



Rancho Simi Trailblazers

A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation



Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District events can be viewed at www.rsrpd.org

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### 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.



The RANCHO SIMI TRAIL BLAZERS are looking for leaders for public hikes! If interested, please contact Michael Kuhn at [mike.kuhn@simitrailblazers.com](mailto:mike.kuhn@simitrailblazers.com). Applicants must be evaluated by the board and would be subject to the park district's standard background check.



#### **October 2, 2021 — Simi Peak from King Jame's Court via China Flat 8AM**

6.3 MRT – Moderate to Strenuous (1,500' of elevation gain/loss)

Our hike in the Simi Hills will begin along a single-track trail, but will soon continue on an old dirt and rock road as it rises up the south side of the mountain, providing ever-expanding views to the south. Upon reaching the apex of the old road, we'll descend into lovely China Flat with its oak trees and sprawling grassy meadows. Then we'll follow a trail that leads up to Simi Peak (2,403'), the highest point in the Simi Hills, where we'll have a panoramic view of the surrounding area.

**DIRECTIONS TO TRAILHEAD:** Head west (toward Moorpark) on Highway 118 and continue on the same road as its name changes to Highway 23 when it curves to the south (toward Thousand Oaks). Upon reaching the junction of Highway 23 and Highway 101, head "south" (toward Los Angeles) on Highway 101. Drive 3.75 miles "south" (toward L.A.) on Highway 101 to the Lindero Canyon Road exit. Turn left (north) on Lindero Canyon Road and then drive 3.8 miles north/east to King James Court (on your left). Drive past King James Court 0.1 mile to Wembly Avenue (on your left). Turn around and park on the north side of Lindero Canyon Road. Bring your camera, water and lunch. Wear boots.

#### **October 9, 2021 — Conejo Mountain 8AM**

6.0 MRT – Moderate to Strenuous (1,600' of elevation gain/loss)

Our hike will begin in Newbury Park from the Via Ricardo trailhead as we follow the Powerline Trail up to the Edison Road which we'll follow northward to a spur road which will then take us up to a pair of transmission towers on Conejo Mountain. The landscape up to this point is littered with volcanic detritus and there are nice views along the way. Next we'll follow a "use" trail as it climbs steeply to the west, eventually taking us to the Conejo Mountain "peak" where there are spectacular 360-degree views of both near and distant mountains, the Pacific Ocean and two Channel Islands and parts of several cities. **Hiking poles are strongly recommended.**

**DIRECTIONS TO TRAILHEAD:** In Simi Valley, take Highway 118 west to Highway 23; take Highway 23 south to Highway 101 in Thousand Oaks. Head west (toward Ventura) on Highway 101; drive 3.5 miles to the Borchard Road/Rancho Conejo Blvd exits. There are two exits; you should take the 2nd exit just AFTER you cross under the bridge over Hwy 101. Then turn right (southwest) on Borchard Road and drive 3.5 miles to its intersection with Via Ricardo. Turn right (northwest) on Via Ricardo and drive 0.5 mile to a signed crosswalk painted on Via Ricardo just west of Via Pisa. There's a "Powerline Trail" sign on the right side of the street marking the trailhead. Park on the right (north) side of Via Ricardo. Bring your camera, water and lunch. Wear boots.

#### **October 16, 2021 —Work Party China Flat 8AM**

The Trail Blazers October trail work party will be held Saturday October 16 on the China Flat Trail in Oak Park. Meet at the trailhead on Lindero Canyon Road between King James Court and Wembly Ave. at 8:00 AM. Bring 2 to 3 quarts of water, a snack, hat, sunscreen and gloves to work on the trail. Wear sturdy boots. Tools will be provided. As always, you are welcome to work for a shorter time period if you desire.

#### **October 20, 2021 – Club Meeting 7:30PM**

Park District Headquarters: 4201 Guardian Street, Recreation Conference Room - Everyone is welcome to attend. Masks are required.

### **October 23, 2021 – The Hummingbird Trail 8AM**

4.7 MRT – Moderate to Strenuous (1,250' of elevation gain/loss)

The Hummingbird Trail passes through (and on) a variety of imposing rock formations along the way up to the Rocky Peak Fire Road including very large boulders and giant slabs of sandstone rock, many with small “caves.” Once we reach the fire road we’ll have sweeping views of eastern Simi Valley, the Santa Susana Mountains and the Simi Hills (including the Boeing/Rocketdyne facility). We’ll return the way we came.

**DIRECTIONS TO TRAILHEAD:** Take Hwy 118 to the Kuehner Drive exit. Head north to the limited parking area at 2409 Kuehner Drive near the trailhead (just outside the gated entrance to Hummingbird Ranch). NOTE: Pay close attention to the no parking signs in the area. If there’s no room to park at the trailhead, you can also park in the small lot at the northwest intersection of Kuehner Drive and Mt. Sinai Drive, about halfway between the 118 freeway and the trailhead. Bring your camera, water and lunch. Wear boots.

### **October 30, 2021 – Las Lajas Trail to the Shovel 8AM**

6.3 MRT – Moderate (1,100' of elevation gain/loss)

Our hike will start at the Las Lajas Canyon trailhead on Evening Sky Drive. We will begin by descending a short paved section of road into the canyon bottom; from there we’ll follow a wide graded dirt road along a streambed north through the canyon, crossing the probably dry streambed three times. The steep canyon walls will provide shade as we enjoy an easy 1.9-mile trek up the canyon to its junction with an old mining road (now a single-track trail). We’ll follow the single-track trail as it climbs fairly steeply up to an abandoned coquina limestone strip-mine where some abandoned equipment remains and there are sweeping views of the Santa Susana Mountains nearby. We’ll return the way we came.

Click [here](#) to see a video of the hike.

**DIRECTIONS TO TRAILHEAD:** Take Hwy 118 to Yosemite Drive and head north. Drive 1.2 miles to the intersection with Evening Sky Drive and turn right. Drive 0.5 mile east on Evening Sky Drive and park on either side of the street at the Las Lajas Canyon trailhead. There’s a kiosk at the trailhead. Bring your camera, 2 to 3 qts water and trail snacks. Wear boots.

## **HIKE REPORTS**

### **August 21, 2021 – Devil Canyon**



11 hikers met at the starting point of the hike on Poema Place in Chatsworth on a cool overcast summer morning. Our hike began as we descended into the heavily shaded bottom of Devil Canyon where we followed the remnants of the Devil Canyon Motorway upstream as it frequently crisscrossed the presently dry creek bed. We spotted a few blooming datura (aka jimson weed) plants, a blooming dudleya “liveforever” chalk plant, and a couple of other types of blooming plants as we made our way up to the large check dam at the junction with the mouth of Ybarra Canyon (which extends north to the Regional Park at Joughin Ranch). This first part of our hike led through a mostly heavily shaded environment bordered with interesting rock formations.

After a brief rest break near the dam, we continued on upstream along the Devil Canyon trail as the canyon widened and we passed by grass-covered hillsides dotted with oak trees. We eventually reached our predetermined turnaround point where there is a very large pile of firewood [cut from oak trees damaged by wildfire some years ago] piled on the right (northeast) side of the trail. After another rest break we returned the way we came, except for our final climb out of the canyon. One of our hikers was familiar with a fairly recent signed section of the Santa Susana Pass Trail which includes a man-made staircase leading up out of the canyon so we followed it [Note: The lowest stair is several feet above the ground at the foot of the staircase which could be problematic for some hikers]. We returned to our vehicles having completed a very pleasant 6-mile (round trip) hike in this unique canyon with about 600' of elevation gain/loss. Although it was a Saturday, we encountered no other hikers and only a handful of bicyclists.

## August 28, 2021 – Chivo Canyon Loop



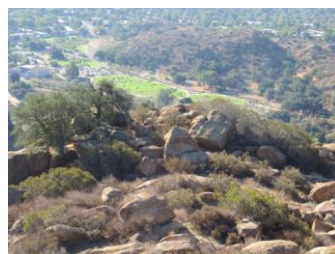
15 hikers met at 7:00 AM at the “trailhead” on Cottonwood Drive in the Wild Horse Canyon development on a pleasant late summer morning lollipop-loop hike. After we “dropped” into Chivo (goat) Canyon, we hiked northward along a single-track “use” trail and then the old Chivo Canyon (dirt) Road to its junction with the Buckhorn Trail (named by Joe Beautz after finding a set of deer antlers), passing a couple of large oil seeps and a bee apiary along the way. The impact of the ongoing drought was obvious in the canyon bottom and its sides as nearly everything was “dry as a bone.” We decided not to continue up the canyon to its “Narrows”; instead we followed the Buckhorn Trail up to the Marr Ranch Road atop the eastern ridge of Chivo Canyon where we had views of the surrounding mountains and canyons. We then headed south along the Marr Ranch Road to its junction (“Four Points”) with the Cappocchi Trail (also named by Joe Beautz after a spray painting on a rusty water tank) which connects with the Chivo Canyon Road/trail below. This connector trail was somewhat overgrown. After descending into Chivo Canyon once more we returned southward to where our hike started. The morning had warmed up quite a bit by the time we completed our 5-mile hike with about 950’ of elevation gain/loss. We spotted several rabbits and lizards during the hike as well as a few blooming plants such as datura (Jimson weed) and tree tobacco.

## September 4, 2021 – The Chumash Trail to Rocky Peak Fire Road



14 hikers met at 7:00 AM at the Chumash Trail trailhead at the northeast end of Flanagan Drive in Simi Valley on a cool morning that promised to heat up considerably within three hours. We hiked steadily up the trail as it rose through a rocky landscape until we reached the Rocky Peak Fire Road (our turnaround point). We were grateful that we were not in the direct sunlight during most of our ascent. Part way up the trail we spotted a doe (deer) grazing on the sparse ground near the trail; it “posed” for us as we took photos of it and then went back to its grazing. After resting for a while at the turnaround point, we returned the way we came, again “beating the heat,” as we completed a nice 5.7-mile hike with an elevation gain/loss of around 1,250’. We encountered quite a few other hikers and bicyclists. Almost nothing was blooming; the landscape was “bone dry” due to the ongoing drought.

## September 11, 2021 – Corriganville to Santa Susana Pass Loop



18 hikers met at 7:00 AM at Corriganville Park at the east end of Simi Valley on a cool late summer morning. We began our hike along the primary north-south dirt road in Corriganville. After passing Camp Rotary we followed a single-track trail as it snaked uphill to the east. When we reached the junction with the trail leading on up to the wildlife tunnel under Hwy 118, we turned right (south) instead and followed the Simi Valley portion of the old Stagecoach Trail until we reached the Santa Susana Pass Road opposite the north end of Lilac Lane. We then followed Lilac Lane to the Stagecoach Trail kiosk in the dirt parking area at the upper end of the Chatsworth portion of the Stagecoach Trail in the Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park (SHP).

From there we followed the Mattingly Trail northeast to an overlook of Chatsworth Park South (and points south and east) where we took a short break to enjoy looking at the landscape; visibility was fairly good. As we headed northward to Five Points we passed two archers practicing shooting at a target. Upon reaching Five Points and the Mattingly Trail we followed it eastward to the Williams Trail where we stopped to look at what appeared to be the setting-up of a movie set immediately to the east on a large flat barren dirt area.



## September 11, 2021 – Corriganville to Santa Susana Pass Loop (Continued)

We then followed the Williams Trail northeast to El Camino Nuevo and the Spahn Ranch. Little is left of the ranch, so after a short look at it, we continued westward to its junction with the Sanchez Trail and then onward to the Santa Susana Pass Road. We followed the road to its junction with Lilac Lane (across the road). We turned right onto the Simi Valley portion of the old Stagecoach Trail and followed it back to Corriganville Park, encountering a languid gopher snake along the way (there's a photo of it). We then followed the shaded main Corriganville trail back to our vehicles, thus completing a nice 6-mile hike with an elevation gain/loss of 1,175'.

## September 18, 2021 – Alamos Canyon Loop



10 hikers gathered in the Simi Valley Sanitation parking lot at 600 W. Los Angeles Avenue (as previously arranged) on a pleasantly cool late-summer morning. Since there was a bi-monthly household hazardous waste drop-off service simultaneously underway, we quickly drove over to the true trailhead of the Alamos Canyon Trail in the nearby Oak Park County Park. After paying the \$5.00 parking fee we parked at the signed trailhead. We began our hike along the fairly new connector trail connecting the true trailhead to the Alamos Canyon Road which we followed uphill and then under Hwy 118. We soon reached the official signed entrance to the Alamos Canyon Open Space where took a short break. We continued north/northeastward along the Alamos Canyon dirt road until we encountered a broken sprinkler that was spraying water fairly high in the air and not much other than the bare ground was being watered [this was reported after the hike]. Visibility was pretty good except for long-distance photos. Our route soon curved uphill to the west where we reached a trail (dirt road) junction.

Since visibility atop the central ridge trail appeared to be poor, we continued as the trail curved to the south. Despite the ongoing drought, the foliage (with lots of healthy-looking oak trees) along the east side of the road as we headed south was quite pleasant to look at. Eventually the trail (dirt road) curved to the east and delivered us back to its junction with Alamos Canyon Road (thus completing a loop). We then retraced the route that we came in on and reached our vehicles having completed a 6-mile hike with a little over 600' of elevation gain/loss on a very nice day for hiking. We spotted several rabbits and lots of crows during the hike, but no other hikers and only one bicyclist (near the end of the hike).

### REGULARLY SCHEDULED HIKES

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

#### **On Hiatus - Need Hike Leader - 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 the 118 Freeway. 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 - 4.95 MRT - 1,325' 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)

#### **On Hiatus - Need Hike Leader - Thursday Evening - Chumash Trail**

During Daylight Savings Time 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.

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | <h2 style="text-align: center;">RSTB Calendar<br/>October 2021</h2> |                                                                                                          |                                                     |                                          |                                             |  |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sun                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Mon                                                                 | Tue                                                                                                      | Wed                                                 | Thu                                      | Fri                                         | Sat                                                                                 |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                     |                                                                                                          |                                                     |                                          | 1                                           | 2<br>Simi Peak<br>8AM<br>See Upcoming Events                                        |
| 3                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 4<br><br>Happy Birthday<br>Marty Richards<br>Shayla Harper          | 5<br>Mt. McCoy Trail<br>6PM<br>See Schedule<br><br>Happy Birthday<br>Ingrid Armstrong                    | 6                                                   | 7                                        | 8                                           | 9<br>Conejo Mountain<br>8AM<br>See Upcoming Events                                  |
| 10<br><br>Happy Birthday<br>Shannon Espinoza                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | 11                                                                  | 12<br>Mt. McCoy Trail<br>6PM<br>See Schedule                                                             | 13                                                  | 14                                       | 15                                          | 16<br>Work Party<br>China Flat<br>8AM<br>See Upcoming Events                        |
| 17<br><br>Happy Birthday<br>Jonene Barbosa                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 18                                                                  | 19<br>Mt. McCoy Trail<br>6PM<br>See Schedule                                                             | 20<br>Club Meeting<br>7:30PM<br>See Upcoming Events | 21                                       | 22<br><br>Happy Birthday<br>Margarita Marsh | 23<br>Hummingbird Trail<br>8AM<br>See Upcoming Events                               |
| 24                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 25                                                                  | 26<br>Mt. McCoy Trail<br>6PM<br>See Schedule<br><br>Happy Birthday<br>Lisa Klockenteger<br>Yasa Rasakhoo | 27                                                  | 28<br><br>Happy Birthday<br>Mark Gilmore | 29                                          | 30<br>Las Lajas Trail to the Shovel<br>8AM<br>See Upcoming Events                   |
| 31<br>Halloween                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                     |                                                                                                          |                                                     |                                          |                                             |                                                                                     |
| <p><b>SANTA ANA WILDFIRE THREAT INDEX</b> - Provides a 6 day forecast of Santa Ana Winds Wildfire Threats on a color coded map<br/> <a href="https://fsapps.nwcg.gov/psp/sawti/">https://fsapps.nwcg.gov/psp/sawti/</a></p> <p><b>CALIFORNIA FIRE WEATHER MAP</b> - Provides actual Red Flag Warnings and Fire Weather Watches<br/> <a href="https://www.fire.ca.gov/programs/communications/red-flag-warnings-fire-weather-watches/">https://www.fire.ca.gov/programs/communications/red-flag-warnings-fire-weather-watches/</a> (Scroll down to map)</p> |                                                                     |                                                                                                          |                                                     |                                          |                                             |                                                                                     |

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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/>



## **Rancho Simi Trailblazers**

*A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation*

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|------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Executive Chair:       | Mike Kuhn               | HM (805) 583-2345 | <a href="mailto:mike.kuhn@simitrailblazers.com">mike.kuhn@simitrailblazers.com</a>           |
| Treasurer:             | To Be Announced         |                   |                                                                                              |
| Park District Liaison: | Nikki Collier           | WK (805) 584-4453 | <a href="mailto:volunteers@rsrpd.us">volunteers@rsrpd.us</a>                                 |
| Work Parties Chair:    | Martin DeGoey           | HM (805)583-3034  | <a href="mailto:martin.degoey@simitrailblazers.com">martin.degoey@simitrailblazers.com</a>   |
| 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>     |