



Rancho Simi Trail Blazers

A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation



Welcome New Members

Claudia Cassidy, Julie Warner,
Chessa Hiebert, Vanavern Zanders
& family

Rattlesnakes

Rattlesnakes are out and about whenever the weather is 70 degrees for a few days at a time. While a healthy adult should be able to recover from a Pacific rattlesnake bite, it's best to avoid them whenever possible. Please take the following precautions when hiking:



- Keep pets on leash and out of the brush.
- Keep children on trails and in sight.
- Never put your hands or feet where you cannot see them (e.g., in a hole or under a rock).
- Wear long pants and high-top, sturdy shoes.
- Never hike alone.

If you are bitten, follow these procedures:

- Keep as calm and as immobile as possible, placing the wound below the level of the heart.
- Have someone transport you to the nearest hospital.
- Do not aggravate the situation by the use of constricting bandages, cutting the bite wound, or using a suction device.
- Never use ice or cold packs, or suck the venom out with your mouth.



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



RSTB CLUB MEETING

This month's club meeting will be at:
Sycamore Drive Community Center
1692 Sycamore Drive - Room B-1
Cancelled – July 18, 2012

Upcoming Events

July 7th

Mt. McCoy to the Reagan Library
3.6 MRT - Moderate (700' elevation gain) - Meet at **8AM**

July 14th

*Serrano Canyon**
8 MRT - Moderate (700' elevation gain) - Meet at **8AM**

July 16th - July 22nd

*Lake Tahoe Camping & Hiking Event** - email Mark Gilmore: markinthepark@sbcglobal.net for more information.

July 18

Club Meeting Cancelled

July 28

The Hummingbird Trail and Rocky Peak
4.6 MRT - Moderate to Strenuous (1,000' elevation gain) or 8 MRT - Moderate to Strenuous (1750' elevation gain) - Meet at **8AM**

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.

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

PAINTED IDOL

Pedro Fages, Gaspar de Portola's second in command, while describing their 1769 trip down the Santa Clara River Valley, wrote about idols being placed near villages. Those idols were sometimes sticks or stone figurines painted with colors and surmounted with plumage. They are described as being three hands high. Since those idols were made of ephemeral materials, except for the stones, and since they were placed in the open, rather than in caves, it is unlikely that any of them have lasted into this century to be found and identified. They were numerous, and they are gone. So much so that late-Nineteenth Century and later archaeologists do not report them at all, nor do any of their informants.

Some paintings in caves have lasted. Occasionally, a small mortar (or "paint pot") with pigment still in it turns up in an archaeological excavation or as a surface find. The first "archaeologists" of the late-Nineteenth Century basically robbed graves for marketable grave goods and human skulls (also marketable because of the focus of science at the time on race through the measurements of skulls). The notes of those early excavators of cemeteries often describe inverted metates and mortars with their basins painted red.

One painted stone, about 4 1/2 inches in height, was found on the top of a hill in the late 1970s in the Sunset Hills area of the City of Thousand Oaks. The stone is quartzite. It is a somewhat rounded cobble that was fractured perhaps tens or hundreds of thousands of years ago, with subsequent rounding of the broken edges. The stone shows no effort to shape it. It is capped with red pigment on both ends and has three red pigment bands. Of particular interest are a series of chisel-like marks perpendicular to the edges of each of the three bands of pigment. It is difficult to imagine how they would have been created because the rock has a Moho hardness of 7, similar to steel. Perhaps a quartz or quartzite chisel was employed. It is also possible that it was manufactured during the historic period when a steel chisel could have been used. The persistence of the pigment, given its exposure to the weather, is hard to

understand unless it is a mineral pigment. If it were a commercial paint from the modern period, it probably would be seriously degraded. Still, we cannot be certain that it is of Chumash origin. However, the pigment and the nature of the artifact suggests that it well might be an example of a painted stone of the type described by Pedro Fages.

Mike Kuhn
10-27-04

BEEP BEEP

The greater roadrunner (*Geococcyx californianus*) inhabit the hills surrounding our valley and are frequently observed by hikers and residents on the edge of the city. They feed on any animal that they can swallow whole. Their food includes lizards, snakes, small rodents, birds and insects, which they stab with their nearly two inch long beak. During the spring and summer months, they also eat fruit and seeds. They depend upon speed and keen eyesight to catch their prey. They can run up to speeds of 15 miles per hour, and when pressed will fly for relatively short distances. They do not interact with coyotes, but do compete directly with them for food. They drink when water is available. Otherwise they can survive on the moisture they get from their prey.

The roadrunner is a member of the cuckoo family, the only other member of which in our area is the yellow-billed cuckoo. Cuckoos have slender bodies, long tails and two toes forward and two toes back - therefore, you can always tell a roadrunner's track.

Roadrunners maintain the same territory throughout the year and do not migrate. They can withstand great temperature extremes. When hot, they rest in the shade. At night, their normal body temperature of 101 degrees Fahrenheit can drop as much as seven degrees. In the morning or on cold days, they warm themselves in the sun, turning their backs to the sun and raising their back feathers to expose a large dark patch of skin. They mate for life and build nests in low trees and brush. Both male and female birds sit on the nests. When the nest is threatened by a predator, the adults

feign broken legs and lead the predator away from the nest.

Mike Kuhn
11-1-04

THOUSAND OAKS

No big mystery here. There are a lot of oak trees in the City of Thousand Oaks. Certainly many thousands. When in the late-1970s, or possibly the early 1980s, a new main post office was built in Thousand Oaks, a whole bunch of native oak trees were cut down. I remember kidding someone that the name of the city should be changed to nine hundred and some oaks.

What is of interest with the name of the city is how we use words. Up until fairly recently, when you referred to a geographic feature with the term one thousand, it simply meant that there were too many of something to count. It didn't mean that there were really a thousand, it simply meant that there were a whole bunch. In Madera County is Thousand Island Lake, in Shasta County is Thousand Lakes Primitive Area, in Riverside County is Thousand Palms, in San Diego County is Thousand Palms Canyon, and in Shasta County is Thousand Springs. I doubt that the count is correct for any of these places.

Mike Kuhn
7-21-06



June 23rd 2012 - Wildwood Park Loop: Arroyo Conejo Creek to Hill Canyon Wetlands to Wildwood Canyon (Paradise Falls) to the Lynnmere Trail



13 hikers arrived at 8:30 a.m. at the trailhead at the northwest end of Calle Yucca on the south side of Wildwood Park in Thousand Oaks on a still-cool morning. As the hike began we descended into the shady canyon through

which the Arroyo Canyon Creek runs. The trail (an old dirt road) ran through a pleasant woodland of oak and walnut trees; we crossed the creek four times by carefully stepping on rocks in the stream (hiking poles are advised) before reaching the new (2005) Hill Canyon Wetlands, home of coots, mallards, herons, and pond turtles. Leaving the wetlands, we made our final “wet” stream crossing and then hiked along a narrow trail through some tall brush soon reaching an open grassland. A quick trip over to the main stream revealed a temporary sandbag dam which we used to avoid a detour of about 1.8 miles. After passing the modern-looking Hill Canyon Wastewater Treatment Plant, we followed the trail upstream through Wildwood Canyon, stopping to enjoy Paradise Falls along the way. The trail then ascended along a fairly steep dirt road until it met the Lynnmere Trail. Taking the west fork, we followed the trail as it led us around the north side of the mountain and then climbed southward to the top of the mountain, affording us with a spectacular 360-degree view of the surrounding mountains. We then descended back to the original trailhead and headed home having completed an enjoyable 5.9-mile hike with 930’ of elevation gain/loss.

June 2, 2012 - Switzer Falls & Bear Canyon



June 9, 2012 - Hummingbird Trail Work Party & Cache In/Trash Out Event



June 16, 2012 - Danielson Memorial

Thirteen hikers met at the Madera Road carpool point on a partially overcast morning and then traveled to the Wendy Trail trailhead on Potrero Road at the south end of Wendy Drive in Newbury Park (which borders the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area). The hike began by following the Wendy Trail to the Satwiwa Native American Indian Culture Center at Rancho Sierra Vista and then heading diagonally southeast across the adjacent grassland to the Danielson Road leading to the Danielson Memorial. The trail (dirt road) climbed for a while before dropping into Upper Sycamore Canyon and crossing its streambed. After taking a short side trail to a nearly dry waterfall, we returned to the main trail and followed it as it rose up Old Boney Mountain via shaded switchbacks, soon providing us with sweeping views of the northern portion of Big Sycamore Canyon and its surrounds. A variety of blooming wildflowers were in evidence. Eventually we reached the tree-shaded Danielson Memorial and the ruins of the nearby Danielson Cabin (only a chimney remains). After a lunch break in this beautiful spot, we began returning along the Danielson Road. When we reached the stream crossing, we spotted a cluster of Humboldt lilies nearby and stopped to enjoy their beauty and take photos. Continuing on to the edge of the sprawling Rancho Sierra Vista grassland, we took a different trail on its eastern side back toward the dirt parking area on Potrero Road. Reaching our vehicles, we completed a very pleasant 6.6-mile hike with 1,365’ of elevation gain/loss.



For information about Rancho Sierra Vista/Satwiwa, go to the National Park Service website at:

<http://www.nps.gov/samo/planyourvisit/rvsatwiwa.htm>



RSTB Calendar July



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Rocky Peak Fire Road 5PM See Schedule	2	3 Las Llajas Canyon 6:30PM See Schedule	4 	5 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Kelli Ham	6	7 Mt. McCoy to the Reagan Library 3.6 MRT - Moderate (700' elevation gain) See Schedule
June 29th - July 2nd <i>Santa Rosa Island Backpack*</i>						
8 Rocky Peak Fire Road 5PM See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Joe Simon Rafael Zepeda	9	10 Las Llajas Canyon 6:30PM See Schedule	11 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Robert Miller Richard Bradley Carrie McCline	12 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule	13	14 Serrano Canyon* 8 MRT - Moderate (700' elevation gain) See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Mike Kuhn
15 Rocky Peak Fire Road 5PM See Schedule	16	17 Las Llajas Canyon 6:30PM	18 Club Meeting Cancelled	19 Chumash Trail 6PM	20	21
July 16th - July 22nd <i>Lake Tahoe Camping & Hiking Event*</i>						
<i>Happy Birthday</i> Gloria Silva	<i>Happy Birthday</i> Nicholas Carroll	See Schedule	See Schedule	See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Vanavern Zanders		See Schedule
22 Rocky Peak Fire Road 5PM See Schedule	23	24 Las Llajas Canyon 6:30PM See Schedule	25	26 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule	27 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Marilyn Green	28 The Hummingbird Trail and Rocky Peak 4.6 MRT - Moderate to Strenuous (1,000' elevation gain) See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Christine Calvert
July 16th - July 22nd <i>Lake Tahoe Camping & Hiking Event*</i> See Schedule						
29 Rocky Peak Fire Road 5PM See Schedule	30	31 Las Llajas Canyon 6:30PM See Schedule				



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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 - Las Lajas Canyon

Meet at **6:30 PM** at the Evening Sky Drive trailhead. Take the 118 to the Yosemite Ave exit. Head north 1/3 mile (passing McDonald's) to the stop sign at Alamo Street. Continue 0.85 mile north on Yosemite Ave to the stop sign at Evening Sky Drive. Turn right (east) and drive 0.5 mile to the trailhead. Park on either side of the street. (Easy - 3.75 MRT - 348' total 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)

JULY HIKES AND ACTIVITIES

July 7th

Mt. McCoy to the Reagan Library

3.6 MRT - Moderate (700' elevation gain)

Hike up to an isolated knoll in a 200 acre open space region at the western end of Simi Valley. At the summit (1,325') is a white cross, erected in 1941, and a 360 degree view. From there it's about another half mile to the Reagan Library. Bring a snack and 2 quarts of water. Wear boots. Meet at **8 AM** near Donut Delite at the corner of Madera and Royal. Optional: Meet at Baja Fresh after the hike for lunch.

July 14th

*Serrano Canyon**

8 MRT - Moderate (700' elevation gain)

Follow the Sycamore Canyon trail for about 1.5 miles, then to the junction with Serrano Canyon Trail. The Serrano trail takes you east into a densely wooded narrow canyon, with a lovely seasonal stream criss-crossing the trail numerous times, and abundant wildlife. Meet at **8 AM** near Donut Delite at the corner of Madera and Royal. Bring 2 - 3 quarts of water and a snack. Wear boots. Note: There is a \$12 per car parking fee at the trailhead.

July 16th - July 22nd

*Lake Tahoe Camping & Hiking Event**

This very special event is limited to Trail Blazer 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 Fallen Leaf Lake Campground. There is a non-refundable campground and parking fee, shared equally among all those who sign up. Please plan to arrive the afternoon of July 16th. The last day to sign up is July 6th. To make your reservations, email Mark Gilmore: markinthepark@sbcglobal.net for more information. **Space is limited, so it's best to sign up early.**

July 18

Club Meeting Cancelled

July 28

The Hummingbird Trail and Rocky Peak

4.6 MRT - Moderate to Strenuous (1,000' elevation gain) or 8 MRT - Moderate to Strenuous (1750' elevation gain)

Meet at **8 AM** at the Hummingbird Ranch Trailhead. You have the option of hiking only the Hummingbird Trail, or continuing on to Rocky Peak. From Highway 118 Simi Valley Freeway, exit on Kuehner Drive and go north. Trailhead is on the right. Bring 2 - 3 quarts of water and lunch. Wear boots.

* 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:	<i>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</i>		
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:	<i>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</i>		
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.

Mail Mailing address _____

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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**



U.S. Postage

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