



Rancho Simi Trail Blazers



JULY WORK PARTY

The next Trail Blazers work party will be held on **Saturday, July 19**, on the upper unfinished portion of the **Lower Stagecoach Trail**.

We will meet in the parking lot of Corriganville Park at **7:00 AM**. Due to limited parking at the upper trailhead, we will carpool up Santa Susana Pass Road to Lilac Lane.

We will work from 7:00 AM to 11:00 AM. Hope to see you there.



Work Parties Chair
John Sabol

JUNE WORK PARTY

We had a great turnout for National Trail Day on June 7. Eleven Rancho Simi Trail Blazers turned out to work on the Lower Stagecoach Trail out of Corriganville.

Most of the day was overcast which made for ideal working conditions. Little tread work was done as we concentrated on removing mustard plants, which were choking off the trail. Lopping of brush was also done.

Everyone worked hard from 7:00 AM to 1:30 PM and an impressive amount of work was done. It was a long day and at the end everyone was dead tired. Many thanks to the following workers:

Bob Altieri, Phil Ankrom, Arlene Altshuler, Paolina Carter, Alan Cueba, Tracy Frank, Tom Frye, Mike Kuhn, Phil Pratt, John Sabol and Mark Scheele.

Work Parties Chair

RSTB CLUB MEETING

The monthly club meeting will be held at the
Community Center
Room B-1
1692 Sycamore Drive
At 7:00 PM
On

MARR RANCH OPEN SPACE DEDICATION

June 14 witnessed the dedication of approximately three square miles of new open space parklands by the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District, in the form of most of the northern portion of the old Marr Ranch. The new parklands include the hilly portions of the ranch, much of the Chivo Creek watershed, and part of the Las Llajas Creek watershed.

The dedication ceremony was followed by a Rancho Simi Trail Blazers led hike up Las Llajas Canyon and back. Quite a number of Trail Blazers were present for the ceremony and hike.

Chivo Canyon may well become known as the Grand Canyon of Simi Valley. *Chivo* means goat in Spanish. During its grazing days, the eastern branch of the rugged canyon was best suited to goats.



Old Indian and Spanish trails ran from Simi Valley and the San Fernando Valley through Las Llajas. Now old ranch roads will serve as the first trails in this beautiful backcountry.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Mark Janowicz
Michael L. Newton

CHUMASH PERSONAL NAMES

Chumash personal names were descriptive. Examples, by their meaning, were "a person of great endurance", "a flowing of water very miserable", "scrape", "the masher of beans with a stick by hand", "a smallness in size like a bird that is still feathering", and "a successor".

Names were given not by parents, but by an *'alchuklash* (These were astrologers). Once a person had died and a year had passed, the dead person's name was never mentioned again and was not re-used.

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. Prices are:

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

Please call Marty if you'd like to

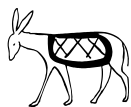
SIMI VALLEY'S HISPANIC PERIOD AS REFLECTED IN PLACE NAMES
(Part 1)

Simi Valley's Spanish and Mexican period of settlement involved very few Hispanic settlers. Most of the people who lived in Simi Valley prior to the 1880s were Chumash Indians. Because the dominant culture was Spanish speaking, names on the land, with few exceptions, were expressed in Spanish. Many names, of course, reflect Chumash Indian names, even when in a Spanish context.

What follows is a listing of those names that we know and the meaning of those names, at least to the extent that we know them. Many of the names have been taken directly from the 1887-1888 survey map of Rancho Simi that was prepared by Stow and Power for the Simi Land and Water Company as part of the real estate offering of Thomas Bard and Daniel McFarland and five others.

First of all, the names Simi and Tapo come to us directly from the Chumash and have not been translated into Spanish. They were the names of the two Chumash villages in this area. *Simi* or *Shimiji* seems to refer to a type of small, thread-like cloud - most likely a cirrus cloud. *Simi* was located at the western end of Simi Valley. *Ta'apu* means "yucca". Tapo Canyon retained the name of the trail which led to the village. Tapo Street originally led to the mouth of Tapo Canyon. Later, Tapo Canyon Road was extended on its north-south alignment.

A "*Putrero del Burro*" is shown in the hills where the Rocketdyne facility now is located. The name has come to us from the Chumash reference to a powerful shamanistic cave in which an equine painting is present. That cave is centrally located in what the Chumash/Spanish referred to as *Putrero del Burro*. The eastern portion of that area is shown as "Burro Flats" on the U.S. Geological Survey map.

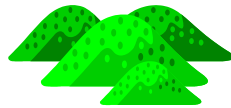


"*Arroyo de las Lajas*" is shown on the Stow and Power map where Las Lajas

canyon is today. *Lajas* means "layered rocks". In Spanish, a double "l" is a separate letter of the alphabet. It is clear that "*Lajas*" is the correct spelling and that the U.S. Geological Survey simply made a mistake.

The Arroyo Simi is labeled "*Arroyo Simi*" downstream from its confluence with Hummingbird Creek. However, it is shown as "*Arroyo Santa Susana*" upstream from its confluence with Hummingbird Creek. The pass between Simi Valley and the San Fernando Valley has been called Santa Susana Pass, beginning in the Hispanic period of settlement. "*El camino de Santa Susana y Simi*" is mentioned as early as April 27, 1804. "*Una gran cuesta conocida por Santa Susana*" was recorded in 1834. The Stow and Power 1887-1888 plat list the pass as "*Puerta Zueta*" and "*Bajas de Santa Susana*".

The 1858 federal survey labels the hills south of Simi Valley as the "Santa Susanna Mountains". A map of the "Property of the Philadelphia and California Petroleum Company", which is undated but which must postdate the 1865 purchase of the land, also labels the hills to the south as the "Santa Susana Mountains".
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1837.



"*Sierra Santa Susana*" is corded on diseno in

None of these references lends a name to the mountains north of Simi Valley. (The Chumash do not seem to have given names to mountain ranges, so the Spanish explorers and settlers were able to fill the void.) At some time in the past, perhaps when the U.S. Geological Survey got into the act, the mountains to the north, east of Tapo Canyon, were labeled the Santa Susana Mountains and the hills to the south the Simi Hills. The railroad station was given the name Santa Susana

when the railroad came in 1902.

Chivo Creek, a tributary of the Arroyo las Lajas, means "Goat" Creek. It does not seem to appear on any of the earlier maps but certainly comes down from the Hispanic period of settlement.

The area occupied by the Hummingbird's Nest Ranch, was "*El Nido de la Chupa Rosa*" in Spanish. The phrase means "hummingbird's nest" - the English version of the name was given to the ranch by Charles Emerson Hoar when he leased the eastern half of the valley in 1873. Mr. Hoar is reported to have spoken of it as "the old name", which he was retaining, apparently out of respect for historic continuity. The original name was certainly derived from the Chumash name for the very unique area within the massive sandstone outcroppings, which referred to a sacred place. The hummingbird could fly to the upper, i.e., spirit, world, and reference to a bird's nest was used as a place name by the Chumash to denote that powerful, i.e., sacred, place.



Meier Wash on the Brandeis-Bardin Institute property is shown as "*Canada de los Alisos*" on the Stow and Power plat. The name can best be translated as Sycamore Canyon. (The Spanish referred to both white alders and sycamore trees as "*aliso*" [sing.]. In this case there are sycamore trees and no alder trees.) Later Anglo-American settlers referred to the canyon as "Big Sycamore Canyon". (Another "Sycamore Canyon" is present within Wood Ranch.)

On the Stow and Power plat, Long/Oak Canyon is labeled as "*Canada de la Leha*". As far as I have been able to determine, "*Leha*" is not a word in Spanish. It is quite possible that Stow

BEARS AND US

Approximately one fourth of the state of California is inhabited by black bears. (The famed California grizzly bear was exterminated about 80 years ago.) During the early 1980s, the black bear population in California was estimated to be about 10,000. Since then, the population is thought to have more than doubled and may be as high as 35,000. At the same time, the range of the bear has been increasing. Man/bear encounters have increased because development has increasingly encroached into bear country.

Adult female bears weigh between 100 and 200 pounds, while adult males run between 150 to 350 pounds. (The estimated weight and size of a bear increases with each telling.) While an occasional male bear has been taken that weighed 600 pounds.

Bear habitat can be characterized as mountainous with diverse under story vegetation and an abundance of seasonal fruits, berries and nuts. Trees are important to bears because they provide food, escape from predators and winter dens for some. Meadows are important during the spring and early summers when they provide food. Black bears are omnivorous, eating anything from ants to sedges. In our area, acorns are a favorite food in the fall. During the mid- to late summer, bears near the margins of urban development may show up in garbage cans, in trees in Glendale or Chatsworth (once in my memory in a tree in Simi Valley) or strolling through the lobby of a hotel in Camarillo.

Bears are generally docile and non-confrontational. When they are seen in the wild, they usually are running away or they simply are unaware of your presence.

If you encounter a bear, which may happen even in the Santa Susana Mountains, you should give them as much room as possible to pass. Most bears will avoid confrontation if they can. Do not run – you cannot out run a bear! Stand and face the bear, pick up small children so they do not panic and run. Give the bear every opportunity to avoid you. If you encounter a bear cub, never, never try to pick it



Rocky Peak Sunday Evening Hike, left to right: Shana Starobin, Arlene Altshuler, and Marty Richards.

up. Mama bear may be near. Such an attempt may result in an attack – by the mama bear, for good cause. If you think that a cub has been orphaned, notify the California Department of Fish and Game. It is their bear.

If attacked by a black bear, you should fight back. Many a camper has avoided serious injury by doing so. Throwing rocks or hitting a bear with a chunk of wood has proven effective for many. According to the California Department of Fish and Game, there have been fewer than 10 attacks by bears on humans in California during the last 10 years. This statistic does not imply that those 25,000 to 35,000 bears in California are particularly aggressive. About half of those attacks have involved a bear approaching people asleep in a tent – perhaps searching for food. All of this said, every few years in the United States, a black bear has been known to specifically target a human being as their next meal. While this is



JUNE WILDFLOWERS



Plummer's Mariposa Lily (*Calochortus plummerae*)



Indian Paintbrush (*Castilleja martinii*)



Humboldt Lily (*Lilium humboldtii*)



July

2003



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3 Chumash Trail 6pm hike See Schedule	4	5 Solstice Canyon See Schedule
6 Rocky Peak 5pm hike See Schedule	7	8	9	10 NO HIKE SCHEDULED	11	12 NO HIKE SCHEDULED
13 NO HIKE SCHEDULED	14 <i>Happy Birthday Mike Kuhn</i>	15	16 RSTB Meeting See Page 1	17 Chumash Trail 6pm hike See Schedule	18 <i>Happy Birthday Gail Unterberger</i>	19 Stage Coach Trail WP See Schedule
20 Rocky Peak 5pm hike See Schedule	21	22 <i>Happy Birthday Liz Williams Lorraine Ferrall</i>	23	24 Chumash Trail 6pm hike See Schedule	25	26 Serrano Valley See Schedule
27 Rocky Peak 5pm hike See Schedule	28 <i>Happy Birthday Jim Achenbach</i>	29	30	31 Chumash Trail 6pm hike See Schedule		



Rancho Simi Trail Blazers

Hiking Schedule



- July 3 Thursday Evening Hike**
Meet at 6pm at Chumash trailhead. Directions - take 118 Fwy to Yosemite exit. Go north on Yosemite, turn right on Flanagan
- July 5 Solstice Canyon**
Part easy, part steep 6 MRT with 600' elevation gain/loss with a great view of Point Dume and the ocean from the ridge of the canyon. This hike is not within the jurisdiction of the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park district. Bring snack and 2 - 3 qts of
- July 6 Sunday Evening Hike**
Meet 5pm at Rocky Peak trailhead at the end of Rocky Peak Rd off Santa Susana Pass. (Strenuous, 5 MRT)
- July 10 No Hike Scheduled**
- July 12 No Hike Scheduled**
- July 13 No Hike Scheduled**
- July 17 Thursday Evening Hike**
Meet at 6pm at Chumash trailhead. Directions - take 118 Fwy to Yosemite exit. Go north on Yosemite, turn right on Flanagan
- July 19 Stage Coach Trail Work Party**
Directions: Take Kuehner south, turn left onto Smith Rd, and follow it to the end of the street. Parking lot is on the left. Meet in Corriganville parking lot at 7am. We will be working from 7am - 11am. Tools will be provided. Bring 2 - 3 quarts of water,
- July 20 Sunday Evening Hike**
Meet 5pm at Rocky Peak trailhead at the end of Rocky Peak Rd off Santa Susana Pass. (Strenuous, 5 MRT)
- July 24 Thursday Evening Hike**
Meet at 6pm at Chumash trailhead. Directions - take 118 Fwy to Yosemite exit. Go north on Yosemite, turn right on Flanagan
- July 26 Serrano Valley Loop**
Moderate to strenuous 8 1/2 MRT with 1100' elevation gain and loss. This hike is not within the jurisdiction of the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park district. Meet 7am near Donut Delite at the corner of Madera and Royal. Bring 2 - 3 qts. water and
- July 27 Sunday Evening Hike**
Meet 5pm at Rocky Peak trailhead at the end of Rocky Peak Rd off Santa Susana Pass. (Strenuous, 5 MRT)
- July 31 Thursday Evening Hike**
Meet at 6pm at Chumash trailhead. Directions - take 118 Fwy to Yosemite exit. Go north on Yosemite, turn right on Flanagan

For more 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. Hikes will be cancelled if it rains.

<http://rstb.homestead.com>

RANCHO SIMI TRAIL BLAZERS

EXECUTIVE CHAIR:	MIKE KUHN	HM (805) 583-2345, WK (805)583-6776
TREASURER:	PETER ELY	HM (805) 523-1409
SECRETARY:	STEFANI HOWARD	HM (818) 885-0407
PARK DISTRICT LIAISON:	COLLEEN JANSSEN	WK (805) 584-4453
WORK PARTIES CHAIR:	JOHN SABOL	HM (805) 583-2541
WORK PARTIES VICE CHAIR:	BOB ALTIERI	HM (805) 526-6749
HIKING CHAIR:	ARLENE ALTSHULER	HM (805) 581-9735
WAYS & MEANS CHAIR:	MARTY RICHARDS	HM (805) 526-4414
WAYS & MEANS VICE CHAIR:	CONNIE ANKROM	HM (805) 526-2747
COMMUNICATION / PUB.CHAIR:	ARLENE ALTSHULER	HM (805) 581-9735

-----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 ____

Address _____

Email Address _____ Phone wk/hm _____

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 630399, Simi Valley, Ca 93063-0399



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