



Rancho Simi Trail Blazers

A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation



New Members

Bala and Jay Murali

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 <http://www.simitrailblazers.com/index.php/calendar/> for event details and the most up-to-date schedule.

Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District events can be viewed at <http://www.rsrpd.org> to see what is happening next!

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.

RSTB CLUB MEETING

This month's RSTB meeting will be at:
Sycamore Drive Community Center
1692 Sycamore Drive – Room B-1

Wednesday: June 21, 2017

5:30PM Everyone Welcome to attend!

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

Upcoming Events

June 3rd Ahmanson Ranch: Cave of Munits, Laskey Mesa, and E. Las Virgenes Cyn
6.2 MRT – Moderate (~750' elevation gain/loss) **8AM**

June 10th Fish Canyon Narrows from the Templin Highway Gate
11 MRT – Moderate (~1,000' elevation gain) **7AM**

June 17th Work Party – Work Party – Lower Stagecoach Trail **8AM**

June 21st Club Board Meeting The Sycamore Drive Community Center - 1692 Sycamore Drive - Room B-1 **Everyone Welcome to attend! 5:30PM**

June 24th Matilija Falls 10 MRT – Moderate to Strenuous (1,200' elevation gain/loss) **8AM**

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



April 1st – Towsley Canyon Loop



3 hikers met at the very busy Towsley Canyon trailhead, on a clear and warm early spring morning. Towsley Canyon has been a favorite wildflower hike in past years. Even during drought years, this route hasn't failed us. A fraction of the anticipated wildflowers were in bloom, especially when compared to some of our recent Backbone Trail hikes.

Our favorite Chocolate Lilies had not yet sprouted. Perhaps we were too early. Maybe the area is still recovering from six years of drought. We ended our hike with the Elder Loop trail. There we enjoyed a serious abundance of mostly lupine, all in the areas that recently burned. We can always depend on fire-followers, especially after a relatively wet winter. The hike was still quite enjoyable. Great views and good company is always a good reason to hike. Total distance for our hike was 7.7 miles, with about 1,625 elevation gain and loss.

April 8th – Backbone Trail Part 7: Saddle Peak to Trippet Ranch

Despite the possibility of rain and the closure of a 3-mile section of Topanga Canyon Blvd for repairs, nineteen hikers met on yet another pleasant spring morning to tackle the seventh section of the Santa Monica Mountains Backbone Trail (BBT). After dropping off several shuttle vehicles at Trippet Ranch (in Topanga State Park), we carpooled up to the trailhead on Saddle Peak Road (near its intersection with Stunt Road). Our hike began along the western end of the short Fossil Ridge Trail which was awash in knee-high grass. Upon reaching its eastern end, we began descending the popular trail that runs through Hondo Canyon. It's popularity soon became evident as we hiked along a series of switchbacks through a dense forest comprised mostly of oak and bay laurel trees. The trail was also adorned with ferns, moss-and-lichen-covered boulders, and a variety of blooming plants. Occasionally there were stunning views of the pink-colored sedimentary rock formations/cliffs (the Sespe Formation) that form the west side of the canyon. As the trail drew closer to Old Topanga Canyon Road it passed through grassy meadows

sporting magnificent displays of wildflowers such as Catalina mariposa lilies, blue dick, and lupine. We then crossed a shallow creek and Old Topanga Canyon Road and used a trial-and-error approach to the maze of trails we then encountered (arguably the most confusing section of the BBT) as we made our way to Greenleaf Canyon Road which we followed a short distance to Topanga Canyon Blvd which we carefully crossed. The Dead Horse trail then led us steadily upward through chaparral until we reached a very large grass-filled meadow bordered by a fence which we followed to a ranch road leading a short distance to the Trippet Ranch parking lot, thus completing a very pleasant 7.2-mile one-way hike with 1,019' of elevation gain and 2,211' of elevation loss.

April 15th – Backbone Trail Part 8: Trippet Ranch to Will Rogers State Historic Park

Thirteen hikers carpooled to the eastern Santa Monica Mountains on another pleasant spring morning to hike the eighth (and final) section of the 67-mile-long Backbone Trail (BBT). After dropping off several shuttle vehicles at Will Rogers State Historic Park in Pacific Palisades we carpooled to the Trippet Ranch parking lot in Topanga State Park.



We began our hike along the lush and lovely Musch trail as it ascended to the Eagle Springs Fire Road. The trail provided lots of shade as well as meadows with tall grass dotted with beautiful Catalina mariposa lilies and other wildflowers. We took a short break after reaching the fire road and watched a young deer as it tried to decide how to get around us, finally deciding to do so in the nearby brush. We continued eastward along another dirt road past the base of towering Eagle Rock to Hub Junction where we took another break under a new structure that provided seating, shade, and nice views. Continuing mostly uphill to the east on the dirt fire road, the route passed Cathedral Rock. Soon we turned left onto an actual trail (thanks to a BBT sign) and began the long descent toward Will Rogers State Historic Park (WRSHP), catching brief glimpses of the Los Angeles basin and views of the ocean toward Catalina Island and Palos Verde Peninsula along the way. After a short lunch break under a large oak tree, we reached "Chicken Ridge," a well-named narrow isthmus with dangerous drop-offs on both sides made navigable by two bridges which provided excellent views. Continuing downhill, we reached the end [or beginning] of the Backbone Trail in WRSHP having hiked 11.3 miles with 1,600' of elevation gain and 2,350' of elevation loss. We headed home with a feeling of accomplishment and gratitude that we had nice weather during most of our always interesting and sometimes challenging traverse of the BBT with its gorgeous display of a vast array of blooming plants along the way.



RSTB Calendar JUNE



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule	2	3 Ahmanson Ranch: Cave of Munits, Laskey Mesa, and E. Las Virgenes Cyn 8AM See Schedule
4 Rocky Peak Fire Road 5PM See Schedule	5	6 Mt. McCoy Trail 6PM See Schedule	7	8 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule	9	10 Fish Canyon Narrows from the Templin Highway Gate 7AM See Schedule
11 Rocky Peak Fire Road 5PM See Schedule	12	13 Mt. McCoy Trail 6PM See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Carol Tucker	14	15 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule	16	17 Work Party – Lower Stagecoach Trail 8AM See Schedule
18 Rocky Peak Fire Road 5PM See Schedule	19	20 Mt. McCoy Trail 6PM See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Lydia Ritzman	21 Club Meeting 5:30PM <i>Everyone Welcome to attend!</i> See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Phil Ankrom	22 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Linda Mann	23	24 Matilija Falls 7AM See Schedule
25 Rocky Peak Fire Road 5PM See Schedule	26	27 Mt. McCoy Trail 6PM See Schedule	28	29 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule	30 <i>Happy Birthday</i> James Hanley	

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)

RANCHO SIMI TRAIL BLAZERS

A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation

Executive Chair:	Mike Kuhn	HM (805) 583-2345	hannahmike@me.com
Treasurer:	Santiago Homsí		
Park District Liaison:	Jeannie Liss	WK (805) 584-4453	volunteers@rsrpd.us
Work Parties Chair:	VOLUNTEER NEEDED		Contact Mike Kuhn at: 805-583-2345
Hiking Chair:	Mark Gilmore	HM (805) 990-1460	markinthepark@sbcglobal.net
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Publicity Chair:	VOLUNTEER NEEDED		Contact Mike Kuhn at: 805-583-2345
Newsletter Editor:	Linda Mann	Cell: 805-501-5229	linda.martins.mann@simitrailblazers.com

—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**



U.S. Postage

RSTB
P.O. Box 1231
Simi Valley, CA 93062

(Rocky Pointe *Continued from May*)

ROCKY POINTE

How often has this same drama been repeated over the years with good or bad results? How many times have people had to be rescued off of the rock? How many people have been injured?

Well, its nice to know by whom and when those hand/fooholds were carved into the rock. I suppose after so long, the drill hole is still up there and perhaps Larry Bannon's and Lloyd Welchel's names are there too - testimony to a minor drama more than 100 years ago. Just as the Wright brothers should be celebrated as the first men to land safely, Larry's and Lloyd's goal during the planning stage should have included how to get down safely. Like all of us, they failed to think through their problem.

Mike Kuhn

3-16-06 (revised 11-1-12)

SIMI ADOBE FIRE

Efforts to render the Simi Adobe more earthquake safe resulted in the decision to put a french drain at the foot of the north wall of the adobe. Because the adobe and its immediate surroundings are a sensitive archaeological site, the needed four inch wide trench was hand excavated by archaeologists, including and under the supervision of Dr. David Whitley and Joe Simon.

It was already apparent that the adobe once had another room on the northern side of the existing adobe. Foundation stones were previously exposed by archaeologists Robert Pence and Robert Lopez during the late-1970s or early-1980s. Whitley's and Simons's modest efforts yielded a great deal of information - even before laboratory analysis and the writing of the report.

Whitley and Simon found evidence that the adobe had burned. Fired clay with willow branch impressions are found throughout the immediate area. A portion of a charred roofing beam was found in the trench. It yielded

evidence of a fire sometime after 1906, in that a piece of English ceramic that had been manufactured in 1906 was found under the debris of the collapsed roof. We do know that earlier fires had occurred in the 1820s and in 1858.

Whitley and Simon found evidence to suggest that the north room was a kitchen. There is evidence of a very intense fire at the northeastern corner of the porch. My guess is that the firewood supply for the kitchen was consumed and accounted for the intensity of the fire at that location.

The occupants of the adobe seem to have eaten well. Chicken egg shell was found, along with pinto beans, grain and large animal bones (probably either sheep or cattle). No bird bones were found.

The floor of the adobe was dirt, and all outside walls had been white-washed. Hand wrought square nails from roofing beams were also found. Sticking out from under the north wall of the existing adobe was found part of a sheep shear.

No doubt the Whitley and Simon report will provide even more insights into life at the time of the fire. All of this from a four-inch-wide trench.

Mike Kuhn

11-26-04 (10-21-12)

SANTA SUSANA PASS - KASHIWEY

The name, Santa Susana, honors Saint Susanna, the Roman virgin and martyr of the third century. Her name is included in the missal of the College of San Fernando, Mexico, from which Father Junipero Serra was sent. The name may first appear as *El Camino de Santa Susana y Simi* in April 1804. It also appears in 1834 as *Una gran cuesta conocida por Santa Susana* (a large ridge known as Santa Susana). Now the term, "Santa Susana," is applied to the mountains north of Simi Valley and to the Pass area between Simi Valley and the San Fernando Valley. This latter application seems to reflect the original meaning, as applied by the Spanish,

and probably results from historical inertia across two cultures.

When the Spanish arrived, the Chumash Indians used the name *Kashiwe* (also listed as *Kas-hi-we*, *Cas-hi-wey*, *Kashi-wej*, *Kashi-we*, and *Kasiwey*) for the pass. Harrington lists it as *Cuesta Santa Susana*, as does Henshaw. Applegate says that *Kashiwe* means "the pass" between Simi and the San Fernando Valley. Kroeber indicates that it is a former village near Newhall, Ventura County (sic), at a place now called *Cuesta Santa Susana*. According to Applegate (1974), the stem word, "-wey," means "to be notched."

The name was applied during the Spanish/Mexican period of occupation to the mountains on the southern side of Simi Valley. The Spanish/Mexican settlers did not seem to have a name for the mountains on the northern side of the valley. This may have reflected a pattern among the Chumash Indians of not naming mountain ranges. In any case, the name Santa Susana was switched, during the Anglo-American period of settlement, to the mountains north of the valley, and the mountains at the eastern end of the valley. The hills on the southern side were called the Simi Hills.

Mike Kuhn

2-18-05 (revised 10-8-12)





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 5PM during daylight saving 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.)

JUNE HIKES AND ACTIVITIES

June 3rd Ahmanson Ranch: Cave of Munits, Laskey Mesa, and E. Las Virgenes Cyn

6.2 MRT – Moderate (~750' elevation gain/loss) Meet at **8AM** at the 118 & Stearns St. Park & Ride. Bring your camera, water and lunch. Wear boots. To view the You Tube video about the Cave click on this link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pDk1UPYvtIE>. Our hike will begin on a “use” trail that heads uphill to the west just past the north end of the parking lot at the west end of Victory Blvd in the San Fernando Valley. After following old ranch roads and “use” trails for about 1.7 miles we'll reach the mouth of the Cave of Munits, “a cathedral-like cave that was used by the Chumash tribe for spiritual rites ...

June 10th Fish Canyon Narrows from the Templin Highway Gate

11 MRT – Moderate (~1,000' elevation gain) Meet at **7AM** at the 118 & Stearns St. Park & Ride. Bring your camera, water and lunch. Wear boots. To view video of the hike check out this link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SmQCVzdoNns>. We'll turn around at a backpacking campsite where there's a fork in the trail. **NOTE:** In 2009 Los Angeles Magazine published a list of “the ten best hikes in Los Angeles” and selected this hike as number one.

June 17th Work Party – Lower Stagecoach Trail


Meeting time is **8AM**. The event will end at noon. All tools will be provided. We will do trail grooming and widening, and cutting back some brush. 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.

June 21st Club Meeting *Everyone Welcome to attend!*

5:30PM - The Sycamore Drive Community Center - 1692 Sycamore Drive - Room B-1

June 24th Matilija Falls

10 MRT – Moderate to Strenuous (1,200' elevation gain/loss) Meet at **8AM** near Donut Delite at the corner of Madera and Royal. Bring 2 to 3 quarts of water and lunch/snacks. Wear boots. Our route will follow Matilija Creek the rest of the way and will involve some scrambling and boulder hopping as well as frequent short open stretches of trail and occasional stream crossings. The reward for our effort will be beautiful scenery including the flowing creek, many large pools of water, vast expanses of sedimentary rock layers, extensive riparian oak woodland, towering canyon walls, occasional wildflowers, and eventually, the Matilija waterfalls.

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/>