



Rancho Simi Trail Blazers

A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation



WELCOME NEW MEMBER
Thomas Moorman



November



Our bank will no longer accept dues or other checks made out to the Rancho Simi Trail Blazers. **ALL CHECKS must be made out to the Rancho Simi Foundation.**

Due to unforeseen circumstances, all activities are subject to change without notice. Please see <http://www.simitrailblazers.com/index.php/calendar/> for event details and the most

RSTB LOGO T-SHIRTS

Sporting the beautiful RSTB logo, these are great shirts! Please call Mike Kuhn if you'd like to order at 805-583-2345.

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



Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District events can be viewed at <http://www.rsrpd.org> to see what is happening next!

RSTB CLUB MEETING
This month's RSTB meeting will be at:
Sycamore Drive Community Center
1692 Sycamore Drive – Room B-1
Wednesday: November 16, 2016
5:30PM Everyone Welcome to attend!

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

Upcoming Events

November 5th Cloudburst Summit to Buckhorn Campground 5.5 Miles with a one-way 2-mile car shuttle – Moderate to Strenuous (800' elevation gain and 1,400' elevation loss) **8AM**


November 12th The Griffith Park: Ferndell Park to Mt. Hollywood and Mt. Lee 5.2 MRT – Moderate (1,026' of elevation gain/loss) or 9-mile counter-clockwise lollipop Loop – Moderate-to-strenuous (1,743' of elevation gain/loss) **8AM**

November 16th Club Board Meeting The Sycamore Drive Community Center - 1692 Sycamore Drive - Room B-1 **5:30PM**
Everyone Welcome to attend!

November 19th Work Party – Upper Chumash Trail
Directions to Meeting Place and on page 4 of this newsletter **8AM**

November 26th Tapo Canyon Open Space Trail to a Side Canyon 5 MRT lollipop loop moderate (800' of elevation gain/loss.) **8AM**

Weekly hikes!!



Has anyone ever told you to take a hike?

Did you know that in Simi Valley you can take many hikes with the Rancho Simi Trail Blazers and explore the beauty of Simi Valley and other beautiful locations? We have so much fun taking photos, talking and just viewing the beautiful scenery like the photo above. We even enjoy going on overnight events. **Please join us** and see for yourself how much fun we have!

Hikes are every Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday, and most Saturdays

September 17th – Edison Fire Road and Runkle Canyon



The Cloudburst Summit hike that was planned for this day was canceled at 5:30 a.m. due to a “Red Flag Warning” issued by the National Weather Service for the San Gabriel Mountains.

However, six hikers met at the carpool point and decided to hike locally instead. After carpooling to the Vista Del Arroyo Park on Chicory Leaf Place, we headed east along the Arroyo Simi and then began climbing a north-south ridge along an Edison Road toward the Albertson Motorway which runs east-west atop the Simi Hills. We soon had views of the nearby mountains and canyons as well as the American Jewish University’s Brandeis-Bardin campus to the east and the still-under-construction Runkle Canyon housing development and beyond to the west. As we climbed higher the Arness Fire Road appeared to the east and several still-remaining structures on the Santa Susana Field Laboratory property [aka Boeing/Rocketdyne] came into view. Eventually we reached the Albertson Motorway where we were caressed by a nice cool breeze while we enjoyed a rest break in the shade of some large oak trees. We headed back the way we had come, but decided to take an access path into the Runkle Canyon housing development and followed Sequoia Avenue back to our vehicles. We completed our 8.1-mile hike with 1,645’ of elevation gain/loss and returned home on a pleasant late-summer morning.

September 24th – Malibu Creek State Park

The Mt.-Pinos-to-Sheep-Camp hike that was planned for this day was canceled on Thursday evening due to a “Red Flag Warning” issued by the National Weather Service for all of the L.A. and Ventura County mountains; it was replaced with this hike. 7 hikers carpoled to the trailhead in the northwest corner of the park (at the intersection of Cornell Road and Mulholland Hwy). It was pleasantly chilly as we headed east from the dirt/gravel parking lot and we soon passed the park headquarters facility, formerly part of a ranch owned by Ronald Reagan. Shortly after starting along the Yearling Trail which passes through a large meadow, we took a right fork onto the Deer Leg Trail which winds through an oak woodland, passing a couple of nicely situated picnic tables and spotting four mule deer including one buck.

Rejoining the Yearling Trail we passed its junction with the Cage Creek Trail and followed the well-shaded Lookout Trail as it climbed to a view point overlooking much of the park. The trail then descended to Craggs Road which we followed eastward to a narrow trail that led down to the

Rock Pool Trail. While we took a break at the beautiful Rock Pool, the not-so-shy “Simi Valley merman” frolicked in the water while a group of about 40 “Trash Free Earth” volunteers looked on in amazement. We returned to Craggs Road, climbed westward, and then descended a short trail to the eastern shore of Century Lake near the dam across Malibu Creek. From there we followed Craggs Road southwestward to the former site of the M*A*S*H television series which is showing signs of ongoing vandalism; we also spotted one deer there. Returning northeastward we followed the Forest Trail as it led delightfully along the western shore of Century Lake. Retracing our route we hiked the well-shaded Cage Creek Trail as it climbed to its junction with the Yearling Trail. The morning had warmed up as we then headed westward and returned to our vehicles, having completed an 8.4-mile hike with 975’ of elevation gain.

October 1st – Long Canyon, Oak Canyon, Montgomery Canyon, Challenger Park, Coyote Hills Park, Canyon View Trail Loop

Our two hike leaders arrived early at the very full Long Canyon Parking lot this morning. There wasn’t a single empty parking space to be found, even outside the lot. Two unscheduled track events arrived earlier and filled the entire lot. There was no legal street parking to be found anywhere nearby. After some last-minute brainstorming, we decided to move the meeting place, and the starting trailhead, to Challenger Park and begin our counter-clockwise loop from the opposite end.

Temperatures were running about 10 degrees warmer than forecast, and the air quality was poor. Smoke from the Soberanes Fire to the north, came back inland with the mild ocean breezes, following the recent Santa Ana wind event earlier in the week. The loop didn’t provide many opportunities for much-needed shade. The day proved not to be the best for hiking.

Our hike started with 25 people and one dog. One hiker turned back before the Canyon View Trailhead. The remaining group started up the very steep trail, and after arriving at the top of the ridgeline, enjoying great local views, despite the fact the distant views were obscured by smoke. After arriving at the intersection of Long Canyon Road and the Canyon View Trail, three hikers and the dog headed back to the trailhead, following Long Canyon Road east to Challenger Park. 21 hikers continued on 7/10 of a mile, up the steep Long Canyon Trail, to a trail junction that overlooks a good part of Simi Valley and Thousand Oaks. From there we took a “use” trail connector into Oak Canyon. At intersection of Montgomery Canyon and Oak Canyon, five additional hikers elected to continue on down the hill, and also head back to Challenger Park via Long Canyon Road. 16 hikers continued on up the next hill into Montgomery Canyon, heading to Challenger Park. As before, two more exhausted hikers decided not to tackle the final hill in the Challenger Park, and they too followed Long Canyon Road to the Challenger Park Entrance. 14 remaining intrepid hikers completed the entire 7.5 mile loop, overcoming almost 1,700’ of total elevation gain.



RSTB Calendar NOVEMBER



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Mt. McCoy Trail 6PM See Schedule	2	3 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Karen Cruise	4	5 Cloudburst Summit to Buckhorn Campground 8AM See Schedule
6 Rocky Peak Fire Road 4PM See Schedule	7 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Sammy Farrar	8 Mt. McCoy Trail 6PM See Schedule	9	10 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule	11 	12 Griffith Park: Ferndell Park to Mt. Hollywood and Mt. Lee 8AM See Schedule
13 Rocky Peak Fire Road 4PM See Schedule	14	15 Mt. McCoy Trail 6PM See Schedule	16 Club Meeting 5:30PM <i>Everyone Welcome to attend!</i> See Schedule	17 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule	18	19 Work Party – Upper Chumash Trail 8AM See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Randy Klockenteger Danny Milligan
20 Rocky Peak Fire Road 4PM See Schedule	21	22 Mt. McCoy Trail 6PM See Schedule	23 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Denise Cueba	24 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Arlene Altshuler	25	26 Tapo Canyon Open Space Trail to a Side Canyon 8AM See Schedule
27 Rocky Peak Fire Road 4PM See Schedule	28	29 Mt. McCoy Trail 6PM See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Ursula Buerli	30			

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 (Scroll down to map)

RANCHO SIMI TRAIL BLAZERS

A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation

Executive Chair:	Mike Kuhn	HM (805) 583-2345	hannahmike@me.com
Treasurer:	Santiago Homsí		
Park District Liaison:	Jeannie Liss	WK (805) 584-4453	volunteers@rsrpd.us
Work Parties Chair:	VOLUNTEER NEEDED		Contact Mike Kuhn at: 805-583-2345
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:	VOLUNTEER NEEDED		Contact Mike Kuhn at: 805-583-2345
Newsletter Editor:	Linda Mann		linda.martins.mann@simitrailblazers.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 _____ Birth Month _____ Day _____

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

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

How do you want to receive the Newsletter? Check all that apply.

Mail Mailing address _____

Email Email address _____

How did you find out about the RSTB? _____

Please make out tax deductible member dues check for the year to:

Rancho Simi Foundation and mail it to **RSTB, P.O. Box 1231, Simi Valley, CA 93062**



U.S. Postage

RSTB
P.O. Box 1231
Simi Valley, CA 93062

FATHER JOSE SENAN'S COMMENTS ON THE STATE OF MISSION SAN BUENAVENTURA IN NOVEMBER 1822

Father Jose Senan was born in 1760 in Barcelona, Spain. He began his novitiate in 1774 and was ordained in 1784. In 1787 he was posted as an apprentice to Carmel Mission where he served for eight years. He returned to his college in Mexico City for two years, after which he was assigned to Mission San Buenaventura. In 1806 he became "Missionary" [head of the mission] at that mission where he served the remainder of his life. In 1812 he was elected to a three-year term as President of the California missions. He was reelected in 1819 and served until his death in 1823. *The Letters of Jose Senan, O. F. M., Mission San Buenaventura 1796-1823*, were published by the Ventura County Historical Society in 1962. His letters provide a window on the mission system, its machinations, and how events in Europe and the eastern seaboard of North America, such as the French and American revolutions, affected the California missions and eventually resulted in their demise. His 49-year service to the Catholic Church, to Spain and later to Mexico, and to the neophytes for whom he cared so deeply is a remarkable story in itself. One of his letters, a response to an interrogatory from the Imperial Commissioner, dated November 9, 1822, is especially interesting. Extracts from pages 163-165 are provided herein:

Item 3. Towards the south the Mission property abuts upon a great swamp, which begins only 710 yards from the beach. [Most of the Oxnard Plain south of the Santa Clara River was a wetlands, which was drained in the early 1900s.] The lands to our west are of little or no value because of cliffs, forbidding and interminable ridges and ravines, and almost impassable trails. Only the lands to the east and north can be utilized, although those to the north extend a mere 13 miles or a little more and include a good deal of hilly woodland.

In that area we keep four droves of sheep, although they suffer frequent losses from bears, lions, and leopards. [The "bears" were grizzly bears, the "lions" were mountain lions and, perhaps, bobcats, and the "leopards," according to the translator, were "wildcats." This latter reference would seem to refer to bobcats, however, there were jaguars in southern Ventura County at the time. It seems to me that a jaguar looks much more like a leopard than a bobcat. Interestingly, coyotes are not mentioned.] Even when we succeed in killing the marauders, they are soon replaced by the others equally fierce and dangerous.

Toward the east the land is level and 60-70 square miles in extent. One valley [the Santa Clara River Valley], which trends northward is about 32 miles long. Pasture is uncertain because the annual rainfall is often scanty, and the locusts and grasshoppers frequently lay the country waste, leaving the fields completely bare. Forage is sometimes damaged by freshets, shifting sands, and high winds, which tear up the tender and shallow-rooted vegetation. Most of the cultivated field may be described as little better than mediocre, for the soil is sandy and of little depth, as is usually the case with land near a beach.

We plant wheat, barley, maize, and kidney beans and other legumes. The yield of beans and maize is small, and wheat, in the more abundant years, produces 20-22 fold. Only in unusually good years does our total harvest amount to more than 500,000 pounds; ordinarily it comes to 400,000 pounds, a little more or less.

These crops, carefully distributed, adequately sustain our neophytes [which numbered 1,092 in 1822] when supplemented by the weekly slaughter of 40 or more head of livestock. In seasons when the cattle are fat, we usually slaughter twice a week in order to obtain the tallow and lard, from the proceeds of which we supply many of our necessities. [Tallow was used to make candles, which was the

primary source of light until whale oil became available.]

Little or nothing can be done to expand our agriculture. The neophytes for several years past have been cultivating the lands long [sic] the river, which is lined with their garden plots. On them they raise pumpkins, watermelons, muskmelons, and some maize and potatoes, of which they are very fond. With these individual contributions, the grain and meat provided by the Mission, fish from the ocean, and the wild seeds and fruits which they love dearly and cannot forget, our neophytes never lack for food, thank the Lord!

(Continued in December)

GRIZZLY BEAR PETROGLYPHS

In May 2007 I sojourned to the Bishop Tablelands to visit and photograph Indian rock art sites. One large complex included long trails of pecked petroglyphs in the forms of human footprints and bear tracks. I was struck by the fact that all of the bear tracks exhibited long, only slightly curved claws that flared to one side. Those were clearly depictions of grizzly bear – not black bear – tracks. Now the California grizzly bear is gone. We did it. It was not climatic change or global warming. Somehow we concluded that there was not room for both of us.

Mike Kuhn
5-30-07





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



REGULARLY SCHEDULED HIKE (Rain cancels – No hikes on holidays)

Sunday Evening - Rocky Peak Fire Road

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)

(We Meet at 5PM during daylight saving time.)

Tuesday Evening - Mt. McCoy Trail

Meet at **6PM** in the parking lot, located to the south of Donut Delite, near the NE corner of Madera and Royal. (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 end of Flanagan Drive.

(Moderate to Strenuous - 5.4 MRT - 1300' total elevation gain.)

NOVEMBER HIKES AND ACTIVITIES

November 5th Cloudburst Summit to Buckhorn Campground via Cooper Canyon 5.5 Miles with a one-way 2-mile car shuttle – Moderate to Strenuous (800' elevation gain and 1,400' elevation loss) Our hike will start along the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) at Cloudburst Summit (7,018') where it crosses Angeles Crest Highway. We'll follow the PCT along a ridge with views to the north and south and then descend through "beautiful stands of Jeffrey and sugar pine, cedar, alder, and oak" along the creek in Cooper Canyon. When we reach the junction with the Burkhart Trail we'll descend a steep "use" trail to the pool of water immediately below the 35 foot Cooper Canyon Waterfall (5,656'). We'll then hike up the Burkhart Trail to its trailhead in the Buckhorn Campground (6,411'). Meet at the 118 & Stearns St. Park & Ride at **8AM**. Bring 2 to 3 quarts of water and lunch/snacks. Wear boots.

November 12th Griffith Park: Ferndell Park to Mt. Hollywood and Mt. Lee 5.2 MRT – Moderate (1,026' of elevation gain/loss) or 9-mile counterclockwise lollipop Loop – Moderate-to-strenuous (1,743' of elevation gain/loss) Mt Hollywood is by far the most popular hiking trail in all of Griffith Park. One of the reasons for its popularity is access and a million-dollar view of Los Angeles, including the Pacific Ocean and eastern San Fernando Valley. Meet at 8AM at the 118 & Stearns St. Park & Ride at **8AM**. Bring 2 to 3 quarts of water and a snack. Wear boots. **NOTE:** The longer hike will add hiking from Mt. Hollywood to Mt. Lee (the Hollywood sign).

November 16th Club Meeting *Everyone Welcome to attend!*


5:30PM - The Sycamore Drive Community Center - 1692 Sycamore Drive - Room B-1

November 19th Work Party – Upper Chumash Trail

Meeting time is **8AM**. The event will end at noon. All tools will be provided. We will be removing rocks, doing some lopping to increase trail clearance, and some trail trimming. Bring your own water, snacks, gloves, hat, and wear sunscreen.

Boots are recommended. **Directions to Meeting Place:** Take Highway 118 to the Yosemite Avenue exit in Simi Valley. Head north 1.2 miles on Yosemite Avenue to the stop sign at the junction with Evening Sky Drive. Turn right (east) on Evening Sky Drive and drive 0.5 mile (through a stop sign) until you see the signed gated entrance to Las Lajas Canyon on your left. Park on either side of Evening Sky Drive.

November 26th Tapo Canyon Open Space Trail to a Side Canyon 5 MRT lollipop loop moderate (800' of elevation gain/loss.) We'll start our hike along the Tapo Canyon Open Space trail (T23) just east of Tapo Canyon Road and will follow it as it rises to a junction with a loop trail that includes an oak woodland. After hiking the loop, we'll return the way we came. **Directions to Trailhead:** From the 118 Freeway, take Tapo Canyon Road north. Drive 1.6 miles north to a small dirt parking area on the east (right) side of Tapo Canyon Road (about 400' before you reach the junction with Lost Canyons Drive). Meet at **8AM**. Bring 2 to 3 quarts of water, lunch and sunscreen. Wear boots. **NOTE:** You may also park along Tapo Canyon Road on the dirt shoulders near the parking area.

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 <http://www.simitrailblazers.com/index.php/calendar/>