



Rancho Simi Trail Blazers

A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation



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.**



Happy Holidays

Come & Enjoy our annual casual & social potluck!

Ursula Christie's Home
 Friday, December 8, 2017
 Time: 6:30 PM
 576 Pinecliff Place
 Simi Valley, CA 93065

Make your reservation at:
<https://www.simitrailblazers.com/index.php/rsvpmaker/christmas-holiday-party-potluck-2017-12-08/>

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



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

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 CLUB MEETING
 This month's RSTB meeting will be at:
 Sycamore Drive Community Center
 1692 Sycamore Drive – Room B-1
Wednesday December 20, 2017
5:30PM
Everyone Welcome to attend!

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

Upcoming Events

December 2nd Alamos Canyon Exploratory #2 9 MRT – Moderate to Strenuous (1,600' elevation gain/loss) **8AM**

December 9th Sandstone Peak Loop via the Mishe Mokwa Trail * 7 MRT Loop – Moderate to Strenuous (1,500' elevation gain/loss) **8AM**

December 16th Work Party – Tapo Open Space We are working to improve the Simi Valley trails while having some fun. **8AM**

December 20th Club Board Meeting The Sycamore Drive Community Center - 1692 Sycamore Drive - Room B-1 **Everyone Welcome to attend!** **5:30PM**

December 23rd Sage Ranch Loop * 3.5 Mile Loop – Easy (400' of elevation gain/loss) **8AM**

December 30th Tapo Canyon Open Space Trail to a Side Canyon 5 MRT lollipop loop moderate (800' of elevation gain/loss.) **8AM**

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

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



October 28th – Westward Beach to Pt. Dume and Paradise Cove



22 hikers traveled to Malibu and Westward Beach Road where we took advantage of free parking along the road and then hiked to the parking lot trailhead, spotting a solitary seal off-

shore along the way. The temperature was pleasant since there was an early morning marine layer as we began hiking up onto Point Dume.

After an easy climb, we hiked through a maze of trails surrounded by a “forest” of dormant coreopsis plants to the east side of the peninsula with a breathtaking view of Dume Cove and the Pacific Ocean. We then descended a rusty stairway that led down to Dume Beach. Despite being fairly close to low tide (11:00), our beach walk to Paradise Cove consisted of rocky stretches interspersed with long sandy expanses; at several points we timed our passage to the outflow of waves as we scampered carefully across the exposed bottom before our shoes were inundated by the next wave (all of which made for an interesting passage). We pretty much had the beach to ourselves as we enjoyed the ocean sounds and sights until we eventually arrived at the Paradise Cove Beach Café

(<http://www.paradisecovemalibu.com>), a landmark for decades. We rested for a while in the free-of-charge Adirondack chairs facing the ocean outside the restaurant and watched as our resident merman made another appearance to the amusement of several of the other beachgoers. The marine layer had lifted and the beach had become busier when we decided to walk out on the nearby pier where several people were fishing (until recently the pier had been closed for several years). After a while we resumed our hike and headed back along the beach the way we had come; the tide was now “coming in” but it was still possible to minimize getting our boots wet. After climbing back onto Point Dume, we hiked along a partially sand-covered wooden walkway to an observation platform which afforded views of the ocean and then climbed on up to the flat top of Point Dume with 360-degree views of the surrounding area. We then returned to the main trail and descended to the parking lot and hiked back to our vehicles, returning home having completed a very pleasant 7-mile hike with about 400’ of elevation gain/loss.

November 18th – Work Party – The Hummingbird Trail

Watch video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p6MvILcytyk&feature=youtu.be> of the event.

Great work party with a combination of Trailblazers and local Geocachers. Fourteen people showed up ready to work; basic tools and instructions were given out and off we went. Work was done on the first half a mile of trail, from the trailhead to the creek crossing. Our historian for the day, Cheri captured the pictures for us.

We removed some rocks, trimmed trees, cleared the trail of brush, widened out some of the trail and

even built a bridge going over a drainage pipe on one of the little side creek crossings.

Much discussion about a variety things including, of course, solving the world’s problems, while work continued. At the end, we got to rest under some oaks and talk about the next project.

The Geocachers in the group made plans on continuing up the trail to find some of the Geocaches on Hummingbird trail. A big thanks to all of those who pitched in today, including a foreign exchange student from Spain who chipped in and gave up their Saturday morning to help out the community and give back a comfortable trail to explore.

November 25th – Las Llajas Trail to the Shovel

22 hikers met at the Las Llajas Canyon trailhead on Evening Sky Drive in Simi Valley on a temporarily cool autumn morning. We began our hike under a clear blue sky by descending a short paved section of road into the canyon bottom; from there we followed the wide well-graded dirt road upstream to the north 1.8 miles, crossing the dry stream bed three times.

We then followed a slightly overgrown “use” trail (the remnants of an old mining road) as we climbed up the eastern slope of the mountain, atop which we enjoyed panoramic views of the surrounding area including parts of Chivo Canyon, Las Llajas Canyon, the Santa Susana Mountains, Simi Valley, and the San Fernando Valley; also today we could see part of Anacapa Island. We took a break when we reached our goal, the site of a coquina (a soft whitish limestone formed of broken shells and corals cemented together and used for road building) mining operation. Various mining equipment artifacts are strewn about near the mining site, most notably a P&H Model 206 “steam” shovel. The day had warmed up noticeably but we enjoyed a mild breeze as we retraced our route and returned to our vehicles having completed a pleasant 6.3-mile hike with 1,100’ of elevation gain/loss.





RSTB Calendar DECEMBER



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 Alamos Canyon Exploratory #2 8AM See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Ann Weeks
3 Rocky Peak Fire Road 4PM	4	5 Mt. McCoy Trail 6PM See Schedule	6	7 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule	8  Christmas Holiday Party Ursula Christie's Home	9 Sandstone Peak Loop via the Mishe Mokwa Trail * 8AM See Schedule
10 Rocky Peak Fire Road 4PM See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Robert D. Galletly Blan Quita San Luis	11 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Pat Burgess Bala Murali	12 Mt. McCoy Trail 6PM  See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Daisy Wang	13 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Bill Cespedes	14 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule	15	16 Work Party – Tapo Open Space 8AM See Schedule
17 Rocky Peak Fire Road 4PM See Schedule	18 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Chris Quinn Harry San Luis	19 Mt. McCoy Trail 6PM See Schedule	20 Club Board Meeting The <i>Everyone</i> <i>Welcome to attend! 5:30PM</i>  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Stephanie Farrar	21 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule	22	23 Sage Ranch Loop * 8AM See Schedule
24 Rocky Peak Fire Road 4PM See Schedule	25 	26 Mt. McCoy Trail 6PM See Schedule	27	28 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule	29	30 Tapo Canyon Open Space Trail to a Side Canyon 8AM See Schedule
31 Rocky Peak Fire Road 4PM 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)



U.S. Postage

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

-----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

RANCHO SIMI TRAIL BLAZERS

A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation

Executive Chair:	Mike Kuhn	HM (805) 583-2345	mike.kuhn@simitrailblazers.com
Treasurer:	Santiago Homsí		
Park District Liaison:	Jeannie Liss	WK (805) 584-4453	volunteers@rsrpd.us
Work Parties Chair:	Mike Howard & Cheri Lanier		mike.howard@simitrailblazers.com
Hiking Chair:	Mark Gilmore	HM (805) 990-1460	markinthepark@simitrailblazers.com
Vice Hiking Chair:	Les Wilson	HM (805) 522-2642	les.wilson@simitrailblazers.com
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Ways & Means Chair:	Marty Richards	HM (805) 526-4414	marty.richards@simitrailblazers.com
Publicity Chair:	VOLUNTEER NEEDED		Contact Mike Kuhn at: 805-583-2345
Newsletter Editor:	Linda Mann	Cell: 805-501-5229	linda.martins.mann@simitrailblazers.com

EQUESTRIANS IN ROCK ART

An unusual Chumash pictograph site in the Santa Monica Mountains is focused on four riders on horses and/or mules. During 2000 I photographed the site. It is known as LAn-717. An academic analysis of the site by Gregory A. Reinhardt, entitled "Pictographs with a Historic Component: LAn-717, A Los Angeles County Rock Art Site," appears in *Messages from the Past: Studies in California Rock Art*, Monograph XX, Institute of Archaeology, University of California, Los Angeles, n.d.

The panel is done nearly entirely in red pigment. The riders are arranged in a line - one after the other - as though they represent a particular group of equestrians and a particular event. Because of the consistency of style that is shared by each image, it would seem that all four figures were painted by the same individual. The horses are accurately depicted, as are the riders in relationship to the horses. The artist, then, would appear to be an eye witness - not someone simply depicting an event passed by word of mouth from one person to another. At least three groups of ritualistic figures seem to face the equestrians from below - in awe of what they see. The panel is focused on the riders as though their passage represents a major event in the life of the Chumash observers. The panel, at least most of it, was certainly composed during the historic period. The composition may celebrate the first encounter with people of western European culture and the horse or mule. So, who do the equestrians represent?

Most likely the rock art panel depicts members of the 1769 Portola expeditions. Portola's first expedition left San Diego in early summer of 1769 to meet with the packet boat, San Antonio, at Monterey Bay. The land force, which included Fray Junipera Serra, passed down the Santa Clara River valley well north of the rock art site on August 10, 1769, and sent scouts south to explore for a possible coastal route to Monterey.

Portola missed the San Antonio, which did land at Point Conception about 125 miles west of the Malibu on its return voyage. They inquired of the Chumash Indians that they met about the Portola expedition and were informed through gestures about how the expedition had passed through the area on horseback going north and then about their return. The Indians acted out the scene by sitting astride water casks, which had been brought ashore, and made appropriate gestures to indicate horsemen.

Juan Rodrigues Cabrillo had travelled up and down the coast by ship in 1542-43 as well as Viscaino in 1602. Captain Francis Drake sailed along the California coast in 1579. Vessels of the Manila trade also passed along the coast every other year or so throughout the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries. There is no record to indicate that any of those vessels carried any horses or mules. Therefore, the Portola expedition of 1769 resulted in the first exposure that Native Americans in the area could have had any exposure to horses or any equine species.

The Anza expedition came through southern California in 1774. However, Anza travelled well north of the Santa Monica Mountains.

Another explanation is that the pictograph panel was painted during the mission period as magic against the Spanish intruders. If this were the case, one might expect more than just four riders and many other motifs of Spanish life. The four riders, as previously stated, seem to depict an event. However, it is still possible that a group of formerly friendly Chumash Indians returned to this old place of "power" to call upon adverse power to rid the land of the now unwanted invaders by controlling their spirits.

Finally, one is tempted to refer to the equestrians as the "four horsemen of the Apocalypse," a story that could have been relayed by priests in the missions. This seems unlikely since the biblical horsemen carried a bow, a pair of balance scales, and a sword. Only one equestrian at LAn-

717 seems to be carrying anything and that seems to be a lantern.

So, my money is on the depiction of members of the scouting party of the 1969 Portola expedition. How could the Indians know that the event would lead to the utter destruction of their culture and the death of 80-85% of their population within three to four decades. A universe collapsed and another took its place. How sad for us all.

Mike Kuhn

11-18-04 (revised 5-29-15)

Happy Holidays!

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our annual casual
&
social potluck!

Mrsula Christie's
Home
Friday, December 8, 2017
Time: 6:30 PM
576 Pinecliff Place
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Make your reservation at:
<https://www.simitrailblazers.com/index.php/rsvpmaker/christmas-holiday-party-potluck-2017-12-08/>

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





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

DECEMBER HIKES AND ACTIVITIES

December 2nd Alamos Canyon Exploratory #2

Moderate exploratory hike with an undetermined distance and elevation gain/loss. Meet at **8AM**. **Directions to trailhead parking: Alamos Canyon in the News:** "Park district to buy half of Alamos Canyon" [Simi Valley Acorn] **Go to Trailblazers website calendar to find link to read about this in the Acorn.**

December 8th Christmas Holiday Party Potluck

Reservations are required this year. Please go to <https://www.simitrailblazers.com/index.php/rsvpmaker/christmas-holiday-party-potluck-2017-12-08/> to make your reservation. 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 9th Sandstone Peak Loop via the Mishe Mokwa Trail *

7 MRT Loop – Moderate to Strenuous (1,500' elevation gain/loss) Meet at **8AM** near Donut Delite at the corner of Madera and Royal. Our hike begins at the point where the Santa Monica Mountains Backbone Trail (BBT) crosses Yerba Buena Road at Triunfo Pass (2,100'). Bring lunch and 2 to 3 quarts of water.

December 16th – Work Party – Tapo Open Space

Meeting time is **8AM** at the trailhead. All tools will be provided by the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District. **Directions to Trailhead:** In Simi Valley, take Highway 118 to Yosemite Avenue and exit. Drive 1.9 miles north to Westwood Street. Turn right (north) on Westwood Street. Park in the first block, if possible, or along the north side of Copper Ridge Court (the first street on the right)

December 20th Club Meeting *Everyone Welcome to attend!*


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

December 23rd – Sage Ranch Loop *

3.5 Mile Loop – Easy (400' of elevation gain/loss) Meet at the trailhead at **8AM**. **Directions to trailhead:** From Simi Valley, take Highway 118 to the Kuehner Drive exit. It is full of world-class sandstone rock formations and the trail provides great views of Simi Valley and the mountains to the north. Bring 2 quarts of water, sunscreen, and trail snacks. Wear boots. **Read FULL directions on website.**

December 30th Tapo Canyon Open Space Trail to a Side Canyon

5 MRT lollipop loop moderate (800' of elevation gain/loss.) Meet at **8AM** at the trailhead. **Directions to trailhead:** From 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). Bring 2 quarts of water, sunscreen, and trail snacks. Wear boots.

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/>