



Rancho Simi Trail Blazers

A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation



CHARLES "NEIL" HAVENS (1930-2004)

Charles "Neil" Havens died early Saturday, July 17. He is survived by his wife, Pat, of 53 years.

Neil was a fourth generation Simite, a Rotarian since 1967, active in the Simi Valley Historical Society, the Simi Valley Education Foundation, the U.S. Naval Reserve, the Red Cross, the Salvation Army, the Ventura County Civil Service Commission, the United Methodist Church and the Simi Valley Cemetery Board. Neil was a good friend to many and part of what made this a community. Neil's grandfather, Charles Albert Havens, was a rural mail carrier in this valley, and his father, Charles Reuben Havens, was the Simi Valley Postmaster. Neil also served for 30 years, as the Simi Valley Postmaster. He enjoyed people and gave much of himself to others and the community over the years.

One personal story illustrates the passage of time and the changes in the fabric of the community that comes with it.

Neil's parents' home was located west of the present-day Oakridge Athletic Club. Back in 1990 the foundation of the home was still present and it was part of the Simi Valley Regional Mall Specific Plan area.

In my capacity at that time as a City employee I received a telephone call from a citizen indicating that there appeared to be a human grave on the property. Walking the area southwest of the former home site, I indeed found what appeared to a grave marker.

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SIERRA BACKPACKING TRIP

This year's Sierra Backpacking trip will be to the

Cottonwood Lakes area of the "Golden Trout Wilderness"

from

Friday Sept 17 thru Monday Sept 20

The backpack will be limited to 12 people. Reservations can be made by sending \$5.00 to me on a first come, first served basis. A waiting list will be kept in the event of cancellations. (See trip description on page 3.)

Arlene

JULY WORK PARTY

Our July work party was spent watering oak and other trees in Corriganville Park as well as working at eradicating Arundo grass, castor beans and trees of heaven – all invasive exotics. There were 11 participants. Unfortunately, I turned my sign-in sheet before transferring the names. I can remember eight of the individuals, so the participants will go unnamed rather than to omit someone's name. Many thanks! We will be doing the same thing on August 14.

Mike Kuhn

RSTB CLUB MEETING

This month's club meeting will be held at the Community Center

Room B-1

1692 Sycamore Drive
at 7:00 PM

on

Wednesday August 18, 2004

TUESDAY EVENING BEGINNER'S HIKE

Starting this Tuesday, there will be a new **beginner's hike** every week at the Long Canyon trailhead.

The starting time is **6:30 P.M.**

This easy-going loop is about three miles long.

Directions to the trailhead

From the East: Take First Street south. Continue on Long Canyon Road when the road's name changes.

From the West: Take Madera Road south to Wood Ranch Parkway. Turn on Wood Ranch Parkway, and continue to the end of the road.

Trailhead parking lot is at the southwest corner of Long Canyon Road and Wood Ranch Parkway.



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 place an order: 805-526-4414.

WEST NILE VIRUS ALERT!

WNV is a mosquito-borne virus that can have serious effects on the health of people and animals. Most people who are infected have no symptoms, while others may have flu-like symptoms, or even encephalitis (inflammation of the brain). This virus can be FATAL for some individuals.

The time between the mosquito bite and the onset of illness, ranges from 5-15 days in humans. There is no specific treatment for infection with WNV, although supportive medical care is important.

WNV is transmitted to people and animals through the bite of infected mosquitoes. The mosquitoes become infected when feeding on wild birds with WNV in their blood.

To decrease exposure to mosquitoes and the WNV:

- 1) Avoid spending time outside when mosquitoes are most active, especially at dawn and dusk.
- 2) When outdoors, wear long pants, long sleeve shirts and other protective clothing.
- 3) Apply insect repellent according to the label instructions. DEET-containing repellents are recommended.
- 4) Make sure that doors and windows have tight fitting screens. Repair or replace screens that have tears or holes.

If you find a recently dead crow, jay, or raven, call the hotline to have the bird picked up for testing. Also, if you observe standing water, i.e., a horse trough, pond, ditch, etc, call to get FREE mosquito fish delivered to the site. The fish eat the mosquito larvae and pupae.

To report dead birds:
HOTLINE # 1-877-WNV-BIRD (877) 968-2473

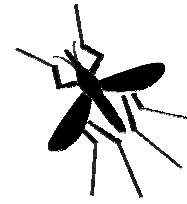
To get free fish:
MOSQUITO FISH HOTLINE (805) 662-6582

For more information, check out these websites:

County of Ventura Website:
www.ventura.org/envhealth/programs/vector_control/index.htm

CA Dept of Health Services website: www.westnile.ca.gov

The information for this article was provided by the Ventura County Environmental Health Division brochure called "Facts About West Nile Virus". Free copies are available at the park district office, 1692 Sycamore Drive, Door # A-2.



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CHARLES "NEIL" HAVENS (1930-2004)

In that a human burial would complicate any future grading project, I contacted Neil to see what he knew about the matter. He said that he was unaware of the grave marker, but assured me that that particular relative is buried in the public cemetery on Thompson Lane.

Since the grave marker was made of concrete, we concluded that it must have been a temporary marker that had been removed from the cemetery once the final marker was installed. He had no recollection of having seen it before, so it must have been in a far recess of the barn while he was growing up. I then asked Neil if he wanted the temporary marker, since leaving it where it was would result in reoccurring questions. He indicated that he would like to have it.

After determining that that particular relative was indeed buried in a well marked grave in the public cemetery, I returned to the old home site with the intent of removing the marker. Unfortunately, it was springtime and the disked ground was soft and wet. The marker was an awkward shape and very, very heavy. With the weight of the marker, along with my own considerable weight, each step was accompanied by my feet penetrating about a foot into the ground. I made it to the barbed wire fence on the northern side of the property. My intent was to retrieve the grave marker from the condominium project to the north. A parking lot was present at the top of an eight to ten foot high 2 to 1 slope beyond the fence. Having reached the fence, with the marker, the best I could do was to drop it over the top of the fence onto the north side at the foot of the slope. I was exhausted. There was no way I was going to carry that piece of concrete up that slope without help.

The next day, I contacted a colleague, who lived in the condo project. He agreed to help. That evening, we met at the site. To my dismay, someone – perhaps more than one – had taken the grave marker back to where it had been. They probably thought that it marked a burial site and that vandals were afoot.

However, now there were two of us. With much effort we made it out of the field, over the fence and up the slope – placing the grave marker into the back of my SUV. I thanked my colleague, gave Neil a call and delivered the grave marker

to his home. Neil proceeded to unload the grave marker and carry it across the yard by himself and with much greater ease than had been my experience. I was never really sure that Neil wanted the marker or whether he simply was taking responsibility for it since it was his relative. I now think the latter was the case. That was the kind of person he was.

Mike Kuhn

COTTON LAKES BACKPACK TRIP

This year's Sierra Backpack trip will be to the Cottonwood Lakes area of the Golden Trout Wilderness. The area is accessed by turning west on Whitney Portal Road from Highway 395 in the town of Lone Pine. About 3.3 miles up Whitney Portal Road turns left (south) on Horseshoe Meadows Road and a long 19 mile climb to Horseshoe Meadows Campground at an altitude of 10,000 feet. We plan to spend Friday evening in the campground in order to help acclimate to the altitude. The campground has fresh water outdoor spigots and cinder block toilet buildings.

There are several trails out of the campground that can be used for day hikes on Friday. The Trail Pass Trail leads up to Trail Pass and a junction with the Pacific Crest Trail. The Cottonwood Pass Trail leads to Cottonwood Pass.

On Saturday morning we will move our cars to the Cottonwood Lakes Trailhead area and head north on the Cottonwood Lakes Trail. We will hike in and gain 1000 feet altitude in 5 miles to reach the Cottonwood lakes. The gradual climb is not bad. There are some ups and downs, but no killer switchbacks. The rock steps along the last mile of the trail are a little tiring. Once we reach the meadow we have a choice of campsites at five lakes. The Cottonwood lakes are simply numbered 1 to 5 with 5 being the northernmost, highest lake. Lake 5 drains into Lake 4, 4 into 3, etc. until Lake 1 drains down Cottonwood Creek, all the way down to the Owens Valley.

Once we set up camp there are many choices for day hikes. From a simple stroll around any of the 5 lake edges, to climbing one of the rocky moraines near the lakes, to hiking west on a trail that will take you past Long and High Lakes to New Army Pass. At the pass you can travel SE along the ridge to Cirque Peak (12,900 ft.) or if you are in top shape, travel several miles north, cross country to Mt. Langley (14,042). Or from Lake 5 you can do a difficult climb up a non-maintained trail to Old Army Pass. Another hike is to travel SE on the South Fork Trail past the South Fork Lakes to Cirque Lake. The scenery is beautiful and the mosquitoes should be long gone.

John Sabol



Stream crossing on the Cottonwood Lakes Trail



Western half of Cottonwood Lake 2, with New Army Pass in the background

THE CHUMASH LINGUISTIC GROUP

Historically, the Chumash area extended along the southern and central Californian coast from Malibu in the south to San Luis Obispo and the southern end of the Salinas Valley inland into the mountains of San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara and Ventura counties.

The Chumash spoke a language group that is generally thought to be Hokan, which is the oldest recognized linguistic group in California. The Chumash language was made up of several dialects, one of which is referred to as Ventureneno, which was spoken historically in Simi Valley. Kroeber lists the other dialects as Obispeno, Purisimeno, Cuyama, Ynezeno, Canalino and Emegdiano. (Kroeber combined what others have called "Barbareno" and the Island dialects into one.) All dialects, except for the Cuyama, are expressed as Spanish names.

Mike Kuhn

LAMENT OF KITSEPAWIT

Kitsepawit, i.e., Fernando Librado, was an important Chumash Indian informant of John P. Harrington of the American Bureau of Ethnology. In *The Eye of the Flute* (1977), *Kitsepawit* laments "My heart is sad. It has lost its power of witchcraft. All that is left for me is my song. Who will bring my power back?" His culture was gone, and as with much of our past, lost forever. Fortunately, through Harrington, *Kitsepawit*, left something of his culture.

Mike Kuhn



RSTB Calendar August 2004



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Rocky Peak 5pm hike See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Chris Kennedy</i>	2 <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Elfriede Cespedes</i>	3 Long Canyon 6:30pm hike See Schedule	4	5 Chumash Trail 6pm hike See Schedule	6	7 Cheesebro Cyn 7am hike See Schedule
8 Rocky Peak 5pm hike See Schedule	9	10 Long Canyon 6:30pm hike See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Bobbie Law</i> <i>Bob Altieri</i>	11	12 Chumash Trail 6pm hike See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Kevin Gallagher</i>	13	14 Corriganville 7am Work Party See Schedule
15 Rocky Peak 5pm hike See Schedule	16	17 Long Canyon 6:30pm hike See Schedule	18 RSTB Meeting See Page 1	19 Chumash Trail 6pm hike See Schedule	20 <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Mark Scheele</i> <i>Tom Frye</i>	21 Solstice Cyn 7am hike See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Al Richards</i>
22 Rocky Peak 5pm hike See Schedule	23	24 Long Canyon 6:30pm hike See Schedule	25	26 Chumash Trail 6pm hike See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Frieda Vandenberg</i> <i>Laura Altieri</i>	27	28 Upper Zuma Cyn 7am hike See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Jean Whittle</i>
29 Rocky Peak 5pm hike See Schedule	30	31 Long Canyon 6:30pm hike See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Jack Archibald</i>				



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Hiking Schedule



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|--------|----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| August | 1 | Sunday Evening Hike
Meet 5pm at Rocky Peak trailhead at the end of Rocky Peak Rd off Santa Susana Pass. (Strenuous, 5 MRT) |
| August | 3 | Tuesday Evening Hike
Meet at 6:30pm in the Long Canyon parking lot. Directions: Take First Street South. Continue when the road's name changes to Long Canyon Road. The parking lot is at the intersection of Long Canyon Road and Wood Ranch Pkwy. (Easy 3 MRT) |
| August | 5 | Thursday Evening Hike
Meet at 6pm at Chumash trailhead. Directions - take 118 Fwy to Yosemite exit. Go north on Yosemite, turn right on Flanagan Dr. Trailhead is at the end of Flanagan Dr. (Moderate, 5 MRT) |
| August | 7 | Cheesebro Canyon to Sheep Corral
Easy to moderate 10 MRT hike. Walk among the oaks and follow a stream to Sulfur Springs and then on to Sheep Corral. 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. of water, lunch, bug juice, sunscreen. Wear boots. |
| August | 8 | Sunday Evening Hike
Meet 5pm at Rocky Peak trailhead at the end of Rocky Peak Rd off Santa Susana Pass. (Strenuous, 5 MRT) |
| August | 10 | Tuesday Evening Hike
Meet at 6:30pm in the Long Canyon parking lot. Directions: Take First Street South. Continue when the road's name changes to Long Canyon Road. The parking lot is at the intersection of Long Canyon Road and Wood Ranch Pkwy. (Easy 3 MRT) |
| August | 12 | Thursday Evening Hike
Meet at 6pm at Chumash trailhead. Directions - take 118 Fwy to Yosemite exit. Go north on Yosemite, turn right on Flanagan Dr. Trailhead is at the end of Flanagan Dr. (Moderate, 5 MRT) |
| August | 14 | Corriganville Work Party
Help water the Oak seedlings that we planted in April. Directions – take 118 Fwy to Keuhner. Go south on Keuhner, to Smith Rd. Turn left onto Smith Road. The parking lot is at the end of the road. We will be working from 7am – 11am. Bring 2 - 3 quarts of water for yourself, hat, sunscreen, and a container that can be used to water the trees. |
| August | 15 | Sunday Evening Hike
Meet 5pm at Rocky Peak trailhead at the end of Rocky Peak Rd off Santa Susana Pass. (Strenuous, 5 MRT) |
| August | 17 | Tuesday Evening Hike
Meet at 6:30pm in the Long Canyon parking lot. Directions: Take First Street South. Continue when the road's name changes to Long Canyon Road. The parking lot is at the intersection of Long Canyon Road and Wood Ranch Pkwy. (Easy 3 MRT) |
| August | 19 | Thursday Evening Hike
Meet at 6pm at Chumash trailhead. Directions - take 118 Fwy to Yosemite exit. Go north on Yosemite, turn right on Flanagan Dr. Trailhead is at the end of Flanagan Dr. (Moderate, 5 MRT) |
| August | 21 | Solstice Canyon
Easy 3 MRT, +optional steep 3 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 water, bug juice, sunscreen. Wear boots. Meet 7am near Donut Delite at the corner of Madera and Royal. |
| August | 22 | Sunday Evening Hike
Meet 5pm at Rocky Peak trailhead at the end of Rocky Peak Rd off Santa Susana Pass. (Strenuous, 5 MRT) |
| August | 24 | Tuesday Evening Hike
Meet at 6:30pm in the Long Canyon parking lot. Directions: Take First Street South. Continue when the road's name changes to Long Canyon Road. The parking lot is at the intersection of Long Canyon Road and Wood Ranch Pkwy. (Easy 3 MRT) |
| August | 26 | Thursday Evening Hike
Meet at 6pm at Chumash trailhead. Directions - take 118 Fwy to Yosemite exit. Go north on Yosemite, turn right on Flanagan Dr. Trailhead is at the end of Flanagan Dr. (Moderate, 5 MRT) |
| August | 28 | Upper Zuma Canyon
Moderate 5 MRT hike down into Upper Zuma Canyon. 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 snack. Wear boots. |
| August | 29 | Sunday Evening Hike
Meet 5pm at Rocky Peak trailhead at the end of Rocky Peak Rd off Santa Susana Pass. (Strenuous, 5 MRT) |
| August | 31 | Tuesday Evening Hike
Meet at 6:30pm in the Long Canyon parking lot. Directions: Take First Street South. Continue when the road's name changes to Long Canyon Road. The parking lot is at the intersection of Long Canyon Road and Wood Ranch Pkwy. (Easy 3 MRT) |

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.topcities.com>

RANCHO SIMI TRAIL BLAZERS

A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation

Executive Chair:	Mike Kuhn	HM (805) 583-2345	hannahmike@adelphia.net
Treasurer:	Peter Ely	HM (805) 523-1409	
Secretary:	David Wagner	HM (805) 577-5931	centmfgdavid@sbcglobal.net
Park District Liaison:	Colleen Janssen	WK (805) 584-4453	volunteers@rsrpd.us
Work Parties Chair:			
Hiking Chair & Website:	Arlene Altshuler	HM (805) 581-9735	arlene.altshuler@mindbox.com
Vice Hiking Chair:	John Sabol	HM (805) 583-2541	jtsabol@juno.com
Ways & Means Chair:	Marty Richards	HM (805) 526-4414	
Publicity Chair:	Ursula Christie	HM (805) 527-5338	ursulachristie@yahoo.com
Newsletter Editor:	Arlene Altshuler	HM (805) 581-9735	arlene.altshuler@mindbox.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(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 630445, Simi Valley, Ca 93063

Please list any extra names and birthdays of more than one member (Month & Day Only)



U.S. Postage

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