trail sides although some lopping was done. We managed to reach the bottom of the canyon, just past the area where the trail and Old Stagecoach Road meet. (Alan had been clearing some Poison Oak in this area and although he washed up carefully afterward, several days later he broke out with a bad rash on the inside of one arm).

With several more tasks on our "to-do" list, we knocked off trail work at about 11:30 and headed back down to the recently planted oak trees in the northeast end of Corriganville. We then watered hundreds of small oak seedlings. A surprising number have survived the very hot weather that occurred when they were planted.

Finally we attacked the patch of Arundo we had cut down several months ago. We finished up around 2:00 pm and headed off to Chuy's.

Many thanks to the following workers:

Alan Cueba, Mike Kuhn, and John Sabol.

John Sabol

VENTURA COUNTY BEE KEEPING IN 1886

The following is a description of bee keeping in Ventura County – the year 1886. Honey production was a major means of livelihood for many of Simi Valley's first Anglo-American settlers. The Appletons, for example, were bee keepers. Bees were a major source of sugar. Bees grazed on native vegetation. Only later did they become important in pollination of agricultural crops. Honey could be shipped world wide because of its preservative characteristics.

BEE CULTURE

“California abounds in honey producing plants of spontaneous growth. The mountains yield the sages and other bloom which affords the finest quality of honey. The mountainous regions, which greatly predominate in the State and Ventura County, will ever be a prominent bee pasture, while the wholesale slaughter of bees by cold, which is frequent in the States east of the Rocky Mountains, never occurs here. While the mountains abound in white, purple and black sage, wild alfalfa with wild buckwheat, sumac, and other summer bloom, the foot-hills and valleys in the spring are covered with alfalaria (i.e., red-stemmed filaree), the bloom of which with mustard enables the bees to fill their hives with honey by the time the finer honey producing plants are in bloom. Honey is collected every month in the year. Southern California is noted for producing more and finer honey than any other portion of the world.

There are about eighteen thousand hives in the county of Ventura. Last year the county produced about three million pounds of honey, sufficient to fill one hundred and fifty cars. In many cases four hundred pounds of honey to the hive have been produced. One apiary of seven hundred hives, and surrounded by bees amounting in all to eighteen hundred hives within the radius of one or two miles averaged one hundred and thirty pounds each. Another apiary containing five hundred and fifty hives in 1884, increased to about twelve hundred, and yielded eighty tons of honey in 1886. These are presented as fair examples of the products of the honey bee in this section.”

Bees were the only source of nearly pure sugar for human beings until about 200 years ago. Honey has been collected in hunting and gathering cultures since the beginning of time. Because bees often established their hives in hollow trees and logs, the transition to man providing the logs, i.e., new hives, certainly predated agriculture. Bee keeping was a major activity in dynastic Egypt. Bees were worshipped and are frequently depicted on Egyptian monuments. Ancient Crete, as early as 2000 B.C. shipped fruit preserved in honey all over the Mediterranean basin and as far away as the British Isles. The capital of Crete and its major port was Candia – which gave the name of its product, i.e., “candy”, to the world.

Mike Kuhn



THE RAINBOW

From Kitsepawit, *The Eye of the Flute* (1977): “The old Indian said that the rainbow was the shade of three elements composing the world: white was for the wind, red for the fire, and blue for the rain”.

CANADA DE SOMIS

The 1887-88 Stow and Power "Map of the Lands of Rancho Simi" exhibits the name "*Canada de Somis*" for what we now know as Happy Camp Canyon. Happy Camp Canyon is located west of Moorpark College. The name "Somis" is what we now call the small settlement just south of State Route 118 near the intersection with the road to Camarillo. "Somis" is derived from the name of the Indian village of "*Somna*," which means "big *barranca*." A *barranca* is an entrenched stream course, which is deeper than it is wide at the top of the entrenchment. The description aptly fits Calleguas Creek (the Arroyo Simi) where it descends down out of the Little Simi Valley onto the Oxnard Plain.

Happy Camp Canyon is a valley - not a *barranca*. So why the reference to Somis? The canyon appears to be so named because the trail to *Somna* ran down it. This is another instance where a trail was named for the place that it went to.

Mike Kuhn



A group of Thursday evening hikers looks on as two Trail Blazers get ready to cut up several large boulders. The boulders had been pushed down onto the Chumash Trail in early June by vandals. After an hour of hard work trying to break apart this rock with pick mattocks, very little progress had been made. The rock was finally pushed off the trail, with the help of a group of very strong mountain bikers.

PORTUS NOVAE ALBIONIS

In the days of Spanish settlement of the “New World”, California was one of the last lands to be explored and claimed. Juan Rodriquez Cabrillo, a Portuguese explorer in the employment of the Viceroy of Mexico, explored part of the California coast in 1542 in search of the Straits of Anian – the Spanish equivalent of the “Northwest Passage”. North and South Americas were relatively unknown to Europeans before the end of the 15th Century. Once known, it seemed impossible that there would not be an easier route to the orient other than the rigorous trip around the southern tip of South America. The search for that passage consumed the European colonial powers for 200 years.

Cabrillo, sailing in an open – undecked – boat, explored the coast of Alta California as far north as Monterey Bay (*La Baya de los Pinos*). Returning to the protected north shore of San Miguel Island for the winter of 1542-1543, Cabrillo died as a result of an infection following a compound fracture of a leg. His crew continued their explorations in 1543 as far north as southern Oregon.

In spite of the massive effort of the expedition, the hopes of the Viceroy for discovery of the Straits of Anian or of at least a new land rich in gold and silver had gone unrewarded. The expedition, as far as the Viceroy was concerned, had been a bust. Spain’s colonial thrust into the New World was conditioned on a steady flow of new riches back to Spain.

Thirty-six years passed before the next foray along the California coast. That voyage too was in search of the mythological “Northwest Passage”. Commissioned by Queen Elizabeth I and other investors, the privateer Francis Drake set out in 1578 in his ship the Golden Hind. Forever practical, Drake and his investors were also in search of whatever Spanish treasure ship might be had. In 1579 they captured the *Cacafuego*, a Spanish ship carrying 1,300 bars of silver and 14 chests of silver coins, gold, jewelry and “plate”. While the *Cacafuego* proved to be unseaworthy and had to be abandoned, the Golden Hind took on its treasure and its cannons. The sheer weight of the new burden caused the seams of the Golden Hind to bulge alarmingly and the additional cannon topside rendered the ship rather top-heavy. Having been successful beyond their wildest dream on the privateering side of their adventure, Drake had to have considered retracing his route home. However, to do so would have required sailing past the coast of Spanish held South America where Spanish warships were surely waiting to reclaim the product of a whole year of colonial pillage. So, the Golden Hind proceeded north to search for the northwest passage and to elude the Spanish – all the time taking on seawater at an increasing rate.

When he was well clear of the Spanish New World colonies, Drake sought a sheltered, i.e., a south-facing, harbor in which to careen and reinforce the Golden Hind. A camp on shore was established, where the crew lived with their treasure, cannon, and other cargo. No doubt, some cannon were strategically placed on a headland in order to keep any

pursuing Spanish warship out of cannon range of the Golden Hind. Drake called this new land *Nova Albion* because of the white cliffs that are along much of the coast which reminded him of the cliffs of Dover. He fixed a brass plaque to a post, claiming the land for England. Now comes the mystery.

Where did Drake winter over in California? Drake’s log specifies the latitude. Latitude could be established precisely at the time, and the latitude given would suggest Drake’s Bay or Drake’s Estero, now part of Point Reyes National Seashore. A brass plaque, which indicates that it is the Drake plaque, was discovered in Marin County in 1937. Some scholars have claimed that the plaque is a forgery, while others contest this claim. One bit of evidence points to San Francisco Bay. *Portus Novae Albionis* is shown on a world map drawn in 1589 by the Flemish cartographer Jodocus Hondius, whose friend was Thomas Talbot, Clerk of Records in the Tower of London and a man who was possibly privy to the records of the Drake expedition. The map shows a striking resemblance to a part of San Francisco Bay that includes the Tiburon Peninsula and Belvedere Island and none whatsoever to the environs of Drake’s Bay.

Drake’s log indicates that in order to address the problem of being too top heavy that one anchor and three cannon were left behind. Those left behind included two bronze and one steel-belted cast iron cannon. Drake’s Bay and Estero have been thoroughly surveyed using magnetometers. No anchor or cannon have been found. As indicated in a previous article, one large ship anchor was found in the Goleta Slough in the 1880s and two bronze and one steel-belted cast iron cannons were found in the ocean a few hundred feet off of the U.C. Santa Barbara campus - just west of the mouth of the Goleta Slough – during the 1990s (?). The cannon are all of a type that would have been considered obsolete in the 1570s – war relics of the previous century. The cannon had undoubtedly been lost to the sea by sea cliff erosion and would have been well placed to protect a ship in the then navigable Goleta Slough. This being said, the Goleta Slough is not at the latitude noted in Drake’s log and is far from the location where the brass plaque was found.

After repairing his ship, Drake proceeded north along the California coast, possibly as far north as along the coast of British Columbia, and proceeded to circumnavigate the world, returning to England three years after he started and in possession of a treasure the likes of which had never before been seen in England. Sir Francis had enriched his queen, his investors, himself and all of his crew, who were able to retire to life of comfort.

Mike Kuhn





RSTB Calendar July 2004



| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|---|--|--|---|---|---|
| | | | | 1 Chumash Trail 6pm hike See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Bonnie Moyer</i> | 2 | 3 Wildwood See Schedule |
| 4 Rocky Peak 5pm hike See Schedule | 5 <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Kathy Baffone</i> <i>Kelli Ham</i> | 6 | 7 | 8 Chumash Trail 6pm hike See Schedule | 9 | 10 Pt. Mugu Cabin Trail See Schedule |
| 11 Rocky Peak 5pm hike See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Carrie McCline</i> | 12 | 13 | 14 <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Mike Kuhn</i> | 15 Chumash Trail 6pm hike See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Robert Eselin</i> | 16 <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Bruce Severy</i> | 17 Corriganville Work Party See Schedule |
| 18 Rocky Peak 5pm hike See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>D.C. Tucker</i> | 19 | 20 <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Monica Dionne</i> | 21 RSTB Meeting See Page 1 | 22 Chumash Trail 6pm hike See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Judi Sevcik</i> <i>Liz Williams</i> | 23 | 24 Latigo Canyon See Schedule |
| 25 Rocky Peak 5pm hike See Schedule | 26 | 27 | 28 <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Jim Achenback</i> | 29 Chumash Trail 6pm hike See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Carrie Law</i> | 30 | 31 Mugu Peak See Schedule |



Rancho Simi Trail Blazers

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Hiking Schedule



- July 1 Thursday Evening Hike**
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. (moderate, 5 MRT)
- July 3 Wildwood Park**
Moderate 4 - 6 MRT. This hike is not within the jurisdiction of the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District. Meet 7am near Donut Delite at the corner of Madera and Royal. Bring 2 qts. of water and snack, wear boots.
- July 4 Sunday Evening Hike**
Meet 5pm at Rocky Peak trailhead at the end of Rocky Peak Rd off Santa Susana Pass. (Strenuous, 5 MRT)
- July 8 Thursday Evening Hike**
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. (moderate, 5 MRT)
- July 10 Pt. Mugu Cabin Trail (Danielson Memorial)**
Moderate 6 MRT hike with approx. 1000' elevation gain/loss. Visit a waterfall and the Danielson Memorial, view the Oxnard Plain and Channel Islands from Old Boney Road. This hike is not within the jurisdiction of the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park district. Meet 7am near Donut Delite at the corner of Madera and Royal. Bring 2 - 3 qts. water and snack. Wear boots.
- July 11 Sunday Evening Hike**
Meet 5pm at Rocky Peak trailhead at the end of Rocky Peak Rd off Santa Susana Pass. (Strenuous, 5 MRT)
- July 15 Thursday Evening Hike**
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. (moderate, 5 MRT)
- July 17 Corriganville Work Party**
Help water the Oak seedlings that we planted in April. Directions – take 118 Fwy to Keuhner. Go south on Keuhner, to Smith Rd. Turn left onto Smith Road. The parking lot is at the end of the road. We will be working from 7am – 11am.. Bring 2 - 3 quarts of water for yourself, hat, sunscreen, and a container that can be used to water the trees.
- July 18 Sunday Evening Hike**
Meet 5pm at Rocky Peak trailhead at the end of Rocky Peak Rd off Santa Susana Pass. (Strenuous, 5 MRT)
- July 22 Thursday Evening Hike**
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. (moderate, 5 MRT)
- July 24 Latigo Canyon to Castro Peak**
Strenuous 7 MRT hike with beautiful scenery. This hike is not within the jurisdiction of the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park district. Bring snack and 2 - 3 qts of water, bug juice. Wear boots. Meet 7am near Donut Delite at the corner of Madera and Royal.
- July 25 Sunday Evening Hike**
Meet 5pm at Rocky Peak trailhead at the end of Rocky Peak Rd off Santa Susana Pass. (Strenuous, 5 MRT)
- July 29 Thursday Evening Hike**
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. (moderate, 5 MRT)
- July 31 Mugu Peak via La Jolla Canyon**
Moderate to strenuous 9 MRT with 1200+’ elevation gain/loss, starting from the Ray Miller trailhead. This hike is not within the jurisdiction of the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park district. Meet 7am near Donut Delite at the corner of Madera and Royal. Bring 2 - 3 qts. water and snack. Wear boots.

For more 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. Hikes will be cancelled if it rains.

<http://rstb.topcities.com>

RANCHO SIMI TRAIL BLAZERS

A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation

| | | | |
|-------------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|
| Executive Chair: | Mike Kuhn | HM (805) 583-2345 | hannahmike@adelphia.net |
| Treasurer: | Peter Ely | HM (805) 523-1409 | |
| Secretary: | David Wagner | HM (805) 577-5931 | centmfgdavid@sbcglobal.net |
| Park District Liaison: | Colleen Janssen | WK (805) 584-4453 | volunteers@rsrpd.us |
| Work Parties Chair: | | | |
| Hiking Chair & Website: | Arlene Altshuler | HM (805) 581-9735 | arlene.altshuler@mindbox.com |
| Vice Hiking Chair: | John Sabol | HM (805) 583-2541 | jtsabol@juno.com |
| Ways & Means Chair: | Marty Richards | HM (805) 526-4414 | |
| Publicity Chair: | Ursula Christie | HM (805) 527-5338 | ursulachristie@yahoo.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:

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

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