



Rancho Simi Trail Blazers



KENNEDY MEADOWS BACKPACKING TRIP

September 7-10 saw 12 hardy Trail Blazers venture north out of Kennedy Meadows in the southern Sierra Nevada on the Pacific Crest Trail - backpacking of course. Participants included Gary Cremeans, Brian McKee, Mike Kuhn, Jodene and Kenny Downey, Bill Cepedes, Doug Temple, John Sabol and Louise Pomes, Arlene Altshuler and her dog, Champ, Carol Tucker and Martin DeGoey. After gassing up in Mojave, and getting a fire permit, the group headed up the Little Kern River about five (5) miles, leaving the trail to go cross country down to the Little Kern, where we camped for the next three (3) nights. Because of the fire danger, camp fires were not allowed; but because the temperatures were mild, it didn't matter too much.

Day two was consumed by a long day hike to the north. Some went further than others and everyone seemed to do some off-trail exploring. Gary Cremeans, a hiking animal, stayed out the whole day. Kenny Downey, 17, had his first encounter with a "wild" bear - intellectual concept meets real-

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Kenny Downey and Gary Cremeans take a break.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

**David Seifert
Kimberly Collins
Nicholas Cigan**

RSTB CLUB MEETING

The monthly club meeting will be held at the Community Center Room B-1 1692 Sycamore Drive At 7:00 PM On Wednesday, Oct. 17th.

OCTOBER WORK PARTY

Due to the ANNUAL CONEJO OPEN SPACE TRAIL WORK DAY being scheduled for Saturday October 20, the Trail Blazer work party will be moved to the SECOND Saturday of this month. Our work party will be held on Saturday 13 October, on the Rock Ridge Trail East in Oak Park. This effort will consist of clearing a 10-foot wide path through heavy brush with loppers and saws. Meet at the trailhead in Oak Park at 8:00 AM.

Directions: Drive to the intersection of Doubletree Road and Kanan Road, which is 1 1/2 miles East of the intersection of Kanan and Lindero Canyon. Go north on Doubletree. The road will go uphill and then curve east and parallel Kanan. Trailhead is on the left, across from the Latter-Day Saints Church. We will work from 8:00 AM to 12:00 AM. Hope to see you there.

Work Parties Chair

HIKING SCHEDULE CHANGE

The Saturday morning hikes will begin at 8am in October. Please see the schedule for more information.

Arlene - Hiking Chair

RABIES - THE CHUMASH TREATMENT

John Peabody Harrington, the ethnologist who did so much work with the Chumash and other American Indians, recorded many interesting observations of old Chumash Indians. The following recollection from the Ventura area is modified only to improve the flow, to provide a translation of Spanish words and to omit extraneous information:

Wild animals used to have rabies. They would bite cattle and make them wild. When I was a little boy, at one of the scattered adobe houses near the river, I saw a wolf (*lobo*) and a lot of dogs in a fight. I climbed up on top of an adobe wall. A man (Juan Valencia from San Diego) came out with a stick and hit the wolf, but the stick broke, and at last he had only a short piece left in his hand and he tried to hit the wolf with his hand but the wolf bit his forearm. The man fell over backwards and the wolf then suddenly left - the dogs following it. While the man was fighting and after he cried out for help, the people were afraid to come out to help him. Then when they heard the barking going away, they came out. They burnt his forearm with a hot iron and the man recovered perfectly.

Sometimes a coyote with rabies would come into houses!

This story illustrates the great fear that rabies logically held for the Indians. After all, there was no cure. It also suggests that the very

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Ferndale Hike, from left to right: Chuck and Heidi Portoghesi, Brian McKee, Carol Tucker, Arlene Altshuler, Champ, Bill Cespedes, John Sabol, Susan Eselin, and Gary Cremeans.

COYOTES IN OUR MIDST

The coyote (*Canis latrans*) is probably the most numerous large carnivore species in our area, aside from man. They have adapted well to living within and on the fringes of the urban environment. The urban environment represents a relatively safe ecosystem - inhabited by cats and dogs, bush bunnies, cottontail rabbits, and people who leave cat and dog food outdoors and even leave out food intended for these highly intelligent wild animals. In the City they become more nocturnal than normal, especially since we provide night lighting for them. In the early morning hours there are few people about or cars on the road. Coyotes are free to roam our streets and our yards and, they do.

I work at the civic center site, well within the urbanized area. Over

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ARROYO WORK PARTY

The Rancho Simi Trail Blazers assisted in a cleanup of the Arroyo Simi, as part of California Coastal Cleanup Day, on Saturday 15 September. This is the first year Simi Valley has been involved in the Coastal Cleanup. In spite of the fact that the Simi Valley Days parade was held on the same morning, about 25 people turned out for the event. We worked from 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM, often in the water up to our knees and collected over 5000 pounds of trash and recyclables. Among the items found were many bottles and cans, numerous shopping carts and 2 motorcycles. Many thanks to the following Trail Blazer workers:

Arlene Altshuler, Tom Frye, Mike Kuhn, Chuck Portoghesi, Marty Richards, John Sabol, and Carol Tucker.

John Sabol

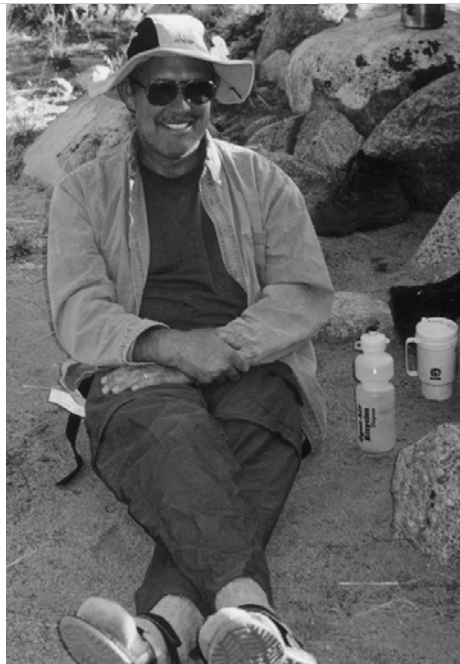
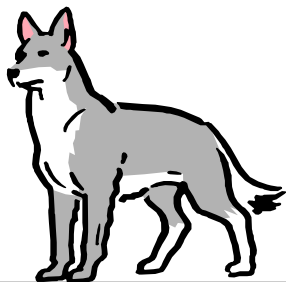
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what it was supposed to do and ran away.

Day three was largely restricted to exploring the river within a half mile of camp and wading in pools. Brian may have been the only one to spend a lot of time swimming. The water was cool - but not cold. Gary Cremeans took an 18 mile hike and was gone most of the day. He finally stopped counting both the cow pies and the cattle in the big outwash plains to the north. Champ, a white Labrador, did his first swimming.

On day four, we hiked out. Brian headed north to Oregon while the rest of us experienced fine dining at Carl's Jr. in Mojave.

Everyone had a good time. The company was great, the scenery was beautiful, the night skies were enchanting and everyone had regrets about leaving. It is said by some that the mosquitoes also had a good time. We were not there long enough to get tired of freeze dried dinners. Champ, of course, was driven nearly insane by all of the smells of people food. His restrained gestures of interest, did not go completely unrewarded. Forgive us Arlene.



Doug Temple relaxing in camp.

PALEONTOLOGY AT ITS BEST

Many years ago I was called out to a construction site on Easy Street by a conscientious builder, who wanted to do the right thing and to comply with one of the conditions of approval on his project. That condition required that he stop work if he uncovered something of archaeological significance and notify the City. He said that they had discovered bones on the site, so he had sent the workers home and called the City. When I arrived at the site, no one was there, but I immediately spotted the "bones." As I carefully exposed the skull, I heard a voice over my shoulder - "What is it - a dinosaur?" (This really meant - What is it?) My response was, "A large California mule." Indeed, it may have been one of the same mules, working that same ground, you see in historic pictures displayed in restaurants around town.

Mike Kuhn

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the years, I and my coworkers have seen many coyotes, even during the middle of the day. Some years ago, Arlene Altshuler, John Sabol, John Downey and I emerged from the Park District Headquarters on Sycamore Drive at about 9:30 p.m. and observed a juvenile coyote in the parking lot north of the buildings. That coyote was particularly interested in the bunnies at the eastern end of the parking lot. I suppose that the coyote had followed the Arroyo Simi into the heart of town where food resources are particularly abundant.

Coyotes in an urban setting can become emboldened, since no one shoots at them or otherwise bothers them. They can become a threat to public safety, let alone to pets. A few years ago, two women, in separate attacks, were bitten by coyotes, one in Rancho Santa Susana Park and the other near Elephant Rock. Both attacks were launched from the rear (one bit the woman in the, yes, the rear) on individuals who did not see the animals approaching. Children are especially vulnerable. There are coyotes in our midst.

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was used in the treatment for rabies. Instead of mugwort, a hot iron was used. This was also an obviously effective way of dealing with a serious wound, such as an animal bite, while avoiding bacterial infection. Finally, it suggests that wolves existed in southern Ventura County.

Mike Kuhn



OCTOBER

2001



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 <i>Happy Birthday Cynthia Brewer</i>	3	4 Chumash Trail 6pm hike See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday Marty Richards</i>	5	6 Stagecoach Trail 8am hike See Schedule
7 Rocky Peak 5pm hike See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday Bob Goodrich</i>	8	9	10	11 Chumash Trail 6pm hike See Schedule	12	13 Oak Park Work Party 8am-Noon See Schedule
14 Rocky Peak 5pm hike See Schedule	15 <i>Happy Birthday Bill Funk</i>	16	17 RSTB Club Meeting 7pm at the 1692 Sycamore Com- munity Center, Room B-1	18 Chumash Trail 6pm hike See Schedule	19	20 O'Melveny Park 8am Hike See Schedule
21 Rocky Peak 5pm hike See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday Brian McKee</i>	22 <i>Happy Birthday Margarita Marsh</i>	23 <i>Happy Birthday Adrianna Jackson</i>	24	25 Chumash Trail 6pm hike See Schedule	26 <i>Happy Birthday Lisa Klockenteger</i>	27 Happy Camp 8am Hike See Schedule
28 Rocky Peak 5pm hike See Schedule	29	30	31			



Rancho Simi Trail Blazers

Hiking Schedule



- October 4 Thursday Evening Hike**
Meet at 6pm at Chumash trailhead. Directions - take 118 Fwy to Yosemite exit. Go north on Yosemite, turn right on Flanagan
- October 6 Stagecoach Trail via Chatsworth Park South**
Moderate but short loop hike, approx. 3 miles. This hike is not within the jurisdiction of the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park
- October 7 Sunday Evening Hike**
Meet 5pm at Rocky Peak trailhead at the end of Rocky Peak Rd off Santa Susana Pass. (Strenuous, 5 MRT)
- October 11 Thursday Evening Hike**
Meet at 6pm at Chumash trailhead. Directions - take 118 Fwy to Yosemite exit. Go north on Yosemite, turn right on Flanagan
- October 13 Oak Park Work Party**
We will be clearing brush from a 10-foot wide path for a new 3/4-mile long trail, which has been flagged by the National Park Service. Meet at the trailhead in Oak Park at 8:00 AM. Directions: Drive to the intersection of Doubletree Road and Kanan Road, which is 1 1/2 miles East of the intersection of Kanan and Lindero Canyon. Go north on Doubletree. The road will go up-hill and then curve east and parallel Kanan. Trailhead is on the left, across from the Latter-Day Saints Church. We will work
- October 14 Sunday Evening Hike**
Meet 5pm at Rocky Peak trailhead at the end of Rocky Peak Rd off Santa Susana Pass. (Strenuous, 5 MRT)
- October 18 Thursday Evening Hike**
Meet at 6pm at Chumash trailhead. Directions - take 118 Fwy to Yosemite exit. Go north on Yosemite, turn right on Flanagan
- October 20 O'Melveny Park Hike**
Moderate - strenuous 7 MRT hike with 1200' elevation gain/loss. See great views of San Fernando and Santa Clarita Valleys from Mission Point. This hike is not within the jurisdiction of the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District. Meet 8am near
- October 21 Sunday Evening Hike**
Meet 5pm at Rocky Peak trailhead at the end of Rocky Peak Rd off Santa Susana Pass. (Strenuous, 5 MRT)
- October 25 Thursday Evening Hike**
Meet at 6pm at Chumash trailhead. Directions - take 118 Fwy to Yosemite exit. Go north on Yosemite, turn right on Flanagan
- October 27 Happy Camp Upper Trail**
Moderate to strenuous 10 MRT hike with elevation gain/loss of 1300'. See panoramic views of Simi Valley and Moorpark to the Channel Islands. Bring lunch, 2 qts of water, binoculars/camera, wear boots. Meet 8:30am at Happy Camp parking lot on Broadway. Bring 2 - 3 qts. of water and a snack, wear boots. Directions - from Moorpark, take Route 23 north towards Fill-
- October 28 Sunday Evening Hike**
Meet 5pm at Rocky Peak trailhead at the end of Rocky Peak Rd off Santa Susana Pass. (Strenuous, 5 MRT)

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. Hikes will be cancelled if it rains.

RANCHO SIMI TRAIL BLAZERS

EXECUTIVE CHAIR:	MIKE KUHN	HM (805) 583-2345 WK (805)583-6776
TREASURER:	PETER ELY	HM (805) 523-1409
PARK DISTRICT LIAISON:	COLLEEN JANSSEN	OFFICE (805) 584-4453
WORK PARTIES CHAIR:	JOHN SABOL	HM (805) 583-2541
WORK PARTIES VICE CHAIR:	BOB ALTIERI	HM (805) 526-6749
HIKING CHAIR:	ARLENE ALTSHULER	HM (805) 581-9735
WAYS & MEANS CHAIR:	MARTY RICHARDS	HM (805) 526-4414
WAYS & MEANS VICE CHAIR:	CONNIE ANKROM	HM (805)526-2747
OUTDOOR EDUCATION CHAIR:	OPEN	
COMMUNICATION / PUB.CHAIR:	OPEN	

-----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 Sept.-2001/Sept.-2002 to:
“Rancho Simi Foundation” mail it to **“RSTB, P.O. Box 630399, Simi Valley, Ca 93063-0399**
Please list any extra names and birthdays of more than one member (Month & Day Only)



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