



# Rancho Simi Trail Blazers

A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation



## 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:

short sleeve \$12  
long sleeve \$14  
sweat shirt \$18



Please call Marty if you'd like to place an order: 805-526-4414.

## MT. SAN ANTONIO SKI HUT

6 MRT - Strenuous overnighter - (2,200' elevation gain) - The Hut is at the base of Mt. San Antonio (Mt. Baldy) at 8,200'. It might be listed as strenuous, but it's not that bad. We'll do 3 miles the first day but we have all day to do it. Coming back the next day is all down hill.

We'll spend the night in the hut. All you need to bring is food, your sleeping bag, good boots and 2 - 3 quarts of water. We will cook our food on the hut's wood burning stove.

Space is limited. The cost is \$10 if you are a Sierra Club Member, and \$15 for non-members. **To reserve your place, send email to Mark Gilmore.** We'll meet at 8 AM, near Donut Delite on the corner of Madera and Royal. We'll cancel if there is bad weather, so please be prepared for a substitute hike.

## DID YOU KNOW... ???

**Newbury Park** - In 1875 the Conejo Post Office was established. A postal guide at the time referred to the post office as "Newbury Park" because E.S. Newbury was the Postmaster.

## 22<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL CALIFORNIA COASTAL/INLAND WATERWAYS CLEAN UP DAY

Join us! Do your part to clean up Simi Valley's inland waterways! The Trail Blazers will be supporting the Inland Waterway Cleanup in conjunction with Coastal Cleanup Day.

**When:** Saturday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, from 9am - Noon

**Where:** Rancho Simi Community Park (near the northwest corner of Erringer Rd and Royal Ave)

**What to bring:** Please wear long pants, sturdy shoes, and a hat. Bring gloves, insect repellent, and sunscreen.

**Directions:** (Please note that Los Angeles Ave. and all major cross streets between Erringer and Sinaloa will be closed due to the Simi Valley Days Parade.)

Going east on the 118, exit at Madera; go south to Royal; turn left and go to Erringer.

Going west on the 118, exit Sycamore Drive, go south to Royal, turn right and go to Erringer.

For more information, call (805) 583-6462.

## RSTB CLUB MEETING

This month's club meeting will be held at the Community Center

**Room B-1**

1692 Sycamore Drive  
at 7:00 PM

on

**September 20, 2006**



**Welcome!**  
**Roger Steffen and Family**  
**George & Linda O'Connor**  
**Cathy Rowe**  
**Laurie Shonafelt**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### SEPTEMBER 9<sup>th</sup>

#### **Matilija Creek Backpack Trip**

This has been cancelled. There will be a Saturday day hike in its place.

### SEPTEMBER 16<sup>th</sup> 9am - Noon

#### **Arroyo Simi Cleanup near Rancho Simi Community Park**

See column 2 for information.

### OCTOBER 14<sup>th</sup>

#### **Santa Cruz Island - Scorpion Anchorage to Smuggler's Cove**

**\*\* RESERVATIONS ARE FULL \*\***

There is now a waiting list in case of cancellations.

### NOVEMBER 4<sup>th</sup>

#### **Mt. San Antonio Ski Hut**

See column 1 for more information.

More information on these events can be found at

<http://simitrailblazers.com>

To make reservations, please email Mark Gilmore at

[markinthepark@sbcglobal.net](mailto:markinthepark@sbcglobal.net).

## EARLY GRAIN FARMING IN SIMI

From Janet Scott Cameron's book, *Simi Grows Up* (1963), pages 22:

"The early farmers raised grain exclusively. Naturally the horses, mules and farm animals formed the nucleus of their equipment. In the winter the land was plowed, harrowed, and the grain sown – in the early days broadcast from a seeder at the back of a low wagon, then harrowed again. Prior to the use of the combine for harvesting each rancher had a portable outfit – all horse-drawn: one or more headers, a steam engine, a separator, a derrick-table, twelve net wagons, a cook-house on wheels, a straw-buck, and various extra wagons in case of emergency. This equipment required a crew of forty-eight to fifty men and about thirty-six horses. When the grain was ripe it was headed and dumped into windrows. Usually a crew shocked it up for easier loading. Most of the crews were Chinese. Old Chang, who ran a laundry in Hueneme, a fine fellow, headed the Chinese in this area, acting as their employment agent and banker.

In the threshing season the routine went something like this: the teamsters would get their pitchers and net wagons into the field by seven o'clock in the morning. These pitchers worked together, taking care of two wagons. As soon as a load was ready the driver took it toward the derrick-table, waiting in line until his turn to get it unloaded. The unloading was done by horse-power, one or two horses being hitched to a rope, which pulled the net filled with hay out of the wagon and dumped it into the hopper. As soon as the net was in place, then away to the field for another load. On the derrick-table were two hoedowns and two feeders and two extra men. The sack-hole gang consisted of a filler and two sack-sewers. There was considerable rivalry between the sack-sewers as to neatness and speed. Joe Horner held this title in Simi for many years. A straw-buck with a buck-pole was used to keep the straw away from the separator. Then there was the water-buck to haul water for the steam engine.

Pitchers received \$1.50 and board per day; the wagon drivers \$1.25 and board; table-men about \$2.00 and board; sack-hole men about \$2.50 to \$3.00 and board; separator and oiler men \$6.00 and board; engineer \$4.00 and board; fireman \$2.00 and board. The Chinese pitchers boarded themselves so they received a little more. They had their own tents. Their food, mostly fish in kegs, pickled and dried, and dried ducks came from China. It smelled terrible. Then they had rice and eggs and some kind of vegetable. The boss had to supply them with water and that was a real problem – how to keep water ahead so each Chinaman could have his bath every night in the little tub they kept for that purpose. Generally a Chinese cook looked after the cook-house for the Mexicans and Americans. The food was good and there was lots of it: fresh pork, salted side meat, potatoes, bread, beans, milk, coffee. The men were paid every Saturday night. The boss or his son would go to Hueneme and bring back the money – in four-bit pieces. Of course there were some family men working on the outfits who went home on Saturday nights but the regular California

ranch hand would stay and gamble. Some of the men were professional gamblers, although their antes were small. They worked all week – not for wages they got but for the fun of gambling all night every Saturday.

The sacks of grain were piled in great stacks at each setting. When the harvest was over the boss took it to the wharf at Hueneme. The teamsters loaded up the day before, using a big wagon and a second one as a trailer. One teamster could handle this outfit with eight to sixteen horses or mules. He started early in the morning between three and four o'clock to get over the worst part of the road and to Springville by dark. Then by getting on the road between Little Simi and Springville was either very sandy or very rutty due to heavy loads. To overcome this, the farmers hauled manure and covered roads with it and then kept piling on straw from the barley fields. Most teamsters had a string of bells on the lead horse. People living along the route said they always know who was coming by the chime of the bells. The teamster generally controlled his team by a jerkline although one could sometimes be seen riding his lead horse or the wheeler."

Mike Kuhn



## A CHUMASH BALL GAME

[from Travis Hudson (ed.), *Breath of the Sun* (1980), p. 23]

Fernando Librado: "A game often played at fiestas here at the Mission was called *wakimari'i* in the language of the Fernando Indians, for they originated the game. Two boys would play it, each kicking a ball which was about twice the size of a billiard ball. They would run from here to Los Cerritos (near Montalvo) and back."

A stone ball, a bit smaller than a softball, was collected by myself during the late-1970s during a grading project at an old Indian village near the confluence of the Arroyo Simi and Brea Canyon. (The village site had been rough graded in 1971 – long before environmental reviews were required on projects.) It appears to be made out of augite, a dark greenish gray to black ferromagnesian silicate, with a specific gravity of 3.2-3.4 and a hardness of 5-6. Part of the surface of the ball seems to be polished from handling and impregnated with body oil, and the remainder of the surface is abraded from rolling on the ground. This object may be an example of such a gaming ball.

There are many examples of sandstone balls of much the same size in museum collections. The material of which it is made would have to have been traded in from the desert where augite occurs. Given its relatively high specific gravity (steel has a specific gravity of about 4), it is a little hard to imagine that it would have been kicked along the ground – side-footed perhaps. The gaming ball is on display at the Strathearn Historical Park.

Mike Kuhn

**GLEN AULIN BACKPACK TRIP**



*Left to right: Martin DeGoey, Mike Kuhn, Doug Marsh, Carol Tucker, Mark Gilmore, Margarita Marsh, John Attwood, Karleen Volz, and Linda Barry.*



*Doug Marsh at Water Wheel Falls*



*Louise Pomes on a day hike.*



*Around the campfire, left to right: Martin DeGoey, Margarita Marsh, Linda Barry, Mike Kuhn, Louise Pomes, John Sabol, and visitors from a neighboring campsite.*



*Lewis's Monkey Flower  
Mimulus lewisii*



*Wandering Daisy  
Erigeron peregrinus*



*Leichtlin's Mariposa Lily  
Calochortus leichtlinii*



*Swamp Onion  
Allium validum*



# RSTB Calendar September 2006



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 Lower Arroyo Seco See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Doug Temple
3 Rocky Peak 5pm hike See Schedule	4	5 Long Canyon 6:30pm hike See Schedule	6	7 Chumash Trail 6pm hike See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Sandra Fernandez-Achenbach	8	9 Leader's Choice Day hike See Schedule
10 Rocky Peak 5pm hike See Schedule	11	12 Long Canyon 6:30pm hike See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Debbie DeGoey	13	14 Chumash Trail 6pm hike See Schedule	15	16 Arroyo Simi Work Party See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Sandra Duarte
17 Rocky Peak 5pm hike See Schedule	18	19 Long Canyon 6:30pm hike See Schedule	20 RSTB Meeting See Page 1 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Brian Steffen	21 Chumash Trail 6pm hike See Schedule	22 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Ray Johnson	23 Newton Canyon See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Michele Sumandra Les Wilson
24 Rocky Peak 5pm hike See Schedule	25	26 Long Canyon 6:30pm hike See Schedule	27 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Cesar Fabros David Mummert	28 Chumash Trail 6pm hike See Schedule	29	30 Sycamore Canyon Shuttle See Schedule



# Rancho Simi Trail Blazers

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## Hiking Schedule



### REGULARLY SCHEDULED HIKES

*(Rain cancels – No hikes on holidays)*

#### Sunday Evening - Rocky Peak

Meet 5pm 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 First Street 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)

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### SEPTEMBER HIKES

#### September 2nd - Lower Arroyo Seco\*

10 MRT - Moderate (900' elevation gain) Hike a wooded streamside trail, with inviting picnic sites and small cascades in the San Gabriel Mountains above Flintridge. Bring 2 - 3 quarts of water and lunch. Wear boots and be prepared for some possible stream crossings. Meet at 8 AM near Donut Delite at the corner of Madera and Royal.

#### September 9th – Leader's Choice Day Hike\*

The Matilija Creek backpack trip has been cancelled. There will be a day hike in its place, to be determined that morning. Bring snack and 2 - 3 qts of water, bug juice. Wear boots. Meet at 8 AM near Donut Delite at the corner of Madera and Royal.

#### September 16th - Arroyo Cleanup Work Party

The Trail Blazers will be supporting California's 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Coastal/Inland Waterways Cleanup Day. It will be held in Arroyo Simi at Rancho Simi Community Park, near the northwest corner of Erringer Rd and Royal Ave. Please wear long pants, sturdy shoes, and a hat. Bring gloves, insect repellent, and sunscreen.

Directions: (Please note that Los Angeles Ave. and all major cross streets between Erringer and Sinaloa will be closed due to the Simi Valley Days Parade.) Going east on the 118, exit at Madera; go south to Royal; turn left and go to Erringer. Going west on the 118, exit Sycamore Drive, go south to Royal, turn right and go to Erringer.

#### September 23rd - Newton Canyon\*

5 MRT - Moderate (1200' elevation loss/gain) Bring snack and 2 - 3 qts of water, bug juice. Wear boots. Meet at 8 AM near Donut Delite at the corner of Madera and Royal.

#### September 30th - Sycamore Canyon Shuttle\*

8 MRT - Moderate one way (1200' elevation loss) This eight mile, one-way shuttle hike to the ocean is all down hill. When we get to the beach, we'll have lunch. We'll plan the logistics of the shuttle once the event draws near.

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

 No dogs allowed on trail(s).

For more 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@adelphia.net
Treasurer:	Peter Ely	HM (805) 523-1409	
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:	John Sabol	HM (805) 583-2541	jtsabol@sbcglobal.net
Website:	Mark Gilmore	HM (805) 529-5581	markinthepark@sbcglobal.net
Ways & Means Chair:	Marty Richards	HM (805) 526-4414	
Publicity Chair:	Judi Sevcik	HM (805) 581-4340	judisevcik@earthlink.net
Newsletter Editor:	Arlene Altshuler	HM (805) 581-9735	arlene.altshuler@mindbox.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 \_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone wk/hm \_\_\_\_\_

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

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



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