



## Rancho Simi Trailblazers

A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation



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

~~ Welcome New Member Yasa Rasakhoo ~~

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Due to unforeseen circumstances, all activities are subject to change without notice. Please see <https://www.simitrailblazers.com/calendar/> for event details and the most up-to-date schedule.

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

#### **August 3, 2019 – Serrano Canyon\***

8.3 Mile Lollipop Loop – Moderate (1,100' elevation gain)



The hike will begin by crossing under Hwy 1 via a tunnel, followed by a stroll through the Big Sycamore Canyon Campground. We'll then follow the nearly level Big Sycamore Canyon Fire Road one mile to the junction with the Serrano Canyon Trail. Our route will then head east through the partially shaded canyon to Serrano Valley where we'll hike in a clockwise loop around the valley. There's poison oak along the trail in Serrano Canyon so, please be advised. **NOTE:** There is a parking fee at the trailhead. Each car must pay about \$12.00

Meet at 7 **AM** 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. Bring water and lunch/snacks and camera. Wear boots.

#### **August 10, 2019 – Carpinteria Bluffs to Tar Pit State Park & Beyond\***

7.9 MRT – Easy to Moderate Lollipop Loop (200' elevation gain/loss)

The outbound portion of this hike is along the Carpinteria Bluffs from Rincon Park to Tar Pits State Park and beyond; the return trip is along Bates beach – an opportunity to wade in the water! Both parks offer rest rooms, picnic tables and chipmunks. We'll plan to eat our picnic lunches at Rincon Park at the end of the hike. The picnic tables are covered by a roof and afford a great view of the ocean, surfers, ships and oil rigs.

Click [here](#) to see the weather forecast at the trailhead.

Meet at 7 **AM** 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. Bring water and lunch/snacks and camera. Wear boots.

#### **August 17, 2019 – Temescal Canyon\***

9.3 MRT – Moderate (1,200' elevation gain/loss)

The hike begins in the lower parking lot near Sunset Blvd. It follows Temescal Creek along the bottom of Temescal Canyon and then enters Topanga State Park, passing a small waterfall as the trail rises to provide a 360-degree view of the city, the coastline and the surrounding mountains. Completing a loop, the hike descends back into Temescal Canyon via the Temescal Ridge Trail. The hike then follows the fairly new Rivas Canyon Trail as it ascends eastward from the conference grounds, climbing a ridge and then zigzagging downward into shady Rivas Canyon, and finally entering Will Rogers State Historic Park near the old Ranch House. We'll then return via Rivas Canyon to lovely Temescal Gateway Park.

Meet at 7 **AM** at the 118 & Stearns St. Park & Ride. Bring your camera, water and lunch. Wear boots.

#### **August 21, 2019**

**Club Meeting 5:30PM** Park District: 4201 Guardian Street, Activity Room #2

Everyone is welcome to attend.

## August 24, 2019 – Westward Beach to Pt. Dume & Paradise Cove\*

8.0 MRT – Easy to Moderate (200' elevation gain/loss)



The trail leads up from Westward Beach and over Point Dume to Dume Beach and then along the beach for a couple of miles to Paradise Cove (a site used in movies and TV series, including The Rockford Files), the Paradise Cove Beach Café (with its free-to-the-public beach chairs) and the nearby pier. The return hike follows the beach back to Point Dume where there are observation points for whale, seal and dolphin watching. Click [here](#) to see the weather forecast at the trailhead.

Meet at 7 AM 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. Bring water and lunch/snacks and camera. Wear boots.

## August 31, 2019 – Eaton Canyon\*

9.0 MRT – Moderate to Strenuous (1,900' elevation gain/loss)

Our route will follow the Wilson Toll Road up to Henninger Flats, a forested notch sitting high on the mountain slopes above Altadena. The wide dirt road provides outstanding city views all the way up and Henninger Flats is complete with water, picnic tables, bathrooms, a nature center/museum and lots of shade. It is also the home of the Los Angeles County Experimental Forestry Nursery.

Meet at 7 AM at the 118 & Stearns St. Park & Ride. Bring your camera, water and lunch. Wear boots.

## HIKE REPORTS

### June 29, 2019 – Hummingbird Trail Work Party

The July work party was held on the Lower Hummingbird Trail. Thanks to the participants Mike Kuhn, Paul Friedeborn, Martin DeGoey, John Sabol and the volunteers from St. Peter Claver's Mission of Mercy.

### July 6, 2019 – Mt. McCoy and the Reagan Library



15 hikers met at the carpool point near the intersection of Royal Avenue and Madera Road on an unusually cool summer morning and then (since trailhead parking is quite limited) walked from there to the Mt. McCoy trailhead on Washburn Street a few blocks to the west. The hike began along the trail heading south but it quickly began climbing gradually westward along the well-maintained (but frequently "cut" by bicycle riders) trail leading to the summit via a series of switchbacks.

As the trail rose up the mountainside, we were rewarded by a cool breeze and views of the western end of Simi Valley, including Sinaloa Lake, Wood Ranch and the Bard Reservoir. There is a white concrete cross (erected in 1941) as well as two concrete benches at the summit, from which the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library can be seen. After a short break to enjoy the panoramic view of the not-yet-desiccated landscape (there were lots of buckwheat and cliff asters along our route), we hiked southwest to Presidential Drive and then hiked along it to the west side of the library where President Reagan was buried in 2004 (and Nancy Reagan in 2016). The setting of the library is quite beautiful. After a short rest/snack break, we returned the way we came, completing a nearly 6-mile hike with a little over 900' of elevation gain/loss.

### July 13, 2019 – Tierra Rejada Park

10 hikers met at Stargaze Park in Simi Valley on a pleasant (but forecast to be the beginning of hot summer days) morning. After assembling and preparing for higher temperatures, we headed north to the trailhead entrance into Tierra Rejada "Park" where we took a group photo. As we continued, there were lots of rabbits running in all directions.

When we reached the eastern end of an Edison Road we headed uphill to the west along it, enjoying widening views of the landscape as we gained elevation. Eventually we headed south along an overgrown path and then climbed west along an abandoned ridge road that afforded 360-degree views of the surrounding area. After taking a break in some sparse shade, by which time the temperature had risen considerably, we decided to forego the last steep uphill stretch to our usual turnaround point on another high ridge to the northwest. We mostly retraced our steps with the notable exception that near the end of the hike we followed a nearly level access road adjacent to the Arroyo Simi, thereby sparing ourselves from having to hike steeply uphill on the final part of the hike (by this time the temperature was definitely uncomfortable though there were occasional breezes).

July 13, 2019 – Tierra Rejada Park continued



We reached our vehicles (and their air conditioning) having completed a nearly 7-mile hike with about 1,300' of elevation gain, really glad that we had begun our hike at 7 AM. NOTE: Despite the heat and no rain for a while, there were still some blooming plants along our route, e.g., Cliff Asters, Purple Nightshade, Bush sunflower, Bindweed, Mexican Elderberry, Slender Leaf Milkweed, Tarweed, Vinegar Weed, Heliotrope, Coyote Melon, Giant Wooleystar and Wild Rose.

July 20, 2019 – Josephine Peak



While Les was high up in the Sierras (<http://www.sierramulepacks.org/trips.html#trip1>), riding somebody's ass all morning, eleven intrepid Trail Blazers summited Josephine Peak. Les' description warned us about a "use trail reportedly requiring some class 3 climbing," but at the end, all we found was a short, single-track trail completing the final ascent.

Josephine Peak was once the site of a fire lookout erected in 1937. The structure was destroyed by the Big Tujunga Fire in November 1975. The Peak was named for Josephine Lippencott, wife of USGS surveyor Joseph Barlow Lippencott. Its rocky top remains an active electronic communications site today. Our hike began behind a gate at the entrance to the Josephine Peak Fire Road (2N64), across the road from the Clear Creek fire station, at the intersection of Highway 2 and the Angeles Forest Highway. The trail was definitely up all the way following the relatively well-maintained fire road. As we gained elevation, the view continued to improve. Once on top, we found a very confused survey marker inscribed with "Mt Lowe F2A." Spectacular views from this vantage point included the nearby Strawberry Peak, most all the peaks in the San Gabriel Mountains, San Gabriel Peak proper, Mount Lukens and all of Big Tujunga Canyon. Wildflower season is rapidly coming to an end, but there was still a good number Heart Leaved/Climbing Penstemon and California Buckwheat in evidence. Several of us enjoyed tasting the California Blackberry. There were also several non-native species along the trail, including Eucalyptus trees and Oleander bushes. Our up-and-back hike was a total of 8.3 miles, with 1,900' of elevation gain. Everyone agreed that it was a most enjoyable hike.

## CHUMASH RELIGIOUS IDOLS

Pedro Fages was second in command during the 1769 Spanish expedition to Monterey under Gaspar de Portola. He later served as governor of Alta California. The following description comes from his travel through Chumash territory in the Santa Clara River Valley and westward to the area of Santa Barbara. It provides a brief view of religious idols that were observed around Chumash settlements and conveys a somewhat different impression of one aspect of Chumash life than is generally provided in later accounts. As far as I have been able to determine, it is the only account that refers to painted stones as shrines. This account is the earliest description that we have from the inland Chumash area.

It is not hard to imagine the zeal which the first padres put into suppressing the creation and worshipping of "idols." Other forms of religious practices, such as the vestiges in our own culture of pagan beliefs, were more subtle, so were less a focus of religious suppression. By the time that ethnologists and archaeologists started systematically collecting relics of the Chumash culture, such practices as the manufacturing and the honoring of idols were long gone.

It must also be recalled that what the Spanish described was filtered through the bias of their own cultural milieu. Now from page 32 of *A Historical, Political, and Natural Description of California* (1775), translated by Herbert Ingrams Priestley:

They are idolators like the rest. Their idols are placed near the village, with some here and there about the fields, to protect, they say, the seeds and crops. These idols are nothing but sticks, or stone figurines painted with colors and surmounted with plumage. Their ordinary height is three hands, and they place them in the cleanest, most highly embellished place they can find, whither they go frequently to worship them and offer their food, and whatever they have.

These references to "shrines," to "painted rocks," to "fields, seeds and crops" are intriguing. One painted rock has been found on top of a small hill not far from Bard Reservoir. I have examined a photograph of another painted rock from the Ojai Valley. Those rocks may be examples of what was being described by Pedro Fages. The reference to "fields, seeds and crops" suggest that the Chumash were involved in at least a type of proto-agriculture. It is possible that the culture of the Chumash that we have been led to believe was the norm in California at the time of first contact and Spanish settlement is really an end product of the complete cultural disruption that accompanied the Spanish and the diseases, which came with them.

Mike Kuhn

## REGULARLY SCHEDULED HIKES

*(Red Flag Warnings and Rain cancels the hike – No hikes on holidays)*

### Sunday Evening - Rocky Peak Fire Road

During Daylight Savings Time meet at **5PM** and during Standard Time meet at **4PM** 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).

### Tuesday Evening - Mt. McCoy Trail

During Daylight Savings Time meet at **6PM** in the parking lot, located to the south of Donut Delite, near the NE corner of Madera and Royal. There is no hike during Standard Time.  
(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.)

Due to unforeseen circumstances, all activities are subject to change without notice.

Please see <https://www.simitrailblazers.com/calendar/> for event details and the most up-to-date schedule.





## RSTB Calendar August 2019




Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule	2  Happy Birthday Elfriede Cespedes	3 Serrano Canyon* 7AM See Upcoming Events
4 Rocky Peak Fire Road 5PM See Schedule  Happy Birthday Betty Cameron	5	6 Mt. McCoy Trail 6PM See Schedule	7	8 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule	9	10 Carpinteria Bluffs to Tar Pits State Park and Beyond* 7AM See Upcoming Events
11 Rocky Peak Fire Road 5PM See Schedule	12	13 Mt. McCoy Trail 6PM See Schedule	14 World Lizard Day	15 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule	16	17 Temescal Canyon* 7AM See Upcoming Events
18 Rocky Peak Fire Road 5PM See Schedule	19	20 Mt. McCoy Trail 6PM See Schedule	21 Club Meeting 5:30PM  Happy Birthday Al Richards	22 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule	23	24 Westward Beach to Pt. Dume & Paradise Cove* 7AM See Upcoming Events
25 Rocky Peak Fire Road 5PM See Schedule	26	27 Mt. McCoy Trail 6PM See Schedule	28	29 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule	30	31 Eaton Canyon* 7AM See Upcoming Events

**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)

\* 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.

**Full descriptions of these hikes and activities are available at** <https://www.simitrailblazers.com/calendar/>



\_\_\_\_\_ **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 \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Family memberships: Please list names and birthdays of additional family members (Month & Day Only)

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone (provide up to two numbers): work/home/cell \_\_\_\_\_

*Newsletters are distributed by email only. Contact the Membership Chair if you require a copy by US mail.*

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

How did you find out about the RSTB? \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make out tax deductible member donation check for the year to:  
Rancho Simi Foundation** and mail it to **RSTB, P.O. Box 1231, Simi Valley, CA 93062**

<b>Rancho Simi Trailblazers</b>			
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