



Rancho Simi Trailblazers

A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation



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

~~ Welcome New Member Guillermo Rios ~~

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. Applicants must be evaluated by the board and would be subject to the park district's standard background check.



December 7, 2019 – Trippet Ranch, Eagle Rock, Hub Junction and Musch Trail Loop*



7.1 mile loop – Moderate (1,350' of elevation gain/loss)

Our hike will begin along the Nature Trail and will then head up the Eagle Springs Fire Road to the awe-inspiring Eagle Rock monolith. After exploring Eagle Rock we'll follow a fire road eastward to Hub Junction and then loop back to Eagle Junction where we'll begin hiking down the pleasantly shaded Musch Trail as we return to the parking lot.

Be sure to pay the trailhead parking fee (probably about \$12.00) at the Trippet Ranch parking lot (if the entrance booth is closed, fill out an envelope, place the flap of the envelope on the vehicle's dashboard, put the fee in the envelope and seal it, and then put the envelope in the "Iron Ranger").

Meet at **8 AM** in the parking lot, to the south of Donut Delite, located on the north east side of the intersection of Royal Avenue and Madera Road. Bring 2 to 3 quarts of water, lunch/snack and sunscreen. Wear boots.

December 14, 2019 – Work Party - Wild Animal Corridor - Cache In Trash Out Event

Meeting time is **8 AM**. The event will end at **11AM**. The Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District will provide all that we need. You must bring your own water, snacks, and sunscreen. Wear old work clothes, gloves, and a hat. This event is being held in conjunction with a GeoCaching.com CITO event. Directions: From Kuehner Drive and the 118, head South to Smith Road and turn left. Continue to the end of Smith Road, passing the public parking area. Follow the CITO Event signs, past the normally locked gate where the pavement ends, to a designated parking area, adjacent the rail road track.

December 18, 2019

Club Meeting 5:30PM Park District: 4201 Guardian Street, Activity Room #2

Everyone is welcome to attend.

December 21, 2019 – Malibu Creek State Park*



9 Mile Loop – Moderate to Strenuous (1,500' elevation gain)

Our hike will start (and end) in Malibu Creek State Park at the point at which the Grasslands Trail crosses Mulholland Highway (just west of Las Virgenes Road). We'll follow the North Grasslands Trail and the Liberty Canyon Trail as we head north through the Liberty Canyon Natural Preserve. Then we'll head south as we hike up a north-south ridge on the Phantom Trail which provides panoramic views of Malibu Creek State Park and the surrounding mountains. After we descend from the ridge we'll cross Mulholland Highway and hike the Cistern Trail, the Lookout Trail and Crags Road to the Rock Pool where we'll take a lunch/rest break. Then we'll cross Malibu Creek and pass by the Visitor Center to hike the Chaparral Trail to Mott Road where we'll visit the Mott Adobe Ruins before completing our loop hike along Crags Road and the Grasslands Trail.

Meet at **8 AM** in the parking lot, to the south of Donut Delite, located on the north east side of the intersection of Royal Avenue and Madera Road. Bring 2 to 3 quarts of water, lunch/snack and sunscreen. Wear boots.

December 28, 2019 – Chivo Canyon Loop

7 MRT – Moderate (1,400' elevation gain)

We will start our hike by descending into the mouth of Chivo Canyon from Cottonwood Drive. We will then hike up the canyon to an out-and-back side canyon that will lead to a nice view of Tapo Canyon. Then we'll climb the ridge on the east side of Chivo Canyon via the Buckhorn Trail where we'll be rewarded with panoramic views of the area. We'll complete our loop hike along a section of the old Marr Ranch Road and the Cliff Trail.

Directions to meeting place: From Simi Valley, take Highway 118 to Yosemite Avenue. Drive 1.9 miles north to Westwood Street. Turn right on Westwood Street and park your car. Bring 2 to 3 quarts of water and a snack.

HIKE REPORTS

October 26, 2019 – Conejo Mountain

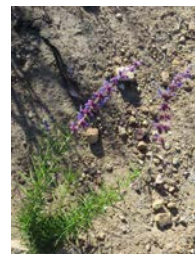


10 hikers assembled at the signed "Powerline Trail" trailhead on Via Ricardo in Newbury Park on a warm autumn morning on a much-appreciated break between high-wind advisories and red-flag warnings. The temperature was pleasant for hiking up the mountain and the air was surprisingly clear. The trail began 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 and beyond 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 at which point we regrouped and followed a "use" trail which led steeply up the eastern flank of Conejo Mountain. Once we summited the eastern portion of the mountain, we could see our destination: the highest point to the west on the mountain. We followed a "use" trail across the rock-strewn landscape to the "peak" of Conejo Mountain where we enjoyed 360-degree views of both near and distant mountains, Camarillo and the Pacific Ocean including Anacapa Island and Santa Cruz Island in the Channel Islands National Park. We followed a different "use" trail back down to the spur road and then retraced our route to Via Ricardo and returned home having completed a pleasant 5-mile hike with 1,275' of elevation gain/loss on a nice morning (which had heated up some by the time we completed the hike). We encountered a small (young) rattlesnake near the Conejo Mountain "peak."

November 2, 2019 – Solstice Canyon - Hike Cancelled due to poor air quality

November 9, 2019 – Simi Peak from King James Court via China Flat



13 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 along a single-track trail, but soon continued 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 lovely China Flat with its oak trees and sprawling golden meadows. Despite the recent drought and last year's Woolsey Fire, many of the oak trees 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. We took a rest-and-snack break atop the peak and enjoyed the panoramic views including the Santa Susana Mountains and two of the Channel Islands (Anacapa Island and Santa Cruz Island). After a while we returned to our vehicles the way we came, completing a 6.1-mile hike with over 1,500' of elevation gain/loss on a beautiful day.

November 16, 2019 – Work Party - Lower Stage Coach - Cancelled due to wind

November 23, 2019 – Ahmanson Ranch, Lasky Mesa, Las Virgenes Canyon Lollipop Loop



9 hikers carpooled to the trailhead at the north end of Las Virgenes Road in the Simi Hills on a pleasant autumn morning (cool temperatures, clear skies with good visibility and intermittent light breezes, some stronger wind). A short distance after the hike began we reached a T-junction and turned right onto the East Las Virgenes Canyon Trail (ELVCT), a dirt road that winds through the Upper Las Virgenes Canyon Open Space Preserve (aka Ahmanson Ranch) to the Victory trailhead at the west end of Victory Blvd in West Hills. The preserve consists of a vast expanse of rolling hills and grasslands dotted with large old oak trees. Just before we would have reached the Victory Blvd entrance parking lot, we followed an old ranch road as it climbed up onto Lasky Mesa where we ascended to an overlook that provides a panoramic view (that was excellent today) of the San Fernando Valley and the Simi Hills. Continuing our hike on Lasky Mesa we soon reached several buildings on the site of the old ranch house where there is some shade.

NOTE: Lasky Mesa is named for Jesse L. Lasky, a key founder of Paramount Pictures. A number of famous movies were (partially) filmed here, including the sunrise scene in *Gone with the Wind* in which Scarlett O'Hara declares "As God is my witness, I'll never be hungry again."

After a short break we followed a trail (a dirt road at first which became a single-track trail after a while) down to the ELVCT which took us back to our vehicles. We returned to Simi Valley having completed a pleasant 6.8-mile hike with around 850' of elevation gain/loss. NOTE: Refer to the following web site for an excellent and very interesting history of the Ahmanson Ranch (and surrounding) area: <http://www.moviesites.org/laskymesa.htm>.

NOTE: We had originally planned to hike in Cheeseboro and Palo Comado Canyons but parking was non-existent near the trailhead due to the SocialUltraRunning group's "No Name 5030" foot races (13.1m, 15k, 10k, 5k, and 1m) that were in progress in the area when we arrived. A decision was made to avoid the parking "mess" and presumably hordes of runners by relocating our hike to the Ahmanson Ranch area (where there were no such "problems"). We anticipate rescheduling the Cheeseboro Canyon – Palo Comado Canyon Loop hike in 2020.

ANCIENT ROADS part 2

(The old Dominguez Trail) was certainly related to movement between *Ta'apu* and the San Fernando Valley. The high country route is relatively rolling and grass covered and may have represented an easier route than dropping down into Simi Valley and then heading easterly over Santa Susana Pass (*Kashiwe*). It is probable that another trail ran south to the mouth of Tapo Canyon and then east southeasterly to Santa Susana Pass. At least during the proto-historic period (1542-1769) there was a great deal of contact and intermarriage between the *Fernandeños* and the *Ventureño* Chumash. That trail persisted into the Spanish/Mexican Period and may have become the section of "Tapo Road" that ran from the present day intersection of Tapo Street and Alamo Street to the mouth of Tapo Canyon.

While there is no historical evidence of the existence of a trail directly between the village of *Quimisac* and *Ta'apu*, it is likely that one ran westerly from *Ta'apu* across the foot of the Tripas (a large valley in the interior of the Santa Susana Mountains) to the head of Happy Camp Canyon. *Quimisac* was the closest source of fused shale (used for making arrowheads and other flaked tools) in the area, and the chief of *Ta'apu* held hegemony over *Quimisac*.

A trail seems to have existed between the Noriega Trail, over the Whiteface escarpment (*Cuchillo de Huarace*), to the Tripas. The existence of that trail is suggested by the name of the escarpment, which implies that if you planned to cross the escarpment, you should wear sandals. Normally, the Chumash went barefoot.

Besides the Noriega Trail, which connected *Simi* with *Ta'apu*, the trail to the west from *Simi* to the village of *Quimisac* was called the *Quimisac* Trail. The village of *Quimisac* ceased to exist during the first decade of the Nineteenth Century. However, according to an 1834 report (translated from the Spanish), entitled "Investigative Report on the Santa Barbara Presidio District," there was a road that ran westerly from Simi Valley along the Arroyo Simi towards present-day Moorpark roughly along the route now followed by Los Angeles Avenue. (It's ironic that Los Angeles Avenue was the name given historically to the road that ran between Ventura and Los Angeles.) The name of the road was "*Quimisa*." "*Quimisac*" or "*Quimisa*" is the name listed in the San Fernando and Ventura mission baptismal records for the Chumash village located in Happy Camp Canyon in the Moorpark area. The name of the trail was carried over into the Spanish/Mexican period from the Chumash name for the trail to *Quimisac*. During the early Anglo-American period of settlement, the name of the road was effectively lost because the land was subdivided into farms. No road existed – fences dividing farm parcels. Only later was Los Angeles Avenue established. Today, the short road between Los Angeles Avenue and Oak Park (the county park) is named Quimisa Road. Just how the name survived is a mystery.

ANCIENT ROADS part 2 continued

The old historic road, leading between the Conejo and the Simi valleys through Wood Ranch, was called the "Simi Road" and is listed in the 1834 report. A trail is shown on the 1858 survey of the area in the pass between Wood Ranch and the Lang Ranch. A dirt road is shown on the 1950 Thousand Oaks and the 1951 Simi U.S. Geological Survey maps and seems to reflect the old road. It is likely that the old Indian trail was originally called the *Simi'* Trail, because it led to the Chumash village of *Simí*. As an aside, it was along that road on the Albertson Ranch where the final scene in the movie "Bonnie and Clyde"(1967) was filmed.

There is still visible, worn and cut into the rocks, an ancient Indian trail running from the Simi side to the top of the hill to Lang Ranch in Thousand Oaks not far from the historic wagon road. (When I first found the trail, there was still visible a couple of tool knapping stations along the trail.) However, that trail probably was not part of the everyday intra-regional travel route.

The Spanish name for present day Happy Camp Canyon was *Cañada de Somis*. "Somis" is the modern day version of the Chumash village of *Somna*, which was located where Somis is today. The name of the trail leading from the village of *Quimisac* was the *Somna* Trail, because it lead to the village of *Somna*. ("Somis" as a place name seems to have been transferred from a village northwest of the City of Ojai. How that happened, I have no idea.)

An Indian trail probably ran between *Simi'* through the Tierra Rejada Valley to villages in the Tierra Rejada and Santa Rosa valleys. The Mexican period report (1834), mentioned earlier, lists that route as a way out of Simi Valley. It certainly became part of the *El Camino Real* during the Spanish period.

We know that a native American trail ran from the Fernandefio village near Stoney Point over Santa Susana Pass (This conclusion is taken from the notes collected by John Peabody Harrington from a Fernandefio informant and from the 1930 notes of anthropologist Richard Van Valkenburg. Van Valkenburg attributed his source as a conversation with John Peabody Harrington). That trail ran through present day Chatsworth Park up Devil's Slide to Lilac Lane and then down the canyon over the railroad tunnel into Simi Valley. The same general route was used for the El Camino Real and still later for the Stagecoach route. Indeed, that route served as the main way in an out of Simi Valley to the east until the late-1890s. The name "Devil's Slide" comes to us because of the presence of a Fernandefio Indian shrine along the trail.

An old Spanish trail existed over the hill from the San Fernando Valley side down from the top of Woolsey Canyon and down through a hanging valley that is about half way up Black Canyon Road and down through the east branch of Meier Canyon into Simi Valley. I have seen horseshoes and a number of Spanish names carved in the rocks along the way. Orrin Sage, the former owner of the Sage Ranch, reported his memory of a large stylized cross carved into the cavity of a large oak tree in the hanging valley. He indicated that the tree was destroyed in a brush fire. There is an old story relating to the use of that trail during the 1830s. It is likely that the trail was used by the Indians, because it would have afforded travelers access to water most of the year.

Mike Kuhn

2-1-05 (revised 9-24-08 & 4-28-10)

REGULARLY SCHEDULED HIKES

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

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 - 4.8 MRT - 1,200' elevation gain).

Tuesday Evening - Mt. McCoy Trail

During Daylight Savings Time meet at **6PM** in the parking lot, located to the south of Donut Delite, near the NE corner of Madera and Royal. There is no hike during Standard Time.
(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.)

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.



RSTB Calendar December 2019



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Rocky Peak Fire Road 4PM See Schedule	2	3 No hike during Standard Time	4	5 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule	6	7 Trippet Ranch, Eagle Rock, Hub Junction & Musch Trail Loop* 8AM See Upcoming Events
8 Rocky Peak Fire Road 4PM See Schedule	9	10 No hike during Standard Time	11 Happy Birthday Pat Burgess	12 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule	13 Happy Birthday Bill Cespedes	14 Work Party - Wild Animal Corridor - Cache In Trash Out Event 8AM See Upcoming Events
15 Rocky Peak Fire Road 4PM See Schedule	16	17 No hike during Standard Time	18 Club Meeting 5:30PM	19 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule	20 Happy Birthday Stephanie Farrar	21 Malibu Creek State Park* See Upcoming Events
22 Rocky Peak Fire Road 4PM See Schedule Hannukah first day	23	24 No hike during Standard Time	25 Christmas Day	26 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule Kwanzaa first day	27	28 Chivo Canyon Loop 8AM See Upcoming Events
29 Rocky Peak Fire Road 4PM See Schedule	30 Hannukah last day	31 No hike during Standard Time New Years Eve				

SANTA ANA WILDFIRE THREAT INDEX - Provides a 6 day forecast of Santa Ana Winds Wildfire Threats on a color coded map
<https://fsapps.nwcg.gov/psp/sawti/>

CALIFORNIA FIRE WEATHER MAP - Provides actual Red Flag Warnings and Fire Weather Watches
<https://www.fire.ca.gov/programs/communications/red-flag-warnings-fire-weather-watches/> (Scroll down to map)

* 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.
Full descriptions of these hikes and activities are available at <https://www.simitrailblazers.com/calendar/>



-----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 _____

Address _____

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

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

Newsletters are distributed by email only. Contact the Membership Chair if you require a copy by US mail.

Email address _____

How did you find out about the RSTB? _____

**Please make out tax deductible member donation check for the year to:
Rancho Simi Foundation and mail it to RSTB, P.O. Box 1231, Simi Valley, CA 93062**

Rancho Simi Trailblazers			
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