



Rancho Simi Trail Blazers

A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation



ERRINGER ADOBE

Back in the good old days, during the depression, when most people in Simi Valley had very little money, one farm family, on the eastern side of Erringer Road north of Cochran Street, started their home as an adobe. Later, they added on with one or more wood-framed additions. When I came to Simi Valley in the 1970s, you could not tell from the outside that any portion of the home was adobe. Eventually the land was sold and the house was demolished to make way for what is today El Toritos Restaurant and Cantina.

That family had built using adobe because that was what they could afford. The reality was that the Spanish and Mexican families during the late-18th and 19th centuries used adobe construction because that was the only practical building material other than wattle and daub (i.e., woven willow branches plastered with mud). As far as I know, only the Simi Adobe remains.

Mike Kuhn
3-7-06

Happy Holidays!

Come and enjoy our casual and social holiday potluck!

it's a holiday party

Saturday, December 8, 2012
Time: 6:30 p.m.

Host: Ursula Christle

Place: 576 Pinecliff Place

Simi Valley, CA

Directions: south on First St., right on Mellow Lane, right on Pinecliff Place to the end. Please call Ursula to let her know what you're bringing: 527-5338

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



RSTB CLUB MEETING

This month's RSTB meeting will be at:
 Sycamore Drive Community Center
 1692 Sycamore Drive – Room B-1
December 19, 2012

Upcoming Events

December 1st - Simi Peak from the Long Canyon trailhead via the Albertson Motorway and China Flat
 9 MRT - Moderate-to-strenuous (1,900' elevation gain/loss) – Meet - **8AM**

December 8th - Cheeseboro Canyon - Palo Comado Canyon counterclockwise Loop* 10.3-mile loop - Moderate-to-strenuous (1,200' elevation gain/loss) - Meet - **8AM**

December 15th - Work Party - The North Ridge Trail

December 19th Club Meeting - 7 PM

December 22nd – Long Canyon Loop - 8.1-mile loop – Moderate-to-strenuous (1,430' elevation gain/loss) – Meet - **8AM**

December 29th - Griffith Park: Mt. Hollywood Trail from Ferndell Park* 9 MRT – Moderate-to-Strenuous (1,743' of elevation gain/loss) - Meet - **8AM**

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.

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

Tuesday evening hike changed to: **6:00PM** at Mt. McCoy Trail.

A CHUMASH BALL GAME

[from Travis Hudson (ed.), *Breath of the Sun* (1980), p. 23]

Fernandeño Librado: “A game often played at fiestas here at the Mission was called *wakimari'i* in the language of the Fernandeño Indians, for they originated the game. Two boys would play it, each kicking a ball which was about twice the size of a billiard ball. They would run from here to Los Cerritos (near Montalvo) and back.”

I have been involved in many archaeological excavations where stone balls that meet that description were found. I collected a stone ball, a bit smaller than a softball, during the late-1970s during a grading project at an old Indian village near the confluence of the Arroyo Simi and Brea Canyon. (The village site had been rough graded in 1971 - long before environmental reviews were required on projects.) It appears to be made out of the mineral augite, a dark greenish gray to black ferromagnesian silicate, with a specific gravity of 3.2-3.4 and a hardness of 5-6. Part of the surface of the ball seems to be polished from handling and impregnated with body oil and the remainder of the surface is abraded from rolling on the ground. This object may be an example of such a gaming ball. There are many examples of sandstone balls of much the same size in museum collects. The material of which the green ball is made would have to have been traded in from the desert where augite occurs. Given its relatively high specific gravity (steel has a specific gravity of about 4), it is a little hard to image that it would have been kicked along the ground - side-footed perhaps. The gaming ball is on display at the Strathearn Historical Park.

Mike Kuhn
12-23-04 (revised 8-19-12)

ALFRED ROBINSON DESCRIBES SCENE ON MONTEREY BEACH

(circa 1834)

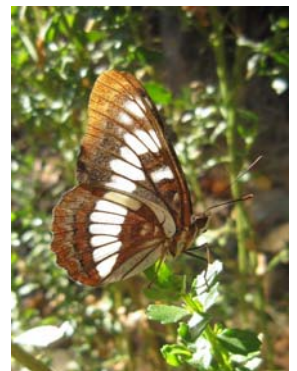
In *Life in California* (1846), Alfred Robinson describes a scene on the edge of Monterey Bay. The scene was an annual event, but certainly does not occur today. In his own words:

The bay presented a lively scene at this time, being filled with a kind of small fish called “Sardinas,” thousands of which, in endeavoring to escape from the pursuit of larger fish, were cast upon the beach. These attract a multitude of birds that devour them, on shore and in the water. Numerous whales feed upon them also, and constantly play about the ship. At times these enormous creatures will raise themselves almost entirely out of the water, and fall into it again with great force. While preying upon this food, they are not unfrequently attacked by the sword fish and killer (?), when, like the sardinas, they are driven upon the beach to die. The Indians, during this yearly visitation, may be daily seen up to their knees in the surf, with their nets, which are easily filled, and thus the inhabitants are supplied with provision, and at night bears come from the woods, heralded by the howling of wolves, and the barking of coyotes. It is a merry sight, to behold, on a bright sunny day, the joy of the Indians, at the landing-place, as they scoop with their nets – the leaping of the silvery fish that are thrown upon the rocks – the darting of the birds, and the splashing of the water as they pounce upon their prey – the jumping porpoise – the spouting whale, all of which attract hundreds of spectators to the beach, and keep them there for hours beholders of the scene.”

Here we see how man has changed the face of the earth. The Indians, with

their meager equipment had not managed to alter their own world – at least as far as sardines were concerned. By the 1930s the sardines had been pretty much fished out by fishermen with large boats and gigantic nets. At the time our forefathers wondered where the sardines had gone. It seems not to have occurred to them that they had been over-fished. The whales no longer follow the sardines to the beaches. In the days of the Indians, the whales that were beached were eaten too. It was a time of plenty. The grizzly bears waited until dark to partake of the plenty. The Indians stayed indoors at night because they did not have a satisfactory source of light to fish by and because they did not relish an encounter with a bear or any supernatural being. Wolves are mentioned as part of their world. Both the grizzly bear and the wolves are no more – having fallen victim to modern firearms and poison baits. Alfred Robinson was greatly taken by the scene, which he describes. It too is no more.

Mike Kuhn
5-30-07 (revised 8-27-07, 4-27-10)



October 27th - Placerita Canyon - Los Pinetos Trail



8 hikers carpoled from the Stearns Street Park-and-Ride lot in Simi Valley to the Placerita Canyon County Park in southeastern Santa Clarita Valley despite weather forecasts warning of very strong winds. Contrary to the forecasts there was no wind whatsoever as we left the Nature Center (1,550') and began hiking briskly eastward along the Placerita Canyon Trail. The air was cool since the canyon is shaded in the early morning. The creek in the canyon was completely dry as a consequence of a dry year. After about two miles, we reached the Walker Ranch site (1,800') and headed south on the Los Pinetos Trail, climbing steadily toward Wilson Saddle (3,100') and the Santa Clara Divide Road. After the first steep mile or so, the trail entered a pleasant live oak forest for the remainder of the three-mile-long trail, passing Los Pinetos Spring along the way. The group enjoyed a break at Wilson Saddle which has comfortable seating and bathroom facilities, followed by a short walk to the southeast to an overlook of the San Fernando Valley (and the tops of the tallest buildings in downtown Los Angeles). The hike resumed along a short portion of Whitney Canyon Road, but soon turned northward onto an unmarked firebreak leading down toward the Nature Center. This firebreak is not a fire road; it has many steep downhill stretches as it heads to the northwest, as well as several short sometimes-steep uphill stretches. It is challenging and strenuous, particularly if one is heading up it (rather than down it as we were). Eventually we reached an unnamed trail leading down to a large water tank overlooking the Nature Center. We then descended to the parking lot via the Hillside Trail. After a lunch break by the Nature Center, we returned to the carpool point in Simi Valley, having completed a pleasant 7.6-mile hike with 1,981' of elevation gain.

November 3rd - Piedra Blanca Trail [aka Gene Marshall National Recreation Trail] (22W03) to Twin Forks Camp



10 hikers + 1 cute dog carpoled to the Piedra Blanca Trail [aka Gene Marshall National Recreation Trail] (22W03) trailhead at the east end of Rose Valley Road (6N31 off Hwy 33) in the Los Padres National Forest north of Ojai, CA. It was a beautiful morning as we began the hike by descending to and crossing Sespe Creek, the main watercourse in the southern Los Padres National

Forest; it empties into the Santa Clara River in Fillmore. While admiring the brilliant fall colors along the creek, we followed the trail as it entered the Sespe Wilderness and climbed the chaparral-covered slope to the magnificent Piedra Blanca (white rock) Formations -- huge white rounded sandstone outcroppings sculpted by wind and water. We then descended to Piedra Blanca Creek and followed it upstream to the large shady Piedra Blanca Camp where we viewed pictographs created by Chumash Indians on some of the boulders. We continued on to Twin Forks Camp (the turnaround point) where large conifers provided shade along the creek which gurgled pleasantly nearby. After a leisurely picnic lunch we returned to the trailhead for the drive home, having completed a very pleasant 7-mile hike with about 2,000' of elevation gain/loss.

November 10th - Sulphur Mountain Shuttle

10 hikers [+ one cute dog] carpoled to the paved west end of Sulphur Mountain Road (off Hwy 33) near Ojai on a clear chilly morning. Leaving two vehicles parked near the gate, several hikers began hiking eastward (uphill) on the Sulphur Mountain Recreation Trail (SMRT). The remaining hikers boarded the other two vehicles for a very scenic drive through the Ojai Valley to the eastern trailhead via Hwy 150 and the paved east end of Sulphur Mountain Road which wound pleasantly uphill through an oak forest where we spotted a deer. After assembling our hiking gear, we headed westward along the SMRT. It was a gorgeous day and we were treated to sweeping views of the beautiful rolling green terrain between our trail and the ocean as well as clear views of the Oxnard Plain and several of the Channel Islands. After a couple of miles we had a rare sighting of two mountain lions, with one coyote. We continued westward with the upper portion of the Sulphur Mountain Ridge immediately to our north and continuous vistas of rolling hills dotted with oak trees, grassland meadows, and valleys to the south and west. Eventually we met our eastbound fellow hikers and exchanged car keys (thus avoiding a lengthy car shuttle). We resumed our journey, continuing to walk through the beautiful pastoral countryside. Eventually the trail began providing views of the Ojai Valley and the distant towering mountains to the north and west and of Lake Casitas to the west. The last mile of the trail wound downhill, heavily shaded by oak trees. We eventually reached our vehicles, having completed a very pleasant 10-mile hike with 400' of elevation gain and 2,200' of gradual elevation loss on a perfect day for hiking.





RSTB Calendar December



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 <i>Simi Peak from the Long Canyon trailhead – 8 AM</i> See Schedule
2 Rocky Peak Fire Road 4 PM See Schedule	3	4 Mt. McCoy Trail 6:00PM See Schedule	5	6 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule	7	8 <i>Cheeseboro Canyon - Palo Comado Canyon counterclockwise Loop* - 8 AM</i> See Schedule 
9 Rocky Peak Fire Road 4PM See Schedule	10 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Robert D. Galletly	11 Mt. McCoy Trail 6:00PM See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Rae Knapp	12	13 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Gary Valle Mary Marasco Bill Cespedes Richard Carroll	14 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Randy Shoemaker	15 <i>Work Party - The North Ridge Trail</i> 8 AM See Schedule
16 Rocky Peak Fire Road 4PM See Schedule	17	18 Mt. McCoy Trail 6:00PM See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Chris Quinn	19 Club Meeting 7 PM See Schedule	20 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Stephanie Farrar	21	22 <i>Long Canyon Loop</i> 8 AM See Schedule
23 Rocky Peak Fire Road 4PM See Schedule	24	25 No Hike  See Schedule	26	27 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule	28	29 <i>Griffith Park: Mt. Hollywood Trail from Ferndell Park*</i> 8 AM See Schedule
30 Rocky Peak Fire Road 4PM See Schedule	31 					



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 HIKES

(Rain cancels – No hikes on holidays)

Sunday Evening - Rocky Peak Fire Road

Meet at **4 PM** at the Rocky Peak Fire Road trailhead. 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 **6:00PM** at the parking lot on the north side of Royal Avenue approximately 75 feet east of Madera Road. (Moderate - 3.2 MRT - 500' total elevation gained.)

Thursday Evening - The Chumash Trail

Meet at **6 PM** 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 - 1,210' total elevation gain)

DECEMBER HIKES AND ACTIVITIES

December 1st

Simi Peak from the Long Canyon trailhead via the Albertson Motorway and China Flat

9 MRT - Moderate-to-strenuous (1,900' elevation gain/loss) Meet at **8 AM** in the parking lot just west of the intersection of Long Canyon Rd and Wood Ranch Parkway. Bring 2 - 3 quarts of water and lunch. Wear boots.

December 8th

*Cheeseboro Canyon - Palo Comado Canyon counterclockwise Loop**

10.3-mile loop - Moderate-to-strenuous (1,200' elevation gain/loss) or 5.5-mile loop - Easy-to-moderate (800' elevation gain/loss) Meet at **8 AM** near Donut Delite at the corner of Madera and Royal. Bring 2 to 3 quarts of water, lunch and sunscreen. Wear boots.

NOTE: Hikers desiring the shorter option can use the Ranch Center Connector Road as a shortcut between the two canyons.

December 15th

Work Party - The North Ridge Trail

Meet at **8 AM** at the northern end of the trail along Evening Sky Drive (on the southern side of the road nearly opposite from the Las Lajas Canyon Trailhead). Wear boots if possible, gloves, a hat, sunscreen and pants. Bring water and a snack. All tools will be provided. For more information view: <http://www.simitrailblazers.com/activities/index.html> Also, **Holiday Party:** See page one for more details.

December 19th

Club Meeting

7 PM - The Sycamore Drive Community Center - 1692 Sycamore Drive - Room B-1

December 22nd

Simi Valley: Long Canyon, Oak Canyon, Montgomery Canyon, Challenger Park, Coyote Hills Park, Canyon View


Trail Loop - 8.1-mile loop – Moderate-to-strenuous (1,430' elevation gain/loss) or 5.2-mile loop – Moderate (950' elevation gain/loss) or Easy-to-moderate (4-mile loop w/500' elevation gain/loss) Meet at **8 AM** at the trailhead in the parking lot just west of the junction of Long Canyon Road and Wood Ranch Parkway. Bring 2 to 3 quarts of water and a snack. Wear boots.

December 29th

*Griffith Park: Mt. Hollywood Trail from Ferndell Park**

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) Meet at the 118 & Stearns St. Park & Ride at **8 AM**. 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).

For more information view: <http://www.simitrailblazers.com/activities/index.html>

* 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.** <http://www.simitrailblazers.com>

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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Work Parties Chair:	<i>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</i>		
Hiking Chair:	Mark Gilmore	HM (805) 529-5581	markinthepark@sbcglobal.net
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Ways & Means Chair:	Marty Richards	HM (805) 526-4414	mlrrdh@yahoo.com
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Newsletter Editor:	Linda Mann		linda.martins.mann@simitrailblazers.com

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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

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

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

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