



Rancho Simi Trail Blazers

A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Alberta Sutton
Joe & Lorraine Ferrall
Terry De Silva

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



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 www.simitrailblazers.com/activities for event details and the most up-to-date schedule.



Volunteers Needed!!



If anyone is interested in volunteering for the **Work Parties Chair** or the **Publicity Chair**

contact Mike Kuhn at:
mike.kuhn@simitrailblazers.com

RSTB CLUB MEETING

This month's RSTB meeting will be at:
Sycamore Drive Community Center
1692 Sycamore Drive – Room B-1
Wednesday: July 15, 2015 5:30PM
Everyone Welcome to attend!

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

Upcoming Events

July 4th Mt. McCoy to the Reagan Library 6 MRT – Moderate (800' elevation gain) **8AM**

July 11th Mt. San Jacinto via the Palm Springs Tramway* 11.5 MRT - Moderate to Strenuous (2,600' elevation gain/loss) **6:30AM**

July 15th Club Meeting
The Sycamore Drive Community Center - 1692 Sycamore Drive - Room B-1 **Everyone Welcome to attend! 5:30PM**

July 18th Mt. Pinos to Sheep Camp via Sawmill Mountain* 9 MRT - Moderate to Strenuous (1,800' elevation gain/loss) **8AM**

July 20th – 26th Eastern Sierra Hiking and Camping Trip* SPECIAL EVENT - Last day to sign up is July 10th

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

MOUNTAIN LIONS IN THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS

Sylvie Belmond, reported in the L. A. Times (September 27, 2013, pp. 20-21) on a talk given by wildlife ecologist Seth Riley on the obstacles to survival facing large carnivores in the Santa Monica Mountains. The following summary relate to Mr. Riley's comments on mountain lions.

Despite the unrelenting urban sprawl, cougars remain an important part of the local wildland ecology.

However, the spread of man's built-environment has made it more difficult for the big cats to survive. The cats are subject to deadly territorial fights and are vulnerable to inbreeding. Some are hit by cars and others die from internal bleeding caused by repeated exposure to anticoagulants used in rodenticides. While not mentioned in her article, the source of poisoning primarily comes from rodenticides used on golf courses and around rural homes. The rodents eat the rodenticides and the carnivores eat the dead or dying rodents and the mountain lions eat the sick or dying carnivores. The toxins build up in the tissues of the lions, rendering them more susceptible to mange and other diseases. Of 11 lions tested, 10 were exposed to the poison and some died of internal bleeding from repeated exposure.

Since 1996, the National Park Service has tracked, using GPS transponders, 31 mountain lions. The data provides information on where the lions live, how well they reproduce and disperse, and what causes their deaths. The first collared lion was an adult male and designated P1. It eventually killed its mate and two offspring. This killing of three related lions is a mechanism for reducing territorial competition. Because freeways inhibit their movement, they are more subject to territorial fights and inbreeding.

There is reduced genetic diversity south of U.S. 101 and west of the U.S. 405. Some of the cubs found in the Santa Monica Mountains were the result of inbreeding between an adult male and its daughters. In the long run, inbreeding will result in greater vulnerability to disease and deformity. Only one collared lion in the Santa Monica Mountains or in the Simi Hills has moved either north or south of the 101. That lion was a young male that moved from the Simi Hills, via the Liberty Canyon underpass, into the Santa Monica Mountains. Since only one or two males are thought to breed each year in the Santa Monica Mountains, this event potentially introduced greater genetic diversity into that population. Without infusion of outside genes, the mountain lion population in the Santa Monica Mountains is doomed to die out. An immediate effect would be a great increase in the deer population. Deer are nice to have around - but not in great numbers.

To survive in the Santa Monica Mountains, mountain lions need more and improved corridors. As part of the study, biologists have monitored 15 crossing points along the 101, 118 and 23 freeways. Funding of a \$10-million tunnel at Liberty Canyon is sought. However, if built, it is not certain that it would be used by lions. We do know that lions have used the wildlife corridor under the 118 freeway near Corriganville Park. Any tunnel beneath the 101 would be longer.

Currently the park service is tracking seven lions - two in the Simi Hills, one male and three females south of the 101 and west of the 405, and one male in Griffith Park. "At the very most, there could be 15 adults in the Santa Monica Mountains, which is not enough for biological diversity," said Riley...

Mountain lions rarely endanger people, livestock or pets. They stay away from homes, preying mostly on deer and, occasionally on coyotes and raccoons.

Mike Kuhn
October 1, 2013

WHEN MOUNTAIN LIONS PREDATE ON DOMESTIC ANIMALS

Mountain lions live off the land. They would prefer a steady diet of deer, but they take what they can get in the habitat that they occupy. In the years since mountain lions have become protected species, they are thought to have been responsible for the dramatic decline in big horned sheep populations in the Sierra Nevada and elsewhere in the state. Not surprisingly, they do sometimes take domestic animals, and some make a habit of it. When they do make a habit of it, a take permit is issued. The big cat then has about an even chance of surviving the permit holder.

The types of domesticated animals killed by mountain lions, by percentage of permits issued, for the period 1985 and 1998 were: sheep - 50.5%; goats - 20.1%; cattle - 12.7%; pets - 8.5%; equine - 5.6%; and birds - 2.7%. Sheep in mountain lion country don't seem to do so well. In a conversation with John Varble, the ranch manager of the Brandeis-Bardin Institute for more than two decades, he indicated that the ranch had never lost a horse or cow to a mountain lion. Mountain lion predation on pets around Simi Valley does seem to occur. I once found a large nylon pet collar, with a metal pet tag attached, imbedded in mountain lion scat, at the top of the Hummingbird Trail. It is likely that the dog was taken out of its owner's back yard.

Mike Kuhn
11-21-04 (revised 3-8-14)



May 16th - Upper Zuma Canyon and Zuma Ridge to Buzzards Roost



14 hikers met at the carpool point near the intersection of Royal Avenue and Madera Road on a nice morning and then traveled to the Upper Zuma Canyon trailhead on Kanan Dume Road just before Tunnel #1. The hike began by heading west along the Santa Monica Mountains Backbone Trail (BBT) as it descended into Upper Zuma Canyon. After crossing Newton Creek, the well-shaded trail rose and then fell before reaching a very nice bridge crossing Zuma Creek. We continued following the BBT, enjoying lovely mountain views and a plethora of colorful blooming plants (including fireweed, sticky monkey flower, golden yarrow, caterpillar phacelia, buckwheat, poppies, cliff asters, thistle, black mustard, deerweed, scotch broom, poison oak, and one wild rose). Upon reaching a trail junction 2.5 miles from the trailhead, we headed southward steadily uphill on the Zuma Ridge Trail (actually a well-graded dirt road) toward Buzzard's Roost where we climbed to a viewpoint just to the west. We enjoyed spectacular views of the surrounding mountains and the ocean (including Zuma Beach) before returning to the trailhead. We headed home having completed a pleasant 8.5-mile hike with 1,771' of elevation gain/loss.

May 16th - Wildwood Park - Arroyo Conejo Creek, Lynnmere Trail Loop



17 hikers arrived at 8:30 a.m. at the trailhead at the north-west end of Calle Yucca on the south side of Wildwood Park in Thousand Oaks on a still-cool morning. As the hike began we descended into the shady canyon through which the Arroyo Conejo Creek runs.

The trail (an old dirt road) ran through a pleasant woodland of oak and walnut trees; we crossed the creek four times by carefully stepping on rocks in the stream (hiking poles are advised) before reaching the new (2005) Hill Canyon Wetlands, home of coots, mallards, herons, and pond turtles. Leaving the wetlands, we made our final "wet" stream crossing and then hiked along a narrow trail through some tall brush soon reaching an open grassland. We then hiked north to a very nice bridge and crossed over Wildwood Creek to Hill Canyon Road which we followed to a trail which skirts the modern-looking Hill Canyon Wastewater Treatment Plant. Con-

tinuing past the junction with the Lizard Rock Trail, we headed upstream through Wildwood Canyon where we spotted a camera-shy king snake. After stopping to enjoy Paradise Falls, the trail soon crossed Wildwood creek for the last time and we ascended along a fairly steep dirt road until it met the Lynnmere Trail. Taking the west fork, we followed the trail as it led us around the north side of the mountain and then climbed southward to the top of the mountain, affording us with a spectacular 360-degree view of the surrounding mountains and a refreshing ocean breeze (the day had become hot). We then descended back to the original trailhead and headed home having completed an enjoyable 8.3-mile loop hike with 1,020' of elevation gain/loss.

June 6th - Hummingbird Trail Work Party & Cache In Trash Out Event - National Trails Day

18 Trail Blazers and local geocachers came to the combination work party, and Cache In Cache Out (CITO) event, held at Hummingbird Creek Trail this morning. Almost 500 pounds of trash was collected, removed and recycled. A dozen cans of paint were hauled up the dry waterfall, to cover the graffiti. As in past years, everything we needed was supplied by Alcoa Fastening Systems & Rings, all thanks to Mike Howard. Ten girl scouts, and also 2 den-mothers, helped collect trash with us. Many thanks to all who attended! Much was accomplished and good fun was had by all.

June 13th - Switzer Falls and Bear Canyon

Fifteen hikers (and two dogs) carpoled to the trailhead at the Switzer Picnic Area (10 miles from La Canada Flintridge along the Angeles Crest Highway) in the San Gabriel Mountains. It was a cool morning as we hiked along a pleasant heavily shaded trail (the remnants



of an old asphalt road) one mile downstream along the Arroyo Seco to the remains of the Commodore Switzer Trail Camp which was a bustling weekend spot around 100 years ago. The Switzer Falls are a short distance further downstream, but the U.S. Forest Service warns the hiker not to continue downstream. Instead, the trail crossed to the west side of the stream and climbed the hillside to skirt the narrow gorge; parts of the hillside trail were fenced in to protect hikers from falling. Soon the trail dropped into the Arroyo Seco gorge downstream from Switzer Falls. After heading upstream and visiting the real Switzer Falls (not just the lower cascades), we followed the trail downstream to the point at which the creek in Bear Canyon flows into the Arroyo Seco and then began climbing steadily upstream in rugged Bear Canyon. We crossed the gurgling stream many times on our way to the Bear Canyon Trail Camp, our turnaround point, four miles from the trailhead. Although their size was greatly diminished by the ongoing drought, there were many pools, cascades, and small waterfalls along the way and tall big-cone spruce trees provided heavy shade; wildflowers (including Humboldt and Plummer's mariposa lilies) and ferns made their presence known. The trail camp is situated in a very nice spot, enticing one to linger. After a lunch break we returned the way we had come and eventually reached the parking lot and returned to Simi Valley having hiked nearly 9.4 miles with about 1,700' of elevation gain/loss.



RSTB Calendar July



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule	3	4 Mt. McCoy to the Reagan Library 8AM See Schedule 
5 Rocky Peak Fire Road 5PM See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Kelli Ham	6 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Keith Farrar	7 Mt. McCoy Trail 6PM See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Rita Williams	8 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Joe Simon	9 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule	10	11 Mt. San Jacinto via the Palm Springs Tramway* 6:30AM See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Carrie McCline Richard Bradley
12 Rocky Peak Fire Road 5PM See Schedule	13	14 Mt. McCoy Trail 6PM See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Mike Kuhn Kathy Fowler	15 Club Meeting 5:30PM <i>Everyone Welcome to attend!</i> See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Gloria Silva	16 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule	17	18 Mt. Pinos to Sheep Camp via Sawmill Mountain* 8AM See Schedule
19 Rocky Peak Fire Road 5PM See Schedule	20	21 Mt. McCoy Trail 6PM	22	23 Chumash Trail 6PM	24	25
Eastern Sierra Hiking and Camping Trip* SPECIAL EVENT - Last day to sign up is July 10th						
		See Schedule	<i>Happy Birthday</i> Liz Williams	See Schedule		
26 Rocky Peak Fire Road Hiking and Camping Trip* 5PM See Schedule	27 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Marilyn Green Barbara Westrum	28 Mt. McCoy Trail 6PM See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Alberta Sutton	29	30 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule	31	

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)



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 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 on the 118 Freeway and head north over the freeway. Park at the trailhead or across the bridge on the Santa Susana Pass Road.

(We Meet at 5PM during daylight saving time.) (Strenuous - 4.8 MRT - 1,200' elevation gain)

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 - 4.0 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 end of Flanagan Drive.

(Moderate to Strenuous - 5.4 MRT - 1300' total elevation gain.)

JULY HIKES AND ACTIVITIES

July 4th Mt. McCoy to the Reagan Library

6 MRT - Moderate (800' elevation gain)

Hike up to an isolated knoll in a 200 acre open space region at the western end of Simi Valley. At the summit (1,325') is a white cross, erected in 1941, and a 360 degree view. From there it's about another half mile to the Reagan Library. Bring a snack and 2 quarts of water. Wear boots. Meet at **8AM** near Donut Delite at the corner of Madera and Royal.

July 11th Mt. San Jacinto via the Palm Springs Tramway*

11.5 MRT - Moderate to Strenuous (2,600' elevation gain/loss)

This outing involves driving to the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway (near Palm Springs). After a lunch/rest break we'll continue hiking until we reach the summit of Mt. San Jacinto (10,834') where we'll enjoy spectacular views. We'll return the way we came. **NOTE:** This outing will take all day; we'll arrive back in Simi Valley in the late afternoon/early evening.

NOTE: The cost of a round-trip ticket on the Aerial Tramway is \$23.95 for adults (\$21.95 for seniors 62+). Meet at the 118 & Stearns St. Park & Ride at **6:30AM**. Bring 2 to 3 quarts of water, lunch and trail snacks. Wear sturdy boots.

July 15th Club Planning Meeting - **Everyone Welcome to attend!**

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

July 18th Mt. Pinos to Sheep Camp via Sawmill Mountain*

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

The trail 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 the 118 & Stearns St. Park & Ride at **8AM**. Bring 2 to 3 quarts of water and lunch/snacks. Wear boots.

July 20th - 26th Eastern Sierra Hiking and Camping Trip* **SPECIAL EVENT**

This very special event is limited to active Trail Blazer members only. This trip is for the entire family. You may join in on the yet to be planned hikes, or simply enjoy the sights. We will be tent camping at the

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/inyo/specialplaces/recarea/?recid=20576&actid=29>. There is a non-refundable campground fee, shared equally among all those who sign up. Please plan to arrive the afternoon of July 20th. The last day to sign up is July 10th. To make your reservations, send email to: reservations@simitrailblazers.com **Space is limited, so it's best to sign up early.** Please put in subject line: *Eastern Sierra Reservation*.

 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/activities/index.html>

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) 529-5581	markinthepark@sbcglobal.net
Vice Hiking Chair:	Les Wilson	HM (805) 522-2642	les.wilson@roadrunner.com
Website:	Mark Gilmore	HM (805) 529-5581	markinthepark@sbcglobal.net
Ways & Means Chair:	Marty Richards	HM (805) 526-4414	mlrrdh@yahoo.com
Publicity Chair:	VOLUNTEER NEEDED		Contact Mike Kuhn at: 805-583-2345
Newsletter Editor:	Linda Mann		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 _____

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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 630445, Simi Valley, CA 93063-0399



U.S. Postage

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