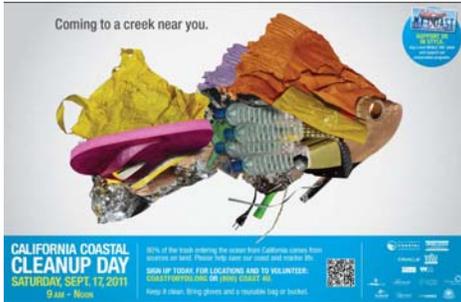




# Rancho Simi Trail Blazers

A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation



## Coastal Cleanup Day

On Saturday September 17th there is a Coastal Cleanup Day from 9 AM to Noon at Rancho Simi Community Park, Corner of Royal Avenue and Erringer Road. Bring your own bags, bucket, and bottle of water to the event. Finally, you can use those used plastic bags you have been saving! Help reduce trash by bringing your plastic shopping bags or a bucket to put trash in.

Join your friends and neighbors at Rancho Simi Community Park to help do your part for the environment. Please wear long pants, sturdy shoes, gloves, hat, insect repellent, and sunscreen. For more information call 583-6424

## Rancho Simi Trailblazers is now on Facebook!

If you are a Facebook user, check out the new Trailblazers Group page! Find it by searching for Simi Valley Trail Blazers. You will find it's a great way to keep up on current events with the group.



## Welcome, New Members!

Tere Trabert

### 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



## Announcing New Editor for Newsletter!

We are happy to announce that Linda Martins-Mann will be taking over the duties as newsletter editor with the October issue. Welcome, Linda!

### RSTB CLUB MEETING

This month's club meeting will be at:  
Sycamore Drive Community Center  
1692 Sycamore Drive - Room B-1  
**7:00PM** – September 21, 2011

## Upcoming Events

**September 3rd - Long Canyon / Montgomery Canyon / Challenger Park Shuttle - 7.5 Miles - Moderate (1000' elevation gain)**

**September 10th Sycamore Canyon Shuttle\***   
8 Miles - Moderate one way (1200' elevation loss)

**September 17th - Coastal Cleanup Day 9AM - Noon**  
Rancho Simi Community Park

**September 18th Wild Animal Show - Oak Park Community Center**

**September 18th - Dog Vaccination & Licensing Clinic – Simi Dog Park**

**September 21st - Club Meeting**

**September 24th - Bicycle Ride: Ventura to Ojai\***

**September 29th - October 2nd Big Bear Weekend Getaway**

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.



## 1860 MAP OF CALIFORNIA

In the old book trade it has long since been discovered that if you cut the illustrations and prints out of a book they often sell collectively for much more than the old book would have sold for alone. While on a vacation in Maine, I came across an 1860 map of California that had apparently come out of a book. It was for sale - for \$100. I didn't buy it, but I did examine it closely. The map was published in New York, so one wonders how accurate the information on the map was. Mapmakers refrain from over crowding a map and sometimes puts in information just because an area of the map would look empty without something. For example, most globes include a place named "Nimule" on the border between Uganda and the Republic of Sudan. Well, I've been there and in 1964 it consisted of five native huts and a guard shack with a limb of a tree to block the border.

The map of California included Santa Barbara and San Buenaventura but did not include Los Angeles. However, what piqued my interest was that the hills from South Mountain (east of Saticoy) across to Santa Susana Pass were labeled "Sierra Susanna." That would imply that in 1860 the hills north of Simi Valley may have been referred to by the Spanish form of the "Susanna Mountains." Other earlier and later maps have no name for the mountains north of the valley but call the hills on the southern side of the valley the "Santa Susana Mountains."

Mike Kuhn  
9-28-04

## 1893 NEWSPAPER REPORT

An 1893 newspaper report points out the dire need for improved transportation routes in and out of Simi Valley. The report is included in "Simi Valley: A Journey Through *Time*" (1997), page 391. As reported: "Simi Valley citizens want a safe outlet. Last

Saturday F. J. Fitzgerald and George Wood started to Fernando with four horses and a light wagon. (There was a runaway and smashup near the hotel but they patched matters up and proceeded towards the beautiful hill that is a credit to both counties...They got over and back as far as the hill and owing to getting stuck in one of the holes, some of which are 3 and 4 feet deep, they were compelled to camp...Four horses could not get them out. C. B. McCoy played the Good Samaritan...It is almost impossible for a Simi person to get out of this valley either by the River or the Santa Susana Pass and we think the time is ripe for something to be done. This portion of the county is filling up rapidly. We expect to poll 100 votes next election, and we are entitled to a little consideration."

In 1893, outside of cities, government was not in the road business. That was one reason for the early success of the railroads. But Simi had neither. By 1899 both Los Angeles and Ventura counties had invested in road improvements over the pass. Devil's Slide, on the Los Angeles County side, was abandoned and a new route was built on the Ventura County side.

Mike Kuhn  
12-23-04

## A CHUMASH SHRINE AT VENTURA

The Chumash had many shrines. These sacred spots were where both private and public ceremonies would be performed. A known shrine in the Ventura area was located atop of the hill where the large cross is located north of the San Buenaventura City Hall. One of John Peabody Harrington's Chumash informants (Simp.) may have given the only firsthand account of what went on at the shrine. The following description provides some insights into what might have gone on at some of the shrines in the Simi Valley area. The following is taken

from Harrington's notes written in his own hand:

"Inf. (informant) once went to ... shrine on the cuchilla (i.e., edge) of the point above Ventura. As soon as they reached the spot they started around it in a counter clockwise motion and went around 3 times. They wanted Simp. to go around with them but he objected. Then they tossed on the ground the frijol (kidney-beans), trigo (wheat), maiz (corn) and also the cuentas (beads) that they brought.

Where the shrine was level, not a slope, though the slope up which they had come was steep. Just as soon as they dura mas. nesc. washiko But thinks it must be the o.k. name. The sticks were not painted and of various diameters of 2" or so. The feathers were black and formeda (a drawing of the shape of the feathers) bunch 8" or 10" in diameter and very pretty. At center they pointed up. At sides drooped prettily. On some of the poles below the feathers bunch ....were hung by tying a string to the edge. The old ladies that went up there were 3 in number. They were Juliana and he forgets the other two. He went just that one time. It must have been at least 30 years ago. Expects you would find nothing left of it now.

Arrived they started around taking great care to go around it in a counter clockwise direction. Inf. forgets just how many plumeros there were. But they were arranged so as to form a circle. This circle was 15 feet across and marked only by the palos (poles). All inside and around outside was clear of weeds.

The palos were about 11 feet tall and inf. imagines they were of palo colorado....In the cleared space inside the circle were other areas hiadas (?) (in any position) and pieces of cloth, handkerchiefs, etc., beads and seeds."

Mike Kuhn  
12-7-04

## August 6th 2011 - Point Dume to Paradise Cove



9 hikers carpoled to Malibu via Highway 23, Highway 101, and Kanan (Kanan Dume) Road.

Reaching Pacific Coast Highway (Hwy 1), we turned right (west) and then turned left a short

distance later on Westward Beach Road where we parked for free along the road and then hiked to the parking lot trailhead. A marine layer blanketed the coast, keeping the temperature pleasantly cool as we began hiking up and over Point Dume. After an easy climb onto Point Dume, we followed a trail as it led down to Dume Beach where we soon encountered a shipwreck partially buried in the sand. The tide was just coming in as we leisurely walked along the sandy beach for two miles, enjoying the ocean sounds and sights, eventually arriving at the Paradise Cove Beach Café (<http://www.paradisecovemalibu.com>), a landmark for decades. We rested for a while in the free Adirondack chairs provided outside the café and watched the beachgoers and distant surfers. We resumed our hike and headed back along the beach the way we had come. After climbing back onto Point Dume, we hiked to an observation point (with two benches), but spotted no marine life. We then continued on the trail around the point, descended to the parking lot, and hiked back to our cars. We headed home having completed an easy 6.5-mile hike with 318' of elevation gain.

## August 13th 2011 - Mt. Islip



Ten hikers carpoled via Hwy 118, I210, and Angeles Crest Hwy (ACH aka Hwy 2) to Islip Saddle in the San Gabriel Mountains [Angeles National Forest]. The long

drive along the ACH (which reopened on June 3, 2011) provided the first opportunity for many of the hikers to witness the aftermath of the Station Fire which started on August 26, 2009. The hike began along the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) opposite the Islip Saddle parking lot. The trail climbed eastward soon skirting a large meadow and then entering a pine-scented forest. After two miles of hiking we reached the Little Jimmy Trail Camp (with picnic tables and bathrooms) where some backpackers were

preparing to leave. We soon continued on to Windy Gap where we met and spoke with another group of hikers who had hiked up from Crystal Lake. Next we followed the Islip Ridge Trail to the south as it ascended to the peak of Mt. Islip. Once there we took a lunch break and enjoyed the 360-degree views of the surrounding mountains, the Antelope Valley, and the Crystal Lake Recreation Area to the east. Leaving Mt. Islip, we descended to Little Jimmy Trail Camp via an old trail, bypassing Windy Gap. We then retraced our route to the parking lot at Islip Saddle. While driving back along the ACH, we encountered a road block resulting from a fatal traffic accident a short distance ahead. Electing to turn around (rather than wait at the road block), we drove to the northeast end of the ACH and then made our way to Palmdale and returned home via Hwy 14, adding over two hours to our journey. We arrived home having completed a very pleasant 7.2-mile hike with 1,455' of elevation gain/loss.

## August 20th 2011 - Carpinteria Bluffs and Seal Sanctuary

So we decided to be a bit creative today. The hike was advertised as 4.5 miles round trip. By the time we were back to our cars, the total mileage was about 8.4 miles, with a whopping 160' of elevation gain.



We started at a different trailhead, which was actually the far-eastern end of the Carpinteria Bluffs Trail. From there we walked the entire Carpinteria Bluffs trail, then



continued past the campgrounds, and then walked along Carpinteria State Beach all the way to the far-western end of Avenue Del Mar. We returned the same way, but took the beach route all the way to

Rincon Beach Park, finally returning to our trailhead via the bluffs trail along the railroad tracks. A real highlight of the hike was the sighting of a red fox (not the comedian) near the western end of the Carpinteria Bluffs trail. Eleven of us enjoyed the perfect 68 degree hiking weather. Perhaps this new route will become a new tradition for us.

To read up on the red fox, go to: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Red\\_Fox](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Red_Fox)



# RSTB Calendar September



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<b>1</b> Chumash Trail <b>6PM</b> See Schedule	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Long Canyon / Montgomery Canyon / Challenger Park Shuttle See Schedule
<b>4</b> Rocky Peak Fire Road <b>5 PM</b> See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Ron Desilets	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Las Llajas Canyon <b>6:30PM</b> See Schedule	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Chumash Trail <b>6PM</b> See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Tom Gnad	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Sycamore Canyon Shuttle*  See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Peter Limb
<b>11</b> Rocky Peak Fire Road <b>5PM</b> See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Scott Margolin	<b>12</b> <i>Happy Birthday</i> Debbie DeGoey	<b>13</b> Las Llajas Canyon <b>6:30PM</b> See Schedule	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Chumash Trail <b>6PM</b> See Schedule	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Coastal Cleanup Day  <b>9AM to Noon</b>
<b>18</b> Rocky Peak Fire Road <b>5PM</b> See Schedule	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Las Llajas Canyon <b>6:30PM</b> See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Brian Steffen	<b>21</b> Club Meeting <b>7 PM</b>	<b>22</b> Chumash Trail <b>6PM</b> See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Ray Johnson	<b>23</b> <i>Happy Birthday</i> Les Wilson Michele Sumandra	<b>24</b> Bicycle Ride: Ventura to Ojai* See Schedule
<b>25</b> Rocky Peak Fire Road <b>5PM</b> See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Jennifer E. Jackson Jay Gray	<b>26</b> <i>Happy Birthday</i> Mary Rogers	<b>27</b> Las Llajas Canyon <b>6:30PM</b> See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Cesar Fabros	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> Chumash Trail <b>6PM</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>1</b>
September 29th - October 2nd Big Bear Weekend Getaway						
				See Schedule		

## REGULARLY SCHEDULED HIKES

(Rain cancels – No hikes on holidays)

### Sunday Evening - Rocky Peak Fire Road

Meet at **5 PM** at the Rocky Peak Fire Road trailhead. Take the Rocky Peak exit from the 118 Fwy. Meet at the north end of the bridge; don't park on the bridge. (Moderate to strenuous, depending on distance hiked. 4.8 MRT)

### Tuesday Evening - Las Lajas Canyon

Meet at **6:30 PM** at the Evening Sky Drive trailhead. Take the 118 Fwy to the Yosemite Ave exit; head north past McDonalds and the stop sign at Alamo Street; continue 0.85 mile north on Yosemite Ave to the stop sign at Evening Sky Drive; turn right (east) and drive 0.5 mile to the trailhead; park on either side of the street. (Easy-to-moderate depending on distance hiked, 3¼ MRT)

### Thursday Evening - The Chumash Trail

Meet at **6 PM** at Chumash trailhead. Take 118 Fwy to Yosemite exit. Go north on Yosemite, turn right on Flanagan Dr. Trailhead is at the end of Flanagan Dr. (Moderate to strenuous, depending on distance hiked. 5.2 MRT)

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## SEPTEMBER HIKES AND ACTIVITIES

### September 3rd - Long Canyon/Montgomery Canyon / Challenger Park Shuttle

7.5 Miles - Moderate (1000' elevation gain) Meet at the Long Canyon Parking lot at 8 AM.

### September 10th - Sycamore Canyon Shuttle\*

8 Miles - Moderate one way (1200' elevation loss)

This eight mile, one-way shuttle hike to the ocean is all downhill. When we get to the beach, we'll have lunch. You can find more information about this hike by clicking [www.localhikes.com/Hikes/BigSycamore\\_4472.asp](http://www.localhikes.com/Hikes/BigSycamore_4472.asp). You must send an email to [markinthepark@simitrailblazers.com](mailto:markinthepark@simitrailblazers.com) to reserve your space on the shuttle by September 7th.

### September 17th - Coastal Cleanup Day

9 AM to Noon - Meet on west side of Erringer Road at south side of the Arroyo Simi.

### September 18th - Wild Animal Show

Oak Park Community Center. Please click [www.simitrailblazers.com/activities/RSPD/WASSep18Nov12.pdf](http://www.simitrailblazers.com/activities/RSPD/WASSep18Nov12.pdf) for more information about this event.

### September 18th - Dog Vaccination & Licensing Clinic

Get your dog vaccinated and licensed at this one day event. Please click [www.simitrailblazers.com/activities/RSPD/DCSDPSep18.pdf](http://www.simitrailblazers.com/activities/RSPD/DCSDPSep18.pdf) for more information about this event. Location to be at Simi Dog Park.

### September 21st - Club Meeting

7 PM - The Sycamore Drive Community Center - 1692 Sycamore Drive - Room B-1

### September 24th - Bicycle Ride: Ventura to Ojai\*

34 MRT - Moderate - (250' elevation gain) What? Trailblazers on bicycles? This pedestrian and bicycle path links the Ojai Valley Trail, and the coastal Omer Rains Trail, for one of the best 34 MRT urban bike rides in Southern California! Meet at 8 AM near Donut Delite at the corner of Madera and Royal.

### September 29th - October 2nd

#### Big Bear Weekend Getaway\*

This very special event is limited to Trail Blazer members only. To make a reservations send Mark an email here: [markinthepark@simitrailblazers.com](mailto:markinthepark@simitrailblazers.com) **Space is limited, so it's best to sign up early.** The last day to sign up is September 24th.

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\* Not within the jurisdiction of the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District.  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.** <http://www.simitrailblazers.com>

# RANCHO SIMI TRAIL BLAZERS

*A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation*

Executive Chair:	Mike Kuhn	HM (805) 583-2345	hannahmike@me.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:	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:	Carrie McCline		
Newsletter Editor:	Kelli Ham		simitrailrunner@gmail.com
Newsletter Co-Editor:	Linda Martins-Mann		

~~-----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 630445, Simi Valley, CA 93063-0399**



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