



Rancho Simi Trail Blazers

A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS
Beverly and Joseph Nargi

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



Due to unforeseen circumstances, all activities are subject to change without notice. Please see www.simitrailblazers.com/activities for event details and the most up-to-date schedule.

Volunteers Needed!!



If anyone is interested in volunteering for the **Work Parties Chair** or the **Publicity Chair**

contact Mike Kuhn at:
mike.kuhn@simitrailblazers.com

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

RSTB CLUB MEETING

This month's RSTB meeting will be at:
Sycamore Drive Community Center
1692 Sycamore Drive – Room B-1
Wednesday: September 16, 2015
5:30PM Everyone Welcome to attend!

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

Upcoming Events

September 5th Arroyo Simi Bike Path Ride - Madera Road to Ralston Street 16 MRT - Easy (elevation gain/loss: 350') **8AM**

September 12th Serrano Canyon Loop* (mg) 8 MRT  - Moderate (700' elevation gain) **8AM**

September 16th Club Meeting
The Sycamore Drive Community Center - 1692 Sycamore Drive - Room B-1 **Everyone Welcome to attend!**
5:30PM

September 19th Solstice Canyon - Sostomo Trail - Deer Valley Loop + Tropical Terrace* (mg) 6.3 MRT - Moderate (1,200' of elevation gain/loss)

September 26th Long Canyon, Oak Canyon, Montgomery Canyon, Challenger Park, Coyote Hills Park, Canyon View Trail Loop 8.1 Mile loop - Moderate-to-strenuous (1,430' elevation gain/loss) or 5.2 Mile loop - Moderate (950' elevation gain/loss) or Easy-to-moderate (4-mile loop w/500' elevation gain/loss)

July 18th - Camp Three Falls to Lilly Meadows



Eight hikers carpoled to the entrance to Camp Three Falls on Boy Scout Camp Road in Lockwood Valley on a beautiful morning with puffy white clouds and a blue sky. We began our hike along the lower end of the North Fork [of Lockwood Creek] Trail (22W02). At first the trail was a dirt road that led through the busy Boy Scout Camp; we followed the road as it continued through low hills dotted with pine trees and interesting rock formations until we reached North Falls, currently dry due to the ongoing drought. We then followed a narrow trail as it climbed up the mountainside to skirt the dry waterfall; this took us to a vantage point that provided us with a fine view to the southeast. The trail then followed Lockwood Creek upstream through a surprisingly verdant narrow canyon populated with a wide variety of blooming wildflowers as well as heavy brush in the streambed, though no water was visible. Eventually we emerged into the lovely pine forest surrounding Lilly Meadows where we took advantage of a picnic table with benches for our lunch break. Deciding not to continue further up the mountain, we returned the way we had come. Shortly before we reached our cars the threatening sky delivered a 15-minute deluge of rain; we sheltered in a breezeway outside of a boy-scout-camp building until the rain let up and then headed for our cars. We returned home having completed a very pleasant 7.8-mile hike with 1,293' of elevation gain/loss.

July 20th - Parker Lake

(4.1 miles with 619' of elevation gain/loss)

After arriving at Oh! Ridge Campground (~7,705') on the northeastern shore of June Lake, checking in, and setting up camp, most of the 11 Rancho Simi Trailblazers who participated in the six-day outing in the Eastern Sierra Nevada headed for the Parker Lake (8,320') hiking trailhead located west of Grant Lake on the June Lake Loop (Hwy 158) at the southwestern end of Parker Lake Road for a late-afternoon hike. At first the trail rose somewhat steeply amid sagebrush and abundant wildflowers as it entered Parker Canyon. It then rose gently beside quaking-aspen-lined Parker Creek which was flowing pleasantly despite the below-normal snowpack this past winter, until it reached lovely Parker Lake located in the granite cirque below Kolp Peak at the head of the canyon. On the return trip, there were good views of Mono Lake in the distance.

July 21st - Walker Lake to Mono Pass

(11.9 miles with over 3,000' of elevation gain/loss)

After a short climb from the trailhead parking area (8,200') on Sawmill Canyon Road (FSR 1S23), the trail descended several hundred feet to lovely Walker Lake (7,942'); from there the trail entered a forest of conifers and we soon began climbing along the rocky trail beside a pretty stream with many cascades. As we gained altitude we passed through several meadows adorned with stunning wildflowers, eventually passing scenic Lower and Upper Sardine Lakes as we made our way to Mono Pass (10,620') on the eastern edge of Yosemite National Park. This route, known as Bloody Canyon, was used to cross the Sierra Nevada before wagon roads were built; it is named for the injuries to stock animals that made this rugged crossing. NOTE: This Mono Pass (10,620') should not be confused with the Mono Pass (12,045') that connects Little Lakes Valley (Rock Creek) with Pioneer Basin.

Some of the hikers decided not to hike up toward Mono Pass; instead they explored the Walker Lake area. Later this group drove over to the Black Point Fissures area on the northwest side of Mono Lake. Black Point is a low volcanic hill, composed of ash and brownish-yellow conglomerate; it conceals several deep, narrow fissures which resemble small slot canyons. The fissures (which can be explored on foot) can be reached from the west via Cemetery Road and a dirt 4WD access road (we had to walk the last mile to the end of the access road due to abuse by previous vehicular traffic) -- The fissures are located almost due west from the end of the access road (not down near the lake)

July 22nd - Lundy Canyon Trail

(8.0 miles with 1,473' of elevation gain/loss)

After driving past Lundy Lake to the west end of Lundy Lake Road, we reached the Lundy Canyon trailhead (8,120'). The trail, bordered by quaking aspens, led along Mill Creek into Lundy Canyon. We soon reached a large beaver pond which provided us with stunning views of the lower Lundy Canyon Falls, the forested slopes ahead, and the peaks of the cirque beneath Black Mountain at the head of the canyon. After taking many photos, we followed the trail as it rose and passed near the top of the falls and then entered the Hoover Wilderness. We hiked past several beaver ponds, meadows, countless wildflowers, and several beautiful tributary creeks with active cascades; we crossed several streams on logs and rocks. Eventually we reached the ruins of a small building; continuing onward the trail passed through wooded areas and more meadows with picturesque waterfalls as we gained more altitude. When we neared the head of the cirque the trail began rising much more steeply on the granite-rock-covered mountainside toward Lundy Pass (10,320'). Eventually everyone turned back before reaching the pass due to the increasing risk of injury from a fall and the likelihood of rain (and perhaps lightning). We did get rained on during the return hike but it wasn't a heavy rain and we donned our rain gear. All-in-all it was a strenuous but beautiful hike.



RSTB Calendar SEPTEMBER



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Mt. McCoy Trail 6PM See Schedule	2	3 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Joseph Farrar	4	5 Arroyo Simi Bike Path Ride 8AM See Schedule
6 Rocky Peak Fire Road 5PM See Schedule	7	8 Mt. McCoy Trail 6PM See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Tom Gnad	9	10 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule	11	12 Serrano Canyon Loop* (mg)  8AM See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Debbie DeGoey
13 Rocky Peak Fire Road 5PM See Schedule	14 <i>Happy Birthday</i> John Meier	15 Mt. McCoy Trail 6PM See Schedule	16 Club Meeting 5:30PM <i>Everyone</i> <i>Welcome to attend!</i> See Schedule	17 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule	18	19 Solstice Canyon – Sostomo Trail* (mg) 8AM See Schedule
20 Rocky Peak Fire Road 5PM See Schedule	21	22 Mt. McCoy Trail 6PM See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Erica Weis	23 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Les Wilson	24 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule	25	26 Long Canyon, Oak Canyon... 8AM See Schedule
27 Rocky Peak Fire Road 5PM See Schedule	28	29 Mt. McCoy Trail 6PM See Schedule	30			

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 (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:	VOLUNTEER NEEDED		Contact Mike Kuhn at: 805-583-2345
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:	VOLUNTEER NEEDED		Contact Mike Kuhn at: 805-583-2345
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

WHAT DOES "SIMI" MEAN?

The area from Santa Susana Pass to the eastern end of the Las Posas Valley was known as "the Simi." The area west of the City of Simi Valley is still known as "the Little Simi Valley" and is so identified on U.S. Geological Survey maps. What we now called Simi Valley became known as "the Big Simi Valley" during part of the Anglo-American period of settlement. Janet Cameron gives no attribution for the possibility that the name may be derived from an Indian word meaning "cup" or "little bowl," so I do not know what to make of that possible meaning.

The name "Simi" comes from the name of the Chumash Indian village that was located at the western end of Simi Valley. Yes, when first encountered during the early mission period it was located on the southern bank of the Arroyo Simi. The precise location is not known for sure. Janet Cameron seemed to have thought that it was located between Second and Fifth street. However, physical evidence suggests that it was located more or less where the northern portion of the Friendly Village Mobile Home Park is today.

Our first recordings of the name come from the baptismal records of the San Fernando Mission. The name is listed over and over again as the place where those being baptized were from. The mission fathers wrote the name as they heard it. No doubt a convention was soon adopted for how a place name was to be spelled and how it was to be pronounced, especially after the establishment of El Rancho Simi. That spelling and pronunciation may or may not have been recognizable to their Chumash subjects. The first baptism from Simi was listed as *Simí*. In any case, the various other spellings used were *Simi*, *Simii*, *Simji*, *Samy*, *Simih*, *Samij*, *Simiji*, *Semi*, and *Sami*. A Ventura Mission vocabulary of *Ventureño* Chumash place names lists *Ci-mi-i* and *Shimzi*. The Spanish, of course, pronounced a "j" as we pronounce "h," such as in San Jose and La Jolla.

Linguist and ethnographer John Peabody Harrington had a Chumash informant, Fernando Librado, who listed the name as *Shimiji*. Another of his Chumash informants gave the name as *Shimiji*. Whether or not the shorter version, i.e., *Simí*, is correct we may never know for sure. Certainly the mission records of 1799-1812 seem to suggest that the shorter version may be close to the name used around the time of first contact with the Indians of our area. While John Har-

ington was arguably the leading linguist of his time, his information was recorded more than 100 years after the mission baptisms were recorded.

The meaning of the word "*Simí*" is very clear in the ethnographic records. Our earliest source comes from a list of *Ventureño* Chumash words compiled by a priest sometime during the first or second decade of the life of the San Buenaventura Mission. The list includes the word "*tsimi*," the meaning of which is given as "... a type of small white cloud." It is apparent from looking at other words on the list that the "ts" is pronounced as "sh" is today. We, however, cannot be certain that *tsimi* is the same as *Simí*.

(continued in next month's newsletter)



THE RIVER OF AIR FALL 1861-SPRING 1862

Charles Outland, in *Stagecoaching on El Camino Real: Los Angeles to San Francisco 1861-1901*, Glendale (The Arthur H. Clark Co., 1973), describes the great rains and floods of 1861-1962. His sources are largely contemporary newspaper accounts. They are germane to his book topic because the coastal stagecoach wagon road was finished in September 1861. The stagecoach wagon road was a great leap forward in transportation infrastructure for coastal California. The mail and newspapers could get through. Newspapers, of course, were dependent on other newspapers for articles from other communities, states and nations to reprint in their papers so that people could know what was going on in the world. There was a war on. Even old news was of interest.

On October 5, 1861 the *Los Angeles Star* reported that "late rains" had ruined hundreds of tons of hay, and grain prices were rising. [*Ibid.*, p. 121] On November 16 the *Star* reported "abundant rains" the past two days. On November 23, "We have had plentiful rain during the week..." On November 30, "We have had light rains during week..." On December 7, "We have had during the week, days and nights of continuous rains." [*Ibid.*, pp. 121-122] After 23 days of nearly continuous rains, soils throughout much of the state were saturated and there was flooding everywhere. However, the real rains began on December 24th. It rained every day for the next 44 days in Santa Barbara

- that is through the 5th of February. The rains resulted in the most disastrous flooding ever seen in California history. [*Ibid.*, p. 122] "Whole towns were destroyed, livestock perished by the thousands, mountainsides slid away, and the roads built at such sacrifice to carry the freight wagons and stagecoaches were annihilated." In L. A. between November 14 and February 15 it rained during 67 of the next 83 days. After February 15 L. A. experienced another 60 days with rainfall before the end of spring. [*Ibid.*, p. 124] The new stagecoach wagon road, including bridges, that had been built between San Diego and San Francisco were gone. During the period only one stagecoach had gotten through from the north and that stage had floated down the Santa Clara River a few miles before the team was able to hoof its way up the south bank. The mail was transferred to coastal steamers, which stayed in port during inclement weather. On March 1 the *L. A. Star* reported the arrival of newspapers from San Francisco up through the December 1 issues. It took months to fully restore service. During the rains everybody was home bound. You couldn't get to your neighbors. Horses, mules and cattle were often bogged down to their bellies in the mud. Streams were raging with fast water, sediments and debris. For many, no doubt, it seemed like the end of the world. Surprisingly, the next two winters are considered the worst drought in memory.

Today, the great floods of 1861-1862 are being used as the "what can be expected once every century or two" in California. A repeat of such a storm series, along with the "pineapple express," is expected to result in greater economic losses than the "Big One" we so often discuss while planning for earthquakes - by a factor of three or four. Imagine a rainfall storm series which severs all transportation. Truck can't get through, the railroads have been cut and planes can't take off or land. Crops would be ruined and could not be harvested or gotten to markets. Surely, the supermarket shelves would be empty within a week or so. Could we, here in California, cope?

Mike Kuhn
1-28-11



Due to unforeseen circumstances, all activities are subject to change without notice. Please see 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. 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.

(We Meet at 5PM during daylight saving time.) (Strenuous - 4.8 MRT - 1,200' elevation gain)

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.)

SEPTEMBER HIKES AND ACTIVITIES

September 5th Arroyo Simi Bike Path Ride - Madera Road to Ralston Street

16 MRT - Easy (elevation gain/loss: 350')

The Arroyo Simi Bike Path is a two lane bike path in Simi Valley that runs from Madera Road, just south of Easy Street on the west, and ends at Cochran Avenue, between Fig Street and Ralston Street on the east. Dust off your bikes and your helmets and enjoy the ride with us. Meet at **8AM** at the intersection of Madera Road and East Street. Parking is available adjacent the well-marked trailhead.

September 12th Serrano Canyon Loop*

8 MRT - Moderate (700' elevation gain)

Follow the Sycamore Canyon trail for about 1.5 miles, then to the junction with Serrano Canyon Trail. The Serrano trail takes you east into a densely wooded narrow canyon, with a lovely seasonal stream crisscrossing the trail numerous times, and abundant wildlife.

Meet at **8AM** near Donut Delite at the corner of Madera and Royal. Bring 2 - 3 quarts of water and a snack. Wear boots. Note: There is a \$12 per car parking fee at the trailhead.

September 16th Club Planning Meeting - Everyone Welcome to attend!

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

September 19th Solstice Canyon - Sostomo Trail - Deer Valley Loop + Tropical Terrace*

6.3 MRT - Moderate (1,200' of elevation gain/loss)

This hike begins with a partially shaded walk along the one-mile dirt road in the bottom of Solstice Canyon leading toward Tropical Terrace and the nearby waterfalls. Just before reaching them we'll hike the Sostomo Trail as it climbs steadily up the mountainside to the west to a junction with the Deer Valley Loop Trail. We'll then hike the loop trail in a clockwise direction to an overlook of the Pacific Ocean and then return to the canyon bottom and visit well-shaded Tropical Terrace including the ruins of the Roberts house along Solstice Creek with its nearby waterfalls. After a rest/lunch break we'll retrace our route along the Solstice Canyon Trail to the parking lot.

Meet at **8AM** near Donut Delite at the corner of Madera and Royal. Bring 2 to 3 quarts of water and lunch/snacks. Wear boots.

September 26th Long Canyon, Oak Canyon, Montgomery Canyon, Challenger Park, Coyote Hills Park, Canyon View Trail Loop

8.1 Mile loop - Moderate-to-strenuous (1,430' elevation gain/loss) or 5.2 Mile loop - Moderate (950' elevation gain/loss) or Easy-to-moderate (4-mile loop w/500' elevation gain/loss)

The trail begins at the Long Canyon Trailhead in Wood Ranch; it climbs 500' in the first 0.7 mile and then descends into Oak Canyon before ascending 500' to a ridge overlooking Montgomery Canyon. After dropping into Montgomery Canyon the trail leads north to Challenger Park. From there an equestrian trail leads westward to Coyote Hills Park. The trail then climbs 350' to the Canyon View Trail and follows it southward to complete the loop. There are excellent views of the west end of Simi Valley from the ridges. Meet at **8AM** at the trailhead in the parking lot just west of the junction of Long Canyon Road and Wood Ranch Parkway. Bring 2 to 3 quarts of water and a snack. Wear boots.

 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>