



Rancho Simi Trailblazers

A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation



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

~~ Welcome New Member Alison Becchina ~~

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.

June 1, 2019 — Mt. Lukens via Haines Canyon Trail*

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

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 7 AM at the 118 & Stearns St. Park & Ride. Bring 2 to 3 quarts of water and lunch/snacks and camera. Wear boots.

June 8, 2019 — Matilija Falls*

10 MRT – Moderate to Strenuous (~1,200' elevation gain/loss)

As our hike begins, we will pass through the private Matilija Canyon Ranch Wildlife Refuge. After crossing Matilija Creek, a dirt road will take us through a lovely private ranch. At about the two-mile mark, we'll follow a narrow trail as it winds through a shady poison oak paradise (long pants and a long-sleeved shirt are recommended). 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, an extensive riparian oak woodland, towering canyon walls, occasional wildflowers and, eventually, the Matilija waterfalls.

Meet at 7AM 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.

June 15, 2019 — Mt. Pinos to Sheep Camp via Sawmill Mountain*

9 MRT – Moderate to Strenuous (~1,800' elevation gain/loss)

After driving to the Chula Vista parking lot less than two miles from the top (8,831') of Mt. Pinos (near Frazier Park) in the Los Padres National Forest, we'll follow a dirt road through the forest to the summit where there are excellent views to the north, south, and west. We will then follow the well-maintained dirt Tumamait-Mt. Pinos Trail (21W03) as it enters the Chumash Wilderness and descends the open western slope via switchbacks. The trail then crosses a saddle and ascends the forested eastern slope of Sawmill Mountain (8,818') until it reaches a junction with the North Fork Trail (22W02). Turning south we'll descend half a mile to Sheep Primitive Camp and take a rest/lunch break under cover of towering Jeffrey pines. We'll return the way we came.

Meet at 7AM 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.

June 19, 2019

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

Everyone is welcome to attend.

June 22, 2019 – Hondo Canyon to Topanga Lookout*

9.6 MRT – Moderate to Strenuous (~1,700' elevation gain/loss)

This spectacular section of the Backbone Trail in the Santa Monica Mountains includes views of pink-colored sedimentary rock formations. The trail crosses a stream near the trailhead and then climbs steadily through live oaks and a sloping green meadow. It soon reaches a wonderful pink gorge on the right with a side path down to a small waterfall. The main trail then begins switching back and forth up the steep north-facing slope of the mountain through a lovely oak forest and then dense chaparral woodland. Along the way there are breathtaking views of the sedimentary rock formation known as the Sespe Formation. Once we reach the Topanga Tower Motorway, we'll take it north to the location of the Old Topanga Fire Lookout. We'll return the way we came.

Meet at 7AM 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.

June 29, 2019 – Work Party - Hummingbird Trail

Meeting time is 8 AM. The event will end at noon. All tools will be provided. We will do trail grooming and widening, reconstruct water bars, and also cut back some brush. Bring your own water, snacks, gloves, hat, and wear sunscreen. Boots are recommended.

Directions to Trailhead: Take Hwy 118 to the Kuehner Drive exit. Head north (turn left) to the limited parking area at 2409 Kuehner Drive near the trailhead (just outside the gated entrance to Hummingbird Ranch). NOTE: Pay close attention to the **No Parking** signs in the area. If there's no room to park at the trailhead, you can also park in the small lot at the northwest intersection of Kuehner Drive and Mt. Sinai Drive, about halfway between the 118 freeway and the trailhead.

HIKE REPORTS

April 24 -28, 2019 – Big Sur

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24, 2019 – Pfeiffer Big Sur Campground – Arrival and Valley View Trail



12 Rancho Simi Trailblazers gathered at the Pfeiffer Big Sur Campground along the Pacific coast of California. Half of the group came in recreation vehicles; the other half set up their tents on three adjacent campsites.

THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 2019 – Andrew Molera State Park: Creamery Meadow Trail, Ridge Trail, Panorama Trail, Bluffs Trail, and Spring Trail



After breakfast, we carpooled to the Andrew Molera State Park trailhead parking lot on the southwest side of Hwy 1. Shortly after we followed signs for the Beach Trail from the parking lot, we reached the Big Sur River where we switched to water shoes and then waded carefully through the cold above-the-knee flowing water. We admired the blooming wildflowers and the towering ancient-looking trees along the trails. We returned to our campsites having completed a truly beautiful 9.5-mile lollipop loop hike with 1,660' of elevation gain/loss.

April 24 -28, 2019 – Big Sur (continued)

FRIDAY, APRIL 26, 2019 – Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park: Liewald Flat Trail AND Buzzards Roost Trail



After breakfast, we began a hike that included two trails in a figure-eight configuration. After a lunch/rest break, we completed the loop and arrived having completed a very pleasant 5.5-mile hike with 1,150' of elevation gain/loss. After lunch several of us carpoled to Point Lobos State Natural Reserve where we paid the \$10 entrance fee and then drove westward straight through the Natural Reserve to the Cypress Bay parking lot. We hiked an estimated two miles with 150' of elevation gain/loss. Pfeiffer Beach – While several of us were visiting Point Lobos, others explored Pfeiffer Beach.

SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 2019 – Garrapata State Park: Soberanes Canyon Trail AND Soberanes Point Trails



After breakfast, we carpoled to the undeveloped Garrapata State Park (no road sign on Hwy 1 announcing it) and parked in a good-sized unpaved parking area along Hwy 1. We then undertook a two-part hike, one on each side of the highway (the trailheads were across Hwy 1 from each other). We hiked back to our vehicles and returned to our campsites, having completed a combined 5.3-mile hike with 1,090' of elevation gain/loss.

Since the annual Big Sur International Marathon was scheduled for Sunday morning (4/28) from just south of the entrance to our campground north to Carmel along Hwy1 (and there would be some delay in being allowed to use Hwy 1 that morning), most of us headed home after Saturday's hikes, having spent about four days in one of the most beautiful spots on earth. If you haven't spent time (several days) exploring Big Sur, it should be on your "bucket list" of things to do.

May 4, 2019 – Wildwood Park Loop



10 hikers met at the Wildwood Park trailhead. Our hike started on a cool and foggy morning. We climbed to the top of Mount Clef Ridge, via the Santa Rosa Trail. From there we dropped down on the Shooting Star Trail to the Lower Santa Rosa Trail. The climb was steep back up to the ridge on the Lizard Rock Trail.

May 4, 2019 – Wildwood Park Loop (continued)

From there we dropped back down past the Hill Canyon Sewage Treatment Plant, where we continued on to Skunk Hollow where we stopped for some much needed rest and lunch. Next was Paradise Falls and then on to the Lynnmere Trail, where we followed the stream, finally reaching Lynn Road and the parking lot. It seemed like it was quite a distance, with a lot of up and down, at 9.65 miles and about 1,900' of total elevation gain. Thank you for an excellent job leading the hike today, Goldie! The wildflower display was better than it had been for many years in Wildwood Park. In evidence was Chalk Liveforever, Cottonwood Tree, Parry's Phacelia, Creek Monkey Flower, Black Mustard, Prickly Pear Cactus, Bush Sunflower, Morning Glory, Conejo Buckwheat, Purple Sage, Black Sage, Turkish Rugging, Bladder Pod, Yellow Mariposa Lily, Catalina Mariposa Lily, Sticky Monkey Flower, Indian Pink, Peninsular Onion, Golden Star, Golden Yarrow, California Everlasting, Lacy Phacelia, Bush Mallow, Microseris, Datura, Spring Vetch, Curly Dock, Wild Rose, Milk Thistle, Chaparral Yucca, California Poppy, Chamise and several others.

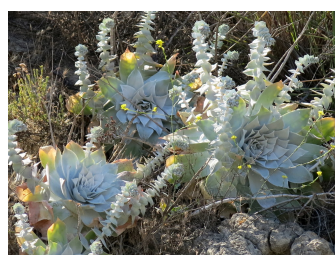
May 11, 2019 – Cancelled

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



The May work party was conducted on the lower Mt. McCoy Trail. Much thanks to the hard labor of Martin DeGoey, Mike Kuhn and James Brady!

May 25, 2019 – Alamos Canyon



Sixteen hikers met at the Simi Valley Sanitation Department parking lot this morning. It was a clear and cool morning, unusual for late May. After crossing Easy Street and the railroad tracks, we continued north up the gated Los Alamos Canyon Road to the official trailhead, about a half mile up the hill.

We decided to do the lollipop loop in a counter-clockwise direction; the first leg skirting the western side of the nearby landfill. At the terminus of the loop, one of our regular hikers remarked that the area to the north looked much like the grasslands of Africa, as seen in so many TV shows and movies. None of us would be surprised had we seen lions, elephants, or wildebeest in the distance. We began the second half of the loop, heading south and up a hill offering us a fine view of western Ventura county. Finally descending down a wooded canyon, we returned to our cars the way we came. It was a perfect local and relatively short hike for Memorial day weekend, with 4.75 miles total and 500' of with elevation gain. As in previous hikes this year, many wildflowers adorned the trail. We saw Purple Sage, Indian Pink, Sticky Monkey Flower, Chaparral Yucca, Deer Weed, White Sage, Black Sage, Chalk Live-Forever, Spring Vetch, Elegant Clarkia, Golden Stars, Golden Yarrow, Heart-Leafed Penstemon, Santa Barbara Locoweed, and Bladder-pod.

THE PALM TREES ALONG ALAMO STREET abridged

Probably the prettiest streetscape in Simi Valley is Alamo Street between Sycamore Drive and Tapo Canyon Road. The Tapo Ranch was formed as an agricultural real estate development in the north central portion of the valley shortly after the turn of the century. The Patterson Ranch Company subdivided the land, calling it the "Tapo Ranch," and formed the Tapo Mutual Water Company to supply water to the ranch owners. Farmland was divided into small parcel, planted to citrus and avocados and marketed to people wanting to start a new life. Water was brought down from the *cienega*, in this case a small lake, where the Gillibrand office is now in Gillibrand Canyon, by ditch to two concrete-lined reservoirs along the north side of the valley. Not surprisingly, one of those reservoirs was located just east of the northern end of Reservoir Drive. The other was located near the northern end of Lemon Drive. (Yes, those street names do make sense.)

In 1915, what we now call Alamo Street had a row of California fan palms (*Washingtonia filifera*) planted along the northern side of the new "Palm" Drive as part of the promotional effort in the sale of farm lots. Several of the original farm homes are still present. Some have been so remodeled as to be unrecognizable as Tapo Ranch homes. However, most of the palm trees are still there!

The row of palms was listed in the City's first General Plan (1972) as historically significant. As new development was proposed in the old Tapo Ranch area during the early 1980s, the City took the then bold position that the tree row needed to be preserved. Alamo Street was widened on the northern side, so that the row of palm trees could be maintained in medians. As "monocots," palm trees can be moved successfully. So, many have been moved to make way for new intersections and the left-hand turn pockets that go with them. As development has occurred, trees that had to be removed have simply been moved into vacant spots along Alamo Street. A few died with the first effort to move them. (The contractor apparently did not know that palms need to be buried deeper than they had been, rather than being planted higher as is required with other trees, i.e., "dicots.") Nearly all the rest of the palm trees that were moved have survived. Several vacant spots in the row have had palms of the same species from elsewhere in the city moved in. Three were moved to Tapo Canyon Road near City Hall. Three of the original plantings proved to be Mexican fan palms (*Washingtonia mexicana*), rather than California fan palms - you know, the tall skinny ones. When Alamo Street was widened and the palm trees were included into a median, those three 90-foot palms were moved to a new location on the Civic Center site. They were planted an extra five feet into the ground for support and at angles from true vertical for interest. Drive by the Civic Center site on Alamo Street and see if you can pick them out.

I have a photocopy of the June 7, 1915 order from the Patterson Ranch Company for 110 *Washingtonia filifera*, i.e., California fan palms, to "Theodore Payne of Los Angeles." The price was \$ 0.85 each, for a total of \$ 93.50. Mr. Payne indicated that "...This palm has become quite scarce here in the last two seasons and I will probably have to ship these in from some other point as there are none to be had in this section at the present time." Mr. Payne also indicated that the Patterson Ranch had ordered some California fan palms before. The order for 110 trees was filled that year.

The palm trees along Alamo Street have been designated a Ventura County Historical Landmark. The support given by past city councils and planning commissions has resulted in the outstanding streetscape that we have today. That section of Alamo Street is one of the places I take visitors when showing them Simi Valley. It will remain one of the best remembered images of our city.

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.

	<div>RSTB Calendar</div> <div>June 2019</div>						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
						1 Mt. Lukens via Haines Canyon Trail* 7AM See Upcoming Events	
2 Rocky Peak Fire Road 5PM See Schedule	3	4 Mt. McCoy Trail 6PM See Schedule	5	6 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule	7 National Donut Day	8 Matilija Falls* 7AM See Upcoming Events	
9 Rocky Peak Fire Road 5PM See Schedule	10	11 Mt. McCoy Trail 6PM See Schedule Happy Birthday Richard Bradley	12	13 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule Happy Birthday Carol Tucker	14 Flag Day	15 Mt. Pinos to Sheep Camp via Sawmill Mountain* 7AM See Upcoming Events	
16 Rocky Peak Fire Road 5PM See Schedule Fathers' Day	17	18 Mt. McCoy Trail 6PM See Schedule	19 Club Meeting 5:30PM	20 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule Happy Birthday Lydia Ritzman	21 Summer Solstice Happy Birthday Phil Ankrom	22 Hondo Canyon to Topanga Lookout* 7AM See Upcoming Events	
23 Rocky Peak Fire Road 5PM See Schedule	24	25 Mt. McCoy Trail 6PM See Schedule	26	27 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule Happy Birthday Elisabeth Hammon	28	29 Work Party Hummingbird Trail 8AM See Upcoming Events	
30 Rocky Peak Fire Road 5PM See Schedule							
<div>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/</div> <div>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)</div>							

* 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/>



_____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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