



Rancho Simi Trail Blazers

A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation



Rattlesnake Safety Tips

Rattlesnakes are often out whenever the weather is 70 degrees for a few days at a time. While a healthy adult should be able to recover from a Pacific rattlesnake bite, it's best to avoid them whenever possible.

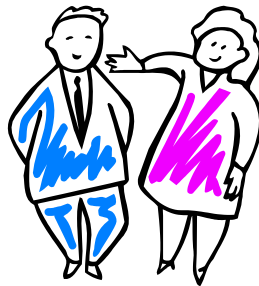


Please use the following precautions:

- Keep pets on leash and out of the brush.
- Keep children on trails and in sight.
- Never put your hands or feet where you cannot see them, such as in a hole or under a rock.
- Wear long pants and high-top, sturdy shoes.
- Never hike alone.
- Do not wear ear buds or headphones – listen for the buzz!

If you are bitten, follow these steps:

- Keep as calm and as immobile as possible, placing the wound below the level of the heart.
- Have someone transport you to the nearest hospital.
- Do not aggravate the situation by the use of constricting bandages, cutting the bite wound, or using a suction device.
- Never use ice or cold packs, or suck the venom out with your mouth.



Welcome, New Members!

Jean & Ron Desilets
Jhoanne & Scott Kuhn

RSTB CLUB MEETING

This month's club meeting will be held at the Community Center, Room B-1
1692 Sycamore Drive
at 7:00 PM
June 16, 2010

May Work Party

With great weather and a large number of volunteers, our May 8 work party on the Lower Stagecoach Trail was a success. Approximately 30 volunteers from the Church of Latter Day Saints took part as well as five Trail Blazers. While we do not have the names of the Church volunteers, the participating Trail Blazers were John Sabol, Bart Hibbs, Martin DeGoey, Mike Kuhn and Richard Bradley. Many thanks to everyone who participated!



Mike Kuhn giving the safety briefing



UPCOMING EVENTS

Please visit the website at <http://simitrailblazers.com> for details on any of the following hikes and events.

June 5th Trail Canyon - Tom Lucas Camp*

7 MRT - Moderate (1400' elev. gain)

June 12th Leader's Choice Hike

Details coming soon – check website

June 16th - Club Meeting

June 19th Work Party - Mt. McCoy

6 MRT - Moderate (1000' elev. gain)

June 26th Solstice Canyon*

Moderate - 7 MRT (1,500' elev. gain)

To make reservations, please email Mark Gilmore at markinthepark@sbcglobal.net

RSTB LOGO T-SHIRTS

Are your old logo T-shirts worn out? We still have short sleeve, long sleeve, and sweat shirts in assorted sizes and colors.

short sleeve \$12
long sleeve \$14
sweat shirt \$18



Please call Marty if you'd like to place an order: 805-526-4414

WHY THE CONDOR DIDN'T GO EXTINCT AT END OF THE LAST ICE AGE

The end of the last ice age – 10,000-11,000 years ago – witnessed the extinction of many large herbivores, such as Imperial and Columbian mammoths, the western horse, a cameloid, mastodons, and three species of ground sloths, mammalian predators, such as the saber-toothed lion, the dire wolf, the short-faced bear, the American lion, and birds of prey, including several species of eagles and vultures. However, for some reason the California condor managed to survive and prosper until the mid-Twentieth Century. As reported in *Science*, Nov 26, 2004, pp. 1466-1467, Kena Fox-Dobbs of U.C.S.B. has postulated that unlike the other large birds of prey, the condor also fed on beached sea mammals, such as seals. The abundance of sea mammals was little affected by the end of the last ice age. This broader diet enabled the California condor to flourish while much of its dietary menu slipped into extinction in the American west.

Mike Kuhn
12-4-04



THE SHOSHONEAN INVASION

It is clear from the archaeological record that the people we refer to as the Chumash have lived in this area for many thousands of years. The Indian occupation of the area began at least 13,000 years ago along the coast and possibly much

earlier. By 7,000 years ago a specific unique tool kit had emerged. From that time on, the same tool kit was in use with a gradual addition of other tools and an elaboration of some of the tools. These characteristics suggest a continuous occupation by one people rather than sequential waves of different peoples. This stability, combined with a diverse environment, permitted the evolution of a complex social structure and material goods and long distant trade. The Chumash were concerned with manufacturing, a monetized systems of trade based on shell beads and a complex class system with a pan-village social order. There were specialized craftsmen and traders, with a strong work ethic and a deep sea fishery along the coast. These people were the first trail blazers.

Coastal villages seemed to have been occupied year round, while interior areas were visited seasonally – at least up until about 1,000 years ago. Individual families had the rights to exploit resources in discrete areas. In a sense, they owned those resources.

All this began to change starting about 1,100 years ago, when the American southwest began to experience increased aridity. Reoccurring drought seems to have affected the desert areas most acutely. As a result, Numic speaking peoples (Shoshonean) began to make periodic incursions into Chumash territory – in some cases all the way to the coast. By 1,000 years ago, these semi-nomadic hunters and gatherers had pushed across the San Gabriel and San Fernando valleys into the Malibu area and along the coast southward. In the process, they displaced long term residents, including the Chumash. The success of the Numic speaking people was not based upon numerical superiority,

but rather on the possession of a powerful new technology.

The Chumash were still using the spear thrower, i.e., the atlatl, for both hunting and as an offensive/defensive weapon. The Numic-speaking invaders possessed the bow and arrow. Arrows could be fired accurately over greater distances and with much greater rapidity than atlatl darts. And one person could carry much more ammunition in the form of arrows than could the atlatl user. For the Chumash, this must have been a period of extreme drama and crisis. Graves in great number have been excavated in the Malibu area where nearly every person seems to have died about 1,000 years ago with one or more arrowheads in their bodies or have experienced a bone crushing blow to the left front of their skulls – indicating a frontal attack by a right-handed person.

Chumash settlement in Simi Valley seems to have been seasonal at that time, with families making forays into Simi Valley in order to exploit specific resources, such as grass and sage seed and acorns. What must have been apparent to the Chumash was they either must occupy Simi Valley year round or lose it. After the initial shock, the Chumash established three permanent villages in the Simi and adapted the bow and arrow - thereby catching up in the arms race. Eventually, the Fernandinos (Numic speakers), as they were called by the Spanish, and the Chumash learned to live in relative peace. The village of Encino and the village at Stony Point had both Chumash and Fernandino residents during the first decade after the establishment of the San Fernando Mission.

Mike Kuhn
6-1-04

May 1st - Vasquez Rocks with Pacific Crest Trail Section



Nine hikers met at the Stearns Street Park-and-Ride lot in Simi Valley on a clear and cool, slightly windy morning and then carpooled east and north to the Vasquez Rocks County Park via Hwy 118, I405, I5, Hwy 14, and Agua Dulce Canyon Road. Once there we left in two shuttle vehicles and then drove to the point on Soledad Canyon Road at which the 2,650-mile long Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) crosses it. As the trail began it passed through a riparian woodland environment, soon reaching the Golden Spike Monument representing the completion of the PCT on June 5, 1993. The trail then began a gradual climb up the mountainous terrain toward Vasquez Rocks. The temperature was pleasant and a cool breeze kept us from overheating as we followed the wildflower-bordered trail to the mid-point of the hike. We then began descending toward the tunnel under Hwy 14 through which the PCT passes into Vasquez Rocks County Park; at two points along the way we encountered rattlesnakes; both of them quite unhappy with our presence. We stopped for lunch just after passing through the tunnel. When we resumed our hike we were greeted by the awe-inspiring Vasquez Rock formations that abound in the county park, a popular film industry location (Bonanza, Star Trek, and many others). The park is named for the 1850's bandit Tiburcio Vasquez who used the mazes of rocks to hide out. Continuing on the PCT, we reached our shuttle vehicles, having completed a pleasant 9.1-mile hike with 1,500' of elevation gain.



May 15th - Danielson Memorial & Waterfall

Four hikers met at Donut Delite in Simi Valley and carpooled to the parking lot at Wendy Drive to start the loop hike to the Danielson Memorial (aka Old Cabin Site) via Sycamore Falls. This trail is part of the Rancho Sierra Vista/Satwiwa Recreation area. It was very cool with almost no wind in the 50 degree range with low hanging fog. It was great hiking weather. The flowers were still dense, varied and beautiful. We took the Wendy Trail up to see the still windmill and up to the top of the ridge, using the Satwiwa Loop Trail. It was so

foggy still that we could barely see Mount Boney. We headed up to Sycamore Falls on the fire road and dodged the poison oak. The Falls were still full of water, but no salamanders. They must come out later in the year. We headed up the steep ridge around to the memorial. The weather was still cool, and still no views of the ocean, but the fog was starting to break. We ate lunch at the monument and rested for a bit before heading back on the other connecting trail back to the cars. We saw wild rose bushes, mariposa lilies, purple nightshade, poppies, purple and bush lupines, California Everlasting, wild blackberries, cactus, California, fuchsia, sunflowers, thistle, numerous kinds of sage, mustard, and much more. It was the most varied consistent and vibrant display of flowers we had seen in the Sycamore Falls area in many years. When we returned to the cars, we were tired but happy to have completed the approximately 6 to 7 miles and 800 foot elevation gain. Everyone agreed it was a great hike.

May 22nd - Sandstone Peak (via Mishe Mokwa Trail)

Twenty hikers (+ Heidi, a cute dog) met at the carpool point near the intersection of Royal Avenue and Madera Road on a cool morning and then traveled to the Mishe Mokwa trailhead at Triunfo Pass (2,100') in the Santa Monica Mountains via Hwy 23, Hwy 101, Hwy 23 (again), Mulholland Hwy, and Little Sycamore Canyon Road. The counterclockwise loop hike began on the Mishe Mokwa Trail (name is from the Chippewa Indian legend of the mother bear, Mishe-Mokwa, and her two cubs who swim Lake Michigan for safety after a raging fire destroys their forest home in Wisconsin). The trail climbed quickly and then leveled out for a while before descending into Carlisle Canyon, providing excellent views of the reddish-colored Echo Cliffs (a long stretch of sheer vertical sandstone rock faces) against the green side of Boney Mountain and Balanced Rock, a huge house-sized boulder precariously balancing atop a smaller boulder. The lovely trail was frequently bordered by a wide variety of blooming wildflowers. We took a break at Split Rock where there's a thick mini-grove of shade trees overhanging a large broken boulder (Split Rock) and one picnic table. As we resumed our hike, the trail climbed southward to a junction with the Backbone Trail (BBT) on a mesa affording great views of various peaks surrounding the area. We took the left (east) fork and continued along the BBT to



the short spur trail leading up to Sandstone Peak (3,111'), aka Mt. Allen, the highest peak in the Santa Monica Mountains. The peak is just a hunk of grayish-white rock, but it provides a stunning 360-degree view (depending on the air quality) of the ocean, the mountains, and the Oxnard Plain. Visibility was only fair on this day, but the temperature was perfect for mountain hiking. Returning to the BBT we continued eastward to a junction with a wildflower-rich connector trail which led us again to the Mishe Mokwa Trail. We descended to the parking lot having completed a refreshing 6.3-mile hike with 1,459' of elevation gain.



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Hiking Schedule



REGULARLY SCHEDULED HIKES

(Rain cancels – No hikes on holidays)

Sunday Evening - Rocky Peak Fire Road

Meet at **5PM** at the Rocky Peak Fire Road trailhead. Take the Rocky Peak exit from the 118 Fwy. Meet at the north end of the bridge; don't park on the bridge. (Moderate to strenuous, depending on distance hiked. 4.8 MRT)

Tuesday Evening - Long Canyon

Meet at **6:30PM** in Long Canyon parking lot. Directions: Take 1st Street heading south. Continue when the road's name changes to Long Canyon Road. The parking lot is at the intersection of Long Canyon Road and Wood Ranch Pkwy. (Moderate, 3.0 MRT)

Thursday Evening - The Chumash Trail

Meet at **6PM** at Chumash trailhead. Directions - take 118 Fwy to Yosemite exit. Go north on Yosemite, turn right on Flanagan Dr. Trailhead is at the end of Flanagan Dr. (Moderate to strenuous, depending on distance hiked. 5.2 MRT)

JUNE HIKES AND ACTIVITIES

June 5th Trail Canyon - Tom Lucas Camp*

7 MRT - Moderate (1400' elevation gain)

Hikers on this San Gabriel Mountains hike are treated to a most beautiful waterfall. Be sure and bring some bug juice!

Meet at **8 AM** at the **118 & Stearns St. Park & Ride**. Bring 2-4 quarts of water and lunch. Wear boots.

June 12th Leader's Choice Hike

Due to the recent closure to public access of the Matilija Falls Trail by the landowner, the planned hike there is canceled. Instead, the hike leader will choose today's hike. Check the Activities section of the website for updated information as the date gets closer. More details about the Matilija Falls closure will be forthcoming in the July newsletter.

June 16th Club Meeting

7 PM - The Sycamore Drive Community Center - 1692 Sycamore Drive - Room B-1

June 19th Work Party - Mt. McCoy

Meet at **8 AM** near Donut Delite at the corner of Madera and Royal. Bring 2 to 3 quarts of water, hat, sunscreen, and gloves to work on the trail. Wear sturdy boots. Tools will be provided. As always, you are welcome to work for a shorter time period if you desire. Hope to see you there.

June 26th Solstice Canyon*

Moderate - 7 MRT (1,500' elevation gain)

Take the Solstice Canyon Trail to the Sostomo Trail, continuing on the Deer Valley Loop Trail, then to shady Tropical Terrace/waterfall. Return on the Rising Sun Trail. Meet at **8 AM** near Donut Delite at the corner of Madera and Royal. Bring 2 - 3 quarts of water and lunch. Optional: Meet at Baja Fresh after the hike for lunch.

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



No dogs allowed on trail(s).

For 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. <http://www.simitrailblazers.com>

RANCHO SIMI TRAIL BLAZERS

A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation

| | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|
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-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) _____ Birth Mo. _____ Day _____

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

Address _____

Email Address _____ Phone wk/hm _____

Would you like to receive periodic email announcements about club activities? Yes () No ()

How did you find out about the RSTB? _____

Please make out tax deductible member dues check for the year to:

“Rancho Simi Foundation” mail it to “RSTB, P.O. Box 630445, Simi Valley, Ca 93063-0399”



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