



Rancho Simi Trail Blazers

A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation



Mrs. McCline has resigned as the Publicity Chair for the Trailblazers. She is now working in the San Diego area.

The Rancho Simi Trail Blazers has received a \$100 donation from Harry Medved.

January 14th 2012 - Liebre Mountain via the Pacific Crest Trail



12 hikers carpooled to the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) crossing (4,000') on Pine Canyon

Road (N2) a few miles south of Gorman, CA, stopping on the way to leave a shuttle vehicle on the Old Ridge Route Road (8N04); we were joined by a 13th hiker at the trailhead. We followed the PCT as it rose gradually up Liebre Mountain through manzanitas, digger pines, and black oaks via long switchbacks; many large California buckeye shrubs had shed their chestnuts along the trail. After passing Horse Camp, the trail rose more steeply through a bigcone-Douglas-fir forest to unpaved Liebre Mountain Road (7N23) on the oak-dotted crest line (5,759'). Leaving the PCT, we headed west following an abandoned stretch of the PCT and then descended on the "Golden Eagle Trail" through a lovely forest until we again met 7N23. Somewhat disoriented, we confirmed our location and decided to descend 7N23's long switchbacks to 8N04. We were aided in our descent by hitching rides from a couple of passersby, retrieved our shuttle vehicle, and eventually returned home, having completed a 12.1-mile hike with 2,010' of elevation gain. The views from Liebre Mountain were fantastic, the scenery was beautiful, and it was a perfect day for hiking.

Spring forward your clocks!



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



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 club meeting will be at:
Sycamore Drive Community Center
1692 Sycamore Drive - Room B-1
7:00PM – March 15, 2012

Upcoming Events

March 3rd

*Backbone Trail Part 4: Encinal Canyon Road Trailhead to Latigo Canyon Road Trailhead Shuttle**

7 Miles - (1,692' elevation gain) - Moderate to Strenuous Meet at **8 AM**

March 7th - 11th --- SPECIAL OUTING ---

March 17th

Work Party - Chivo Canyon **8 AM**

March 21st

Club Meeting
7 PM

March 24th

*Backbone Trail Part 5: Latigo Canyon Trailhead to Malibu Canyon Trailhead Shuttle**

9.8 Miles - (1,286' elevation gain) - Moderate to Strenuous Meet at **8 AM**

March 31st

*Backbone Trail Part 6: Malibu Canyon Road Trailhead (Piuma Road) to the Saddle Peak/Stunt Road Trailhead Shuttle**

7.2 Miles - (2,300' elevation gain) - Strenuous Meet at **8 AM**

Rancho Simi Recreation and Parks District events can be viewed at <http://www.rsrpd.org> to see what is happening next!

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Spanish surnames taken by the Chumash elite shortly after secularization of the missions often reflected their professions or ceremonial positions in Chumash society. Their first names were their Christian names. Travis Hudson and Ernest Underlay, in *Crystals in the Sky: An Intellectual Odyssey Involving Chumash Astronomy, Cosmology and Rock Art* (1978), page 58, offer a number of examples. These include Rafael Solares, a solar shaman whose last name means "belonging to the sun;" Jose Sudon, chief (*wot*), whose name was taken from "*sudor*," meaning "to sweat," alluding to his custom of taking sweatbaths; Jose Venadero, whose surname means "a place frequented by deer and other animals," because he knew where to look for animals; Juan Justo, a *wot*, whose surname means "just and pious;" Louis Cantor, an '*antap* (ceremonial leader and performer) singer, whose name means "singer", just as a Jewish cantor is a singer; Narciso, an '*antap* bard ("poet's Narcissus"); Arabio, an '*antap* dancer ("to be incomprehensible"); Iluminado, an '*antap* astronomer ("enlightened"); Mileton, an '*antap* bard-astronomer ("ridiculous tales for pastime"); and Pomposa, a *wot* ("pompous, magnificent").

Is this so different than central European naming practices from the Middle Ages: Miller, Mason, Carpenter, Singer, Smith, Cooper, Hunter, Farmer, Dichter (poet), Goodman, Armstrong, Freeman, Altshuler (old scholar) or Kuhn (bold)?

Mike Kuhn
12-7-04

WHAT FERNANDENO CALLED SIMIITES

John Peabody Harrington's Fernandeno informant reported that his people referred to Indians from Simi as Simivit (singular) and Simivitam (plural). He also said that "Simi" in Fernandeno means "salitre" (saltpetre). In this case it simply indicates that the numic speaking Fernandenos had a similar word in their language which simply meant something different, perhaps salt grass (*Distichlis spicata*, *saha* in Ventureno Chumash. The meaning of "Simi" in Ventureno Chumash is well established. His informant also said

that many Ventureno Chumash worked for the owner of "Rancho de Simi". This statement is consistent with what we know about the ethnic makeup of those employed on the rancho. It also affirms the pronunciation of Simi with the accent on the second "i."

Mike Kuhn
11-13-04 (revised 6-20-10)

WHAT THE CHUMASH CALLED SANTA CATALINA ISLAND

According to Applegate (1974), page 189, the Chumash called Santa Catalina Island "*huya*," which means "soapstone." The Indians on Santa Catalina Island traded goods made out of a type of soapstone, i.e., steatite, with the Indians on the mainland and other islands, including with the Chumash. Items made out of Santa Catalina steatite are common throughout the Chumash area. I have personally found steatite items as far north as the Sacramento area. Steatite is a soft material, which is easily carved into effigies, bowls, and comals. Steatite is non-expansive when heated or cooled rapidly. When used as a frying pan, cooked items did not stick to the surface. Comals were heated in a fire and then doused in water in order to boil the water.

Mike Kuhn
2-18-05

WILD GOURD, CALABAZILLA, OR COYOTE MELON

Cucurbita foetidissima

These vines are common in the coastal sage scrub and in grasslands locally. They grow rapidly in the spring in the open, often extending 25 feet or more across. The leaves are triangular with rounded bases. Grayish-green, the leaves are rough to the touch and are about 10-inches long. The flower, both male and female on the same plant, are yellow orange and four or more inches long. The fruit is a spheroidal gourd that is green at first. As the runners die back in the winter, the gourds turn bright yellow. Eventually only a large patch of yellow melons are left. This plant is sometimes referred to as "stinking melon." The leaves

and other parts of the plant are bad smelling. When asked why they are sometimes called "coyote melons," a Chemehuevi Indian explained that only a coyote will eat them.

WATER IN THE WEST

John Steinbeck, in *East of Eden*, writing about the Salinas Valley, wonderfully expressed the whole story of water in the American West. In his word:

I have spoken of the rich years when the rainfall was plentiful. But there were dry years too, and they put a terror on the valley. The water came in a thirty-year cycle. There would be five or six wet and wonderful years when there might be nineteen to twenty-five inches of rain, and the land would shout with grass. Then would come six or seven pretty good years of twelve to sixteen inches of rain. And then the dry years would come, and sometimes there would be only seven or eight inches of rain. The land dried up and the grass headed out miserably a few inches high and great bare scabby places appeared in the valley. The live oaks got a crusty look and the sagebrush was gray. The land cracked and the springs dried up and the cattle listlessly nibbled dry twigs. Then the farmers and the ranchers would be filled with disgust for the Salinas Valley. The cows would grow thin and sometimes starve to death. People would have to haul water in barrels to their farms just for drinking. Some families would sell out for nearly nothing and move away. And it never failed that during the dry years the people forgot about the rich years, and during wet years they lost all memory of the dry years. It was always that way.

Mike Kuhn
3-18-03



January 28th 2012 - Happy Camp Canyon - Middle Range Fire Road Loop



11 hikers met on a windy Saturday morning in Simi Valley to carpool to the dirt parking lot at the east end of Broadway Road north of Moorpark. The wind had subsided as we hiked one mile to the entrance to Happy Camp Canyon, “a lush riparian

oak woodland with an intermittent stream.” We followed an old ranch road eastward as it rose gradually in the canyon bottom between Oak Ridge and Big Mountain. At 4.5 miles we passed an oak grove with picnic tables and hitching rails; we continued past it and climbed steeply for 0.5 mile up Big Mountain to the Middle Range Fire Road via an abandoned, partially eroded dirt road. Once we reached the ridge we were treated to distant views to the south and west including the Santa Monica Mountains and two of the Channel Islands. We were bedeviled by gale force winds for most of our return trip along the ridge. We eventually made it to the parking lot, having completed a 10.9-mile hike with 1,200’ of elevation gain/loss.

February 4th 2012 - Backbone Trail Part 1: Ray Miller Trailhead to the Big Sycamore Canyon Trailhead Shuttle



The nearly 70-mile-long Santa Monica Mountains Backbone Trail (BBT) winds through the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area from the mouth of La Jolla Canyon in Point Mugu State Park to Will

Rogers State Historical Park in Pacific Palisades. On its way it crosses three major canyons – Big Sycamore Canyon, Malibu Canyon, and Topanga Canyon. It travels along ridgelines that offer spectacular views of the Pacific Ocean, the Channel Islands, unique rock formations, deep canyons, and, given a normal rainfall, a dazzling array of wildflowers in season. It passes through grasslands, valleys, and oak woodlands and crosses seasonal streams.

On a clear cool winter morning, 11 hikers assembled near the Ray Miller trailhead in La Jolla Canyon in the Santa Monica Mountains, ready to embark on the first of eight Saturday day-hikes which will cover the entire Backbone Trail. As the Ray Miller trail climbed via gentle switchbacks up to the Overlook Fire Road, it afforded views of all of the Channel Islands except Santa Rosa Island and San Miguel Island. The mountainside was pleasantly green and a few wildflowers

were blooming. The BBT (Backbone Trail) then followed the fire road to the Wood Canyon Vista Trail (also part of the BBT). Along the way the hikers were treated to panoramic views of La Jolla Valley to the west and Boney Mountain, Serrano Valley, and Big Sycamore Canyon to the east. The trail then descended into Big Sycamore Canyon, passing a variety of blooming flowers and trees, until it met the dirt road in the bottom of the canyon. The hikers took a lunch/rest break at the junction, taking advantage of the availability of drinking water (from a faucet), a nice log to sit on, and a good vantage point from which to watch the bicycle riders go by on their way up and down the canyon. As we resumed our hike and headed downstream toward our shuttle vehicles, we were serenaded by beautiful bright green South American birds in the bare sycamore trees (the birds are not native to the area, but were released or escaped into the wild some years ago). We eventually arrived at our shuttle vehicles, completing a 9.7-mile one-way hike with 1,100’ of elevation gain, and looking forward to hiking the second section of the BBT.

February 11th 2012 - Backbone Trail Part 2: Mishe Mokwa Trailhead to the Big Sycamore Canyon Trailhead Shuttle

Fourteen hikers carpooled to the northern (upper) end of Yuerba Buena Road at Triunfo Pass to hike the second section of the Santa Monica Mountains Backbone Trail (BBT) on a foggy chilly winter morning. The hike began at the Mishe Mokwa trailhead. The trail rose to the west through heavy chaparral to a junction with a short connector trail which led to the Sandstone Peak Trail which rose gradually for about a mile while providing spectacular views of the canyon to the north until it reached the spur leading up to Sandstone Peak. Despite the limited visibility, most of the hikers climbed to the peak (elevation 3,111’), the highest point in the Santa Monica Mountains. Returning to the main trail, we followed it to its junction with the Mishe Mokwa trail in a boulder-strewn valley. Continuing to the southwest on the BBT, stopping briefly at Inspiration Point, we soon passed two spurs leading to the Tri-Peaks area. The trail then descended to Chamberlain Rock (named for Henry Chamberlain, a beloved local who died in 1945). Continuing our descent we enjoyed panoramic views of Serrano Valley to the southwest and Big Sycamore Canyon and beyond to the west as well as a variety of blooming wildflowers along the trail. After a short lunch break, we soon reached the Old Boney Trail and followed it as it descended to the main fire road in the bottom of Big Sycamore Canyon. We then followed the fire road toward the ocean and eventually reached our shuttle vehicles in the Sycamore Canyon Campground parking lot, having completed a 12.7-mile hike with 1,400’ of elevation gain and over 3,000’ of elevation loss.



RSTB Calendar March



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat				
				1 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Alec Pydde Roger Steffen Gunnar Pydde	2 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Martin DeGoey	3 Backbone Trail Part 4 8 AM See Schedule				
4 Rocky Peak Fire Road 4 PM See Schedule	5	6 Las Lajas Canyon 6:30PM See Schedule	--- SPECIAL OUTING --- Havasupai Indian Reservation, AZ – Havasu Falls – near the Grand Canyon*				7	8 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Colleen Janssen	9	10
11 Rocky Peak Fire Road 5PM --- SPECIAL OUTING ---  See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Pat Peters	12	13 Las Lajas Canyon 6:30PM See Schedule	14 See Schedule	15 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule	16 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Athul Janev	17 Work Party See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> David Ritzinger				
18 Rocky Peak Fire Road 5PM See Schedule	19	20 Las Lajas Canyon 6:30PM See Schedule	21 Club Meeting 7 PM See Schedule ALL members are invited to attend	22 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule	23 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Collette Bertrand Judy Cohen	24 Backbone Trail Part 5 8 AM See Schedule				
25 Rocky Peak Fire Road 5PM See Schedule	26	27 Las Lajas Canyon 6:30PM See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Jamie Gray	28 4	29 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule	30	31 Backbone Trail Part 6 8 AM See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Larry Ribbeck				

REGULARLY SCHEDULED HIKES

(Rain cancels – No hikes on holidays)

Sunday Evening - Rocky Peak Fire Road

Meet at **5 PM** at the Rocky Peak Fire Road trailhead. Take the Rocky Peak exit from the 118 Fwy. Meet at the north end of the bridge; don't park on the bridge. (Moderate to strenuous, depending on distance hiked. 4.8 MRT)

Tuesday Evening - Las Lajas Canyon

Meet at **6:30 PM** at the Evening Sky Drive trailhead. Take the 118 Fwy to the Yosemite Ave exit; head north past McDonalds and the stop sign at Alamo Street; continue 0.85 mile north on Yosemite Ave to the stop sign at Evening Sky Drive; turn right (east) and drive 0.5 mile to the trailhead; park on either side of the street. (Easy-to-moderate depending on distance hiked, 3¼ MRT)

Thursday Evening - The Chumash Trail

Meet at **6 PM** at Chumash trailhead. Take 118 Fwy to Yosemite exit. Go north on Yosemite, turn right on Flanagan Dr. Trailhead is at the end of Flanagan Dr. (Moderate to strenuous, depending on distance hiked. 5.2 MRT)

MARCH HIKES AND ACTIVITIES

March 3rd

Backbone Trail Part 4: Encinal Canyon Road Trailhead to Latigo Canyon Road Trailhead Shuttle*

7 Miles - (1,692' elevation gain) - Moderate to Strenuous

Meet at **8 AM** near Donut Delite at the corner of Madera and Royal. Please remember, this hike requires ample shuttle cars, so be prepared to drive your car from Donut Delite to both the beginning and ending trailheads. There are no parking fees at either trailhead. Shuttle car driving directions will be distributed at Donut Delite. Bring 2 - 3 quarts of water and lunch. Wear sturdy boots. To view trail map go here: <http://www.simitrailblazers.com/activities/bbtm/Day4.jpg>

To view National Park Systems Backbone Trail System flier go here: <http://www.simitrailblazers.com/activities/BackboneTrail.pdf>

March 7th - 11th --- SPECIAL OUTING ---

Havasupai Indian Reservation, AZ – Havasu Falls – near the Grand Canyon*

Please visit <http://www.simitrailblazers.com/activities/index.html> for more detail. **NOTE:** This very special event is limited to Trail Blazer members only. To make your reservations, email Mark: markinthepark@sbcglobal.net. **Space is limited, so it's best to sign up early.** The last day to sign up is February 29th.

March 17th

Work Party - Chivo Canyon

8 AM to Noon. All tools will be provided. **Directions:** To view directions go to: <http://www.simitrailblazers.com/activities/index.html>

March 21st

Club Meeting

7 PM - The Sycamore Drive Community Center - 1692 Sycamore Drive - Room B-1

March 24th

Backbone Trail Part 5: Latigo Canyon Trailhead to Malibu Canyon Trailhead Shuttle*

9.8 Miles - (1,286' elevation gain) - Moderate to Strenuous

Meet at **8 AM** near Donut Delite at the corner of Madera and Royal. There are no parking fees at either trailhead. Shuttle car driving directions will be distributed at Donut Delite. Bring 2 - 3 quarts of water and lunch. Wear sturdy boots. To view trail map go here: <http://www.simitrailblazers.com/activities/bbtm/Day4.jpg>


To view National Park Systems Backbone Trail System flier go here: <http://www.simitrailblazers.com/activities/BackboneTrail.pdf>

March 31st

Backbone Trail Part 6: Malibu Canyon Road Trailhead (Pioma Road) to the Saddle Peak/Stunt Road Trailhead Shuttle*

7.2 Miles - (2,300' elevation gain) - Strenuous

Meet at **8 AM** near Donut Delite at the corner of Madera and Royal. Please remember, this hike requires ample shuttle cars, so be prepared to drive your car from Donut Delite to both the beginning and ending trailheads. There are no parking fees at either trailhead. Shuttle car driving directions will be distributed at Donut Delite. Bring 2 - 3 quarts of water and lunch. Wear sturdy boots.

* 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.** <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:	Craig Malin		
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:			
Newsletter Editor:	Linda Martins-Mann		linda.martins.mann@simitrailblazers.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 _____ 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 630445, Simi Valley, CA 93063-0399



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