



## Rancho Simi Trailblazers

*A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation*



**CHANGE IN EDITORS:** A big thank you to retiring Newsletter Editor Linda Martins Mann for her years of service.

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:** SonDi Adams and Carina Mackey

### UPCOMING EVENTS

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

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



*December 14, 2018 Save the Date*

**Trailblazer Holiday Party 6-9 PM** at Park District: 4201 Guardian Street, Activity Room #3



**November 3, 2018**

***Sisar Canyon to White Ledge Camp\****

9 MRT – Moderate to Strenuous (2,000' elevation gain/loss)

Our hike will begin on a shaded dirt fire road (4N15) which follows a creek upstream for a while before emerging into the sunlight as it climbs up toward the Topatopa ridge in the Los Padres National Forest, providing panoramic views of the surrounding mountains and the Ojai Valley. We'll leave the dirt road and follow the Red Reef Trail the final mile to shady White Ledge Camp which is situated between two creeks among towering bay laurels. **Meet at 8 AM** south of Donut Delite near the northeast corner of Madera and Royal. Bring 2 to 3 quarts of water, lunch and sunscreen. Wear boots.

**November 10, 2018**

***Simi Peak via China Flat from Oak Park Trailhead***

6.1 MRT - Moderate to Strenuous (~1,500' elevation gain/loss)

Our hike in the Simi Hills will begin along a single-track trail, but will soon continue on an old dirt-and-rock road as it rises up the south side of the mountain, providing ever-expanding views to the south. Upon reaching the apex of the old road, we'll descend into lovely China Flat with its oak trees and sprawling grassy meadows. Then we'll follow a trail that leads up to Simi Peak (2,403'), the highest point in the Simi Hills, where we'll have a panoramic view of the surrounding area. **Meet at 8 AM** south of Donut Delite near the northeast corner of Madera and Royal. Bring 2 to 3 quarts of water, lunch and sunscreen. Wear boots.

**November 17, 2018**

***Work Party – China Flat Trail from Oak Park Trailhead 8:00AM to Noon***

Meet at the trailhead on Lindero Canyon Road between King James Court and Wembly Ave. at 8:00 AM. Bring 2 to 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.

**November 21, 2018**

***Club Meeting 5:30PM*** Park District: 4201 Guardian Street, Activity Room #2

Everyone is welcome to attend.

**November 24, 2018**

***Devil's Punchbowl to Devil's Chair\****

8.0 MRT - Moderate to Strenuous (~2,100' elevation gain/loss)

The Devil's Punchbowl is the point at which the San Andreas Fault and the Punchbowl Fault meet; it is part of the San Andreas Rift Zone. The resulting spectacular geological formations and their coloring are awe-inspiring. Our hike will take us along the mostly shaded (by pine trees) rim of the Punchbowl to Devil's Chair, a breathtaking overlook with 360-degree views of the geologic formations. A rainbow of rock surrounds Devil's Chair

with pink-streaked chalk-white cliffs, undulating tan crags, chocolate brown slabs, and green-gray ledges set against the green of the mountains and the blue sky. **PREPAREDNESS:** Bring 2-3 liters/quarts of water (or other suitable liquid) and lunch/snack. Wear appropriate footwear (preferably hiking boots) and be prepared for bright sunlight (sunglasses), heat (layers of clothing), and/or precipitation (rain gear). Hiking pole(s) and a camera might come in handy. **Meet at 8:00 AM** at the 118 & Stearns St. Park & Ride.

## HIKE REPORTS

### September 29 – Mt. Islip



Nine hikers carpooled via the Angeles Crest Hwy (Hwy 2) to Islip Saddle (6,669') in the San Gabriel Mountains/Angeles National Forest on a cool autumn early morning in Simi Valley; we were met by a tenth hiker at the trailhead. A chilly wind greeted us as our hike began along the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) opposite the Islip Saddle parking lot, but as soon as we were shielded from the wind the temperature was just right for hiking uphill.

The trail climbed eastward, soon skirting a large meadow filled with impenetrable prickly bushes and then entering a pine-scented forest of Jeffrey and sugar pines. After 2.5 miles of hiking through the forest, we reached shady Little Jimmy Trail Camp (7,501') which is equipped with picnic tables, bear lockers, and bathrooms; several backpackers had already set up camp. We then continued on to appropriately named

Windy Gap (7,588'), where we had to hold on to our hats to keep them from blowing away; there were good views to the east including the Crystal Lake Recreation area below us and a series of mountain ridges stretching into the distance. Next we followed the Islip Ridge Trail to the south as it climbed to the peak of Mt. Islip (8,250') via switchbacks. Once there we took a rest/snack break and enjoyed the 360-degree views of the surrounding mountains, the Antelope Valley/Mojave desert, Crystal Lake (which is nearly dry and is covered with algae), and a large reservoir along Hwy 39 to the east. Leaving Mt. Islip, we descended to Little Jimmy Trail Camp via an old trail, bypassing Windy Gap. As we then retraced our route to the parking lot at Islip Saddle, we encountered a surprising number of backpackers (including boy scouts) and day hikers coming up the trail. We arrived back home having completed a very pleasant 7.6-mile hike with about 1,700' of elevation gain/loss while enjoying mild temperatures, cool (sometimes chilly) breezes, lots of shade, and stunning views at the peak where there was once a fire lookout tower.

### October 6th – Long Canyon to Challenger Park Loop

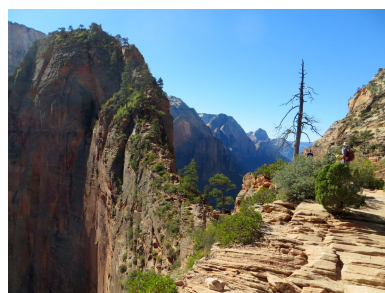


26 hikers gathered at the Long Canyon Trail trailhead parking lot at Wood Ranch in Simi Valley on a mild autumn morning. We began hiking the Long Canyon trail as it climbed steeply 0.7 mile to a trail junction atop a ridge overlooking western Simi Valley to the north as well as the Lang Ranch Open Space to the south.

We then followed a "use" trail down to the dirt road in Oak Canyon while enjoying views of the surrounding mountain slopes. After a short break we headed eastward up a dirt connector road to a ridge that provided nice views of western Simi Valley. We continued along the dirt road as it dropped into Montgomery Canyon and headed toward (but not quite to) Long Canyon Road (NOTE: 5 hikers decided to proceed a short distance to Long Canyon Road at that point and head back to the parking lot). The rest of us then followed a couple of trails over to Challenger Park which was deserted except for one man training

a horse. After crossing Long Canyon Road and following an equestrian trail for a while, we climbed steeply up the Canyon View Trail which provided views of the surrounding area including Bard Reservoir and followed it as it undulated along a ridgeline back to the trailhead parking lot, completing a 7.6-mile loop hike with 1,687' of elevation gain/loss on a pleasant morning for hiking.

### October 8th - 14th - Zion and Bryce Canyon National Parks Camping Trip



Oct 8 - Ten Rancho Simi Trailblazers gathered at the Watchman Campground in southern Zion National Park for a week of camping and hiking in one of the most beautiful spots on earth.

After setting up camp (3,970'), we walked over to the Visitor Center, then along a path next to the Virgin River to the Watchman Trail trailhead as part of a 3.5-mile warm-up hike with about 400' of elevation gain. The trail climbed part-way up red-sandstone Bridge Mountain via a series of switchbacks, eventually reaching a short loop (4,340') with a good view of the Watchman monolith as well as other nearby mountains. We returned to camp, had dinner and turned in early.

Other trails hiked and sights seen: Oct. 9 West Rim Trail to Angel's Landing (or not) - Refrigerator Canyon, Walter's Wiggles and Scout Lookout; Oct. 10 East Rim Trail to Observation Point Trail - Echo Canyon and Observation Point; Oct 11 Rain and Patch Tent Day - Lower Emerald Pool, Court of the Patriarchs, Zion Human History Museum and the town of Springdale UT; Oct 12 Bryce Canyon's Navajo Trail to Peekaboo Loop to Sunrise Point (8,000') - Thor's Hammer, the Temple of Osiris, Sinking Ship, the Cathedral, the Wall of Windows, the Alligator, the Fairy Castle and the Queen's Garden; Oct 13 Riverside Walk to the Narrows (the North Fork of the Virgin River).



Please see <https://www.simitrailblazers.com/2018-2/> for complete detailed hike reports and more stunning pictures.

## October 20 – Camp Three Falls to Lilly Meadows



Nine hikers carpooled to the entrance to Camp Three Falls on Boy Scout Camp Road in Lockwood Valley on a very nice morning. We began our hike along the lower end of the North Fork [of Lockwood Creek] Trail (22W02). At first the trail was a dirt road that led through the Boy Scout Camp; we followed the road as it continued through low hills dotted with pine trees and interesting rock formations until we reached North Falls, currently only a small trickle of water.

We then carefully followed a narrow trail as it climbed up the mountainside to skirt the nearly dry waterfall; this took us to a vantage point that provided us with a fine view to the southeast. The trail then followed Lockwood Creek upstream through a surprisingly verdant narrow canyon populated with heavy brush in the streambed, though no water was visible. Eventually we emerged into the lovely pine forest surrounding Lilly Meadows where we took advantage of a picnic table with benches and a couple of well-placed logs for our lunch/rest break. We had not planned to continue further up the mountain so we returned the way we had come. There were campers (possibly not boy scouts) evident in the Boy Scout Camp as we passed through it to reach our vehicles. We returned home having completed a very pleasant 7.7-mile hike with 1,370' of elevation gain/loss.

## JUDGE SCOTT'S CABIN ON HUMMINGBIRD CREEK

On the west bank of Hummingbird Creek north of the 118 Freeway is the site of an old cabin that was built under several mature coast live oak trees. Only remnants of a concrete slab are visible today. Several of the original oak trees have been destroyed by fire. The once quiet corner of the valley, nestled up against the creek and the rocky hillside, has changed. The site is bordered on the south by the 118 Freeway. The freeway blocks the view of the eastern end of Simi Valley once enjoyed from the cabin site. There must be a story there. Some piece of local history has slipped into oblivion.

A December 30, 1974 interview by Jan Hinkston of Joe Bannon in a nursing home in Jamestown, California, sheds a little light on the matter. Around 1900 and extending into the second decade of the Twentieth Century Joe Bannon's parents ran the old Southern Pacific Railroad quarry where the Santa Susana Park ball field is today. Joe indicated that Judge Joseph Scott had a cabin at the site referenced in the first paragraph. He and the judge's son, who also became a judge in the Los Angeles area, used to hunt together.

A review of the *Historical Atlas of Ventura County, California*, compiled and published by W. E. Alexander about 1912, indicates that the land where the cabin was, including much of the old Corriganville, was owned by Jonathan R. Scott. I can only presume that Joe Bannon's memory was somewhat off and that Judge Scott's first name was really Jonathan. Whether his son's name was Joseph or Jonathan I cannot say.

Mike Kuhn

## IS GLOBAL WARMING CAUSING MORE, LARGER WILDFIRES?

(Summarized from Steven W. Running, "Is Global Warming Causing More, Larger Wildfires?", *Science*. Vol. 313 [August 18, 2006], p. 927)

The above-noted news article postulates, based on a number of technical sources, that higher spring and summer temperatures in the western United States has resulted in earlier snowmelt and the extension of the wildfire season and areal extent of wildfires.

Global warming has had the following effects on wildfires in the western U.S. during the last 37 years (Note that this is not a projection of what might happen in the future, but what has already happened):

Warmer temperatures appear to be increasing the duration and intensity of the wildfire season. From 1986 through 2005, longer, warmer summers have resulted in a fourfold increase of major wildfires and a sixfold increase in the area of forest burned, compared to 1970-1986. The same thing has happened in Canada. The length of the active wildfire season (when fires are actually burning) in the western U.S. has increased by 78 days, and the average duration of large fires has increased from 7.5 to 37.1 days. This is attributed to an increase in average spring and summer temperatures of 1.8 degrees Fahrenheit and a 1-4 week earlier melting of mountain snowpacks.

The hydrology of the west is dominated by mountain snowpacks. Seventy-five percent of annual streamflow in the west comes from snowpack. Snowpack keeps the fire danger low in these summer-arid forests until spring melt is complete. Once the snow melts, forests become combustible within one month because of low humidities and sparse summer rainfall. The early snowmelt, i.e., longer dry summers, years had five times as many wildfires as years with late snowmelt. Higher forests that previously were protected by late snowpack are becoming increasingly vulnerable to wildfires. Thus, four factors – early snowmelt, higher summer temperatures, longer fire seasons, and expanded vulnerable area of high-elevation forests, have resulted in a massive increase in the area burned in most years. Really great fires (about 5 %) account for more than 95 % of burn areas. The 1988 fire in Yellowstone National Park, for example, burned more than 600,000 hectares, cost \$120 million and resulted in the deployment of 25,000 fire fighters. The fire was only extinguished when snow began to fall in mid-September.

Fire is an important process for recycling dead biomass in the arid west, where natural decomposition rates are extremely slow. Wooden fence posts in high forests are often found to be perfectly sound after 100 years.

According to nearly all climatic models, projected increases in average summer temperatures by 2040 to 2069 are at least 5.4 degrees Fahrenheit, which is more than three times that observed over the last 37 years.

Currently wildfires add to the atmosphere approximately 40 % of the carbon emission each year. If increases in wildfire burn area come to fruition over the next several decades, wildfire carbon emissions will greatly exacerbate global warming. This effect has not been considered in current climatic models.

Mike Kuhn

## REGULARLY SCHEDULED HIKES (*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).

### 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.)


Due to unforeseen circumstances, all activities are subject to change without notice.

Please see <https://www.simitrailblazers.com/calendar/> for event details and the most up-to-date schedule.

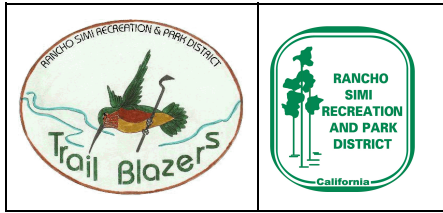


	<h2 style="text-align: center;">RSTB Calendar November 2018</h2>					
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Chumash Trail 6PM  See Schedule	2	3 Sisar Cyn to White Ledge Camp* 8AM See Upcoming Events  Happy Birthday Karen Cruise
4 Rocky Peak Fire Road 4PM Daily Savings Time Ends See Schedule	5	6 Mt. McCoy Trail 6PM  See Schedule	7  Happy Birthday Sammy Farrar	8 Chumash Trail 6PM  See Schedule	9	10 Simi Peak via China Flat from Oak Park Trailhead (TH) 8AM See Upcoming Events
11 Rocky Peak Fire Road 4PM See Schedule	12	13 Mt. McCoy Trail 6PM  See Schedule	14 Club Meeting 5:30PM	15 Chumash Trail 6PM  See Schedule	16	17 Work Party - China Flat from Oak Park TH 8AM See Upcoming Events
18 Rocky Peak Fire Road 4PM  See Schedule	19  Happy Birthday Randy Klockenteger	20 Mt. McCoy Trail 6PM  See Schedule	21	22 Thanksgiving <b>No Hike</b>	23  Happy Birthday Denise Cueba	24 Devil's Punchbowl to Devil's Chair* 8AM See Upcoming Events  Happy Birthday Arlene Altshuler
25 Rocky Peak Fire Road 4PM  See Schedule	26	27 Mt. McCoy Trail 6PM  See Schedule	28  Happy Birthday Dare Damiani	29 Chumash Trail 6PM  See Schedule	30	
<p><b>SANTA ANA WILDFIRE THREAT INDEX</b> - Provides a 6 day forecast of Santa Ana Winds Wildfire Threats on a color coded map <a href="http://psgeodata.fs.fed.us/sawti/">http://psgeodata.fs.fed.us/sawti/</a></p> <p><b>CALIFORNIA FIRE WEATHER MAP</b> - Provides actual Red Flag Warnings and Fire Weather Watches <a href="http://www.fire.ca.gov/communications/communications_firesafety_redflagwarning.php">http://www.fire.ca.gov/communications/communications_firesafety_redflagwarning.php</a> (Scroll down to map)</p>						

\* 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.

**Full descriptions of these hikes and activities are available at** <https://www.simitrailblazers.com/calendar/>



**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 \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_

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

*Newsletters are distributed by email only. Contact the Membership Chair if you require a copy by US mail.*

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

How did you find out about the RSTB? \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make out tax deductible member donation check for the year to:**  
**Rancho Simi Foundation** and mail it to **RSTB, P.O. Box 1231, Simi Valley, CA 93062**

<b>Rancho Simi Trailblazers</b> <i>A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation</i>			
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