



Rancho Simi Trail Blazers

A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation



HIKES CANCELLED DUE TO FIRES

PLEASE NOTE: ALL HIKES ARE CANCELLED FOR THE NEXT 2 WKS. THIS INCLUDES THE TUES, THURS, SAT & SUN HIKES. RSTB WILL MONITOR THE AIR QUALITY & DECIDE WHEN TO RESUME THE HIKING SCHEDULE. PLS. CHECK THE RSTB WEBSITE FOR THE LATEST UPDATES.



PROBABLE IMPACT OF GLOBAL WARMING ON CHAPARRAL

(taken from Ronald D. Quinn and Sterling C. Keely, *Introduction to California Chaparral*, U. C. Press (2006), pp. 278-279) The following excerpt from the obvious source is what noted experts on chaparral vegetation think will happen as a result of global warming to chaparral plant communities throughout the state. In their own words:

“The changes in global climate predicted by the overwhelming majority of scientists will surely alter the distribution and condition of chaparral, other ecosystems in California, and the economy and life of people everywhere. It is difficult to predict with accuracy the exact nature and magnitude of these changes, but a number of general trends seems clear. During this century California is expected to become somewhat drier, much hotter in summer, and warmer in winter. A greater fraction of precipitation will probably be delivered by intense winter storms. Extreme summer heat and aridity could foster more frequent

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
 on
November 21st, 2007

large and destructive chaparral wildfires. These fires could be followed by serious flooding if winter storms do indeed become more severe.

The combination of less precipitation and higher temperatures would favor the spread of drought-tolerant grasses, especially invasive alien species that carry frequent fires ... Under this scenario a large fraction of chaparral and other shrublands across the state would be converted to grass. There could be a general shift in the range of remaining chaparral to higher elevations, moving into mountainous areas now occupied by forests and woodlands. The assemblage of populations of plants and animals in chaparral and many other ecosystems would be disrupted and rearranged, because different species would have varying abilities and opportunities to migrate to new areas quickly. The complex mosaic of vegetation types that has remained relatively stable in California for thousands of years would be disrupted. Isolated patches of chaparral now containing narrow endemic species, such as maritime chaparral in the south and serpentine chaparral in central and northern California, could easily vanish because of the lack of a nearby suitable habitat. In general a minority of species of chaparral plants and animals that are most adaptable and mobile would be expected to become more numerous and widespread, while the majority of species less able to respond to rapid change could become less common or extinct.”

The affect of more frequent fires on crown-sprouting chaparral species will be their being eliminated from the local chaparral.

This effect, it seems to me, can already be observed on the northern side of the valley where the chaparral, especially where it interfaces with coastal sage scrub, has become thinner over the last several decades of brushfires reoccurring more frequently than every 20 years. One might have predicted that the lower edges of chaparral would be converted to coastal sage scrub, however, the coastal sage scrub also has been affected by more frequent fires. It seems that we have been too successful as a species.

Mike Kuhn 3/30/07



UPCOMING EVENTS

November 10th, 2007:
Montgomery Canyon
 Please see the website for more info.

November 17th, 2007: 8AM-Noon Work Party: Hummingbird Trail
 Please see the web site for more info.

November 24th, 2007:
Sulphur Mountain Please see the web site for more information.

More information on these events can be found at
<http://simitrailblazers.com>

To make reservations, please email Mark Gilmore at
markinthepark@sbcglobal.net

ANGLO-AMERICANS AND THE GRIZZLY

Once the Spanish had settled California, few new pioneer settlers came from Mexico. Those who came as the early settlers were a mixture of people of Spanish descent, former black slaves, *mestizos* and Indians from Mexico. Single men usually took local Indian wives. Approximately 146 foreign pioneers had come to California by 1830. By 1848 there were roughly 7,500 Californios, 6,500 foreigners and 3,000 to 4,000 “civilized” Indians in California. Following the discovery of gold at Sutter’s Mill in 1849 gold seekers flooded into California. The population of California increased to 92,597 in 1850, to 379,994 in 1860, and to 1,213,398 in 1890. Most of these newcomers came from the eastern half of the United States. The impact on the California grizzly bear proved devastating.

Most of the Anglo-American settlers landed in San Francisco and then made their way to the gold fields. Settlements, primarily Sacramento, flourished. Small settlements functioned as transportation hubs and others started as mining camps along “the Motherload”. Agricultural, grazing and lumber interests developed to provide the needs of the miners. Immediately the herds of cattle, mules and horses, along with sheep and goats, came to be in high demand. Prices for livestock skyrocketed. The ranchos flourish with revenues from the sales of livestock to miners. The wild herd were no longer a scourge, but became assets. No longer could the predation of grizzlies on livestock be ignored. Livestock was way too valuable.

As it happened, the gold fields lay in the heart of prime grizzly bear habitat. Grizzly bears and miners did not get along. The bears took livestock, raided tents and cabins and killed miners. The miners, who were much better armed than the Mexican residents were, did not take well to their new neighbors. In addition, they liked bears! Bears were good! If you killed a grizzly, you ate well and could sell meat to hungry miners. The hunting of grizzlies became a new industry. Rancho owners often hired Anglo-American hunters to protect their herds by killing bears, and

killing grizzlies proved to be a more profitable venture for some miners than seeking gold. Beekeeping became a popular form of early agriculture. Honey was the only form of domestic sugar, and beeswax candles was far more clean-burning and smelled better than candles made from tallow. But guess what – grizzly bears favored those honey filled apiaries too. They could raid them during the night, and there was little the average farmer could do about it – other than eliminating bears. There is one description from what is now Ventura County about grizzlies taking down telegraph poles and lines, presumably because of the buzzing they heard coming from the tops of the poles. Once crop production was underway, bears took quickly to their own form of crop harvest. Grain crops were devastated. Grapes were stripped from vines as well as fruit from trees.

Grizzly bears quickly were eliminated from the gold fields and farming areas. Eventually, no place was safe for them. Northern Ventura and Santa Barbara counties as well as the San Gabriel and San Bernardino mountains were among the last havens for the great bears. They were taken by firearms, in wooden and iron traps, by whale guns, and by poisoned bait, including honey. Tracy Storer and Lloyd Tevis, Jr., in *California Grizzly* (1983), pp. 291-292, attempt to identify for many California counties the last clear recording of grizzly bears. Most counties seem to have lost their last grizzly in the 1870s and 1880s. They list 1882 for Ventura County, 1912 for Santa Barbara County, 1903 for Orange County, 1908 for San Diego County, 1922 for Fresno County and 1924 (?) for Tulare County. Then there were none. The California grizzly has become an icon for our state – being featured on our state flag.

Mike Kuhn 9-15-07



KA? ALISAWKA? O

These Ventureno Chumash words mean “hot spring”, which was located on Sulphur Mountain.

Mike Kuhn 7/19/06

WORK PARTY NEWS

On October 20, John Sabol, Bill Cespedes and Mike Kuhn did trail maintenance on the upper third of the Chumash Trail. While there is a limit to what three people can accomplish, some potentially hazardous sections were improved. Thanks much!!



ON LINE MEMBER FORUM

The RSTB website now has a new and special feature: an on-line interactive Member Forum .

To access the Forum, go to <http://www.simitrailblazers.com> and click on Forum, found on the left-hand menu. The Simi Trailblazers Forum page will then open.

To use the Forum, you’ll first need to register (click on the Register icon). Once you’re logged in, you’ll have access to several great features, like on-line discussion groups and the Event Calendar. Other features include, sending private email to any other registered member and a Search feature to quickly find discussion topics.



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.





October 13th 2007 -
Carpinteria Bluffs



Nine of us hiked the Carpinteria Bluffs trail this morning. The previous day's brief rainstorm made for some dramatic cloud formations and treated us to a pristine and tranquil hike. Like Doug said, "Any beach hike is a good hike." All of us could not have agreed more.





RSTB Calendar November 2007



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	** PLANNED DATE FOR RESUMED HIKING; PLS. CHECK THE RSTB WEBSITE TO CONFIRM			1 NO HIKE DUE TO FIRES SEE PAGE ONE, COLUMN ONE	2	3 Mt. San Antonio Ski Hut CANCELLED SEE PAGE ONE, COLUMN ONE
4 Mt. San Antonio Ski Hut CANCELLED SEE PAGE ONE, COLUMN ONE	5	6 NO HIKE DUE TO FIRES SEE PAGE ONE, COLUMN ONE	7	8 NO HIKE DUE TO FIRES SEE PAGE ONE, COLUMN ONE	9	10 Montgomery** Canyon See Schedule
11 Rocky Peak 5pm hike See Schedule	12	13 Long Canyon 6:30pm hike See Schedule	14	15 Chumash Trail 6pm hike See Schedule	16	17 Work Party: Hummingbird Trail See Schedule
18 Rocky Peak 5pm hike See Schedule	19	20 Long Canyon 6:30pm hike See Schedule	21 RSTB Meeting See Page 1	22 Happy Thanksgiving!! (No Hike)	23	24 Sulphur Mountain See Schedule
25 Rocky Peak 5pm hike See Schedule	26	27 Long Canyon 6:30pm hike See Schedule	28	29 Chumash Trail 6pm hike See Schedule	30	



Rancho Simi Trail Blazers

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Hiking Schedule



REGULARLY SCHEDULED HIKES

(Rain cancels – No hikes on holidays)

*******CANCELLED DUE TO FIRES; PLS. SEE PAGE ONE, COLUMN ONE
& CHECK THE RSTB WEBSITE FOR FUTURE UPDATES*******

Sunday Evening - Rocky Peak

Meet 5pm 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 First Street 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)

NOVEMBER HIKES

November 3rd and 4th - Mt. San Antonio Ski Hut*



******CANCELLED DUE TO FIRES; SEE PAGE ONE******

6 MRT - Strenuous overnighiter. (2,200' elevation gain)

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 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. 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. All you need to bring is food, your sleeping bag, good boots and 2 to 3 quarts of water. We will cook our food on the hut's wood burning stove. Space is limited. The cost is \$10 if you are a Sierra Club Member, and \$15 for non-members. To reserve your place, email Mark at markinthepark@sbcglobal.net. Your reservation is confirmed once your payment is received. Pls. go to the RSTB website for more information about the Ski Hut's official web site. We'll meet at 8 AM, at the Stearns Street Park & Ride. We'll cancel if there is bad weather, so please be prepared for a substitute hike.

November 10th - Montgomery Canyon *****PLANNED TO RESUME HIKING; PLS. CHECK THE RSTB WEBSITE*****

Moderate 3 - 6 MRT Loop (500' - 1000' elevation gain)

This is the most recent *open space* aquisition of the Park District. 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, take 1st Street. South, which becomes Long Canyon Road at Challenger Park. Continue past Challenger Park, turn right at Vinyard Drive W (**not** Vinyard Drive E); and then park in the Old Windmill Park parking lot. See the RSTB website for some recent pictures of the Trail.

November 17th - Work Party - Hummingbird Trail

Meet at the Hummingbird trailhead. Bring 2 to 3 quarts of water, hat, sunscreen, and gloves to work on the trail.

November 24th - Sulphur Mountain*

6 - 10 MRT - Moderate to strenuous

This is a beautiful area in the mountains between Ventura and Ojai. Meet at 8 AM near Donut Delite at the corner of Madera and Royal. Wear boots, snack and 2 to 3 quarts of water.

** 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:	Linda Travis		lindactravis@sbcglobal.net

-----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 ____

Address _____

Email Address _____ Phone wk/hm _____

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

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



U.S. Postage

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