



Rancho Simi Trail Blazers

A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation



Our bank will no longer accept dues or other checks made out to the Rancho Simi Trail Blazers. **ALL CHECKS must be made out to the Rancho Simi Foundation.**

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



RSTB CLUB MEETING

This month's RSTB meeting will be at:
Sycamore Drive Community Center
1692 Sycamore Drive – Room B-1

Wednesday January 17, 2017
5:30PM

Everyone Welcome to attend!

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

Upcoming Events

January 6th Simi Peak from King James Court via China Flat 6.1 MRT – Moderate to Strenuous (1,500' elevation gain/loss) **8AM**

January 13th Vasquez Rocks and the Pacific Crest Trail **8AM**

January 17th Club Board Meeting The Sycamore Drive Community Center - 1692 Sycamore Drive - Room B-1
Everyone Welcome to attend!
5:30PM

January 20th Work Party – Tapo Open Space **8AM**

January 27th Nicholas Flat Trail from Leo Carrillo State Park to Nicholas Pond 7.5 MRT – Moderate to Strenuous (2,100' elevation gain/loss) **8AM**

We have several work parties a year and we not only have a lot of fun, but we help make the land beautiful. **Thank you to everyone who helps out!**



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

January



Welcome New Members

James Brady

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.

Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District events can be viewed at www.rsprd.org

December 2nd – Alamos Canyon Exploratory #2



22 hikers gathered in the Simi Valley Sanitation parking lot at 600 W. Los Angeles Avenue (as previously arranged) on a pleasant autumn morning. We began our hike along the nearby Los Alamos Canyon Road which we followed northward, passing under Hwy 118 to the Alamos Canyon Open Space, 326 acres of which were acquired in December, 2016 by the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District (RSRPD).

Everyone was excited by the opportunity to explore a new public-use area in Simi Valley. We headed northwest along



a dirt road through a dry, mostly open landscape which offered a wide view of distant Big Mountain (on the northern side of which is Happy Camp Canyon). Soon we headed westward a short distance to a junction with the Jeep Trail (according to Google Earth) which we followed northward as it began rising up the southern flank of Big Mountain providing us with nice views of the surrounding area including the murky silhouettes of Anacapa and Santa Cruz Islands. We spotted several head of free-range cattle and several beehive boxes (with bees flying around) as we

returned to our vehicles having completed a relatively easy 10-mile hike with 1,300' of elevation gain/loss. **NOTE:** RSRPD plans to construct a small parking lot, a trailhead, and a connecting trail from Oak Park County Park (near Moorpark) to Alamos Canyon Road to support public access to the Alamos Canyon Open Space.

December 8th – Christmas Holiday Party Potluck



Red flag warnings and unhealthy air make it very difficult to hike, but all that was quickly forgotten last evening. Ursula again graciously opened up her beautiful home and hosted our annual Christmas

Holiday. We all enjoyed the wide variety of scrumptious food,



and great conversation. 20 Trail Blazers were in attendance. A great time was had by all. Hopefully, we can hit the trails again soon, so we can hikeoff all the calories from the tasty desserts.

December 16th – Chivo Canyon Work Party

With 10 to 12 volunteers from our local Boy Scout troop 698 on hand, and another 4 from the Trail Blazers, we arrived at the trailhead and quickly realized how bad the air quality this morning. We thought that with the Red Flag warning discontinued for a few hours, we might be able to hold our event, but the air was still bad, the winds still strong, and not a good time to subject everyone to harmful air from the fires. So, we called off the event and plan reschedule on Jan 20th, 2018. We hope the Boy Scouts will be able to return at this later date, because having the younger ones of our community helping out would be a nice start to the New Year.



RSTB Calendar JANUARY



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 	2 Mt. McCoy Trail 6PM See Schedule	3	4 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule	5	6 Simi Peak from King James Court via China Flat 8AM See Schedule
7 Rocky Peak Fire Road 4PM	8	9 Mt. McCoy Trail 6PM See Schedule	10	11 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Tom Blough	12	13 Vasquez Rocks and the Pacific Crest Trail 8AM See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Jay Murali
14 Rocky Peak Fire Road 4PM See Schedule	15 	16 Mt. McCoy Trail 6PM See Schedule	17 Club Board Meeting The <i>Everyone Welcome to attend! 5:30PM</i>	18 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule	19	20 Work Party – Tapo Open Space 8AM See Schedule
21 Rocky Peak Fire Road 4PM See Schedule	22 <i>Happy Birthday</i> John Quinn	23 Mt. McCoy Trail 6PM See Schedule	24	25 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule	26	27 Nicholas Flat Trail from Leo Carrillo State Park to Nicholas Pond 8AM See Schedule
28 Rocky Peak Fire Road 4PM See Schedule	29	30 Mt. McCoy Trail 6PM See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Daniel DeGoey	31 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Aileen Vandenberg			

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)



U.S. Postage

RSTB
P.O. Box 1231
Simi Valley, CA 93062

-----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**

RANCHO SIMI TRAIL BLAZERS

A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation

Executive Chair:	Mike Kuhn	HM (805) 583-2345	mike.kuhn@simitrailblazers.com
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Ways & Means Chair:	Marty Richards	HM (805) 526-4414	marty.richards@simitrailblazers.com
Publicity Chair:	VOLUNTEER NEEDED		Contact Mike Kuhn at: 805-583-2345
Newsletter Editor:	Linda Mann	Cell: 805-501-5229	linda.martins.mann@simitrailblazers.com

ALWAYS WATCH YOUR STEP

(Adapted from an article by same title from *Outdoor California*, May-June 2013, p.14)

In California rattlesnakes are found from sea level to 10,000 feet. Locally they can be active any time during the year. I once encounter one in February on a trail above the Ojai Valley. It was trying to escape on the uphill side of the trail over a sheet of ice. We left it alone to figure out its own getaway. However, they are more likely to be encountered during the months of March through November in this area. If you are out there, you need to learn how to avoid direct contact with them. While there are many species of rattlesnakes in California, our species is the southern Pacific.

The California Poison Control Center notes that rattlesnakes account for more than 800 bites of humans each year with one to two deaths. Bites and deaths to pets are much more frequent.

DOES AND DON'TS IN SNAKE COUNTRY

Rattlesnakes can be found almost anywhere. My wife once encountered one in the House of the Book, a monumental building on the Brandeis Bardin Campus of the American Jewish University - she had not yet turned on the lights. They are found in parks, cemeteries and golf courses. If startled, they may not rattle before striking defensively. There are several safety measures that can be taken to reduce the likelihood of startling a rattlesnake.

- On trails always scan the trail and its perimeter as you proceed. Many individuals walk right into rattlesnake - never seeing them before being bitten. Don't step backwards without looking. If in a line of hikers, a snake may appear at any time.
- Never go barefoot or wear sandals when walking through wild areas - even when on a trail. You are even safer when wearing long pants - not leggings or tights. Wear hiking boots. On one occasion I was struck twice on the upper portion of my hiking boot. On another occasion I walked into a rattlesnake, which struck me three times on my canvas pant leg. Neither of those two events resulted in any injury to me other than adrenaline rushes.
- When hiking avoid tall grass, weeds and heavy underbrush where snakes may hide during the day.

- Do not step or put your hands where you cannot see, and avoid wandering around in the dark without a flashlight. Step **on** logs and rocks, never over them, and be especially careful when climbing rocks or gathering firewood. Check out logs, rocks or stumps before sitting down. If you plan to sleep out of doors in the wild, shake out your sleeping bag before climbing into it. Never grab "sticks" or "branches" while swimming in a lake or stream - rattlesnakes can swim.
- Be careful when stepping over a timber at a trailhead or a doorstep. Snakes like to crawl along the edge of buildings or timbers where they are protected on one side. I have twice encountered rattlesnakes at the Chumash Trailhead one along the north side and one along the south side of the "step-over" barrier intended to keep out motorcycles (two different events).
- It is best not to hike alone. Always have someone with you who can assist in an emergency.
- Do not try to handle a rattlesnake. Do not handle a freshly killed snake, as it can still inject venom. The old adage is that half of all rattlesnake bites occur to people who are trying to handle a snake, half are to males 14 -24 years of age, half are to people who are under the influence and half are a combination of the above.

WHAT TO DO IF BITTEN

The first thing to do if bitten is to stay calm. Generally, the most serious effect of a rattlesnake bite to an adult is local tissue damage which needs to be treated. Children, because they are smaller, are in more danger if bitten.

Get to a doctor as soon as possible, but stay calm. It is important to keep your heart rate as low as possible. Keep the bite area below the level of the heart. Notify the local hospital that you are coming in - they will probably have to have antivenin helicopter in.

- Wash the bite area gently with soap and water
- Remove watches, rings, etc., which may constrict swelling
- Immobilize the affected area if possible
- Transport safely to the nearest medical facility

Mike Kuhn
12-2-17

SOMNA

John Peabody Harrington cites "Qui" as his source for the place name "Somna." Somna is a "place somewhere by Simi." Qui indicated that he thought that "Somna" is modern day Somis and that it means "very large *barranca*." To the Indians the geographic limits of "the Simi" extended much further west than it does today. Indeed, the area between Moorpark College and Somis is known as the "Little Simi Valley" and is so shown on the U.S. Geological Survey Simi Valley and Moorpark quadrangles of the area. A *barranca* is a gully that is deeper than it is wide at the top. Where the Arroyo Simi spills out of the Little Simi Valley through modern day Somis is a very large *barranca*.

According to Applegate (1975), the name Somis may come from the *Ventureño* "so mis," which refers to the "water of the scrub oak." Originally, *so mis* was in the Ojai.

Mike Kuhn
7-19-06 (revised 9-25-12)





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 **4PM** at the Rocky Peak Fire Road trailhead on the northern side of the Rocky Peak exit from State Route 118. 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. (Strenuous - 4.8 MRT - 1,200' elevation gain) **(We Meet at 5PM during daylight saving time.)**

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 - 3.07 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 north end of Flanagan Drive. (Moderate to Strenuous - 5.4 MRT - 1300' total elevation gain.)

JANUARY HIKES AND ACTIVITIES

January 6th Simi Peak from King James Court via China Flat

6.1 MRT – Moderate to Strenuous (1,500' elevation gain/loss)

Meet at **8AM** near Donut Delite at the corner of Madera and Royal.

Our hike in the Simi Hills will begin along a single-track trail, but will soon continue on an old dirt-and-rock road as it rises up the south side of the mountain, providing ever-expanding views to the south. Upon reaching the apex of the old road, we'll descend into lovely China Flat with its oak trees and sprawling grassy meadows. Then we'll follow a trail that leads up to Simi Peak (2,403'), the highest point in the Simi Hills, where we'll have a panoramic view of the surrounding area. Bring 2 to 3 quarts of water, lunch and sunscreen. Wear boots.

January 13th Vasquez Rocks and the Pacific Crest Trail

Meet at **8AM** at the 118 & Stearns St. Park & Ride. Bring your camera, water and lunch. Wear boots. 9.1 MRT – Moderate to Strenuous (1,485' elevation gain/loss) with a short car shuttle. After dropping shuttle vehicle(s) off in the parking lot at Vasquez Rocks County Park near Agua Dulce, we'll carpool a few miles to the point at which the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) crosses Soledad Canyon Road where our one-way hike will start. From there we'll begin a gradual climb up the mountainous terrain, eventually descending to a tunnel under Hwy 14 which leads to Vasquez Rocks County Park with its awe-inspiring rock formations that have appeared in many films

January 17th Club Meeting *Everyone Welcome to attend!*


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

January 20th Work Party – Tapo Open Space

Meeting time is **8AM** at the trailhead. The Tapo Open Space work party will end at approximately noon. All tools will be provided by the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District. Any recommendations for other trails you've seen that need repair, please contact us. **Directions to Trailhead:** In Simi Valley, take Highway 118 to Yosemite Avenue and exit. Drive 1.9 miles north to Westwood Street. Turn right (north) on Westwood Street. Park in the first block, if possible, or along the north side of Copper Ridge Court (the first street on the right)

January 27th Nicholas Flat Trail from Leo Carrillo State Park to Nicholas Pond

Meet at **8AM** near Donut Delite at the corner of Madera and Royal. 7.5 MRT – Moderate to Strenuous (2,100' elevation gain/loss) Our hike will begin in Leo Carrillo State Park (near the campground). The first 2.5 miles of the hike will be a steady, fairly steep ascent as the Nicholas Flat Trail gains about 1,600'. There's a very nice shaded overlook where we'll have lunch while we enjoy the view toward the ocean looking out over San Nicholas Canyon. Bring lunch and 2 to 3 quarts of water.

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/index.php/calendar/>