



# Rancho Simi Trail Blazers

A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation



## RSRPD Ranger Jim Rosales



Jim Rosales from the RSRPD brought along to the hike an object to move a rattlesnake from one location to another, so that other hikers could walk the path without being bothered by the rattlesnake. Great Job Jim!

## FOR WANT OF A WOLF, THE LYNX WAS LOST\*

\*from article by same name *Science*, Vol. 333 (9 September 2011), p. 1365

The Canadian lynx is thriving in Canada but is a threatened species in the United States (U.S). The chain of events that led to the mysterious decline of lynxes in the U.S., scientists now say, may have begun with the extirpation of another species: the gray wolf, which was hunted to near extinction in the U.S. during the 20th century. Today, wolf populations are growing in parts of the west and Minnesota.

The loss of the wolf may have set in motion an “ecological cascade,” according to William Ripple, an ecologist at Oregon State University, Corvallis, and his co-authors in the August 30 issue of *Wildlife Society Bulletin*. Without wolves, populations of coyotes and herbivores, such as elk and deer, have soared - leading to a double whammy for the

(Continued on page 3, column 1)



## Welcome, New Members!

Marlene Bradley & Corey Collins  
Kati Martinez  
Jolie Fradkin & David Ritzinger  
Margaret & Joe Marasco and Family

### 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





We would like to give a great BIG shout out to Kelli Ham for doing such an incredible job in the last few years as the newsletter editor. THANK YOU Kelli, for a wonderful job!



October

## Upcoming Events

- October 1st**  
**Big Bear Weekend Getaway**  
Continued from September 29th.
- October 8th**   
**Temescal Canyon -Viewpoint Trail Loop and Will Rogers SHP via the Rivas Canyon Trail \*** - 8.5 MRT  
Moderate - (1,800' elevation gain/loss)
- October 15th**  
Work Party - Cache In Trash Out Event
- October 19th**  
Club Meeting - **7 PM**
- October 22nd**  
**Mt. Baden-Powell from Vincent Gap via the PCT \*** - 8 MRT - Moderate to Strenuous (2,800' elevation gain)
- October 22nd**  
**Dog Vaccination & Licensing Clinic**
- October 29th**   
**Serrano Canyon + Serrano Valley Loop from the Big Sycamore Canyon Campground \*** - 8.8 MRT - moderate (950' elevation gain/loss)

Due to unforeseen circumstances, all activities are subject to change without notice. Please see [www.simitrailblazers.com/activities/](http://www.simitrailblazers.com/activities/) for event details and the most up-to-date schedule.

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

## A LESSON ABOUT BEARS

During the summer of 1984 I accompanied a local Boy Scout Troop into a week-long backpacking trip in King Canyon National Park. Our first night on the trail was spent in lower Paradise Valley. There were no “bear boxes” in those days or “bear cans.” There was a cable strung between two lodgepole pines. The cable could be raised and lowered in order to hang food out of the reach of bears. This was indeed bear country. The signs were everywhere – largely in the form of bear tracks and bear scat – you could recognize the scat because it included plastic and aluminum foil. We were prepared.

As night fell, a bear showed up and began circling our camp. Everyone was excited, but probably not too frightened –this, after all, was a “park bear.”

We dutifully hung our food in the center of the cable well away from the trees. Because there was no hasp to secure the cable, we tied it in some very complex knots – surely, bear proof. We did the other things you must do in bear country, like removing all food and smelly things from our packs and leaving all the zippers open. Bears seem to like deodorant, chap stick and toothpaste as much as food. If you have a closed zipper on your pack, they can’t resist taking a peek anyway by removing the zippered compartment. Then we retired for the night.

Repeatedly throughout the night the bear had to be chased out of camp. We yelled; we threw small rocks. Several times, when I turned my small flashlight on the bear, it could be seen working at untying the cable knots – partially successful each time. Such enthusiasm for freeze-dried food and candy treats. Each time I chased the bear, it ran away. I came to feel secure in this game. Finally, the dawn broke. I could hear someone moving about.

Someone has to be the first one to get up. Then I realized that someone seemed to be just outside my tent. What was going on? I started to unzip my tent flap, but all I could see was a solid wall of bear fir – not a good thing, so I quietly closed the zipper. The bear was going through my pack – bear saliva everywhere. Then someone, it was my son David, let out a blood-curdling scream. It was enough to bring any parent or red-blooded American out of his sleeping bag in a panic and ready for action.

The bear had decided to go through my son’s backpack. Unfortunately the pack tipped over and a Hank Roberts stove rolled out onto the sloping ground. As it rolled, the loose parts in the stove made clanking sounds, which frightened the bear. It tried to jump over my son’s tube tent, with its stout nylon rope strung between two trees. It came down with one hind leg on one side of the rope and the other hind leg, yes, on the other. In an effort to extricate itself, it proceeded to jump up and down right on top of my son. With the appearance of the bear, my son had withdrawn into his sleeping bag, pulling the bag over his head. When the bear started using him as a trampoline, he was certain that those were his last moments on this earth – death, mercifully, would come soon.

As I rush out of my tent, the bear was finally dragging its hind leg over the rope, so I, as I had done throughout the night, gave chase. This time I had grabbed my camera. As I ran out of camp hot on the heels of the bear, I raise the camera – even a close up photograph of the rear end of a bear would be a priceless memory. But then the unthinkable happened! The bear suddenly had had enough of the game and turned to face me. I stopped rather suddenly and found myself staring at the bear at nearly eye level through the viewfinder of my camera. The bear’s eyes were black and humorless. No man/bear communication was going on. The moment of truth! I then realized

that my feeling that I was master of the wilderness and lord over all of its lesser creatures had been a delusion. My actions had been bravado and bluff. This was a reality check and the jig was up!

I briefly thought about snapping the picture, but I was afraid that the flash would go off and the bear would take offense – and some other, perhaps unpleasant, action. I wondered how fast I could run in unlaced boots and my underwear. I concluded that if being chased by a bear, very fast indeed. However, it would not be fast enough if the bear really wanted to catch me.

Then, suddenly, the bear “woofed,” turned and continued running down the trail – with me hot on its heels again. Then – I took the picture.

My son’s tube tent was shredded and his sleeping bag damaged. However, he still roams this earth with no physical damage from the experience. Perhaps we are both wiser. As a postscript, the last time I was in Paradise Valley, there were bear boxes for food storage. I think that that is better for both the backpackers and the bears.

Mike Kuhn  
12-24-04

## BUSH SUNFLOWER

California Encelia or Bush Sunflower (*Encelia californica*) is a sprawling woody perennial shrub from two to five feet high. It has bright yellow flowers with a dark center. This is a member of the *Asteraceae* family. What appears to be a single flower is actually a cluster or head of flowers. The petals are each a ray flower and the center is made up of hundreds of disk flowers. The stems are covered with grayish-white fine hairs. It is found in the Coastal Sage Scrub and the Chaparral plant associations.

Mike Kuhn  
11-1-04

(Continued from page 1, column 1)

lynx's primary prey, the snowshoe hare. First, there are more coyotes to hunt them; and second, elk and deer consume the shrubby cover hares eat and seek for protection from predators. The result: fewer snowshoe hare for the lynx to hunt. Climate change may be another factor; snowshoe hare and lynxes thrive at high elevations with deep snow pack, but milder winters open up these areas to coyotes.

Since their reintroduction to Yellowstone National Park in 1995, wolves have sharply curtailed the coyote population, altered the behavior of both coyotes and herbivores, upped the number of snowshoe hare, and helped restore overall ecosystem health, the authors say. So wildlife managers should consider wolves' "ecological role" - and value as top dog - when deciding their fate.

### September 3rd 2011 - Long Canyon to Montgomery Canyon to Challenger Park Shuttle



12 hikers (+ 1 dog) met in the parking lot at the junction of Wood Ranch Parkway and Long Canyon Road in Simi Valley on a morning that held the promise of high temperatures to come. After carpooling to the trailhead in Challenger Park, the hike began along a trail that soon climbed to a three-way junction. Taking the middle fork to the south, we followed the undulating trail to a T-junction near the mouth of Montgomery Canyon where we headed southeast along a shady ranch road further into the canyon. Eventually the dirt road began rising steeply up a ridge between Montgomery Canyon and Oak Canyon; it soon provided broad views of the surrounding mountainous landscape (and lots of direct sunlight). The dirt road then descended to a T-junction with the dirt road in Oak Canyon. After resting in the cool shade of some large oak trees, we resumed our hike along the dirt road and then followed a single-track trail up to a trail on the ridge above Long Canyon, from which there were distant views to the north, south, and west. From there we descended on the main trail to

the Long Canyon parking lot having completed a pleasant 4.6-mile hike with 1,084' of elevation gain/loss (before the day turned really hot).

### September 10th 2011 - Sycamore Canyon Shuttle

Three Rancho Simi Trailblazers volunteered to drive shuttle vehicles met at 7:30 a.m., so that they could leave two shuttle vehicles in the Big Sycamore Canyon Campground



parking lot [the parking fee is now \$12.00 for day use], after which they returned to the Wendy Trail trailhead on Potrero Road in Newbury Park to join the other hike participants. The temperature was in the 60's as the thirteen hikers headed southwest on the Wendy Trail to the Satwiwa Native American Indian Culture Center where we took advantage of the restrooms. We continued our one-way hike along the paved Big Sycamore Canyon Trail as it descended into the canyon where the road soon turned to dirt. Friendly bicycle riders, runners, and some other hikers were also taking advantage of the relatively low morning temperature in the canyon. Surprisingly there was water in two places in the seasonal stream that runs through the canyon bottom. The towering California sycamore trees had bright green leaves, there were a few flowers, and there were large patches of pretty green and red poison oak along the trail, particularly in the upper canyon. The temperature remained cool as we drew closer to the ocean and a light rain began to fall. At about the same time we heard and then spotted a dozen or more bright green wild parrots in a nearby tree. The rain stopped and we made our way under Hwy 1 to the beach at Sycamore Cove. After enjoying the ocean view for a while, we headed for our shuttle vehicles as lightning and thunder began. Soon a very heavy downpour began, but we were already safely in our vehicles on our way back to the trailhead parking lot having completed a pleasant 8.6-mile hike with very little elevation gain/loss.





# RSTB Calendar October



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<p>1</p> <p><b>Big Bear Getaway (conclusion)</b></p> <p>See Schedule</p>
<p>2</p> <p><b>Rocky Peak Fire Road</b> 5 PM</p> <p>Big Bear Getaway (conclusion)</p> <p>See Schedule</p>	3	<p>4</p> <p><b>Las Lajas Canyon</b> 6:30PM</p> <p>See Schedule</p> <p><b>Happy Birthday</b> Marty Richards Martina Banev</p>	5	<p>6</p> <p><b>Chumash Trail</b> 6PM</p> <p>See Schedule</p>	7	<p>8</p> <p><b>Temescal Canyon Viewpoint Trail Loop*</b></p> <p>See Schedule</p>
<p>9</p> <p><b>Rocky Peak Fire Road</b> 5PM</p> <p>See Schedule</p>	10	<p>11</p> <p><b>Las Lajas Canyon</b> 6:30PM</p> <p>See Schedule</p> <p><b>Happy Birthday</b> Susan Mirau</p>	12	13 <p><b>Chumash Trail</b> 6PM</p> <p>See Schedule</p>	14	<p>15</p> <p><b>Work Party - Cache In Trash Out Event</b></p> <p>See Schedule</p>
<p>16</p> <p><b>Rocky Peak Fire Road</b> 5PM</p> <p>See Schedule</p> <p><b>Happy Birthday</b> Teresa Marasco</p>	17 <p><b>Happy Birthday</b> Kathleen Quinn</p>	18 <p><b>Las Lajas Canyon</b> 6:30PM</p> <p>See Schedule</p>	19 <p><b>Club Meeting</b> 7 PM</p> <p>See Schedule</p> <p><b>Happy Birthday</b> Tere Trabert</p>	20 <p><b>Chumash Trail</b> 6PM</p> <p>See Schedule</p>	21 <p><b>Happy Birthday</b> Mike Marasco Sarita Shoemaker</p>	<p>22</p> <p><b>Mt. Baden-Powell from Vincent Gap via the PCT*</b></p> <p><b>Dog Vaccination &amp; Licensing Clinic</b></p> <p>See Schedule</p> <p><b>Happy Birthday</b> Margarita Marsh</p>
<p>23</p> <p><b>Rocky Peak Fire Road</b> 5PM</p> <p>See Schedule</p>	24	<p>25</p> <p><b>Las Lajas Canyon</b> 6:30PM</p> <p>See Schedule</p> <p><b>Happy Birthday</b> Katie Prater</p>	26 <p><b>Happy Birthday</b> Lisa Klockenteger</p>	27 <p><b>Chumash Trail</b> 6PM</p> <p>See Schedule</p>	28 <p><b>Happy Birthday</b> Mark Gilmore</p>	<p>29</p> <p><b>Serrano Canyon Loop*</b></p> <p>See Schedule</p> <p><b>Happy Birthday</b> Enid Marasco Tracy Frank</p>
<p>30</p> <p><b>Rocky Peak Fire Road</b> 5PM</p> <p>See Schedule</p> <p><b>Happy Birthday</b> Calyn Foust</p>	31					<p><b>HAPPY HALLOWEEN</b></p>

Due to unforeseen circumstances, all activities are subject to change without notice.  
Please see [www.simitrailblazers.com/activities/](http://www.simitrailblazers.com/activities/) for event details and the most up-to-date schedule.

## REGULARLY SCHEDULED HIKES

*(Rain cancels – No hikes on holidays)*

### Sunday Evening - Rocky Peak Fire Road

Meet at **5 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 - Las Lajas Canyon

Meet at **6:30 PM** at the Evening Sky Drive trailhead. Take the 118 Fwy to the Yosemite Ave exit; head north past McDonalds and the stop sign at Alamo Street; continue 0.85 mile north on Yosemite Ave to the stop sign at Evening Sky Drive; turn right (east) and drive 0.5 mile to the trailhead; park on either side of the street. (Easy-to-moderate depending on distance hiked, 3¼ MRT)

### Thursday Evening - The Chumash Trail

Meet at **6 PM** at Chumash trailhead. 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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## OCTOBER HIKES AND ACTIVITIES

### October 1st

#### *Big Bear Weekend Getaway*

Continued from September 29th.

### October 8th



#### *Temescal Canyon-Viewpoint Trail Loop and Will Rogers SHP via the Rivas Canyon Trail\**

8.5 MRT - Moderate - (1,800' elevation gain/loss)

Meet at **8 AM** at the 118 & Stearns St. Park & Ride. Bring 2-3 quarts of water and a snack. Wear boots. Note: There is a \$7 per vehicle fee at the trailhead. Please view: <http://www.simitrailblazers.com/activities>

### October 15th

#### *Work Party - Cache In Trash Out Event*

This event is being held in conjunction with a GeoCaching.com CITO event. Meeting time is **8 AM**. The event will end at noon. The Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District will provide all that we need. You must bring your own water, snacks, and sunscreen. Wear old work clothes, gloves, and a hat.

**Directions:** From Kuehner Drive and the 118, head South to Smith Road and turn left. Continue to the end Smith Road, passing the public parking area. Follow the CITO Event signs, past the normally locked gate where the pavement ends, to a designated parking area, adjacent the rail road track.

### October 19th

#### *Club Meeting*

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

### October 22nd

#### *Mt. Baden-Powell from Vincent Gap via the PCT\**

8 MRT - Moderate to Strenuous (2,800' elevation gain)

This is one of the very best hikes in the San Gabriels. Bring 2 - 3 quarts of water and lunch. Wear boots. Meet at **8 AM** at the 118 & Stearns St. Park & Ride. Please view: <http://www.simitrailblazers.com/activities>

### October 22nd

#### *Dog Vaccination & Licensing Clinic*

Get your dog vaccinated and licensed at this one day event. Please go to: <http://www.simitrailblazers.com/activities/RSPD/DVOPOct22.pdf> for more information about this event.

### October 29th


#### *Serrano Canyon & Serrano Valley Loop from Sycamore Cove\**

8.8 MRT - moderate - (950' elevation gain/loss)

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. Note: There is a \$12 per car parking fee at the trailhead. Please view: <http://www.simitrailblazers.com/activities>



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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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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
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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)

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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:**

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