



Rancho Simi Trailblazers

A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation



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

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### 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.

#### **March 2, 2019 – Griffith Park: Ferndell Park to Mt. Hollywood & Mt. Lee\***

5.2 MRT – Moderate (1,026' of elevation gain/loss) or 9-mile counterclockwise lollipop Loop – Moderate-to-strenuous (1,743' of elevation gain/loss)

Mt Hollywood is by far the most popular hiking trail in all of Griffith Park. One of the reasons for its popularity is access and a million-dollar view of Los Angeles, including the Pacific Ocean and eastern San Fernando Valley.

Meet at 8 AM at the 118 & Stearns St. Park & Ride. Bring 2 to 3 quarts of water and a snack. Wear boots.

NOTE: The longer hike will add hiking from Mt. Hollywood to Mt. Lee (the Hollywood sign).

#### **March 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.

#### **March 16, 2019 – Work Party - Long Canyon Trail**

The Trail Blazers' March trail work party will be held Saturday, March 16, on the Long Canyon Trail. Meet at the trailhead parking lot at Long Canyon Road and Wood Ranch Parkway at 8:00 AM. 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.

#### **March 20, 2019**

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

Everyone is welcome to attend.

#### **March 23, 2019 – Happy Camp Canyon\***

8 MRT – Moderate to Strenuous (~750' elevation gain/loss)

Our hike will begin at the trailhead in the dirt parking lot at the east end of Broadway Road in Moorpark. We'll follow a well-maintained trail beside the Rustic Canyon golf course one mile to the entrance to Happy Camp Canyon, "a lush riparian oak woodland with an intermittent stream." We'll then follow an old ranch road eastward as it rises gradually in the canyon bottom between Oak Ridge and Big Mountain. When we reach a pleasant oak grove with a picnic table and hitching rails, we'll take a rest-and-snack break after which we'll return the way we came to the parking lot.

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.

### **March 30, 2019 – Santa Paula Canyon\***

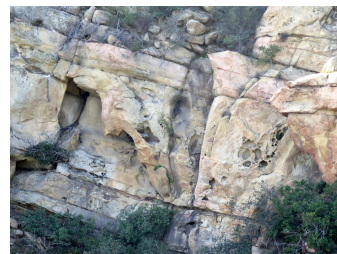
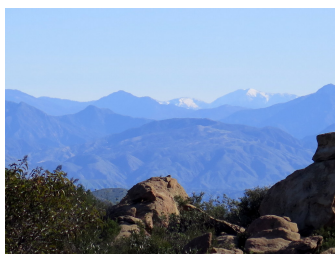
8 MRT – Moderate to Strenuous (1,700' elevation gain/loss)

Our out-and-back hike in Santa Paula Canyon will begin at the trailhead on Highway 150 a few miles northwest of Santa Paula. As we head upstream, we'll skirt the campus of Thomas Aquinas College, the Ferndale Ranch, avocado groves, and an oil field with mountains looming in the distance. We'll cross Santa Paula Creek more than once; sycamore and alder trees should provide some shade. Eventually we'll cross to the east side of the stream and follow a trail (an old dirt road narrowed by erosion and plant growth) as it climbs part way up the mountain and through the Big Cone Campground with its grove of big cone Douglas fir trees. Soon after passing the campground we'll reach a tributary of Santa Paula Creek; we'll follow it downstream to a picturesque waterfall and punchbowl. We'll then return to the main trail (the Last Chance Trail) and follow it to the slick-rock slide area a short distance above the waterfall. We'll return the way we came.

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.

## **HIKE REPORTS**

### **January 26, 2019 – Johnson Motorway to Rocky Peak**



18 hikers met at the trailhead on Iverson Road just outside the gated southern entrance to Indian Springs Estates in Chatsworth on a mild winter morning with a wind advisory. After following the easement through the upscale gated community, we reached the beginning of the unpaved Johnson Motorway (once a toll road).

The trail (an old dirt and sandstone roadbed) rose westward until it met a short "driveway" leading north to the ruins of the ranch house that was built by Ann and Neils Johnson who were the first English-speaking homesteaders in the San Fernando Valley; they had built their primary home in "Chatsworth Park" in the 1870's. It should be noted that we were "assaulted" by strong intermittent winds at times during the hike, although there was little or no wind during more than half of the hike. Leaving the ruins, we followed the Johnson Motorway as it passed through a landscape of dramatic rock formations, climbing steadily, but not steeply, toward the Rocky Peak Fire Road. The temperature rose (but was still pleasant) as the sun ascended and we soon removed our jackets. After 3.5 miles we reached the fire road where we took a short snack/rest break while we enjoyed the scenery including lots of green hillsides. We then headed southward along the Rocky Peak Fire Road enjoying views of interesting rock formations and Simi Valley to the west. A short spur trail led us eastward to an overlook of the San Fernando Valley near Rocky Peak. We took another break while we enjoyed views as diverse as snow-capped San Gabriel Mountains, Santa Cruz Island and the tops of tall buildings in downtown Los Angeles. We soon retraced our route downhill back to our vehicles and returned home having completed a pleasant 9.5-mile hike with about 1,900' of total elevation gain/loss.

### **February 9, 2019 – Beaudry Loop – cancelled by rain**

### **February 16, 2019 – Work Party - Northridge Trail**

The February work party was held on the North Ridge Trail from the Evening Sky Trailhead. Despite the trail being wet and muddy, progress was made in clearing out sections of fast growing grass that were narrowing the trail. Thanks to the participants: Mike Kuhn and John Sabol.



12 hikers carpoled to a dirt parking area about 0.4 mile outside the entrance to Mentryville, located in Pico Canyon in the north end of Santa Clarita Woodlands Park (only a few miles from Towsley Canyon). Mentryville was an oil boom town in the 1880's and was home to over 100 families until the early 1930's.

Pico Canyon was the site of the first commercially successful oil well (Pico No. 4) in the western United States. Several historic buildings are still standing in Mentryville including Charles Mentry's grand 13-room mansion, a one-room school house and a small barn. After taking a quick tour of the "ghost" town, we headed southwest along the paved road into shady Pico Canyon with its towering walls and a pleasant stream until we reached Johnson Park ("the party place for oil miners of more than a century ago") where we dallied for a while. As we continued further into the canyon, the paved road made a sharp switchback to the northeast, became a dirt road, and we began climbing up out of the canyon. As we gained elevation our views of the surrounding rugged landscape with green mountainsides (thanks to recent rainfall) steadily improved. As we continued southeast toward the road's upper end we had excellent views of the transverse range of the Santa Susana Mountains as well as some snow on distant peaks in the San Gabriel and Topa Topa Mountains. The road ended in a wide flat mountaintop area which was at one time the home of the Union Oil Company's Odeen #1 oil well, but is now the home of a lone picnic table with two benches where there was a large group of cub/boy scouts who had reached the summit shortly before we did. After a leisurely snack/rest break, we returned the way we came and reached our vehicles, having completed an 8.5-mile hike with about 1,450' of elevation gain/loss on what had turned into a very nice day for hiking.

### C.E. HOAR PURCHASES THE HUMMINGBIRD'S NEST

Janet Cameron cites Charles Emerson Hoar as having purchased the Hummingbird's Nest Ranch from Juan Pucillo in 1872 or 1873. Certainly, Janet Cameron was in a good position to have that information, because Mr. Hoar had lived with the Cameron family towards the end of his life. However, it now seems that that information was not accurate. Mr. Hoar occupied "the Hummingbird" as part of his lease of 13,000 acres of land from the Simi Land and Water Company. His lease holding was everything east of Arroyo del Tapo.

Bill Appleton found the records of the 1887 and 1888 sales of the ranch parcels by the Simi Land and Water Company to Mr. Hoar. It seems that the land passed from the hands of the de la Guerra family into those of an eastern petroleum investment company, which later formed the Simi Land and Water Company. The coming of the railroad to southern California during the 1880s triggered a real estate boom in southern California. The Simi Land and Water Company was formed to offer the land of the company for sale for town and farming purposes. Since Charles Hoar still held a valid lease on those 13,000 acres, a deal was cut with Mr. Hoar to give up his lease while retaining the Hummingbird's Nest Ranch. The three sales transactions conveyed 160 acres of land for \$12,000, 50 acres for \$500 and 46.68 acres for \$5.00. The lands involved totaled 256.68 acres. When Paula Meehan owned it during the 1990s (then called the "Ballymeehan Farm") the ranch included only 96.68 acres.

The \$5.00 price for a 46.86-acre parcel seems very low. However, the sale included relinquishing of the lease and the conveyance of one miner's inch of flow of water to the Simi Land and Water Company. One miner's inch of flow is the water that can flow through a one square inch opening with four inches of hydraulic head. (That amount was enough to operate a long tom or rocker in gold mining operations.) This then resulted in the two-inch water line for the Simi Hotel that was constructed to house prospective buyers of real estate. (The hotel was located on a hill at the present site of Simi Valley High School. When the high school was built, the hill was graded away.) Mr. Hoar's relinquishing of the lease on those 13,000 acres was apparently handled by a separate agreement but accounts for the \$5.00 price for the 46.86 acre parcel.



## C.E. HOAR PURCHASES THE HUMMINGBIRD'S NEST continued

The sale of 50 acres for \$500 indicates that those 50 acres were not usable for farming. The Simi Land and Water Company's flatter land was offered for as much as \$100 per acre.

The 160 acre parcel for \$12,000 represented a sales price of \$75 per acre and included a great deal of rocky territory. However, it also included many improvements, including buildings, fences, and corrals as well as fruit trees and other exotic vegetation. Of great interest is that the sale reserved a right-of-way, 60 feet wide, for the railroad. If the railroad had not exercised the right-of-way reservation by the end of 1890, then the right-of-way reservation was to expire. What this tells us is that in late-1887 or early-1888 the decision had not been made as to how the railroad would get over or through Santa Susana Pass. We do know that the route had been selected by 1895 and the railroad into Simi Valley from the west was completed by 1900. The construction of the "Chatsworth Tunnels" was begun in 1900 and completed by 1904. So, they had decided that one and one half miles of tunnels under the pass would be cheaper in the long run than trying to build the rail line over the pass.

Mike Kuhn  
11-2-04 (revised 2-26-19)

## AN EARLY VINEYARD

The 1858 federal survey of the Simi Valley area exhibits a vineyard at the present day intersection of Township Road and Lemon Drive. The presence of a vineyard – without irrigation - at that location in 1858 seems unlikely. One is left with the conclusion that the vineyard was irrigated as part of the De la Guerra farm operation - probably an extension of the plantings in Tapo Canyon.

Tapo and Gillibrand canyons have running surface water year around, and it can be assumed that those plantings of grapes were irrigated. Certainly, the depth to ground water – over 90 feet today at that location - made grape production without irrigation untenable. One is forced to conclude that the De la Guerras were conveying surface water for irrigation from well up Gillibrand Canyon or Tapo Canyon. Evidence of what may be that ditch can still be seen in places on the western side of Gillibrand Canyon. However, that ditch may have been limited to irrigating crops in Gillibrand Canyon down slope of the De la Guerra adobe. Water diversion from Tapo Canyon is the most likely source of the water used at Township and Lemon because of the problem of getting water from an irrigation ditch in Gillibrand Canyon across the Tapo Canyon barranca. The water, which naturally ran down Gillibrand Canyon on top of a clay-lined bottom, continues below the confluence of the two canyons, where it could have been diverted into an irrigation ditch. The irrigated fields in Gillibrand Canyon included many varieties of fruit trees. However, the "Tapo Ranch" was famous for its wines and brandy. Wine production was still going on well into the late-1880s.

Mike Kuhn

## REGULARLY SCHEDULED HIKES

*(Red Flag Warnings and Rain cancels the hike – No hikes on holidays)*

### Sunday Evening - Rocky Peak Fire Road

During Standard Time meet at **4PM** and during Daylight Savings Time meet at **5PM** 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 - No Hike during Standard Time

During Daylight Savings 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.)

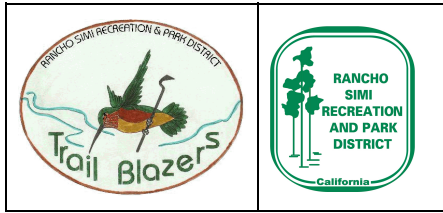
Due to unforeseen circumstances, all activities are subject to change without notice.  
Please see <https://www.simitrailblazers.com/calendar/> for event details and the most up-to-date schedule.

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <h2 style="text-align: center;">RSTB Calendar</h2> <h3 style="text-align: center;">March 2019</h3> |                                              |                                                   |                                                |                                                                            |                                                    |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sun                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Mon                                                                                                | Tue                                          | Wed                                               | Thu                                            | Fri                                                                        | Sat                                                                                                                                   |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                    |                                              |                                                   |                                                | 1<br><br>Happy Birthday<br>Roger Steffen                                   | 2<br>Griffith Park: Ferndell<br>Park to Mt. Hollywood<br>& Mt. Lee* 8AM<br>See Upcoming Events<br><br>Happy Birthday<br>Martin DeGoey |
| 3<br>Rocky Peak Fire<br>Road 4PM<br>See Schedule<br><br>World Wildlife<br>Day                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | 4<br><br>Happy Birthday<br>William<br>James                                                        | 5<br>No hike during<br>Standard Time         | 6                                                 | 7<br>Chumash Trail<br>6PM<br><br>See Schedule  | 8<br>International<br>Womens' Day<br><br>Happy Birthday<br>Colleen Janssen | 9<br>Beaudry Loop* 8AM<br><br>See Upcoming Events                                                                                     |
| 10<br>Rocky Peak Fire<br>Road 5PM<br>See Schedule<br><br>Daylight Savings<br>Begins                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 11                                                                                                 | 12<br>Mt. McCoy<br>Trail 6PM<br>See Schedule | 13                                                | 14<br>Chumash Trail<br>6PM<br>See Schedule     | 15<br><br>Happy Birthday<br>Gary Hartung                                   | 16<br>Work Party Long<br>Canyon Trail 8AM<br><br>See Upcoming Events                                                                  |
| 17<br>Rocky Peak Fire<br>Road 5PM<br><br>See Schedule                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 18                                                                                                 | 19<br>Mt. McCoy<br>Trail 6PM<br>See Schedule | 20<br>Club Meeting<br>5:30PM<br><br>Spring Begins | 21<br>Chumash Trail<br>6PM<br><br>See Schedule | 22                                                                         | 23<br>Happy Camp Canyon*<br>8AM<br>See Upcoming Events<br><br>Happy Birthday<br>Goldie Parazoo                                        |
| 24<br>Rocky Peak Fire<br>Road 5PM<br><br>See Schedule                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 25                                                                                                 | 26<br>Mt. McCoy<br>Trail 6PM<br>See Schedule | 27                                                | 28<br>Chumash Trail<br>6PM<br><br>See Schedule | 29                                                                         | 30<br>Santa Paula Canyon*<br>8AM<br><br>See Upcoming Events                                                                           |
| 31<br>Rocky Peak Fire<br>Road 5PM<br>See Schedule<br><br>Cesar Chavez Day                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                    |                                              |                                                   |                                                |                                                                            |                                                                                                                                       |
| <p><b>SANTA ANA WILDFIRE THREAT INDEX</b> - Provides a 6 day forecast of Santa Ana Winds Wildfire Threats on a color coded map<br/> <a href="http://psgeodata.fs.fed.us/sawti/">http://psgeodata.fs.fed.us/sawti/</a></p> <p><b>CALIFORNIA FIRE WEATHER MAP</b> - Provides actual Red Flag Warnings and Fire Weather Watches<br/> <a href="http://www.fire.ca.gov/communications/communications_firesafety_redflagwarning.php">http://www.fire.ca.gov/communications/communications_firesafety_redflagwarning.php</a> (Scroll down to map)</p> |                                                                                                    |                                              |                                                   |                                                |                                                                            |                                                                                                                                       |

\* 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**

| <b>Rancho Simi Trailblazers</b><br><i>A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation</i> |                         |                   |                                                                                              |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Executive Chair:                                                                   | Mike Kuhn               | HM (805) 583-2345 | <a href="mailto:mike.kuhn@simitrailblazers.com">mike.kuhn@simitrailblazers.com</a>           |
| Treasurer:                                                                         | Santiago Homsí          |                   |                                                                                              |
| Park District Liaison:                                                             | Jeannie Liss            | WK (805) 584-4453 | <a href="mailto:volunteers@rsrpd.us">volunteers@rsrpd.us</a>                                 |
| Work Parties Chair:                                                                | <b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b> |                   | <b>Contact Mike Kuhn at: 805-583-2345</b>                                                    |
| Hiking Chair:                                                                      | Mark Gilmore            | HM (805) 990-1460 | <a href="mailto:markinthepark@simitrailblazers.com">markinthepark@simitrailblazers.com</a>   |
| Vice Hiking Chair:                                                                 | Les Wilson              | HM (805) 522-2642 | <a href="mailto:les.wilson@simitrailblazers.com">les.wilson@simitrailblazers.com</a>         |
| Website:                                                                           | Mark Gilmore            | HM (805) 529-5581 | <a href="mailto:markinthepark@simitrailblazers.com">markinthepark@simitrailblazers.com</a>   |
| Ways & Means Chair:                                                                | Marty Richards          | HM (805) 526-4414 | <a href="mailto:marty.richards@simitrailblazers.com">marty.richards@simitrailblazers.com</a> |
| Membership Chair:                                                                  | Louise Pomes            |                   | <a href="mailto:louise.pomes@simitrailblazers.com">louise.pomes@simitrailblazers.com</a>     |
| Publicity Chair:                                                                   | <b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b> |                   | <b>Contact Mike Kuhn at: 805-583-2345</b>                                                    |
| Newsletter Editor:                                                                 | Louise Pomes            |                   | <a href="mailto:louise.pomes@simitrailblazers.com">louise.pomes@simitrailblazers.com</a>     |