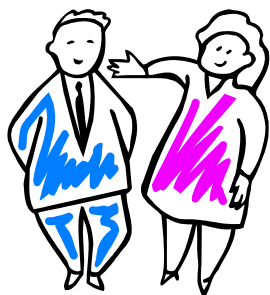




# Rancho Simi Trail Blazers

*A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation*



## Welcome, New Members!

Sherri Borden  
Sheila Kuntz  
Paul & Adelina Freedeborn  
Monique Zarcone & Family



## 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



## Save the Date for this Special Event!

**November 15th & 16th**  
**San Antonio Ski Hut - Mt. Baldy**

It doesn't get much better than this! The Hut is at the base of Mt. San Antonio (Mt. Baldy) at 8,200'. It might be listed as strenuous, but it's really not that bad. We'll only do 3 miles the first day and we have all day to do it. Coming back the next day is all down hill.

## 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  
**October 15, 2008**

For those who want a real challenge, you can hike to the top of Mt. Baldy, using the Hut as your base camp. Even the view from the outhouse is spectacular. We'll spend the night in the hut. As the event draws near, we'll make plans to cook a group dinner using the hut's wood-burning stove. We have some fine gourmet cooks in our club, so this is always a treat. There will be plenty of good stories shared by the Hut custodian around the wood-burning stove on Saturday night.

The Hut was built in 1937, by the Sierra Club Ski Mountaineers. Nestled in a pine forest, the Hut is a large one-room cabin, complete with a sleeping loft, wood burning stove to keep us toasty at night, comfortable foam mattresses, running water, a full kitchen and toilet facilities. It's a picturesque and serene setting; views from its picture windows are spectacular. It only takes about 1 ½ hrs. to drive to the trailhead, which is at about 6,000ft. The Hut is at about 8,200ft. It's a beautiful hike, passing by San Antonio Falls on the way. On the trail, you'll think you're hiking in the Sierras. If you're looking for a real challenge, you can hike to the top of Mt. Baldy (10,064ft), using the Hut as your Base Camp. This website has more info: <http://angeles.sierraclub.org/lodges/sanantonioskihut.html>



## UPCOMING EVENTS

Please visit the website for details on any of the following hikes and events.

### October 4, 2008

#### Reyes Peak (7 MRT)

Great views of the Piedra Blanca and the Sespe Wilderness. Much of the trail is well shaded and in the pines.

### October 11<sup>th</sup> Camp Three Falls to Lilly Meadows (6 MRT)

Beautiful area with a waterfall about half way up, with an option of continuing on up to Sheep Camp.

### October 18th Work Party - Upper Hummingbird Trail.

Meet at Rocky Peak Trailhead.

### October 25th Montgomery Canyon / Long Canyon Loop (4.1 MRT or 7.5 MRT)

Options include doing just the Montgomery Canyon Loop or continuing on the trail to include the Long Canyon loop.

### October 25th Santa Cruz Island - Scorpion Anchorage to Smuggler's Cove **CANCELLED**

More information on these events can be found at

<http://simitrailblazers.com>

To make reservations, please email Mark Gilmore at [markinthepark@sbcglobal.net](mailto:markinthepark@sbcglobal.net)

move on. Often the Spanish had to



**Al Bandel in 1995**

Al Bandel, one of those who showed up for the Trail Blazer club bicycle ride in Ventura on September 6, died suddenly before the ride began. Al was very active with the Santa Monica Mountains Trail Council, was an avid bicycle rider and worked frequently on trails throughout the region - including on Santa Cruz Island. He loved the outdoors and hiking. He was very active in the community. Al is survived by his wife, Evelyn, his children Leslie Stransbury and Bill Bandel and grandchildren Kyle, Taylor, Riley and Carson. He and his wife were married more than 55 years. Al was 78 years old. He never seemed to let age slow him down and was very physically active to the end. His presence will be missed.



## THOSE AMAZING EXPLORERS

When we go backpacking, we bring with us everything we will need, except water for the entire trip. The early Spanish explorers of California were not able to bring enough food for themselves and their livestock. These expeditions lasted for as long as eight months, during which time the Spanish and their livestock sometimes experienced food shortages. Monterey Bay had been visited by Spanish sea captain Sebastian Vizcaino in 1602. Vizcaino described Monterey Bay as "...noble harbor...the best port that

could be desired, for besides being sheltered from all the winds, it has many pines for masts and yards, and live oaks and white oaks, and water in great quantity, all near the shore." Captain Gaspar de Portola, with a modest group of soldiers and priests, set out in 1769 to find Monterey Bay. When they arrived, they found a stormy sea. Not recognizing it from Vizcaino's description, they proceeded north. Discovering San Francisco Bay, Portola glumly rejected it, for it did not correspond to Vizcaino's description of Monterey Bay and was an impediment to further search. The expedition returned to San Diego, after being forced to eat twelve of its mules along the way. Portola's second expedition, begun in 1770, included only twelve men, although he had sent a ship ahead to Monterey. This time he recognized Monterey for the port described by Vizcaino. Juan Bautista de Anza set out in 1775 with thirty-four families and soldiers to establish a presidio and a mission on San Francisco Bay. Because the Indians of coastal California set fire to their environs each year as part of their land husbandry, each expedition experienced times when there was not enough grass for their livestock. One description from the Pedro Fages diary of the Portola expedition discusses their concern that their horses and other livestock might starve to death in the Point Conception area since all the grass and brush had been burned. They eventually found a depression into which the fire had not burned - which provided relief for their livestock.

Human food also came into short supply. You can carry dried beans, wheat flour and grain, as well as dried corn and pork bellies and dried meat. In general, they were reluctant to slaughter any of their livestock although they did on each expedition. After the first few months, they had to live off the land, including being dependent on the good will of the resident Indians they encountered. Gifts of grass seeds, acorns and pine nuts were common. Along the coast, they must certainly have been provided with some marine resources. However, the sizes of the parties would have taxed the resources of the Indians. While the Indians were, no doubt, fascinated by the explorers, the local Indians were anxious to have them

trade to acquire food. Eventually, on its way back to San Diego, the de Anza expedition ran out of trade goods and resorted to trading pieces of broken pottery. Such hard times are described in the diaries of the expedition and examples of the traded pottery shards have been found in a village midden in the Lake Sherwood area. Those shards are evidence of tough times for the remaining members of the expedition.

These were bold adventurers. They sojourned into the unknown - possibly hostile territory where they could not rule out organized resistance to their presence. In addition, at some point on each trip, they had to be concerned about where their next meal would come from. Both the first Portola expedition and the de Anza expedition included women and children. They were a tough breed - borne of the frontier.

Mike Kuhn

7-12-06 (revised 9-16-08)

## Shutterbug Corner

Flowers and insects are perfect subjects for macro photography. Even less-expensive point and shoot digital cameras are capable of capturing impressive close-ups. Some tips:

- Use a tripod if possible
- Go early when there is less wind
- Experiment with flash settings



**Bush Mallow - without flash**



**With flash - striking!**



## **September 10-14 - Zion & Bryce Canyon National Parks Hiking & Camping Trip**

Stay tuned – the trip was fabulous, and we'll tell you all about it in next month's newsletter. It takes time to go through the hundreds of pictures! Here is the group at the Fairyland Loop Trailhead in Bryce Canyon.



## **September 6th 2008 - Bicycle Ride - Ventura River Trail**

Yes it's true. The Trailblazers went on a bicycle ride. In the "About Us" section of our website, the very first line reads: "The Rancho Simi Trail Blazers is a volunteer organization of outdoor enthusiasts consisting of bikers, equestrians, hikers, and naturalists." It looks like we still have other areas yet untapped. It's so good to try something new and we all had a most enjoyable ride.



Eight of us rode a total of 31.2 miles, from downtown Ventura to downtown Ojai. The Ventura River scenery varies from riparian splendor to what looks much like a toxic waste dump. If we ride the same trail in the future, the section between downtown Ventura and Foster Park is best avoided.

So, see you on the trails and the bicycle paths too.



## **August 23rd 2008 - Sycamore Canyon Shuttle**

Fifteen bright-eyed-and-bushy-tailed Rancho Simi Trailblazers met at the Wendy Drive/Potrero Road trailhead for a nine-mile one-way hike through Big Sycamore Canyon to the beach at Sycamore Cove. It was a mild, somewhat foggy morning as the hike began. Our first stop was the Satwiwa Culture Center (its most popular feature was its indoor plumbing!) and the still-being-constructed Chumash Village. We soon headed south down into the canyon along the fire road that runs its entire length. The fog gradually dissipated and the sky was a beautiful cerulean [blue] color dotted with puffy white clouds. There was much interest in the various trails that intersected the fire road, particularly where they led and what loop-hiking opportunities might be available. Red and green poison oak grew abundantly along the east side of the fire road. It looked very Christmas-like, but we kept a respectful distance from it. As we drew nearer to the Sycamore Canyon campground, bike-rider and hiker traffic increased considerably as many other people also enjoyed a late-summer outing. We crossed under the Pacific Coast Highway to the beach and made our way to a couple of picnic tables with a view of the ocean. After a leisurely lunch we got in our three car-shuttle vehicles and returned to the trailhead, then home. Everyone agreed that it was a pleasant way to spend half a day (while getting some needed exercise).





# RSTB Calendar October 2008



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 Chumash Trail 6pm hike  See Schedule	3	4 Reyes Peak  See Schedule  <i>Happy Birthday Marty Richards</i>
5 Rocky Peak 5pm hike  See Schedule	6	7 Long Canyon 6:30 pm hike  See Schedule	8	9  Chumash Trail 6pm hike  See Schedule	10	11 Camp Three Falls to Lilly Meadows  See Schedule
12 Rocky Peak 5pm hike  See Schedule  <i>Happy Birthday Paul Friedeborn</i>	13   <i>Happy Birthday Bev Frye Kevin Stroud</i>	14 Long Canyon 6:30pm hike  See Schedule	15 RSTB Meeting 7:00 pm  See Page 1  <i>Happy Birthday Adrian Carcione</i>	16 Chumash Trail 6pm hike  See Schedule	17	18  Work Party - Upper Hummingbird Trail  See Schedule
19 Rocky Peak 5pm hike  See Schedule  <i>Happy Birthday Terry Werth</i>	20	21 Long Canyon 6:30pm hike  See Schedule  <i>Happy Birthday Brian McKee Sarita Shoemaker</i>	22   <i>Happy Birthday Margarita Marsh</i>	23 Chumash Trail 6pm hike  See Schedule	24	25 Montgomery Canyon / Long Canyon Loop  See Schedule
26 Rocky Peak 5pm hike  See Schedule  <i>Happy Birthday Yasa Rasakhoo Lisa Klockenteger</i>	27	28 Long Canyon 6:30pm hike  See Schedule  <i>Happy Birthday Mark Gilmore</i>	29   <i>Happy Birthday Paul Nemeth Tracy Frank</i>	30 Chumash Trail 6pm hike  See Schedule	31	



# Rancho Simi Trail Blazers

A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation

## Hiking Schedule



### REGULARLY SCHEDULED HIKES

*(Rain cancels – No hikes on holidays)*

#### Sunday Evening - Rocky Peak

Meet 5 pm 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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, 3.0 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 AND ACTIVITIES

#### October 4th **Reyes Peak\***

7 MRT - Moderate (1,600' elevation gain)

This 7,510' peak affords great views of the Piedra Blanca and the Sespe Wilderness. On a clear day the Channel Islands are visible. Much of the trail is well shaded and in the pines. Meet at 8 AM near Donut Delite at the corner of Madera and Royal. Bring two to three quarts of water and lunch. Wear sturdy boots. This event will take the better part of the day.

#### October 11th **Camp Three Falls to Lilly Meadows\***

6 MRT - Moderate (1,075' elevation gain)

Beautiful area with a waterfall about half way up. The website provides more information about this hike. For those looking for a bit of a workout, there is an option of adding some mileage by taking the trail on up to Sheep Camp. Meet at 8 AM at the Stearns Street Park & Ride. Bring 2 - 3 quarts of water and lunch, and wear sturdy boots for this hike.

#### October 15th **Club Meeting**

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

#### October 18th **Work Party - Upper Hummingbird Trail**

Meet at the Rocky Peak Trailhead. We'll drive up the fireroad to where it intersects with the Hummingbird Trail. Bring 2 - 3 quarts of water, hat, sunscreen, and gloves to work on the trail.

#### October 25th **Montgomery Canyon / Long Canyon Loop**

Moderate 4.1 MRT Loop (550' elevation gain) or 7.5 MRT (1,100') elevation gain

Bring 2 to 3 quarts of water and a snack. Wear boots. Meet at 8 AM in the Old Windmill Park parking lot. Directions: From the 118 Freeway, take 1st Street south. 1st Street becomes Long Canyon Road at Challenger Park. You'll see a windmill on the right, just before you need make a right at Vinyard Drive W (not to be confused with Vinyard Drive E). Continue straight ahead and park in the Old Windmill Park parking lot. Click visit the website for a link to a map of the Windmill Park area. You can do just the Montgomery Canyon Loop or continue on the trail and include the Long Canyon loop.

October 25th **CANCELLED** Santa Cruz Island - Scorpion Anchorage to Smuggler's Cove

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



No dogs allowed on trail(s).

For 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@roadrunner.com
Treasurer:	Peter Ely		
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
Website:	Mark Gilmore	HM (805) 529-5581	markinthepark@sbcglobal.net
Ways & Means Chair:	Marty Richards	HM (805) 526-4414	
Publicity Chair:	Carrie McCline		
Newsletter Editor:	Kelli Ham	HM (805) 577-1864	simitrailrunner@gmail.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 \_\_\_\_\_

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

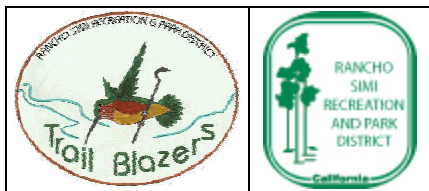
Email Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone wk/hm \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to receive periodic email announcements about club activities? Yes ( ) No ( )

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 93063-0399



U.S. Postage

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