

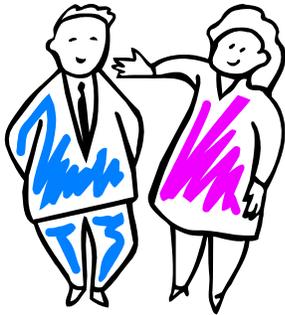


Rancho Simi Trail Blazers

A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation



Welcome New Members!



Jennifer Baker and Family

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



AUGUST

RSTB CLUB MEETING

This month's club meeting will be held at the Community Center, Room B-1
 1692 Sycamore Drive
 7:00 PM
 August 19th, 2009

Summertime in Yosemite July Trip Enjoyed by All!

On July 7th, twenty-two lucky Rancho Simi Trailblazers gathered at the Tuolumne Meadows Campground in northern Yosemite National Park for several days of camping and hiking in one of the most beautiful spots on earth. After setting up camp, the group did the first of several scenic hikes.



Four more days of hiking resulted in some great photos and many good memories.



You can find day-by-day recounts of all the hikes along with more photos on the News section of the website. <http://www.simitrailblazers.com/news/>



UPCOMING EVENTS

Please see page 5 for more information, and visit the website for details on any of the following hikes and events.

August 1st

Palos Verdes Peninsula Trail*
 Moderate - 10 MRT (300' elevation gain)

August 8th

Carpinteria Bluffs*
 5 MRT - Easy (100' elevation gain)

August 15th

Zuma/Westward Beach to Point Dume to Paradise Cove*
 4 MRT - Easy (400' elevation gain)

August 19th

Club Meeting

August 20th - 23rd

Dinkey Lakes Backpack*
 6 MRT - Moderate (924' elevation gain) Note: Reservation required

August 29th

Cloudburst Summit Shuttle*
 6 MRT - Moderate (1300' elevation gain, 800' loss) Adventure Pass required at trailhead parking lot.



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

A PAINTED IDOL

Pedro Fages, Gaspar de Portola's second in command, wrote about idols being placed near villages while describing their 1769 trip down the Santa Clara River Valley. 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 but are now gone. Late-Nineteenth Century and later archaeologists do not report them at all.

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, in part 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 8 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 is 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 an iron or steel chisels were 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 suggest that it well might be an example of a painted stone of the type described by Pedro Fages.

Mike Kuhn
10-27-04

EL ROBLARO

When the Spanish arrived in Simi Valley, they found the eastern end of the valley (the area roughly east of present day Stearns Street) covered with oak grass woodland and dominated by mature valley oaks (*Quercus lobata*). That woodland was referred to as *El Roblaro*. The name is probably a translation from the Chumash into Spanish by those early vaqueros and shepherders, who were Chumash Indians. The significance of the name to the Chumash, if any, is not known. However, it is directly descriptive. The great abundance of place names such as *Canada Aliso*, *Canada de los Alisos*, and *Canada de los Alamos*, that refer to trees, most certainly reflects a Chumash concern rather than a Spanish preoccupation.

The Spanish and Mexican settlers primarily occupied the "Tapo" and what is now Strathearn Historical Park. Land use pressure was confined largely to grazing of sheep and cattle. The cattle no doubt destroyed seedling

oaks, but they would have had little impact on the mature oaks. The settling of Anglo-American farmers was accompanied by a demand for fuel wood - both for cooking and heating. Oaks, willows, cottonwoods and sycamore trees were just about the only trees in the valley. Of those, both valley and coast live oaks were the most numerous by far and represented the highest quality fuel. Clearing of the land for crop production also resulted in the cutting of oak trees.

By the time that the great boom in suburbanization came along in the late-1950s and early 1960s, the remaining large valley oaks where *El Roblaro* once stood was probably fewer than 100. Today, no more than a few dozen of those trees remain. Where the old "Ten Oaks" trailer park once stood, only five of the old monarchs are still there. Other trees have fallen victim to new roads, subdivisions, old age, and mismanagement. *El Roblaro* is no more.

Mike Kuhn
11-13-04

SUGAR BUSH

Sugar Bush (*Rhus ovata*) is a member of the Sumac Family and is closely related to Lemonade Berry and Laurel Sumac. It is an evergreen shrub with glossy, green leaves, which are folded along the midrib and pointed at the tip. Many, but not all, of the leaves are serrated along the margins. The leaves are somewhat more leathery and a lighter green than those of Laurel Sumac. Sugar bush is common on dry slopes in the Coastal Sage Scrub and in the Chaparral.

Mike Kuhn
2-26-05

July 25th 2009 - Solstice Canyon

Ten hikers carpoled to Solstice Canyon in Malibu via Madera Road-Olsen Road, Highway 23, Highway 101, Las Virgenes Road-Malibu Canyon Road, Pacific Coast Highway, and Corral Canyon Road. The hike began with an easy 1.2-mile hike upstream along the Solstice Canyon Trail which follows Solstice Creek, a year-round stream. Along the fairly shady oak-and-sycamore-tree-lined trail (which is mostly a dirt road) we passed the remains of the Keller House,



a stone cottage built in 1865. A short distance before reaching Tropical Terrace, we turned left onto the Sostomo Trail and began climbing the west wall of the canyon via moderate switchbacks. The warm morning sun soon drew perspiration from our bodies though there were occasional cooling breezes. As we gained elevation we were rewarded with excellent views of Solstice Canyon, including the Rising Sun Trail on the east side of the canyon. We crossed Solstice Creek, continued our ascent, and soon passed the burned remnants of an old home; only its chimney was left standing. A huge rock monolith loomed in the distance to the northwest, but the trail skirted it to the left (south). The trail dropped again to Solstice Creek and we crossed it a second time, almost immediately passing the burned-out shell of a small rock house. We



continued our climb until we reached the Deer Valley Loop at an open grassy flat. Deciding to hike the loop in a clockwise direction, we eventually climbed to an overlook with broad coastal views

including Point Dume and its shoreline a short distance to the southwest. After a short rest and some photo-taking, we continued northward on the loop and soon began our descent to the intersection with the Sostomo Trail. We retraced our steps to the Solstice Canyon Trail while enjoying cool ocean breezes. We then turned left (upstream) and walked the short distance to Tropical Terrace, the ruins of the Roberts home which was built in the 1950s and was destroyed by wildfire in 1982. The stone courtyard, garden terraces, stairways, and exotic tropical plants still remain, but the exotic animals (giraffes, camels, buffalo, African deer and exotic birds) that once roamed the property do not. A short distance further upstream Solstice Canyon Falls displayed its

beauty, though diminished by the dry season. After a rest/lunch break, we returned along the Solstice Canyon Trail to the parking lot. We then returned home having completed a 6.3-mile hike with 1,200' of elevation gain, once again beguiled by the beauty of this year-round destination.

July 18th 2009 - Sheep Camp Day Hike

Nine hikers carpoled via Hwy 118, Interstate highways 405 and 5, Frazier Mountain Park Road, Cuddy Valley Road, and Mt. Pinos Road to the Chula Vista parking lot (favored by stargazers) less than two miles from the summit of Mt. Pinos (8,831'). The hike began by following a dirt road through a forest to the Tumamait-Mt. Pinos Trail (21W03) trailhead; there were excellent views to the north, south and west. A well-maintained dirt trail then descended an open western slope, which was covered by a variety of wildflowers, via switchbacks, crossed a saddle, and began ascending the wooded eastern slope of Sawmill Mountain.



Eventually the trail reached its apex and began descending the western slope of Sawmill Mountain. It soon reached a junction with the North Fork Trail (22W02) which we followed as it descended the forested southern slope of Sawmill Mountain half a mile to Sheep Primitive Camp under a stand of Jeffrey Pines. There we took a rest/lunch break and enjoyed the pleasant environment. Some campers were nearby (in the lower campground). The North Fork Trail continues downhill to the south, passing through Lilly Meadows, and eventually reaching the Three Falls Boy Scout Camp in Lockwood Valley. However, we retraced our route up Sawmill



Mountain and back to Mt. Pinos where we were grateful for the switchbacks leading up to the top. Although the temperature was a bit warm, it was much cooler than Simi Valley. After regrouping atop Mt. Pinos, we hiked back down the dirt road to the parking lot having completed a 10.5-mile hike with 1,800' of elevation gain. We returned home, stopping just before getting on Interstate 5 for some much-appreciated cool beverages.



RSTB Calendar August 2009



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Palos Verdes Peninsula Trail* See Schedule
2 Rocky Peak 5pm hike See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Elfriede Cespedes	3 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Linda Barry	4 Long Canyon 6:30pm hike See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Betty Cameron	5 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Chelsea Carroll	6 Chumash Trail 6pm hike See Schedule	7 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Lisa Zimpler	8 Carpinteria Bluffs* See Schedule
9 Rocky Peak 5pm hike See Schedule	10 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Kevin Gallagher	11 Long Canyon 6:30pm hike See Schedule	12 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Kevin Gallagher	13 Chumash Trail 6pm hike See Schedule	14 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Al Richards	15 Zuma/Westward Beach to Point Dume to Paradise Cove* See Schedule
16 Rocky Peak 5pm hike See Schedule	17 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Kendall Winfield Halle Michaelson	18 Long Canyon 6:30pm hike See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Sheila Kuntz	19 RSTB Meeting 7:00 pm See Page 1	20 Dinkey Lakes Backpack* Chumash Trail 6pm hike See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Mark Scheele	21 Dinkey Lakes Backpack* <i>Happy Birthday</i> Al Richards	22 Dinkey Lakes Backpack* See Schedule
23 Dinkey Lakes Backpack* Rocky Peak 5pm hike See Schedule	24 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Dave Peters	25 Long Canyon 6:30pm hike See Schedule	26 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Dave Peters	27 Chumash Trail 6pm hike See Schedule	28 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Carlo Zarcone	29 Cloudburst Summit Shuttle* See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Tom Frye
30 Rocky Peak 5pm hike See Schedule	31 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Tom Frye					



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)

AUGUST HIKES AND ACTIVITIES

August 1st **Palos Verdes Peninsula Trail***

Moderate - 10 MRT (300' elevation gain)

Cliffs, coves, caves, beautiful ocean views, and the Pt. Vicente Lighthouse all above the ocean are encountered on this hike on the Palos Verdes Peninsula. Meet at **8 AM at the 118 & Stearns St. Park & Ride**. Bring your camera, water and lunch. Wear boots.

August 8th **Carpinteria Bluffs***

5 MRT - Easy (100' elevation gain)

This hike starts with a walk along bluffs overlooking the ocean and a seal sanctuary and then heads to Tar Pit Park. The return trip is on the sand along Bates Beach (with tide pools at low tide). Meet at **8 AM**, near Donut Delite on the corner of Madera and Royal. Bring 1 to 2 quarts of water and lunch.

August 15th **Zuma/Westward Beach to Point Dume to Paradise Cove***

4 MRT - Easy (400' elevation gain)

This is a nice beach hike in Malibu that starts at Westward (Zuma) Beach and heads east crossing over Point Dume (views of the Channel Islands; whale watching), and then continues along the beach in lovely Dume Cove to Paradise Cove. Meet at **8 AM** near Donut Delite at the corner of Madera and Royal. Bring 2 - 3 quarts of water and lunch.

August 19th **Club Meeting**

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

August 20th - 23rd **Dinkey 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 will set up our base camp at First Dinkey Lake (9,514'). From there, we can dayhike 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 **send an email to Mark Gilmore** at markinthepark@sbcglobal.net to reserve your place. A \$5 per person Wilderness Permit fee is required and must be received by Mark no later than August 5th.

August 29th **Cloudburst Summit Shuttle***

6 MRT - Moderate (1300' elevation gain, 800' elevation loss)

This is a San Gabriel Mountains shuttle trip starting at Cloudburst Summit, descending into Cooper Canyon and Cooper Canyon Trail Camp, then emerging at Buckhorn Campground. It's a beautiful forested hike following a major tributary of Little Rock Creek. An Adventure Pass is required at the trailhead parking lot. The drive is 1 1/2 hours each way. Meet at **8 AM** near Donut Delight at the corner of Madera and Royal. Bring 2 - 4 quarts of water and lunch. Wear boots.



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@me.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



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