



Rancho Simi Trail Blazers

A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation



**Clara L. Pentreath
Jenny Nguyen
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HELP WANTED: NEWSLETTER EDITOR

We are looking for someone to fill the RSTB Newsletter Editor position, starting with the September issue. The content of the newsletter is provided by others and needs to be ready for production, by the 25th of each month (this would mean the new Editor would actually be starting in August). If you are handy with computers and would like to take on a new labor of love, the RSTB Club can sure use you!! Please contact Mike Kuhn at (805)-583-2345 or at hannahmike@roadrunner.com



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
July 16th, 2008

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 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.

Mike Kuhn
3/26/06



UPCOMING EVENTS

July 5th, 2008:
Rocky Peak (via the Hummingbird Trail) Pls. see the website for more info.

July 10th -13th, 2008:
Onion Valley Backpack Trip
RESERVATIONS CLOSED
 Please see the website for more info.

July 19th, 2008:
Solstice Canyon Loop
 Please see the website for more info.

July 26th, 2008:
Palm Springs to Mt. San Jacinto via the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway
 Please see the website for more info.

More information on these events can be found at
<http://simitrailblazers.com>
 To make reservations, please email Mark Gilmore at
markinthe park@sbcglobal.net



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.



HAPPY 4TH OF JULY!!



VEGETATION BURNING BY THE CHUMASH

In an article in the *Journal of California and Great Basin Anthropology* in 1982 (Vol. 4, No. 2, pp. 163-186) the authors Jan Timbrook, John R. Johnson, and David D. Earle examine and analyze the evidence of the use of fire by the Chumash to clear natural vegetation as observed by the earliest Spanish travelers. The observations by these early travelers are offered herein with some comments on how the long-term practice of burning had altered the landscape and what environmental changes followed the forced cessation of burning.

In short, the arrival within the historic Chumash area of what we now call “native Americans” at least 13,000 years ago seem to have been followed in California by frequent use of fire to clear natural vegetation in order to favor the production of perennial grasses, later greater acorn harvests, the production of seeds from favored “fire following plants,” and perhaps as a hunting tool. Those eye-witness accounts are few, and they come from people who certainly could have had only a rudimentary understand of why the Indians were setting fires. By the time that anthropologists started asking questions of the Chumash Indians, their culture, at

least as it related to burning, had been discontinued for over 100 years. Here then is the evidence that such practices were used within the Chumash territory. The observations are primarily from the coastal Chumash because that is where the early observations were made.

From the diary of Fr. Juan Crespi, who accompanied the Portola expedition in 1769-1770:

August 24, 1769 along the Santa Barbara coast:We were soon stopped here, and went up to some low-rolling tablelands that end in high bold cliffs near the sea, but are all very good dark friable soil, well covered with very fine grasses that nearly everywhere had been burnt by the heathens.

August 29, 1769 north of Point Arguello: ...We went almost all the way over salt-grass, all very much burnt off by the heathens,...nor was there grass for the animals, as it had all been burned off...although it had been burned off, there were spots that had not been and where there was good grass for the animals...(reaching the plains of Santa Maria)...fine soil and dry grass almost all of which had been burned by the heathens.

May 7, 1770 north of Point Arguello: ...fields all abloom with different kinds of wildflowers of all colors, so that as many as were the flowers we had been meeting all along the way and on the Channel, it was not such plenty as here for it is all one mass of blossom, great quantities of white, yellow, red, purple, and blue ones; many yellow violets ...On this whole march, three leagues from the point ...we have seen not a bush nor a single heathen. (This was the same land that had been covered on August 29, 1769 – the previous summer – and which had been burned the year before.)

Fr. Juan Crespi attributes the burning of the land to fires deliberately set by the “heathens.” He also describes areas along the Santa Barbara coast as grasslands in 1769 that are now covered by dense chaparral.

From the diary of Fernando Rivera y Moncado (military governor of California from 1774-1777):

April 25, 1776, along the Santa Clara River near the coast: ...The gentiles destroy and consume the pastures with

their burnings. (In a later journal entry he laments the difficulties that he has experienced in not being able to stop his march due to the lack of pasture for the livestock.) ...due to the horses and mules not having grass, all occasioned by the great fires of the gentiles, who, not having to care for more than their own bellies, burn the fields as soon as they gather up the seeds, and the (burning), is universal although on some occasions it happens that it may be greater or less, according to the winds or calm.

The practice of intentionally setting fire to fields during the late-summer or fall would have favored grasslands with oak/grass savannas over coastal sage scrub and chaparral. What resulted within the coastal Chumash sphere, and California for that matter, was an environment that was managed to maximize grasses, plant and animal resources. What happened when the Spanish and eastern Americans came was catastrophic for the Chumash. In a very simple way their worlds collided.

The Spanish and later the Americans needed grass for the grazing of livestock. Unlike today, even transportation was dependent upon livestock. The practice of burning fields every year (or two or three) had to be suppressed by the Spanish immediately. Laws were passed; rules were adopted. Punishment was swift. The Indians’ way of life collapsed. They became sheepherders, domestic and farm laborers and, vaqueros. Initially, the mission system provided about half of the food the Indians, who worked for the missions, needed. The Indians were given time off to harvest their wild products. With their primary land management tool denied them, the Indians became more dependent upon the mission and later the rancho systems. The natural world changed. Grasslands decreased; oak woodlands were more easily damaged by fire, coastal sage scrub vegetation expanded – as changes continue to abound – even now. Is it all for the better?

Mike Kuhn
6-16-08

May 10th 2008 - Sulphur Mountain

It was one of those perfect hiking days. The morning overcast shielded us from the sun, just long enough to keep thirteen of us cool during our 9 mile hike. Although the wildflower season was beginning to wane, there was still a good showing of Fiesta Flowers, Blue Larkspur, Mayweed, Pitcher Sage and Common Vervain.



June 14th 2008 - Sheep Camp

What is it about high elevation hikes? Although the temperature never rose above 76 degrees, it felt at least ten degrees warmer. Perhaps it was only because we were closer to the sun. Clear and sunny was the rule for the day. All 11 of us finished the 10 plus mile round trip. Wildflowers were still quite evident, especially if you were willing to get down close to the ground and take a close look.





RSTB Calendar

July 2008



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Long Canyon 6:30 pm hike See Schedule	2	3 Chumash Trail 6pm hike See Schedule	4  <i>HAPPY 4TH OF JULY!!</i>	5 Rocky Peak (via the Hummingbird Trail) See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday Kelli Ham</i>
6 Rocky Peak 5pm hike See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday Christopher Hamilton</i>	7	8 Long Canyon 6:30 pm hike See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday Joe Simon Rafael Zepeda</i>	9	10 Onion Valley Backpack Trip (No Hike)	11 Onion Valley Backpack Trip <i>Happy Birthday Effie Stantzos Carrie McCline</i>	12 Onion Valley Backpack Trip (No Hike) <i>Happy Birthday Patricia DeLuca</i>
13 Onion Valley Backpack Trip (No Hike) <i>Happy Birthday Pat Winfield</i>	14 <i>Happy Birthday Kathy Fowler Mike Kuhn</i>	15 Long Canyon 6:30pm hike See Schedule	16 RSTB Meeting See Page 1	17 Chumash Trail 6pm hike See Schedule	18	19 Solstice Canyon Loop See Schedule
20 Rocky Peak 5pm hike See Schedule	21	22 Long Canyon 6:30pm hike See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday Liz Williams</i>	23	24 Chumash Trail 6pm hike See Schedule	25	26 Palm Springs to Mt. San Jacinto via the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway See Schedule
27 Rocky Peak 5pm hike See Schedule	28 <i>Happy Birthday Eli Kashman</i>	29 Long Canyon 6:30pm hike See Schedule	30	31 Chumash Trail 6pm hike See Schedule		



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Hiking Schedule



REGULARLY SCHEDULED HIKES

(Rain cancels – No hikes on holidays)

Sunday Evening - Rocky Peak

Meet 4 pm at Rocky Peak trailhead at the end of Rocky Peak Rd off Santa Susana Pass. (Strenuous, 4.8 MRT)
(Meet at 5pm during daylight savings time)

Tuesday Evening - Long Canyon

Meet at 6:30pm in Long Canyon parking lot. Directions: Take First Street South. Continue when the road's name changes to Long Canyon Road. The parking lot is at the intersection of Long Canyon Road and Wood Ranch Pkwy. (Moderate, 3.0 MRT)

Thursday Evening - The Chumash Trail

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. (Strenuous, 5.2 MRT)

JULY HIKES

July 5th Rocky Peak (via the Hummingbird Trail)

8 MRT - Moderate to Strenuous (1750' elevation gain)

Meet at 8 AM at the trailhead. From Highway 118 Simi Valley Freeway, exit on Kuehner Drive and go north. Trailhead is on the right. Bring 2 quarts of water and lunch. Wear boots. OPTION: Continue on the Rocky Peak fire road, down the Chumash Trail and then on a lesser-known trail back to the Hummingbird Ranch trailhead. (adds about 2.5 miles)

July 10th - 13th Onion Valley Backpack Trip*

5.6 MRT - Moderate (1200' elevation gain)

Trip Full. Reservations closed. Send email to markinthe park@sbcglobal.net to be put on the waiting list.

This very special event is limited to Trailblazer members only. This backpack has some of the most beautiful lakes and flower covered meadows in the whole Southeastern Sierra. The trailhead is at 9,200'. Well set up our base camp at Flower Lake (10,420'). From there, we can dayhike to several picturesque lakes. The more adventurous can climb Kearsarge Peak (11,823'). Wilderness Permit spaces are limited, so email [Mark](#) to reserve your place. The permit cost is \$5 per person. We'll hit the trail the morning of the 11th and camp the night before at the nearby Onion Valley Campground.

July 19th Solstice Canyon Loop*

3 to 6 MRT - Easy to moderate (500' to 1000' elevation gain)

Beautiful creek, 30 ft waterfall, mysterious ruins, hidden statue, and ocean views. Meet at 8 AM near Donut Delite, at the corner of Madera and Royal. Bring 2 - 3 quarts of water, a snack and bug juice. Wear boots.

July 26th Palm Springs to Mt. San Jacinto via the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway*

11 MRT - Moderate (2300' elevation gain)

This is an all day event. Please see the RSTB website for more information about the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway and about the hike to the peak. We'll leave the 118 & Stearns St. Park & Ride at 6:30 in the morning, and arrive at the tramway mid-morning. We'll head on home that same afternoon/evening. The tram costs are outlined on their website. Bring sturdy boots, at least 3 quarts of water, trail snacks, sunscreen, sunglasses, a hat and a windbreaker.



* Not within the jurisdiction of the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District.

No dogs allowed on trail(s).

For 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@roadrunner.com
Treasurer:	Peter Ely		
Park District Liaison:	Colleen Janssen	WK (805) 584-4453 *** OPEN ***	volunteers@rsrpdu.us
Work Parties Chair:			
Hiking Chair:	Mark Gilmore	HM (805) 529-5581	markinthepark@sbcglobal.net
Vice Hiking Chair:	John Sabol	HM (805) 583-2541	jtsabol@sbcglobal.net
Website:	Mark Gilmore	HM (805) 529-5581	markinthepark@sbcglobal.net
Ways & Means Chair:	Marty Richards	HM (805) 526-4414	
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Newsletter Editor:	Linda Travis		lindactravis@sbcglobal.net

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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(s) _____ Birth Mo. _____ Day _____

Please list any extra names and birthdays of more than one member (Month & Day Only)

Address _____

Email Address _____ Phone wk/hm _____

Would you like to receive periodic email announcements about club activities? Yes () No ()

How did you find out about the RSTB_____

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

“Rancho Simi Foundation” mail it to “RSTB, P.O. Box 630445, Simi Valley, Ca 93063-0399



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