



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.

#### **May 4, 2019 – Wildwood Park Loop\***

7 Mile loop – Moderate (~1,000' elevation gain)

We'll climb up to Mountclef Ridge via the Santa Rosa trail, then descend to the paved road, following the Box Canyon trail up to Lizard Rock. Next, we'll go to Paradise Falls, then follow the stream back to the parking area.

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 and camera. Wear boots.

#### **May 11, 2019 – Mt. Lukens vis Haines Canyon Trail\***

11 MRT – Strenuous (~3,050' elevation gain)

As our hike begins, we'll pass by a debris dam and catch basin (on our right) near the mouth of Haines Canyon. The trail is a dirt road at first but it soon becomes a single-track trail. The canyon and the trail itself offer a variety of vegetation and sweeping views of the surrounding landscape, both near and far. As we gain elevation the single-track trail reverts to a somewhat eroded and overgrown dirt road that we'll follow all the way to a summit (5,066') populated with around ten tall communication towers and providing wide-ranging views (including lots of mountains) in several directions. After taking a lunch/rest break "on top of the world," we'll return the way we came.

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

#### **May 15, 2019**

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

Everyone is welcome to attend.

#### **May 18, 2019 – Work Party - Mt. McCoy Trail**

The Trail Blazers' May trail work party will be held Saturday, May 18, on the Mt. McCoy Trail. We will be removing rocks, doing some lopping to increase trail clearance and some trail trimming. Meet at the trailhead at the western end of Washburn Street 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.

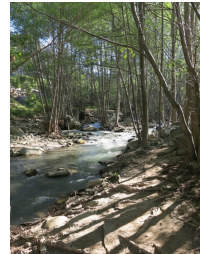
#### **May 25, 2019 – Alamos Canyon**

5 MRT – Easy (~425' elevation gain)

Directions to trailhead parking: The Trail Blazers have a special agreement with the Simi Valley Sanitation Department allowing us to use their gated parking lot for the duration of our hike. There are three gated entrances to the facility. Only the middle gate will be open. The address is 600 W Los Angeles Ave. From Simi Valley, take the Madera Rd. exit south. Turn right on W Easy St, which becomes W Los Angeles Ave. Proceed 0.7 miles and you'll see the facility entrance on your left.

## HIKE REPORTS

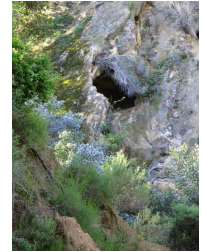
### March 30, 2019 — Santa Paula Canyon



On a pleasant early spring morning, 12 hikers began an out-and-back hike in Santa Paula Canyon from the trailhead on Highway 150 a few miles northwest of Santa Paula, a quaint town located in the agricultural Santa Clara River Valley and referred to as the "Citrus Capital of the World" for its orange, lemon, and avocado groves.

The initial portion of the hike involved skirting the campus of Thomas Aquinas College, the Ferndale Ranch, avocado groves and an oil field with mountains looming in the distance. Then we reached the swollen, swiftly flowing Santa Paula Creek which we carefully crossed to reach the trail on the other (north) side. We then followed the trail upstream toward the waterfall (our original destination), enjoying the sound of the creek (on our right) and gorgeous displays of swaths of wildflowers which covered much of the mountainside to our left (west). It quickly became apparent that the 2019 rains had severely damaged sections of the trail which slowed our progress upstream. We eventually reached a point on the trail where the old dirt road/trail that leads up to the Big Cone Campground on the opposite (east) side of the swiftly flowing stream was supposed to be. We sent a scouting team across the creek (to the east side) to look for evidence of the old dirt road, but there was none (at that point). The trail ahead (on the west side) appeared to deteriorate even more so we decided to abandon trying to hike further upstream and returned the way we had come (again enjoying the wildflower display), completing a lovely 6.5-mile hike with 675' of elevation gain/loss.

### April 6, 2019 — Towsley Canyon Loop



20 hikers met at the "Ed Davis Park at Towsley Canyon" section of the 4,000-acre Santa Clarita Woodlands Park on this morning. It was perfect hiking weather, never exceeding 70 degrees. Our hike began on the dirt road leading to the Sonia Thompson Nature Center, and crossing Towsley Creek on a concrete bridge, where we began our counter-clockwise hike on the Towsley View Loop Trail. Recent storm damage re-routed the trail somewhat where the trail narrows.



## April 6, 2019 – Towsley Canyon Loop continued

After passing through The Narrows section of Towsley Gorge, the trail quickly gained elevation, via multiple switchbacks along the well-shaded eastern slope of the canyon. The verdant north-facing slopes of the Santa Susana Mountains rose steeply to the south. The single-track trail passed through sage scrub, stands of California walnut and bay laurel trees and scattered oak trees as we made our way to the 2,450' high point on the trail from where much of the Santa Clarita Valley was seen visible. The hillsides were adorned by many blooming wildflowers, including Fiddleneck, Lupine, California Poppies, Blue Ceanothus, Blue Larkspur, Fiesta Flower, Purple Nightshade, Indian Paintbrush and Wild Sweet Pea. It was evident that the bloom had not yet peaked. Missing in recent years, were the Chocolate Lilies. Several beautiful examples adorned the higher elevations of trail this morning. The trail then dropped into shady Wiley Canyon, which we followed downstream to a junction with the Canyon View Loop Trail rising along the northern flank of the mountain, before descending to the Sonia Thompson Nature Center. After a brief rest, we returned to our cars at the trailhead and headed home, after enjoying a very pleasant 6.7 mile hike, with over 1,450' of elevation gain/loss.

## April 13, 2019 – Santa Cruz Island



Eight eager hikers assembled around 7:00 a.m. at the Island Packers facility in Ventura Harbor with their hiking gear, looking forward to exploring Santa Cruz Island, the largest (96.5 square miles) of the five islands in the Channel Islands National Park (in comparison, Santa Catalina Island is 74 square miles). Shortly after 8:00 a.m. our trip across the Santa Barbara Channel began. Luckily the channel was relatively calm, though we were riding into the waves.

Anacapa Island (1.1 square miles) was visible to the south. At one point as we crossed the channel, we encountered a very large pod of frisky dolphins. We disembarked at Scorpion Anchorage on the east end of the island, happy to be on firm ground again. After a short briefing by park personnel (during which there were warnings of fines and other punishment for misdeeds), we walked a short distance to rest rooms and a few picnic tables where we regrouped and prepared for our hike. The environment was quite attractive due to 2019's "wet" beginning with lots of greenery on the hillsides and lots of blooming plants (particularly some coreopsis and lots of white morning glories).

We began our hike by following Smuggler's Road as it climbed over 700' to a trail (dirt road) junction. Along the way we were treated to lovely ocean and land views; in addition to many large clusters of morning glories, we were greeted by lots of blue dicks and some pretty Island poppies. The temperature was quite conducive to hiking uphill so it was very pleasant as we did so. Shortly after we passed the junction with the trail up to El Montanon peak, Smugglers Road descended to Smugglers Cove, a lovely sandy bay on the eastern edge of the island with a nice view of Anacapa Island; shade was provided by many large eucalyptus trees (and there was a nearby privy).

We sat at a picnic table to enjoy lunch; we had an ocean view along with the noise of waves breaking on the sandy shore. Soon we were approached by a couple of Island foxes (they're about the same size as a house cat) who "posed" for photographs (actually they were waiting until it was safe to check to see if we'd left any crumbs for them to eat). After lunch we walked along a "driveway" to an old ranch house (built in 1889). It was fenced to keep "tourists" out, but its unique timepiece – a sundial applied vertically to the front of the house – was quite visible and it still showed the accurate time (except that it wasn't designed to account for daylight savings time in 1889!). We spotted several patches of lupine near the ranch house and there was evidence on a nearby hillside of the olive grove and nut trees that once flourished there.

We returned to Scorpion Anchorage the way we came, enjoying the views but wishing the temperature had not increased as much as it had as we headed uphill. We investigated the small "museum" and then hiked up Scorpion Canyon to check out both the Lower and Upper Campgrounds (both appeared to be very nice). After spending some time on the beach, it was time to gather for boarding an Island Packers boat for our return trip which was more pleasant since we were going "with the waves." At one point, as we re-crossed the channel, we encountered three 20-plus-foot-long basking sharks. "The basking shark is the second-largest living shark, after the whale shark, and one of three plankton-eating shark species, along with the whale shark and megamouth shark. Adults typically reach 6–8 meters in length. They are usually greyish-brown, with mottled skin."

## April 13, 2019 – Santa Cruz Island continued

We disembarked on a dock in Ventura harbor having hiked 8.2+ miles with over 1,700' of elevation gain/loss and returned home. Everyone agreed that our outing had been a great success! NOTE: Some of the blooming plants we saw during this outing were coreopsis stands bursting with yellow blossoms, lots of white Island morning glory, purple blue dick and orange Island poppy plants.

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



The April work party was again held on the Long Canyon Trail to address erosion on the upper portion of the trail. Thanks to the hard work of James Brady, John Sabol, Martin DeGoey and Mike Kuhn, we repaired the remaining upper half of the trail.

### CHUMASH USE OF BLUE DICKS AND MARIPOSA LILIES

The bulbs of blue dicks, often called brodiaea (*Dichelostemma capitatum*), and mariposa lilies (*Calochortus* spp.), both called *shi'q'o* in *Ventureño* Chumash, were collected by the Chumash in May and June, after the flower stalks had dried up. They were dug up using digging sticks. The bulbs were transported to a communal roasting pit for immediate cooking. A fire was prepared in the pit. After the fire had burned down, the bulbs were placed on the coals – often in a layer several inches thick. They then covered the bulbs with ashes and coals and then covered everything with a layer of dirt. The bulbs were uncovered and eaten when they were done.

Bulbs at different elevations and of different species were ready to harvest at different times. So these bulbs were an important food resource for the Chumash over a period of a month or more for each group. In general, they became available after many herbaceous plants had died and were no longer available as food.

Most of this information has been taken from Jan Timbrook, *Chumash Ethnobotany*, Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History (2007), p. 75.

Mike Kuhn  
9-10-08

### 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.



|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <h2 style="text-align: center;">RSTB Calendar<br/>May 2019</h2> |                                              |                                                                 |                                            |                                               |  |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sun                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Mon                                                             | Tue                                          | Wed                                                             | Thu                                        | Fri                                           | Sat                                                                                 |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                 |                                              | 1                                                               | 2<br>Chumash Trail<br>6PM<br>See Schedule  | 3                                             | 4<br>Wildwood Park Loop*<br>8AM<br>See Upcoming Events                              |
| 5<br>Rocky Peak Fire<br>Road 5PM<br>See Schedule<br><br>Happy Birthday<br>Hannah Kuhn<br>Robert Lisenby                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 6                                                               | 7<br>Mt. McCoy<br>Trail 6PM<br>See Schedule  | 8                                                               | 9<br>Chumash Trail<br>6PM<br>See Schedule  | 10<br><br>Happy Birthday<br>Jim<br>Vandenberg | 11<br>Mt. Lukens via Haines<br>Canyon Trail* 8AM<br>See Upcoming Events             |
| 12<br>Rocky Peak Fire<br>Road 5PM<br>See Schedule<br><br>Mother's Day                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 13                                                              | 14<br>Mt. McCoy<br>Trail 6PM<br>See Schedule | 15<br>Club Meeting<br>5:30PM<br><br>Nat'l Chocolate<br>Chip Day | 16<br>Chumash Trail<br>6PM<br>See Schedule | 17                                            | 18<br>Work Party Mt.<br>McCoy Trail<br>8AM<br>See Upcoming Events                   |
| 19<br>Rocky Peak Fire<br>Road 5PM<br>See Schedule                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | 20                                                              | 21<br>Mt. McCoy<br>Trail 6PM<br>See Schedule | 22                                                              | 23<br>Chumash Trail<br>6PM<br>See Schedule | 24                                            | 25<br>Alamos Canyon<br>8AM<br>See Upcoming Events                                   |
| 26<br>Rocky Peak Fire<br>Road 5PM<br>See Schedule                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | 27<br>Memorial<br>Day<br><br>Happy Birthday<br>Alan Cueba       | 28<br>Mt. McCoy<br>Trail 6PM<br>See Schedule | 29                                                              | 30<br>Chumash Trail<br>6PM<br>See Schedule | 31                                            |                                                                                     |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                 |                                              |                                                                 |                                            |                                               |                                                                                     |
| <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> |                                                                 |                                              |                                                                 |                                            |                                               |                                                                                     |

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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/>



\_\_\_\_\_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>                 |                         |                   |                                                                                              |
|-------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <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>     |