



# Rancho Simi Trail Blazers

A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation



**Effie and Bill Stanzos and Family  
Becky and Paul Stewart  
Mark and Diane Zorick and Family**



## FEBRUARY WORK PARTY NEWS

The February Work Party was held on the Rocky Peak Fire Road, on February 16<sup>th</sup>. Drains were constructed, erosion from recent storms repaired and large rocks and boulders were removed from the road. Many thanks to Bill Cespedes, Martin DeGoey, Bart Hibbs, Mike Kuhn and John Sabol for their efforts.

It would be great to have more people join us for the work parties. The work is quite rewarding.



## NEW "TRAILS OF THE SIMI HILLS" MAPS AVAILABLE

Mike Kuhn has acquired copies of the new "Trails of the Simi Hills" map. It covers the Conejo Valley, San Fernando Valley, Simi Valley, Agoura, Calabasas and Oak Park. The map is waterproof. The price is \$10.70. Contact Mike for a copy!

## RSTB CLUB MEETING

This month's club meeting will be held at the Community Center

**Room B-1**

1692 Sycamore Drive  
at 7:00 PM

on

**March 19th, 2008**

## 1893 NEWSPAPER REPORT

An 1893 newspaper report points out the dire need for improved transportation routes in and out of Simi Valley. The report is included in *Simi Valley: A Journey Through Time* (1997), page 391. As reported: "Simi Valley citizens want a safe outlet. Last Saturday F.J. Fitzgerald and George Wood started to Fernando with four horses and a light wagon. (There was a runaway and smashup near the hotel but they patched matters up and proceeded towards the beautiful hill that is a credit to both counties... They got over and back as far as the hill and owing to getting stuck in one of the holes, some of which are 3 and 4 feet deep, they were compelled to camp... Four horses could not get them out. C.B. McCoy played the Good Samaritan... It is almost impossible for a Simi person to get out of this valley either by the River or the Santa Susana Pass and we think the time is ripe for something to be done. This portion of the county is filling up rapidly. We expect to poll 100 votes next election, and we are entitled to consideration."

In 1893, outside of cities, government was not in the road business. That was one reason for the early success of the railroads. But Simi had neither. By 1899 both LA and Ventura counties had invested in road improvements over the pass. Devil's Slide, on the LA County side was abandoned and a new route was built on the Ventura County side.

Mike Kuhn  
2/10/04



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**March 1st, 2008:**

**Los Robles Trail**

Please see the website for more info.

**March 5<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>, 2008:**

**Death Valley Hiking and Camping Trip (Trailblazer Members Only)**

**FULL**

**March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2008:**

**DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME!**

**Sunday evening hikes will start at 5pm** after this date!

**March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2008:**

**Work Party: Lower Stagecoach Trail**

Please see the web site for more info.

**March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2008:**

**Danielson Memorial**

Please see the website for more info.

**March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2008:**

**Towsley Canyon Loop Trail**

Please see the website for more info.

**April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008:**

**Mt. Everest from Base Camp**

**(Make your reservations now, so you don't miss out!!)**

More information on these events can be found at

<http://simitrailblazers.com>

To make reservations,

please email Mark Gilmore at

[markinthepark@sbcglobal.net](mailto:markinthepark@sbcglobal.net)



## NEWS FROM THE RANCHO SIMI TRAIL BLAZERS

The Rancho Simi Trail Blazers (RSTB) was formed by the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District to help with the design and planning of the trail systems in the hills above Simi Valley.

RSTB volunteers build and maintain trails, conduct outdoor education sessions and lead organized hikes on a regular basis. Public hikes are held every Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday evening throughout the year. Some Saturday morning hikes are also offered.

Trail Blazer volunteers are knowledgeable about local plant identification, the area's natural history, and the history of Simi Valley.

### **Arrange for a Group Hiking Event**

Anyone interested in arranging a group outdoor education event, hike or trail maintenance project along any of the trails or in Corriganville Park should contact Colleen Janssen, Marketing and Community Outreach Specialist, at (805) 584-4453. Trail hike schedules are posted on trailhead kiosks.

### **Long Canyon Trail Hike**

On Tuesdays, the RSTB conduct hikes along the Long Canyon Trail. The hike starts at 6:30 p.m. at the parking lot, which is located on the southwestern corner of the intersection of Long Canyon Road and Wood Ranch Parkway. The 3-mile-long trek begins with a 280-foot climb and loops around to the ridge to the west and returns to the parking lot.

### **Chumash Trail Hike**

On Thursdays, the RSTB conduct hikes along the Chumash Trail. The hikes start at 6 p.m. at the northern end of Flanagan Drive, which is located off of Yosemite Avenue north of the 118 Freeway. The 5.2-mile-long trek climbs more than 1,000 feet to the Rocky Peak Fireroad and then descends back down the same trail to the Flanagan Drive trailhead. The hike may be shortened at any time by turning around on the climb.

### **Rocky Peak Trail Hike**

The Sunday evening hike starts at 5 p.m. at the northern side of the Rocky Peak overpass to the 118 Freeway. To reach the Rocky Peak trailhead from Simi Valley, hikers must drive up the Old Santa Susana Pass Road to the top of the



### **RSTB LOGO T-SHIRTS**

Are your old logo T-shirts worn out?

We still have short sleeve, long sleeve, and sweat shirts in assorted sizes and colors. Prices are:

short sleeve \$12  
long sleeve \$14  
sweat shirt \$18



Please call Marty if you'd like to place an order: 805-526-4414.



pass. Parking is available on both sides of the freeway. Do not park on the freeway bridge as parking on bridges is prohibited under the California Vehicle Code. The Rocky Peak fireroad is a 5-mile-long round trip with an approximately 1,200-foot elevation gain. Hikers may turn around at any time to shorten the hike.

### **What to Bring on a Hike**

The Rocky Peak and Chumash trail hikes are strenuous. The Long Canyon Trail hike is considered moderate. Hikers are urged to bring one to two quarts of drinking water on the Chumash and Rocky Peak hikes and one quart for the Long Canyon hike. The RSTB recommends that hikers wear either high-top shoes or boots to prevent ankle injuries. An experienced Trail Blazer is always available to accompany someone back to the trailhead if they wish to return early.

### **Help is Needed for Trail Maintenance Projects**

On every third Saturday of each month, except during the months of May, July and August, the Trail Blazers work on the maintenance of a trail within the district's jurisdiction. The trail projects begin at 8 a.m. and end at Noon.

Volunteers are free to work for shorter periods as they wish. Tools are provided, but volunteers should bring gloves, water, snacks, sunglasses for eye protection, sun screen and hats. The work includes lopping brush, raking and using a pick mattock to repair and improve trails.



### **California Trails Days**

California Trails Days will be held on Saturday, April 12, from 8 a.m.-12 noon and on Sunday, April 13, starting at 9:30 a.m. Saturday will involve maintenance on a specific trail. The trail will be announced by early April based upon where work is most needed. Sunday will consist of a guided wildflower walk on the Chumash Trail. The Chumash Trailhead is located at the northern end of Flanagan Drive. Tools will be provided for the Saturday work party. Volunteers should wear clothing suitable for the weather and working and hiking. A hat, two quarts of water, snacks, sun screen, gloves, sunglasses and trail boots are advised. Call (805) 584-4400 for details.

### **Wildlife Program – “Coexisting with Your Neighbors”**

The Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District and the Rancho Simi Trail Blazers will sponsor free wild animal programs by the Mountain Lion Foundation and Nature of Wildworks on coexisting with wildlife.

Presentations will be on May 3 at 1:00 p.m. in Simi Valley at the Rancho Santa Susana Community Center, 5005-C Los Angeles Avenue and on April 19 at the same time in Oak Park at the Oak Park Community Center, 1000 N. Kanan Rd. Many different types of wild animals will be presented to the audiences.

### **New Members are Always Welcomed**

The Rancho Simi Trail Blazers are always looking for new members, who enjoy hiking and volunteers, who would like to work on trails. To find out more information on how to become a Trail Blazer, phone the district office at (805) 584-4400. Monthly newsletters are available at the District's office at 1692 Sycamore Drive and monthly planning meetings of the Trail Blazers are held at the Sycamore Drive Community Center, 1692 Sycamore Drive, at 7 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month. See <http://www.simitrailblazers.com> for a complete listing of activities.



*February 2nd 2008 - Mt. Hollywood Trail*

From the Fern Dell trailhead, fourteen of us hiked a 5.4 mile lollypop shaped 5.4 mile loop to the top of Mt. Hollywood. Hiking in the Griffith Park area offers a unique experience because it's the largest Municipal Park and urban wilderness area in the United States. The 360 degree view from the top was a spectacular, even though long-range visibility was limited by the clouds and fog.



*February 9th 2008 - Sisar Canyon to White Ledge Camp*

Fifteen of us hiked 11 miles up Sisar Canyon to White Ledge Camp this morning. Today was the warmest day of the year and it was hot on the exposed parts of the trail, but pleasant in the canyon shade. The water was swift at the trail crossings and many of us got our feet wet. The remaining snow on the mountain peaks above us added to the beauty of the trail.



Happy  St. Patrick's Day



# RSTB Calendar March 2008



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<b>1</b> <b>Los Robles Trail</b> <b>See Schedule</b> <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Laurie Prince</i> <i>Roger Steffen</i>
<b>2</b> <b>Rocky Peak</b> <b>4pm hike</b> <b>See Schedule</b> <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Martin DeGoey</i>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> <b>Long Canyon</b> <b>6:30pm hike</b> <b>See Schedule</b>	<b>5</b> <b>Death Valley</b> <b>Hiking and</b> <b>Camping Trip</b> <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Shareece Viraldi</i>	<b>6</b> <b>Death Valley</b> <b>Hiking and</b> <b>Camping Trip</b>  <b>No Chumash</b> <b>Trail Hike!!</b>	<b>7</b> <b>Death Valley</b> <b>Hiking and</b> <b>Camping Trip</b>	<b>8</b> <b>Death Valley</b> <b>Hiking and</b> <b>Camping Trip</b>  <b>No Local Hike!!</b> <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Colleen Janssen</i>
<b>9</b> <b>Death Valley</b> <b>Hiking and</b> <b>Camping Trip</b>  <b>No Rocky Peak</b> <b>Hike!!</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> <b>Long Canyon</b> <b>6:30pm hike</b> <b>See Schedule</b> <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Jim Winfield</i>	<b>12</b> <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Daniel Hamilton</i>	<b>13</b> <b>Chumash Trail</b> <b>6pm hike</b> <b>See Schedule</b> <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Cathy Rowe</i>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> <b>Work Party:</b> <b>Lower</b> <b>Stagecoach Trail</b> <b>See Schedule</b>
<b>16</b> <b>Rocky Peak</b> <b>5pm hike</b> <b>See Schedule</b>	<b>17</b> <b>Happy St.</b> <b>Patrick's Day!</b>	<b>18</b> <b>Long Canyon</b> <b>6:30pm hike</b> <b>See Schedule</b>	<b>19</b> <b>RSTB Meeting</b> <b>See Page 1</b>	<b>20</b> <b>Chumash Trail</b> <b>6pm hike</b> <b>See Schedule</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> <b>Danielson</b> <b>Memorial</b> <b>See Schedule</b>
<b>23</b> <b>Happy Easter!</b>  <b>No Hike!!</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> <b>Long Canyon</b> <b>6:30pm hike</b> <b>See Schedule</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> <b>Chumash Trail</b> <b>6pm hike</b> <b>See Schedule</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> <b>Towsley Canyon</b> <b>Loop Trail</b> <b>See Schedule</b>
<b>30</b> <b>Rocky Peak</b> <b>5pm hike</b> <b>See Schedule</b>	<b>31</b>					



# Rancho Simi Trail Blazers

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## Hiking Schedule



### REGULARLY SCHEDULED HIKES

*(Rain cancels – No hikes on holidays)*

#### Sunday Evening - Rocky Peak

Meet 4 pm at Rocky Peak trailhead at the end of Rocky Peak Rd off Santa Susana Pass. (Strenuous, 4.8 MRT)  
(Meet at 5pm during daylight savings time)

#### Tuesday Evening - Long Canyon

Meet at 6:30pm in Long Canyon parking lot. Directions: Take First Street South. Continue when the road's name changes to Long Canyon Road. The parking lot is at the intersection of Long Canyon Road and Wood Ranch Pkwy. (Moderate, 3.0 MRT)

#### Thursday Evening - The Chumash Trail

Meet at 6pm at Chumash trailhead. Directions - take 118 Fwy to Yosemite exit. Go north on Yosemite, turn right on Flanagan Dr. Trailhead is at the end of Flanagan Dr. (Strenuous, 5.2 MRT)

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### MARCH HIKES

#### March 1st *Los Robles Trail\**

Moderate - Leader's Choice

Bring a snack and 2 to 3 quarts of water, wear boots. Go to [www.simitrailblazers.com](http://www.simitrailblazers.com) to see a map of the Los Robles Trail System. Meet at 8 AM near Donut Delite at the corner of Madera and Royal.

#### March 5th - 9<sup>th</sup> **RESERVATIONS CLOSED** *Death Valley Hiking & Camping Trip\**

This very special event is limited to Trailblazer members only. This trip is for the entire family. We will be tent camping at the [Furnace Creek Campground](#). Please plan to arrive on the afternoon of March 5th. You may join in on the yet to be planned hikes, or simply enjoy the sights. There is a non-refundable campground fee, shared equally among all those who sign up. There is also a \$20 per car park entry fee. We have our campsites reserved. Please see the website for information about Death Valley National Park.

#### March 15th *Work Party: Work Party - Upper section of the Lower Stagecoach Trail.*

Meet at the eastern end of the Corriganville Parking lot at 8:00 AM. We will carpool to the upper trailhead near Lilac Lane. Bring 2-3 quarts water, a snack, sturdy boots/shoes, gloves, hat, sunglasses and sunscreen. Tools will be provided.

#### March 22<sup>nd</sup> *Danielson Memorial\**

6 MRT - Moderate (1000' elevation gain)

Visit a waterfall and the Danielson Memorial, view the Oxnard Plain and Channel Islands from Old Boney Road. Meet at 8 AM near Donut Delite near the corner of Madera and Royal. Bring 2 to 3 quarts of water and a snack. Wear boots.


#### March 29th *Towsley Canyon Loop Trail\**

6.5 MRT - Moderate (1670' elevation gain)

Spectacular geological formations, rugged mountain views, tar pits, canyon narrows, frothy streambeds and more. Meet at 8 AM at the 118 & Stearns St. Park & Ride. Bring your camera, water and lunch. Wear boots.

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

 No dogs allowed on trail(s).

For 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.

<http://www.simitrailblazers.com>

## LANCHO SIMI TRAIL BLAZERS

*A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation*

Executive Chair:	Mike Kuhn	HM (805) 583-2345	hannahmike@roadrunner.com
Treasurer:	Peter Ely		
Park District Liaison:	Colleen Janssen	WK (805) 584-4453	volunteers@rsrpd.us
Work Parties Chair:		*** OPEN ***	
Hiking Chair:	Mark Gilmore	HM (805) 529-5581	markinthepark@sbcglobal.net
Vice Hiking Chair:	John Sabol	HM (805) 583-2541	jtsabol@sbcglobal.net
Website:	Mark Gilmore	HM (805) 529-5581	markinthepark@sbcglobal.net
Ways & Means Chair:	Marty Richards	HM (805) 526-4414	
Publicity Chair:	Carrie McCline		
Newsletter Editor:	Linda Travis		lindactravis@sbcglobal.net

-----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(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Mo. \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_

Please list any extra names and birthdays of more than one member (Month & Day Only)

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone wk/hm \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to receive periodic email announcements about club activities? Yes ( ) No ( )

How did you find out about the RSTB \_\_\_\_\_

Please make out tax deductible member dues check for the year to:

“Rancho Simi Foundation” mail it to “RSTB, P.O. Box 630445, Simi Valley, Ca 93063-0399



U.S. Postage

RSTB  
P.O. Box 630445  
Simi Valley, CA 93063-0399