

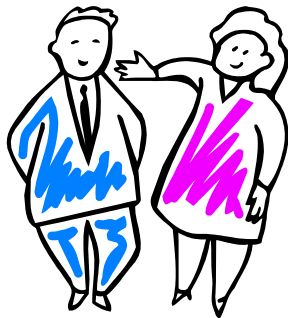


Rancho Simi Trail Blazers

A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation



Welcome New Members!



Catherine Cappadona
Bart Hibbs
Larry Ribbeck

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 as follows:

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



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

RSTB CLUB MEETING

This month's club meeting will be held at the Community Center, Room B-1 1692 Sycamore Drive, 7:00 PM March 23, 2010

Weekend Trip to Carrizo Plain National Monument and KCL Campground, April 16th - 18th

The Carrizo Plain National Monument is the largest remaining remnant of the original San Joaquin Valley habitat. Our own Mike Kuhn worked on some of the studies of the Carrizo prior to it being signed into law by President Clinton on January 17, 2001.

Wildflowers should be very good and will be a focus. Locations visited and short hikes will include the Goodwin Educational Center, Soda Lake, Wallace Creek Interpretive Trail of the San Andreas Fault, and/or Painted Rock, a Native American sacred site, for which we will need to be escorted by a BLM ranger or docent. Car camping at the monument's KCL campground is primitive with tables, fire rings, and portable toilets. All water has to be packed in and all trash has to be packed out. Driving is approximately 350 miles roundtrip. 2WD passenger vehicles are suitable for the dirt road driving within the monument.

The trip is limited to 16 people and is on a first-come, first-served basis. More information is available on the website; e-mail Mark for reservations.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Please visit the website for details on any of the following hikes and events.

March 6th
Las Lajas Canyon – Abandoned Mining Operation – Chivo Canyon Loop 8 MRT – Moderate to strenuous (1,500' elevation gain)

March 13th
Tierra Rejada Park Exploratory Hike 8 -10 MRT - Moderate to strenuous (1,500' - 2,000' gain)

March 17th
Club Meeting Not strenuous

March 20th (Rescheduled from Feb)
Edison Road - Runkle Canyon Loop 7 MRT - Moderate (750' elevation gain)

March 27th (Note Date Change)
Work Party - Lower Stagecoach Trail

More information on these Events can be found at <http://simitrailblazers.com>

To make reservations, please email Mark Gilmore at markinthepark@sbcglobal.net

Work Party Report for February

Our February work party was held on the upper Hummingbird trail. All planned work was completed thanks to Richard Bradley, Bart Hibbs, John Alfred and his son Joey Alfred, Hunter Buck and Mike Kuhn. The trail tread was improved and water turnouts provided. Thanks to all for the good work!



MEXICAN ARMY MUSKET BALL FOUND IN SANTA SUSANA MOUNTAINS

On December 29, 2009 I picked up a spent lead musket ball on the Rocky Peak Fire Road 75-100 feet down grade from the "rock house." As is my habit on our Sunday evening hikes, I pick up nearly every bit of trash I can safely retrieve. Over the years that trash has often included shell casings and spent bullets. The lead ball that I picked up was from a .75 caliber musket. (The ball is slightly less than .75 caliber. It was so molded so that it would easily slide down the barrel of the musket when loaded.) The ball is damaged on one side as a result of slamming into a rock.



The molding sprue is well preserved. (The balls were made by pouring melted lead into a mold through the sprue. A residual stem from the sprue was left on the ball.



That stem, also referred to as the sprue, was clipped off, leaving the base of the sprue on the ball.) The musket ball has not been damaged by foot or vehicular traffic - or by anything else - since it impacted the rock. It seems likely that it was either deposited by runoff in the roadway after recent rains or that it had been picked up by someone

off trail and then either lost or discarded.

Joseph Simon, a local archaeologist, has informed me that deposits on the musket ball are consistent with the ball having been exposed in that sandstone environment for 150 or more years. Therefore, it is not consistent with a round having been fired by a more modern hobbyist. He further provided me with information from an internet encyclopedia resource on the only .75 caliber musket of that period, thereby suggesting what the musket ball represents. Mr. Simon answered my questions about what I had found and gave me much more information than I would have found on my own.

The ball was most likely fired from a British Land Pattern Musket - a.k.a. "Brown Bess." The .75 caliber flintlock muskets were the standard long gun of the British Empire's land forces from 1722 until 1838 when they were superseded by a percussion cap musket. (Flintlock ignitions were inoperable when it rained - the priming powder would get wet. The use of percussion caps meant that the guns could be fired in the rain.) The Brown Bess was the standard arm of British forces during the Revolutionary War and were favored by Continental forces. Some were sold to the Mexican Army, which used them during the Texas Revolution of 1836 and during the Mexican-American War of 1846 to 1848. The most reasonable conclusion on the origin of the subject musket ball is that it was fired from a British Land Pattern Musket in the hands of a Mexican Army soldier. It is an exceptional artifact for the Simi Valley area. There simply would not have been many of those muskets in southern California during the first half of the 19th Century.

Mike Kuhn
2-1-10



WHEAT FLOUR CAKES BAKED IN COALS

One of John Peabody Harrington's Chumash informants described how wheat cakes were made in the rescoldo (coals of the fire). Balls of wheat meal were made into cakes about five inches in diameter and two inches thick. They were then buried in the hot ashes of the fire to bake rather than being cooked on a comal (steatite frying pan). They were called "ikujash."

Certainly, wheat flour had replaced grass seed, acorn and islay (holly-leaf cherry) flour. However, the method of cooking seems to have remained the same.

Mike Kuhn
12-7-04

Free Wild Animal Show in Simi Valley on March 20th



Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District and the Rancho Simi Trailblazers are sponsoring another FREE family program!.

Location: Simi Valley
Saturday, March 20, 10:00 am
Rancho Santa Susana Community Center, 5005-C Los Angeles Ave, Simi Valley

Send email to volunteers@rsrpd.us for more information.

February 13th 2010 - O'Melveny Park Trail



Ten hikers met for the O'Melveny Park Hike to Mission Point. This hike can be done in several ways and we chose to do the climb out of O'Melveny Park. It was a beautiful clear day but quite breezy. The hills were green and lupine wildflowers were everywhere. As we neared the gas company fenced area near the top, we



discovered that some enterprising individuals had cut a switchback path to the top, complete with decorative rock pylons. Although the views from the top were spectacular, the wind was blowing very hard so we didn't spend much time there. We started down and returned by way of the fire road and exited on Neon Way.

January 30th 2010 - Danielson Memorial Loop via the Fossil Trail, Old Boney Mountain Trail, and Danielson Road



12 hikers met at the carpool point near the intersection of Royal Avenue and Madera Road on a chilly partially overcast morning and then traveled to Rancho Sierra Vista in the Santa Monica Mountains near Newbury Park. The hike began by walking from the main parking lot to the Satwiwa Native American Indian Culture Center and then heading south along the paved Sycamore Canyon Road descending into the canyon. Immediately after crossing the bridge in the canyon bottom, we left the road [and the bicycle riders] and headed northeast on the Upper Sycamore Canyon Trail for a short distance to a junction with the Fossil Trail which we took. The trail began climbing steeply to the east on a flank of Boney Mountain, the scenery growing ever more appealing as we gained elevation. The top of the mountain ahead of us was cloaked in clouds, the air was cool and crisp, and the foliage bright and clean, having been scrubbed by the



recent rains. As we neared the junction with the Old Boney Trail, we noticed the fossils embedded in the Fossil Trail which gave the trail its name. After stopping to take photos, we continued

our climb, soon reaching the Old Boney Trail. After a short rest break, we turned left (north) on the Old Boney Trail and followed it as it contoured north/northeast around the mountain, providing spectacular views of the upper end of Big Sycamore Canyon. The trail eventually ended at Danielson Road. We turned right (south) and walked 0.3 mile to the Danielson Memorial and the ruins



of the Danielson house (only a chimney remains). After a lunch break, we headed back along the Danielson Road as it descended to a creek, taking a short spur to the east to look at a waterfall. After crossing the creek Danielson Road climbed along the north side of Upper Sycamore Canyon to a high point that provided an excellent view of the area surrounding the Satwiwa Culture Center.


We then crossed the grassland adjoining the Culture Center and returned to the main parking lot having completed a 7.7-mile hike with 1,730' of elevation gain on another great southern California winter day.

For more information about Rancho Sierra Vista / Satwiwa, visit these websites: <http://www.satwiwa.org> or <http://www.nps.gov/samo/planyourvisit/rsvsatwiwa.htm>



RSTB Calendar March 2010



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Roger Steffen	2 Long Canyon 6:30pm hike <i>Happy Birthday</i> Martin DeGoey	3	4 Chumash Trail 6pm hike <i>Happy Birthday</i> Mary Derrick	5	6 Las Lajas Canyon – Abandoned Mining Operation – Chivo Canyon Loop See Schedule
7 Rocky Peak 4pm hike See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Geeta Bayyaram	8 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Colleen Janssen	9 Long Canyon 6:30pm hike See Schedule	10	11 Chumash Trail 6pm hike <i>Happy Birthday</i> Pat Peters	12 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Daniel Hamilton	13 Tierra Rejada Park Exploratory Hike See Schedule
14 Rocky Peak 4pm hike See Schedule	15	16 Long Canyon 6:30pm hike See Schedule	17 RSTB Meeting 7:00 pm See Page 1 	18 Chumash Trail 6pm hike See Schedule		20 Chivo Canyon Loop See Schedule Wild Animal Show See Page 2
21 Rocky Peak 4pm hike See Schedule	22	23 Long Canyon 6:30pm hike <i>Happy Birthday</i> Judy Cohen	24	25 Chumash Trail 6pm hike See Schedule	26	27 Work Party - Lower Stagecoach Trail See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Vivian Carcone
28 Rocky Peak 4pm hike See Schedule	29	30 Long Canyon 6:30pm hike See Schedule	31 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Larry Ribbeck			





Rancho Simi Trail Blazers

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Hiking Schedule



REGULARLY SCHEDULED HIKES

(Rain cancels – No hikes on holidays)

Sunday Evening - Rocky Peak

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

Tuesday Evening - Long Canyon

Meet at 6:30pm in Long Canyon parking lot. Directions: Take 1st Street heading 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)

MARCH HIKES AND ACTIVITIES

March 6th

Las Lajas Canyon – Abandoned Mining Operation – Chivo Canyon Loop

8 MRT – Moderate to strenuous (1,500' elevation gain)

Visit an abandoned mining operation atop a peak northeast of Chivo Canyon and sit in the operator's seat at the controls of a large steam shovel; hike through the oak woodland in little-visited upper Chivo Canyon; and enjoy great panoramic views of the area. **Meet at 8 AM at the Las Lajas Canyon / Northridge trailhead on Evening Sky Drive.** Bring 2-3 quarts of water and trail snacks. Wear boots.

March 13th

Tierra Rejada Park Exploratory Hike

8 - 10 MRT - Moderate to strenuous (1,500' - 2,000' elevation gain)

Come with us and explore Tierra Rejada Park and the trails to the eastern side of Moorpark. **Directions: From the 118, take Madera Road south and turn right on Tierra Rejada Road. Continue to Stargaze Place and turn right. Park at the end of the street near the trailhead.** Bring 2-3 quarts of water and trail snacks. Wear boots.

March 20th (Rescheduled from February)

Edison Road - Runkle Canyon Loop

7 MRT - Moderate (750' elevation gain)

Meet at **8 AM at the trailhead:** Take Sequoia Avenue south just past Royal Avenue, turn left on Chicory Leaf Place, and park next to Vista Del Arroyo Park. Bring 2-3 quarts of water and trail snacks. Wear boots.

March 27th (Note Date Change)

Work Party - Lower Stagecoach Trail

Meet at the eastern end of the Corriganville parking lot at 8:00 AM. Corriganville is located at the east end of Smith Road off of the south end of Kuehner Drive. Bring 2 to 3 quarts of water, hat, sunscreen, and gloves to work on the trail. Wear sturdy boots. Tools will be provided. As always, you are welcome to work for a shorter time period if you desire. Hope to see you there.



Hikes marked with this symbol means no dogs allowed on trail(s).

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

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>

RANCHO SIMI TRAIL BLAZERS

A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation

Executive Chair:	Mike Kuhn	HM (805) 583-2345	hannahmike@me.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:	Les Wilson	HM (805) 522-2642	les.wilson@roadrunner.com
Website:	Mark Gilmore	HM (805) 529-5581	markinthepark@sbcglobal.net
Ways & Means Chair:	Marty Richards	HM (805) 526-4414	mlrrdh@yahoo.com
Publicity Chair:	Carrie McCline		
Newsletter Editor:	Kelli Ham		simitrailrunner@gmail.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(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



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