

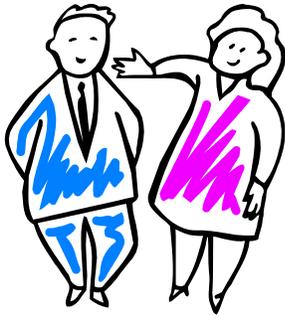


Rancho Simi Trail Blazers

A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation



Welcome New Members!



Eric Sanorgo
Steve Whitmore & family
Dave & Pat Peters

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 as follows:

- 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 7:00 PM July 15, 2009

June Work Party a Success!



The Trail Blazer work party last month was held on the Lower Stagecoach Trail on June 6th in conjunction with National Trail Day. We worked down from the upper trailhead on Santa Susana Pass Road. Tasks included trimming trees and brush overhanging the trail as well as using hand tools and a gas-powered brush cutter to clear overgrowth from the trail. We completed the clearing of the trail that was started on March 20th. Many thanks to Alan Cueba, Bart Hibbs, Mike Kuhn, John Sabol and Gabe Sende.

Have you visited the Rancho Simi Trail Blazers website lately? You can find trail maps, safety tips, links to other great resources, and much more! It's easy to remember: Simitrailblazers.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

Please visit the website for details on any of the following hikes and events.

July 4th
Holiday – No hike scheduled

July 7th-12th
Yosemite National Park: Tuolumne Meadows Hiking & Camping Trip
See details on page 5

July 15th
Club Meeting

July 18th
Sheep Camp Day Hike
10.5 MRT - Moderate to Strenuous (elevation change from 8900' to 8250')

July 25th
Solstice Canyon
Moderate - 7 MRT (1,500' elevation gain)

More information on these events can be found at

<http://simitrailblazers.com>

For trips that require reservations, please email Mark Gilmore at markinthepark@sbcglobal.net



SIMI ADOBE

The first adobe in Simi Valley was built around 1796 about a mile downstream from the confluence of the Arroyo Simi and the Arroyo del Tapo, well south of the Arroyo Simi. The site is thought to have been on the Janet Scott Cameron estate east of the intersection of Erringer Road with Royal Avenue. At that location groundwater first maintained the Arroyo Simi as a perennial stream - except during the driest years - and the site was well upstream from distributaries of the Arroyo Simi and the present day Erringer Drain, which would have threatened periodic flooding. Sometime after the beginning of the 19th Century the rancho headquarters was moved to the site of the present day Peter B. Strathearn Historical Park - perhaps because of more dependable water and firewood supplies and to be close to the historic village of *Simi*. That second adobe is now referred to as the Simi Adobe. The first adobe may have continued to be occupied for several decades because it is shown on a *deseno* (map showing the extent of the rancho) during the 1840s.

The Simi Adobe was partially destroyed in 1820 by an attack by marauding *Kumia* (*Kimeyaay*) Indians from Baja California but was quickly rebuilt and occupied by the Pico family. Evidence of that and possibly later fires is abundant on site in the form of baked clay, with willow branch impressions, from the burning of the wattle and daub roof.

Alfred Robinson, a Yankee trader, reported in his book, *Life in California*, stopping late at night at the adobe in 1829 on his way to the Pueblo de los Los Angeles, sleeping on the grounds and leaving at first light the next morning without disturbing the residents.

Throughout the rancho period a sheep camp had been maintained near the site of the historic village of *Ta'apu* up Tapo Canyon. About 1830 an adobe, with the same basic floor plan as the Simi Adobe, was erected where the present day ruins of a later adobe stand in the Tapo Canyon Regional Park.

In 1832 Don Jose de la Guerra purchased Rancho Simi for \$1,019. The Tapo became the rancho headquarters by 1841, and the Simi Adobe was abandoned. However, in 1858 Francisco de la Guerra is shown as living in the Simi Adobe. That year there is thought to have been another fire at the adobe.

In 1861 the adobe became a stop on the stagecoach line. That station was apparently run by a de la Guerra. It was referred to as the *Noriega* station. Noriega was Jose de la Guerra's wife's maiden name. A son of Jose de la Guerra is still shown as living in the adobe in 1864. Then in 1865 the rancho was sold to Pennsylvania Railroad.

Subsequently a Basque shepherding family occupied the adobe. Then, in the late 1880s the property was acquired by the Scott Strathearn family, which added a New England farm house to the southern end of the adobe and used the old

adobe as a dining room and kitchen.

Another fire destroyed a portion of the adobe about 1916. When the adobe was rebuilt, the northern portion of the old adobe was left off. As a result of an archaeological excavation in the late-1970s, the foundation stones are still visible.

Back in the late 1970s or early 1980s, I was invited to investigate the attic of the adobe and document what I found. The attic was floored and there was evidence that it had been used as sleeping quarters prior to the addition of the Strathearn home to its southern end. There had been an exterior staircase leading to a doorway under the hip roof. The rough cut rafters contained nails, indicating, I believe, that blankets had been hung to divide that space into separate sleeping quarters. There was evidence of a stove vent fire at sometime in the past. The Strathearn children had some memory of that event.

The Simi Adobe is now part of a State historical landmark. The adobe is the oldest structure in the valley and dates back to a period when the Chumash Indians were still on the land and their culture in fatal decline. Nothing in this world is static, but we can cherish relics from the past.

Mike Kuhn
11-28-04

May 30th-31st 2009 - The Harwood Lodge & Mt. Baldy

13 hikers departed from Simi Valley in four vehicles shortly after 7:00 a.m. on Saturday morning heading for Mt. Baldy (Mt. San Antonio), the highest peak in the San Gabriel Mountains. After stopping at the Mt. Baldy Visitor Center (in Mt. Baldy Village), we checked in at the Sierra Club's Harwood Lodge (6,000'), a charming structure built in 1930 [\$12-\$15 overnight], conveniently located close to the Mt. Baldy Ski Lift and the entrance to Icehouse Canyon.



We then drove up to the parking lot at the north end of Mt. Baldy Road, purchased our round-trip ski lift tickets (\$14 including a group discount), and rode the ski lift up to Baldy Notch (7,802'). We then set out on a 3.6-mile climb to the top of Mt. Baldy (10,064'), gaining over 2,200' of elevation on the way. Initially the trail followed a fire road/ski run heading up the mountain to the west for about 1.25 miles, eventually leading to the well-named Devil's Backbone portion of the trail.

This middle portion of the trail led onto a sharp narrow ridge with steep drop-offs on both sides posing a serious danger to careless hikers, but affording great views into the deep gorge of Lytle Creek to the north and into San Antonio Canyon to the south. The trail then narrowed to a pulse-raising 12"-18" width as it wound around the southeast flank of Mt. Harwood, again requiring a keen focus on the trail. After what was probably a shorter time than it seemed, Mt. Baldy peak came into view in the distance. After crossing a saddle, we began climbing the steep trail to the top of the mountain, pausing as needed to catch our breath. Finally we reached the top of Mt. Baldy and were rewarded with a 360-degree view (which was somewhat limited



by the overcast day). After resting, eating our lunches, and enjoying the view we retraced our route to Baldy Notch, took the ski lift down to the parking lot, and returned to the Harwood Lodge. We

enjoyed a wonderful potluck dinner (turkey lasagna, tossed salad, garlic bread, etc.), talked with other visitors at the lodge, listened to a slide presentation regarding an attempt to expand the boundaries of the Cucamonga Wilderness, and turned in for a good night's sleep in the dormitory-style sleeping quarters.

Sunday morning we arose, had a quick breakfast, packed up, performed some quick lodge cleanup chores, and then drove down to the parking lot at the mouth of Icehouse Canyon (5,120'), having decided to hike up-canyon until we felt like turning around. Shortly after entering the canyon, the trail entered a beautiful forest of oak, incense cedar, big-cone spruce, ponderosa pine, and sugar pine trees as it rose along a lovely creek which had lots of



water in it, providing a feast for the eyes and ears for the next mile. At one point as we hiked through the forest, we came upon a 20-foot stretch of trail (as well as



adjoining rocks and logs) that was completely covered by thousands (perhaps tens of thousands) of ladybugs. The creek eventually disappeared underground as the trail climbed ever upward toward Icehouse Saddle (7,580'), but there were many wildflowers along the way. We continued hiking through an open forest

of tall pines and firs, reaching Icehouse Saddle in time for lunch. After resting a while and enjoying the view, we returned the way we had come, again enjoying the sights and sounds we'd experienced on the way up. We reached the parking lot after a 7.7-mile round-trip hike with a total elevation gain of 2,600'. We headed back to Simi Valley, arriving mid-afternoon, tired but happy, having hiked nearly 15 miles with a total elevation gain of nearly 5,000' in two days.



RSTB Calendar July 2009



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 Chumash Trail 6pm hike See Schedule	3	4 Independence Day Holiday – No hike scheduled
5 Rocky Peak 5pm hike See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Kelli Ham	6 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Christopher Hamilton	7 July 7th-12th Yosemite National Park: Tuolumne Meadows Hiking & Camping Trip Long Canyon 6:30pm hike	8 Yosemite National Park: Tuolumne Meadows Hiking & Camping Trip <i>Happy Birthday</i> Joe Simon Rafael Zepeda	9 Yosemite National Park: Tuolumne Meadows Hiking & Camping Trip Chumash Trail 6pm hike	10 Yosemite National Park: Tuolumne Meadows Hiking & Camping Trip	11 Yosemite National Park: Tuolumne Meadows Hiking & Camping Trip <i>Happy Birthday</i> Carrie McCline Effie Stantzos
12 Yosemite National Park: Tuolumne Meadows Hiking & Camping Trip Rocky Peak 5pm hike <i>Happy Birthday</i> Patricia DeLuca	13 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Eric Sanorjo Pat Winfield	14 Long Canyon 6:30pm hike See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Kathy Fowler Mike Kuhn	15 RSTB Meeting 7:00 pm See Page 1 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Lorenzo Zarcone	16 Chumash Trail 6pm hike See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Nicholas Carroll	17	18 Sheep Camp Day Hike See Schedule
19 Rocky Peak 5pm hike See Schedule	20	21 Long Canyon 6:30pm hike See Schedule	22 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Liz Williams	23 Chumash Trail 6pm hike See Schedule	24	25 Solstice Canyon See Schedule
26 Rocky Peak 5pm hike See Schedule	27 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Marilyn Green	28 Long Canyon 6:30pm hike See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Eli Kashman	29	30 Chumash Trail 6pm hike See Schedule	31	

June 6, 2009 Work Party - Lower Stagecoach Trail



Alan



Bart



Mike



John



Gabe



Rancho Simi Trail Blazers

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Hiking Schedule



REGULARLY SCHEDULED HIKES

(Rain cancels – No hikes on holidays)

Sunday Evening - Rocky Peak

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

Tuesday Evening - Long Canyon

Meet at 6:30pm in Long Canyon parking lot. Directions: Take 1st Street heading 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 AND ACTIVITIES

July 4th

Holiday - No Hike Scheduled

July 7th - 12th

Yosemite National Park: Tuolumne Meadows Hiking & Camping Trip*

This very special event is limited to Trailblazer members only. This trip is for the entire family. You may join in on the yet to be planned hikes, or simply enjoy the sights. We will be tent camping at the **Tuolumne Meadows Campground**. There is a non-refundable campground fee, shared equally among all those who sign up. Please plan to arrive the afternoon of July 7th. There is also a \$20 per car park entry fee. Please note this is the week after the July 4th Holiday, so the droves of holiday weekend campers will be gone!

July 15th

Club Meeting

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

July 18th

Sheep Camp Day Hike*

10.5 MRT - Moderate to Strenuous (elevation change from 8900' to 8250')

Great panoramic views from the Condor Observation Point, and beautiful scenery hiking through Jeffery Pines. There is a spring box with year round water at the camp. The water does need to be filtered. Bring 2 to 3 quarts of water (and/or a water filter), and lunch. Wear boots. Meet 7 AM the Stearns St. Park & Ride. The drive is 1 1/2 hours each way.

July 25th Solstice Canyon

Moderate - 7 MRT (1,500' elevation gain)

Take the Solstice Canyon Trail to the Sostomo Trail, continuing on the Deer Valley Loop Trail, then to shady Tropical Terrace/waterfall. Return on the Rising Sun Trail. Meet at 8 AM near Donut Delite at the corner of Madera and Royal. Bring 2 - 3 quarts of water and lunch. For more information about this hike, please check the website.



Hikes marked with this symbol means no dogs allowed on trail(s).

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

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>

LANCHO 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	volunteers@rsrpd.us
Work Parties Chair:		*** OPEN ***	
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:	Carrie McCline		
Newsletter Editor:	Kelli Ham		simitrailrunner@gmail.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(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



U.S. Postage

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