



# Rancho Simi Trail Blazers

A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation



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

**\* Volunteer Hike Leaders Needed**



## 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**



## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

This is the last month for the Trailblazers newsletters to be mailed out.

Starting next month, they will be online ONLY unless someone states they don't have email.

ONLY the members, who specifically request they continue to receive the newsletter by postal mail, will do so.

All other members would receive their newsletters by an attachment to email. The newsletters would also be available on the Trail Blazers website.

Due to unforeseen circumstances, all activities are subject to change without notice. Please see [www.simitrailblazers.com/activities](http://www.simitrailblazers.com/activities) for event details and the most up-to-date schedule.

**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:  
4201 Guardian Street,  
Activity Room #2

**Wednesday July 18, 2018 5:30PM**  
*Everyone Welcome to attend!*

Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District events can be viewed at [www.rsrpd.org](http://www.rsrpd.org)

## Upcoming Events

**July 7th Mt. McCoy and the Reagan Library** 6 MRT – Easy to Moderate (800' elevation gain/loss) **8AM**

**July 14th Newton Canyon and the Backbone Trail** \* 7 MRT – Moderate (1,500' elevation gain/loss) **7AM**

**July 16th – July 22nd Sequoia/Kings Canyon National Park** \*

**July 18th Club Board Meeting**  
4201 Guardian Street, Activity Room #2  
**Everyone Welcome to attend! 5:30PM**

**July 28th Camp Three Falls to Lilly Meadows** \* 7.5 MRT – Moderate to Strenuous (~1,250' elevation gain/loss) **7AM**

## 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



## May 12th – Sespe Condor Sanctuary



13 hikers carpoled to Dough Flat (2,840') and the Alder Creek Trail (20W11) trailhead about 15 miles north of Fillmore in the Los Padres National Forest on a chilly overcast spring morning (NOTE: It takes the better part of an hour to drive from the intersection of Hwy 126 and "A" Street

up to Dough Flat at a safe speed due to the condition of the winding dirt road and its many blind curves; there's a short very rough stretch of road shortly before reaching Dough Flat).

The road was lined with a variety of blooming plants and there were increasingly captivating views of the surrounding mountainous terrain. Upon reaching the trailhead we availed ourselves of the nice well-equipped bathroom before starting up the nearby Alder Creek Trail which passes through the condor sanctuary, eventually connecting to the Sespe River Trail which heads west to its junction with the Gene Marshall (Piedra Blanca) National Recreation Trail at Rose Valley (about 25 miles by trail from Dough Flat). Our hike rose and fell (but mostly rose) as we hiked toward Cow Spring Camp and visibility under the overcast sky was good and we were rewarded with lots of dazzling displays of wildflowers, as well as interesting rock formations and mountain slopes. The hike was enhanced by the fact that only a couple of the participants had hiked this trail before [the Forest Service closes the Squaw Flat (FS 6N16) access road a couple of miles below Dough Flat for several months each "winter"; it was reopened on May 1st this year]. Eventually we reached the only fork in the trail during our hike; there was a barely decipherable black sign at the trail junction (3,700'). The right fork was the beginning of the Bucksnot Trail; we continued along the left fork on the Alder Creek Trail. About a mile later the trail descended into a large open flat area which we later discovered was Cow Spring Camp (3,500'). We continued a short distance further as the trail climbed to a nearby summit where we rested, ate lunch, and enjoyed a spectacular view to the west. We returned to Dough Flat the way we came; a very light rain fell during the final portion of the hike (during which there were no steep sections and the trail was "kind" to our feet. We returned home having completed a 7.7-mile hike with about 1,380' of elevation gain/loss; sadly there were no condor sightings. NOTE: During our hike we observed a variety of blooming plants including yerba santa, sticky monkey flower, black mustard, golden yarrow, phacelia, elderberry, blue dick, and yucca.

## May 19th – Work Party - Corrigan Wildlife Corridor

I would like to thank Pete and the Rotary club members for helping us paint over the Graffiti in the wildlife tunnel. Special thanks to Pete for getting members to volunteer their time and work. We also had a couple of locals show up to help! Our goal was to give the tunnel a fresh, "ungraffitied" look, because the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy will soon install wildlife cameras.

With nine of us working together, we painted over graffiti and picked up 125 pounds of trash from the area around the tunnel. The nice cool weather was welcome. Carrying 8 gallons of paint uphill is a lot of work in itself. We took the plastic water bottles and cans we found to be recycled, providing us with money to

purchase more custom-colored paint for the rock graffiti within the park.

## June 10th – Trippet Ranch, Eagle Rock, Hub Junction, and Musch Trail

18 hikers met in the parking lot at Trippet Ranch in Topanga State Park on a nice late-spring morning. We began our hike along the Nature Trail that wound its way upward to the junction of the Santa Ynez Canyon Trail and the Eagle Springs Fire Road. We then followed the fire road up to Eagle Junction and then on up to the western approach to Eagle Rock.

Along the way there was a remarkable display of blooming plants; in particular there were huge quantities of deerweed, buckwheat, and cliff asters. Although the temperature had risen, we were cooled by a fairly steady ocean breeze. Most of the participants climbed up to the top of Eagle Rock, a huge rock monolith providing 360-degree views of the surrounding mountains. Some of the hikers also climbed up on a nearby knob which provided an excellent perch from which to take photos of Eagle Rock and their fellow hikers atop it. We continued our hike along the fire road to Hub Junction where we took a break before following two sections of the Santa Monica Mountains Backbone Trail (**BBT**) westward back to the Trippet Ranch parking lot. As before, our route was adorned with a variety of blooming plants. The first section was a dirt road, but the second (and final) section was the Musch Trail (a section of the **BBT** containing sections of chaparral, woodlands, meadows, and seasonal streams (presently dry) which provided us with a pleasant mostly downhill (in our case) stroll along a pretty trail interspersed with heavily shaded sections. We reached our vehicles having completed a very pleasant 7.5-mile figure-eight loop hike with about 1,400' of elevation gain/loss. NOTE: During our hike we also observed the following blooming plants: Yucca, Canyon Sunflowers, Black Mustard, Notable Penstemon, Sticky Monkey Flower, Morning Glories, Purple Sage, Golden Yarrow, Chemise, Tree Tobacco, and a small number of Catalina Mariposa Lilies.

## June 23rd – Work Party: The Hummingbird Trail

We started today with 9 volunteers from a local church (St. Peter Claver, their group "Missions of Mercy"), another 9 volunteers from local Geocachers (one from LA and another from Canada), and a couple of community members for a total of 20 people.



Now this group was only 20, but they worked like they were 40! People were on the lower and upper waterfalls, painting, picking up trash and just overall, cleaning the area up. We had people rock climbing, getting that hard to reach graffiti, along with crawling into caves to pick up water bottles and cans.






On the way out we even got all the trash in the tunnel under the freeway. In all we collected 125 lbs. of trash, 5 lbs. of which were plastic and aluminum cans that we can turn in for money, and purchase more paint to get even more graffiti in other areas.

We thank all the volunteers for coming out today and helping the community keep our trails looking good.



# RSTB Calendar JULY



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> Rocky Peak Fire Road <b>5PM</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Mt. McCoy Trail <b>6PM</b>  See Schedule	<b>4</b> 	<b>5</b> Mt. McCoy Trail <b>6PM</b>  See Schedule	<b>6</b>   <i>Happy Birthday</i> Keith Farrar	<b>7</b> Mt. McCoy and the Reagan Library <b>8:00AM</b> See Schedule  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Rita Williams
<b>8</b> Rocky Peak Fire Road <b>5PM</b>  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Joe Simon	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Mt. McCoy Trail <b>6PM</b>  See Schedule	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Chumash Trail <b>6PM</b>  See Schedule  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Donna Wolfe	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Newton Canyon and the Backbone Trail * <b>7AM</b>  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Mike Kuhn
<b>15</b> Rocky Peak Fire Road <b>5PM</b> See Schedule	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Mt. McCoy Trail <b>6PM</b>	<b>18</b> <b>Club Board Meeting</b>	<b>19</b> Chumash Trail <b>6PM</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
Sequoia/Kings Canyon National Park *						
		See Schedule	<b>Everyone Welcome to attend! 5:30PM</b>	See Schedule		
<b>22</b> Rocky Peak Fire Road  Sequoia/Kings <b>5PM</b> See Schedule	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Mt. McCoy Trail <b>6PM</b>  See Schedule	<b>25</b>   <i>Happy Birthday</i> Nick Margolin	<b>26</b> Chumash Trail <b>6PM</b>  See Schedule  <i>Happy Birthday</i> Balaji Keshava	<b>27</b>   <i>Happy Birthday</i> Randy Sundeen Barbara Westrum	<b>28</b> Camp Three Falls to Lilly Meadows * <b>7AM</b> See Schedule
<b>29</b> Rocky Peak Fire Road <b>5PM</b> See Schedule	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> Mt. McCoy Trail <b>6PM</b>  See Schedule				

**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](http://www.fire.ca.gov/communications/communications_firesafety_redflagwarning.php) (Scroll down to map)





U.S. Postage

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

-----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**

<b>RANCHO SIMI TRAIL BLAZERS</b> <i>A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation</i>			
Executive Chair:	Mike Kuhn	HM (805) 583-2345	<a href="mailto:mike.kuhn@simitrailblazers.com">mike.kuhn@simitrailblazers.com</a>
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Publicity Chair:	<b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b>		<b>Contact Mike Kuhn at: 805-583-2345</b>
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## THE TOMOL

*(Information herein has been drawn from Tomol: Chumash Watercraft as Described in the Ethnographic Notes of John P. Harrington, Edited and Annotated by Travis Hudson, Janice Timbrook and Melissa Rempe, Ballena Press Anthropological Papers No. 9[1978])*

Most of the Chumash Indian population was focused on the coast and the Santa Barbara Channel Islands. (Yes, Simi Valley was an "out-back" area of settlement.) The early Spanish explorers were more impressed with the Chumash Indians than any other Indian group in California, and what most impressed them was the sewn plank canoe - the "tomol." While the Chumash and many other groups used some dugout canoes and "tule" (bulrush) balsa canoes in streams, coastal estuaries, and along the immediate coast, only the Chumash built and used the plank canoe, with which they ventured onto the deep ocean and conducted inter-island and island/coastal trade. Indeed, when Cabrillo visited the town, which he called Carpenteria in reference to the boat builders, most of the inhabitants were off with their tomols on a trip to the islands. The tomol was the zenith of Chumash material culture.

Our detailed knowledge about the tomol comes to us primarily as a result of the lucky meeting of two very special individuals. One was John Peabody Harrington, who single handedly collected more information about North American Indians than all other anthropologists put together, and Fernando Librado, a Chumash Indian. Fernando Librado, or Kitsepawit, died in 1915 at the age of 111. He was bright, inquisitive, a careful observer with an intellectual bent and had memories going back to the 1820s. He was a member of the "brotherhood of the canoe." Fernando knew most of the master builders and observed the building of many tomols. From the Harrington notes, the late Travis Hudson, Janice Timbrook and Melissa Rempe produced a book on the tomol. What follows will be a summary of some of what we

know about the tomol and how it was used.

The tomol was the house of the sea. It was more valuable than a land house ("hap") and was very expensive. Only the rich could afford a tomol. Ownership conveyed high status. Master boat builders themselves had very high status. Some individuals owned several tomols.

Tomols required 5-6 months to build, but could last as long as 20 years. They were 15 to 16 feet long, flat bottomed and high in the bow and the stern. They were made of planks ("wi'ma"), usually of redwood from Santa Rosa Island (The island was called "wi'ma"), where trees washed out to sea during winter storms along the coast of Northern California were deposited as driftwood. Some pine (bishop, ponderosa, or jeffery) was also used. The planks were split with wedges, shaped with adzes, sanded with shark skin and sewn together with cordage made from narrow-leaved and Indian milkweeds. The holes were made with stone drills. The whole canoe was covered and sealed with a mixture of asphaltum and pine pitch ("yop"). Nonetheless, they were fragile, having to have some repairs after almost every day on the water. They were driven with double ended paddles.

There were two types of tomols. One type had a thick bottom plank and was used for fishing. The weight of the bottom plank provided ballast. The other type had a thin plank bottom and was used for trading, passengers and fishing. Stones were used for ballast if there was insufficient cargo. These boats had to ride high enough in the water to not take on water and flounder in high seas or when being launch through the surf but not so high that they capsized easily.

More to come.

Mike Kuhn  
12-6-04

## THE NORTHRIDGE EARTHQUAKE

On January 17, 2004, it will be 10 years since the Northridge Earth-

quake struck the southland at 4:30 in the morning. The time was lucky because most people were home and in bed. Families were together. It was a national holiday, Martin Luther King Day. Few people were on the free-ways.

No one will ever forget what happened to them. Nor will they forget the date and the time. All awoke and rose at the same time that day. Few in Simi Valley went back to sleep. For thousands of our residents that less than 15 second period of violent motion began with terror that shattered the psyches and dreams of many. A strong motion meter at the Knolls Elementary School, along with similar instruments in Reseda and Santa Monica, recorded the highest ground accelerations ever recorded in North America on normal ground-based instruments. In eastern and central Simi Valley, we "saw the elephant" and lived to tell about. It was not a "Did you feel the earthquake?" kind of event. Thousands of residents suffered serious psychological distress. Many would have trouble sleeping again for many months. Many would not sleep in their homes because of the frequent aftershocks, which went on for years. Many neighbors formed new bonds – forged in the terror of uncertainty. Some would abandon their homes and jobs and flee the state.

Virtually everyone suffered financial losses. Overall, the reported and documented damages in Simi Valley exceeded \$400,000,000, however, much damage went unreported. People simply cleaned up, made repairs to the homes and block walls and got on with their lives.

While little evidence of the damage done by the earthquake can still be seen, hundreds of our city streets still exhibit cracks in the asphalt running across the streets every 50-150 feet. Those cracks were generally sealed with tar, but they are still visible. They stand out especially well on the city's 1996 one inch equals 100 feet aerial photographs. I still go bumpidy bump over those cracks on my bicycle each morning on my way to work.



Due to unforeseen circumstances, all activities are subject to change without notice. Please see [www.simitrailblazers.com/activities/](http://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 4PM during standard 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.)

**JULY HIKES AND ACTIVITIES**

**July 7th Mt. McCoy and the Reagan Library**

Meeting time is **8AM**. 6 MRT – Easy to Moderate (800' elevation gain/loss) Meet in the parking lot, to the south of Donut Delite, located on the north east side of the intersection of Royal Avenue and Madera Road 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') there is a white cross, erected in 1941 and a 360-degree view including Sinaloa Lake, Wood Ranch, the Bard Reservoir, the Simi Hills, and the Santa Susana Mountains. From there we'll hike over to the west side of the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library.

**July 14th Newton Canyon and the Backbone Trail \***

7 MRT – Moderate (1,500' elevation gain/loss) Meet at **7AM** near Donut Delite at the corner of Madera and Royal. Bring 2 to 3 quarts of water, lunch and sunscreen. Wear boots. This hike begins at the point that the Backbone Trail crosses Kanan-Dume Road. The pleasant, heavily forested, and mostly shady Newton Canyon trail winds eastward to Latigo Canyon Road. It starts uphill so that it can cross Tunnel #1 on Kanan-Dume Road; it gradually descends into Newton Canyon and then rises via a series of switchbacks to Latigo Canyon Road. Our hike will then cross the road as the trail again descends into the shady canyon; the turnaround point will be where the trail begins rising steeply in the direct sunlight toward the north end of Corral Canyon Road.

**July 16th – 22nd Sequoia/Kings Canyon National Park \***


This very special event is limited to 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 Lodgepole Campground. There is a non-refundable campground and parking fee, shared equally between all those who sign up.

**July 18th Club Meeting - Everyone Welcome to attend!**

Meet at **5:30PM** - Meetings will be held at the District's new offices  
4201 Guardian Street, Activity Room #2

**July 28th Camp Three Falls to Lilly Meadows \***

Meet at **7:00AM** at the 118 & Stearns St. Park & Ride. Bring your camera, water and lunch. Wear boots. 7.5 MRT – Moderate to Strenuous (~1,250' elevation gain/loss) Our hike will start at the entrance (~5,255') to the Boy Scouts of America's "Camp Three Falls" in the Lockwood Valley. We'll follow the dirt road to North Falls, a seasonal waterfall. The trail (22W02) then rises somewhat steeply along the stream in a narrow canyon as it begins climbing the forested southern slope of Sawmill Mountain eventually taking us to our turnaround point at lovely Lilly Meadows (~6,500'). We'll return the way we came.

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/>**