



## Rancho Simi Trailblazers

*A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation*



Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District events can be viewed at [www.rsprd.org](http://www.rsprd.org)

~~ Welcome New Members Donna Mccarley and Rebecca Reed ~~

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Due to unforeseen circumstances, all activities are subject to change without notice. Please see <https://www.simitrailblazers.com/calendar/> for event details and the most up-to-date schedule.

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

#### **October 5, 2019 – Camp Three Falls to Lily Meadows\***

7.75 MRT – Moderate to Strenuous (1,350' elevation gain/loss)

Our hike will start at the entrance (~5,255') to the Boy Scouts of America's "Camp Three Falls" in the Lockwood Valley. We'll follow the dirt road to North Falls, a seasonal waterfall. The trail (22W02) then rises somewhat steeply along the stream in a narrow canyon as it begins climbing the forested southern slope of Sawmill Mountain eventually taking us to our turnaround point at lovely Lily Meadows (~6,500'). We'll return the way we came.

Meet at **7 AM** at the 118 & Stearns St. Park & Ride. Bring your camera, water and lunch. Wear boots.

#### **October 12, 2019 – Work Party - Wild Animal Corridor - Cache In Trash Out Event**

Meeting time is **8 AM**. The event will end at **11AM**. 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. 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 of 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 16, 2019**

**Club Meeting 5:30PM Park District: 4201 Guardian Street, Activity Room #2**

Everyone is welcome to attend.

#### **October 19, 2019 – Newton Canyon and the Backbone Trail\***

7 MRT – Moderate (1,500' elevation gain/loss)

NOTE: The Woolsey Fire (11/2018) severely burned Newton Canyon and that section of the Backbone Trail. Therefore, the parts of the following description that refer to "heavily forested" and "shady" almost certainly no longer apply. This hike begins at the point that the Backbone Trail crosses Kanan-Dume Road. The pleasant, heavily forested, and mostly shady Newton Canyon trail winds eastward to Latigo Canyon Road. It starts uphill so that it can cross Tunnel #1 on Kanan-Dume Road; it gradually descends into Newton Canyon and then rises via a series of switchbacks to Latigo Canyon Road. Our hike will then cross the road as the trail again descends into the shady canyon; the turnaround point will be where the trail begins rising steeply in the direct sunlight toward the north end of Corral Canyon Road.

Meet at **8 AM** 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. Bring 2 to 3 quarts of water, lunch and sunscreen. Wear boots.

#### **October 26, 2019 – Danielson Ranch\***

6.3 mile loop – Moderate (1,300' of elevation gain/loss)



Our hike in the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area (SMMNRA) will begin by following the Wendy Trail in Newbury Park to the Satwiwa Native American Indian Culture Center at Rancho Sierra Vista. Then we'll drop into Big Sycamore Canyon and take the Fossil Trail uphill to the Old Boney Trail which we'll follow to the abandoned Danielson Road which will lead us to the Danielson Memorial and the remains of a cabin.

## October 26, 2019 – Danielson Ranch\*(continued)

As we complete our loop hike we'll stop at a waterfall along the way.

Meet at **8 AM** 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. Bring 2 to 3 quarts of water, lunch and sunscreen. Wear boots. **No dogs allowed.**

## HIKE REPORTS

### August 31, 2019 – San Buenaventura State Beach

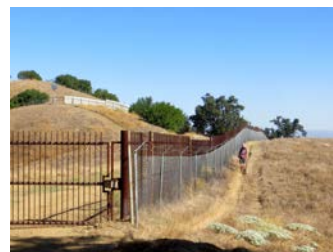


10 hikers traveled to the Greenock Lane "entrance" to San Buenaventura State Beach in Ventura on a pleasant somewhat foggy summer morning [Note: Greenock Lane is on the west side of Marina Park; parking is free]. As we began our out-and-back hike along the beach it was nearly deserted, making our walk along the shore easy to enjoy as we watched ocean breakers and various birds searching for food near the water.

We passed lots of homes set back a reasonable distance from the shore and a series of four rock groins ["a rigid hydraulic structure built from an ocean shore that interrupts water flow and limits the movement of sediment"] that extend offshore to protect the beach from erosion as we drew closer to the Ventura Pier.

Since the "beach" had turned mostly to rocks by then we moved onto the paved walking and bicycling path for the remainder of the "out" portion of our hike. Continuing we passed under the Ventura Pier, walked through Promenade Park, passed by Surfers Point at Seaside Park (there were a couple dozen surfers in the water), and hiked beside the Ventura River Estuary (where the river flows into the ocean), passing by the Ventura County Fairgrounds as we did so [Note: There were no "deep-fried" goodies to be had there on this day]. Turning around we hiked back to the Ventura Pier and then climbed up the stairs to the pier and hiked to its far end. There were several fishermen on the pier; unfortunately the marine layer over the ocean had not improved, so visibility from the pier was poor. Regrouping we retraced our route to our vehicles and returned home having completed a 7.1-mile hike with about 120' of elevation gain/loss [Note: By the time we turned around there were a lot more people along our way].

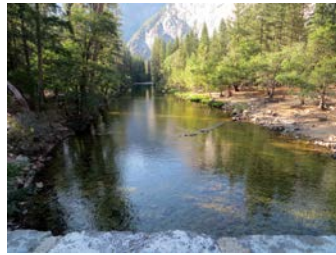
### September 7, 2019 – East Canyon to Mission Point



16 hikers met at the trailhead in the "East Canyon, Rice Canyon and Michael D. Antonovich Open Space" section of the 4,000-acre Santa Clarita Woodlands Park via Interstate 5 and "The Old Road" in Santa Clarita. It was pleasantly cool as we began hiking southward along the non-maintained and somewhat-eroded East Canyon Motorway as it followed the small (dry) creek in the canyon bottom. The route was lined with bay laurel, black walnut, cottonwood, sycamore and oak trees.

Soon the dirt road began rising more steeply along the western side of a wooded ridge adorned with a few blooming cliff asters and lots of healthy black walnut trees. We enjoyed views of the steep slopes to the west and relics of the bigcone Douglas-fir trees that once covered the mountain [several of the trees appear to have died as a result of the ongoing drought]. An intermittent breeze cooled us as the road led us upward to a junction with Bridge Road (and the Oat Mountain Motorway) which is blocked by a SoCal Gas fence and gate. Having reached the highest point in our hike, we headed southeast along the pleasant Corral Sunshine Motorway to Mission Point which provided a fairly smoggy panoramic view of the San Fernando Valley and beyond. After resting/snacking, we retraced our now warmer (but mostly downhill) route to the trailhead and returned home having completed a 9.3-mile hike with about 1,750' of elevation gain/loss on a nicer-than-expected day for mountain hiking (we also took advantage of the recurring patches/stretches of shade).

## September 9-15, 2019 – Yosemite National Park



**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2019** — Arrival and Mirror Lake (4,094') Loop — 11 Rancho Simi Trailblazers gathered at the Upper Pines Campground (4,000') in Yosemite Valley in western Yosemite National Park for several days of camping and hiking in one of the most beautiful areas in the world (a 12th hiker joined us on Wednesday). After setting up camp at the base of Half Dome, we hiked over to the Mirror Lake Loop trailhead and then hiked the easy loop trail as it followed the Tenaya Creek up Tenaya Canyon.

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2019** — Upper Yosemite Fall from Yosemite Valley (4,000') to Yosemite Falls Overlook (6,526') — Seven hikers took the shuttle bus from the campground to Yosemite Falls. We hiked a short distance to the trailhead and began our mostly upward climb. We reached a great viewpoint at Columbia Rock after a mile. The views from the trail, particularly when we reached the top, were awesome (Half Dome, Mount Clark, Sentinel Rock, et al.), making the tortuous ascent well worth the effort.

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2019** — Yosemite Valley Floor Loop: Lower Yosemite Fall to Curry Village — We took the shuttle bus again to the Yosemite Falls stop, but this time visited the Lower Fall and then began hiking the Yosemite Valley Floor Loop Trail. The trail followed the Merced River for quite a while and we took a lunch/rest break at a sandy beach along the river. There were views of Yosemite Falls, El Capitan, Sentinel Rock, Cathedral Rocks and, as we neared Curry Village, we toured LeConte Memorial Lodge (aka Yosemite Conservation Heritage Center).

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2019** — Happy Isles TH (4,035') to the Backpackers Campground in Little Yosemite Valley (6,100') via the Mist Trail, returning via the John Muir Trail — We hiked from our campground to Happy Isles and began the climb toward Nevada Fall on another pleasant morning. When we reached a fork in the trail we "stayed left" and began hiking the strenuous Mist Trail which led us up to Vernal Fall and then on up to Nevada Fall.

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2019** — Glacier Point (7,214') to Sentinel Dome (8,122') to Taft Point (7,503') and back — We took a one hour carpool ride to Glacier Point. Once there we enjoyed the spectacular views of Yosemite Falls, North Dome, Half Dome, Yosemite Valley, Tenaya Canyon, Vernal Fall and Nevada Fall as well as lots of distant mountain tops. We then followed the Pohono Trail to Sentinel Dome and then on to Taft Point and the nearby Fissures and Profile Cliff.

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2019** — Strike camp and drive home (300+ miles) — We had a wonderful time in Yosemite Valley. The weather was perfect, the temperatures were mostly pleasant, the scenery was magnificent, and the company was congenial. Note: Two of the participants left on Sunday.

The **TOTAL DISTANCE** hiked as described above was 49.5 MILES with 8,313' of elevation gain/loss.

## September 21, 2019 – Wildwood Park Loop



7 hikers arrived in the main parking lot in Wildwood Park at the west end of Avenida de los Arboles in Thousand Oaks on a cool late-summer morning [3 other hikers who arrived a bit late joined us near Lizard Rock for a total of 10 hikers]. After taking a group photo, we began our counterclockwise loop hike by heading west on the Mesa Trail as we enjoyed the company of good friends.

We soon turned left, hiked a short distance south on the Tepee Trail, and then took the Stagecoach Bluffs Trail westward which provided views down into Wildwood Canyon as we hiked past lots of prickly pear cacti; we also spotted several "conejos" (rabbits) for which the Conejo Valley is named. Upon rejoining the Mesa Trail, we took a relatively new, unnamed trail along the north side of the ridge that contains Lizard Rock; this provided us with views of Santa Rosa Valley. We then followed another unnamed trail as it climbed steeply up to Lizard Rock.

After the three late-arriving hikers joined us just below Lizard Rock, we followed the Lizard Rock Trail down into Hill Canyon and soon headed eastward into heavily shaded Wildwood Canyon. We headed upstream to a large shady picnic area where we took a rest/snack/bathroom break. We then crossed the flowing water several times before reaching Paradise Falls where we enjoyed looking at and listening to the waterfall. Continuing on up the Wildwood Canyon Trail, we spotted several dozen mallard ducks in the stream above the waterfall. Eventually we reached the always pleasant Indian Creek Trail and followed it up to an unnamed trail that led us back to our vehicles, thus completing a 5.4-mile hike with 950' of elevation gain/loss while "beating the heat." We also spotted lots of Cattails and blooming Dudleya "Live Forever" chalk plants during the hike.

## CASTAC VALLEY AND LAKE

Southeast of the historic Fort Tejon is Castac Lake. Both Fort Tejon and Castac Lake are located in Castac Valley. The names "Castac" and "Castaic" derive from the name of the Chumash Indian village of *kastiq*. That village was located adjacent to the present lake. The name means "the eye, the face," or more specifically, it derives from *ka-s-tiq*, which means "it is its eye, face." When first encountered by the Spanish, the current lake basin was a salt-grass flat. Since that time the Tejon Ranch operation has maintained a lake in the basin. The trail to the village of *kastiq* from the south was called the *kastiq* trail. As a result, the name became displaced to the southern end of the trail – to the Castaic area. So Castac derives its name from the name of the Chumash Indian village, and Castaic derive its names from that of the trail to the village. (The source for the meaning of the name *kastiq* comes from Applegate [1974], pages 196 and 203.)

Mike Kuhn  
10-15-10 (revised)

## 1893 NEWSPAPER REPORT

An 1893 newspaper report points out the dire need for improved transportation routes in and out of Simi Valley. The report is included in *Simi Valley: A Journey Through Time* (1997), page 391. As reported: "Simi Valley citizens want a safe outlet. Last Saturday F. J. Fitzgerald and George Wood started to Fernando with four horses and a light wagon. (There was a) runaway and smashup near the hotel but they patched matters up and proceeded towards the beautiful hill that is a credit to both counties...They got over and back as far as the hill and owing to getting stuck in one of the holes, some of which are 3 and 4 feet deep, they were compelled to camp...Four horses could not get them out. C. B. McCoy played the Good Samaritan...It is almost impossible for a Simi person to get out of this valley either by the River or the Santa Susana Pass and we think the time is ripe for something to be done. This portion of the county is filling up rapidly. We expect to poll 100 votes next election, and we are entitled to a little consideration."

In 1893, outside of cities, government was not in the road business. That was one reason for the early success of the railroads. But Simi had neither. By 1899, both Los Angeles and Ventura counties had invested in road improvements over the pass. Devil's Slide, on the Los Angeles County side, was abandoned and a new route was built on the Ventura County side.

Mike Kuhn  
12-23-04

## REGULARLY SCHEDULED HIKES

*(Red Flag Warnings and Rain cancels the hike – No hikes on holidays)*

### Sunday Evening - Rocky Peak Fire Road

During Daylight Savings Time meet at **5PM** and during Standard Time meet at **4PM** at the Rocky Peak Fire Road trailhead on the northern side of the Rocky Peak exit from State Route 118. 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

During Daylight Savings Time meet at **6PM** in the parking lot, located to the south of Donut Delite, near the NE corner of Madera and Royal. There is no hike during Standard Time.  
(Moderate - 3.07 MRT - 600' elevation gain)

### Thursday Evening - 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 north end of Flanagan Drive.  
(Moderate to Strenuous - 5.4 MRT - 1300' total elevation gain.)

Due to unforeseen circumstances, all activities are subject to change without notice.  
Please see <https://www.simitrailblazers.com/calendar/> for event details and the most up-to-date schedule.



## RSTB Calendar October 2019




Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Mt. McCoy Trail 6PM See Schedule  Happy Birthday Deidre Roberts	2	3 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule	4  Happy Birthday Marty Richards	5 Camp Three Falls to Lily Meadows* 7AM See Upcoming Events
6 Rocky Peak Fire Road 5PM See Schedule	7	8 Mt. McCoy Trail 6PM See Schedule	9	10 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule	11	12 Work Party - Wild Animal Corridor - Cache In Trash Out 8-11AM See Upcoming Events
13 Rocky Peak Fire Road 5PM See Schedule	14	15 Mt. McCoy Trail 6PM See Schedule	16 Club Meeting 5:30PM	17 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule  Happy Birthday Kathy Quinn	18	19 Newton Canyon and the Backbone Trail* 8AM See Upcoming Events
20 Rocky Peak Fire Road 5PM See Schedule	21	22 Mt. McCoy Trail 6PM See Schedule  Happy Birthday Margarita Marsh	23	24 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule	25	26 Danielson Ranch*  8AM See Upcoming Events  Happy Birthday Lisa Klockenteger Yasa Rasakhoo
27 Rocky Peak Fire Road 5PM See Schedule	28 National Chocolate Day  Happy Birthday Mark Gilmore	29 Mt. McCoy Trail 6PM See Schedule	30	31 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule  Halloween		

**SANTA ANA WILDFIRE THREAT INDEX** - Provides a 6 day forecast of Santa Ana Winds Wildfire Threats on a color coded map  
<http://psgeodata.fs.fed.us/sawti/>

**CALIFORNIA FIRE WEATHER MAP** - Provides actual Red Flag Warnings and Fire Weather Watches  
[http://www.fire.ca.gov/communications/communications\\_firesafety\\_redflagwarning.php](http://www.fire.ca.gov/communications/communications_firesafety_redflagwarning.php) (Scroll down to map)

\* 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.

**Full descriptions of these hikes and activities are available at** <https://www.simitrailblazers.com/calendar/>



\_\_\_\_\_ **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 \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Family memberships: Please list names and birthdays of additional family members (Month & Day Only)

Phone (provide up to two numbers): work/home/cell \_\_\_\_\_

*Newsletters are distributed by email only. Contact the Membership Chair if you require a copy by US mail.*

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

How did you find out about the RSTB? \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make out tax deductible member donation check for the year to:  
Rancho Simi Foundation** and mail it to **RSTB, P.O. Box 1231, Simi Valley, CA 93062**

<b>Rancho Simi Trailblazers</b>			
<i>A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation</i>			
Executive Chair:	Mike Kuhn	HM (805) 583-2345	<a href="mailto:mike.kuhn@simitrailblazers.com">mike.kuhn@simitrailblazers.com</a>
Treasurer:	Santiago Homsí		
Park District Liaison:	Jeannie Liss	WK (805) 584-4453	<a href="mailto:volunteers@rsrpd.us">volunteers@rsrpd.us</a>
Work Parties Chair:	<b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b>		<b>Contact Mike Kuhn at: 805-583-2345</b>
Hiking Chair:	Mark Gilmore	HM (805) 990-1460	<a href="mailto:markinthepark@simitrailblazers.com">markinthepark@simitrailblazers.com</a>
Vice Hiking Chair:	Les Wilson	HM (805) 522-2642	<a href="mailto:les.wilson@simitrailblazers.com">les.wilson@simitrailblazers.com</a>
Website:	Mark Gilmore	HM (805) 990-1460	<a href="mailto:markinthepark@simitrailblazers.com">markinthepark@simitrailblazers.com</a>
Ways & Means Chair:	Marty Richards	HM (805) 526-4414	<a href="mailto:marty.richards@simitrailblazers.com">marty.richards@simitrailblazers.com</a>
Membership Chair:	Louise Pomes		<a href="mailto:louise.pomes@simitrailblazers.com">louise.pomes@simitrailblazers.com</a>
Publicity Chair:	<b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b>		<b>Contact Mike Kuhn at: 805-583-2345</b>
Newsletter Editor:	Louise Pomes		<a href="mailto:louise.pomes@simitrailblazers.com">louise.pomes@simitrailblazers.com</a>