



# Rancho Simi Trail Blazers



## PRE-PORTOLA SPANISH CONTACT WITH THE CHUMASH

Our history lessons tell about Spanish contact with the Chumash by the Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo expedition of 1542, the Sebastian Vizcaino voyage of 1602, the Portola expeditions of 1769 and 1770 and the de Anza expedition a few years later. But when you dig deeper into this poorly recorded early period of contact, what emerges is a fuzzy portrait of periodic contact with the Spanish and other Europeans.

Word of these contacts and a collective memory that something strange, exotic and excitingly different lay somewhere out to sea - beyond the horizon - must have been known by every coastal Chumash for a period of 200 years before settlement by the peoples of New Spain occurred. It must have been a time of exciting rumors and speculation. There must have been a sense that something was about to happen. Certainly, the effects of small pox, typhoid fever and venereal diseases must have taken a heavy toll on the indigenous people.

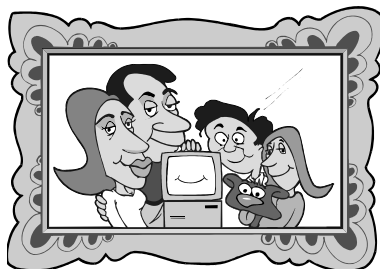
Prior to colonization, Manila galleons used the Japanese and the California currents as the quickest route to Mexico. That route took those vessels through the Santa Barbara Channel. Manila galleons came to Mexico at least every few years. Those ships needed to stop to make repairs and take on water and other provisions. Yet, those contacts have largely gone unreported - I suppose because they were not "voyages of discovery." One petroglyph from Jalama Bay (CA-SBr-609) appears to show a three-masted ship with ratlines. The early vessels of discovery were two-masted vessels.

Cont. on page 2 Col. 1

**Our Sierra backpacking trip this year will be on September 15th -18th. We'll be going to Little Lakes Valley, outside of Bishop. Elevation will be from 10,300' - 11,100'. If you would like to join us, please call Arlene at 805-581-9735.**

## RSTB CLUB MEETING

**The monthly club meeting will be held at the Community Center  
In the B-1 Room  
1692 Sycamore Drive  
At 7:00 PM  
On  
Wednesday  
Sept.20th.**



## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

**Liz Williams  
&  
Doug Temple**

**ALL RSTB MEMBERS**  
Check your mailing label on your RSTB Newsletter for renewing your Yearly Membership  
Renewal date is after your name

## AUGUST TRAIL WORK PARTY

We again had a small work party on the Mt. McCoy trail on August 19. Bob Altieri had to leave early so he started very early and worked on improving switchbacks and a minor trail re-route on the upper portion of the trail. John Downey and I used brush cutters to clear grass and weeds from the path and the rest of the group hand cut the larger plants as we worked our way up the trail. I managed to get stung by the same Yellow Jacket wasp 4 times; on the right arm, the right ear, the left temple and the top of my head. I guess with the brush cutter running, it thought I was a giant buzzing insect invading its' territory. I was not a happy camper. My right ear is still swollen. It was a warm day and everyone was happy to knock off work and head for Chuy's. Many thanks to the following workers:

Bob Altieri, Arlene Altshuler, John Downey, Tom Frye, Doug Temple and John Sabol.

Due to our Sierra Backpack, the next work party will be held on the second Saturday of the month, September 9 on the Hummingbird Trail and we will work from 7:00 AM to 11:00 AM. Hope to see you there.

Work Parties Chair

John Sabol

Francis Drake, the English pirate, wintered over in California in 1578-79, presumably, according to his recorded latitude, in Drakes Bay. The discovery of three cannon and one anchor, which fit the description of items left behind by Drake, in the Goleta area suggest that he may have had a stay of many months in Chumash territory.

The first recorded stop by a Manila galleon occurred in 1587, when a ship commanded by Pedro de Unamuno stopped in Morro Bay. He had a violent encounter with the Indians. Another contact occurred in 1595 when Sebastian Rodriguez Cermeno stopped in San Luis Obispo Bay. Indeed, the 1602 Vizcaino voyage had as its objective the mapping of ports along the Alta California coast suitable as respite for Manila galleons.

Hints of other ships are recorded. One shipwreck, believed to be a Manila galleon, is recorded off of the northwest coast of San Miguel Island. Another shipwreck occurred off the north coast of Santa Catalina Island, just outside of Chumash territory. The Spanish attempted salvage of the vessels cargo in 1601 and 1603. The Indians told Vizcaino about a shipwreck, perhaps the same one, during his visit of 1602. The salvage attempts imply that at least part of the crew manage to sail a small boat on to Baja California. Finally, an old sailor a Bancroft historian reported that in 1872 he opened a Spanish grave on Santa Cruz Island that was marked by wooden headboard dated 1660. Evidence of other wreck of galleons are recorded elsewhere along the California/Oregon coast. Bits and pieces of Chinese blue wear continue to wash up on the beach at Drakes Bay north of San Francisco.

All of this is evidence of a silent history of frequent contacts with the Indians of California and the Chumash prior to Spanish settlement. It was the beginning of worlds in collision. A collective event that the Chumash would not survive.

Mike Kuhn



Sheep Camp ½ mile (left to right): Chris Conti, John Downey, Phil Ankrom, John Sabol, Doug Temple, Terry Conrad, Arlene Altshuler, and Bill Cespedes.

### SHEEP CAMP-2000

Will it be cold, very cold, hot, very hot, on the trip? Will there be an afternoon mountain shower? Can we risk leaving our rain gear at home? Will the blue iris still be in bloom? Is the water flowing at the spring? If not, can we find an alternative destination (that's a reasonable distance?) Just how far is it to Sheep Camp (opinions differed)? Will we find the campsites already taken? Will we be able to see the meteor shower or will the full moon make it impossible to clearly see the night sky? Will the rattlesnake be there? Will my grandson enjoy backpacking? As you can see, the questions were numerous and vexing.

We met at McDonald's at Yosemite Avenue at 7 AM Saturday, August 12, for a quick bite and distribute the gear into the three vehicles making the trip to the parking lot at Mount Pinos (known in some hiking guides as

Chula Vista Campground parking). Arlene, the lone female had the company of Mike Kuhn, the two Johns, Doug Temple of Port Hueneme, Bill Cespedes, Gary Cremeans, Phil Ankrom, my 13 year old grandson, Chris, on his first backpacking trip, and myself. Tom Frye would drive up with us to enjoy a day hike. Terry Conrad of Lancaster would meet us at the Condor Observation Point

The drive up I-5 went quickly and we arrived at the parking lot to find it overflowing, the first sign of a possible overcrowding on the mountain. To our relief, a film crew had taken residence with their task force of various vehicles requiring us to share the remaining room to park with but a few other campers. We had to move our vehicles once to accommodate their filming, but eventually it worked itself out and after Arlene divided up the contents for our group dinner we pro-

ceeded up the trail.

In times past, the off road trail up to the Condor Observation Point was open to vehicles. Due to irresponsible use by some off roaders, the Forest Service has locked the gate and intends to keep the trail closed to motorized vehicles. It's a pleasant walk up of 1½ miles, climbing from 8300 feet to 8800 feet through the shade of many pines and we arrived to find Terry waiting for us. The view of the Santa Barbara backcountry was stupendous. Haze over the San Joaquin Valley limited our view to the north of the Tehachapis and the Southern Sierra Nevada Range.

After a couple of group photos as we made fun of Gary's wobbly camera mount on his tripod we set off up over the ridges and down into the canyons, passing within a few feet of Sawmill Mountain. At the juncture of the trail that comes up from Lockwood Valley through Lily Meadows and goes to Mount Abel we turned left and walked the remaining ½ mile down to Sheep camp which sits at 8300 feet. The temperature was in the 70-80's, dependent on sun or shade.

Yes, the water was flowing steady and clear from the spring box set in a gentle slope covered with blooming yellow Sneezeweed. Alas, the wild Iris had finished and were drying out. The camp was empty, and choosing the lower campsite (last year occupied by the aforementioned coiled 6-foot rattlesnake) we had plenty of room to set up our shelters.

Those of us that have follow the style of Ray Jardine found reasonably level sites with forest duff inches deep to cushion our tender bodies. Some were unsatisfied to use an ensolite pad atop the cushion and resorted to Thermarest pads, but we're not naming names. Others made a fuss about not being too close to the habitual snorers, but again we're not naming names.

My grandson enjoyed his first experience filtering water as the squirting Sweetwater Guardian soaked him to tell him to slow down! It was a community effort as the group employed three filters to purify enough water to fill our bags and bottles to last through the weekend. I have a photo of two of our stalwarts sitting in this field of flowers, the spring not visible that depicts them communing with nature, *together*.

The day was spent visiting, exploring the area, enjoying differing views and bouldering on some rock piles. Everyone was "of fine temperament" and much teasing, joshing, and merriment was enjoyed (tolerated!) Our engineers and aerospace experts captured our attention with stories of rocket tests and other experimental efforts that had gone askew. Arlene made ready our feast, enlisting willing hands to cut and dice tomatoes, onions, cabbage, and cheese, as she prepared the black beans and rice. Bill contributed sausage and Terry donated chicken for those that did not wish to remain meatless. With a

hot fire under the grill, Phil risked fingers and skin, heating individual flour tortillas, as we lined up to make our burritos. It was, as usual, a fine and filling meal. Gary captured the essence in a gorgeous photograph of the camp table set with the fixins' laid out, the bottle of hot sauce prominently displayed.

As evening wore on, we enjoyed a beautiful sunset glistening above the silhouette of the coastal range. Our fire grew higher as it cooled and the good company continued as no one escaped their turn at being the focus of ribbing. The moon rose, bright as a city street light. It was indeed too bright to spot the meteor shower, but a few were observed. We watched two satellites travel over head on their lonely journey, one from south to north, the other from west to east, their presence made possible to detect by the sunlight reflecting off their skin. We hung our food and turned in, tent flies left off, the moon shining brightly through the trees, a rather pleasant night with a soft breeze blowing.

Morning brought more of the nice weather. We readied our breakfast and, too soon, it was time to pack and head out. I hope it was as enjoyable for all as it was for me. My grandson suffered a sore toe and ankle but wants to know how soon we can go again! The final question to be answered: the distance to Sheep



# SEPTEMBER

2000



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					<b>1</b> Happy Birthday Millie Reina	<b>2</b> Chumash to Hummingbird Creek Trail Hike Read Schedule Meet at 7 am  Happy Birthday Lindsay McCarthy
<b>3</b> Rocky Peak Hike, meet at 5 PM see schedule  Happy Birthday Bobby Rusmussen	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Happy Birthday Marcie Kraft	<b>7</b> Chumash Trail Hike at 6 PM See schedule	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> Hummingbird Creek Work Party Read schedule
<b>10</b> Rocky Peak Hike, meet at 5 PM see schedule  Happy Birthday Jody Junor	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Chumash Trail Hike at 6 PM See schedule	<b>15</b> Rock Creek Backpack See schedule	<b>16</b> Rock Creek Backpack See schedule  Happy Birthday Gene Clark
<b>17</b> Rock Creek Backpack See schedule	<b>18</b> Rock Creek Backpack See schedule	<b>19</b> Happy Birthday Rick Marsh & Susan Ko	<b>20</b> RSTB Club meeting at 7 PM Park District Community Center, B-1 room, 1692 Sycamore Dr. Happy Birthday	<b>21</b> Chumash Trail Hike at 6 PM See schedule	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Point Mugu State Park Hike See schedule  Happy Birthday Durell Fowlks
<b>24</b> Rocky Peak Hike, meet at 5 PM see schedule  Happy Birthday Jeanette Curia &	<b>25</b> Happy Birthday Ben Seifert	<b>26</b> Happy Birthday Frank Reina	<b>27</b> Happy Birthday Cesar Fabros & Todd Clark	<b>28</b> Chumash Trail Hike at 6 PM See schedule	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> La Jolla Valley Loop hike See schedule  Happy Birthday Erika Wolfe



**RANCHO SIMI TRAIL BLAZERS**

EXECUTIVE CHAIR:	MIKE KUHN	HM (805) 583-2345 WK (805)583-6776
TREASURER:	BILL FUNK	HM (805) 527-9339
PARK DISTRICT LIAISON:	COLLEEN JANSSEN	OFFICE (805) 584-4400
WORK PARTIES CHAIR:	JOHN SABOL	HM (805) 583-2541
WORK PARTIES VICE CHAIR:	BOB ALTIERI	HM (805) 526-6749
HIKING CHAIR:	ARLENE ALTSHULER	HM (805) 581-9735
WAYS & MEANS CHAIR:	MARTY RICHARDS	HM (805) 526-4414
WAYS & MEANS VICE CHAIR:	CONNIE ANKROM	HM (805)526-2747
OUTDOOR EDUCATION CHAIR:	JIM RILEY	HM (805) 522-4268
COMMUNICATION / PUB.CHAIR:	BYERS (JOHN) DOWNEY	HM (805) 526-8588

~~-----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) \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Mo. \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_ Phone wk/hm \_\_\_\_\_

How did you find out about the RSTB \_\_\_\_\_

Please make out tax deductible member dues check for the year Sept.-2000/Sept.-2001 to:

“Rancho Simi Foundation” mail it to “RSTB, P.O. Box 630399, Simi Valley, Ca 93063-0399

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

Check out our Web Site at ...<http://rstb.homestead.com>



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