



Rancho Simi Trailblazers

A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation



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

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS: Tove Olafsen and Michelle McClellan and Family

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.

February 2, 2019 – Wildwood Park Loop*

7 Mile Loop – Moderate (1,000' elevation gain/loss)

We'll climb up to Mountclef Ridge via the Santa Rosa trail, then descend to the paved road, following the Box Canyon trail up to Lizard Rock. Next, we'll go to Paradise Falls, then follow the stream back to the parking area.

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

February 9, 2019 – Beaudry Loop*

6 MRT – Moderate (1,368' elevation gain)

Our route will begin along a briefly paved stretch, which then becomes a dirt fire road that skirts a flood control facility. After hiking half a mile uphill we'll reach a two-way junction with the Beaudry Motorway. We'll then begin the loop portion of our hike along the Beaudry North section of the motorway (counterclockwise direction). As the dirt road rises to the northwest there will be great views of the San Gabriel Mountains and the Crescenta Valley. About 2.5 miles into the hike, we'll turn left onto the Beaudry South section of the motorway. We'll pass by both Tongva Peak and Mount Thom on our way back to the initial trail junction and then back to our vehicles.

Meet at **8AM** at the 118 & Stearns St. Park & Ride. Bring your camera, water and lunch. Wear boots.

February 16, 2019 – Work Party - Northridge Trail

The Trail Blazers February trail work party will be held Saturday, February 16, on the Northridge 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.

We will work from 8:00 AM to Noon. As always, you are welcome to work for a shorter time period if you desire. Hope to see you there.

February 20, 2019

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

Everyone is welcome to attend.

February 23, 2019 – Mt. Lukens*

11 MRT – Strenuous (3,050' elevation gain/loss)

As our hike begins, we'll pass by a debris dam and catch basin (on our right) near the mouth of Haines Canyon. The trail is a dirt road at first but it soon becomes a single-track trail. The canyon and the trail itself offer a variety of vegetation and sweeping views of the surrounding landscape, both near and far. As we gain elevation the single-track trail reverts to a somewhat eroded and overgrown dirt road that we'll follow all the way to a summit (5,066') populated with around ten tall communication towers and providing wide-ranging views (including lots of mountains) in several directions. After taking a lunch/rest break "on top of the world," we'll return the way we came.

Meet at **8AM** at the 118 & Stearns St. Park & Ride. Bring your camera, water and lunch. Wear boots.

HIKE REPORTS

December 22, 2018 – Big Sky Trail Loop



18 hikers met along Big Sky Place in Simi Valley on a chilly-early-winter morning for a local hike just south of the Big Sky Movie Ranch for which the nearby housing development was named (the ranch was used for filming many television and film productions such as *Guns, Smokey, Rawhide* and *Little House on the Prairie*).

After a short walk northward on a sidewalk along Erringer Road we turned east onto the well-signed Big Sky Trail. After crossing a dry streambed, we began hiking the loop portion of the hike in a counterclockwise direction as we climbed fairly steeply up to the north-south ridge to the east of the development. Upon reaching the sunny ridge top we enjoyed views of the surrounding area including the west end of Simi Valley and the Santa Susana Mountains, particularly Whiteface Mountain which some of us climbed in the past. We continued our hike by heading north along the ridge nearly to Lost Canyons Drive, taking in the bright green mountainsides and canyon bottoms. Eventually the trail turned sharply to the south as it wound its way along the oak-lined streambed that runs through the Big Sky development. The remainder of our hike was an easy nearly-level stroll and we finished our invigorating outing having completed a 4.7-mile hike with 900' of elevation gain/loss.

December 29, 2018 – The Hummingbird and Rocky Peak Trails



10 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 be a nice day for hiking. The morning was chilly with an intermittent wind 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." As we gained elevation the views of the area expanded and were enhanced by the very clear skies (thanks to recent strong winds). The trail continues to be damaged by bicycle riders who (without permission) create "bandit trails" that cut steeply through the pleasant original switchback trail; the "bandit trails" make it nearly impossible to discern the original trail at many intersections. We took a rest/snack break when we reached the fire road (2,100'). Two 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 San Fernando Valley and the hazy outline of Santa Cruz Island. After taking a short break, we retraced our route and reached the trailhead having completed an 8.4-mile hike with about 2,200' of elevation gain/loss.

January 5, 2019 – Devil Canyon to Browns Canyon Road

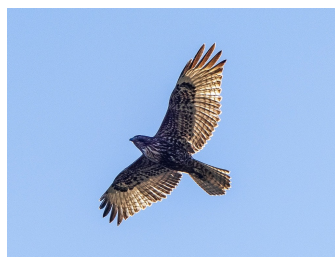
21 hikers met at the hike's starting point on Poema Place in Chatsworth on a cool winter morning. As our hike began we descended along a fairly steep "use" trail into the heavily shaded bottom of Devil Canyon where we followed the remnants of the Devil Canyon Motorway upstream as it frequently crisscrossed the sometimes wet (thanks to recent rain) creek bed.



We spotted lots of interesting sandstone-rock-cliff formations and Chalk Dudleya "liveforever" plants as we made our way up to the large dam at the trail's junction with the mouth of Ybarra Canyon. After a brief rest break, we continued upstream along the occasionally muddy, but mostly dry, trail which from this point on had been transformed a few years ago from single-track to a "one-lane" dirt road (the reason for this not being apparent though several short dirt "side roads" and one long one heading north have also been created). As the canyon widened we passed by grass-covered hillsides dotted with oak trees. When we reached the upper-canyon cathedral-like oak woodland, the trail reverted to its natural undisturbed state (including lots of fallen oak trees, presumably killed by wildfire and drought). Upon reaching Brown's Canyon Road we turned right (east) and hiked a short distance uphill where we took a break and enjoyed views to the south. We then retraced our route and returned to our vehicles having completed a very pleasant 9.6-mile hike in this unique canyon with about 1,300' of elevation gain/loss.

January 12, 2019 – Work Party – Long Canyon - Cancelled by Rain

January 19, 2019 – Las Lajas Canyon and Chumash Trail Loop



21 hikers met at the Las Lajas Canyon trailhead on Evening Sky Drive in Simi Valley on a cool winter morning. We began our hike by descending a short paved section of road into the canyon bottom; from there a wide graded dirt road followed a streambed north through the canyon, crossing the streambed three times.

The stream had a little water in it and a trickle was slowly moving downstream; there were also several separate mud puddles in the road itself. The steep canyon walls provided shade and a refreshing breeze as we enjoyed an easy 3.5 mile trek up the canyon. Nearing the Poe Ranch gate, we took the right (east) fork and continued up the dirt road leading to an abandoned oil field which has been "cleaned up" (purposefully stripped of all remaining aboveground equipment/pipes) and then on up to a junction with the Rocky Peak Fire Road, savoring the views back down the canyon and of the surrounding area along the way. After reaching the Rocky Peak Fire Road (where a majestic oak tree has died and crashed to the ground), 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 panoramic views of mountains and canyons to the east, south, and west including some snow atop a peak in the distant San Gabriel Mountains. The nearby mountainous terrain was covered with pretty bright green grass that had seemingly appeared overnight. 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; along the way down we spotted two red-tail hawks and a vulture. We then turned right (west) and followed a short connector 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 over 1,900' of elevation gain/loss.

Rancho Simi Trail Blazer Logo Merchandise



Sporting the beautiful RSTB logo, these are great tops! Limited quantities and sizes are still available. Please call Mike Kuhn at 805-583-2345 for available sizes.

Short-sleeves are \$12
Long-sleeves are \$14
Sweatshirts are \$18

CHUMASH USES OF COMMON YARROW

[All of the following information has been taken entirely from Jan Timbrook, *Chumash Ethnobotany*, Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History (2007), p. 22.]

Common Yarrow [*Achillea millefolium*], called *yepunash* by both the *Barbareño* and the *Ventureño* Chumash, was used to treat toothaches. The plant was boiled, and the liquid was held in the mouth to reduce pain. Yarrow plants were mashed and applied externally as a poultice for cuts and sores or to stanch the bleeding of a wound.

Mike Kuhn

CURING AND TAPO BRANDY

Between 1912 and 1915, John P. Harrington, an ethnographer and linguist with the American Bureau of Ethnology of the Smithsonian Institute, intensely interviewed Fernando Librado, *Kitsepawit*, a Chumash Indian. Fernando had been born sometime between 1804 and 1820. In any event, he had vivid memories of life during the Mission, Mexican and Anglo-American periods of settlement in Santa Barbara and Ventura counties. His words have been transcribed by Travis Hudson from Harrington's notes and are herein excerpted from *Breath of the Sun*. These stories provide valuable insights into Indian life during these periods as well as into the "old ways." One comment in parenthesis is offered to explain the text.

"...L. A. M. Ortega was working at the County Clerk's office in Santa Barbara, and he felt a pain in his chest. He went to our, i.e., Chumash, doctors and several people, and all of them had given up the attempt to cure him. Ortega had even seen Dr. Brinkerhoff, having ridden around in the doctor's wagon with him. Jose Garcia was the one, however, who effected a cure. He got a half gallon of brandy from Tapo, and he put dried leaves of Yerba Santa in it and set it outdoors over night, and in a cool place indoors during the day. (Yerba Santa, or holy herb, was used for a variety of medicinal purposes.) Each morning, for several days, Jose would rub this balsam on Ortega's chest and also gave him a small cup of it to drink. After a time Ortega noticed his pain was gone, and it has not returned to this day." (p. 57)

Grapes, for wine and brandy, were grown in Tapo Canyon from the Mission period onward, and the resulting spirits were transported throughout the region. Here we see a Chumash doctor using a traditional herbal cure with something (brandy) from the new culture.

Mike Kuhn

REGULARLY SCHEDULED HIKES

(Red Flag Warnings and Rain cancels the hike – 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).

Tuesday Evening - Mt. McCoy Trail - **New - No Hike November through March during Standard Time**

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.)

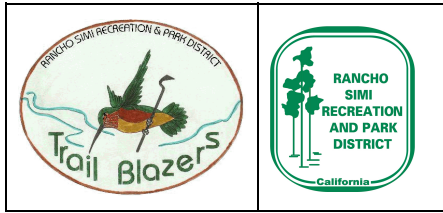
Due to unforeseen circumstances, all activities are subject to change without notice.
Please see <https://www.simitrailblazers.com/calendar/> for event details and the most up-to-date schedule.

	<h1>RSTB Calendar</h1> <h2>February 2019</h2>					
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Happy Birthday Caroline Carroll	2 Wildwood Park Loop* 8AM See Upcoming Events
3 Rocky Peak Fire Road 4PM See Schedule	4 Rosa Parks Day	5 See Schedule change Chinese New Year Happy Birthday Mona Steffen	6	7 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule	8 Happy Birthday John Atwood	9 Beaudry Loop* 8AM See Upcoming Events
10 Rocky Peak Fire Road 4PM See Schedule	11	12 See Schedule change Lincoln's Birthday	13 Club Meeting 5:30PM	14 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule Valentine's Day Happy Birthday Doug Marsh	15 Susan B. Anthony's Birthday	16 Work Party Northridge Trail 8AM See Upcoming Events
17 Rocky Peak Fire Road 4PM See Schedule	18 President's Day	19 See Schedule change	20	21 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule	22 George Washington's Birthday	23 Mt. Lukens* 8AM See Upcoming Events
24 Rocky Peak Fire Road 4PM See Schedule Happy Birthday Connie Ankrom	25 Happy Birthday David Seifert	26 See Schedule change	27	28 Chumash Trail 6PM 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)						

* 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/>



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 _____

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 <i>A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation</i>			
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:	VOLUNTEER NEEDED		Contact Mike Kuhn at: 805-583-2345
Hiking Chair:	Mark Gilmore	HM (805) 990-1460	markinthepark@simitrailblazers.com
Vice Hiking Chair:	Les Wilson	HM (805) 522-2642	les.wilson@simitrailblazers.com
Website:	Mark Gilmore	HM (805) 529-5581	markinthepark@simitrailblazers.com
Ways & Means Chair:	Marty Richards	HM (805) 526-4414	marty.richards@simitrailblazers.com
Membership Chair:	Louise Pomes		louise.pomes@simitrailblazers.com
Publicity Chair:	VOLUNTEER NEEDED		Contact Mike Kuhn at: 805-583-2345
Newsletter Editor:	Louise Pomes		louise.pomes@simitrailblazers.com