




Rancho Simi Trail Blazers

A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS
Thomas and Monica Moorman

Weekly hikes!!



Has anyone ever told you to take a 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. We even enjoy going on overnight events. **Please join us** and see for yourself how much fun we have!

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

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




Our bank will no longer accept dues or other checks made out to the Rancho Simi Trail Blazers. **ALL CHECKS must be made out to the Rancho Simi Foundation.**

Due to unforeseen circumstances, all activities are subject to change without notice. Please see <http://www.simitrailblazers.com/index.php/calendar/> for event details and the most



DECEMBER

Come & Enjoy our annual casual & social potluck!

Friday, December 2, 2016

Ursula Christie's Home

Time: 6:30 PM
576 Pinecliff Place
Simi Valley, CA 93065

South on 1st Street, right on Mellow Lane, right on Pinecliff Place to end

Members Only

RSTB CLUB MEETING
This month's RSTB meeting will be at:
Sycamore Drive Community Center
1692 Sycamore Drive – Room B-1
Wednesday: December 21, 2016
5:30PM Everyone Welcome to attend!

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

- Upcoming Events**
- December 3rd Sandstone Peak via the Mishe Mokwa Trail*** 7 MRT Loop – Moderate to Strenuous (1,500' elevation gain/loss) **8AM**
 - December 10th Tierra Rejada Park Exploratory Hike** 8 MRT – Moderate (1,700' of elevation gain/loss.) **8AM**
 - December 17th Work Party – Lower Stage Coach Trail** **8AM**
 - December 21st Club Board Meeting** The Sycamore Drive Community Center - 1692 Sycamore Drive - Room B-1 **5:30PM** **Everyone Welcome to attend!**
 - December 24th Sage Ranch Loop** 3.5 Mile Loop – Easy (400' of elevation gain/loss) **8AM**
 - December 31st Las Lajas Trail to the Shovel** 6 MRT – Moderate (~1,000' of elevation gain/loss.) **8AM**
- Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District events can be viewed at <http://www.rsrpd.org> to see what is happening next!

October 8th – The Hummingbird Trail and Rocky Peak

12 hikers assembled at the inadequate 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 what promised to become another very hot day. The morning was already warm 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." By the time we had reached the fire road (2,100') the day had turned hot. At this point several of the hikers decided to return to the trailhead and did so. Those of us who continued on followed the road northward along with a variety of bikers and other hikers while enjoying the sweeping views of eastern Simi Valley, the Santa Susana Mountains, and the Simi Hills. After reaching the customary viewpoint (2,624') near Rocky Peak (2,715'), we rested briefly while admiring the panoramic views including the hazy outline of Santa Cruz Island. After taking a short break, we retraced our route and reached the trailhead having completed an 8.2-mile hike with about 1,800' of elevation gain/loss. NOTE: By the time we finished the hike the temperature was in the mid-90's and the heat was intense.

October 15th – Chivo Canyon Loop

15 hikers met on a mild early-autumn morning in Simi Valley near the mouth of Chivo Canyon in the Marr Ranch Open Space in northeast Simi Valley. After we "dropped" into Chivo Canyon, we hiked northward along the old Chivo Canyon (dirt) Road to the upper end of lower Chivo Canyon (just south of the Chivo Canyon "Narrows"). We passed by a large oil seep and crossed a marshy area (with water in it) along the way. We took a short break and then partially retraced our route to the junction with the Buckhorn Trail (named by Joe Beautz, a local expert on hiking in the area) which we followed as we climbed up to the north-south road (named the "Marr Ranch Road" on Google Earth) atop the eastern ridge overlooking both Chivo Canyon and part of Las Lajas Canyon to the east. We enjoyed the panoramic views of the surrounding mountains and then, while enjoying a cool breeze, we headed south along Marr Ranch Road to its junction ("Four Points") with the Cappocchi Trail (named by Joe Beautz from spray painting on a nearby water tank) which connects with the Chivo Canyon Road below; we spotted several head of free-range cattle grazing nearby. However, we continued south along the Cliff Trail that overlooks and runs parallel to Chivo Canyon; there were breathtaking views straight down into the canyon at times along the way as well as a view of the Las Lajas Canyon dam. Eventually the trail (an old road) dropped steeply to Cottonwood Drive and we returned a short distance to our vehicles having completed a pleasant 5.8-mile hike with a total elevation gain/loss of nearly 1,300'.

October 22nd – Work Party – Wild Animal Corridor – Cache In Trash Out Event

This was the eighth time the Trail Blazers teamed up with the local geocachers, to clean up the Wildlife Corridor above Corriganville Park. 32 of us removed six bags of garbage and painted over the graffiti at the Corridor. This year we had a few families and Girl Scouts in attendance too. It was a clear and cool day, so we enjoyed fine views of Simi Valley from the far eastern side. Many thanks to the RSRPD, for providing all we needed to get the job done. We all had a lot of fun and enjoyed some good conversation. We'll do it all again next year!

November 5th – Cloudburst Summit to Buckhorn Campground via Cooper Canyon



On a lovely autumn morning, ten hikers carpooled to Cloudburst Summit (7,018') in the San Gabriel Mountains where our one-way

hike was to begin. After positioning a shuttle vehicle at the hike's end in the Burkhart-Trail-trailhead parking lot at the north end of the Buckhorn Campground, we began hiking northward along the section of the Pacific Crest Trail that descends into Cooper Canyon. We immediately entered a wonderland of Jeffrey and sugar pine trees (as well as cedar, alder, and oak trees) as we hiked along a trail often covered in pine needles giving off a pleasant pine scent. At first the trail descended steadily but then it rose along a mountain ridge providing scenic views of the surrounding mountains. After hiking 2.5 miles we reached the Cooper Canyon Trail Camp (6,300') which is used by backpackers. After taking a short break we continued our descent to a junction with the Burkhart Trail (which descends northward all the way to the Devil's Punchbowl). We took another break above the nearby Cooper Canyon waterfall (5,656') but decided not to descend the treacherous "use trail" to the base of the waterfall which was only a trickle of water due to the ongoing drought. Continuing our hike, we followed the Burkhart Trail up to our shuttle vehicle (6,411') enjoying the striking incense cedars and the bright-yellow foliage along the way. We returned to Simi Valley having completed a very pleasant 6-mile hike with 1,000' of elevation gain and 1,650' of elevation loss.



RSTB Calendar DECEMBER



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule	2 Christmas Holiday Party Potluck 6:30PM See Schedule	3 Sandstone Peak via the Mishe Mokwa Trail* 8AM See Schedule
4 Rocky Peak Fire Road 4PM See Schedule	5	6 Mt. McCoy Trail 6PM See Schedule	7	8 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule	9	10 Tierra Rejada Park Exploratory Hike 8AM See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Robert D. Galletly Blan Quita San Luis
11 Rocky Peak Fire Road 4PM See Schedule	12 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Daisy Wang	13 Mt. McCoy Trail 6PM See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Bill Cespedes	14 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Randy Shoemaker	15 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule	16	17 Work Party – Lower Stage- coach Trail 8AM See Schedule
18 Rocky Peak Fire Road 4PM See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Chris Quinn Harry San Luis	19	20 Mt. McCoy Trail 6PM See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Stephanie Farrar	21 Club Meeting 5:30PM <i>Everyone Welcome to at- tend!</i> See Schedule	22 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule	23 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Jhoanne Kuhnly	24 Sage Ranch Loop 8AM See Schedule <i>Happy Hanukkah</i> 
25 	26 <i>Happy Hanukkah</i> 	27 Mt. McCoy Trail 6PM See Schedule <i>Happy Hanukkah</i> 	28 <i>Happy Hanukkah</i> 	29 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule <i>Happy Hanukkah</i> 	30 <i>Happy Hanukkah</i> 	31 Las Lajas Trail to the Shovel 8AM See Schedule 

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)

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
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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 1231, Simi Valley, CA 93062**



U.S. Postage

RSTB
P.O. Box 1231
Simi Valley, CA 93062

(Continued from November)

FATHER JOSE SENAN'S COMMENTS ON THE STATE OF MISSION SAN BUENAVENTURA IN NOVEMBER 1822

Item 6.Although our small cove.....does not abound in fish, a number of species of excellent quality are found at a distance of eight, 11 or 13 miles. These include the swordfish which, despite the disagreeable appearance of the ferocious cetacean [Father Senan is not correct here – they are not related to whales.], has very white flesh, tender and delicate in favor. Only a few days ago I heard an Englishman say he preferred it to salmon. A Single one, supplemented by ordinary rations, is sufficient for 40 persons. [He goes on to describe the availability of rockfish, cod, needlefish, yellowtail, and sardines.] A good many small whales and sea lions pass along our coast, but [fur] seals are rare. In years gone by the Mission used to catch may sea otters, by dint of great effort and skill, but hunting them now is a waste of time, for the Anglo-Americans and the Russians have finished them off. The few remaining ones have fled, disgusted by so much persecution. [For many years Mission San Buenaventura shipped 90-100 otter pelts each year to Mexico (most later were sold in China, where they fetched a high price). The otter pelt trade was a major source of revenue for the mission, and great pressure was places on the neophytes to bring in otter pelts. The Anglo-Americans and Russians, the latter through their Aleut hunters, hunted sea otters along the shores of the Channel Islands and further afield. Father Senan does not seem to acknowledge the role of the missions in the disappearance of sea otter.]

Conclusion. The fact is that our very close proximity to the shore makes landing possible at our port [cove], but this is a doubtful advantage, especially if we are caught unprepared or by surprise. [The concern here is about the threat of pirate raiders. Only one pirate ever attacked the Cali-

fornia coast during the mission period. That pirate did not attack San Buenaventura.] The only favorable circumstance is that they [the invaders] are afraid of our small and dangerous cove, but even so they can do as they please with their barges and small boats....

Mike Kuhn
12-3-09 (revised 5-20-10)

PLANT SUCCESSION ALONG THE CHUMASH TRAIL FOLLOWING THE OCTOBER 2003 FIRE

October 2003 witnessed a devastating fire in the mountains north of Simi Valley. The Chumash Trail wanders through some of the worst affected areas. What is offered here are some observation about the effect of the fire on the natural vegetation and the sequence of plant succession through the summer of 2005. It is my intent to update this description from time to time.

The Chumash Trail went through ruderal, i.e., made up primarily of Mediterranean grasses with some herbaceous species and laurel sumac, grasslands for the first few hundred yards north of the trailhead. The vegetation over the next 0.6 of a mile was dominated by a mixture of coastal sage scrub and chaparral. Above the 0.6 mile mark was mature chaparral. While the lower portions of the trail had been affected by wildfires several times during the previous 30+ years, the area above the 1.1 mile point had not burned during that period. As a result, the chaparral was dense and generally six or more feet high. The chaparral was dominated by chamise and hoary-leaved ceanothus, with a smattering of laurel sumac, toyon, sugar bush, hollyleaf cherry, deerweed, yerba santa and a few other species, especially along the upper one half mile section of the trail.

The immediate effect of the fire was to burn the entire area adjacent to the trail. Some areas of the ruderal grasslands near the bottom of the trail (but away from the trail itself) remained

unburned due to aggressive fire protection efforts and the lower heat potential of burning dried grasses and annual herbaceous plants, such as mustards and sweet fennel. The coastal sage scrub/chaparral is made up of fairly low, widely spaced plants with a moderate fuel load. While the grasslands and coastal sage scrub/chaparral were burned, moderate fire temperatures did not, in general, destroy the stumps of perennial plants or the entire seed load in the upper few inches of the soil. The chaparral, especially on the north-facing steep slopes where the fuel load was greatest, burned with intense heat. As a result, the stumps of most species were entirely consumed and much of the seed reservoir in the upper layer of the soil was turned to ash. Following the fire, wind-blown ash contributed to air pollution in the valley and drifted over the trail mixed with lacquer-like crusts from the condensation of volatile hydrocarbons from perennial shrubs. Condensation of volatilized hydrocarbons driven below the surface of the soil has contributed to excessive runoff during winter rains. These hydrophobic soils have resulted in elevated rates of soil erosion and mass siltation of waterways, including of the basin behind the Las Lajas Stormwater Detention Dam. The mixture of ash and the lacquer-like crusts were highly subject to both wind and water erosion and does not densify well when trying to rebuild trails.

Mike Kuhn
8-7-05

(Stay tuned for the continuation of story in January)





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 HIKE (*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)

(We Meet at 5PM during daylight saving time.)

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 end of Flanagan Drive.

(Moderate to Strenuous - 5.4 MRT - 1300' total elevation gain.)

DECEMBER HIKES AND ACTIVITIES

December 3rd Sandstone Peak via the Mishe Mokwa Trail*

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

After passing Split Rock the trail will take us up the mountain to a spur trail leading to Inspiration Point (2,800') and then to the spur trail leading to Sandstone Peak (3,111'), aka Mt. Allen, the highest peak in the Santa Monica Mountains. After enjoying the spectacular views we'll complete the loop back to the Mishe Mokwa Trail and our vehicles. Bring lunch and 2 to 3 quarts of water. Meet at **8AM** near Donut Delite at the corner of Madera and Royal.

December 10th Tierra Rejada Park Exploratory Hike

Meet at **8AM** 8 MRT – Moderate (1,700' of elevation gain/loss.) Bring trail snacks and 2 to 3 quarts of water.

DIRECTIONS TO THE TRAILHEAD: Take Hwy 118 to the Madera Road exit in Simi Valley. Drive south on Madera Road 0.9 mile to its intersection with Tierra Rejada Road [at a traffic light]. Turn right (west) onto Tierra Rejada Road and drive 0.6 mile to its intersection with Stargaze Place.

December 17th Work Party – Lower Stagecoach Trail

Meeting time is **8AM**. The event will end at noon. All tools will be provided. We will do trail grooming and widening, and cutting back some brush. Bring your own water, snacks, gloves, hat, and wear sunscreen. Boots are recommended. Directions: From Kuehner Drive and the 118 Freeway, head south to the intersection of Kuehner Drive and Smith Road, where you turn right (east). Meet at the eastern end of the dirt parking lot.

December 21st Club Meeting *Everyone Welcome to attend!*

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


December 24th Sage Ranch Loop Sage Ranch

3.5 Mile Loop – Easy (400' of elevation gain/loss). Meet at **8AM**. Bring 2 quarts of water, sunscreen, and trail snacks. Wear boots. **DI-**

RECTIONS 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.

December 31st Las Lajas Trail to the Shovel

Meeting time is **8AM**. 6 MRT – Moderate (~1,000' of elevation gain/loss.) Bring trail snacks and 2 to 3 quarts of water. **DIRECTIONS TO THE TRAILHEAD FROM SIMI VALLEY:** 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.

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/index.php/calendar/>