



# Rancho Simi Trail Blazers



## SATURDAY MORNING HIKE TIME CHANGE

Starting in September, we'll be meeting at **8am** for our Saturday morning hikes (unless otherwise posted).

## SEPTEMBER WORK PARTY

### 2002 COASTAL CLEAN UP DAY TURN THE TIDE ON TRASH IN SIMI VALLEY

The Trail Blazers will be supporting Inland Waterway Cleanup in conjunction with Coastal Cleanup Day. Join us **Saturday, September 21 from 9:00 a.m. to Noon.**

Come and support Simi Valley's Inland Waterway Cleanup. Join the fun and make a difference!

Simi Valley's Inland Waterway Cleanup site is Rancho Simi Community Park at the corner of Royal Avenue and Erringer Road. Meet at the northeast corner of the park near where the Arroyo passes under Erringer Road.

**Directions:** (Please note that Los Angeles Ave. and all major cross streets between Erringer and Sinaloa will be closed due to the Simi Valley Days Parade.) Going east on the 118, exit at Madera; go south to Royal; turn left and go to Erringer. Going west on the 118, exit Sycamore Drive, go south to Royal, turn right and go to Erringer.

Be sure to wear gloves, long pants, sturdy shoes, sunscreen and a hat. For more information call the City of Simi Valley at 583-6462.

## SOLSTICE CANYON

Solstice Canyon Park will be closed to the public beginning August 26, 2002 and continuing through December, 2002 due to construction. The project includes replacement of the streambed crossing leading to the parking lot as part of the reintroduction of Steelhead trout into Solstice Creek, redesign and expansion of the parking area for visitor use, and relocation of water and utility lines. NPS will also build hard-sided vault toilets

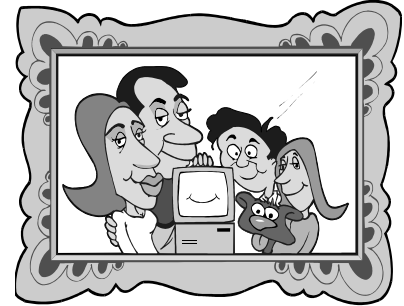
## DOWNEY BENCH DEDICATION

On August 11 the Rancho Simi Trail Blazers marked the one year anniversary of the death of Byers (John) Downey by dedicating a new park bench near Mt. McCoy. About 40 people made the climb in order to take part in the dedication and to exchange memories of our dear friend. Members of John's family were in attendance.

The bronze plaque for the bench had not arrived in time for the ceremony but has now been installed, so you can now sit on the bench, look out over Simi Valley and recall the good times we had together with John on hikes, working on trails and backpacking trips. This bench will help keep him in our hearts and will provide a comfortable place to sit after a long

## RSTB CLUB MEETING

The monthly club meeting will be held at the  
Community Center  
Room B-1  
1692 Sycamore Drive  
At 7:00 PM  
On  
**Wednesday, September 18th**



## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

**Ray Stevens  
John Whitson  
Rena Cope-Whitson  
Samantha Cope**

## A LESSON ABOUT BEARS

During the summer of 1984 I accompanied a local Boy Scout Troop into a week-long backpacking trip in King Canyon National Park. Our first night on the trail was spent in lower Paradise Valley. There were no "bear boxes" in those days or "bear cans." There was a cable strung between two lodgepole pines. The cable could be raised and lowered in order to hang food out of the reach of bears. This was indeed bear country.



The signs were everywhere – largely in the form of bear tracks and bear scat – you could recognize the scat because it included plastic and aluminum foil. We were prepared.

As night fell, a bear showed up and began circling our camp. Everyone was excited, but probably not too frightened – this, after all, was a "park bear."

We dutifully hung our food in the center

**Cont. on Page 2 Col 1**

Cont. from Page 1 Col. 3

of the cable well away from the trees. Because there was no hasp to secure the cable, we tied it in some very complex knots – surely, bear proof. We did the other things you must do in bear country, like removing all food and smelly things from our packs and leaving all the zip-opens open. Bears seem to like deodorant, chap stick and toothpaste as much as food. If you have a closed zipper on your pack, they can't resist taking a peek anyway by removing the zippered compartment. Then we retired for the night.

Repeatedly throughout the night the bear had to be chased out of camp. We yelled; we threw small rocks. Several times, when I turned my small flashlight on the bear, it could be seen working at untying the cable knots – partially successful each time. Such enthusiasm for freeze-dried food and candy treats. Each time I chased the bear, it ran away. I came to feel secure in this game.

Finally, the dawn broke. I could hear someone moving about. Someone has to be the first one to get up. Then I realized that someone seemed to be just outside my tent. What was going on? I started to unzip my tent flap, but all I could see was a solid wall of bear fir – not a good thing, so I quietly closed the zipper. The bear was going through my pack – bear saliva everywhere. Then someone, it was my son David, let out a blood-curdling scream. It was enough to bring any parent or red-blooded American out of his sleeping bag in a panic and ready for action.

The bear had decided to go through my son's backpack. Unfortunately the pack tipped over and a Hank Roberts stove rolled out onto the sloping ground. As it rolled, the loose parts in the stove made clanking sounds, which frightened the bear. It tried to jump over my son's tube tent, with its stout nylon rope strung between two trees. It came down with one hind leg on one side of the rope and the other hind leg, yes, on the other. In an effort extricate itself, it proceeded to jump up and down right on top of my

Cont. in Col. 2

Cont. from Col. 1

son. With the appearance of the bear, my son had withdrawn into his sleeping bag, pulling the bag over his head. When the bear started using him as a trampoline, he was certain that it was his last moments on this earth – death, mercifully, would come soon.

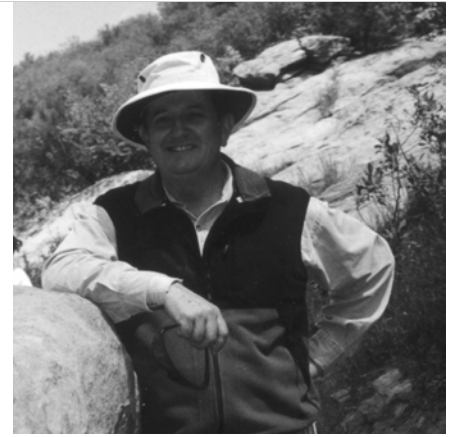
As I rushed out of my tent, the bear was finally dragging its hind leg over the rope, so I, as I had done throughout the night, gave chase. This time I had grabbed my camera. As I ran out of camp hot on the heels of the bear, I raised the camera – even a close up photograph of the rear end of a bear would be a priceless memory. But then the unthinkable happened! The bear suddenly had had enough of the game and turned on me. I stopped rather suddenly and found myself staring at the bear at nearly eye level through the view finder of my camera. The bear's eyes were black and humorless. No man/bear communication was going on. The moment of truth! I then realized that my feeling master of wilderness and all of its creatures had been a delusion. My actions had been bravado and bluff.



I briefly thought about snapping the picture, but I was afraid that the flash would go off and the bear would take offense – and some other, perhaps unpleasant action. I wondered how fast I could run in unlaced boots and my underwear. I concluded that if being chased by a bear, very fast indeed. However, it would not be fast enough if the bear really wanted to catch me.

Then, suddenly, the bear “woofed”, turned and continued running down the trail – with me hot on its heels again. Then – I took the picture.

My son's tube tent was shredded and his



Mike Kuhn

### ALL NOW ARE FOREVER LOST!

John Peabody Harrington was employed by the American Bureau of Ethnology of the Smithsonian Institute to collect information about North American Indians from Indians. He did a great deal of work with the Chumash. One of his Ventura informants during the early part of this century noted that he had left Ventura when he was 17 and had then lived for many years in the Salinas, California area.

When he returned to Ventura to live, there were still many full blooded Chumash Indians living in the area. At the time of his interviews with Harrington, he said that there were only four full blooded Chumash left in the area. One, he noted, was in the hospital and would probably die there. Another, he said, doesn't know anything about his Chumash heritage. A woman, he said, lives over on a particular street. And, finally, there was himself.

As he talked, he seemed to realize how much he had forgotten. He could not remember the names of some villages. Some names he could remember hearing and could repeat, but no longer remembered what the names were connected with. He slowly seemed to understand the mortality of his culture - that the Chumash life that had persisted for so many millennia in this place was passing out of the collective memory. Finally, he lamented, "Not only the rancherias but all the canadas and little places had names. All now

## PEDRO FAGES CONTINUACION ON THE 1769 PORTOLA EXPEDITION

Pedro Fages, as you will recall, was second in command to Gaspar de Portola on his 1769 expedition from San Diego to Monterey. Written in 1772 in-between stints as governor of California, his commentaries are the first description of the Chumash - rendered at a time when their way of life was still unaffected by the disruptive influence of the Spanish invasion of California. Continuing:

*"The occupations and ordinary pursuits of these people are limited; some of them follow fishing, others engage in their small carpentry jobs; some make strings of beads, others grind red, white, and blue paint clays, and a certain kind of plumbiferous stones, which serve for the men to paint themselves with when they are celebrating and dancing or when they go to war, and which are used by the women for their usual adornment. They make variously shaped plates from the roots of the oak and the alder trees, and also mortars, crocks, and plates of black stone, all of which they cut out with flint, certainly with great skill and dexterity. They make an infinite number of arrows. The women go about their seed-sowing, bringing the wood for the use of the house, the water, and other provisions. They skillfully weave trays, baskets, and pitchers for various purposes; these are well made with thread of grass roots of various colors."*

Fages describes craft specialization, including fishing, carpentry, and bead making. Fishing, of course, was a coastal pursuit, as was bead making. Both men and women used body decoration in the form of paints of various colors for ceremonies. Wooden plates and bowls were made. The black stone referred to was steatite, which was traded from Santa Catalina Island. Women are referred to as the drawers of water and the gatherers of wood. But they are also referred to as "seed sowers". This latter reference may

Cont. in Col. 2



*Sheep Camp Backpacking Trip - In back, left to right: Caroline Carroll, Sam Tewfik, and Martin DeGoey. In Front, left to right: Terry DeSilva, Jodene Downey, Margarita Marsh, John Sabol, Arlene Altshuler, Phyllis Tewfik, Louise Pomes, and Mike Kuhn.*

### Cont. from Col. 1

again provide a hint of some form of proto-agriculture using grass seeds.

*"Finally, that nothing may be omitted in the narrative, I will tell [the customs] which these Indians observe in their dances. The women go to them well painted, and dressed as has been described, carrying in both hands bundles of feathers of various colors. The men go entirely naked, but very much painted. Only two pairs from each sex are chosen to perform the dance, and two musicians, who play their flutes. Nearly all the others who are present increase the noise with their rattles made of cane dried and split, at the same time singing, very displeasingly for us, who are not accustomed to distressing the ear with this kind of composition."*

Here we see that both men and women danced. Women's modesty was maintained, while men obviously had a different sense of modesty than we now hold. Musical instruments seem to be limited to flutes and rattles (sorry, no drums). Fages reaction to the music made on these occasions remind me of my reac-

### TED FEARING'S CHIEF TAPO

The Tapo Citrus Packing Plant in Simi Valley was located on what is now the civic center site on the northern side of Alamo Street, west of Tapo Canyon Road. One of the orange crate labels of the Tapo Citrus sports a plains Indian in full headdress and the name "Tapo" across the bottom. About 1977 the old packing plant was being dismantled in order to make way for the City's Development Services Building. Found behind a stud wall and against a concrete wall was a 5'x7' painting of the "Chief Tapo" label done on galvanized metal. Workers were about to take the painting to the Simi Valley Landfill with a lot of other stuff. Instead, they were directed to take the painting over to City Hall on Cochran Street.

The paint is signed by Ted Fearing, a young graduate of the Chouinard Art School in Los Angeles. The painting now hangs at the Strathearn Historical Park in "the barn." It's a large treasure of our community that nearly went to the dump.

Mike Kuhn

		<h1>September</h1> <div>2002</div>				
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> <b>Rocky Peak</b> <b>5pm hike</b> <b>See Schedule</b> <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Don Steeley</i> <i>Ted Weiner</i> <i>Millie Reina</i>	<b>2</b> <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Doug Temple</i>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> <b>Chumash Trail</b> <b>6pm hike</b> <b>See Schedule</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> <b>Eagle Spring Loop</b> <b>See Schedule</b>
<b>8</b> <b>Rocky Peak</b> <b>5pm hike</b> <b>See Schedule</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> <b>Chumash Trail</b> <b>6pm hike</b> <b>See Schedule</b> <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Debbie DeGoey</i>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> <b>Las Virgenes Trail</b> <b>See Schedule</b>
<b>15</b> <b>Rocky Peak</b> <b>5pm hike</b> <b>See Schedule</b>	<b>16</b> <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Tamara Combs</i>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> <b>RSTB Meeting</b> <b>See Page 1</b>	<b>19</b> <b>Chumash Trail</b> <b>6pm hike</b> <b>See Schedule</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> <b>Work Party</b> <b>See Schedule</b>
<b>22</b> <b>Rocky Peak</b> <b>5pm hike</b> <b>See Schedule</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Jeanette Curia</i>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> <b>Chumash Trail</b> <b>6pm hike</b> <b>See Schedule</b> <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Frank Reina</i>	<b>27</b> <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Cesar Fabros</i>	<b>28</b> <b>Latigo Cyn to Castro Peak</b> <b>See Schedule</b>
<b>29</b> <b>Rocky Peak</b> <b>5pm hike</b> <b>See Schedule</b>	<b>30</b>					



# ***Rancho Simi Trail Blazers***

## ***Hiking Schedule***



- September 1 Sunday Evening Hike**  
Meet 5pm at Rocky Peak trailhead at the end of Rocky Peak Rd off Santa Susana Pass. (Strenuous, 5 MRT)
- September 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)
- September 7 Eagle Spring Loop**  
Strenuous 7 1/2 MRT hike with 800' elevation gain/loss. We'll be hiking from Trippet Ranch, up to Eagle Rock, down to Eagle Spring, returning to Trippet Ranch and the Dead Horse trailhead via the Musch Ranch Trail. This hike is not within the jurisdiction of the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District. Meet 8am near Donut Delite at the corner of Madera and Royal. Bring 2 - 3 qts. of water and lunch, wear boots.
- September 8 Sunday Evening Hike**  
Meet 5pm at Rocky Peak trailhead at the end of Rocky Peak Rd off Santa Susana Pass. (Strenuous, 5 MRT)
- September 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)
- September 14 Las Virgenes Trail**  
Moderate 4.8 MRT hike with 500' elevation gain/lose. Good views of the Santa Monica Mountains. This hike is not within the jurisdiction of the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District. Meet 8am near Donut Delite at the corner of Madera and Royal. Wear boots, bring hat, snack, and water.
- September 15 Sunday Evening Hike**  
Meet 5pm at Rocky Peak trailhead at the end of Rocky Peak Rd off Santa Susana Pass. (Strenuous, 5 MRT)
- September 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)
- September 21 Work Party - Inland Waterway Cleanup**  
Support Simi Valley's Inland Waterway Cleanup, from 9am - Noon. Directions: *(Note: LA Ave. and cross streets between Erringer and Sinaloa will be closed due to the Parade.)* From 118 East, exit at Madera; go south to Royal; turn left and go to Erringer. From 118 West, exit at Sycamore Drive, go south to Royal, turn right and go to Erringer. Meet where the Arroyo passes under Erringer Road. Be sure to wear gloves, long pants, sturdy shoes, sunscreen, hat.
- September 22 Sunday Evening Hike**  
Meet 5pm at Rocky Peak trailhead at the end of Rocky Peak Rd off Santa Susana Pass. (Strenuous, 5 MRT)
- September 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)
- September 28 Latigo Canyon to Castro Peak**  
Strenuous 7 MRT hike with beautiful scenery. 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. Wear boots. Meet 8am near Donut Delite at the corner of Madera and Royal.
- September 29 Sunday Evening Hike**  
Meet 5pm at Rocky Peak trailhead at the end of Rocky Peak Rd off Santa Susana Pass. (Strenuous, 5 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.homestead.com>

## RANCHO SIMI TRAIL BLAZERS

EXECUTIVE CHAIR:	MIKE KUHN	HM (805) 583-2345, WK (805)583-6776
TREASURER:	PETER ELY	HM (805) 523-1409
SECRETARY:	KRISTA SMITH	HM (805) 404-2352
PARK DISTRICT LIAISON:	COLLEEN JANSSEN	WK (805) 584-4453
WORK PARTIES CHAIR:	JOHN SABOL	HM (805) 583-2541
WORK PARTIES VICE CHAIR:	BOB ALTIERI	HM (805) 526-6749
HIKING CHAIR:	ARLENE ALTSHULER	HM (805) 581-9735
WAYS & MEANS CHAIR:	MARTY RICHARDS	HM (805) 526-4414
WAYS & MEANS VICE CHAIR:	CONNIE ANKROM	HM (805) 526-2747
COMMUNICATION / PUB.CHAIR:	ARLENE ALTSHULER	HM (805) 581-9735

-----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 630399, Simi Valley, Ca 93063-0399

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



**RSTB**

**P.O. Box 630399**

**Simi Valley, CA 93063-0399**

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