



Rancho Simi Trail Blazers

A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation



ON THE EDGE

Do you want to get up close to a mountain lion and other wild animals you might encounter on the rural/urban fringe?

On

Saturday, September 3, at 2:00 p.m. at the

Sycamore Drive Community Center
(1692 Sycamore Drive)

in

Multi-Purpose Room B

The Mountain Lion Foundation will present a program entitled **"On the Edge"**



Mountain Lion Cub
Photo is courtesy of the Mountain Lion Foundation

This program is a *live animal* presentation on wildlife/human conflict occurring on the urban edges, i.e., urban areas abutting natural areas, involving a variety of solutions to these encounters. The program will detail the specifics on each animal's biology and needs, resulting in an action/reaction resolution to the conflicts in urban backyards.

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.



SCOTT & GINA STEWART
DONNA CAVALIERE

BAKED IN COALS

One of John Peabody Harrington's Chumash informants remembers that they made balls of meal and baked them by burying them in the *rescolda*, i.e., coals of the fire. Those that he saw made that way were of wheat flour. He ate these many times.

Instead of baking them on a "*comal*" (a steatite slab used by the Indians as frying pans and for heating water) or anything else, "they baked it thus." The cakes were about five inches in diameter, two inches thick and round in shape. They were called *ikujash*. (from the notes of John Peabody Harrington)

This technique of cooking was traditional among the Chumash. Ground seed, including sages, *islay* (holly-leaf cherry), various grasses, and acorns were included. While wheat flour was done this way, the method of cooking seems to have remained the same. The wheat flour may or may not have included preparation with yeast.

Mike Kuhn

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
August 17, 2005

UPCOMING EVENTS

August 6th & 7th
Mt. San Antonio Ski Hut

6 MRT - Strenuous overnighter. (2,200' elevation gain) It doesn't get much better than this! The hut is at the base of Mt. San Antonio (Mt. Baldy) at 8,200'. We'll spend the night in the hut. All you need to bring is food and your sleeping bag. We can cook our food on the hut's wood burning stove. The cost is \$10 for Sierra Club members, and \$15 for non-members. Space is limited, so call or email Mark Gilmore to reserve your place.

August 25th - 28th
Dinky Lakes Backpack

6 MRT - Moderate (924' elevation gain) This backpack has some of the most beautiful lakes and meadows in the whole Southwestern Sierra. The trailhead is at 8,590'. Well set up our base camp at First Dinky Lake (9,514'). From base camp, there are several picturesque lakes and peaks to day hike. Wilderness Permit spaces are limited, so call or email Mark Gilmore to reserve your place. The cost is \$5 per person.

September 22nd - 25th
Big Bear Lake

Save these dates.
More information coming soon.

For more information on upcoming hikes and events, check out

<http://www.simitrailblazers.com>



THE HUMMINGBIRD'S NEST RANCH

Nestled in the massive sandstone outcroppings above the northeastern corner of Simi Valley is a magical place. Isolated and unknown to most of the residents of the valley, the site of the Hummingbird's Nest Ranch has experienced several thousand years of human occupation. Each new generation, whether Amerindians, Spanish or Mexican settlers, or Anglo-American ranchers, discovers the site and is absorbed by the power of the place. Whatever one's belief structure, it is the same. One is awed by the beauty and the spirituality of this place!

The site occupies a high natural shelf that has a year round water supply and is surrounded by massive sandstone outcroppings of the Chatsworth Formation and some outcroppings of the Simi Conglomerates. Water that surfaces on the ranch has worked its way down through joints in the sandstone and bubbles up in the central valley (or flat). That water was the critical resource to support all but the current use of the site.

Originally occupied by Chumash Indians, and perhaps at times during the last 1,000 years by Numic speaking peoples out of the desert, the area was apparently considered a sacred site - probably because of the caves and cracks in the rocks, which were thought to give access to and from the spirit world. The name for this place that comes down to us, I believe, from the Chumash Indians, was "*El Nido de la Chupa Rosa*" - Spanish for "the nest of the sucking bird" - or "the hummingbird's nest". In the belief structure of the Chumash, birds had access to the spirit world, for they could fly to and from that world. When the name of a bird was used in conjunction with its nest as a place name in the Chumash realm, it referred to a sacred place.

A Mexican adobe was built on the site sometime during the early or mid-1800s. That adobe was occupied by Juan Pucillo and his mother when Charles Emerson Hoar established his residence on the site sometime after 1872 or 1873. The Pucillos remained on the ranch and worked for Mr. Hoar. Mr. Hoar purchased the 160 acres in 1884/1885 as three separate parcels and retained ownership until his death in 1912.

When Charles Hoar leased the eastern half of Simi Valley, some 13,000 acres, including the Hummingbird, in 1872 or 1873, he named the ranch after the "old name", i.e., "the Hummingbird's Nest". Later the place was often referred to simply as "the Hummingbird", and still later as the Hummingbird Ranch. Mr. Hoar had a sense of place and a respect for history. His spirit was bound with the Hummingbird.

Subsequent owners maintained the name "Hummingbird Ranch" until it was acquired by cosmetic mogul Paula Meehan-Kent. Mrs. Kent named the ranch the Ballymeehan Farm. (Mrs. Meehan Kent once told me that when she changed the name, she had no idea that the name of the ranch was of historic significance.)

The ranch was sold sometime around the year 2000. The new owners have revived the name "the Hummingbird's Nest". The name, of course, honors history and the place. May they be as happy there as those who came before.

Mike Kuhn

2004 VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR ANNOUNCED



Don Schmidt was presented the 2004 Volunteer of the Year Award during the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District's March 17, 2005, board of director's meeting. Schmidt has volunteered since February 2001, helping with planting and watering trees along the Rocky Peak Trail.

In April 2004, Schmidt assisted with the volunteer group that planted 500 oak seedlings (*quercus agrifolia* and *quercus lobata*) throughout Corriganville Park. The vegetation in the back of the park had been severely impacted during the fires in October 2003. Later, in October 2004, another 200 trees were planted in the Corriganville Park burn areas.

Since April 2004, Schmidt has been contributing his time and talent many days each week to care for the seedlings. He makes sure that they get watered, mulched, weeded, and transplanted when necessary.

Schmidt is an example of how one person can make a huge difference in the success of a volunteer project. The 700 six-inch-to-one-foot seedlings that were planted in the park were predicted to have a survival rate of only 10%. Thanks to the efforts of scout groups and others who have helped with watering, but, most importantly, by Schmidt, the current survival rate for the trees at Corriganville Park is estimated to be 42%. A representative from Tree People, who donated many of the trees, commented to staff that the Corriganville project's success is an example to all other agencies of what can be accomplished through a concentrated, dedicated effort. The majority of the credit for this success is a direct result of the efforts of Mr. Donald Schmidt.

MOUNTAIN LION ATTACKS ON HUMANS

The California Department of Fish and Games estimates that there are between 4,000 and 6,000 mountain lions in California. Mountain lion attacks on humans are very rare.

Between 1890 and 1990, a 100-year period, in Canada and the United States combined, there were only 53 mountain lion attacks recorded. Nine (9) attacks resulted in ten (10) deaths and 44 attacks were non-fatal. In California, there were only 12 such attacks between 1890 and the year 2000.

The first attack occurred in Siskiyou County in 1890, when a seven (7) year old boy was killed by two mountain lions. Then in 1909 a rabid lion injured a woman and a child. Both died of rabies. Between 1909 and 1986 there were no verified attacks on humans.

Then in 1986 a five-year old girl was seriously injured by a mountain lion in a regional park in Orange County. In the same year a six-year old boy was injured in the same park by a mountain lion. In 1992 a nine-year old boy received minor injuries when attacked in Gaviota State Park in Santa Barbara County. In 1993 a ten-year old girl received minor injuries when attacked by a big cat in San Diego County.

In 1994 a 40-year old jogger was killed in El Dorado County. Again in 1994, this time in Mendocino County, a couple was injured by a rabid mountain lion. While the man lost a thumb to the cat, the couple killed the animal with a kitchen knife. In December of 1994 a 56-year old woman was killed by a mountain lion while walking in a park in San Diego County.

Finally, in 1995 a 27-year old man received minor injuries when attacked by a mountain lion while riding his bicycle in the mountains above Altadena in the Angeles National Forest. His worst injuries, as it turned out, came from the poison oak he tumbled through while fighting off the cat.

What can we learn from these attacks? Well, they are infrequent. Only two occurred in California prior to 1986. However, as the human population of the state has increased, and has pushed out into prime mountain lion habitat, the number of injuries and deaths has dramatically increased.

Children are an attractive target for the big cats, as are runners and people alone. Rabid animals account for a significant share of injuries and deaths. (Death from rabies need no longer occur if medical treatment is sought following the injury.)

If attacked, fight back. You have a pretty good chance of surviving. Based on all of these stories, you may want to stay out of Orange and San Diego counties.

(Data for this piece came from the May/June 2000 issue of *Outdoor California* - that's the issue with the mountain lion on the cover.)

Mike Kuhn

HIKING PICTURES



Taking a break at the Condor Observation Point on Mt. Pinos. Left to right: Arlene Altshuler, Champ and Buffy, Mark Gilmore, and John Sabol.

Photo by Doug Marsh



Snow Plant found near Sheep Camp
Photo by Doug Marsh



18" rattlesnake found in the street, after a Thursday evening hike on the Chumash trail.

Photo by John Sabol



Relaxing at Jalama Beach
Photo by Carol Tucker



RSTB Calendar

August 2005



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Chris Kennedy</i>	2 Long Canyon 6:30pm hike See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Elfriede Cespedes</i>	3	4 Chumash Trail 6pm hike See Schedule	5	6 Mt. San Antonio Ski Hut See Schedule
7 Mt. San Antonio Ski Hut Rocky Peak 5pm hike See Schedule	8	9 Long Canyon 6:30pm hike See Schedule	10 <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Bob Altieri</i>	11 Chumash Trail 6pm hike See Schedule	12 <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Kevin Gallagher</i>	13 Chivo Canyon See Schedule
14 Rocky Peak 5pm hike See Schedule	15 <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Steve Geldman</i>	16 Long Canyon 6:30pm hike See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Gloria Galindo</i>	17 RSTB Meeting See Page 1	18 Chumash Trail 6pm hike See Schedule	19	20 Work Party Mt. McCoy See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Mark Scheele</i> <i>Tom Frye</i>
21 Rocky Peak 5pm hike See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Al Richards</i>	22	23 Long Canyon 6:30pm hike See Schedule	24	25 Dinkey Lakes Backpack See Schedule	26 Dinkey Lakes Backpack See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Laura Altieri</i>	27 Dinkey Lakes Backpack See Schedule
28 Dinkey Lakes Backpack See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Jean Whittle</i>	29	30 Long Canyon 6:30pm hike See Schedule	31 <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Jack Archibald</i>			



Rancho Simi Trail Blazers

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Hiking Schedule



REGULARLY SCHEDULED HIKES

Sunday Evening - Rocky Peak

Meet 5pm 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 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)

AUGUST HIKES

August 6th & 7th -- Mt. San Antonio Ski Hut**

6 MRT - Strenuous overnighiter. (2,200' elevation gain)

It doesn't get much better than this! The Hut is at the base of Mt. San Antonio (Mt. Baldy) at 8,200'. It might be listed as strenuous, but it's not that bad. We'll only do 3 miles the first day and we have all day to do it. Coming back the next day is all down hill. For those who want a real challenge, you can hike to the top of Mt. Baldy, using the Hut as your base camp. Even the view from the outhouse is spectacular. We'll spend the night in the hut. All you need to bring is food, your sleeping bag, good boots and 2 - 3 quarts of water. We will cook our food on the hut's wood burning stove. The cost is \$10 if you are a Sierra Club Member, and \$15 for non-members. Space is limited, so email Mark Gilmore to reserve your place. We'll meet at 8 AM for carpooling, near Donut Delite on the corner of Madera and Royal.

August 13th -- Chivo Canyon

This is an exploratory hike up the east branch of Chivo Canyon along an old ranch road. The hike is approximately three to four miles round trip on Park District property. Bring two quarts of water. Meet on the south side of Yosemite Avenue on the north side of the golf course at 8 AM. There is a turn off just east of the Las Lajas Canyon crossing. The parking area, which we have special permission to use, is dirt and unimproved. This will be an adventure.

August 20th -- Work Party - Mt McCoy

Help maintain one of our more scenic trails. Directions: From the 118, take Madera Road south to Royal. Go West on Royal, North on Acapulco, then West on Washburn. The trailhead is on the left, just before Washburn turns into Amigos Avenue. We will be working from 7 to 11 AM. Tools will be provided. Bring 2 - 3 quarts of water, hat, sunscreen and gloves to work on the trail.

August 25th - 28th -- Dinky Lakes Backpack* *

6 MRT - Moderate (924' elevation gain)

This backpack has some of the most beautiful lakes and meadows in the whole Southwestern Sierra. The trailhead is at 8,590'. We'll set up our base camp at First Dinkey Lake (9,514'). From there, we can day hike to several picturesque lakes. For the more adventurous, you can climb Three Sisters (10,619') or Dogtooth Peak (10,311'). Wilderness Permit spaces are limited, so email Mark Gilmore to reserve your place. The cost is \$5 per person.

****** *These hikes are not within the jurisdiction of the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District.*

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://www.simitrailblazers.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	
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:	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:	Arlene Altshuler	HM (805) 581-9735	arlene.altshuler@mindbox.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 ____

Address _____

Email Address _____ Phone wk/hm _____

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

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



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