



# Rancho Simi Trail Blazers

A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation



## New Members

Ed Cohen, Rita Williams,  
Henry & Lisa Povinelli, and  
Gerald & Marv Beth Pitstick

May 24th - May 27th – San Miguel Island Backpack

SATURDAY, MAY 25, 2013 - Cardwell Point and Lester Point

Hike #1. Campground to Cardwell Point - 6.1 miles RT w/666' of elevation gain/loss

Inge Rose led the group on a 6.1-mile round-trip hike to Cardwell Point on the east end of the island. We had a great view from about 100' up on a cliff of scores of elephant seals on the beach (some were nearby in the ocean). We took care not to let them see us standing upright since Inge told us that they would take that as a sign of aggression and they might all retreat into the ocean. We then walked a short distance northward where we had a good view of lots of California sea lions and more elephant seals. We returned to the campground for lunch and a brief rest.

**NOTE:** If you want to view more stories from the San Miguel Island Backpack get-a-way go to:  
<http://www.simitrailblazers.com/news/index.html>

## 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



## Weekly hikes

Come with us on one or more of our weekly hikes! We have a great deal of fun, taking photos, talking and just hiking and taking in the beautiful scenery. If you miss just one of the hikes you could miss out on meeting a lot of wonderful new friends and viewing the most spectacular views in and around Simi Valley.



There are hikes every Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday.

## RSTB CLUB MEETING

This month's RSTB meeting will be at: Sycamore Drive Community Center 1692 Sycamore Drive – Room B-1  
**Wednesday: July 17, 2013 7:00PM**  
*Everyone Welcome to attend!*

## Upcoming Events

July 6th - Mt. McCoy to the Reagan Library\*

6 MRT - Moderate (800' elevation gain) - **8AM**

July 13th - Temescal

Canyon/Viewpoint Trail Loop + Will Rogers SHP via Rivas Canyon Trail - 8.5 MRT with - Moderate (1,800' of elevation gain/loss) - **8AM**

July 17th - Club Meeting - **7PM**  
*Everyone Welcome to attend!*

July 20th - Solstice Canyon - Sostomo Trail - Deer Valley Loop + Tropical Terrace

6.3 MRT - Moderate (1,200' of elevation gain/loss) – **8AM**

July 27th - 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) - **7 AM**

Due to unforeseen circumstances, all activities are subject to change without notice. Please see [www.simitrailblazers.com/activities/](http://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.rsprd.org> to see what is happening next!

## WILDLIFE CORRIDORS

The rapid expansion in urban areas throughout much of California is resulting in fragmentation of natural areas. Islands of natural areas are too small for most large and medium sized species to survive in and are more vulnerable to competition from domestic cats and introduced urban species such as black and Norwegian rats. Introduced species have increased crowding of native species and altered the nature of ecosystems. Animals that require large habitat areas must be able to move from one isolated patch to another in order to find enough food resources and to limit inbreeding. To avoid the loss of wildlife, biologists have advocated the maintenance of "wildlife corridors" connecting isolated patches of natural habitat.

Examples of isolated area occur in our own area as urban development expands up the outlying canyon areas. Roadways tend to connect one canyon with another - thus creating barriers to movement. The several hundred-acre area now bisected by the Canyon Overlook Trail in Wood Ranch is an example. The area is completely isolated by housing and roadways. In order to move in and out of the area, larger species must cross roadways at the peril to life and limb. Coyotes, deer, raccoons and other animals are doing just that. However, they also tend to end up flat on the roads. Freeways, because of their width, traffic and chain link fencing, are nearly impassible.

Isolated pockets of natural areas are also impacted by domestic cats and dogs, which roam into those areas and prey on birds and rodents. The edge effect also works the other way in that coyotes, deer, bobcats, skunks, field and deer mice, and even mountain lions forage to one degree or another into the urban fringe. Those missing cats that are taken by coyotes and owls

may have become victims by roaming into the wild areas or into their own back yards.

Little is known about the effectiveness of wildlife corridors. One study suggests that most animals will not use small culverts under roadways. Many species are, however, known to use large culverts, such as the "wildlife corridor" under the freeway above Corriganville. Wildlife overpasses have been suggested for fostering movement in and out of the Santa Monica Mountains over the 101 Freeway. However, those studies that have examined this option have not been encouraging. Riparian corridors hold the most promise. However, those corridors tend to concentrate exotic species, such as cats, rats and house mice. So, without wide areas, riparian corridors have limited benefits. Hopefully, we will gain a greater understanding about what works and doesn't - before it's too late.

Mike Kuhn  
12-7-04

## WHY ARE SOME EXOTIC WEEDS SO SUCCESSFUL?

Some exotic weeds are unbelievably successful in new environments.

Diffuse knapweed, a thistle-like plant with a purple flower, grows in solid stands in Montana and other western states, yet it is difficult to find in its native range in the foothills of the Caucasus of the

Republic of Georgia. Knapweed is not eaten by cattle and ranchers and government agencies battled it with herbicides. Botanists have frequently attributed this success to being free of natural insect predators and pathogens.

In an article in the October 20, 2000, issue of *Science* (pp. 521-523), researchers report that when knapweed is grown with new world grasses, the biomass of those grasses is reduced by 85 percent. When grown with grasses from their native environment, the biomass of those grasses is reduced by

a more modest amount, while the biomass of the knapweed is also reduced. What the authors of the article found was that the knapweed appears to be exuding from its roots a powerful chemical that allows the knapweed to dramatically out compete its new world neighbors.

Botanists have traditionally looked for insect pests from back home to control exotic pests. The discovery of the plants own chemical warfare would seem to explain the modest success enjoyed by the introduction of new insects and other controls. This research seems to suggest that the chemical or chemicals produced by the knapweed which seem to work so well in the new world, have resulted in adaptive evolution among its long time Eurasian neighbors.

These contrasting interactive strategies between plants from different biogeographical regions have, according to the authors, some implications for ecology. First, it suggests that the plants in plant communities, such as coastal sage scrub, may be adapted to each other as well as adapted to climate, aspect, etc. Second, it conflicts with the generally held view that plant competition is not species specific. Third, it suggests that the interaction among plant species may drive natural selection in communities. Fourth, it implies that natural biological communities evolve in some way as functionally organized units. And fifth, it suggests that invasive exotic plants may use competitive mechanisms that are not present in the communities that are invaded - thus having a profound disruptive effect among long associated native species. This or similar mechanisms may account for the spectacular success in our own state of exotics species like black and Mediterranean mustard, yellow-star thistle, and horehound.

Mike Kuhn  
11-18-04

## June 1st - Hummingbird Trail Work Party & Cache In Trash Out Event - National Trails Day



In conjunction with National Trails Day, 23 Trail Blazers and local [geocachers](#), participated in a work party on the Hummingbird Creek Trail. We completely filled the back of a pickup truck with the trash we collected. The waterfall area graffiti has been painted over once again. We all had a great time together, giving back to the community.

## June 8th - Eaton Canyon Park to Henninger Flats

Ten hikers met near the Eaton Canyon Nature Center in Pasadena on a soon-to-be-hot late-spring morning. Our hike began along the seasonally dry streambed in Eaton Canyon, but we soon



began ascending a steep equestrian trail to its junction with the Mt. Wilson Toll Road. As we followed the old toll road up the mountain, the view

expanded, but was limited by the haze over Pasadena. Somewhat winded due to the nearly 1,700' elevation gain, we eventually reached lovely Henninger Flats, a cool forested notch sitting high on the mountain slopes above Altadena. Henninger Flats is complete with water, picnic tables, bathrooms, and a nature center/museum. It is also the home of the Los Angeles County



Experimental Forestry Nursery. After taking a leisurely break in the shade of the forest, we descended along the Mt. Wilson Toll Road to Eaton Canyon. We continued hiking upstream in the canyon bottom which soon provided shade and water in the stream (as well as lots of other day hikers)

until we reached Eaton Canyon Falls. After enjoying the lower waterfall and its pool, we returned along Eaton Canyon to the Nature Center and headed home having hiked 9 miles with about 1,900' of elevation gain/loss.

## June 15th - Devil's Punchbowl Trail to Devil's Chair

Ten hikers met near the Nature Center in the Devil's Punchbowl Natural Area a few miles southeast of Pearblossom, CA on a still-pleasant morning to hike the Devil's Punchbowl Trail to the Devil's Chair. Our hike began by climbing uphill on the Burkhart Trail for about a mile to a junction with the Devil's Punchbowl Trail. We followed the partially pine-shaded Devil's Punchbowl Trail as it wound along the north slope of the San Gabriel Mountains overlooking the Antelope Valley; there was fairly good visibility to the north including ever-changing views of spectacular rock formations. The Devil's Punchbowl is the point at which the San Andreas Fault and the Punchbowl Fault meet; it's part of the San Andreas Rift Zone. The trail eventually descended to a junction with the spur trail leading out to the Devil's Chair which provided excellent "up-close" awe-inspiring views of the colorful geologic formations created by the friction between the two earthquake faults. After taking lots of photos and enjoying a rest/lunch break under some nearby pine trees, we retraced our route to the Nature Center. On our way home we stopped at the famous Charlie Brown Farms store (highly recommended) at 8317 Pearblossom Highway for lunch/shopping. We hiked 7.9 miles with about 1,900' of elevation gain/loss.

## June 22nd - The Secret Trail, Calabasas Peak, Red Rock Canyon

16 hikers carpoled in six vehicles from Simi Valley to Red Rock Canyon in the Santa Monica Mountains where we dropped off three shuttle vehicles. We then used the remaining three vehicles to carpool to the trailhead of "The Secret Trail" [aka the Calabasas Cold Creek Trail] on Mulholland Highway. We initially headed south through an oak woodland following the partially shaded trail as it crossed a ridge to the east and then climbed up to the Calabasas Motorway. We followed the dirt motorway southward to the short spur trail that led to Calabasas Peak (2,129') which afforded a panoramic view of the surrounding mountains and valleys. After taking a short break we descended southward along the motorway to the dirt road leading up from Red Rock Canyon to the east; we encountered a large rattlesnake and took photos. We soon reached the shaded bottom of the canyon where we explored some small caves and arches. Our route took us by many lovely sculptured sandstone rock formations with colors ranging from white to dark red. We then retrieved all of our vehicles and headed home having completed a pleasant 5-mile hike with 900' of elevation gain/loss.



# RSTB Calendar July



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <p><b>1</b></p>		<p><b>2</b> Mt. McCoy Trail <b>6PM</b> See Schedule</p>	<p><b>3</b></p>	<p><b>4</b> <b>No Hike - Holiday</b> See Schedule</p> 	<p><b>5</b></p> <p><i>Happy Birthday</i> Kelli Ham</p>	<p><b>6</b> <i>Mt. McCoy to the Reagan Library*</i> <b>8AM</b>  See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Keith Farrar</p>
<p><b>7</b> Rocky Peak Fire Road <b>5PM</b> See Schedule</p> <p><i>Happy Birthday</i> Rita Williams</p>	<p><b>8</b></p> <p><i>Happy Birthday</i> Rafael Zepeda Joe Simon</p>	<p><b>9</b> Mt. McCoy Trail <b>6PM</b> See Schedule</p>	<p><b>10</b></p>	<p><b>11</b> Chumash Trail <b>6PM</b> See Schedule</p> <p><i>Happy Birthday</i> Carrie McCline Richard Bradley</p>	<p><b>12</b></p>	<p><b>13</b> Temescal Canyon/Viewpoint Trail Loop + Will Rogers SHP via Rivas Canyon Trail <b>8AM</b> See Schedule</p>
<p><b>14</b> Rocky Peak Fire Road <b>5PM</b> See Schedule</p> <p><i>Happy Birthday</i> Mike Kuhn</p>	<p><b>15</b></p>	<p><b>16</b> Mt. McCoy Trail <b>6PM</b> See Schedule</p> <p><i>Happy Birthday</i> Nicholas Carroll</p>	<p><b>17</b> Club Meeting <b>7PM</b> See Schedule</p> <p><i>Everyone Welcome to attend!</i></p>	<p><b>18</b> Chumash Trail <b>6PM</b> See Schedule</p>	<p><b>19</b></p> <p><i>Happy Birthday</i> Vanavern Zanders</p>	<p><b>20</b> Solstice Canyon - Sostomo Trail - Deer Valley Loop + Tropical Terrace <b>8AM</b> See Schedule</p>
<p><b>21</b> Rocky Peak Fire Road <b>5PM</b> See Schedule</p>	<p><b>22</b></p>	<p><b>23</b> Mt. McCoy Trail <b>6PM</b> See Schedule</p>	<p><b>24</b></p>	<p><b>25</b> Chumash Trail <b>6PM</b> See Schedule</p>	<p><b>26</b></p>	<p><b>27</b> The Hummingbird Trail and Rocky Peak <b>7AM</b> See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Barbara Westrum</p>
<p><b>28</b> Rocky Peak Fire Road <b>5PM</b> See Schedule</p> <p><i>Happy Birthday</i> Beth Davis Christine Calvert</p>	<p><b>29</b></p>	<p><b>30</b> Mt. McCoy Trail <b>6PM</b> See Schedule</p>	<p><b>31</b></p>			



Due to unforeseen circumstances, all activities are subject to change without notice.  
Please see [www.simitrailblazers.com/activities/](http://www.simitrailblazers.com/activities/) for event details and the most up-to-date schedule.



## 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 - Mt. McCoy Trail**

Meet at **6 PM** in the parking lot, to the south of Donut Delite, located on the north east side of the intersection of Royal Avenue and Madera Road. (Moderate - 4.0 MRT - 675' 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 6th**

#### ***Mt. McCoy to the Reagan Library\****

6 MRT - Moderate (800' 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.

### **July 13th**

#### ***Temescal Canyon/Viewpoint Trail Loop + Will Rogers SHP via Rivas Canyon Trail***

8.5 MRT with - Moderate (1,800' of elevation gain/loss)

The hike follows the fairly new Rivas Canyon Trail as it ascends eastward from the conference grounds, climbing a ridge and then zigzagging downward into shady Rivas Canyon, and finally entering Will Rogers State Historic Park near the old Ranch House. We'll return via Rivas Canyon to lovely Temescal Gateway Park. Meet at 8 AM near Donut Delite at the corner of Madera and Royal. Bring 2 to 3 quarts of water and lunch/snacks. Wear boots. For more information view the [activities page](#) on the website.

### **July 17th**

#### ***Club Meeting***

***Everyone Welcome to attend!***

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

### **July 20th**

#### ***Solstice Canyon - Sostomo Trail - Deer Valley Loop + Tropical Terrace***

6.3 MRT - Moderate (1,200' of elevation gain/loss)

This hike begins with a partially shaded walk along the one-mile dirt road in the bottom of Solstice Canyon leading toward Tropical Terrace and the nearby waterfalls. Just before reaching them we'll hike the Sostomo Trail as it climbs steadily up the mountainside to the west to a junction with the Deer Valley Loop Trail. We'll then hike the loop trail in a clockwise direction to an overlook of the Pacific Ocean and then return to the canyon bottom and visit well-shaded Tropical Terrace including the ruins of the Roberts house along Solstice Creek with its nearby waterfalls. After a rest/lunch break we'll retrace our route along the Solstice Canyon Trail to the parking lot. Meet at 8 AM near Donut Delite at the corner of Madera and Royal. Bring 2 to 3 quarts of water and lunch/snacks. Wear boots.

### **July 27th**

#### ***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 7 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:	<b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b>		<b>Contact Mike Kuhn at: 805-583-2345</b>
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:	<b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b>		<b>Contact Mike Kuhn at: 805-583-2345</b>
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 \_\_\_\_\_

Email    Email address \_\_\_\_\_

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

**RSTB**  
P.O. Box 630445  
Simi Valley, CA 93063-0399