



# Rancho Simi Trail Blazers

A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation



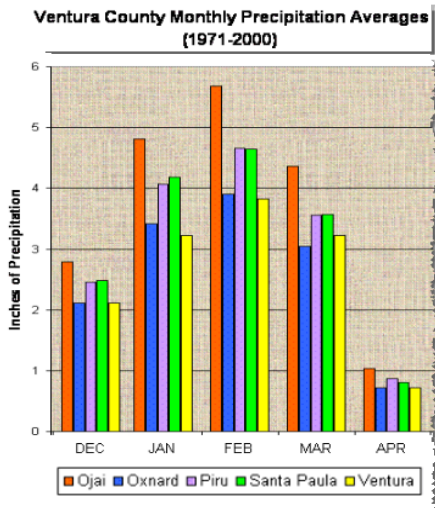
## Rain Takes Its Toll

Not only do the local hiking trails suffer damage during the rainy season, sometimes entire roads are washed away! A Dec. 24th article showed pictures of what was left of Hwy 330, the main route to the Big Bear Lake area where the Rancho Simi Trailblazers conducted a 3-day outing from August 8-10, 2008.



<http://rimoftheworld.net/6244>

The National Weather Service reports that Simi Valley received 7.53 inches of precipitation in December 2010, more than double the average for Ventura County as shown on the graph below:



More rain is probably on the way, so keep your rain gear handy!



### Welcome, New Member!

Lynn Gordan  
Alex, Loralie, Ayla, and  
Atticus Dorfman

#### RSTB CLUB MEETING

This month's club meeting will be at:  
Sycamore Drive Community Center  
1692 Sycamore Drive - Room B-1  
**7:00PM** - January 19, 2011



## Upcoming Events

**January 8th**

**Work Party** - (*Rescheduled from December*) **Upper End of the Lower Stagecoach Trail**

**January 15th**

**Cheeseboro Canyon / Palo Comado Canyon Loop\***

10.3 MRT - Easy to Moderate  
(1200' elevation gain)

**January 19th**

**Club Meeting - 7 PM**

**January 22nd**

**Happy Camp Canyon**

**Loop\*** 10 MRT - Moderate to Strenuous (elev. gain & loss 1300')



**January 29th**

**Sisar Canyon to White Ledge**

**Camp\*** 9 MRT - Moderate  
(2000' elevation gain)

More information about these events can be found on Page 5 and on the Activities page at <http://simitrailblazers.com>

#### RSTB LOGO T-SHIRTS

Sporting the beautiful RSTB logo, these are great shirts! Call Marty if you'd like to order at 805-526-4414.

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



## CALIFORNIA LOOSESTRIFE

In the spring of 1997, the Rancho Simi Trail Blazers made their way down La Jolla Canyon in Mugu State Park. In the bottom of that steep rocky canyon, just above the falls, one lone plant with which none of us were familiar presented itself. Growing in running water, upright and with solitary six petaled purple flowers, we were mystified. (Of course, some of us are mystified a lot.) The plant, it turns out, is the California loosestrife (*Lythrum californicum*), a member of the loosestrife family (*Lythraceae*). Milt McAuley (*Wildflowers of the Santa Monica Mountains*) reported that it has been found in Topanga Creek and Cold Creek. A few of the plants can still be found there today.

Mike Kuhn, 7-12-06

## A CURIOUS GLASS ARTIFACT

On February 27, 1998, a co-worker, Jeff Ford, and I, as part of our professional duties, were examining a piece of property that was being proposed for urban development. An archaeological site had been record on a portion of the property back in the 1960s. Mr. Ford picked up a small piece of amber colored glass. The object appeared to have been pressure flaked - probably by a Chumash Indian. If that is true, then the tool was made during the historic period.

The worked glass was found within one to two hundred yards of the Simi Adobe, which was the ranch headquarters for El Rancho Simi for about 50 years and continued to be occupied throughout much of the Anglo-American period.

I sent the piece of glass off to archaeologist Larry A. Carbone, an expert on aboriginal use of glass. Within a few days, he returned the

glass with the following analysis:

"First, the flaking, which was all produced by the pressure method, has formed three distinct working edges. There is evidence of end scraper, side scraper, and double notched/graver attributes on three of the four edges. The side scraper working edge ( longest 2.40 cm length), having an approximate 60 degree goniometer angle, exhibits pressure flakes that overlap, showing intentional initial and then secondary detachments. The end scraper edge is less angled (25-30 degrees). The remaining working edge has been shaped in a characteristic double notch/graver pattern that appears in many prehistoric tools and in various material types and dimensions. The graver portion of the edge has been broken, likely due to its fragility.

The state of patina on the surfaces is noteworthy. The material is considered to be derived from a brown glass vessel (probably a bottle). The weathered surface on the outer (convex) portion shows more patina than the inner (concave) glass area. This indicates that the original complete item was not broken soon after its manufacture, as would be the case if both surfaces were exposed to weathering processes at the same time.

When the item was chipped into a tool, significant time had passed since the vessel's discard and breakage. Following, the working edges have less patina than the tool body, confirming this assessment. There are also indications of use-wear on two of the working edges..."

A short report was sent to the regional records center (then at UCLA), and the original letter and artifact have been turned over to the Strathearn Historical Society and Museum. The artifact was probably manufactured and used by one of the Chumash Indians employed at the nearby rancho headquarters

Mike Kuhn, 11-14-04

## A WHALE WASHED ASHORE AT VENTURA

Early in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, one of John Peabody Harrington's Venturenos Chumash informants described a small dead whale being washed up on the beach just west of the mouth of the Santa Clara River many decades before. He said that the whale was in a state of decomposition. However, the Chumash rushed to the site with their knives and began cutting strips of meat off of the whale and eating them on the spot. This description probably reflects the "old ways". A beached whale, alive or dead, or even long dead, represented a food resource of gigantic proportion, which had to be exploited - it's an acquired taste!

Whales and their foodstock were much more common along the coast of California during the early historic period than they are today. Beached whales must also have been a more common occurrence than they were during the heydays of the great whale slaughter or today.

Mike Kuhn, 12-7-04  
(Revised 9-16-08)



**December 11th 2010 - Mt. Hollywood Trail and the Hollywood Sign**

13 hikers (+ one cute dog) met at the carpool point at the Stearns Street Park-and-Ride lot in Simi Valley on a cool windy morning and then carpooled to Ferndell Park (600') near the southwest corner of Griffith Park via Hwy 118, I5, Hwy 170, Hwy 101, Hollywood Blvd, and Western Avenue. The hike began on a well-shaded trail dominated by large oak and sycamore trees, but soon began climbing northward on the Lower Observatory Trail (a dirt fire road), reaching the Griffith Park Observatory (1,131') and Planetarium in a mile or so.



After a group photo was taken, the hike continued northward through the Berlin Forest, then crossed the Mt. Hollywood Drive tunnel and followed another dirt fire road as it wound its way uphill to the Mount Hollywood overlook (1,625'), the highest point in Griffith Park. It afforded a 360-degree view of the surrounding area: the Los Angeles basin, the San Fernando Valley, and the San Gabriel Mountains. We then embarked on the exploratory portion of the hike, heading north and then west (passing near Mt. Bell and Mt. Chapel) via a combination of dirt fire roads and steep narrow single-track trails to the top of Mt. Lee (1,680'), just above the famous Hollywood sign. We returned to the Griffith Park Observatory a different way via the Mulholland Trail and paved Mt. Hollywood Drive; we then followed the initial section of our hike back down to Ferndell Park. Happy but tired, we headed home having completed a 9-mile hike with 1,743' of elevation gain/loss.

**December 10th 2010 - Holiday Party**



**December 4th 2010 - Upper Zuma Canyon**

12 hikers (+ two dogs) met at the carpool point near the intersection of Royal Avenue and Madera Road on a chilly morning and then traveled to the Upper Zuma Canyon trailhead in the Santa Monica Mountains via Hwy 23, Hwy 101, and Kanan (Dume) Road. After a group photo was taken, the hike began by heading west along the Santa Monica Mountains Backbone Trail (BBT). Immediately after crossing Newton Creek, we followed a side trail southward along the west side of the creek looking for Newton Canyon Falls. Unfortunately the creek was virtually dry and the falls could not be seen or heard. Returning to the BBT we followed the well-shaded trail as it rose and then fell before reaching a very nice bridge crossing Zuma Creek. We continued following the BBT, enjoying lovely mountain views and occasional glimpses of fall colors. Upon reaching a junction with the Zuma Ridge Trail 2.5 miles from the trailhead, we divided into two groups: one group returned to the trailhead; the other group continued along the Zuma Ridge Trail toward Buzzard's Roost before returning to the trailhead.

We then headed home having completed a pleasant 5- to 8-mile hike with 800' to 1,200' of elevation gain.





# RSTB Calendar January 2011



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<b>1</b>  Happy Birthday Karleen Volz Gabe Sende
<b>2</b> Rocky Peak Fire Road <b>4:00PM</b>  See Schedule	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Long Canyon <b>6:30PM</b>  See Schedule	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Chumash Trail <b>6:00PM</b>  See Schedule	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> <b>Work Party</b>  See Schedule
<b>9</b> Rocky Peak Fire Road <b>4:00PM</b>  See Schedule	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Long Canyon <b>6:30PM</b>  See Schedule  Happy Birthday Densen Buenconsejo Jim Lightfoot	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Chumash Trail <b>6:00PM</b>  See Schedule	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Cheeseboro Canyon / Palo Comado Canyon Loop*  See Schedule  Happy Birthday Emily Carroll
<b>16</b> Rocky Peak Fire Road <b>4:00 PM</b>  See Schedule	<b>17</b> <b>Martin Luther            King Jr. Day            Observed</b>	<b>18</b> Long Canyon <b>6:30PM</b>  See Schedule	<b>19</b> Club Meeting <b>7 PM</b>  Happy Birthday Floyd Martin	<b>20</b> Chumash Trail <b>6:00PM</b>  See Schedule	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> <b>Happy Camp            Canyon Loop*</b>   See Schedule
<b>23</b> Rocky Peak Fire Road <b>4:00 PM</b>  See Schedule	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Long Canyon <b>6:30PM</b>  See Schedule	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Chumash Trail <b>6:00PM</b>  See Schedule	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> Sisar Canyon to White Ledge Camp*  See Schedule
<b>30</b> Rocky Peak Fire Road <b>4:00 PM</b> See Schedule Happy Birthday Lori Richards	<b>31</b>					



# Rancho Simi Trail Blazers

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## Hiking Schedule



### REGULARLY SCHEDULED HIKES

*(Rain cancels – No hikes on holidays)*

#### Sunday Evening - Rocky Peak Fire Road

Meet at **4 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 - Long Canyon & Oak Canyon Loop

Meet at **6:30 PM** in Long Canyon parking lot. Directions: Take First Street heading 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, 3.5 MRT)

#### Thursday Evening - The Chumash Trail

Meet at **6 PM** 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. (Moderate to strenuous, depending on distance hiked. 5.2 MRT)

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### DECEMBER HIKES AND ACTIVITIES

#### January 8th

##### Work Party (Rescheduled from December)

Upper end of the lower Stagecoach Trail

Meet in Corriganville Park at the east end of the parking lot. Bring gloves, a snack, and sunglasses. Wear long pants and shoes or boots with good soles.

#### January 15th

##### Cheeseboro Canyon / Palo Comado Canyon Loop\*

10.3 MRT - Easy to Moderate (1200' elevation gain) or [5.5 MRT option (800' elevation gain)

Walk among the oaks, follow a stream to Sulfur Springs and on to Sheep Corral and then return via Palo Comado Canyon. Please click here for more information about this hike. **Meet at 8 AM** near Donut Delite at the corner of Madera and Royal. Bring 2 to 3 quarts of water, lunch and sunscreen. Wear boots.

#### January 19th

##### Club Meeting

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

#### January 22nd



##### Happy Camp Canyon Loop\*

10 MRT - Moderate to Strenuous (elevation gain & loss 1300')

See panoramic views of Simi Valley and Moorpark to the Channel Islands. Bring lunch, 2 to 3 quarts of water, binoculars/camera.

Wear boots. **Meet at 8 AM** near Donut Delite at the corner of Madera and Royal. Please note, there is a \$3 per car parking fee at the trailhead.

#### January 29th

##### Sisar Canyon to White Ledge Camp\*

9 MRT - Moderate (2000' elevation gain)

Follow a creek up to the California bay laurel trees of the White Ledge campsite in the Topatopa Mountains. Bring 1 to 2 quarts of water, water purifier, layered clothing, and lunch. Wear boots. A high-clearance vehicle is preferable (though not required) for driving the last 0.4 mile to the trailhead. **Meet at 8 AM** near Donut Delite at the corner of Madera and Royal.

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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
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~~-----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.

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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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