



Rancho Simi Trail Blazers

A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation



Volunteers Needed!!



If anyone is interested in volunteering for the **work parties chair** or the **Publicity chair**

contact Mike Kuhn at:
mike.kuhn@simitrailblazers.com



RSTB CLUB MEETING

This month's RSTB meeting will be at:
Sycamore Drive Community Center
1692 Sycamore Drive – Room B-1
Wednesday: December 17, 2014
5:30PM (NOTE: Early Start Time)
Everyone Welcome to attend!

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

Happy Holidays

Come and Enjoy our annual casual and social potluck.

Ursula Christie's Home
Friday December 5, 2014
6:30PM
576 Pinecliff Place
Simi Valley, CA 93065

Weekly hikes!!



Has anyone ever told you to take 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.

Hikes are every Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday, and most Saturdays

Upcoming Events

December 5th Christmas Holiday Party Potluck 125' RT - Easy (2' of elevation gain/loss) Come and enjoy our casual and social holiday potluck! **6:30AM**

December 6th Happy Camp Canyon, Middle Range Fire Road loop* 10 MRT - Moderate to Strenuous (1,300' of elevation gain/loss) **8AM**

December 13th Sulphur Mountain Shuttle* 10.4 Mile Shuttle - Moderate (300' / 2,200' of elevation gain / loss) **8AM**

December 17th Club Meeting
The Sycamore Drive Community Center - 1692 Sycamore Drive - Room B-1
Everyone Welcome to attend!
(NOTE: Early Start Time) 5:30PM

December 20th Work Party - Mt. McCoy **8AM** The event will end at noon.

December 27th Sage Ranch*
3.5 Mile Loop - Easy (400' of elevation gain/loss) **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.

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



WELCOME NEW MEMBER

Rex Jarrett
Lisa Eskridge

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

BEARS IN THE SANTA SUSANAS

Reports have come to our attention about the tracks, during August 2004, of several different bears in Las Lajas Canyon. Las Lajas normally has permanent water, at least at some locations along the creek. So, if there are bears in the Santa Susanas, that is one place you would be expected to find them. Because of the dry weather and the shortage of forage, we may soon hear that bears are coming into town looking for garbage. Hopefully, this situation will not lead to any unusual bear/people conflicts.

CAÑADA DE SOMIS

The 1887-88 Stow and Power "Map of the Lands of Rancho Simi" exhibits the name "*Cañada de Somis*" for what we now know as Happy Camp Canyon. Happy Camp Canyon is located west of Moorpark College. The name "Somis" is what we now call the small settlement just south of State Route 118 near the intersection with the road to Camarillo. "Somis" is derived from the name of the Indian village of "*Somna*," which means "big barranca." A barranca is an entrenched stream course, which is deeper than it is wide at the top of the entrenchment. The description aptly fits Calleguas Creek (the Arroyo Simi) where it descends down out of the Little Simi Valley onto the Oxnard Plain. "Somis" is the name of a Chumash village north of the Ojai Valley. The name seems to have been substituted historically to the area around "*Somna*."

Happy Camp Canyon is a valley - not a barranca. So why the reference to Somis? The canyon appears to be so named because the trail to *Somna* ran down it. This is another instance where a trail was named for the place to which it went.

Mike Kuhn
10-15-10 (revised)

CHUMASH AND RATTLESNAKES

Rattlesnakes were pets of the sun (as the chief deity). The threat of a rattlesnake bite begins in the early spring and continues through most of the fall. An '*antap*, i.e., a shaman, would perform a rattlesnake dance to protect the entire community against rattlesnake bites. Rattlesnakes only bite those individuals who are bad. It was also believed that the folklore of the Chumash could only be told during the winter months when the rattlesnakes were in hibernation. Otherwise, someone would be bitten by a rattlesnake. (Source: Travis Hudson and Ernest Underhay, *Crystals in the Sky: An Intellectual Odyssey Involving Chumash Astronomy, Cosmology and Rock Art*, page 136.)

Mike Kuhn
12-24-04

CHUMASH BELIEFS AND THEIR EVERYDAY WORLD

From Hudson and Blackburn, *The Material Culture of the Chumash Interaction Sphere* (1982), page 26:

"...every item made or used by the Chumash was more than just an inanimate, physical object – it usually had a supernatural dimension as well. We do not know whether a spirit was felt to be present within a lump of raw material or was imparted to it by the artisan who selected and shaped it, or both, but it is evident in many comments in Harrington's notes that material objects were conceived of as having supernatural powers in their own rights."

CHUMASH NAMES FOR INDIAN PAINTBRUSH

No Chumash uses for Indian paintbrush (*Catilleja* spp.) have been recorded. However, *Barbareño*, Chumash name for the plant means "Coyote's headdress-pin." The *Ineseño* Chumash name for the plant means "Coyote's rectum." The allusion here seems to be to the mythological character "Coyote" – one of the "First People." Source: Jan Timbrook,

Chumash Ethnobotany, Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History (2007), p. 50.

Mike Kuhn
12-30-08

CHUMASH USE OF VALLEY OAK

The following information, with a final editorial comment, is drawn from Jan Timbrook, *Ethnobotany of the Chumash*, Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History (2007), pp. 163-164.

Valley oak (*Quercus lobata*, *ta* in *Ventureño* Chumash) is a deciduous species of the white oak family. The Spanish term for the plant is *roble*.

Some Chumash descendants have said that valley oak acorns are desirable because they are large and not very bitter. However, Harrington's consultants considered them inferior. The flavor was described as insipid, perhaps due to the low fat content – about 5.5 percent in whole, unleached acorns. My own experience in questioning Chumash descendants during the 1970s was that the acorns yielded a rather tasteless mush and that, while they were gathered each year, the acorns were held as a hedge against starvation.

The wood was not favored for firewood because it burned directly to ash and did not produce coals.

Mike Kuhn
8-21-08



October 18th - San Gabriel Peak from Mt. Disappointment Road



12 hikers met at the Stearns Street Park & Ride and carpoled to the trailhead. At the intersection of Highway 2 and Mt. Wilson Red Box Road, we picked up a thirteenth hiker. It was a clear, cool, and still morning. The heavily forested single-track trail, up to the summit of Mt. Disappointment, quickly gained elevation. It was quite a relief to finally reach the intersection of the gated Mt. Disappointment Road. From there it was a short, and not so steep hike, to the top of our first peak, Mt. Disappointment (5,963'). Back in 1875, USGS Surveyors were in the Simi Valley hills, looking for a high point in the San Gabriel Mountains to triangulate. They spotted a then unnamed peak, made the first recorded climb up to it, and discovered that nearby San Gabriel Peak was, in fact, the higher peak. The peak was named after their "disappointment." Next in our peak-bagging adventure came San Gabriel Peak (6,161'). San Gabriel Peak is second only to Strawberry Peak (6,164') in elevation among the front-range summits. Our third and last peak of the day, was Mt. Lowe (5,603'), named for Professor Thaddeus S.C. Lowe, who in 1896, built the Mount Lowe Railway almost to the summit. All three peaks provided us with beautiful and expansive views. There's something very special about taking the time to look out over the distance. The group agreed that we did not want to retrace our steps, adding a lot more elevation gain, just to come back down the Mt.



this our starting point, and do the loop in reverse. In all, we

hiked about 8.5 miles, with 2,100' of total elevation gain. It was a most successful "exploratory" hike.

October 25th - Work Party - Wild Animal Corridor - Cache In Trash Out Event

A total of 18 Trail Blazers and local geocachers met in Corriganville at 8 AM this morning. The work party goal was to paint over the graffiti on the Wildlife Corridor and pick up trash in the area. The RSRPD provided everything we needed to get the job done, including paint, gloves, rollers, extensions, and garbage bags. We finished the job in record time this year. The Corridor is once again a clean slate. We carried down four large filled bags and what looked like part of a baby crib, which must have fallen out of a truck on the freeway. Since we finished so quickly, there was ample time to socialize and find some nearby geocaches. Who knew work could be so much fun? We'll do it all again next October.

November 1st - Las Lajas Canyon, Rocky Peak Fire Road, Chumash Trail

7 hikers met at the Las Lajas Canyon trailhead on Evening Sky Drive in Simi Valley on a cool autumn morning just minutes after the first rainstorm in months ended. The hike began by descending a short paved section of road into the canyon bottom; from there a wide graded



dirt road followed a stream north through the canyon, crossing the stream bed three times; the stream actually had some water in it! The steep canyon walls provided shade as we enjoyed an easy 3.5 mile trek up the canyon with minimal mud. The foliage glistened thanks to several months of dust having been washed off by the rainstorm. Nearing the Poe Ranch gate, we took the right (east) fork and continued up the dirt road leading to an abandoned oil field and then on up to a junction with the Rocky Peak Fire Road, savoring the views along the way. After reaching the Rocky Peak Fire Road, 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 1,804' of elevation gain.



RSTB Calendar December



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Lynn Gordon	2 Mt. McCoy Trail 6PM See Schedule	3	4 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule	5  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Janelle Samples	6 Happy Camp Canyon, Middle Range Fire Road loop* 8AM  See Schedule
7 Rocky Peak Fire Road 4PM See Schedule	8 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Philip Dumont Cece Worrall-Rubin	9 Mt. McCoy Trail 6PM See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Maria Silva Neil Samples	10 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Robert D. Galletly	11 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Rae Knapp	12	13 Sulphur Mountain Shuttle* 8AM See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Sven Michaelson Mary Marasco Gary Valle Rheann Roman
14 Rocky Peak Fire Road 4PM See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Randy Shoemaker	15	16 Mt. McCoy Trail 6PM See Schedule 	17 Club Meeting 5:30PM (NOTE: Early Start Time) See Schedule Everyone Welcome to attend! 	18 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Michael Harris Gavin Niblett Chris Quinn	19 	20 Work Party - Mt. McCoy 8AM See Schedule  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Stephanie Farrar
21 Rocky Peak Fire Road 4PM See Schedule 	22 	23 Mt. McCoy Trail 6PM See Schedule  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Evon Bastian	24 	25 NO HIKE HOLIDAY 	26 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Nowell Niblett Elba Rios	27 Sage Ranch* 8AM See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Beth Prentke
28 Rocky Peak Fire Road 4PM See Schedule	29	30 Mt. McCoy Trail 6PM See Schedule	31 			

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 (Scroll down to map)



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 **4PM** 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 **6PM** in the parking lot, located to the south of Donut Delite, located near the NE corner of Madera and Royal. (Moderate - 4.0 MRT - 675' elevation gain)

Thursday Evening - Chumash Trail – **NO Hike December 25**

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 end of Flanagan Drive. (Moderate to Strenuous - 5.4 MRT - 1300' total elevation gain.)

DECEMBER HIKES AND ACTIVITIES

December 5th Christmas Holiday Party Potluck

125' RT - Easy (2' of elevation gain/loss)

Come and enjoy our casual and social holiday potluck! Time: **6:30PM**

Directions to Party: Ursula Christie's Home, 576 Pinecliff Place, Simi Valley, CA 93065 (South on 1st Street, right on Mellow Lane, right on Pinecliff Place to end)

December 6th Happy Camp Canyon, Middle Range Fire Road loop*

10 MRT - Moderate to Strenuous (1,300' of elevation gain/loss)

At 4.8 miles we'll reach a pleasant oak grove with picnic tables and hitching rails where we'll take a rest-and-snack break. Meet at **8AM** near Donut Delite at the corner of Madera and Royal. Bring 2 to 3 quarts of water and lunch/snacks. Wear boots.

December 13th Sulphur Mountain Shuttle*

10.4 Mile Shuttle - Moderate (300' / 2,200' of elevation gain / loss)

Our hike will begin at the east (upper) end of the Sulphur Mountain Recreation Trail after we drop off our shuttle vehicle(s) near Hwy 33 at the west (lower) end of the trail. There are also views of the Oxnard Plain and several of the Channel Islands (visibility permitting).

Meet at **8AM** near Donut Delite at the corner of Madera and Royal. Bring 2 to 3 quarts of water and lunch/snacks. Wear boots.

December 17th Club Planning Meeting - **Everyone Welcome to attend! (NOTE: Early Start Time)**

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

December 20th Work Party - Mt. McCoy Meeting time is **8AM**. The event will end at noon. All tools will be provided. We


will be removing rocks, doing some lopping to increase trail clearance and some trail trimming. Bring your own water, snacks, gloves, hat, and wear sunscreen. Boots are recommended. Meet at western end of Washburn Street at trailhead.

December 27th Sage Ranch

3.5 Mile Loop - Easy (400' of elevation gain/loss)

This 625-acre park is located in the Simi Hills just north of the Santa Susana Field Laboratory (SSFL) (aka Rocketdyne/Boeing) at an elevation of 2,000'. It is full of world-class sandstone rock formations and the trail provides great views of Simi Valley and the mountains to the north. Meet at **8AM**. Bring 2 to 3 quarts of water and lunch/snacks. Wear boots.

DIRECTIONS TO THE TRAILHEAD: In Simi Valley, take Highway 118 to the Kuehner Drive exit. Take Kuehner Drive 0.9 mile south to Katherine Road. Turn right (west) on Katherine Road and drive 0.5 mile to an intersection at which Katherine Road makes a 90-degree turn to the left (south). Drive 0.2 mile south on Katherine Road (crossing the railroad tracks along the way) to a junction with Oak Knolls Road. Turn right (west) on Oak Knolls Road and drive 0.1 mile to a junction with Black Canyon Road. Turn left on narrow Black Canyon Road and follow it 1.9 miles as it winds steeply uphill to Sage Ranch Park. Turn right at the signed entrance to the park (and then immediately left) into the parking lot.

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/activities/index.html>

RANCHO SIMI TRAIL BLAZERS

A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation

Executive Chair:	Mike Kuhn	HM (805) 583-2345	hannahmike@me.com
Treasurer:	Santiago Homsí		
Park District Liaison:	Jeannie Liss	WK (805) 584-4453	volunteers@rsrpd.us
Work Parties Chair:	VOLUNTEER NEEDED		Contact Mike Kuhn at: 805-583-2345
Hiking Chair:	Mark Gilmore	HM (805) 529-5581	markinthepark@sbcglobal.net
Vice Hiking Chair:	Les Wilson	HM (805) 522-2642	les.wilson@roadrunner.com
Website:	Mark Gilmore	HM (805) 529-5581	markinthepark@sbcglobal.net
Ways & Means Chair:	Marty Richards	HM (805) 526-4414	mlrrdh@yahoo.com
Publicity Chair:	VOLUNTEER NEEDED		Contact Mike Kuhn at: 805-583-2345
Newsletter Editor:	Linda Mann		linda.martins.mann@simitrailblazers.com

-----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 630445, Simi Valley, CA 93063-0399



U.S. Postage

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