



Rancho Simi Trailblazers

A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation



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



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.

April 6, 2019 – Towsley Canyon Loop*

7.5 MRT – Moderate (1670' elevation gain)

Incredible show of wildflowers, spectacular geological formations, rugged mountain views, tar pits, canyon narrows, frothy streambeds and more.

Meet at 8 AM at the 118 & Stearns St. Park & Ride. Bring your camera, water and lunch. Wear boots.

April 13, 2019 – Santa Cruz Island*at 6:30AM



Boat to/from the island (Scorpion Anchorage); various day-hiking choices on the island. We'll take a 20-mile Island Packers boat trip from Ventura Harbor across the Santa Barbara Channel to the Scorpion Anchorage near the eastern end of Santa Cruz Island (the largest of the eight Channel Islands off the coast of southern California). The boat will arrive on the island about 9:00 a.m. and we'll depart from the island at 4:30 p.m. **NOTE:** Participants must arrive at the Island Packers facility in Ventura Harbor by 7:00 a.m. on the departure date (we should arrive back at Ventura Harbor around 5:30 p.m.). Bring your camera, water and lunch. Wear boots.

Go [HERE](#) for more information on Santa Cruz Island and to make your reservations.

This special event is open to current members only. We're limiting the size of our group to no more than 19 persons.

No dogs allowed on this event.

April 17, 2019

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

Everyone is welcome to attend.

April 20, 2019 – Work Party - Long Canyon Trail Part 2

The Trail Blazers' April trail work party will be held Saturday, April 20, on the Long Canyon Trail again. 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.

April 24-28, 2019 all day – Big Sur*

This very special event is open to Trail Blazer members in good standing only. The trip is for the entire family. You may join in on the yet to be planned hikes, or simply enjoy the sights. We will be tent camping at the Pfeiffer Big Sur Campground. There is a non-refundable campground and parking fee, shared equally between all those who sign up. Space is limited, so be sure and make your reservations early.

Go [HERE](#) for more information on the Pfeiffer Big Sur Campground and to make your reservations.

HIKE REPORTS

March 2, 2019 – Griffith Park: Ferndell Park to Mt. Hollywood & Mt. Lee – cancelled by rain

March 9, 2019 – Beaudry Loop



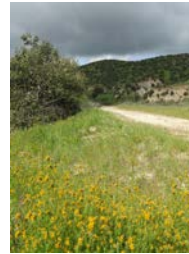
14 hikers carpooled to a not-so obvious trailhead along Beaudry Boulevard, at the northeast base of the Verdugo Mountain Range in Glendale. The hike began following a flood control channel on the left, and after a half mile, came to the intersection of South Beaudry Motorway to the left and North Beaudry Motorway to the right. We decided to do the loop in a counter-clockwise direction, expecting a bit less elevation gain. Our climb to the ridge-line was slow and steady, as more and more of the San Gabriel Mountains came into prominent view, along with the expanse of the city below.

There was much evidence of erosion along the trail, including a landslide that almost obliterated a section of the fire road, certainly from the recent rains. Tongva Peak (2,656 feet) was the next milestone on our hike. Named commemorating the Gabrieleno ~ Tongva Community of Wiqanga Native Americans, the peak is an important Los Angeles area broadcast site, and the home of "World Famous KROQ." A clearing just past the peak offered an expansive view in all directions and was the half-way point along our hike. There we rested, enjoyed our time with expanse, and marveled at the majestic clouds remaining from the previous storm. We left the peak and continued down the ridge to the South Beaudry Motorway. As we started to loose elevation, we found a short offshoot from the main trail, covered with wildflowers. In evidence were Red Maids, Meadow Nemophila, Fiddleneck, Filaree and Sticky Monkey Flowers. We dropped elevation quickly, proving our wise decision to do the loop in a counter-clockwise direction. Soon after the flood control catch-basin came back into view on the right, a young-looking coyote quickly crossed the trail and was soon out of sight. Completing the 6.2 mile loop, with close to 1,600' of total elevation gain, we were again back at our cars knowing that our first time on this trail was well worthwhile.

March 16, 2019 – Work Party - Long Canyon Trail

The March work party was held on the Long Canyon Trail. Thanks to the hard work of James Brady, Ryan Gomez, John Sabol, Martin DeGoey and Mike Kuhn, we repaired about half of the trail.

March 23, 2019 – Happy Camp Canyon



16 hikers gathered at the Donut Delite parking lot and carpoled to the trailhead at the eastern end of Broadway Road in Moorpark. It was a calm and partly cloudy day, not too warm, and just perfect for a hike. Happy Camp Canyon Regional Park was once home to several Indian groups. Later it became part of the expansive Strathearn Ranch, owned by a Simi Valley pioneer family.

Evidence still remains from when the land was a cattle ranch and vacation spot. Today, Happy Camp is a 3,000 acre wilderness area, managed by the MRCA, (Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority), under an agreement with the County of Ventura. With almost 18" of rainfall so far this season, there was a prolific wildflower showing. The list was long, but included Owl's Clover, Fiddleneck, Bladder Bush, Tanzy Phacelia, Chaparral Currant, Curly Docks, Prickly Phlox, Popcorn, Mustard Evening Primrose, Strigose Lotus, Purple Nightshade, California Poppy, Blue Dick, Scarlet Bugler, and three varieties of Lupine. We followed the canyon to the picnic benches and returned the way we came, having completed the 9.8 mile hike, with about 1,000' of elevation gain/loss. We all agreed the wildflowers made this a very special hike.

HUMMINGBIRD CREEK DAM

The Hummingbird Creek Trail starts at the northern end of Kuehner Drive and descends rapidly to the filled in reservoir behind a concrete and stone dam. The dam and reservoir are off stream. Originally, the soil behind the dam was placed on the face of the dam, creating a bedrock basin to contain water. The lower part of the dam is made of mortared native sandstone, while the upper part of the dam is made out of concrete. The dam is arcuate. A finished concrete dip in the eastern wall of the dam is dated 1917.

The reservoir was fed from upper Hummingbird Creek by gravity by pipeline. Such devices were a common way of conveying water from springs at the time. However, I have seen no direct evidence of a feeder line or ditch. Archaeologist Robert Pence indicated (personal communication) that he had found evidence of a redwood siphon over the top of the dam. I have seen one reference to the reservoir being used to water a garden someplace below the dam. We do know that Judge Joseph Scott had a cabin a short distance below the dam under the small oak grove next to Hummingbird Creek just north of the 118 Freeway. Whether Judge Scott used the water to water his garden is not known. However, since the dam was on his property, it is likely.

There is some reason to believe that it may have been built by or at the direction of Charles E. Hoar, the first "American gentleman farmer" in the Simi. Mr. Hoar leased the 13,000 acre eastern half of Simi Valley in 1872 or 1873 and occupied the Hummingbird's Nest Ranch at that time. Janet Cameron reports that he bought the ranch from Juan Pucillo, who continued to reside on the ranch with his mother as employees of Mr. Hoar.

HUMMINGBIRD continued

We now know that that information is not accurate even though we know that Mr. Hoar lived with the Janet Scott Cameron family during his last years. Juan Pucillo and his mother did live on the Hummingbird when Mr. Hoar leased those 13,000 acres. Indeed, Mr. Hoar lived in the Pucillo adobe house with the Pucillos while he built his wood-framed house. We also know that Juan and his mother remained on the Hummingbird with Mr. Hoar.

When the Simi Land and Water Company wanted to offer the land in the valley for sale to farmers and ranchers, Mr. Hoar still held the lease on the eastern-most 13,000 acres of the valley, including the Hummingbird's Nest. He relinquished his lease in 1884-85 in exchange for an agreement for his purchase of the ranch. Mr. Hoar agreed to furnish the soon to be built Simi Hotel with two miner's inches of water - something Mr. Hoar had and the hotel would need. We know that Mr. Hoar paid \$12,000 for one parcel, but only \$5.00 for another. The \$5.00 price may have been in exchange for giving up the lease and for the water. The hotel, which was located where Simi Valley High School now stands, was opened in April 1888. Mr. Hoar had to tap the spring at the Hummingbird to furnish that water. The dam and reservoir, at least the lower portion of what now stands, may have been the device that was necessary to ensure a constant flow by providing some storage. The demands of the hotel would not have been great since little irrigation was involved and the nine-room hotel had but one bathroom. The dam is not on the land acquired by Mr. Hoar, so its connection with Mr. Hoar is speculative.

The hotel ceased to function in 1910 or before. Thereafter it served as private residences and was torn down in 1918. (See *Simi Valley: A Journey Through Time*, Simi Valley Historical Society and Museum (1997), p. 77.) It is probably not a coincidence that the upper concrete portion of the dam was added in 1917 – the year before it was no longer used by residences and was torn down. Did Judge Scott improve the function of the dam for his own use?

As the dam stood a few years ago, someone sitting or walking on top of the dam could easily have been injured if they fell the eight to ten feet into the bottom of the empty reservoir. In association with the abortive attempt to develop the land at the northeastern corner of the intersection of State Route 118 and Kuehner Drive, the land on which the reservoir is located was dedicated to the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District. That dedication was coincident with the recording of the residential subdivision, i.e., Tract 2908. While preparing the land for development, fill dirt was placed behind the dam in order to abate the hazard. With a little more fill, the top of the dam will make an attractive resting place for picnickers, mountain bikers and hikers.

So, was Mr. Hoar responsible for building the dam? At this point in time, we don't know for sure. However, the foregoing scenario seems most likely.

Mike Kuhn

REGULARLY SCHEDULED HIKES

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

Sunday Evening - Rocky Peak Fire Road

During Daylight Savings Time meet at **5PM** and during Standard Time meet at **4PM** 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

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. There is no hike during Standard Time.
(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.



RSTB Calendar April 2019




Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Cesar Chavez Day Observed	2 Mt. McCoy Trail 6PM See Schedule	3	4 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule	5	6 Towsley Canyon Loop* 8AM See Upcoming Events
7 Rocky Peak Fire Road 5PM See Schedule	8 Happy Birthday Louise Pomes	9 Mt. McCoy Trail 6PM See Schedule Nat'l Library Workers' Day	10 Happy Birthday Allison Cameron	11 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule	12	13 Santa Cruz Island* 6:30AM  See Upcoming Events
14 Rocky Peak Fire Road 5PM See Schedule Happy Birthday Clifford Cameron	15 Happy Birthday John Sabol	16 Mt. McCoy Trail 6PM See Schedule	17 Club Meeting 5:30PM	18 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule	19	20 Work Party Long Canyon Trail Part 2 8AM See Upcoming Events
21 Rocky Peak Fire Road 5PM See Schedule	22	23 Mt. McCoy Trail 6PM See Schedule	24 Big Sur* See Upcoming Events	25 Big Sur* See Upcoming Events Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule	26 Big Sur* See Upcoming Events Arbor Day Happy Birthday Gary Cremeans	27 Big Sur* See Upcoming Events
28 Big Sur* See Upcoming Events Rocky Peak Fire Road 5PM See Schedule	29	30 Mt. McCoy Trail 6PM 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)

* 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**

Rancho Simi Trailblazers			
<i>A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation</i>			
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