



# Rancho Simi Trail Blazers

A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation



## Weekly hikes

Come with us on more of our weekly hikes! We have a lot of fun, taking photos, talking and just hiking and taking in the beautiful scenery like the one in the photo.



**There are hikes every Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday.**

## WHY CONDOR DIDN'T GO EXTINCT AT END OF LAST ICE AGE

The end of the last ice age – 10,000-11,000 years ago – witnessed the extinction of many large herbivores, such as Imperial and southern mammoths, the western horse, a cameloid, mastodons, and three species of ground sloths, mammalian predators, such as the saber-toothed lion, the dire wolf, the short-faced bear, the American lion, and birds of prey, including several species of eagles and vultures. However, for some reason the California condor managed to survive and prosper until the mid-Twentieth Century. As reported in the November 26, 2004 issue of Science, pages 1466-1467, Kena Fox-Dobbs of U.C.S.B. has postulated that unlike the other large birds of prey, the condor also feed on beached sea mammals, such as seals. The abundance of sea mammals was little affected by the end of the last ice age. This broader diet enabled the California condor to flourish while much of its dietary menu slipped into extinction in the American west.

Mike Kuhn  
12-4-04



### 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



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 RSTB meeting will be at: Sycamore Drive Community Center 1692 Sycamore Drive – Room B-1  
**Wednesday: October 16, 2013**  
**7:00PM**  
*Everyone Welcome to attend!*

### Upcoming Events

**October 5th**  
**Zuma Ridge Trail to Edison Road\***  
7.6 MRT - Moderate to Strenuous  
(1,500' elevation gain) - **8AM**

**October 12th**  
**Long Canyon, Montgomery Canyon, Canyon View Trail loop**  
Hike is 8.1 miles with 1,430 feet elevation gained. - **8AM**

**October 16th - Club Meeting - 7PM** *Everyone Welcome to attend!*

**October 19th**  
**Work Party - Wild Animal Corridor - Cache In Trash Out Event - 8AM**

**October 26th**  
**Mt. Islip from Islip Saddle\***  
Meet at **8AM**



Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District events can be viewed at <http://www.rsprd.org> to see what is happening next!

## WHERE WAS THE HISTORIC CHUMASH VILLAGE OF SHIMIYI?

Where was the historic Chumash Indian village of "Simí" or "Shimiyi"?

Current thinking holds that the village was located a little northwest of the Simi Adobe on the south bank of the Arroyo Simi. There is testimony from a man who said that he was involved with the grading of the Friendly Village Mobile Home Park. He indicated that an extensive archaeological site was present and that workers followed the heavy equipment picking up mortars and pestles and human bones. (What he said has not been verified.) In addition, archaeological resources are and have been present elsewhere in the area. It is also quite tempting to surmise that the Simi Adobe was sited based, in part, upon the presence of the village as a ready source of labor for the rancho. Certainly, the de la Guerra (also known as the Tapo) Adobe, juxtaposed the village of Ta'apu. However, it is also likely that Indians were drawn to the adobe as a result of the disruption of their own culture, the devastating effects of diseases, which led to a 70-80 percent mortality among the Indians during the first decade of the 19th century, the effects of prolonged draught, and the profound awe in which the Indians held Spanish material and socio-economic culture. It also is likely that a small Chumash settlement would have developed in association with the headquarters of the rancho under normal circumstances.

The Chumash related archaeological material found at the Strathearn Historical Park was probably associated with the Indians, who were employed on the ranch - not with the Chumash village. No deep midden that would be expected with an ethnographic village site is present on the Strathearn Park site.

One archaeological investigation was conducted on a site not far from the rancho headquarters. That site had been nearly destroyed by grading in 1971. No historical material was found, so there is no good reason to believe that it was the historical village of Shimiyi. However, since

villages were relocated every few years in order to rid its residents of the accumulated vermin and human waste in their settlement, that site was probably one of the prehistoric villages of Shimiyi.

Janet Cameron, in *History of Ventura County, State of California* (1940), page 180, references a map prepared by Father Crespi. She indicates that map suggests that the village of Shimiyi was located "...along the bank of the Simi Creek, in much the same location as the village of Simi...,"

i. e., Simiopolis. Later, on page 184, Mrs. Cameron asserts that "the Colony" of Simiopolis, which was located between First Street and Fifth Street on the southern bank of the Arroyo Simi, was established "...along the Arroyo Simi at precisely the spot where the Indian village of Shimiyi stood." It is clear from these statements that Mrs. Cameron felt she knew where the village had stood. Mrs. Cameron either was repeating the conventional wisdom of the day or was reflecting the collective memory pass along through the Indian sheep herders, laborers and vaqueros and the long-time resident Mexican American families. We do know that in 1915 the anthropologist/archaeologist/linguist John Peabody Harrington was called from an archaeological test unit he was digging in the middle of Los Angeles Avenue in the vicinity of Second Street when he was notified by telephone of the offer to work for the American Bureau of Ethnology of the Smithsonian Institute. Purportedly, he was looking for the village of Simí. We don't know whether Harrington found anything. (I have heard a complaint that he never filled in the hole.) I am unaware of any physical evidence for the presence of the village of Shimiyi, or any other aboriginal settlement, where Old Town Simi was established. It is curious that no knowledge of artifacts being found or actual artifacts from the village have been passed down through local families. It is possible that all evidence of the village at that location was largely obliterated with the development of the Simiopolis settlement.

From this I am forced to conclude that some doubt remains as to the location of the village. It is, after all, easy to believe something that was never true. The untruth

may lie with the current conventional wisdom that the village was located further west. Mrs. Cameron may have been wrong. However, I would think that John Peabody Harrington's dig was based on surface observations. In the future, when and if there are any grading or trenching activities near the southern bank of the Arroyo Simi in the Old Town Simi area, I may be found looking at the dirt. Indeed, test excavations were conducted during 1998 on the old Simi Valley drive-in site, and nothing was found other than some material north of the drive-in, including some worked historic glass.

One thing we do know - villages were generally relocated every few years. After a few years of occupation, considering that all waste was disposed of in the immediate vicinity of the village and most waste was disposed of in the village, villages became infested with vermin and human pathogens and probably didn't smell very good. So it is probable that there was more than one site of the historic and prehistoric villages of Shimiyi. We know, for example, that when the mission fathers returned to the village of Ta'apu, i.e., Tapo, in 1812 looking for new laborers and converts for the mission, they noted that the location of the village had been moved up stream to the cienega. That move may have reflect the Chumash public health practices at work!

So, we have a mystery. Don't you love it! Some day we may have a definitive answer, true or not, to the question, "Where was the Chumash village of Shimiyi?"

Mike Kuhn  
12-7-04 (revised 10-7-12)



## **August 29th - September 2nd - Backpack Trip Cottonwood Lakes**

### **THURSDAY, AUGUST 29, 2013 - Travel to Horseshoe Meadow in the Eastern Sierra Nevada (and car-camp overnight)**

Eight enthusiastic hikers (and Heidi, a dog) made their way north along Highway 395 in the Owens Valley to Lone Pine, CA (the gateway to Mt. Whitney). From there we headed southwest 23 miles on Horseshoe Meadows Road as it climbed steeply into the eastern Sierra Nevada, eventually reaching the walk-in campground (10,050') for backpackers not far from the Cottonwood Lakes Trailhead. After pitching our tents we embarked separately on varying degrees of hiking in the Horseshoe Meadow area to begin to acclimate to the high elevation; some of us hiked to Cottonwood Pass (11,130') and back [a total of 5.8 miles w/1,350' of elevation gain/loss]. After dinner we talked and then turned in as darkness enveloped the campground.

### **FRIDAY, AUGUST 30, 2013 - Backpack from Horseshoe Meadow to our Base Camp near Cottonwood Lake #3**



The next morning we struck camp, repacked our backpacks, moved our vehicles a short distance over to the longer-term parking area near the Cottonwood Lakes

Trailhead (10,061') and prepared for our trek to the base-camp location we had selected. After taking several group photos, we shouldered our (heavy) backpacks and began hiking along the trail toward [Old] Army Pass. As we hiked slowly (to minimize the impact of the increasingly high altitude), we enjoyed the scenery, the nearby stream, and the cool day. Eventually we reached our intended base-camp location (~11,125') on the flat part of the small ridge rising to the north of Cottonwood Lake #3 among some large trees (and rocks) having hiked 6.5 miles w/1,259' of elevation gain. We were greeted by a few minutes of light rain as we set up our tents, after which we familiarized ourselves with the area, rested, admired the views, took photos, filtered water, took short walks, etc. After dinner most of us turned in fairly early, having been worn out by our heavy-backpack-laden hike in.

### **SATURDAY, AUGUST 31, 2013 - Hike trails at altitudes of less than 11,625'**

Most of the group hiked a loop that started by hiking west beside Cottonwood Lakes #3 thru #5 [near (Old) Army Pass]; the route then took us uphill, cross-country to pretty seldom-visited Cottonwood Lake #6 (11,613'). We then hiked cross-country to Muir Lake (11,140'), passing several lovely ponds

along the way; it is arguably the prettiest of the lakes in the Cottonwood Lakes basin. While we were at Muir Lake, it started raining fairly hard so we returned to camp, having completed a 4.2-mile loop w/800' of elevation gain/loss. After resting a while in camp, several of us hiked to Cirque Lake (11,115') and back. We passed by Cottonwood Lakes #1 thru #3 and South Fork Lake #1 (11,007') along the way. This second hike covered a total of 4.9 miles w/725' of elevation gain/loss. The scenery in both hikes was spectacular. The rain returned after dinner and we soon retreated to our tents.

### **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2013 - Hike to higher (than 11,625') altitudes**

The new day arrived sunny and clear, filled with promise. Everyone in the group hiked all the way to New Army Pass (12,295'), passing Cottonwood Lakes #1 thru #3, Long Lake (11,160'), and High Lake (11,488') along the way. There were very good views to the east, west, and north from the pass. Four members of the group continued on cross-country (encountering countless rocks/boulders along the way) to Cirque Peak (12,900') from which there were spectacular views in all directions. After passing Long Lake on the way down, we had a glimpse of South Fork Lake #3. The hike to New Army Pass and back was 8 miles round-trip w/1,500' of elevation gain/loss. The longer hike to Cirque Peak was 12.5 miles round-trip w/2,345' of elevation gain/loss.

### **MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2013 - Backpack from our Base Camp to Horseshoe Meadow (and return home)**

After a quick breakfast we struck camp, shouldered our (still heavy) backpacks and began hiking out of the wilderness. We took a different route for the first half of the hike, this time including a very pretty portion of the "New Army Pass" Trail (including a two-tiered waterfall). Although it was mostly downhill (until near the end) and our packs were somewhat lighter, we took our time hiking out and arrived back at the Cottonwood Lakes Trailhead parking lot just before noon, having completed a hike of 6.4 miles w/260' of elevation gain (and over 1,200' of elevation loss). We soon headed home for a shower, a good meal, and a good night's sleep in a comfortable bed with wonderful memories of a spectacular setting in the beautiful Sierra Nevada.

## **August 18th - Westward Beach to Paradise Cove**





# RSTB Calendar October



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>1</b> Mt. McCoy Trail <b>6PM</b> See Schedule	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Chumash Trail <b>6PM</b> See Schedule	<b>4</b>  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Marty Richards	<b>5</b> Zuma Ridge Trail to Edison Road * <b>8AM</b> See Schedule
<b>6</b> Rocky Peak Fire Road <b>5PM</b> See Schedule	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Mt. McCoy Trail <b>6PM</b> See Schedule	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Chumash Trail <b>6PM</b> See Schedule	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Long Canyon, Montgomery Canyon, Canyon View Trail loop <b>8AM</b> See Schedule  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Paul Friedeborn
<b>13</b> Rocky Peak Fire Road <b>5PM</b> See Schedule	<b>14</b>  COLUMBUS DAY	<b>15</b> Mt. McCoy Trail <b>6PM</b> See Schedule	<b>16</b> Club Meeting <b>7PM</b> See Schedule  <i>Everyone Welcome            to attend!</i>  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Mary Pratt	<b>17</b> Chumash Trail <b>6PM</b> See Schedule  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Kathleen Quinn	<b>18</b>  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Lesa Povinelli	<b>19</b> Work Party - Wild Animal Cor- ridor - Cache In Trash Out Event <b>8AM</b> See Schedule  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Steve Abernathy Tere Trabert
<b>20</b> Rocky Peak Fire Road <b>5PM</b> See Schedule	<b>21</b>  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Sarita Shoemaker	<b>22</b> Mt. McCoy Trail <b>6PM</b> See Schedule  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Margarita Marsh	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Chumash Trail <b>6PM</b> See Schedule	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> Mt. Islip from Islip Saddle * <b>8AM</b> See Schedule  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Lisa Klockenteger
<b>27</b> Rocky Peak Fire Road <b>5PM</b> See Schedule	<b>28</b>  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Mark Gilmore	<b>29</b>  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Tracy Frank	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> Chumash Trail <b>6PM</b> See Schedule  <i>Happy Halloween</i>		



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## REGULARLY SCHEDULED HIKES

*(Rain cancels – No hikes on holidays)*

### Sunday Evening - Rocky Peak Fire Road

Meet at **5PM** at the Rocky Peak Fire Road trailhead. 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.)

### Tuesday Evening - Mt. McCoy Trail

Meet at **6PM** in the parking lot, to the south of Donut Delite, located on the north east side of the intersection of Royal Avenue and Madera Road. (Moderate - 4.0 MRT - 675' elevation gain)

### Thursday Evening - The 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 end of Flanagan Drive. (Moderate to Strenuous - 5.4 MRT - 1,210' total elevation gain.)

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## OCTOBER HIKES AND ACTIVITIES

### October 5th

#### *Zuma Ridge Trail to Edison Road\**

7.6 MRT - Moderate to Strenuous (1,500' elevation gain)

Zuma Ridge Trail (also known as Zuma Ridge Motorway) is a wide dirt service road, which weaves northwest up the ridge west of Zuma Canyon. The hike starts at the base of the flood plain, but quickly leaves the shrubby canyon for grassy mountain slopes. The views improve as the trail climbs, offering several great lookouts over Zuma Beach, Point Dume, Malibu High School, and the ocean beyond. Meet at **8AM** near Donut Delite at the corner of Madera and Royal. Bring 2 to 3 quarts of water and lunch/snacks. Wear boots.

### October 12th

#### *Long Canyon, Montgomery Canyon, Canyon View Trail loop*

Meet at trailhead for Long Canyon Trail SW of intersection of Wood Ranch Parkway and Long Canyon Rd. at **8AM**. Hike is 8.1 miles with 1,430 feet elevation gained.

### October 16th

#### *Club Meeting*

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

### October 19th

#### *Work Party - Wild Animal Corridor - Cache In Trash Out Event*

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

**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 26th

#### *Mt. Islip from Islip Saddle\**

Meet near Donut Delight on north side of Madera Rd. just east of Madera Road at **8AM**.

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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
Treasurer:	Craig Malin		
Park District Liaison:	Colleen Janssen	WK (805) 584-4453	volunteers@rsrpd.us
Work Parties Chair:	<b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b>		<b>Contact Mike Kuhn at: 805-583-2345</b>
Hiking Chair:	Mark Gilmore	HM (805) 529-5581	markinthepark@sbcglobal.net
Vice Hiking Chair:	Les Wilson	HM (805) 522-2642	les.wilson@roadrunner.com
Website:	Mark Gilmore	HM (805) 529-5581	markinthepark@sbcglobal.net
Ways & Means Chair:	Marty Richards	HM (805) 526-4414	mlrrdh@yahoo.com
Publicity Chair:	<b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b>		<b>Contact Mike Kuhn at: 805-583-2345</b>
Newsletter Editor:	Linda Mann		linda.martins.mann@simitrailblazers.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 \_\_\_\_\_ 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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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 630445, Simi Valley, CA 93063-0399



U.S. Postage

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