



# Rancho Simi Trail Blazers

A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation



## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Karen Melford  
Ursula Buerli

## 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. We even enjoy going on overnight events. **Please join us** and see for yourself how much fun we have!

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



## 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



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.

## Volunteers Needed!!



If anyone is interested in volunteering for the **Work Parties Chair** or the **Publicity Chair** please contact Mike Kuhn at:

[mike.kuhn@simitrailblazers.com](mailto:mike.kuhn@simitrailblazers.com)

## RSTB CLUB MEETING

This month's RSTB meeting will be at:  
Sycamore Drive Community Center  
1692 Sycamore Drive – Room B-1  
**Wednesday: August 19, 2015**  
**5:30PM Everyone Welcome to attend!**

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

## Upcoming Events

**August 1st Newton Canyon and the Backbone Trail** \* 6.5 MRT - Moderate (1,000' elevation gain/loss) **8AM**

**August 8th Westward Beach to Point Dume to Paradise Cove**\* 5 MRT - Easy (425' elevation gain/loss) **8AM**

**August 15th Temescal Canyon/Viewpoint Trail Loop + Will Rogers SHP via Rivas Canyon Trail**\* 8.5 MRT - Moderate (1,800' elevation gain/loss) **8AM**

**August 19th Club Meeting**  
The Sycamore Drive Community Center - 1692 Sycamore Drive - Room B-1 **Everyone Welcome to attend!**  
**5:30PM**

**August 20th – 23rd SPECIAL EVENT** This special event is open to active Trail Blazer members only.

**August 29th Mt. Islip from Islip Saddle via the PCT\***  
7 MRT - Moderate to Strenuous (1,500' elevation gain/loss)

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



## June 20th - The Hummingbird Trail - Rocky Peak Park



10 hikers met in the paved parking area on the east side of Kuehner Avenue just north of Hwy 118 in Simi Valley to hike up the Hummingbird Trail. It was already around 80 degrees Fahrenheit (with a forecast

in the mid-90's later in the day) as we began our eastward climb to the Rocky Peak Fire Road. The trail passed through (and on) a variety of imposing sandstone rock formations along the way including very large boulders and giant slabs of sandstone rock, many with small "caves." There were sweeping views of eastern Simi Valley, the Santa Susana Mountains, and the Simi Hills and even a few blooming Plummer's mariposa lilies despite the ongoing drought. We passed or were passed by a variety of other hikers and bicycle riders along the steadily ascending trail. Reaching the Rocky Peak Fire Road, we rested and enjoyed a much-appreciated cool breeze. We retraced our route and reached the trailhead (and our air-conditioned vehicles!) having completed a pleasant 4.65-mile hike with about 1,200' of elevation gain/loss.

## June 28th - San Gabriel Peak from Eaton Saddle on the Mt. Wilson Road



14 Trail Blazers car-pooled to the Eaton Saddle trailhead (5,119') on the Mt. Wilson Road. Somebody's car said it was 81 degrees when we arrived, not far from the 82 degrees forecast high. We arrived just in time for a tempera-

ture inversion with plenty of humidity from the monsoonal moisture to the south. Later on in the hike, we enjoyed the gathering cloud cover, shielding us from the direct sun. Passing through the Mueller Tunnel, we first summited Mt. Lowe (5,603') and enjoyed the expansive views. Retracing our steps, we continued on to San Gabriel Peak (6,161') and then Mount Disappointment (5,960'), where we again enjoyed grand views. The saddle between these two prominent peaks was one of 17 Nike Missile Defense System locations in the Los Angeles area during the 1950's. From Mt. Disappointment, we hiked back down to Mt. Wilson Road, via a steep, wooded single-track trail, where many of the lower tree branches were cut and stored along the way. During the hike, we were delighted with many species of wildflowers. There was a fine showing of Spanish Broom, Poodle Dog Bush, Rose Snapdragon, Showy Penstemon, Golden Yarrow, and others, requiring a look through

our San Gabriel Mountain area flower books. All in all, it was a fine hike enjoyed by everyone.

## July 4th - Mt. McCoy to the Reagan Library

18 hikers met at the carpool point, near the intersection of Royal Avenue and Madera Road, on a relatively cool morning. From there, we walked to the Mt. McCoy trailhead on Washburn Street, a few blocks to the west. The hike began along the trail heading south, but quickly began climbing gradually westward along the well-maintained trail, leading to the summit via a series of 27 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. The prominent white concrete cross at the peak, was erected in 1941. 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, but we didn't stay long, because the Library was preparing for the 4th of July festivities. Eventually we returned the way we came completing a 6-mile hike with 900' of elevation gain/loss, glad that we returned before the heat of the day.

## July 11th - Mt. San Jacinto via the Palm Springs Tramway

Five hikers arrived at the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway (with its rotating cabin providing a 360-degree view) around 8:45 a.m. on an unusually cool morning for a scenic 10-minute vertical lift from 2,643' at the Valley Station to 8,516' at the Mountain Station



where the trail for our hike to the peak of Mt. San Jacinto (10,834') began in the 14,000-acre San Jacinto Wilderness and State Park. We were greeted by a clear, pleasantly cool, pine-scented morning with a beautiful blue sky as we began our hike, pausing briefly at the nearby Long Valley Ranger Station to obtain a free day-hiking permit. The trail soon began rising through a lovely forest of conifers; the nearby streambed was dry. After hiking about 2.5 miles, we reached Round Valley, the location of one of only four campgrounds in the park. NOTE: A pipe near the trail junction provides a steady stream of water during the "wet season," but it was dry today. We continued our hike, heading east along the trail as it climbed steadily (and steeply) to Wellman's Divide where we took a short break and enjoyed somewhat murky views of the desert and the Santa Rosa Mountains to the east. Resuming our hike we headed west on the rocky trail as it climbed along the rim of a large bowl-shaped valley providing beautiful views to the north; we spotted the Tramway Mountain Station (where we had begun our hike) across the valley. Eventually we reached a switchback in the trail which allowed us to continue our climb, but now to the southeast. Soon we reached a trail junction with a sign proclaiming that a right turn would take us to the base of the summit in 0.3 mile. We soon reached a stone shelter built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930's. From there several of us began scrambling carefully up large boulders to the actual mountain peak where there was a horde of "peak baggers," took photos, rested, and enjoyed the panoramic views. After a brief stay, we regrouped and retraced our steps to the Mountain Tramway Terminal and descended to our vehicles, very tired but happy, having completed an 11.5-mile hike with ~2,600' of elevation gain/loss.

## THE TAPO RANCH –THE EARLY YEARS

[adapted from “The Rancho Tapo and Its History,” History Associates Incorporated (September 29, 1994)]

Thomas Bard’s Tapo Ranch consisted of 22.5 square miles, i.e., 14,400 acres. It was 4.5 miles east to west and 5.0 miles north to south. It is shown on the Stow and Power plat of 1887-1888 as not part of the lands held by the Simi Land and Water Company. The ranch was bordered by present day Alamo Street on the south, by Tapo Street and its northward extension on the east, by roughly the top of the Santa Susana Mountains on the north and by the northern extension of Madera Road on the west.

By the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century and the first part of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century the Tapo Ranch began to be further divided. Dry farming on the northern flanks of Simi Valley gave way to irrigated agriculture. The southern flanks of the mountains, along the Simi anticline and the Simi-Santa Rosa fault were devoted to oil and gas production. The coming of the railroad in 1900 and the completion of the railroad tunnels under Santa Susana Pass facilitated marketing of irrigated crops.

Thomas Bard sold the Tapo Ranch to Morris Einstein and Abraham Bernheim in 1887. In 1896 Bernheim sold a parcel, 1,829.18 acres, located in the southwest corner of the ranch, to the Union Oil Company. In 1900 I. H. Warring purchased 800.00 acres in the northeast corner of the ranch, and Bernheim sold 487.20 acres located along the western property line to Robert Eason, who served as trustee for what later became the Santa Susana Syndicate. Then in 1904 Bernheim sold the remaining 11,283.82 acres to the Oxnard-based Patterson Company.

Prior to its purchase by the Patterson Ranch Company, the Tapo Ranch has been used primarily for cattle and sheep grazing. The Patterson Ranch Company used it to raise mules, horses and grain in support of the 6,000 acres owned by the Patterson Ranch Company on the Oxnard Plain which land was devoted to the production of lima beans and sugar beets. (Those were the days before tractors.) The valley land and high alluvial fans of the Tripas were well suited to growing hay, barley, and oats needed to feed the horses and mules used on the Tapo Ranch and on the Oxnard Plain.

Mike Kuhn  
12/24/04

## CHUMASH USES OF COMMON YARROW

[All of the following information has been taken entirely from Jan Timbrook, *Chumash Ethnobotany*, Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History (2007), p. 22.]

Common Yarrow [*Achillea millefolium*], called *yepunash* by both the *Barbareño* and the *Ventureño* Chumash, was used to treat toothaches. The plant was boiled, and the liquid was held in the mouth to reduce pain. Yarrow plants were mashed and applied externally as a poultice for cuts and sores or to stanch the bleeding of a wound.

Mike Kuhn  
7-31-08

## WHAT DOES "SIMI" MEAN?

The meaning of the name “Simi” has long been discussed in our community. Janet Scott Cameron, in *Simi Grows Up: The Story of Simi, Ventura County, California* (1963), page vii, includes the popular notions about the origin of the name. They are as follows:

the turn of the century. ‘I once asked Senator Bard but he seemed in doubt.

Said he thought it was an Indian name. It remained for me to trace its origin this summer (1902) while in Florence, Italy. I there discovered that Simi was the name of an old Forentine family, descendants of who had settled in Southern California early in the nineteenth century. It was they, undoubtedly, who gave the ranch its name.’ But Bancroft (Vol. I, p. 660) on a ‘Map of Los Angeles Region in 1800’ shows *Simí*, and in the same volume on page 663 says, ‘Between 1795 and 1800 there were perhaps granted (by Governor Borica) two other ranches within his jurisdiction, *San Jose’ de Gracia de Simí*...’ This, then, indicates that the Simi family arrived much earlier than Mr. Poindexter’s informant thought or that the name was derived from some other source. Again, a member of the U.S. House of Representatives, John Simi, from Northern California, on being questioned replied that his family had never lived in this area and also that they had not left Italy until after the middle of the nineteenth century.

A second theory is that *Simí* is an Indian word meaning ‘cup’ or ‘little bowl.’ This may or may not tie in with the third theory.

To many it seems more plausible that Simi is a corruption of the name of the Indian village, Shimiji, which, according to the records of the scribes accompanying Father Serra, was located on the south bank of the arroyo which runs through the valley.”

Robert Poindexter was an officer of the Simi Land and Development Company. John Simi’s family founded the “Simi” winery, which still thrives, north of the San Francisco Bay Area. Finally, there is no reason to conclude that “*Simí*” was a corruption of the name of the Indian village. A large proportion of the recorded names for the village in the baptismal records are *Simí* or a version of it – such as *Simee*.

(continued in next month’s newsletter)



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 HIKE (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, near the NE corner of Madera and Royal.

(Moderate - 4.0 MRT - 600' 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.)

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## AUGUST HIKES AND ACTIVITIES

### August 1st Newton Canyon and the Backbone Trail \*

6.5 MRT - Moderate (1,000' elevation gain/loss)

This hike begins at the point that the Backbone Trail crosses Kanan-Dume Road. Our hike will then cross the road as the trail again descends into the shady canyon; the turnaround point will be where the trail begins rising steeply in the direct sunlight toward the north end of Corral Canyon Road. Meet at **8AM** near Donut Delite at the corner of Madera and Royal. Bring 2 to 3 quarts of water, lunch and sunscreen. Wear boots.

### August 8th Westward Beach to Point Dume to Paradise Cove\*

5 MRT - Easy (425' elevation gain/loss)

The trail leads up from Westward Beach 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. Meet at **8AM** near Donut Delite at the corner of Madera and Royal. Bring a snack and 2 quarts of water. Wear shoes that are good for walking on the beach that you don't mind possibly getting wet.

### August 15th Temescal Canyon/Viewpoint Trail Loop + Will Rogers SHP via Rivas Canyon Trail\*

8.5 MRT - Moderate (1,800' 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 zig-zagging downward into shady Rivas Canyon, and finally entering Will Rogers State Historic Park near the old Ranch House. We'll then return via Rivas Canyon to lovely Temescal Gateway Park. Meet at the 118 & Stearns St. Park & Ride at **8AM**. Bring 2 to 3 quarts of water and lunch/snacks. Wear boots.

### August 19th Club Planning Meeting - Everyone Welcome to attend!

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

### August 20th - 23rd Rock Creek Backpack Trip\* SPECIAL EVENT

This special event is open to active Trail Blazer members only. To make your reservations, email


<mailto:reservations@simitrailblazers.com>. Space is limited, so it's best to sign up early. There is a non-refundable \$10 per person fee for the trail Special Use Permit. Non-refundable campground reservation fees will be shared equally among all those who attend.

### August 29th Mt. Islip from Islip Saddle via the PCT\*

7 MRT - Moderate to Strenuous (1,500' elevation gain/loss)

The trail rises up the forested mountain slope to Little Jimmy Campground and nearby Windy Gap; from there a spur trail leads up to the 8,250' summit of Mt. Islip where the hiker is rewarded with a splendid panoramic view in all directions (and there is an old ruined stone cabin near the peak). We'll return the way we came. Meet at the 118 & Stearns St. Park & Ride at **8AM**. Bring 2 to 3 quarts of water and lunch/snacks. Wear boots.

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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>



# RSTB Calendar AUGUST



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<b>1</b> Newton Canyon and the Backbone Trail * <b>8AM</b> See Schedule
<b>2</b> Rocky Peak Fire Road <b>5PM</b> See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Elfriede Cespedes	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Mt. McCoy Trail <b>6PM</b> See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Betty Cameron	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Chumash Trail <b>6PM</b> See Schedule	<b>7</b> <i>Happy Birthday</i> Cassie Simon	<b>8</b> Westward Beach to Point Dume to Paradise Cove* <b>8AM</b> See Schedule
<b>9</b> Rocky Peak Fire Road <b>5PM</b> See Schedule	<b>10</b> <i>Happy Birthday</i> Hank Povinelli	<b>11</b> Mt. McCoy Trail <b>6PM</b> See Schedule	<b>12</b> <i>Happy Birthday</i> Kevin Gallagher	<b>13</b> Chumash Trail <b>6PM</b> See Schedule	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Temescal Canyon/Viewpoint Trail Loop * <b>8AM</b> See Schedule
<b>16</b> Rocky Peak Fire Road <b>5PM</b> See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Katy Cueba	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Mt. McCoy Trail <b>6PM</b>	<b>19</b> Club Meeting <b>5:30PM</b> <i>Everyone Welcome to attend!</i> See Schedule	<b>20</b> Chumash Trail <b>6PM</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> Rocky Peak Fire Road <b>5PM</b> Rock Creek Backpack Trip* <b>SPECIAL EVENT</b> See Schedule	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Mt. McCoy Trail <b>6PM</b> See Schedule	<b>26</b> <i>Happy Birthday</i> Dave Peters	<b>27</b> Chumash Trail <b>6PM</b> See Schedule	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> Mt. Islip from Islip Saddle via the PCT* <b>8AM</b> See Schedule
<b>30</b> Rocky Peak Fire Road <b>5PM</b> See Schedule	<b>31</b>					

**SANTA ANA WILDFIRE THREAT INDEX** - Provides a 6 day forecast of Santa Ana Winds Wildfire Threats on a color coded map <http://psgeodata.fs.fed.us/sawti/>

**CALIFORNIA FIRE WEATHER MAP** - Provides actual Red Flag Warnings and Fire Weather Watches [http://www.fire.ca.gov/communications/communications\\_firesafety\\_redflagwarning.php](http://www.fire.ca.gov/communications/communications_firesafety_redflagwarning.php) (Scroll down to map)

# 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:	<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 1231, Simi Valley, CA 93062



U.S. Postage

**RSTB**  
P.O. Box 1231  
Simi Valley, CA 93062