

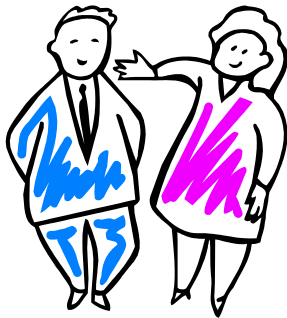


Rancho Simi Trail Blazers

A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation



Welcome New Members!



Robert Goodwin, Jr.

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 as follows:

- short sleeve \$12
- long sleeve \$14
- sweat shirt \$18



Please call Marty if you'd like to place an order: 805-526-4414

RSTB CLUB MEETING

This month's club meeting will be held at the Community Center, Room B-1 1692 Sycamore Drive, 7:00 PM November 18, 2009

Zion in September – Great Trip!

So many memories, so many photos! The trip was great fun and enjoyed by all who participated. Trailblazers spent over a week of fabulous hiking and being treated to panoramic views around every corner. If you weren't able to attend, be sure to visit the website for a look at the photos and to read the hike experiences. You can find the day-by-day accounts on the News page of the website at <http://simitrailblazers.com>.



To marvel at more pictures, go here: <http://simitrailblazers.com/pix/zion09>

UPCOMING EVENTS

Please visit the website for details on any of the following hikes and events.

November 7th Sandstone Hills Trail and Hillcrest Open Space Preserve

7.5 mile one-way shuttle - Moderate (1000' elevation gain total)

November 14th Sulphur Mountain Shuttle

10 mile one-way shuttle - Moderate (2,200' elevation loss)

November 18th Club Meeting

Not strenuous

November 21st Work Party - Chumash Trail

November 28th Wildwood Park: Santa Rosa Trail Loop and Paradise Falls Figure Eight Loop

5 MRT - Moderate (400' elevation gain) or 8 MRT - Moderate (800' elevation gain)

More information on these events can be found at

<http://simitrailblazers.com>

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

Daylight Savings Time Ends November 1st!

Remember to set your clocks back an hour, and enjoy that extra hour of sleep! Also, the Sunday hikes at Rocky Peak will now be at 4pm through the winter so we can take advantage of a little more daylight.



THE HIDDEN CHUMASH

For many decades there were few people who knew that one or more of their direct ancestors were Chumash Indians and even fewer people who would admit it. The Chumash hid from the rest of society and did their best to integrate into that society. Many groups did not have citizenship in our society and others were second class citizens. Indeed, the schools were segregated in Simi Valley until 1940. To be an American Indian in Anglo-American society was the lowest possible rung on the social ladder. In this day, when it is socially acceptable to acknowledge your American Indian ancestry, the legacy of the treatment of Indians until relatively recently has generally been forgotten by the Anglo-American society. The terms "half breed" and "quarter breed" have largely been forgotten, at least in this part of the country. As evidence of the treatment of the Chumash people I offer one story.

Juanita - she was quite well known in the Santa Barbara/Santa Ynez area before her death some years ago - told me that when she was a child, she thought she was a "Mexican." Then what her parents already knew, that is that they were part Chumash, became known in the Santa Ynez community. At that time, Juanita and her siblings attended the one room Santa Ynez School. When it was "discovered" that they were "Indians," they were no longer permitted to use the outhouse and could not drink out of the drinking fountain. They were to get any drinking water out of the horse trough. Once they turned 10 years of age, people, including a police officer, came from the Indian school in Riverside, California, and forcibly removed the child from their parents' home to be raised largely in that school. The curriculum at the school included

reading, writing, and arithmetic and, for girls, other classes were confined to things like sewing, cooking and domestic skills. Juanita was describing an experience from about 1920. The depth of the pain and anger was apparent in her voice.

Mike Kuhn
11-15-04



A SUDDEN STOP

Back in the late-1970s I was on a site inspection for the City of the then vacant property astride Katherine Road where it then curved south to cross the railroad tracks into the Susana Knolls. On the outside of the curve was a very large blue gum (*Eucalyptus globulus*) tree. Impaled in that tree was the hood ornament of a 1953 Ford - with new growth engulfing a portion of the ornament. I thought, about what a tragic accident must have occurred. Perhaps the accident had happened at night. Perhaps the driver had simply tried to take the corner too fast and had lost control. Perhaps alcohol had been involved. What was certain was that the tree had not yielded, while retaining the hood ornament as a trophy of that event.

Some years later, that tree was the first in Simi Valley, as far as we know, to succumb to the Eucalyptus longhorned borer, which had invaded southern California the year before from its home in Australia. The tree died and eventually was removed. Since then hundreds of blue gum trees have come to the same fate - none, however, with the hood ornament of a 1953 Ford impaled in it. The land itself has now been developed for homes. I will always remember that tree and its "trophy."

Mike Kuhn
10-27-04

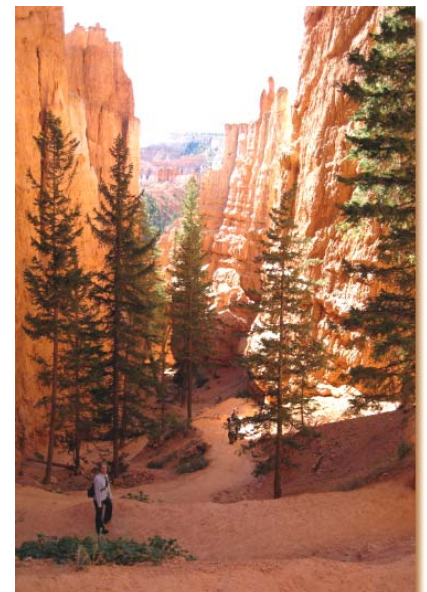


THE FIRST SOLDIERS IN CALIFORNIA

The first Spanish settlers of California were mostly soldiers. They were recruited primarily in Sinaloa. Minimum height for a soldier was five feet. Consequently, in 1790, the average height of soldiers in California was 5'1", with the tallest soldier being 5'6". No doubt their diminutive stature by today's standard reflected poor nutrition.

Military records include very detailed physical descriptions of each soldier. Height, weight, skin color, hair texture and color, scars, shape of the nose and any other distinguishing characteristics were recorded. While that kind of detail seems puzzling, there was no photography at the time, and the military needed that kind of information in the event of desertion.

Mike Kuhn
11-30-04



October 24th - Simi Peak (via Long Canyon trailhead)

Sixteen hikers (plus Heidi, a cute dog) met in the Long Canyon Trail parking lot (1,103') near the junction of Wood Ranch Parkway and Long Canyon Road on a



relatively cool morning. The hike began by climbing the moderately strenuous Long Canyon Trail to a ridge east of Simi Valley; along the way there were good views of the west end of Simi Valley and beyond, including the Bard Reservoir. The group continued eastward along a fire/ranch road to a partially shaded trail that led southward down to the Albertson Motorway, a wide, nicely graded dirt fire road that is roughly parallel to Hwy 118. We followed the motorway as it climbed steadily to the east, eventually reaching a junction with the primary north-south trail that runs through China Flat (~2,050'), a lovely grassy meadow that is dotted with oak trees. We followed a winding trail (the China Flat Loop Trail) to the south and west until its junction (2,148') with the Simi Peak Trail. We then began the final ascent along the fairly well-maintained trail to Simi Peak (2,403'), the highest point in the Simi Hills (which occupy the area between Simi Valley and Hwy 101 and between Hwy 23 and the San Fernando Valley). We rested atop the peak and enjoyed the panoramic view, including looking down at Oak Park to the south; the hikers who arrived at the peak first spotted a deer that bounded away through the brush. After a while we returned to the Long Canyon Trail parking lot, deviating slightly from our earlier route.. Reaching the parking lot, we had completed a 10-mile hike with 1,911' of elevation gain.

October 17th - Wildlife Corridor in Corriganville

And now for something completely different... Instead of a trail maintenance project, the Trailblazers participated in a joint effort with the geocaching community. The idea to have this event was the brain-child of a local 13 year old Valley View middle-school student. We painted over the graffiti and cleaned up the trash at the Wildlife Corridor above Corriganville. There was a total of 29 people in attendance: 8 Trailblazers and 21 geocachers. With that many able-bodied workers, the whole effort took just over an hour. Since the event was so successful, the Rancho Simi Recreation and Parks

District asked us to do it again next year. Everyone in attendance agreed it was a whole lot of fun and a definite for next year.



October 10th 2009 - Serrano Canyon

Eleven hikers met at the Madera Road carpool point on a slightly chilly morning and then drove to the Big Sycamore Campground parking lot in Point Mugu State Park. The hike began by our walking north on Sycamore Canyon Road which is paved in the campground, but soon becomes a dirt road. After walking a little over a mile, we reached the trailhead for Serrano Canyon on the right. Our hike immediately improved dramatically as the trail headed eastward upstream for 1.7 miles through the shady wooded canyon. We emerged from the canyon into lovely Serrano Valley which is ringed on all sides by mountains; it consists mainly of large meadows covered by wild grasses and dotted with a few trees and some bushes along the seasonal streams. There we began hiking the Serrano Valley Loop in a clockwise direction, stopping briefly to examine ranch artifacts such as an old water pump, an old abandoned car frame, and an old horse watering trough. The west side of the loop climbed part way up the mountain to a fork in the trail. We took the fork to the right and followed the trail as it climbed into the foothills along the north side of the loop [the left fork would have taken us to the Old Boney Trail]; it provided great views of the towering mountains to the northeast. Soon the trail began descending along the east side of the loop affording us with excellent views of the western part of Serrano Valley and the mountains to the south. We completed the 2.6-mile loop, rested briefly, and then descended through pleasantly cool Serrano Canyon to Big Sycamore Canyon where there were surprisingly few bicycle riders and virtually no other hikers. After a brief lunch break, we returned downstream to the campground parking lot, said our goodbyes to our friends, and returned to Simi Valley having completed an 8.8-mile "lollipop loop" hike with 950' of elevation gain on a good day for hiking.



RSTB Calendar November 2009



| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|---|--|--|---|---|---|
| 1 Daylight Savings Time Ends! Rocky Peak 4pm hike See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Mary Martin | 2 | 3 Long Canyon 6:30pm hike See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Don Hunt | 4 | 5 Chumash Trail 6pm hike See Schedule | 6 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Daniel Buenconsejo | 7 Sandstone Hills Trail and Hillcrest Open Space Preserve See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Joe Farall |
| 8 Rocky Peak 4pm hike See Schedule | 9 | 10 Long Canyon 6:30pm hike See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Jennie Baker | 11 | 12 Chumash Trail 6pm hike See Schedule | 13 | 14 Sulphur Mountain Shuttle See Schedule |
| 15 Rocky Peak 4pm hike See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Jim Keppler | 16 | 17 Long Canyon 6:30pm hike See Schedule | 18 RSTB Meeting 7:00 pm See Page 1 | 19 Chumash Trail 6pm hike See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Randy Klockenteger | 20 | 21 Work Party - Chumash Trail See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Rick Koppel |
| 22 Rocky Peak 4pm hike See Schedule | 23 | 24 Long Canyon 6:30pm hike See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Arlene Altshuler | 25 | 26 Thanksgiving  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Isabel Johnson | 27 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Diane Zorick | 28 Wildwood Park: Santa Rosa Trail Loop and Paradise Falls Figure Eight Loop See Schedule |
| 29 Rocky Peak 4pm hike See Schedule | 30 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Mallory Ham Diane Zorick |  | | | | |

REGULARLY SCHEDULED HIKES

(Rain cancels – No hikes on holidays)

Sunday Evening - Rocky Peak

Meet at 4 pm 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 1st Street heading 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 AND ACTIVITIES

November 7th

Sandstone Hills Trail and Hillcrest Open Space Preserve

7.5 mile one-way shuttle - Moderate (1000' elevation gain total)

Explore a new trail traversing the North Ranch Open Space area. Please be prepared to be a possible shuttle car driver. Meet at **8 AM** near Donut Delight at the corner of Madera and Royal. Bring 2 - 3 quarts of water and lunch. Wear boots.

November 14th

Sulphur Mountain Shuttle

10 mile one-way shuttle - Moderate (2,200' elevation loss)

This old county dirt road follows the 2,600-foot Sulphur Mountain ridgeline from Highway 33 in Casitas Springs to Highway 150 in the upper Ojai. As the trail winds around the mountain the views alternate between panoramic views of the coast and Channel Islands, and the Ojai Valley and Los Padres National Forest. Also, there are views from Point Mugu to South Mountain, and from Lake Casitas to the Topatopa Mountains. Meet at **8 AM** near Donut Delight at the corner of Madera and Royal. Bring 2 - 4 quarts of water and lunch. Wear boots.

November 18th

Club Meeting

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

November 21st

Work Party - Chumash Trail

We will work on the lower section of the Chumash Trail. Meet at the Chumash trailhead on Flanagan Drive at 8:00 AM. Bring 2 - 3 quarts of water, hat, sunscreen, and gloves to work on the trail. Tools will be provided.

November 28th

Wildwood Park: Santa Rosa Trail Loop and Paradise Falls Figure Eight Loop

5 MRT - Moderate (400' elevation gain) or 8 MRT - Moderate (800' elevation gain)

We'll hike with the Santa Rosa Trail Loop, and for those who may want a bit longer hike, we'll continue on with the Paradise Falls Figure Eight Loop. Meet at **8 AM** near Donut Delight at the corner of Madera and Royal. Bring 2 - 3 quarts of water and lunch. Wear boots.



Hikes marked with this symbol means no dogs allowed on trail(s).

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

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>

LANCHO SIMI TRAIL BLAZERS

A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation

| | | | |
|------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| Executive Chair: | Mike Kuhn | HM (805) 583-2345 | hannahmike@me.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: | 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: | Carrie McCline | | |
| Newsletter Editor: | Kelli Ham | | simitrailrunner@gmail.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(s) _____ Birth Mo. _____ Day _____

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

Address _____

Email Address _____ Phone wk/hm _____

Would you like to receive periodic email announcements about club activities? Yes () No ()

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



U.S. Postage

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