



Rancho Simi Trail Blazers

A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation



Welcome, New Member!

Kurt Godden



It's Time to "Fall Back"

Daylight Saving Time ends the first Sunday in November. The time change affects the start time of the Sunday Rocky Peak hikes, which will now start at 4pm until the spring when the time changes again.

This is also a great time to check your smoke alarms and change the batteries in all the units in your home. It is recommended to put new batteries in smoke detectors once a year so that you can be sure of protection if you need it. Clean off dust and cobwebs, and replace any detectors that have been painted over or do not work properly when tested. Stay safe!



Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District (RSRPD)

Quality of life in Simi Valley is definitely enhanced by the efforts of the RSRPD. Here are some interesting facts:

The Special District was formed in 1961 for the specific purpose of providing parks and recreation activities to our community. Since that time, the Park District has established 50 parks and preserved over 5,600 acres of open space that is now used for hiking, biking, horseback riding and wildlife preservation. Several hundred years of Simi Valley history has been preserved at the Strathearn Historical Park and Museum, and docent lead tours are available. Railroad enthusiasts can tour a depot built in 1903 with historic exhibits and miniature train displays. The Park District also provides two equestrian centers, two swimming pools, two golf courses, and numerous sports and other recreation amenities. In addition to the many facilities available for public enjoyment, the Park District offers hundreds of diverse recreation programs and large community events such as concerts, arts and crafts fairs and outdoor movies.

Upcoming Events

SnowFest Arts & Craft Show at the Rancho Santa Susana Community Center on Sunday, November 7th

Veterans Day Ceremony at the Rancho Tapo Community Park on Thursday, November 11th

Low Cost Vaccination Clinic at the Simi Dog Park on Sunday, November 14th

Be sure to check out the Calendar of Events on the RSRPD website at <http://www.rsprd.org/> to see what else is happening next!

RSTB CLUB MEETING

This month's club meeting will be held at: Sycamore Drive Community Center
1692 Sycamore Drive - Room B-1
7:00PM - November 17, 2010

UPCOMING EVENTS

See page 5 and visit the website at <http://simitrailblazers.com> for more details on any of these events.

November 6th

Devils Punchbowl - Devil's Chair*
7 MRT - Moderate (1,000' elevation gain)

November 13th

Ahmanson Ranch - Lasky Mesa *
9.5 MRT - Easy (500' elevation gain)

November 17th

Club Meeting

November 20th

Work Party

Upper section of the Lower Stagecoach Trail. Meet at the eastern end of the Corriganville Parking lot at 8:00AM.

November 27th

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

5 MRT - Moderate (400' elev. gain) OR
8 MRT - Moderate (800' elev. gain)

RSTB LOGO T-SHIRTS

Sporting the beautiful RSTB logo, these are great shirts! call Marty if you'd like to order at 805-526-4414.

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



A BUMPY ROAD

Over the years at work (for the City of Simi Valley) I was occasionally called to the counter to answer questions from Moorpark College students, who were enrolled in a geology class. They wanted to know why the 118 Freeway west of Madera Road is "so bumpy." CalTrans fixes it, but the bumps return. (You could write a script for a Hollywood thriller entitled, "The return of the bumps!" Well, maybe that wouldn't be such a good idea.) With repeated repairs, now with concrete, the bumpy effect is not as noticeable as it was in the past.

The bumps are there because the freeway cuts across the middle Sespe Formation, which is replete with what are referred to as "red" and "blue" beds. You've no doubt noticed them. Because of the strike and dip of the Sespe Formation (strike northeast-southwest and dip 30-40 degrees to the northwest), the beds cross under the freeway diagonally somewhat on end.

Unlike the predominately sandy strata of the Sespe, the red and blue beds are high in clay. When they get wet, they expand - lifting whatever is on top, at least the first couple of feet. So, up goes the concrete pavement on the road with each winter - cracking the concrete and providing a very interesting ride for vehicles on the road. If you're traveling on the freeway, your right front wheel goes up and over first, followed shortly by your left front wheel, then by your right rear wheel, and then by your left rear wheel.

If you watch the beds in the road cut while traveling west bound, you will pass them, and then be twisted. This is because of the northeast-southwest strike of the beds. When the beds dry out to some degree, the road does flatten somewhat, but never goes back completely.

Every once in awhile CalTrans will grind down the concrete or apply some asphalt, only to have the worsened state return in one to three years, depending upon how much rain we've had. Had those roadbeds been provided with two more feet of road base when they were originally constructed, the problem might have been eliminated or greatly reduced. That, however, would have required deviating from the standard construction plate - something that apparently was not considered at the time.

The Sespe Formation in this area is a non-marine deposit from a tropical forest environment of Eocene/Oligocene age - about 24 million years old and younger as you go west. The red and blue beds are "overbed" strata formed when a river flooded the adjacent valley floor and deposited its clay load. In the process, small animals and occasionally large mammals were drowned. Mice, for example, were drowned in their burrows. As a result, the Sespe Formation in this area has produced about half of the recorded vertebrate fossils known for the Oligocene period. Still, the bumps go on.

Mike Kuhn
9-28-04 (6-23-10)

BAKED IN COALS

One of John Peabody Harrington's Chumash informants remembers that they made balls of meal and baked them by burying them in the rescolda, i.e., coals of the fire. Those that he saw made that way were of wheat flour. He ate these many times. Instead of baking them on a comal (a steatite slab used by the Indians as frying pans and for heating water) or anything else, "they baked it thus." The cakes were about five inches in diameter, two inches thick and round in shape. They were called ikujash. (from the notes of John Peabody Harrington) This technique of cooking was traditional among the

Chumash. Ground seed, islay (holly-leaf cherry), various grasses, and acorns were included. While wheat flower was done this way, the method of cooking seems to have remained the same. The wheat flour may or may not have included preparation with yeast.

Mike Kuhn
12-1-04 (revised 4-30-10)

CONEJO

Conejo means "rabbit." The place name was used repeatedly during Spanish times in San Diego, Ventura, Fresno, Stanislaus, and Monterey counties. It first appeared in the Thousand Oaks area as Rancho El Conejo. Now there is a mountain, valley, creek and grade, which carry the name, Conejo. Rabbits were a mainstay in the Indian diet. They were easily caught, killed and eaten. Rabbit skins, including the hair, were use for blankets, i.e., many hides sewn together, and winter robes. So, perhaps, there may have been a Chumash Indian place name in the Conejo Valley that meant "rabbit" something. Rabbits were far less important to the Spanish. So, if the name originates with the Spanish, it would have been used more in terms of "Boy, there sure are a lot of rabbits here." That seems like a tough sell to me, especially for a name for a rancho. It seems more likely that it represented a pre-existing place name in the area - called El Conejo by those Chumash Indians, who were translating into Spanish from their Ventureno Chumash language. The pattern is the same as the reference to "the Simi" in our area. We still refer to "the Conejo." This is, of course, pure speculation.

Mike Kuhn
7-29-06 (revised 5-10-10)

October 2nd - Camp Three Falls to Lilly Meadows



Nobody can say that today's hike was uneventful. Although there were only six hikers present, we had enough excitement for at least two-dozen hikers. Little did we know we would stop a mile short of completing the hike, since the weather was relatively clear and warm at the trailhead. About an hour down the trail, the skies began to fill with ominous looking dark clouds. Minutes later, we began to feel the first rain drops, very large rain drops too. What seemed like seconds later, we found ourselves in an all out cloud burst, huddling beneath a somewhat protective tree.



Next came a very bright flash and just a second later an extremely loud thunder crash, startling us all, and echoing up the canyon. It didn't take long for us to come to the conclusion to make run for it back to the trailhead and the safety of our cars. It was then the hail began, with hail stones up to about 3/8 inches in diameter. The stones stung as they hit our heads, faces and shoulders. The trail was slick with mud and covered with inches of water in places. About a mile down the trail, the rain subsided and the sun returned. We found that we had

outrun the flash flood behind us and at a point we actually caught up with the leading edge of the water racing down the adjacent creek. It was a great relief to be back at the trailhead. We all agreed that we don't need another hike this exciting anytime soon.

October 16th - Work Party - Challenger Park

This month's work party was a cooperative effort between the Trail Blazers, the local geocaching.com community, and four honor students from CLU. In total, there were 26 people in attendance, including two employees from the Rancho Simi Park District.

The goal was to remove the trash from the Challenger Park trails and also clean out the debris from the creek, which runs through the northern section of the Park. Chain saws were heard growling away for hours and far more work was accomplished than anyone expected.



This was the second annual cooperative effort with the geocaching.com community. Last year, we cleaned up the trash and graffiti at the Wildlife Corridor in record time. Our next October annual cooperative effort work party is not to be missed.





RSTB Calendar November 2010



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Happy Birthday <i>Mary Martin</i>	2 Long Canyon & Oak Canyon 6:30PM See Schedule	3 Happy Birthday <i>Don Hunt</i>	4 Chumash Trail 6:00PM See Schedule	5 	6 Devils Punchbowl - Devil's Chair* See Schedule Happy Birthday <i>Daniel Buenconsejo</i>
7 Rocky Peak Fire Road 4:00PM See Schedule Daylight Saving Time Ends  Set Clock Back Happy Birthday <i>Joe Ferrall</i>	8 	9 Long Canyon & Oak Canyon 6:30PM See Schedule	10 Happy Birthday <i>Jennie Baker</i>	11 Chumash Trail 6:00PM See Schedule	12 	13 Ahmanson Ranch - Lasky Mesa* See Schedule
14 Rocky Peak Fire Road 4:00PM See Schedule	15 	16 Long Canyon & Oak Canyon 6:30PM See Schedule	17 Club Meeting 7:00PM See Schedule	18 Chumash Trail 6:00PM See Schedule Happy Birthday <i>Bart Hibbs</i>	19 Happy Birthday <i>Randy Klockenteger</i>	20 Work Party - Upper section of the Lower Stagecoach Trail See Schedule
21 Rocky Peak Fire Road 4:00 PM See Schedule Happy Birthday <i>Rick Koppel</i>	22 	23 Long Canyon & Oak Canyon 6:30PM See Schedule	24 Happy Birthday <i>Arlene Altshuler</i>	25 <i>Happy Thanksgiving</i> <i>No hike today</i> 	26 Happy Birthday <i>Isabel Johnson</i>	27 Wildwood Park* Santa Rosa Trail Loop and Paradise Falls Figure Eight Loop See Schedule
28 Rocky Peak Fire Road 4:00 PM See Schedule	29 	30 Long Canyon & Oak Canyon 6:30PM See Schedule Happy Birthday <i>Mallory Ham</i>	31  			



Rancho Simi Trail Blazers

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Hiking Schedule



REGULARLY SCHEDULED HIKES

(Rain cancels – No hikes on holidays)

Sunday Evening - Rocky Peak Fire Road

Meet at **4 PM** at the Rocky Peak Fire Road trailhead. Take the Rocky Peak exit from the 118 Fwy. Meet at the north end of the bridge; don't park on the bridge. (Moderate to strenuous, depending on distance hiked. 4.8 MRT)

Tuesday Evening - Long Canyon & Oak Canyon Loop

Meet at **6:30 PM** 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 **6 PM** 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. (Moderate to strenuous, depending on distance hiked. 5.2 MRT)

NOVEMBER HIKES AND ACTIVITIES

November 6th

*Devils Punchbowl - Devil's Chair**

7 MRT - Moderate (1,000' elevation gain)

The Devil's Punchbowl is a point where two earthquake faults collide, creating upwards jutting vertical walls as high as 300 feet. It is a spectacular setting. The hike takes you along the mostly shaded rim of the Punchbowl, to the dramatic Devil's Chair, a breathtaking overlook with 360° views of the geologic formations. This is an all day event. Please view the Activities page of the website for more details: <http://www.simitrailblazers.com>. Meet at Stearns St. Park & Ride at **8 AM**. Wear boots; bring lunch and 2-3 quarts of water.

November 13th

*Ahmanson Ranch - Lasky Mesa **

9.5 MRT - Easy (500' elevation gain)

The first part of our hike takes you through gently rolling hills dotted with huge, spectacular oak trees. After a loop around Lasky Mesa, the hike heads northwest to Las Virgenes Canyon where a small creek nurtures a more densely covered area along the banks of the stream. Meet at **8AM** near Donut Delite at the corner of Madera and Royal. Bring 2-3 quarts of water and a snack. Wear boots. Please view the Activities page of the website for more details: <http://www.simitrailblazers.com>

November 17th *Club Meeting*

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

November 20th

Work Party

Upper section of the Lower Stagecoach Trail. Meet at the eastern end of the Corriganville Parking lot at **8:00AM**. Corriganville is located at the east end of Smith Road off of the south end of Kuehner Drive. Bring 2-3 quarts of water, 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. Hope to see you there.

November 27th

*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 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 **8AM** near Donut Delight at the corner of Madera and Royal. Bring 2-3 quarts of water and lunch. Wear boots.

* 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

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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

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