



Rancho Simi Trail Blazers

A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation



Glacier National Park July 10-18

A large group of Trailblazers ventured to Montana in July for hiking and sightseeing in one of our national treasures. Even the names of the trails and other features are interesting – how could anyone not be intrigued by hearing about the “Going to the Sun” highway, Beaver Medicine Falls, or Swiftcurrent Trail?



Wildlife and wildflowers were in abundance. Luckily there were no close encounters with bears, even though there was evidence that they were nearby. Full accounts of each day’s adventures are on the News page of the website, and the photos tell even more of the story.



See more great photos here:
www.simitrailblazers.com/pix/gnp10



Welcome, New Members!

John D’Amico

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.

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



Please call Marty if you’d like to place an order: 805-526-4414

COYOTES IN OUR MIDST

The coyote (*Canis latrans*) is the most numerous large carnivore species in our area, aside for man. They have adapted well to living within and on the fringes of the urban environment. The urban environment represents a relatively safe ecosystem, which is inhabited by cats and dogs, bush bunnies, cottontail rabbits, and people who leave cat and dog food outdoors and even leave out food intended for these highly intelligent wild animals. In the City they become more nocturnal than normal, especially since we provide night lighting for them. In the early morning

(Continued on Page 2)

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
July 21, 2010

UPCOMING EVENTS

Please visit the website at <http://simitrailblazers.com> for details on any of the following hikes and events.

August 7th

*Palm Springs to Mt. San Jacinto via the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway**

11 MRT - Moderate (2300' elevation gain)
All day event

August 14th

*Point Dume to Paradise Cove**

6 MRT – Easy(350' elevation gain)

August 18th - Club Meeting

August 21st

*Upper Zuma**

5 MRT - Moderate

August 28th

*Nicholas Flat from Leo Carillo State Park**

7.5 MRT – Moderate to Strenuous (1,900' elevation gain)



(Continued from Page 1)

hours there are few people about in cars on the road. Coyotes are free to roam our streets and our yards, and they do.

During my working years, I worked at the Simi Valley civic center, well within the urbanized area. Over the years, my coworkers and I have seen many coyotes, even during the middle of the day. Some years ago, Arlene Altshuler, John Sabol, John Downey and I emerged from the Park District Headquarters on Sycamore Drive at about 9:30 pm and observed a juvenile coyote in the parking lot north of the buildings. That coyote was particularly interested in the bunnies at the eastern end of the parking lot. I suppose that the coyote had followed the Arroyo Simi into the heart of town where food resources are particularly abundant.

I live within the Mountain Valley subdivision, which is located between Sycamore Drive, Erringer Road, Cochran Street and the Union Pacific Railroad. We have had on at least two occasions coyotes which consumed neighborhood pets and were seen by some residents using our sidewalks during the middle of the day.

Coyotes in an urban setting can become emboldened, since no one shoots at them or otherwise bothers them. They can become a threat to public safety, let alone to pets. Back in the late-1990s two women, in separate attacks, were bitten by coyotes, one in Rancho Santa Susana Park and the other near Elephant Rock. Both attacks were launched from the rear (one bit the woman in, yes, the rear) on individuals who did not see the animals approaching. Children are especially vulnerable. There are coyotes in our midst.

Mike Kuhn
11-11-04

THE CURRIER BARN

I grew up like most rural kids whose parents had lived through the depression. When you took something apart, you reclaimed the wood for later use, and you saved and straightened the nails. Those nails went into an old coffee can or peanut butter jar. My dad practiced that routine for decades after our economic situation rendered that practice quaint. I suppose it taught me thrift. My wife Hannah and I are still using a hot water kettle on the stove that I repaired with a small snipping from the lid of a tin can in 1966. It was supposed to last until we had time to buy a new one.

Farmers in Simi Valley did the same thing. In the early days, there simply wasn't much money around. You often borrowed until the crops were in, then you paid off your debts, or as much of it as you could and did with little until the next year. You produced what you needed to eat and otherwise made a good life with very little. Everyone helped their neighbors and was part of the community.

The last piece of the old Currier Ranch was complete with the ranch house and two barns and various other structures that were proposed for development during 1998. The remnant parcel was less than three acres in size - just enough room for ten houses on pretty good sized lots. The ranch had produced walnuts and apricots, with a "cot" cutting and drying operation. That much is apparent from examining the shed on the property.

The barn was unique. The two-storied addition to the original pre-Currier one-storied barn was covered primarily with the bottom and side slats from apricot lugs. These thin slats were nailed vertically to the side of the barn with horizontal batons covering the top and bottom joining points. The ends of the older part of the barn, over the sliding door and window, were covered with

opened up and flattened smudge pots. The metal was galvanized with approximately one inch air holes along the bottoms. One slat was stenciled on the inside of the barn "Harrington Santa Susana." The Robert E. Harrington place was nearby south of the Currier place.

The Simi Valley Historical Society acquired the apricot and walnut processing shed, and installed it in the Strathearn Historical Park. Thanks to profits from the sale of Simi Valley: A Journey Through Time (1997), there was monies to save that little bit of history.

Mike Kuhn
12-6-04

BEAR SHAMAN

Among the Chumash there were many individuals with acquired power. The "bear shaman" was one of them. The bear shaman donned a bearskin, which was internally equipped with cords and which could be manipulated. The manipulation of those cords, while wearing the bearskin, enabled the shamanistic figure to travel great distances over short periods. To many Chumash, the shaman had the power to turn himself into a bear. The bear was the grizzly, which instilled great terror in all Indians. For this and other reasons the bear shaman was possibly the most feared among his people.

One of John Peabody Harrington's Ventura informants during the early part of this century stated that "...there used to be people who turned themselves into bears, had reins, and went anywhere in the world, uphill or down." They were referred to as "ka'isk'ilapett." "They went far in una noche" (one night or one evening).

Mike Kuhn
11-1-04

July 24th 2010 - Sheep Camp Day Hike

Five hikers met the Stearns St. Park & Ride this morning. What's this 7 AM stuff? Where is everybody? Grand Tetons? Yellowstone? Great Basin? The group was small, but still one of the best ever to go on this adventure. It was an exceptional day in the Los Padres



at 9,000 plus feet high. Thin air made the elevation gain a bit more difficult, but it was well worth the exertion. The showing of flowers was exceptional. There were whole fields of Indian Paintbrush. It was also an unusually clear day, with good views of the San Joaquin Valley and the southern Carrizo. We escaped the heat well too. It was 82 degrees when we got back to our cars and 98 degrees in the Santa Clarita Valley, on the drive back home. We all agreed it was a great day and great hike.

July 10th-18th 2010 Glacier National Park

SATURDAY, JULY 10, 2010 – Sperry Chalet and Arrival at Fish Creek Campground - - -

Nine of the ten Rancho Simi Trailblazers who had arrived at Glacier National Park by Friday (7/9/10) gathered at the Fish Creek Campground early Saturday morning and carpooled to the Apgar Transit Center at the south end of Lake McDonald where they caught a free shuttle bus to the Lake McDonald Lodge transit stop and the Sperry Chalet trailhead (3,214'). As the hike began, the trail soon climbed steadily up the base of Mount Brown through an old growth forest of cedar and hemlock via a series of switchbacks; a robust creek provided a pleasant aural accompaniment. After a few miles the trail climbed through Sprague Creek valley as the forest changed to pines, firs, and larch; there were many pretty wildflowers along the trail as well as evidence of the presence of bears in the area. The trail passed the roaring Beaver Medicine Falls and soon provided distant views of Mount Edwards, Gunsight Mountain, and the chalet. As the trail neared the chalet, it crossed Sprague Creek and then climbed through a four-foot-deep snowfield through which the trail had been cleared only two days before we arrived. Reaching the chalet (~6,520') we were rewarded with hot chocolate, lemonade, great views, and the nearby presence of a couple of white mountain goats. We returned to the trailhead having completed a challenging 12.8-mile hike with about 3,300' of elevation gain. NOTE: After the hike several of us drove to Glacier Park

International Airport and picked up the other nine Trailblazers, increasing our number to 19 hikers.

SUNDAY, JULY 11, 2010 – Trail of the Cedars and Avalanche Lake - - -

19 Trailblazers took a free shuttle bus to the Avalanche Creek transit stop near Lake McDonald. There we followed the self-guiding Trail of the Cedars nature trail along a boardwalk, passing through an old-growth forest with small waterfalls in Avalanche Creek and moss-covered rocks surrounding Avalanche Gorge. Before completing the nature trail, we took the Avalanche Lake Trail which climbed gradually along the scenic creek through stands of western hemlock until it reached the lake which is surrounded by steep mountains on three sides. We hiked to the far (south) end of the lake where there were excellent views of glacier-fed waterfalls on the mountainside. After resting and taking photos of a nearby deer, we returned to the Trail of the Cedars and continued along it to the trailhead having completed a 6.2-mile hike with 500' of elevation gain.

TUESDAY, JULY 13, 2010 – St. Mary Lake – Sun Point to Virginia Falls - - -

19 Trailblazers carpooled to the Sun Point trailhead at St. Mary Lake on the east side of the Continental Divide. As the hike started along a trail on the north shore of the lake, the day was quite cold and windy. The pleasant trail rose and fell gently as it passed through forest and small meadows filled with wildflowers. It soon reached Baring Falls and then continued on to two separate 50' waterfalls: St. Mary Falls and then 0.6 mile farther to Virginia Falls. The return hike was not as cold and was much less windy. The hike was about 6 miles with about 400' of elevation gain.

FRIDAY, JULY 16, 2010 – Iceberg Lake & The Swiftcurrent Trail - - -

19 Trailblazers carpooled to the Many Glacier area at the west end of Babb Road. Most of the group hiked to Iceberg Lake, but several members hiked in the Swiftcurrent Valley with its chain of lakes; they saw and photographed a variety of wildlife including moose. After a short easy walk, the trail to Iceberg Lake climbed steeply for a few hundred yards. However, after that the trail climbed steadily but gradually (even pleasantly) to the lake. Virtually every foot of the trail provided spectacular scenery, including distant mountains, forest, streams, waterfalls, fields of wildflowers, rock falls, and snow/ice – as well as the possibility of seeing moose, bears, bighorn sheep, mountain goats, etc. The lake derives its name from the chunks of ice (“icebergs”) that float in the lake during the summer. After resting by the lake, we returned to the trailhead having completed a 10-mile hike with 1,200' of elevation gain. HIGHLY RECOMMENDED!

Several more Glacier NP reports are available on the News section of the website. See photos here: www.simitrailblazers.com/pix/gnp10



RSTB Calendar August 2010



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Rocky Peak 5PM See Schedule	2 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Elfriede Cespedes	3 Long Canyon 6:30PM See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Linda Barry	4 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Betty Cameron	5 Chumash Trail 6:00PM See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Karen Jackson Chelsea Carroll	6 See Schedule	7 Palm Springs to Mt. San Jacinto via the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway* Leave at 6:30AM See Schedule
8 Rocky Peak 5PM See Schedule	9 See Schedule	10 Long Canyon 6:30PM See Schedule	11 See Schedule	12 Chumash Trail 6:00PM See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Kevin Gallagher	13 See Schedule	14 Point Dume to Paradise Cove* Meet at 8:00AM See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Jean Desilets
15 Rocky Peak 5PM See Schedule	16 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Katy Cueba	17 Long Canyon 6:30PM See Schedule	18 Club Meeting 7 PM <i>Happy Birthday</i> Sheila Kuniz	19 Chumash Trail 6:00PM See Schedule	20 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Tom Frye Mark Scheele	21 Upper Zuma* Meet at 8:00AM See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Al Richards Christine Gusan
22 Rocky Peak 5PM See Schedule	23 See Schedule	24 Long Canyon 6:30PM See Schedule	25 See Schedule	26 Chumash Trail 6:00PM See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Dave Peters	27 See Schedule	28 Nicholas Flat from Leo Carillo State Park* Meet at 8:00AM See Schedule
29 Rocky Peak Meet at 5PM See Schedule	30 See Schedule	31 Long Canyon 6:30PM See Schedule				31 See Schedule



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Hiking Schedule



REGULARLY SCHEDULED HIKES

(Rain cancels – No hikes on holidays)

Sunday Evening - Rocky Peak Fire Road

Meet at **5 PM** at the Rocky Peak Fire Road trailhead. Take the Rocky Peak exit from the 118 Fwy. Meet at the north end of the bridge; don't park on the bridge. (Moderate to strenuous, depending on distance hiked. 4.8 MRT)

Tuesday Evening - Long Canyon

Meet at **6:30 PM** in Long Canyon parking lot. Directions: Take 1st Street heading 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. (Moderate, 3.0 MRT)

Thursday Evening - The Chumash Trail

Meet at **6 PM** 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 to strenuous, depending on distance hiked. 5.2 MRT)

AUGUST HIKES AND ACTIVITIES

August 7th *Palm Springs to Mt. San Jacinto via the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway**

11 MRT - Moderate (2300' elevation gain)

This is an all day event. We'll leave the Stearns St. Park & Ride at **6:30AM**, and arrive at the tramway mid-morning. We'll head on home that same afternoon/ evening. Please go to www.pstramway.com/ for more information about the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway (including the cost). For more information about the hike to the peak, go to www.localhikes.com/Hikes/SanJacintoPeak_4472.asp.

August 14th *Point Dume to Paradise Cove**

6 MRT - Easy (350' elevation gain)

Park at Westward Beach, hike up and over Point Dume, then hike along the beach in Dume Cove and Paradise Cove to the pier, and then return. Meet at **8AM** near Donut Delite at the corner of Madera and Royal. Optional: Meet at Baja Fresh after the hike for lunch.

August 18th *Club Meeting*

7PM - The Sycamore Drive Community Center - 1692 Sycamore Drive - Room B-1

August 21st *Upper Zuma**


5 MRT - Moderate

Hike down into Upper Zuma Canyon. Meet at **8AM** near Donut Delite at the corner of Madera and Royal. Bring 2 to 3 quarts of water and a snack. Wear boots. Optional: Meet at Baja Fresh after the hike for lunch.

August 28th *Nicholas Flat from Leo Carillo State Park**

7.5 MRT- Moderate to Strenuous (elevation gain 1,900')

See magnificent ocean views and a beautiful pond near Malibu. Bring lunch, 2 to 3 quarts of water. Meet at **8AM** near Donut Delite at the corner of Madera and Royal. Please note, the parking fee is \$10 at the trailhead. Optional: Meet at Baja Fresh afterwards for lunch.

* 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. <http://www.simitrailblazers.com>

RANCHO SIMI TRAIL BLAZERS

A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation

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-----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 ____

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

Address _____

Email Address _____ Phone wk/hm _____

Would you like to receive periodic email announcements about club activities? Yes () No ()

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 93063-0399”



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