



Rancho Simi Trail Blazers



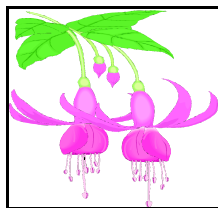
THE LOST PADRES

On January 17, 1804, three Franciscan padres, fathers Juan Ballesteros, Ignacio Bravo, and Jose Antonio Rodriguez, accompanied by two soldiers, Maximo Alanis and Ascencio Alvarez-Rubio, set out from San Diego for Mission Carmel and the Presidio of Monterey. They traveled from mission to mission as far as the San Fernando Mission. From there it seems that they traveled northward into what is now northern Ventura County. Their intent was to try a more inland route to the Salinas Valley. From the time they left San Fernando Mission nothing was heard of them until two of the padres and one of the soldiers reached Mission San Antonio in September of 1804.

We can well imagine that travel was very difficult in the early 1800s. California was a new frontier in every sense of the word. Much of California remained unexplored. The backcountry was inhabited by often hostile Indians, some of whom were already refugees from the mission system. The hills were also inhabited by California grizzly bears, swollen winter streams and other sources of danger.

What had happened to them in their journey and what had caused

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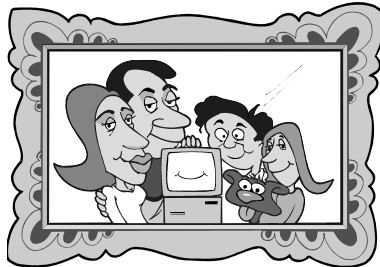
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PROGRAM FOR APRIL MEETING

At our April meeting, John Sabol and Arlene Altshuler will present a slide show on wildflowers of the area. Spring is here, and the wildflowers are out there.

RSTB CLUB MEETING

The monthly club meeting will be held at the Community Center
 In the B-1 Room
 1692 Sycamore
 At 7:00 PM
 On
 Wednesday
 APRIL 19th.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

**Rudy & Nour Saling
 Robert Foster**

MARCH TRAIL WORK PARTY

Ten scouts and 4 leaders from Boy Scout Troop 698 joined the Trailblazers for the March work party on the Hummingbird Trail. A badly needed re-route of the trail at the 0.6-mile location was accomplished and resulted in the removal of 2 switchbacks. The new rounded turn will hopefully eliminate the majority of "trail cutting" that was being done between the switchbacks. Lopping of overhanging brush, removal of trail berms and major filling in and smoothing of the trail surface was performed as well. We worked from 8:00-12:00 and as usual, met at Chuy's after finishing. Many thanks to the following workers:

Bob Altieri, Arlene Altshuler, Phil Ankrom, John Downey, Michael Kuhn, Chuck Portoghesi and John Sabol.

Scout leaders: Donald Jenkins, Alfred Lewis, Mitch Zahnow and Kathy Madden.

Scouts: Jeff Alldredge, Willie Alldredge, Chris Fisher, Eric Fisher, Ryan Jenkins, Matt Lewis, Bradley Meyer, Kevin Slack, Josh Trammell

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the deaths of Father Ignacio and the soldier Maximo does not seem to have been recorded, at least as far as I have been able to determine. Perhaps their story is in some long overlooked file in Mexico City or in the Mission Archives. In any case, their long absence must have resulted in grave concerns to their order and to their comrades. It is likely that none of them had ventured north of San Diego before. What maps were available would have been crude at best. Their stories would have been worth telling and their observations would have been invaluable today.

As with Donner Pass, their experience is recorded in the form of the name THE LOS PADRES NATIONAL FOREST. (This April Fools story is entirely fiction except for names of people that did live at that time.)

JUST A REMINDER

CLASS ON HIKING IN SIMI VALLEY

The Trail Blazers will offer a class on Hiking in Simi Valley beginning on Tuesday April 4 and 11 from 7:00-9:00 p.m. in the Multi-purpose Room at the Park District headquarters at 1692 Sycamore Drive. Saturday hikes are also offered on April 8 and 15. The classes will cover basic hiking techniques and equipment; trail etiquette, local trails, introduction to published literature, how to use maps, trail hazards, maintenance and construction. Saturday hikes will be on the Mt. McCoy and the Hummingbird trails. The cost is \$15. Signup is through the Park District. Call Mike Kuhn (805) 583-2345 for information

PRE-PORTOLA SPANISH CONTACT WITH THE CHUMASH

Our history lessons tell about Spanish contact with the Chumash by the Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo expedition of 1542, the Sebastian Vizcaino voyage of 1602, the Portola expeditions of 1769 and 1770 and the de Anza expedition a few years later. But when you dig deeper into this poorly recorded early period of contact, what emerges is a fuzzy portrait of periodic contact with the Spanish and other Europeans. Word of these contacts and a collective memory that something strange, exotic and excitingly different lay somewhere out to sea - beyond the horizon - must have been known by every coastal Chumash for a period of 200 years before settlement by the peoples of New Spain occurred. It must have been a time exciting rumors and speculation. There must have been a sense that something was about to happen. Certainly, the effects of small pox, typhoid fever and venereal diseases must have taken a heavy toll on the indigenous people.

Prior to colonization, Manila galleons used the Japanese and the California currents as the quickest route to Mexico. That route took those vessels through the Santa Barbara Channel. Manila galleons came to Mexico at least every few years. Those ships needed to stop to make repairs, take on water and other provisions. Yet, those contacts have largely gone unreported - I suppose because they were not "voyages of discovery." One petroglyph from Jalama Bay (CA-SBr-609) appears to show a three-

and Travis Zahnow.

Special appreciation to Andrew Roeder and Stacie Toon who saw the work party on our Trailblazer web site and came out from Canyon Country to help.

A new trail will be cut during the next work party on April 22 in conjunction with California Trail Days. Meet at the northeast corner of Flanagan Drive and Yosemite Avenue. Park on Flanagan Drive only. We will work from 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Hope to see you there.

Work Parties Chair
John Sabol

CALIFORNIA TRAIL DAYS 2000

The project for California Trail Days (April 22) will be to cut a new trail to allow hiking, from the homes accessed from the north side of Flanagan Drive, down to Yosemite Avenue.

The new trail will extend from the northeast corner of Yosemite Avenue and Flanagan Drive up to the top of the hill to the east and across a small meadow to a wrought iron fenced entrance at the intersection of Geronimo Avenue and Broken Arrow Street.

The Park District will grade the trail through the meadow area at the top of the trail with a skip loader. The remaining portion of the trail will be hand cut by the work party.

masted ship with ratlines. The early vessels of discovery were two-masted vessels.

Francis Drake, the English pirate, wintered over in California in 1578-79, presumably, according to his recorded latitude, in Drakes Bay. The discover of three cannon and one anchor, which fit the description of items left behind by Drake, in the Goleta area suggest that he may have had a stay of many months in Chumash territory.

The first recorded stop by a Manila galleon occurred in 1587, when a ship commanded by Pedro de Unamuno stopped in Morro Bay. He had a violent encounter with the Indians. Another contact occurred in 1595 when Sebastian Rodriguez Cermeno stopped in San Luis Obispo Bay. Indeed, the 1602 Vizcaino voyage had as its objective the mapping of ports along the Alta California coast suitable as respites for Manila galleons.

Hints of other ships are recorded. One shipwreck, believed to be a Manila galleon, is recorded off of the northwest coast of San Miguel Island. Another shipwreck occurred off of the north coast of Santa Catalina Island, just outside of Chumash territory. The Spanish attempted salvage of the vessels cargo in 1601 and 1603. The Indians told Vizcaino about a shipwreck, perhaps the same one, during his visit of 1602. The salvage attempts imply that at least part of the crew manage to sail a small boat on to Baja California. Finally, an old sailor, a Bancroft historian, in 1872 opened a Spanish

grave on Santa Cruz Island that was marked by wooden headboard dated 1660. Evidence of other wrecks of galleons are recorded elsewhere along the California/Oregon coast. Bits and pieces of Chinese blue wear continue to wash up on the beach at Drakes Bay north of San Francisco.

All of this is evidence of a silent history of frequent contacts with the Indians of California and the Chumash prior to Spanish settlement. It was the beginning of worlds in collision. A collective event that the Chumash would not survive.

Sunday Hike Time Change

Please Note: the start time for the Sunday Rocky Peak Hike has changed from 4pm to 5pm. Hope to see you there!

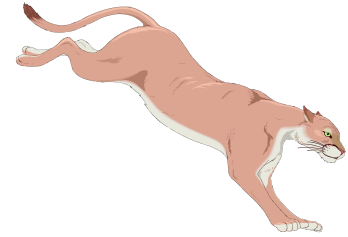
Arlene – Hiking Chair

Theodore Payne Open House

Saturday, April 8th, from 9am – 4pm, the Theodore Payne Foundation is having an Open House and Plant Sale, with guided tours of the area.

The address is:

*10459 Tuxford Street
Sun Valley, CA 91352
(818) 768-1802*



THE LION AND THE TRAIL BLAZERS

Most of us hope someday to see a mountain lion in the wild - at least a non-threatening one. Well, John Downey and Chuck Portoghesi got a good look at one on the March 11 hike on the ridge above Happy Camp Canyon - a dream fulfilled. Fortunately, cats normally tend to avoid human contact.



Lisa Klockenteger

Past RSTB Executive Chair, Vice Chair and just about every other position in our club at one time or another. Lisa Klockenteger and her husband Randy have informed the club that they are buying a home in Heritage Ranch, California.

Lisa will help us with the mail & club membership list until June of this year. But will not be able to attend any more club meetings as of this month.

We will all miss her and Randy and wish them the best of luck at Heritage Ranch.



April

2000



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Circle X Ranch Hike Mishe Mokwa Read schedule
2 Rocky Peak Hike Meet at 5 pm	3	4 1st. Night Hiking Class 7 to 9 PM At Park District Headquarters 1692 Sycamore Drive, see page 2	5	6 Chumash Hike, meet at 4 or 6pm Read schedule	7	8 Mt. McCoy Hike Read Schedule Happy Birthday Louise Pomes
9 Rocky Peak Hike Meet at 5 pm	10	11 2nd. Night Hiking Class 7 to 9 PM At Park District Headquarters 1692 Sycamore Drive, see page 2	12	13 Chumash Hike, meet at 4 or 6pm Read schedule	14	15 Hummingbird Creek Hike Read Schedule
16 Rocky Peak Hike Meet at 5 pm Happy Birthday Rich Rasmussen	17	18 Happy Birthday Karin Russell	19 RSTB Meeting at Community Center, 7pm 1692 Sycamore Drive B-1 room	20 Chumash Hike, meet at 4 or 6pm Read schedule	21	22 California Trail Day Meet at 8am Read schedule
23 Rocky Peak Hike Meet at 5 pm	Happy Birthday Kerry Iverson	25	26 Happy Birthday Gary Cremeans	27 Chumash Hike, meet at 4 or 6pm Read schedule	28	29 Antelope Valley Wild Flowers hike Meet at 8am
30 Rocky Peak Hike Meet at 5 pm						

RANCHO SIMI TRAIL BLAZERS

EXECUTIVE CHAIR:	MIKE KUHN	HM (805) 583-2345 WK (805)583-6776
TREASURER:	BILL FUNK	HM (805) 527-9339
PARK DISTRICT LIAISON:	COLLEEN JANSSEN	OFFICE (805) 584-4400
WORK PARTIES CHAIR:	JOHN SABOL	HM (805) 583-2541
WORK PARTIES VICE CHAIR:	BOB ALTIERI	HM (805) 526-6749
HIKING CHAIR:	ARLENE ALTSHULER	HM (805) 581-9735
HIKING VICE CHAIR:	LISA KLOCKENTEGER	
WAYS & MEANS CHAIR:	MARTY RICHARDS	HM (805) 526-4414
WAYS & MEANS VICE CHAIR:	CONNIE ANKROM	HM (805)526-2747
OUTDOOR EDUCATION CHAIR:	JIM RILEY	HM (805) 522-4268
COMMUNICATION / PUB.CHAIR:	BYERS (JOHN) DOWNEY	HM (805) 526-8588

-----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) _____ Address _____
Birth Mo. _____ Day _____ Phone wk/hm _____

How did you find out about the RSTB _____

Please make out tax deductible member dues check for the year Sept.-1999/Sept.-2000 to:

“Rancho Simi Foundation” mail it to “RSTB, P.O. Box 630399, Simi Valley,Ca 93063-0399

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

Check out our Web Site at ...<http://home.pacbell.net/chaiyah/rstb.html>



RSTB
P.O. Box 630399
Simi Valley, CA 93063-0399
805 584-4400

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