



Rancho Simi Trail Blazers

A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation



New Members

Prescilla Gonzalez
Betsy Gillard

Volunteers Needed!!



If anyone is interested in volunteering for the **work parties chair** contact Mike Kuhn at:

mike.kuhn@simitrailblazers.com



Weekly hikes!!



Has anyone ever told you to take a hike?

Did you know that

in Simi Valley you can take many hikes with the Rancho Simi Trail Blazers and explore the beauty of Simi Valley and other beautiful locations? We have so much fun taking photos, talking and just viewing the beautiful scenery like the photo above.

Hikes are every Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday, and most Saturdays

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.rsprd.org> to see what is happening next!

RSTB CLUB MEETING

This month's RSTB meeting will be at:
Sycamore Drive Community Center
1692 Sycamore Drive – Room B-1

Wednesday: August 20, 2014
5:30PM (NOTE: Early Start Time)
Everyone Welcome to attend!

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

Upcoming Events

August 2nd Serrano Canyon Loop* 8 MRT - Moderate (700' elevation gain) - **8AM**

August 9th Mt. Islip* 7 miles MRT - Moderate to Strenuous (elevation gain 1500') - **8AM**

August 16th Westward Beach to Paradise Cove* 6 MRT - Easy (425' of elevation gain/loss) - **8AM**

August 20th Club Meeting
The Sycamore Drive Community Center - 1692 Sycamore Drive - Room B-1
Everyone Welcome to attend!
(NOTE: Early Start Time) - 5:30PM

August 23rd Mt. Pinos to Sheep Camp* 10.5 MRT - Moderate to Strenuous (elevation change from 8900' to 8250') - **8AM**

August 30th Carpinteria Bluffs, Tar Pits Park, and Bates Beach* 4.5 miles MRT - Easy (elevation gain 140') - **8AM**

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



August 9th Mt. Islip*

Hike through pine and fir forests with panoramic views of the Mojave Desert and the LA metropolis. To view full Adventures Pass, see website:

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/detailfull/r5/passes-permits/recreation/?cid=stelprdb5208699&width=full>



COCHRAN CORK OAK

A large cork (*Quercus suber*) oak tree is present on the north side of Cochran Street just west of Caldwell Avenue. Cork oaks are native to the Mediterranean Basin – primarily to Portugal. The bark of the tree is the source of “cork,” a commercial product use in some platform shoes, in cork board, flooring, and in the past, i.e., in my youth and long before, as stoppers in bottles and jugs. Remember the expression “put a cork in it.”

This cork oak grew on the banks along the north side of rural Cochran Street in the front yard of an old farmhouse that once graced the area. Back in the 1970s I asked the owner of the house if they knew where her family had gotten the tree. She said that it was a volunteer on the left bank of the Simi North Drain, which ran behind their home. Her father had dug it up and planted it out by the street. The family had been unaware that it wasn't a native oak. When the land was developed for a residential subdivision, the City had suggested that it be moved into the development. However, the developer decided to preserve it in place. Consequently, it has a masonry wall on three sides and the sidewalk rises up to its level on the north side. Its preservation in place is awkward because it is under high power electrical transmission lines. The tree has been trimmed on top to prevent it from shorting out the wires. The tree is outgrowing its location between the sidewalk and the retaining walls. Someday something will have to be done to further accommodate the tree or it will have to be removed.

In the meantime it is the largest cork oak in Simi Valley. If you get a chance sometime, go by and press on the bark. You'll enjoy it.

Mike Kuhn
3-7-06

EARLY POPULATION OF AMERICAS BY THE COASTAL ROUTE

A professional paper, to be published in the Journal of California and Great Basin Anthropology, by John Johnson and Joseph Lorenz (See *L.A. Times* [September 11, 2006], pages A1 and A17.) provides DNA evidence for the early settlement of the west coast of the Americas by Asians during the late-Pleistocene. This settlement occurred prior to an ice-free corridor through central Canada, so necessarily involved diffusion using watercraft in the open ocean. The evidence cited involves mitochondrial DNA, which is passed down through the female lineage only. The unique markers were first found in a 10,300 year old tooth from a human jaw found on the Prince of Wales Island off of the coast of southern Alaska. A search of a database of DNA patterns from 3,500 Native Americans resulted in just 1 % with the same markers. More than half of the matches were from the Cayapa tribe of Ecuador. Others were from the Chinuhua area of Mexico, and some from the southern tip of South America, i.e., Tierra del Fuego. Four were from Chumash Indians. One that has been identified was from China. (The only significance of this is that the same unique signature has been found in Asia.)

The oldest human remains found in the new world so far are from Arlington Springs on Santa Rosa Island. Those bones have been firmly dated at 13,000 years of age. All of this suggests a Pacific Coast route for early settlement of the Americas. The 13,000-year date probably does not indicate the date of first entry of man into the new world. Indeed, the Monte Verde site in southern Chile has yielded firm dates of 12,500 years. Santa Rosa Island was part of a larger island 13,000 years ago, so it would have required watercraft to access and settle the island. Assuming that early settlement of the Americas was by a marine-based people, who settled along the coast, the sites of their first settlements would

now be submerged by 300-400 feet of water. Indeed, nearly all evidence of their presence would likely have been destroyed by the wave action of a rising sea.

It is natural to think that the people who lived 10,000 to 20,000 years ago would have been too technologically primitive to have high-latitude ocean going watercraft. Certainly these people were just as smart as we are and coastal settlement would have offered the richest and most diverse environment for human settlement. Since the sea is full of fish and marine mammals, one would have expected the development of ocean-going watercraft early in the history of modern man. Australia, for example, is thought to have been settled by modern man by 50,000 years ago. Even then it was a long boat ride to get to Australia. Certainly, once man had ventured down the coast of what is now North America by watercraft, it would have taken several hundred years to make it to the southern tip of South America. It is satisfying to know that the Chumash are descendant from these early migrants.



Mike Kuhn
9-24-12



June 28th - Danielson Memorial via the Fossil Trail



18 hikers gathered at the Wendy Trail trailhead at the south end of Wendy Drive in Newbury Park on a pleasant early-summer morning. Our Santa-Monica-Mountains outing began as we hiked over to the Satwiva Native American Indian Culture Center in Rancho Sierra Vista. After a brief stop we headed south as the paved upper section of Sycamore Canyon Road descended into the canyon. Immediately after crossing the bridge in the canyon bottom, we left the road [and the bicycle riders] and headed northeast on the Upper Sycamore Canyon Trail for a short distance to a junction with the Fossil Trail which we took. The trail began climbing steeply to the east on a flank of Boney Mountain, gaining 760' of elevation in 0.9 mile. Since last year's Camarillo Springs Fire burned most of the foliage on the west end of Boney Mountain, most of our hike was in the direct sunlight. However, there were a surprising number and variety of blooming wildflowers (including humboldt lilies, plummers mariposa lilies, large-flowered phacelia, and penstemon) adorning the trail and unobstructed distant views. We eventually reached the Danielson Memorial and the ruins of the Danielson house (only a chimney remains) where we took a long break in the still heavily wooded (unburned) area. As we continued our hike we enjoyed beautiful floral displays along the Danielson Road and visited the barely flowing waterfall in its riparian setting. The day had become much warmer as we followed the Windmill Trail back to the parking lot which we reached having completed an 8.3-mile loop hike with about 1,950' of elevation gain/loss.

July 6th - Mt. McCoy to the Reagan Library

16 hikers met at the carpool point near the intersection of Royal Avenue and Madera Road on an already warm morning and then (since trailhead parking is quite limited) walked from there to the Mt. McCoy trailhead on Washburn Street a few blocks to the west. The hike began along the trail heading south but it quickly began climbing gradually westward along the well-maintained (but frequently "cut" by bicycle riders) trail leading to the summit via a se-

ries of switchbacks. As the trail rose up the mountainside, we were rewarded with excellent views of the western end of Simi Valley, including Sinaloa Lake, Wood Ranch, and the Bard Reservoir. There is a white concrete cross



(erected in 1941) as well as two concrete benches at the summit, from which the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library can be seen. After a short break to enjoy the panoramic view, we hiked southwest to Presidential Drive and then hiked along it to the west side of the library where President Reagan was buried in 2004. The setting of the library is quite beautiful. We sat in the shade on the patio and enjoyed a cool breeze for a while. Eventually we returned the way we came completing a 6-mile hike with 900' of elevation gain/loss, glad that the return trip was mostly downhill since the day had heated up considerably.

July 12th - Solstice Canyon - Sostomo Trail - Deer Valley Loop + Tropical Terrace



8 hikers carpoled to Solstice Canyon in the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area on a pleasant summer morning. The out-and-back hike began by following nearly dry Solstice Creek along the easy well-

shaded Solstice Canyon Trail (a dirt road), taking advantage of two short trails paralleling the dirt road along the way, and reaching the Sostomo Trail after about one mile. We followed the Sostomo Trail as it climbed steadily toward a junction with the Deer Valley Loop Trail as the day grew warmer. As the trail rose we had good views of Solstice Canyon and the Rising Sun Trail across the canyon. After reaching Deer Valley, we followed the loop trail in a clockwise direction as it ascended the mountainside to an overlook of the Pacific Ocean. As we neared the overlook a much-appreciated marine layer cooled us off (but obscured our view of the ocean). After a short break we completed the loop and then returned along the Sostomo Trail to the Solstice Canyon Trail. Turning left we walked a short distance to Tropical Terrace, the ruins of the Roberts house built in the 1950s and destroyed by wildfire in 1982. At one time there were giraffes, camels, buffalo, African deer, and exotic birds in the canyon. We took a break at Tropical Terrace and enjoyed the ambiance of palm trees and drought-deprived waterfalls in the adjacent Solstice Creek. We then returned to our vehicles via the Solstice Canyon Trail having completed a 7.2-mile hike with over 1,600' of elevation gain/loss.



RSTB Calendar August



| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|---|---|--|--|---|--|
|  |  |  |  |  | 1 | 2 Serrano Canyon Loop*  8AM See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Elfriede Cespedes |
| 3 Rocky Peak Fire Road 5PM See Schedule | 4 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Betty Cameron | 5 Mt. McCoy Trail 6PM See Schedule | 6 | 7 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Cassie Simon | 8 | 9 Mt. Islip* 8AM See Schedule |
| 10 Rocky Peak Fire Road 5PM See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Hank Povinelli Dave Prentke | 11 | 12 Mt. McCoy Trail 6PM See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Bill Cespedes Kevin Gallagher | 13 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Mary Beth Pitstick | 14 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule | 15 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Rita Zepeda | 16 Westward Beach to Paradise Cove*  8AM See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Katy Cueba |
| 17 Rocky Peak Fire Road 5PM See Schedule | 18 | 19 Mt. McCoy Trail 6PM See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Christine Porter | 20 Club Meeting 5:30PM <i>(NOTE: Early Start Time)</i> See Schedule <i>Everyone Welcome to attend!</i> <i>Happy Birthday</i> Mark Scheele | 21 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Al Richards | 22 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Michael Green | 23 Mt. Pinos to Sheep Camp* 7AM See Schedule |
| 24 Rocky Peak Fire Road 5PM See Schedule | 25 | 26 Mt. McCoy Trail 6PM See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Susanne Blessington Dave Peters | 27 | 28 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule | 29 | 30 Carpinteria Bluffs, Tar Pits Park, and Bates Beach*  8AM See Schedule |
| 31 Rocky Peak Fire Road 5PM See Schedule |  |  |  |  |  |  |



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.



REGULARLY SCHEDULED HIKES
(Rain cancels – No hikes on holidays)

Sunday Evening - Rocky Peak Fire Road

Meet at **5PM** 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.

(We Meet at 5PM during daylight saving time.) (Strenuous - 4.8 MRT - 1,200' elevation gain)

Tuesday Evening - Mt. McCoy Trail

Meet at **6PM** in the parking lot, located to the south of Donut Delite, located near the NE corner of Madera and Royal. (Moderate - 4.0 MRT - 675' elevation gain)

Thursday Evening - Chumash Trail

Meet at **6PM** 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 - 1300' total elevation gain.)

AUGUST HIKES AND ACTIVITIES

August 2nd Serrano Canyon Loop* 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 **8AM** 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.

August 9th Mt. Islip* 7 miles MRT - Moderate to Strenuous (elevation gain 1500')

Hike through pine and fir forests with panoramic views of the Mojave Desert and the LA metropolis. See website (<http://www.fs.usda.gov/detailfull/r5/passes-permits/recreation/?cid=stelprdb5208699&width=full>) to purchase Adventure Pass. Meet at **8AM** at the Stearns St. Park & Ride. Bring 2 - 4 quarts of water and lunch. Wear boots.

August 16th Westward Beach to Paradise Cove* 6 MRT - Easy (425' of elevation gain/loss)

The trail from Westward Beach leads up and over Point Dume to Dume Beach and then along the beach for a couple of miles to Paradise Cove (a site used in movies and TV series, (including The Rockford Files), the Paradise Cove Beach Cafe (with its free-to-the-public beach chairs), and the nearby pier. The return hike follows the beach back to Point Dume where there are observation points for whale, seal, and dolphin watching. Meet at **8AM**, near Donut Delite at the corner of Madera and Royal. Wear boots and/or good beach shoes. Bring 2 quarts of water and lunch. August 29th - September 2nd

August 20th Club Meeting - Everyone Welcome to attend! (NOTE: Early Start Time)

5:30PM - The Sycamore Drive Community Center - 1692 Sycamore Drive - Room B-1

August 23rd Mt. Pinos to Sheep Camp* 10.5 MRT - Moderate to Strenuous (elevation change from 8900' to 8250')

This hike offers 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 at **7AM** the Stearns St. Park & Ride. The drive is 1 1/2 hours each way.

August 30th Carpinteria Bluffs, Tar Pits Park, and Bates Beach* 4.5 miles MRT - Easy

(elevation gain 140') Rincon Park to Tar Pit Park and return via Bates Beach. Meet at **8AM** near Donut Delite at the corner of Madera and Royal..

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.** Full descriptions of these hikes and activities are available at <http://www.simitrailblazers.com/activities/index.html>

RANCHO SIMI TRAIL BLAZERS

A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation

| | | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|---|
| Executive Chair: | Mike Kuhn | HM (805) 583-2345 | hannahmike@me.com |
| Treasurer: | Santiago Homsí | | |
| Park District Liaison: | Jeannie Liss | WK (805) 584-4453 | volunteers@rsrpd.us |
| Work Parties Chair: | VOLUNTEER NEEDED | | Contact Mike Kuhn at: 805-583-2345 |
| 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: | VOLUNTEER NEEDED | | Contact Mike Kuhn at: 805-583-2345 |
| 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

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