



# Rancho Simi Trail Blazers

A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation



## CHUMASH AND THE BLACK BEAR

What is clear from paleontological remains and archaeological excavations is that prior to the event of the Anglo-American period of settlement the black bear did not extend further south in California than San Luis Obispo County and the Central Valley. As grizzly bear numbers dwindled, primarily as a result of poisoning and only secondarily by shooting them, the range of the black bear extended southerly and into the high country. Certainly grizzly bears were masters of their domains and were given wide berths by black bears.

Pedro Fages' account of his travels in California, which represents the first detailed descriptions of California Indians, includes two interesting observations about the Chumash in the San Luis Obispo area. He describes one occasion when Indians coming to greet him and his party were accompanied by a bear cub. Elsewhere he indicates that the Indians hunted bears and would capture any surviving (I presume young) cubs, subsequently raising them in their villages until they were old enough to slaughter as food. Young bear cubs are fun, cute and cuddly and bond easily with humans. As they grow older, their presence becomes more problematic. Since the reference is to hunting bears, I presume that their quarry was the black bear – grizzly bears being too formidable a prey.

Mike Kuhn



**Phyllis Tewfik  
Nancy & Jeff Klein  
Melaine Ashen**

### SAVE THIS DATE!!!

Our annual holiday pot luck party this year will be on **December 14<sup>th</sup>**. More details will be available in next month's newsletter.

### RSTB LOGO T-SHIRTS

Are your old logo T-shirts worn out? We still have short sleeve, long sleeve, and sweat shirts in assorted sizes and colors. Prices are:

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



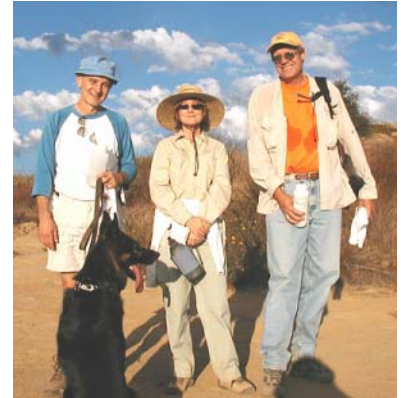
Please call Marty if you'd like to place an order: 805-526-4414.

### RSTB CLUB MEETING

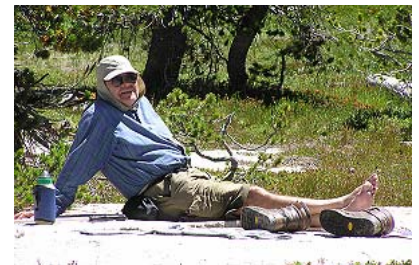
This month's club meeting will be held at the Community Center

Room B-1  
1692 Sycamore Drive  
at 7:00 PM  
on  
**October 19, 2005**

### HIKING PHOTOS



*Sunday evening hike.  
Photo by John Sabol.*



*Bill Cespedes at Island Lake.  
Photo by Arlene Altshuler.*



*Ursula Christie*



*Fran Atkins*

## MOUNTAIN LION FOUNDATION PRESENTATION

One hundred fifty people and one mountain lion; who commands the most respect? If you don't know the answer to this question, then you missed a spectacular presentation from the Mountain Lion Foundation on September 3.

Local Mountain Lion Foundation Field Representative, Christa Mann, along with staff from *Wildworks*, presented a 1-1/4 hour demonstration and lecture called, "On the Edge." Using slides and live animals, speakers shared tips and rules on living in an urban environment so close to open space areas filled with wild life.

Outside the multipurpose room, there were display boards with topics of interest to animal lovers. *New Additions* showed photos of baby animals such as owls, mountain lions and small creatures. *Backyard Etiquette* dealt with protecting wildlife by removing trash and other hazards from our yards. *Wildworks* showed news articles, photos and information about the work done to rehabilitate injured animals. *Mountain Lions* showed photos and the different names that are used to describe the same animal: puma, mountain lion, cougar, catamount, panther and more. *Environment* showed how wildlife habitats are shrinking, causing animals to have fewer and fewer safe places to live.



*Mollie Hogan from Wildworks, holding a Big Horned Owl. Photo by Colleen Janssen.*

During the presentation, Mann and the *Wildworks* staff described the live animals in attendance. The animal portion of the show opened with a dog that could do tricks and showed kids how to recycle cans, plastic and other materials. Next, animals were presented from smallest to largest and included a rat, squirrels, snakes, a barn owl and great horned owl, a skunk who popped up from a kettle BBQ, possums, two foxes, a hawk, and, the star of the show, a three year old, 100 lb mountain lion.

The silence in the room was complete when the large cat entered. We were told that, over his short lifetime, the mountain lion had suffered from cataracts, infections and severe headaches. Both of his eyes had been removed due to health problems, so he was completely blind. Amazingly, he negotiated the site with little difficulty and seemed comfortable with the large crowd.

After the show, visitors were able to view the brochures, display boards, a barn owl box and other materials located

outside of the presentation room. The staff stayed for awhile to answer questions and provide additional information when asked.

For more information on mountain lions, you may contact Christa Mann from the Mountain Lion Foundation locally at (805) 813-1221. You may also view their website at [www.mountainlion.org](http://www.mountainlion.org).

*Colleen Janssen*

## 2005 COASTAL CLEANUP DAY

This year was the 21st anniversary of the Coastal Cleanup Day Event.

Ninety-nine volunteers (including Mike Kuhn, Caroline Carroll, and John Sabol) showed up to remove 2.33 tons (4,660 pounds) of waste from a two-mile stretch of the Arroyo Simi from First Street to Sycamore Drive.

The Countywide event was also a huge success with 1,904 volunteers and 18,526 pounds of waste from 17 beaches and inland waterway sites within Ventura County.



*Some of the waste in the Arroyo included shopping carts, computer monitors, and TVs.*



*Many types of birds enjoy the Arroyo, such as this Egret.*

*Coastal Clean Up Day photos courtesy of Kevin Gieschen, Event Coordinator, City of Simi Valley*



*Tuesday evening hiking group. Photo by Fran Atkins.*

## THE TOMOL

Most of the Chumash Indian population was focused on the coast and the Santa Barbara Channel Islands. (Yes, Simi Valley was an out back area of settlement.) The early Spanish explorers were more impressed with the Chumash Indians than any other Indian group in California, and what most impressed them was the sewn plank canoe - the "tomol".

While the Chumash and many other groups used some dugout canoes and "tule" (bulrush) balsa canoes in streams, coastal estuaries, and along the immediate coast, only the Chumash built and used the plank canoe, with which they ventured onto the deep ocean and conducted inter-island and island/coastal trade. Indeed, when Cabrillo visited the town, which he called Carpenteria in reference to the boat builders, most of the inhabitants were off with their tomols on a trip to the islands. The tomol was the zenith of Chumash culture.

Our detailed knowledge about the tomol comes to us primarily as a result of the lucky meeting of two very special individuals. One was John Peabody Harrington, who single handedly collected more information about North American Indians than all other anthropologists put together, and Fernando Librado, a Chumash Indian. Fernando Librado, or *Kitsepawit*, died in 1915 at the age of 111. He was bright, inquisitive, a careful observer with an intellectual bend, and had memories going back to the 1820s. He was a member of the "brotherhood of the canoe". Fernando knew most of the master builders and observed the building of many tomols. From the Harrington notes, the late Travis Hudson, Janice Timbrook and Melissa Rempe produced a book on the tomol. What follows will be a summary of some of what we know about the tomol and how it was used.

The tomol was the house of the sea. It was more valuable than a land house ("hap") and was very expensive. Only the rich could afford a tomol. Ownership conveyed high status. Master boat builders themselves had very high status. Some individuals owned several tomols.

Tomols required 5-6 months to build, but could last as long as 20 years. They were 15 to 16 feet long, flat bottomed and high in the bow and the stern. They were made of planks ("wi'ma"), usually of redwood from Santa Rosa Island (The island was called "wi'ma"), where trees washed out to sea during winter storms along the coast of Northern California were deposited as driftwood. Some pine (bishop, ponderosa, or Jeffery) was also used. The planks were split with wedges, shaped with adzes, sanded with shark skin and sewn together with cordage made from narrow-leaved and Indian milkweeds. The holes were made with stone drills. The whole canoe was covered and sealed with a mixture of asphaltum and pine pitch ("yop"). Nonetheless, they were fragile, having to have some repairs after almost every day on the water. They were driven with double ended paddles.

There were two types of tomols. One type had a thick bottom plank and was used for fishing. The weight of the bottom plank provided ballast. The other type had a thin plank bottom and was used for trading, passengers and fishing. Stones were used for ballast if there was insufficient cargo. These boats had to ride high enough in the water to not take on water and flounder in high seas or when being launched through the surf, but not so high that they capsized easily.

Mike Kuhn



# RSTB Calendar October 2005



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<b>1</b> Reyes Peak See Schedule
<b>2</b> Rocky Peak 5pm hike See Schedule	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Long Canyon 6:30pm hike See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday Marty Richards</i>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Chumash Trail 6pm hike See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday Donna Cavaliere</i>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Upper Zuma Cyn See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday Richard Dillon</i>
<b>9</b> Rocky Peak 5pm hike See Schedule	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Long Canyon 6:30pm hike See Schedule	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Chumash Trail 6pm hike See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday Bev Frye</i>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Mt. McCoy Work Party See Schedule
<b>16</b> Rocky Peak 5pm hike See Schedule	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Long Canyon 6:30pm hike See Schedule	<b>19</b> RSTB Meeting See Page 1	<b>20</b> Chumash Trail 6pm hike See Schedule	<b>21</b> <i>Happy Birthday Brian McKee</i>	<b>22</b> Michael D. Antonovitch Regional Park See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday Margarita Marsh</i>
<b>23</b> Rocky Peak 5pm hike See Schedule	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Long Canyon 6:30pm hike See Schedule	<b>26</b> <i>Happy Birthday Lisa Klockenteger</i>	<b>27</b> Chumash Trail 6pm hike See Schedule	<b>28</b> <i>Happy Birthday Mark Gilmore</i>	<b>29</b> Sulfur Mtn. See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday Tracy Frank Paul Nemeth</i>
<b>30</b> Rocky Peak 5pm hike See Schedule	<b>31</b>					



# Rancho Simi Trail Blazers

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## Hiking Schedule



### REGULARLY SCHEDULED HIKES

#### Sunday Evening - Rocky Peak

Meet 5pm at Rocky Peak trailhead at the end of Rocky Peak Rd off Santa Susana Pass. (Strenuous, 4.8 MRT)

#### Tuesday Evening - Long Canyon

Meet at 6:30pm in Long Canyon parking lot. Directions: Take First Street 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, 3.0 MRT)

#### Thursday Evening - The Chumash Trail

Meet at 6pm 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. (Strenuous, 5.2 MRT)

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### OCTOBER HIKES

#### October 1st - Reyes Peak\*\*

7 MRT - Moderate (1600' elevation gain)

This well shaded trail offers superb views from the Los Padres backcountry. Meet at 8 AM near Donut Delite at the corner of Madera and Royal. Bring 2-3 quarts of water and a snack. Wear boots.

#### October 8th - Upper Zuma Canyon\*\*

Moderate 5 MRT hike down into Upper Zuma Canyon. Meet at 8 AM near Donut Delite at the corner of Madera and Royal. Bring 2-3 quarts of water and a snack. Wear boots.

#### October 15th - Mt. McCoy Work Party

Help maintain a one of our more scenic trails. Directions: From the 118 take Madera south to Royal. West on Royal, north on Acapulco, then west on Washburn. Trailhead is on the left, just before Washburn turns into Amigos Ave. We will be working from 8am to noon. Tools will be provided. Bring 2 - 3 quarts of water, hat, sunscreen, and gloves to work on the trail.

#### October 22nd - Michael D. Antonovich Regional Park\*\*

Explore the Jouquin Ranch area. Meet at 8 AM near Donut Delite at the corner of Madera and Royal. Wear boots, bring bug juice, snack and 2 - 3 quarts of water.

#### October 29nd - Sulphur Mountain\*\*

Moderate to strenuous 6 - 10 MRT hike. This is a beautiful area in the mountains between Ventura and Ojai. Meet at 8 AM near Donut Delite at the corner of Madera and Royal. Wear boots, bring bug juice, snack and 2 - 3 quarts of water.

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**\*\* These hikes are not within the jurisdiction of the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District.**

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.

<http://www.simitrailblazers.com>

## RANCHO SIMI TRAIL BLAZERS

*A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation*

Executive Chair:	Mike Kuhn	HM (805) 583-2345	hannahmike@adelphia.net
Treasurer:	Peter Ely	HM (805) 523-1409	
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:	John Sabol	HM (805) 583-2541	jtsabol@sbcglobal.net
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Ways & Means Chair:	Marty Richards	HM (805) 526-4414	
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Newsletter Editor:	Arlene Altshuler	HM (805) 581-9735	arlene.altshuler@mindbox.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(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 to:

“Rancho Simi Foundation” mail it to “RSTB, P.O. Box 630445, Simi Valley, Ca 93063

Please list any extra names and birthdays of more than one member (Month & Day Only)



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