



# Rancho Simi Trail Blazers

A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation



**Margaret & Joseph Marasco  
D'Laurie Petro**



## COASTAL CHUMASH PEOPLE

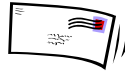
The Coastal Chumash people interacted with their environment in unique ways. Theirs was the most complex culture of all the Indians in California. The area's rich natural resources made agriculture unnecessary. Different food became available as the seasons changed. Most important were fish, including tuna which came to the Channel in summer, and acorns, which ripened in fall. In times of plenty surplus food was dried and stored for leaner months.

As many as 1000 people lived year round in each of the major villages and towns. Towns were centers for political, religious and economic activities. Population concentrations fluctuated due to seasonal food-gathering trips and important ceremonies.

Most communities were located near lagoons or creek mouths. Dome-shaped thatched houses and granaries were arranged in rows along streets parallel to the beach. In each village there were a gaming area, ceremonial dance enclosure and fenced cemetery, as well as work areas and sweathouses. Shrines were nearby.

## 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 19<sup>th</sup>, 2007**



## THE FIRST MAIL ROUTE IN SIMI VALLEY

*Another excerpt from R.E. Harrington's Early Days of Simi Valley (1961), page 23:*

*"...the first mail route started from the Simi Post Office in 1911. A petition for the original mail route was circulated by me. There was also a petition for a route to start from the Santa Susana Post Office at the same time, but since Santa Susana was at that time very thinly populated, the Simi Route was chosen. An Inspector came out from Washington to go over both proposed routes. He had a cyclometer on the front wheel of his buggy to measure the mileage. There had to be at least four families served to the mile. I took him over the proposed Simi RFD route. The first route was twelve miles long and served forty-eight families. At one place it went through a locked gate and the mail carrier had to be furnished a key to this lock."*

**Mike Kuhn**

## 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.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**SEPTEMBER 15<sup>th</sup> 9:00 am - Noon**  
**2007 Coastal Cleanup—Arroyo Simi**  
Please see the web site for more information.

**OCTOBER 20<sup>th</sup> 8:00 am - Noon**  
**Work Party-Chumash Trail**

**OCTOBER 27<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup>**  
**Mt. San Antonio Ski Hut**  
Please see the web site 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)

## A STONE CAIRN

During an archaeological survey of a portion of the Big Sky Ranch in 1989, a large cairn of fieldstones was identified. The pile of stones was approximately nine feet across and two and one half feet high. Some of the stones were more than a foot in diameter. The pile of stones was certainly man made, but there was no way of telling when it was assembled, by whom and for what purpose. Its physical nature is clear, but its origin is an enigma. There were archaeological resources in the immediate area, but not directly associated with the pile of stones.

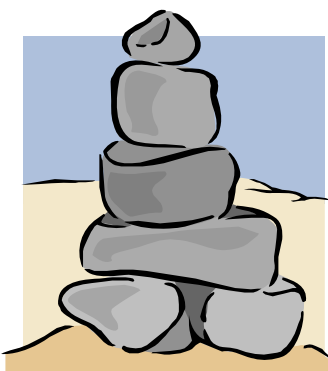
The Chumash Indians did create rectangular or oval shaped piles of stones, usually two or three stones high, as shrines associated with winter solstice ceremonies. This pile of stones doesn't seem to be strategically located to serve as a shrine. There is no indication that any form of historic cultivation took place in the immediate area. Archaeological testing by RMW Paleo Associates, under archaeologist Ron Bissell, yielded no answers.

Cairns were assembled for many purposes throughout prehistory and history. Sometimes they covered burials, sometimes they represented shrines, sometimes they were boundary, claim or trail markers, and sometimes they were simply piles of stones cleared from fields during cultivation. I have read of one account where Indians in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada built cairns of stones to mark the spots where Indians were attacked and killed – or badly mauled – by grizzly bears.

Ron Bissell relates a story about a large cairn near an excavation that he was involved with. Local residents told him that a retired gentleman built the cairn. On his daily constitutional, he would add a stone - and sometimes a

flower. This practice went on for more than 20 years. However, many local citizens are now convinced that the cairn conceals something of importance! Our pile was destroyed during the grading for the Lost Canyons Golf Courses. We will never know the origin of the cairn. Some things will remain a mystery.

Mike Kuhn



### ALFRED ROBINSON'S DESCRIBES SCENE ON MONTEREY BEACH (circa 1834)

In *Life in California* (1846), Alfred Robinson describes a scene on the edge of Monterey Bay. The scene was an annual event, but certainly does not occur today. In his own words:

The bay presented a lively scene at this time, being filled with a kind of small fish called "Sardinas," thousands of which, in endeavoring to escape from the pursuit of larger fish, were cast upon the beach. These attract a multitude of birds that devour them, on shore and in the water. Numerous whales feed upon them also, and constantly play about the ship. At times these enormous creatures will raise themselves almost entirely out of the water, and fall into it again with great force. While preying upon this food, they are not unfrequently attacked by the sword fish and killer (?), when, like the sardinas, they are driven upon the beach to die.

The Indians, during this yearly visitation, may be daily seen up to their knees in the surf, with their nets, which are easily filled, and thus the inhabitants are supplied with provision, and at night bears come from the woods, heralded by the howling of wolves, and the barking of coyotes. It is a merry sight, to behold, on a bright sunny day, the joy of the Indians, at the landing-place, as they scoop with their nets – the leaping of the silvery fish that are thrown upon the rocks – the darting of the birds, and the splashing of the water as they pounce upon their prey – the jumping porpoise – the spouting whale, all of which attract hundreds of spectators to the beach, and keep them there for hours beholders of the scene."

Here we see how many has changed the face of the earth. The Indians, with their meager equipment had not managed to alter their own world – at least as far as sardines were concerned. By the 1930s the sardines had been pretty much fished out by fishermen with large boats and gigantic nets. At the time our forefathers wondered where the sardines had gone. It seems not to have occurred to them that they had been over-fished. The whales no longer follow the sardines to the beaches. In the days of the Indians, the whales that were beached were eaten too. It was a time of plenty. The grizzly and, perhaps, black bears waited until dark to partake of the plenty. The Indians stayed indoors at night because they did not have a satisfactory source of light to fish by and because they did not relish an encounter with a bear or supernatural being. Wolves are mentioned as part of their world. The grizzly bear and the wolves are no more – having fallen victim to modern firearms and poison baits. Robinson was greatly taken by the scene he describes. It is no more.

Mike Kuhn

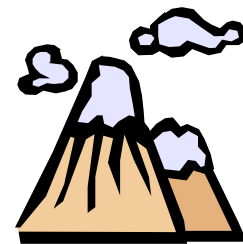
## Mt. San Jacinto Hike



## Cloudburst Summit Hike



## Mt. Islip Hike





# RSTB Calendar September 2007



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<b>1</b> Serrano Canyon See Schedule
<b>2</b> Rocky Peak 5pm hike See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Doug Temple	<b>3</b> <i>Happy Birthday</i> Stephanie Scher	<b>4</b> Long Canyon 6:30pm hike See Schedule	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Chumash Trail 6pm hike See Schedule	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Sycamore Canyon Shuttle See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Tom Gnad
<b>9</b> Rocky Peak 5pm hike See Schedule	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Long Canyon 6:30pm hike See Schedule	<b>12</b> RSTB Meeting See Page 1 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Debbie DeGoey	<b>13</b> Chumash Trail 6pm hike See Schedule	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 2007 Coastal Cleanup – Arroyo Simi See Schedule
<b>16</b> Rocky Peak 5pm hike See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Sandra Duarte	<b>17</b> <i>Happy Birthday</i> Danielle Winfield	<b>18</b> Long Canyon 6:30pm hike See Schedule	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Chumash Trail 6pm hike See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Brian Steffen	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> Upper Zuma Canyon See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Ray Johnson
<b>23</b> Rocky Peak 5pm hike See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Les Wilson Michele Sumandra	<b>24</b> <i>Happy Birthday</i> Margaret Marasco	<b>25</b> Long Canyon 6:30pm hike See Schedule	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Chumash Trail 6pm hike See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Cesar Fabros	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> Newton Canyon See Schedule

**30**  
Rocky Peak 5pm hike  
See Schedule



# Rancho Simi Trail Blazers

A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation

## 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)

---

### SEPTEMBER HIKES

**September 1st Serrano Canyon\***  8.5 MRT - Moderate to Strenuous (1100' elevation gain)

Meet at 8 AM near Donut Delite at the corner of Madera and Royal. Bring 2 - 3 quarts water/wear boots. If you meet us at the trailhead, pls. note there is a parking fee of \$5 -\$10, depending on season, at the trailhead (Point Mugu State Park).

**September 8th Sycamore Canyon Shuttle\***  8 Miles - 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. **For more info and to reserve your space on the shuttle, check the RSTB website. Reservations must be made and confirmed no later than September 5th.**

**September 15th - 2007 Coastal Cleanup - Arroyo Simi** The Trail Blazers will be supporting the Inland Waterway Cleanup in conjunction with Coastal Cleanup Day. Saturday, from 9:00 AM to Noon. Rancho Simi Community Park, 1765 Royal Avenue (corner of Royal Avenue and Erringer Road). Meet at the Erringer Road side of the park, near the entrance to the Arroyo.

**September 22nd Upper Zuma Canyon\*\*** 5 MRT - Moderate


Hike down into the Canyon. Meet at 8 AM near Donut Delite (corner of Madera and Royal). Bring 2-3 quarts of water and a snack. Wear boots.

**September 29th Newton Canyon\*\*** 5 MRT - Moderate (1200' elevation loss/gain)

Bring snack and 2-3 quarts of water/bug juice. Wear boots. Meet at 8 AM near Donut Delite (corner of Madera and Royal).

---

\*\* 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>

## RANCHO SIMI TRAIL BLAZERS

*A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation*

Executive Chair:	Mike Kuhn	HM (805) 583-2345	hannahmike@roadrunner.com
Treasurer:	Peter Ely		
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:	Carrie McCline		
Newsletter Editor:	Linda Travis	HM (805) 579-8829	linda.travis@bigfoot.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)



U.S. Postage

RSTB  
P.O. Box 630445  
Simi Valley, CA 93063-0399