



Rancho Simi Trailblazers

A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation



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

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### 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](mailto:mike.kuhn@simitrailblazers.com). Applicants must be evaluated by the board and would be subject to the park district's standard background check.



#### **November 6, 2021 — Long Canyon, Montgomery Canyon, Canyon View Trail Loop 8AM**

6.3 Mile Loop — Moderate to Strenuous (1,500' of elevation gain/loss)

The hike begins at the Long Canyon trailhead on the south side of Wood Ranch in Simi Valley. The trail ascends 400' in the first 0.7 mile. We then head eastward along old dirt ranch roads to the Oak Canyon Trail and follow it downhill until its junction with an old ranch road that leads up to a ridge with great views of the area. We then descend into Montgomery Canyon and follow it to Long Canyon Road. After crossing the road, we climb to another ridge on the Canyon View Trail which provides excellent views of the west end of Simi Valley and follow it back to the original trailhead.

**DIRECTIONS TO TRAILHEAD:** Take Hwy 118 to the Madera Road exit. Head (south) 2.9 miles on Madera Road to Wood Ranch Parkway. Turn left (south) onto Wood Ranch Parkway and drive 1.9 miles to its junction with Long Canyon Road. Turn right (west) on Long Canyon Road and drive 100 feet to the driveway leading into the trailhead parking lot. Turn left into the Long Canyon Trail trailhead parking lot. Bring your camera, water and lunch. Wear boots.

#### **November 13, 2021 — Las Lajas Trail to the Shovel 8AM**

6.3 MRT — Moderate (1,100' of elevation gain/loss)

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. The steep canyon walls will provide shade as we enjoy an easy 1.9-mile trek up the canyon to its junction with an old mining road (now a single-track trail). We'll follow the single-track trail as it climbs fairly steeply up to an abandoned coquina limestone strip-mine where some abandoned equipment remains and there are sweeping views of the Santa Susana Mountains nearby. We'll return the way we came. Bring trail snacks and 2 to 3 quarts of water.

Click [here](#) to see a video of the hike.

**DIRECTIONS TO THE TRAILHEAD:** 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.

#### **November 17, 2021 — Club Meeting 7:00PM**

Park District Headquarters: 4201 Guardian Street - Everyone is welcome to attend. Masks are required.

### November 20, 2021 –Work Party Mt. Mc Coy 8AM – 12PM

The Trail Blazers October trail work party will be held Saturday November 20 on the Mt. Mc Coy Trail. Meet at the trailhead on Washburn at 8:00 AM. We will be removing rocks, doing some lopping to increase trail clearance and some trail trimming. Bring 2 to 3 quarts of water, a snack, 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 27, 2021 – Happy Camp 8AM

9.8 MRT out-and-back – Moderate (985' elevation gain/loss) or 11 MRT Loop – Moderate to Strenuous (1,545' elevation gain/loss)

We'll follow a well-maintained trail beside the Rustic Canyon golf course 3/4 of a mile to the entrance to Happy Camp Canyon, "a lush riparian oak woodland with an intermittent stream." We'll then follow an old ranch road eastward as it rises gradually in the canyon bottom between Oak Ridge (to the north) and Big Mountain (to the south). At 4.9 miles we'll reach a pleasant oak grove with picnic tables and hitching rails where we'll take a rest-and-snack break. Those who want can head back the way they came to the trailhead. Others wishing a more strenuous hike will climb up the steep gets-your-heart-pumping connector road to the Middle Range Fire Road. Once there we'll head west along the ridge, enjoying spectacular views of the surrounding area as we complete the loop portion of the hike and then return to the trailhead.

**DIRECTIONS TO TRAILHEAD:** Meet at the eastern Happy Camp Trailhead, adjacent Rustic Canyon Golf Course parking lot. From Simi Valley, exit Princeton Ave and turn right (north). Turn left at Campus Park Dr. and continue about 2 miles to the trailhead at the dead-end. Parking is on the right.



## HIKE REPORTS

### September 25, 2021 – Wildwood Park Loop



22 hikers arrived in the main parking lot in Wildwood Park at the west end of Avenida de los Arboles in Thousand Oaks on a cool slightly overcast early autumn morning. After taking a group photo, we began our counterclockwise loop hike by heading west on the Mesa Trail as we enjoyed the company of both old friends and potential new ones. We soon turned left, hiked a short distance south on the Tepee Trail, and then took the Stagecoach Bluffs Trail westward which provided views down into Wildwood Canyon as we hiked past lots of prickly pear cacti; we also spotted a couple of "conejos" (rabbits) for which the Conejo Valley is named. Upon rejoining the Mesa Trail, we hiked uphill to its junction with the Lizard Rock Trail where some of us took a break while others climbed on up to Lizard Rock to enjoy the panoramic view from that high perch.

After we regrouped just below Lizard Rock, we followed the Lizard Rock Trail down into Hill Canyon and soon headed eastward into heavily shaded Wildwood Canyon. We headed upstream to a large shady picnic area where we took a rest/snack/bathroom break. We then crossed the flowing water several times before reaching Paradise Falls where we enjoyed looking at and listening to the waterfall. Continuing on up the Wildwood Canyon Trail, we spotted several dozen mallard ducks in the stream above the waterfall. Eventually we reached the always pleasant Indian Creek Trail and followed it up to an unnamed trail that led us back to our vehicles, thus completing a 5-mile hike with about 850' of elevation gain/loss on a very nice morning for a hike. We also spotted lots of seldom-seen cattails during the hike.

### October 2, 2021 – Simi Peak from King James Court via China Flat



## October 2, 2021 – Simi Peak from King James Court via China Flat (continued)

14 hikers met along Lindero Canyon Road (near King James Court) in Oak Park on a pleasant autumn morning. Our hike in the Simi Hills began at the easier trailhead in King James Court as we headed uphill along an old dirt-and-rock road as it rose steadily up the south side of the mountain, providing ever-expanding views to the south. Upon reaching the apex of the old road, we headed north and descended into China Flat with its oak trees and sprawling meadows. Despite the recent drought many of the oak trees that were burned in the 2018 Woolsey Fire displayed bright green leaves and provided some much-appreciated shade as the morning grew warmer.

When the trail “leveled out” in China Flat, we followed a single-track trail westward and climbed to Simi Peak (2,403’), the highest point in the Simi Hills (which occupy the area between Simi Valley and Hwy 101 and between Hwy 23 and the San Fernando Valley), where we were greeted by relatively clear vistas though the quite-distant landmarks were hazy or couldn’t be seen at all. We took a rest-and-snack break atop the peak and enjoyed the closer views. After a while we returned to our vehicles the way we came, completing a 6-mile hike with around 1,500’ of elevation gain/loss on a mostly nice day (it was noticeably hot as we descended the southern slope during the final leg of the hike). Although we saw few, if any, blooming plants we did see a deer on the way up to the peak and what appeared to be the same deer in the same location on the way back down.

## October 9, 2021 – Conejo Mountain



12 hikers assembled at the “Powerline Trail” trailhead on Via Ricardo in Newbury Park on a cool autumn morning. The temperature was pleasant for hiking up the mountain and despite an overcast sky the air was surprisingly clear. The trail began gently enough and soon afforded us with views of Old Boney Mountain to the east. As we reached the Edison Road, we had a brief view of Camarillo to the west. We followed the Edison Road through a landscape littered with volcanic detritus to a spur road that led up to a pair of power transmission towers. Along the way a late-arriving 13th hiker caught up with us.

We stopped several hundred yards short of the towers and decided to follow a “use” trail which led steeply up the southeastern flank of Conejo Mountain. We followed the “use” trail northwestward across the rock-strewn landscape to the “peak” of Conejo Mountain where we enjoyed 360-degree views of nearby mountains, the eastern portion of Camarillo, and parts of Newbury Park. After taking a break, we headed carefully back down the sometimes steep “use” trail to the spur road and then retraced our route to Via Ricardo and returned home having completed a pleasant 5.3-mile hike with about 1,350’ of elevation gain/loss on a nice morning for hiking. We encountered a roadrunner as we neared the end of our hike.

## October 16, 2021 – Work Party on China Flat Trail



Mike Kuhn and Martin DeGoey met at China Flat trailhead on a beautiful and calm sunny morning. We hiked up the trail, pulling a light weight wheelbarrow, to our first and only stop where we were joined by a third volunteer, Cheryl Knight. There was a large sinkhole gully eroded into the trail. We filled the bottom with dead branches to help prevent rocks from rolling down the drop off. Next, we shoveled dirt from the surrounding area and gathered rock from up the trail, bringing the rocks down for fill using the wheelbarrow, until the sinkhole gully was full. Many thanks to all who volunteered!



## October 23, 2021 – The Hummingbird Trail



10 hikers assembled at the on-street-parking area at the north end of Kuehner Drive at the trailhead (1,175') for the Hummingbird Trail (just outside the gate into Hummingbird Ranch) on an overcast autumn morning with a little bit of very light rain. It was a bit chilly as we started our hike, but we quickly warmed up as we began our 2.4-mile eastward climb to the Rocky Peak Fire Road. The trail passed through (and on) a variety of imposing rock formations along the way including very large boulders and giant slabs of sandstone rock, many with small “caves.” As we gained elevation, the views of the area were limited by the overcast sky, but were clear close-up. The landscape had been cleansed by the light rain and the air was clean and invigorating.

Unfortunately, the official trail continues to be damaged by bicycle riders who (without permission) create “bandit trails” that cut steeply through the pleasant original switchback trail; the “bandit trails” make it nearly impossible to discern the original trail at many intersections. Nevertheless, we eventually reached the trail’s junction with the Rocky Peak Fire Road where we took a rest break before retracing our route to our vehicles. We reached the trailhead having completed a 4.8-mile out-and-back hike with about 1,250' of elevation gain/loss on a very pleasant morning for hiking, grateful for the small amount of rain that had fallen.

### REGULARLY SCHEDULED HIKES

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

#### **On Hiatus - Need Hike Leader** - 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 the 118 Freeway. 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 - 4.95 MRT - 1,325' 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)

#### **On Hiatus - Need Hike Leader** - Thursday Evening - Chumash Trail


During Daylight Savings Time 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.

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <div>RSTB Calendar</div> <div>November 2021</div> |                                              |                                                                                               |                    |                                                   |                                                         |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sun                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Mon                                               | Tue                                          | Wed                                                                                           | Thu                | Fri                                               | Sat                                                                                                                                        |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 1                                                 | 2<br>Mt. McCoy Trail<br>6PM<br>See Schedule  | 3                                                                                             | 4                  | 5                                                 | 6<br>Long Canyon,<br>Montgomery<br>Canyon, Canyon<br>View Trail Loop<br>8AM See<br>Upcoming Events                                         |
| 7<br>Standard Time<br>Begins 2AM<br><br>Happy Birthday<br>Sammy Farrar                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | 8<br><br>Happy Birthday<br>Norma Perez            | 9<br>Mt. McCoy Trail<br>6PM<br>See Schedule  | 10                                                                                            | 11                 | 12                                                | 13<br>Las Lajas Trail to<br>Shovel 8AM<br>See Upcoming<br>Events                                                                           |
| 14                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 15                                                | 16<br>Mt. McCoy Trail<br>6PM<br>See Schedule | 17                                                                                            | 18                 | 19<br><br>Happy Birthday<br>Randy<br>Klockenteger | 20<br>Work Party<br>Mt. Mc Coy<br>8AM<br>See Upcoming<br>Events                                                                            |
| 21                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 22<br><br>Happy Birthday<br>Taylor Harper         | 23<br>Mt. McCoy Trail<br>6PM<br>See Schedule | 24<br>Club Meeting<br>7:00 PM<br>See Upcoming<br>Events<br>Happy Birthday<br>Arlene Altshuler | 25<br>Thanksgiving | 26                                                | 27<br>Happy Camp<br>8AM<br>See Upcoming<br>Events<br> |
| 28                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 29                                                | 30<br>Mt. McCoy Trail<br>6PM<br>See Schedule |                                                                                               |                    |                                                   |                                                                                                                                            |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                   |                                              |                                                                                               |                    |                                                   |                                                                                                                                            |
| <div>SANTA ANA WILDFIRE THREAT INDEX - Provides a 6 day forecast of Santa Ana Winds Wildfire Threats on a color coded map<br/><a href="https://fsapps.nwcg.gov/psp/sawti/">https://fsapps.nwcg.gov/psp/sawti/</a></div> <div>CALIFORNIA FIRE WEATHER MAP - Provides actual Red Flag Warnings and Fire Weather Watches<br/><a href="https://www.fire.ca.gov/programs/communications/red-flag-warnings-fire-weather-watches/">https://www.fire.ca.gov/programs/communications/red-flag-warnings-fire-weather-watches/</a> (Scroll down to map)</div> |                                                   |                                              |                                                                                               |                    |                                                   |                                                                                                                                            |

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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** <https://www.simitrailblazers.com/calendar/>



## **Rancho Simi Trailblazers**

*A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation*

|                        |                         |                   |                                                                                              |
|------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Executive Chair:       | Mike Kuhn               | HM (805) 583-2345 | <a href="mailto:mike.kuhn@simitrailblazers.com">mike.kuhn@simitrailblazers.com</a>           |
| Treasurer:             | To Be Announced         |                   |                                                                                              |
| Park District Liaison: | Nikki Collier           | WK (805) 584-4453 | <a href="mailto:volunteers@rsrpd.us">volunteers@rsrpd.us</a>                                 |
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| Vice Hiking Chair:     | Les Wilson              | HM (805) 522-2642 | <a href="mailto:les.wilson@simitrailblazers.com">les.wilson@simitrailblazers.com</a>         |
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