



Rancho Simi Trail Blazers

A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation



* Volunteer Hike Leaders Needed

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.**

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

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.



HUMMINGBIRDS*

Hummingbirds are the smallest of the world's birds and are native to the Western Hemisphere. *Trochilidae* is the family name, which is taken from Greek mythology and describes a bird that was fast enough to fly in and out of the mouth of a crocodile without being eaten.

Hummingbirds are famous for the iridescent feathers they have on their backs and on their throats, i.e., gorget. The ability of the males to flash these colors is used to attract females and to defend their territories. The greatest number of hummingbirds species can be found near the equator – there are 325 different species. Only 16 species are found in the United States, seven of which are regularly seen in California.

(continued on page 3)

RSTB CLUB MEETING

This month's RSTB meeting will be at: Meetings will be held at the District's new offices
4201 Guardian Street,
Activity Room #2
Wednesday May 16, 2018 5:30PM
Everyone Welcome to attend!

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

Trailblazers newsletters will be an online blog starting in June.

Upcoming Events

May 5th Charmlee Wilderness Park Loop 4 MRT Loop – Easy (~600' elevation gain/loss) **8:00AM**

May 12th Sespe Condor Sanctuary Hike * **8AM**

May 16th Club Board Meeting District's New Offices
4201 Guardian Street,
Activity Room #2
Everyone Welcome to attend! 5:30PM

May 19th Work Party – Lower Stagecoach Trail **8AM**

May 26th Holiday Weekend – No Hike Scheduled

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



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

March 31st – Mentryville and Pico Canyon



11 hikers (plus one dog) carpooled 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 leisurely 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 steadily improved as did the number and variety of lovely blooming plants including blue ceanothus, yellow tree poppies, lavender prickly phlox, purple bush lupine, yellow tree tobacco, red Indian paintbrush, Mexican elderberry, the white blossoms of wild cucumber vines, lavender yerba santa, and orange California poppies. As we continued southeast on toward the road's end we had excellent views of the transverse range of the Santa Susana 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 we took an extended 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 another nice day for hiking. NOTE: Although Pico Canyon is only a few miles away from Towsley Canyon, we encountered only a handful of other people during our hike until we were nearly finished, whereas Towsley Canyon is quite crowded on a Saturday.

April 4th – Malibu Creek State Park



18 hikers assembled at the starting (and ending) point of our planned loop hike in Malibu Creek State Park on a pleasant spring morning. We began hiking northward along the North Grassland Trail as it passed through the lovely verdant landscape covered with bright green grass. We soon reached the dirt Liberty Canyon Fire Road which we followed through the oak-dotted rolling hills of the Liberty Canyon Natural Preserve to the Phantom Trail's northern trailhead.




Soon we began climbing steadily up a heavily wooded slope heading southward until we emerged into the sunlight high on a ridge. Continuing southward along the ridge we encountered beautiful meadows of bright green grass, California poppies, lupine, and a few mariposa lilies as well as distant views of the surrounding area. Eventually the trail dropped down to Mulholland Drive which we crossed to the Cistern Trail which led us to the Lookout Trail. As we descended the Lookout Trail we had views of Century Lake and the surrounding craggy mountains as well as more displays of blooming wildflowers. We enjoyed a lunch/rest break along the shady shore of Century Lake and watched mallard ducks, coots, and a "tame" Canada goose. We then followed Crags Road eastward to the picturesque Rock Pool (along Malibu Creek) which we shared with a group of students from Maywood High School who were on a Sierra Club Angeles Chapter ICO outing in the park. Along the way to the pool we watched a nearby rock-climbing class for a while. Eventually we followed the High Road and the Grasslands Trail northward back to our vehicles parked along Mulholland Highway west of Las Virgenes Road and returned home having completed a very scenic 8.2-mile hike with about 1,400' of elevation gain/loss. Among a variety of other blooming plants we spotted during our hike were blue ceanothus, Indian paintbrush, Mexican elderberry, wild cucumber vines, laurel sumac, blue dick, purple nightshade, chocolate lilies, and caterpillar phacelia.





RSTB Calendar MAY



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Mt. McCoy Trail 6PM See Schedule	2 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Terry Simon	3 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule	4	5 Charmlee Wilderness Park Loop 8:00AM See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Hannah Kuhn Robert D. Lisenby
6 Rocky Peak Fire Road 5PM	7	8 Mt. McCoy Trail 6PM See Schedule	9	10 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Jim Vandenberg	11	12 Sespe Condor Sanctuary Hike 8AM * See Schedule
13 Rocky Peak Fire Road 5PM See Schedule 	14	15 Mt. McCoy Trail 6PM See Schedule	16 Club Board Meeting The <i>Everyone Welcome to attend!</i> 5:30PM	17 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Alan Mann	18	19 Work Party – Lower Stagecoach Trail 8AM See Schedule
20 Rocky Peak Fire Road 5PM See Schedule	21	22 Mt. McCoy Trail 6PM See Schedule	23	24 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule	25	26 Holiday Weekend – No Hike Scheduled See Schedule
27 Rocky Peak Fire Road 5PM See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Alan Cueba Mike Howard	28  THANK YOU!	29 Mt. McCoy Trail 6PM See Schedule	30	31 Chumash 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)



U.S. Postage

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 _____

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**

RANCHO SIMI TRAIL BLAZERS

A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation

Executive Chair:	Mike Kuhn	HM (805) 583-2345	mike.kuhn@simitrailblazers.com
Treasurer:	Santiago Homsí		
Park District Liaison:	Jeannie Liss	WK (805) 584-4453	volunteers@rsrpd.us
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Ways & Means Chair:	Marty Richards	HM (805) 526-4414	marty.richards@simitrailblazers.com
Publicity Chair:	VOLUNTEER NEEDED		Contact Mike Kuhn at: 805-583-2345
Newsletter Editor:	Linda Mann	Cell: 805-501-5229	linda.martins.mann@simitrailblazers.com

(continued from page 1)

The most common species in California is the Anna's Hummingbird, a year-round resident. The male has a deep rose-red head and neck gorget with a green back and gray upper parts. The other hummingbird species are migratory, coming to California for the breeding season from about February through September. The Rufous Hummingbird has an attitude and a feisty nature. The Calliope Hummingbird is the smallest breeding bird in North America. One weighs one-tenth of an ounce, i.e., less than a penny. They also are the smallest long-distance migratory bird in the world, often traveling 5,600 miles on their round trips.

Hummingbirds are amazing fliers. They can fly up, down, backwards, forwards, upside down, and sideways. They can hover, but never soar. Unlike other birds that generate power only from the down stroke, they also generate power from the up stroke.

To provide their prodigious energy requirement, they typically have to feed on nectar and insects every 15 to 20 minutes throughout the day. Nectar from flowers with deep throats is almost pure sugar, which is needed to fly and hunt insects, which provide their protein. So, there is no danger in providing sugar filled feeders for them. They need the energy. Insects are nabbed during flight, from spider webs, while drinking nectar and from leaves. Hummingbirds will sip from flowers of any color as long as a nectar supply is present. Red flowers have the highest nectar supply. Hummingbirds are important pollinators for deep-throated flowers. Pollen is caught up on their heads, throats and beaks and transferred from one flower to the next.

*Adapted from an article by Bobbie Winn, "Hooray for Hummingbirds," *Outdoor California*, Vol. 65, No. 3 (May-June 2004), p. 36.

JUAN RODRIQUES CABRILLO

Juan Rodriques Cabrillo was commissioned in 1542 by Viceroy of New

Spain to seek out the Straits Anian, the mythical passage through North America between the Pacific and the Atlantic oceans. The straits were the equivalent to the English "Northwest Passage." The rumor, no doubt fostered by the wish for a passage, vexed Europeans for about 200 years. There had to be an easier route to the orient than around Tierra del Fuego at the southern tip of South America and around the Cape of Good Hope south of the African continent. Since his commission was to find the passage, his whole voyage was considered a bust as far as the Spanish were concerned. In essence, the Spanish failed to recognize what was found – instead focusing only on what was not discovered. This was a common theme in the age of "discovery."

Cabrillo explored the coast of Alta California, discovering in the process San Diego Bay, San Pedro Bay, Santa Monica Bay, Point Conception, Catalina and the channel islands, and finally, Monterey Bay (*La Baya de Los Pinos*). During his winter layover at San Miguel Island, Cabrillo suffered a fracture of his arm up near the shoulder - the infection from which he soon died. His arm was broken when crossing rock rubble along the shore when trying to go to the aid of his men who were attacked by Indians while they were collecting water at a spring. The rock rubble and spring are still there. During the following spring and summer, Cabrillo's men continued to explore north along the coast as far as the southern coast of Oregon before returning to New Spain.

The expedition had been a major effort. However, no Straits of Anian were found, nor had the expedition found a land rich in gold and silver. Instead, another Baja California was discovered with only one harbor of note – that of San Diego. The land was devoid of riches and inhabited by hostile Indians. There would be no further exploration of upper California for another 40 years. We remember and celebrate Cabrillo for what came later.

What came later was a disaster for the indigenous people of California, but it laid the foundation for the Anglo-American settlement of the state.

Mike Kuhn

12-23-04 (10-9-12)

LARRY HOWARD'S MOUNTAIN STATION

Larry Howard's Mountain Station was operated by Lawrence Howard between 1861 and 1874 at the foot of the grade on the Ventura County side of Santa Susana Pass. It was a small tavern, where travelers could spend the night and be fed before or after traversing the pass. The Coastal Stage route traversed the pass between 1861 and 1875. Stage horse teams were changed at Larry's Station. Larry died in 1874.

We know that the site of the station was south of where the railroad currently exists. However, the ground elevation in the area has been raised because of the placement of the cuttings from the construction of the tunnel for the Colorado River water line (no longer used) and the State water project water tunnel. Some small water pipes do extend into the water tunnel cuttings just west of where the old freight road hits the valley floor. The presence of those lines suggests that water was conducted from a spring to a now buried facility, which may have been Larry's Station.

Simi Valley: A Journey Through Time (1997), pages 58-60, includes a first-hand account of Mrs. D.D. DeNure of a narrow brush with Tiburcio Vasquez, California's most feared bandit, and his band at Larry's Station. No date is given for the encounter, but it probably occurred during the early 1870s. The account is worth reading.

Mike Kuhn

2-10-04 (revised 11-20-12)



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 **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) **(We Meet at 4PM during standard 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.)

MAY HIKES AND ACTIVITIES

May 5th Charmlee Wilderness Park Loop

4 MRT Loop – Easy (~600' elevation gain/loss)

Meeting time is **8AM** near Donut Delite at the corner of Madera and Royal. Bring 2 to 3 quarts of water, lunch and sunscreen. Wear boots. This area (also known as the Charmlee Natural Area) overlooks Malibu and the Pacific Ocean on its south side. It contains live oak woodlands, coastal sage scrub, and grassy meadows. The hike follows the Botany Trail to the Fire Ecology Trail to an ocean overlook, then other trails to an old reservoir and the ruins of the original ranch house.

May 12th Sespe Condor Sanctuary Hike *

Meeting time is **8AM**. Experience spring in the Sespe Wilderness, on a corridor through the Sespe Condor Sanctuary, starting at Dough Flat trailhead. Hike 4.5 miles to scenic rock formations overlooking Alder Creek, where we'll stop for lunch. About 9 miles round trip, 1,100' gain/loss. Bring water, lunch, hat, sunscreen. Wear boots.

May 16th Club Meeting - **Everyone Welcome to attend!**

Meet at **5:30PM** - Meetings will be held at the District's new offices
4201 Guardian Street, Activity Room #2

May 19th Work Party – Lower Stagecoach Trail

Meeting time is **8AM**. The event will end at noon. We will be painting over Graffiti in the Corraganville wildlife tunnel. Paint and equipment will be provided. Bring your own water, snacks, gloves, hat, and wear sunscreen. Boots are recommended. Directions: From Kuehner Drive and the 118 Freeway, head south to the intersection of Kuehner Drive and Smith Road, where you turn right (east). Meet at the eastern end of the dirt parking lot.

May 26th Holiday Weekend

Meet at **8AM** No Hike Scheduled

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/>