



Rancho Simi Trail Blazers

A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation



New Members

Hermann Schleeauf
Songmi, Scott, Roxane & Nick Margolin
Karen Cruise
Balaji Keshava
Elisabeth Hammon



Weekly hikes!!



Has anyone ever told you to take a hike?

Did you know that in Simi Valley you can take many hikes with the Rancho Simi Trail Blazers and explore the beauty of Simi Valley and other beautiful locations? We have so much fun taking photos, talking and just viewing the beautiful scenery like the photo above. We even enjoy going on overnight events. **Please join us** and see for yourself how much fun we have!

Hikes are every Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday, and most Saturdays

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



Our bank will no longer accept dues or other checks made out to the Rancho Simi Trail Blazers. **ALL CHECKS must be made out to the Rancho Simi Foundation.**

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



RSTB CLUB MEETING

This month's RSTB meeting will be at: Sycamore Drive Community Center 1692 Sycamore Drive – Room B-1

Wednesday: March 15, 2017

5:30PM Everyone Welcome to attend!

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

Upcoming Events

March 11th Work Party - Mt. McCoy 8AM

March 15th Club Board Meeting The Sycamore Drive Community Center - 1692 Sycamore Drive - Room B-1 **5:30PM Everyone Welcome to attend!**

March 18th Backbone Trail Part 5: Latigo Canyon Trailhead to Malibu Canyon Trailhead Shuttle Reservations are required to attend. Please go to our website calendar to make your reservation. 9.8 Miles – (1,286' elevation gain) – Moderate to Strenuous **8AM**

March 25th Backbone Trail Part 6: Malibu Canyon Road Trailhead (Piuma Road) to the Saddle Peak/Stunt Road Trailhead Shuttle Reservations are required to attend. Please go to our website calendar to make your reservation. 7.2 Miles – (2,300' elevation gain) – Strenuous **8AM**

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

January 28th – Backbone Trail Part 1: Ray Miller Trailhead to the Big Sycamore Canyon Trailhead Shuttle



The nearly 70-mile-long Backbone Trail (BBT) winds through the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area (SMMNRA) from the mouth of La Jolla Canyon in Point Mugu State Park to Will Rogers State Historic Park (SHP) 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. NOTE: This is the first of eight (8) trip reports that will be filed as we make our way from the west end of the BBT to its east end over the next two-and-a-half months.

On a clear winter morning with a pleasant temperature (but with a “wind advisory”), 18 hikers carpooled to the Big Sycamore Canyon Campground (where we dropped off four shuttle vehicles) and then over to the nearby 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 SMMNRA Backbone Trail. As the Ray Miller trail climbed via gentle switchbacks up to the Overlook Fire Road, it afforded views of several of the Channel Islands and provided some shelter from the strong winds we encountered (which also provided unusually clear views of the area). As we neared the Overlook Fire Road we were “attacked” by gale-force winds but we persevered. The mountainside was pleasantly green and a few wildflowers were blooming. The BBT then followed the fire road to the Wood Canyon Vista Trail (also part of the BBT). Along the way the hikers were treated to lushly green 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 small number blooming flowers and blossoming bushes, until we reached the dirt road in the bottom of the canyon as the wind abated. We took a lunch/rest break at the junction, taking advantage of the availability of drinking water (from a faucet), a picnic table with benches, and a good vantage point from which to watch several bicycle riders go by on their way up and down the canyon. As we resumed our hike and headed downstream (we actually had to wade across running water twice) 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 9.8-mile one-way hike with 1,100’ of elevation gain, looking forward to hiking the second section of the BBT next week

February 11th – Backbone Trail Part 3: Mishe Mokwa Trailhead to Encinal Canyon Road Trailhead Shuttle

After dropping off several shuttle vehicles along Encinal Canyon Road, sixteen hikers carpooled to the parking lot opposite the Mishe Mokwa trailhead on Yerba Buena Road where we began our hike along the third section of the Santa Monica Mountains Backbone Trail (BBT) on another pleasant winter morning.



As we headed east along the south flank of the mountain, we encountered some bicycle riders and lots of runners. The early morning rain had stopped but had left puddles and muddy stretches of trail behind. However, there were great views of mountains and coastal valleys gleaming with beautiful green grasses. There were also blooming wildflowers (particularly shooting stars) and the ubiquitous white blossoms on the ceanothus trees. After a while we reached the road crossing at Little Sycamore Canyon Road where we encountered a large group of hikers being led by National Park Service rangers [for a fee] along the same route; also we were joined for a few miles by Dr. James Caballero the author of Mileage Hiking Maps [one of our hike leaders had the opportunity to hike the BBT for the first time with “Doc” in 2006]. We crossed the road and climbed up along a short new section of the BBT (which allowed us to avoid trespassing) to its junction with the Etz Meloy Motorway (an old dirt road) from which there were panoramic views to the north (toward the San Fernando Valley and to the south (toward the ocean). Eventually we reached a section of trail that descended via lots of switchbacks to the road crossing at Mulholland Highway. We stopped for a lunch/rest break among some pine trees immediately after crossing Mulholland Highway. The final mile of the Day 3 hike led us along a pretty section of trail (where we spotted several Indian warrior plants) to our shuttle vehicles parked along Encinal Canyon Road, completing a 10.3-mile one-way hike with 973’ of elevation gain and 1,680’ of elevation loss on another beautiful day for hiking.



RSTB Calendar MARCH



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 Chumash Trail 6PM	3	4
Death Valley National Park Hiking & Camping Trip						
				See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Martin DeGoey	<i>Happy Birthday</i> William James	
5 Rocky Peak Fire Road 4PM	6	7 Mt. McCoy Trail 6PM	8	9 Chumash Trail 6PM	10	11 Work Party Mt. McCoy 8AM
Death Valley National Park Hiking & Camping Trip See Schedule		See Schedule	<i>Happy Birthday</i> Colleen Janssen	See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Dhanesh Katbamna		See Schedule 
12 Rocky Peak Fire Road 5PM	13	14 Mt. McCoy Trail 6PM	15 Club Meeting 5:30PM Everyone Welcome to attend!	16 Chumash Trail 6PM	17	18 Backbone Trail Part 5: Latigo Canyon Trailhead to Malibu Canyon Trailhead Shuttle 8AM
See Schedule 		See Schedule	See Schedule	See Schedule		See Schedule
19 Rocky Peak Fire Road 5PM	20	21 Mt. McCoy Trail 6PM	22	23 Chumash Trail 6PM	24	25 Backbone Trail Part 6: Malibu Canyon Trailhead (Piuma Road) to the Saddle Peak/Stunt Road Trailhead Shuttle 8AM
See Schedule		See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Songmi Margolin		See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Judy Cohen Goldie Parazoo		See Schedule
26 Rocky Peak Fire Road 5PM	27	28 Mt. McCoy Trail 6PM	29	30 Chumash Trail 6PM	31	
See Schedule		See Schedule		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)

RANCHO SIMI TRAIL BLAZERS

A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation

Executive Chair:	Mike Kuhn	HM (805) 583-2345	hannahmike@me.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) 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:	VOLUNTEER NEEDED		Contact Mike Kuhn at: 805-583-2345
Newsletter Editor:	Linda 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 1231, Simi Valley, CA 93062



U.S. Postage

RSTB
P.O. Box 1231
Simi Valley, CA 93062

(continued from February issue)

SPANISH/MEXICAN TRAILS

The Simi Road ran between the Simi Adobe and the Conejo Valley through present day Wood Ranch. It too followed the route of an old Indian trail to and from the Chumash village of *Simí*. The 1858 survey exhibits a "trail" through the pass between Simi Valley and the Conejo Valley. All of these "roads" of course were little more than trails.

The trail between the Simi Adobe and the De la Guerra Adobe ran down Tapo Canyon then westerly north of the first ridge on the northern side of Simi Valley and then down Dry Canyon through the present day Lost Canyons Golf Courses. The trail, according to the 1858 survey, hugged the base of the hills over to the mouth of Sand Canyon and then southwesterly to the Simi Adobe. It too probably followed the old Indian trail between the Chumash villages of *Simí* and *Ta'apu*.

The Dominguez Trail was noted by the archaeologist Richard Van Volkanburg as extending between the village of *Ta'apu* northerly over the head of Las Llajas Canyon through Brown's Canyon into the San Fernando Valley. A similar trail extended up Las Llajas Canyon to Brown's Canyon into the San Fernando Valley.

There also seems to have been an early Spanish trail which came over the hills from the top of Woolsey Canyon down to the hanging valley on the northern edge of the former Sage Ranch and hence down the eastern fork of Meier Canyon. There is still remnant Spanish graffiti along the route.

Finally, there was an old trail north out of the Tapo over the Santa Susana Mountains down to Camulos on the Santa Clara River. That trail was the old Indian trail to the village of *Ta'apu*. It may have been used by members of the Portola Expedition in 1769 and certainly was used as a route over the mountains to get from one rancho to another.

Mike Kuhn
11-30-04

THE TAPO STREET DUMP

In the good old days people got rid of their garbage any way they could. Well into the 1960s it was common to have back yard incinerators. Anything you could burn went into those incinerators. In the beginning there were no public dumps in rural areas like Simi Valley and no gar-

bage collection services. On the farm, you maintained your own dump. In more urban settings, with small lots, you would haul your garbage to an arroyo and let the winter runoff carry it away. The north side of the Arroyo Simi between Erringer Road and the Dry Canyon Flood Control Channel was one of those favorite dumping spots.

Eventually a "burn dump" was established on the northern side of the Arroyo Simi east of Tapo Street on the southern side of the private Santa Susana Airport. Garbage and other waste dumped at the landfill burned continuously. Metal, glass and ash were all that survived. Between the smoke from the landfill and from backyard incinerators, Simi was a smoky place. Eventually, a new landfill was established between the Arroyo Simi and the top of the hill south of the arroyo at the western end of Simi Valley. The new dump did not include burning.

In 1950 Simi Valley had a population of about 4,000. By 1960 the population had more than doubled to 8,110. Then, in just two years (1962) the population had shot up to 15,860 – massive suburbanization had begun. During the years 1962-1965 the population of the valley grew by nearly 10,000 people per year. By 1965 the population of the valley was 43,016.

During the 1960s the Ventura County Air Pollution Control District was formed. Backyard incinerators and burn dumps were about the first sources of air pollution to go.

Now, both the airport and the burn dump are only memories. The airport is memorialized by a street named "Runway" - now part of an industrial park. The site of the old dump remained vacant for many years. The property was used for several years by a grading contractor and heavy equipment operator by the name of George Harvout. Mr. Harvout continued to dump unwanted car bodies, old wash machines, tree trunks and other debris on the property, including in the Arroyo Simi. Eventually, the Ventura County Flood Control District initiated a project to channelize and straighten the Arroyo Simi from its confluence with the Arroyo Las Llajas to Tapo Street.

The property drew the interests of industrial developers. Soil test were completed on several occasions to determine the extent of the remains from the landfill and other unwanted materials and to determine whether or not hazardous materials were present. Subsequently the site was

cleaned up, and it has been developed as an industrial park.

Mike Kuhn
12-2-04 (revised 11-8-12)

THE TAPO SUBDIVISION

When we talk about subdivisions today, we think of tract homes, usually one or two storied models with three or more different facades. Many subdivisions in the 1950s and 1960s were made up entirely of one and two storied units. With time, the desire of buyers to maximize square footage has led to many developers trying to offer only two-storied units.

However, the first subdivision in Simi evolved from the passage of the ownership of El Rancho Simi from the de la Guerra family into the hands of Anglo-Americans. During the late-1880s, the Simi Land and Water Company subdivided their lands in Simi Valley in order to sell off large ranch and farm parcels. Those parcels were usually of 20 or more acres and some parcels were of thousands of acres. These large lot sales occurred with the coming of the transcontinental railroad into southern California, however, it was long before railroad service came to Simi Valley.

You have to remember that this was before there were any public roads outside of incorporated cities, so rail service was the absolute key to any successful agricultural enterprise where the product could not be walked to market. In 1872, for example, Charles Emerson Hoar leased the eastern half of Simi Valley. He raised sheep, which produced wool, which could be marketed without spoilage. Gradually, that practice gave way to dryland farming of barley/oats for livestock feed. Still, the sheep could be grazed on the stubble. The dryland production of grain was still a large-parcel operation.

Finally, in 1900 the railroad came into Simi Valley from the west and the tunnels to connect the Southern Pacific Railroad segments between Chatsworth and Santa Susana were begun. The railroad connection to the east was completed in 1904. With the coming of the railroad there was a gradual shift to irrigated agriculture and smaller farm lots. Eastern farm immigrants were unaccustomed to irrigating crops. Others came from countries where water was simply diverted from rivers and other streams.

(Continued in April)



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.



REGULARLY SCHEDULED HIKE (Rain cancels – No hikes on holidays)

Sunday Evening - Rocky Peak Fire Road

Meet at **4PM on March 5 and at 5PM** thereafter 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) ***(We Meet at 5PM during daylight saving time.)***

Tuesday Evening - Mt. McCoy Trail

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.)

MARCH HIKES AND ACTIVITIES

March 11th Work Party - Mt. McCoy

Meeting time is **8AM**. The event will end at noon. Meet at trailhead at western end of Washburn Street. (get there from western end of Royal Avenue [west of Madera Road], right on Acapulco Avenue and an immediate left on Washburn.) Bring a hat, gloves, water, sunglasses and a snack. Wear substantial footwear with good tread. All tools will be provided.

March 15th Club Meeting *Everyone Welcome to attend!*

5:30PM - The Sycamore Drive Community Center - 1692 Sycamore Drive - Room B-1

March 18th Backbone Trail Part 5: Latigo Canyon Trailhead to Malibu Canyon Trailhead

Shuttle Reservations are required to attend. Please go to our website calendar to make your reservation. *This special event is open to active Trail Blazer members only.* 9.8 Miles – (1,286' elevation gain) – Moderate to Strenuous Meet at **8AM** 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.

March 25th Backbone Trail Part 6: Malibu Canyon Road Trailhead (Piuma Road) to the Saddle Peak/Stunt Road Trailhead Shuttle Reservations are required to attend. Please go to our website calendar to make your reservation. This special event is open to active Trail Blazer members only.

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

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** <http://www.simitrailblazers.com/index.php/calendar/>