



# Rancho Simi Trail Blazers

A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation



## Welcome New Members

Jhoanne Kuhnly  
Harry & Elam Quita San Luis

**Our bank will no longer accept dues or other checks made out to the Rancho Simi Trail Blazers. ALL CHECKS must be made out to the Rancho Simi Foundation.**

## 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



## CALIFORNIA LOOSESTRIFE

In the spring of 1997, the Rancho Simi Trail Blazers made their way down La Jolla Canyon in Mugu State Park. In the bottom of that steep rocky canyon, just above the falls, one lone plant with which none of us were familiar presented itself. Growing in running water, upright and with solitary six petaled purple flowers, we were mystified. (Of course, some of us are mystified a lot.) The plant, it turns out, is the California loosestrife (*Lythrum californicum*), a member of the loosestrife family (*Lythraceae*). Milt McAuley (*Wildflowers of the Santa Monica Mountains*) reports that it can also be found in Topanga Creek and Cold Creek. A few of the plants can still be found there today.

Mike Kuhn  
7-12-06

## RSTB CLUB MEETING

This month's RSTB meeting will be at:  
Sycamore Drive Community Center  
1692 Sycamore Drive – Room B-1  
**Wednesday: August 17, 2016**  
**5:30PM Everyone Welcome to attend!**

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

## Upcoming Events

**August 6th Mt. Baldy, Ski Lift, Devil's Backbone, Ski Hut Loop Hike** \* 8.7-mile Loop - Strenuous (2,500' of elevation gain and 3,900' of elevation loss) **8AM**

**August 13th Newton Canyon and the Backbone Trail** \* 6.5 MRT - Moderate (1,000' elevation gain/loss) **8AM**

**August 17th Club Board Meeting** The Sycamore Drive Community Center - 1692 Sycamore Drive - Room B-1 **5:30PM Everyone Welcome to attend!**

**August 20th Johnson Motorway to Chumash Trail Shuttle** 7 Miles One Way - Moderate (elevation gain/loss 1,400') **8AM**

**August 24 – 27th Rock Creek Backpack** \* **SPECIAL EVENT**

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

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.

## June 25th - Wildwood Park Loop



10 hikers arrived in the main parking lot in Wildwood Park at the west end of Avenida de los Arboles in Thousand Oaks on a cool foggy morning. After taking a group photo, we headed west on the Mesa Trail and were soon greeted by a seemingly unending string of runners coming toward us; they were participants in a 10K run scheduled for that morning. As a result we avoided the Stagecoach Bluffs Trail and took a trail north of the runners' route to Lizard Rock by which time the fog had lifted though there was still a nice breeze. We then hiked down into Wildwood Canyon and followed its shady trail to a large shady picnic area where we took a rest/snack/bathroom break and then headed on to Paradise Falls which was quite crowded but still had water. Continuing on upstream we spotted over 20 mallard ducks in Wildwood Creek. Eventually we reached the shady Indian Creek Trail and followed it as it climbed upward, passing a nice display of blooming Chalk Live Forever plants. We followed a short connector trail back to the main parking lot and headed home having completed an enjoyable 5 mile hike with about 865' of elevation gain/loss - and we "beat the heat"!

## July 2nd - Mt. McCoy to the Reagan Library

23 hikers (and one dog) met at the carpool point near the intersection of Royal Avenue and Madera Road on a cool summer 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 series of switchbacks. As the trail rose up the mountainside, we were rewarded with 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 of the desiccated landscape, 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 (and Nancy Reagan in 2016). 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

## July 9th - Westward Beach to Point Dume to Paradise Cove

6 hikers carpoled to Malibu and Westward Beach Road where we took advantage of limited free parking along the road and then hiked to the parking lot trailhead. The temperature was pleasant but there was fairly high humidity as we began hiking up onto Point Dume. After an easy climb, we hiked over to a platform overlooking the ocean and viewed a nearby seal rookery; we then backtracked and followed a trail and a rusty stairway as they led down to Dume Beach. The tide was "out" as we leisurely walked along a short stretch of rocks and then sandy beach for two miles, enjoying the ocean sounds and sights, eventually arriving at the Paradise Cove Beach Cafe, whose website is: <http://www.paradisecovemalibu.com/>, a landmark for decades. We rested for a while in the free-of-charge Adirondack chairs facing the ocean outside the restaurant; there were lots of beachgoers enjoying the day. Access to the nearby pier has been restored and there was a brief appearance by our resident merman but it was cut short because much of the sandy beach has been destroyed by nature over the past year leaving a rocky bottom a few feet offshore. After a while we resumed our hike and headed back along the beach the way we had come; the tide was now "coming in" but it was still possible to avoid getting our boots wet. After climbing back onto Point Dume, we hiked to a higher observation platform which afforded views of the ocean and the surrounding land. We returned to the main trail and descended to the parking lot where we spotted three dolphins playing in the water. Agreeing that the outing was a nice

change of pace, we then headed home having completed an easy 5-mile hike [plus a mile each way to/from where we parked] with about 400' of elevation gain.





# RSTB Calendar AUGUST



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Mt. McCoy Trail <b>6PM</b>  See Schedule  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Elfriede Cespedes	3	4 Chumash Trail <b>6PM</b>  See Schedule  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Betty Cameron	5	6 Mt. Baldy, Ski Lift, Devil's Backbone, Ski Hut Loop Hike* <b>7AM</b>  See Schedule
7 Rocky Peak Fire Road <b>5PM</b>  See Schedule  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Cassie Simon	8	9 Mt. McCoy Trail <b>6PM</b>  See Schedule	10	11 Chumash Trail <b>6PM</b>  See Schedule	12          <i>Happy Birthday</i> Kevin Gallagher	13 Newton Canyon and the Backbone Trail* <b>8AM</b>  See Schedule
14 Rocky Peak Fire Road <b>5PM</b> See Schedule	15	16 Mt. McCoy Trail <b>6PM</b>  See Schedule  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Katy Cueba	17 Club Meeting <b>5:30PM</b> <i>Everyone</i> <i>Welcome to attend!</i>  See Schedule  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Joseph Nargi	18 Chumash Trail <b>6PM</b>  See Schedule	19	20 Johnson Motorway to Chumash Trail Shuttle <b>8AM</b>  See Schedule
21 Rocky Peak Fire Road <b>5PM</b> See Schedule  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Al Richards	22	23 Mt. McCoy Trail <b>6PM</b>  See Schedule	24	25 Chumash Trail <b>6PM</b>  See Schedule	26	27
<b>Rock Creek Backpack* SPECIAL EVENT</b>						
28 Rocky Peak Fire Road <b>5PM</b> See Schedule	29	30 Mt. McCoy Trail <b>6PM</b>  See Schedule	31			

**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**

## SUGAR BUSH

Sugar Bush (*Rhus ovata*) is a member of the Sumac Family and is closely related to Lemonade Berry and Laurel Sumac. (Poison Oak is also in the Sumac Family.) 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 readily hybridizes with Lemonade Berry. Sugar bush is common on dry slopes in the Coastal Sage Scrub and in the Chaparral.

## STONE AGE GALILEE

An interesting archaeological site from the ancient Middle East has come to light. In 1989 on the southwestern shore of the Sea of Galilee an ancient fishing camp was discovered. The site is normally flooded but is well preserved. What was found was that around 20,000 B.C. people collected wild grains, ground them into flour and seemed to have been making bread. All this was going on at least 10,000 years before the development of agriculture. The archaeologist found a grinding slab with traces of barley and other grains. They also found an oven and grape residue. Grapes have a lot of yeast on the skin, sufficient to start fermentation. The camp's residents could easily have made dough, wine and other fermented beverages. There is also evidence of the making of gruel. All of this suggests that by at least 20,000 B.C. the residents of the area were well positioned for the next steps towards proto-agriculture and full agriculture – much earlier than previously thought.

Mike Kuhn  
12-8-04

## STINK BEETLES

*Eleodes* sp.

Stink beetles, a type of Darkling beetle, are one of the most common forms of wildlife we see on the trail –

literally “on the trail.” They are the smooth shiny black beetles; sometimes with their rumps in the air that forever seem to risk being stepped on. They are from one to one and quarter inches in length. Their wing covers are fused, which renders it impossible for them to fly. They are general feeders. They lay their eggs in the soil. Stink beetles will emit a disagreeable odor when handled or disturbed. Their “stand on their head” behavior occurs when threatened. That is one of the times they may emit an odor. They are harmless to human beings.

Mike Kuhn  
9-6-04

## STATUS OF THE CHANNEL ISLAND FOX

One of the adaptations that occur when larger mammalian species experience long term isolation on small islands is that they become smaller. On the three largest islands in the Santa Barbara Channel, i.e., Santa Cruz, Santa Rosa and San Miguel, the gray fox evolved into pygmy gray foxes, forming distinct subspecies on each island. Until recently, each of those three islands contained thousands of these housecat-sized critters. They had persisted through the introduction domestic livestock and severe overgrazing. They were the top of the food chain – other than man – and since they didn't eat grass and didn't prey on livestock, we simply thought they were cute.

Then in the 1990s golden eagles flew from the mainland, found abundant piglets on Santa Cruz Islands, and decided to stay. While they were at it, they began taking skunks and foxes and flew over to Santa Rosa and San Miguel Islands, where the foxes were the main attraction since there were no piglets on those islands. With the creation of the Channel Islands National Park, a major effort has been made to eliminate feral pigs and sheep. As the piglet population declined, the golden eagles turned even more to the little foxes for sustenance. Between 1994 and 2000 the number of foxes declined by 95% and

only 120 were known to remain. At the low point, for example, only 18 foxes remained on San Miguel Island.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has responded to the crisis in three ways. First they tried to remove all of the golden eagles from the Channel Islands. Since they are a protected species, they had to be live-captured. Forty-one golden eagles have been relocated to the mainland. Some golden eagles remain. Second, bald eagles, which feed mainly on fish, were reintroduced to the islands in order to dissuade the return of golden eagles. Finally, foxes were live-recaptured on Santa Rosa and San Miguel Islands and captive-breeding programs were established. No captive-breeding program was established on Santa Cruz Island because a larger population of foxes remained on the island.

Currently 48 foxes are in captivity on San Miguel Island and 18 are in the wild. There are 51 foxes in the breeding program on Santa Rosa Island and 21 in the wild. More than 100 pups were born in the wild and in the breeding program this year. Because of continued predation by golden eagles, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service plans to release half of the captive foxes into the wild on Santa Rosa and San Miguel Islands this year.

The killing of pigs on Santa Cruz Island continues but is being challenged in court by a national animal rights group and a Santa Barbara County businessman.

Mike Kuhn  
10-20-05





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 on the northern side of the Rocky Peak exit from State Route 118. 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)

***(We Meet at 5PM during daylight saving time.)***

### 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 6th Mt. Baldy, Ski Lift, Devil's Backbone, Ski Hut Loop Hike\*

8.7-mile Loop - Strenuous (2,500' of elevation gain and 3,900' of elevation loss)

We'll descend via the Baldy Bowl Trail, passing the Sierra Club Ski Hut along the way and then return to our vehicles via the [San Antonio] "Falls Road" and Mt. Baldy Road. Meet at the 118 & Stearns St. Park & Ride at **7AM**. Bring 3 to 4 quarts of water, lunch, snacks and sunscreen. Wear boots.

**NOTE 1:** "Up only" one-way ski lift tickets will cost approximately \$15/person (\$10 for seniors). There may be a group discount available. **NOTE 2:** A National Forest Adventure Pass (or a Senior Pass) is required for parking.

Meet at the 118 & Stearns St. Park & Ride at 7 AM. Bring 2 to 3 quarts of water and lunch/snacks. Wear boots.

### August 13th Newton Canyon and the Backbone Trail\*

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

The hike starts uphill so that it can cross Tunnel #1 on Kanan-Dume Road; it gradually descends into Newton Canyon and then rises via a series of switchbacks to Latigo Canyon 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 17th Club Meeting *Everyone Welcome to attend!*

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

### August 20th Johnson Motorway to Chumash Trail Shuttle

7 Miles One Way - Moderate (elevation gain/loss 1,400')

Our hike will begin by following an easement through Indian Springs Estates ("the Bel Air of the Valley") to the lower end of the unpaved Johnson Motorway, an old abandoned dirt and sandstone roadbed. When we finish the hike we'll retrieve our other vehicle(s) and return home. Meet at **8AM** at Chumash trailhead. Directions: Take the 118 Freeway to Yosemite exit. Go north on Yosemite and turn right on Flanagan Dr. Bring 2 to 3 quarts of water, lunch and sunscreen. Wear boots.

### August 24th –27th Rock Creek Backpack\* **SPECIAL EVENT**

This special event is open to active Trail Blazer members only. We'll camp at the East Fork Campground (8,915') in East Fork Canyon in a beautiful wooded section of Rock Creek Canyon near Lower Rock Creek on Thursday night. The area is dense with pine, fir, and aspen trees. To make your reservations email [reservations@simitrailblazers.com?subject=Rock%20Creek%20Reservations](mailto:reservations@simitrailblazers.com?subject=Rock%20Creek%20Reservations). 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.

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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>