



# Rancho Simi Trail Blazers

A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation



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.**

## Work Party – The Hummingbird Trail

**WORK DAY** Meeting time is 8AM. The event will end at noon. All tools will be provided. We will do trail grooming and widening, reconstruct water bars, and also cut back some brush. Bring your own water, snacks, gloves, hat, and wear sunscreen. Boots are recommended.

**November 18, 2017**

**Directions to Trailhead:** Take Hwy 118 to the Kuehner Drive exit. Head north (turn left) 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.

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



## 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**

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

## RSTB CLUB MEETING

This month's RSTB meeting will be at: Sycamore Drive Community Center 1692 Sycamore Drive – Room B-1

**Wednesday November 15, 2017 5:30PM**

*Everyone Welcome to attend!*

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

## Upcoming Events

**November 4th Johnson Motorway to Rocky Peak** 9 MRT – Moderate to Strenuous (1,600' elevation gain/loss) **8AM**

**November 11th Devil Canyon to Browns Canyon Road \*** 9.6 MRT – Moderate to Strenuous (1,050' elevation gain/loss) **8AM**

**November 15th Club Board Meeting** The Sycamore Drive Community Center - 1692 Sycamore Drive - Room B-1 **Everyone Welcome to attend! 5:30PM**

**November 18th Work Party - The Hummingbird Trail** The event will end at noon. **8AM**

**November 25th Las Lajas Trail to the Shovel** 6 MRT – Moderate (~1,000' of elevation gain/loss.) **8AM**

## 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



## October 7th – Work Party – Wild Animal Corridor – Cache In Trash Out Event



This was our ninth Wildlife Corridor event. Teaming up with local geocachers, the Corridor received a fresh coat of paint and all trash remaining was removed. We visited the Corridor just two weeks before the event and found it completely covered with graffiti and in need of a good cleanup. Between the time of our inspection and our event, some other group got about half the job done.

The RSRPD had no idea who got the job started for us. So, we were done in under an hour, and quickly down the hill to enjoy some cool water, snacks and some fine conversation.

## October 14th – Mentryville Park

Today's Mentryville Park hike was a last-minute substitution hike, due to a red flag warning in the Los Padres National Forest in Ventura County. Most substitution hikes are not the equal of the original hike. This hike was a grand exception. Mentryville was the location of the first commercially successful oil well in California. It is also the site of the longest producing oil well on record.

Mentryville was a boomtown between 1876 to 1900. The town had a schoolhouse, social hall, bakery, boarding houses, bunkhouses, blacksmith shop, machine shop, a gas-lighted tennis court, croquet fields, and a main road paved with local asphalt. By the 1930s, most of the town's residents were gone. By 1962 it was a ghost town. Our hike started about a half mile from the main entrance. We took our time and enjoyed a self-guided tour of the remaining buildings. Not far past the town we passed by the schoolhouse and then Johnson Park. Next we explored the site of the first oil well, finally capped in 1990. The elevation gain was gradual up to this point, but that was about to change. The pavement ended, and about 2 miles later we reached an overlook, which became our turn-around point. The view was expansive, but severely compromised by the smoke from the Canyon 2 fire in the Anaheim Hills. We originally intended to take a single-track trail back to Johnson Park, but deemed it unsafe due to some recent erosion, most

likely from the rain last Winter. Our hike became an out-and-back instead of a lollipop loop. We all agreed that it was a very successful exploratory hike and would be a perfect candidate for next Spring. There's still more of the area to explore. Our hike was about 7 ¼ miles with 1,360' of elevation gain.

## October 21st – Las Lajas Canyon and Chumash Trail Loop



17 hikers (and one dog) met at the Las Lajas Canyon trailhead on Evening Sky Drive in Simi Valley on a cool autumn morning. The hike began by descending a short paved section of road into the canyon bottom; from there a wide graded dirt road followed a streambed north through the canyon, crossing the streambed three times; the stream had a little water in it at places, but not at the stream crossings.

The steep canyon walls provided shade and a refreshing breeze as we enjoyed an easy 3.5 mile trek up the canyon.

Nearing the Poe Ranch gate, we took the right (east) fork and continued up the dirt road leading to an abandoned oil field which has been "cleaned up" (purposefully stripped of all remaining aboveground equipment/pipes) and then on up to a junction with the Rocky Peak Fire Road, savoring the views back down the canyon and of the surrounding area along the way. After reaching the Rocky Peak Fire Road (where a majestic oak tree had died and crashed to the ground), we turned right and headed south toward the upper end of the Chumash Trail. Along the way we passed Fossil Hill (named for the shells of sea creatures left behind when the area was under a vast sea). We enjoyed the panoramic views of mountains and canyons to the east, south, and west. Upon reaching the upper end of the Chumash Trail with its "Chumash Trail 2.7 miles to Flanagan Drive trailhead" sign, we stopped briefly before rapidly descending the familiar trail into Simi Valley. We then turned right (west) and followed a short trail to a closed-but-not-locked gate in a fence at the east end of Evening Sky Drive. A short walk along Evening Sky Drive took us back to our vehicles, having completed a very pleasant 9.6-mile hike with 1,900' of elevation gain.



# RSTB Calendar NOVEMBER



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 Chumash Trail 6PM  See Schedule  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Roxane Margolin	3  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Karen Cruise	4 Johnson Motorway to Rocky Peak 8AM See Schedule  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Barbara La Sala
5 Rocky Peak Fire Road 4PM   See Schedule Daylight Savings Time ends	6	7 Mt. McCoy Trail 6PM  See Schedule  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Sammy Farrar	8	9 Chumash Trail 6PM  See Schedule	10	11 Devil Canyon to Browns Canyon Road * 8AM  See Schedule <i>Happy Veterans Day</i>  for serving our country & protecting our freedoms!
12 Rocky Peak Fire Road 4PM  See Schedule	13	14 Mt. McCoy Trail 6PM  See Schedule	15 Club Board Meeting The <i>Everyone Welcome to attend! 5:30PM</i>	16 Chumash Trail 6PM  See Schedule	17	18 Work Party - The Hummingbird Trail 8AM See Schedule
19 Rocky Peak Fire Road 4PM See Schedule  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Randy Klockenteger Danny Milligan	20	21 Mt. McCoy Trail 6PM See Schedule	22	23  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Denise Cueba	24  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Arlene Altshuler	25 Las Lajas Trail to the Shovel 8AM See Schedule
26 Rocky Peak Fire Road 4PM See Schedule	27	28 Mt. McCoy Trail 6PM See Schedule  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Dare Damiani	29  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Ursula Buerli	30 Chumash Trail 6PM  See Schedule		

**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](http://www.fire.ca.gov/communications/communications_firesafety_redflagwarning.php) (Scroll down to map)



U.S. Postage

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

-----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**

**RANCHO SIMI TRAIL BLAZERS**

*A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation*

Executive Chair:	Mike Kuhn	HM (805) 583-2345	hannahmike@me.com
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Newsletter Editor:	Linda Mann	Cell: 805-501-5229	linda.martins.mann@simitrailblazers.com

(Continued from October)

## THE SIMI-SANTA ROSA FAULT

The fault is classified by the California Division of Mines and Geology as being "active" (as far east as Las Lajas Canyon), which means that it has experienced surface rupture during the last 10,000-11,000 years. Recent work on the fault in the area just north of the site of the former Simi Valley Drive-in Theater, has led to the conclusion that the fault has experienced surface rupture during the last 1,500 to 6,000 years. With further study, it is hoped that more precise information on the activity status of the fault in the Simi Valley area and just how often surface rupture has occurred can be determined.

What geologists are now finding is that in some discrete areas the hanging wall has been thrown over the fault to the south southeast, creating a shingling effect. For example, on the western side of the 23 Freeway on the northern side of the Tierra Rejada Valley was a vernal pool that historically accumulated water during the winter and spring. The depression rests on an upland above the Tierra Rejada Valley. The actual trace of the fault runs well north of the depression. The uplands on which the depression is formed constitutes geological material that has been thrust up and over the fault in that shingling effect. (The area has now been developed for housing. Since that development was approved after the fault was classified as active, we can be assured that development has occurred in compliance with the requirements of the Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Hazard Act.) Apparently, the same thing has occurred on the old drive-in theater site and the subdivision to the west. The main trace of the fault runs near the top of the ridge to the northwest. However, faulting continues to within about 100 feet northwest of where the old concession building was located on the drive-in site. The developer of the old drive-in site was forced to exclude residential development on the northwestern approximately 40 percent of the property because of the

presence of faulting. The same shingling effect has been identified north of the old Texas Tract. As a result, the layout of the new subdivision of the area has had to comply with the requirement of Alquist-Priolo. The requirement of the Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Hazard Act are intending to preclude construction of homes and most other structures directly over an active fault that may result in surface rupture with a minimum margin of safety.

Does the Simi-Santa Rosa fault represent an earthquake hazard in Simi Valley? Certainly. The threat must be taken seriously, although there is no reason for panic. If an earthquake were to occur, it would likely be in the 6.4 to 6.7 range. If the entire fault system were to rupture - an unlikely event - and if the Northridge fault is part of that system, a moment magnitude 7.0 earthquake could occur. At this point it is impossible to say if and whether either one of these events will occur. Either event could occur tomorrow, ten years from now or 4,000 years from now.

In any case, that, in a nutshell, is what we know about the fault.

Mike Kuhn  
11-30-04 (revised 7-1-10)

## SULWASUNAYTSET

Fernando Librado, John Peabody Harrington's Chumash informant, told the story of an old man at Santa Barbara named *Sulwasunaytset*. He was short and chubby and looked like a bear. After he was baptized at the mission, he told all of his fellows:

"Everything we have has been taken away from us. We have lost our rights in this land. I will go where you will never see me again. I am going, for all is gone, and I do not want to stay and see you suffer. I go."

He went to sea alone in his *tomol* (canoe), heading in the direction of the channel islands and was never seen again. It was generally believed that he was lost at sea.

Fernando's story fits well with a story told by several visitors to Santa Cruz Island after 1824. They describe be-

ing met by an old Indian in a plank canoe. The Indian related to one shepherd that he had been removed from Santa Cruz Island as a child and had always wanted to return. Following the Indian revolt of 1824, he had paddled to Santa Cruz Island and continued to live there in the old ways. He was seen only infrequently and then not at all.

Mike Kuhn  
12-1-04

## SIMI IN 1828

We know very little about Simi Valley during the early days, i.e., during the Mission and the Mexican periods. So, when I find something, it is worth repeating. This tidbit comes from *History of Ventura County, State of California*, by Edwin M. Sheridan (Editor Emeritus) Harold McLean (Publisher) (1940), p. 27. (If you look for this book on the shelves of the Simi Valley library, for some reason, it lists the author as Ritter on the spine.)

Ranchos at the time had a variety of livestock. Indeed Rancho Simi is often cited as a "sheep ranch." However, in 1828 the above noted volume references "250 head of cattle, 80 horses, 24 goats, a house and 1,500 vines." No sheep in 1828! Rancho Simi consisted of 113,000 acres, so the density of livestock would seem to be low. Since the Tapo within the rancho was the main source of communion and other wines in southern California during the Mission Period, the number of vines makes sense. The vineyard extended below the mouth of Tapo Canyon and to the west along the base of the hills to at least Lemon Drive.

From this we can speculate that the rancho was largely a subsistence operation. Certainly a rancho of 113,000 acres could have carried more livestock than 250 head of cattle and 80 horses. Of course, every rancho had horses and cattle. The sale of spirits must have been the main source of exchange for the rancho at the time.

Mike Kuhn  
1-9-11



Due to unforeseen circumstances, all activities are subject to change without notice. Please see [www.simitrailblazers.com/activities/](http://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 north end of Flanagan Drive. (Moderate to Strenuous - 5.4 MRT - 1300' total elevation gain.)

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## NOVEMBER HIKES AND ACTIVITIES

### November 4th Johnson Motorway to Rocky Peak

Meeting time is **8AM**. 9 MRT – Moderate to Strenuous (1,600' elevation gain/loss) **Directions to Trailhead:** Take Hwy 118 east to the Rocky Peak exit in Santa Susana Pass. Turn right (south) and then turn left (east) onto Santa Susana Pass Road. Follow Santa Susana Pass Road 1.3 miles as it descends into the San Fernando Valley. Turn left (north) on Iverson Road and drive 0.3 mile to the Hwy 118 overpass. Park alongside Iverson Road on either side (without blocking the road) and wait for the leader(s).

### November 11th Devil Canyon to Browns Canyon Road \*

9.6 MRT – Moderate to Strenuous (1,050' elevation gain/loss)

Meet at the trailhead at **8AM** **Directions to Trailhead:** From Simi Valley, take Highway 118 east to the Topanga Canyon Blvd exit. Turn left (north) and get in the right lane as you drive under Hwy 118. Turn left (west) on Poema Place and drive 0.25 mile uphill as the road curves northward to the second driveway on the right into Summerset Village (11500 to 11524 North Poema Place). Park on North Poema Place.

### November 15th Club Meeting *Everyone Welcome to attend!*

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

### November 18th – Work Party - The Hummingbird Trail

**Meeting time is 8AM.** The event will end at noon. All tools will be provided. We will do trail grooming and widening, reconstruct water bars, and also cut back some brush. Bring your own water, snacks, gloves, hat, and wear sunscreen. Boots are recommended.

**Directions to Trailhead:** Take Hwy 118 to the Kuehner Drive exit. Head north (turn left) 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.


### November 25th – Las Lajas Trail to the Shovel

6 MRT – Moderate (~1,000' of elevation gain/loss.) **Meet at 8AM**

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. We'll return the way we came. Bring trail snacks and 2 to 3 quarts of water.

**DIRECTIONS TO THE TRAILHEAD FROM SIMI VALLEY:** 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.

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