



Rancho Simi Trailblazers

A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation



Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District events can be viewed at www.rsrpd.org

~~ Welcome New Members Shannon and Arthur Espinoza ~~

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.



The RANCHO SIMI TRAIL BLAZERS are looking for leaders for public hikes! If interested, please contact Michael Kuhn at mike.kuhn@simitrailblazers.com. Applicants must be evaluated by the board and would be subject to the park district's standard background check.



November 2, 2019 – Solstice Canyon - Sostomo Trail*

6.8 MRT – Moderate (1,650' of elevation gain/loss)

Our hike begins with a partially shaded walk along the one-mile dirt road in the bottom of Solstice Canyon leading toward Tropical Terrace and the nearby waterfalls. Just before reaching them we'll hike the Sostomo Trail as it climbs steadily up the mountainside to the west to a junction with the Deer Valley Loop Trail. We'll then hike the loop trail in a clockwise direction to an overlook of the Pacific Ocean and then return to the canyon bottom and visit well-shaded Tropical Terrace including the ruins of the Roberts house along Solstice Creek with its nearby waterfalls. After a rest/lunch break we'll retrace our route along the Solstice Canyon Trail to the parking lot.

Meet at **8 AM** in the parking lot, to the south of Donut Delite, located on the north east side of the intersection of Royal Avenue and Madera Road. Bring 2 to 3 quarts of water, lunch/snack and sunscreen. Wear boots.

November 9, 2019 – Simi Peak from St. James Court via China Flat

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

Click [here](#) to see a weather report for the Simi Peak area.

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. Bring 2 to 3 quarts of water, lunch and sunscreen. Wear boots.

Meet at **8 AM** in the parking lot, to the south of Donut Delite, located on the north east side of the intersection of Royal Avenue and Madera Road. Bring 2 to 3 quarts of water, lunch/snack and sunscreen. Wear boots.

November 16, 2019 – Work Party - Lower Stagecoach Trail

The November Trail Blazers trail work party will be held Saturday November 16th on the Lower Stagecoach Trail. Meet at the eastern end of the Corriganville Parking lot at 8:00 AM. We will carpool from the parking lot to the upper trailhead on Santa Susana Pass Road.

Corriganville is located at the east end of Smith Road off of the south end of Kuehner Drive. Bring 2 to 3 quarts of water, hat, sunscreen, and gloves to work on the trail. Tools will be provided.

We will work from 8:00 AM to Noon. As always, you are welcome to work for a shorter time period if you desire. Hope to see you there.

November 20, 2019

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

Everyone is welcome to attend. Meet our new park district volunteer coordinator Nikki Collier.

November 23, 2019 – Cheseboro and Palo Comado Canyon Loop*

10.3-mile loop – Moderate-to-strenuous (1,200' elevation gain/loss)

We'll follow the Cheeseboro Canyon Trail north from the trailhead (1,010') as it gradually rises to Shepherd's Flat (1,535'), passing the Ranch Center Connector Road junction and Sulphur Springs along the way. Then we'll head west on the Sheep Corral Trail as it rises to an overlook (1,693') of Palo Comado Canyon. We'll follow the Palo Comado Trail south and then east as it bends to connect with the Modelo Trail (~1,300') which we'll follow southward along a ridge until it drops down to the trailhead parking lot. We'll enjoy sweeping mountain vistas, oak woodlands and interesting rock formations during the hike.

Meet at **8 AM** in the parking lot, to the south of Donut Delite, located on the north east side of the intersection of Royal Avenue and Madera Road. Bring 2 to 3 quarts of water, lunch/snack and sunscreen. Wear boots.

November 30, 2019 – Charmlee Wilderness*

3.5 MRT Loop – Easy (~680' elevation gain/loss)

This area (also known as the Charmlee Natural Area) overlooks Malibu and the Pacific Ocean on its south side. It contains live oak woodlands, coastal sage scrub, and grassy meadows. The hike follows the Botany Trail to the Fire Ecology Trail to an ocean overlook, then other trails to an old reservoir and the ruins of the original ranch house.

Meet at **8 AM** in the parking lot, to the south of Donut Delite, located on the north east side of the intersection of Royal Avenue and Madera Road. Bring 2 to 3 quarts of water, lunch/snack and sunscreen. Wear boots.

HIKE REPORTS

September 28, 2019 – Mission Point Loop via Neon Way and O'Melveny Park



14 hikers gathered in the parking lot at the entrance to O'Melveny Park (the second-largest park in Los Angeles County) in Granada Hills on a cool overcast morning with intermittent light drizzle and poor visibility. Not to be deterred by the weather, we began our hike by walking southwest along the nearby sidewalk on Sesnon Blvd to its junction with Neon Way. We then followed Neon Way three blocks north to the lower end of the Sulphur Spring Fire Road (aka the Dr. Mario A. De Campos Trail).

We then began the steady climb along the fire road to Mission Point in the Santa Susana Mountains. As we gained elevation we could see our immediate surroundings, but views of the San Fernando Valley and its surrounding mountains were obscured by fog. On a positive note, the uphill hike was relatively easy compared to the same hike on a hot day.

When we reached Mission Point, the fog was pretty thick (as shown in the group photo taken at the small, stone monument memorializing Mario De Campos, a lover of the local mountains). After a short break we resumed our hike by retracing our route a short distance downhill to the junction with the Mission Point Trail which we followed northeast as we made our way down into Bee Canyon; the trail became increasingly steep as it lost elevation and was somewhat muddy, but visibility increased considerably as we neared the canyon bottom and we were treated to excellent views of the rugged landscape to the north. After reaching the floor of Bee Canyon we followed the trail downstream into beautiful 627-acre O'Melveny Park with its well-maintained green lawns shaded by oak and eucalyptus trees; there are still some citrus trees near the entrance to the park which were bearing fruit the day of our hike (signs forbade us from "picking fruit"). We reached our vehicles, completing our loop hike, having hiked 6.1 miles with nearly 1,500' of elevation gain/loss. Several types of plants were blooming including lots of bush sunflowers and datura (aka Jimson weed), as well as a little bush mallow and tree tobacco.

October 5, 2019 – Camp Three Falls to Lily Meadows



Eight hikers carpooled to the entrance to Camp Three Falls on Boy Scout Camp Road in Lockwood Valley on a cool autumn morning. We began our hike along the lower end of the North Fork [of Lockwood Creek] Trail (22W02). The first two miles of the hike were along a dirt road that led through the Boy Scout Camp and then 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; very little water was visible but we could hear the moving water. Eventually we emerged into the lovely pine forest surrounding Lilly Meadows where we took advantage of a picnic table with benches for our lunch/rest break. We had not planned to continue further up the mountain toward Sheep Camp so we returned the way we had come, encountering no other hikers during the entire hike. We returned home having completed a pleasant 7.6-mile hike with 1,280' of elevation gain/loss. Several plants were blooming in the area including penstemon and virgin's bower. NOTE: The trail leading up from the dirt road to the top of the waterfall has continued to deteriorate; it requires constant vigilance for one's safety.

October 12, 2019 – Work Party - Wild Animal Corridor - Cache In Trash Out Event (CANCELLED DUE TO RED FLAG WARNING)

October 19, 2019 – Newton Canyon and the Backbone Trail



10 hikers carpooled to the Newton Canyon trailhead just north of Tunnel #1 on Kanan Dume Road in the Santa Monica Mountains on a cool autumn morning (which promised to warm up later). Our out-and-back hike covered a formerly (before 2018's Woolsey Fire burned it) heavily-shaded section of the 67-mile-long Santa Monica Mountains Backbone Trail (BBT). The trail initially climbed to a point where it crossed above Tunnel #1 and then rose and fell as it wound mostly eastward two-and-a-half miles along a mostly open trail with scattered shade and wide open mountain views eventually reaching Latigo Canyon Road. Surprisingly there were lots of blooming plants along the trail including Cliff Asters, Morning Glories, California Fuchsia and Bush Mallow among others. Despite the recent wildfire, there was ample evidence of botanical recovery including lots of black walnut trees.

After crossing Latigo Canyon Road, the trail dropped into another canyon as it headed northeast. The temperature was still pleasant so we continued hiking all the way to Corral Canyon Road. After a short break we turned around and retraced our steps to the original trailhead, marveling at nature's ability to recover from a natural (wildfire) disaster. As we neared our starting point the temperature had risen to a slightly uncomfortable level so we were happy to reach our cars having completed a pleasant 8-mile hike with about 1,775' of elevation gain/loss.

ANCIENT ROADS part 1

The Chumash moved about using established trails. By the mid-Eighteenth Century, those trails had been used for thousands of years. The locations of those trails are problematic in that little evidence of them exists today. However, there are some hints of their existence through names and the assumptions that can be made about the force of historic inertia - even down to the present. With the advent of the rancho system, the Chumash Indians became the shepherders and the vaqueros. They learned Spanish, and later English, but still retained memories of their collective past. It is quite natural that their Chumash names were retained to be carried over into the Spanish, Mexican and Anglo-American cultures. For most of our historic period up until the 1870s, they were virtually the only ones on the land. Our present bears the historic continuity of the past. Some trails, of course, ceased to exist with the passing of their reasons for being. Those names naturally are no longer with us.

ANCIENT ROADS part 1 (continued)

Certain Chumash trails existed because people repeatedly wanted to go from one point to another. Those trails were intra-regional routes and often connected one village with another. Trade, familial contacts, inter-village ceremonies and fiestas, and travel to exploit resources resulted in trails.

During the early historic period, there were three villages in "the Simi" (the geopolitical unit recognized by the Chumash. They were *Simí* or *Shimiji*, *Kimishax* (*Quimisac*) and *Ta'apu*. *Ta'apu* was the premiere village in that it was about three times the size of *Simi'* and *Kimishax* (*Quimisac*) (in Happy Camp Canyon), and it had the only resident chief (*wot*) during the historic period. *Ta'apu* was located in Gillibrand Canyon near the present day Tapo Canyon Regional Park. And, yes, the name "Tapo" is derived from the name of the village. A trail went north from *Ta'apu* over the head of Tapo Canyon and down the northern side of the Santa Susana Mountains to the village of *Camulos* (a Tataviam [Alliklik] village with a Chumash name). The canyons on both sides of the mountain are still called "Tapo Canyon," including on the U.S. Geological Survey map. This is what I mean by "historic inertia." Those canyons were the trails to *Ta'apu*, for trails were usually referred to by the name of the places to which travelers were going.

The trail to *Simi'* ran down Gillibrand Canyon to Tapo Canyon, westerly north of the first ridge on the northern side of Simi Valley and then down Dry Canyon. From the mouth of Dry Canyon, the trail followed the foot of the mountains westerly to the mouth of Sand Canyon, and from there to the southwest to the village of *Simi'*. No Indian name for this trail remains. That trail later became the Noriegas Trail between the Simi Adobe and the Tapo Adobe. The Noriegas Trail is identified on the 1858 survey map of the Simi Valley area.

According to rancher Jack Heskith, who owned land in the Tapo Canyon area, the old Dominguez Trail extended northeasterly from *Ta'apu* up one half mile to a flat on the left of what he referred to as *Cañada Seco* (about one half mile up from the Gillibrand Ranch) and then over the head of Las Lajas Canyon to Brown's Canyon and down into the San Fernando Valley. *To be continued.*

Mike Kuhn

2-1-05 (revised 9-24-08 & 4-28-10)

REGULARLY SCHEDULED HIKES

(Red Flag Warnings and Rain cancels the hike – No hikes on holidays)

Sunday Evening - Rocky Peak Fire Road

During Daylight Savings Time meet at **5PM** and during Standard Time 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

During Daylight Savings Time meet at **6PM** in the parking lot, located to the south of Donut Delite, near the NE corner of Madera and Royal. There is no hike during Standard Time.

(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.



RSTB Calendar November 2019




Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 Solstice Canyon - Sostomo Trail* 8AM See Upcoming Events
3 Rocky Peak Fire Road 4PM See Schedule Standard Time Begins 2AM Happy Birthday Karen Cruise	4 Happy Birthday Barbara La Sala	5 No hike during Standard Time	6	7 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule Happy Birthday Sammy Farrar	8	9 Simi Peak from St. James Court via China Flat 8AM See Upcoming Events
10 Rocky Peak Fire Road 4PM See Schedule	11 Veterans Day	12 No hike during Standard Time	13	14 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule	15	16 Work Party - Lower Stagecoach Trail 8-12AM See Upcoming Events
17 Rocky Peak Fire Road 4PM See Schedule Nat'l Take a Hike Day	18	19 No hike during Standard Time Happy Birthday Randy Klockenteger	20 Club Meeting 5:30PM	21 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule	22	23 Cheseboro and Palo Comado Canyon Loop* 8AM See Upcoming Events
24 Rocky Peak Fire Road 4PM See Schedule Happy Birthday Arlene Altshuler	25	26 No hike during Standard Time	27	28 Thanksgiving No Hike	29	30 Charmlee Wilderness* 8AM See Upcoming Events

SANTA ANA WILDFIRE THREAT INDEX - Provides a 6 day forecast of Santa Ana Winds Wildfire Threats on a color coded map
<https://fsapps.nwcg.gov/psp/sawti/>

CALIFORNIA FIRE WEATHER MAP - Provides actual Red Flag Warnings and Fire Weather Watches
<https://www.fire.ca.gov/programs/communications/red-flag-warnings-fire-weather-watches/> (Scroll down to map)

* 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/>



-----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**

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