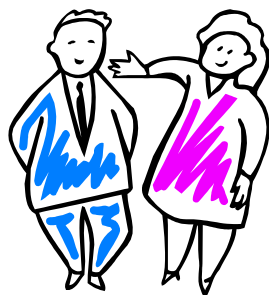




# Rancho Simi Trail Blazers

*A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation*



## Welcome, New Members!

Amar Nadig  
Kevin Stroud  
Carol, Mike & Jackie Maheux  
Terry Werth & Yoko Tamura



## Hello Everyone from the new RSTB Newsletter Editor!

As an avid user of local trails and a member of the Rancho Simi Trailblazers for many years, I've always looked forward to receiving the newsletter each month. Since my job requires a fair amount of travel, I'm usually hiking or running the trails as my schedule permits, but not often enough with the group. When I learned that RSTB needed a Newsletter Editor, I knew that this was my opportunity to give back something to the group. If you have items for inclusion in future newsletter, please send them my way. I hope to meet many of you on future hikes!

Kelli Ham, [simitrailrunner@gmail.com](mailto:simitrailrunner@gmail.com)



## 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  
**September 17, 2008**

## "Scenic Walks" at August Meeting

A special guest joined the Trailblazers for the August meeting. Mr. Bob Lewis is the author of a new book titled "**Scenic Walks Photo Album and Guide**", which includes trail descriptions, photos and other useful information about 24 trails within Ventura County and the Simi Valley area. If you were not able to attend the meeting and are interested in purchasing the book, Bob can be reached at 805-230-2811.



## 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



## UPCOMING EVENTS

Please visit the website for details on any of the following hikes and events.

### September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2008:

**Bicycle Ride - Ojai Valley Trail - Ventura River (17 MRT)**

It's true! Trailblazers on bicycles!

### September 10<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>, 2008:

**Zion National Park & Camping Trip**  
**RESERVATIONS CLOSE ON SEPTEMBER 3<sup>rd</sup>.**

### September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2008

**Temescal Canyon (5.4 MRT)**

Great views of the ocean on clear days and a densely wooded canyon.

### September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2008 ( 9 AM-Noon)

**Coastal Cleanup Day - Arroyo Simi**

### September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2008

**Mt. Islip (5 MRT)**

Pine and fir forests with panoramic views of the Mojave Desert and the LA metropolis. **Adventure Pass** required.

### October 4, 2008

**Reyes Peak (7 MRT)**

Great views of the Piedra Blanca and the Sespe Wilderness. Much of the trail is well shaded and in the pines.

More information on these events can be found at

<http://simitrailblazers.com>

To make reservations, please email Mark Gilmore at [markinthepark@sbcglobal.net](mailto:markinthepark@sbcglobal.net)



## TAPO

The origin of the word “Tapo” is an Anglicized version of the name of the Chumash Indian village in Gillibrand Canyon below the *cienaga* where the Gillibrand office is today. The canyon contains a perennial stream even today at that point. We know that the village existed in 1769, because “cowboys” hired by Mr. Gillibrand in the late-1800s indicated that many generations before a group of Spaniards had come down canyon and camped under a grove of oak trees, which they pointed out to Mr. Gillibrand. It is apparent that those cowboys were Chumash Indians. We know that while camped near the village of *Kamulus* (present day Camulos) Portola sent a contingent from his 1769 expedition south to explore the Santa Susana Mountains. This would have been the first contact between the Spanish and Indians living in the Simi Valley area.

The village appears in various forms in the baptismal records of the San Fernando and the San Buenaventura missions. The padres officiating at each baptism did their best to list the village of birth. The padres were normally not trained in linguistics. Versions include *Taapu*, *Taapu'*, *Tapu*, *Taapa* and *Toapu* – among others. The most consistent rendition, as offered by several Chumash Indian sources as recorded by John Peabody Harrington, the noted linguist and ethnologist, is *Ta'apu*. (One Chumash and one Fernandeno source pronounced the name *Ta'a'pu*.) Certainly, the padres did not have a parallel to a guttural stop in Spanish. So their rendition as *Taapu* (34 time in the baptismal records) is as close to the linguistic version of “*Ta'apu*” as they could come. John Peabody Harrington noted that the “u” is possibly an unaccented “o”.

During the late-1700s *Ta'apu* was the largest village in “the Simi”. It also was the only village to have a resident chief, i.e., *wot*, when the first baptisms were being made. That *wot* (*Zalasuit*) held hegemony over the two other villages (*Simi'* and *Quimisac*).

Archaeologist Richard Van Valkenburgh, who worked in the Simi Valley area in the 1930s, indicated in notes on file at the Los Angeles County Museum that the village was last raided by the padres from Mission San Fernando in 1812. The raid for neophytes to feed the need for labor at the mission yielded only one old Indian (Others had hidden in the hills.). Van Valkenburgh indicated that at the time of the raid the village had been moved up stream to the *cienaga*. This tells us that the village had previously been located below the *cienaga*. (It was common to move a village every few years for sanitary reasons.) The raid suggests that at the time *Ta'apu* was not yet a sheep camp vassal to El Rancho Simi.

By the 1840s the headquarters of El Rancho Simi has been moved from where the Simi Adobe is today into Gillibrand Canyon where the Tapo Canyon Regional Park is today.

Van Valkenburgh indicated in his notes that “Tapo” means “yucca” – in other words, it is a Ventureño Chumash word for the plant commonly known as chaparral yucca, “our lord’s candle” and “Spanish dagger.” The plant’s technical name is *Hesperoyucca whipplei* ssp. *intermedia*. Kroeber (A.L. Kroeber, *Handbook of the Indians of California*, Dover [1976], p. 897) also indicates that *Tapu* means yucca. (It is possible that Van Valkenburgh derived his explanation from Kroeber, who first recorded the meaning in 1916.) This explanation seems to be corroborated by the notes of John Peabody Harrington, who lists *topo* as a major item cooked in roasting pits. However, more recently, Timbrook (Jan Timbrook, *Chumash Ethnobotany*, Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History [2007], p.257) list the word “*topo*” as the Ventureño Chumash name for giant rye – a plant that is not mentioned by Timbrook in association with roasting pits, unless it was used to insulate yucca bulbs and stalks from hot rocks. Yucca bulbs and stalks were the most frequently pit-roasted foods. Timbrook lists the Ventureño Chumash name for the yucca as *shtakuk*. It should be noted that none of Harrington’s informants could etymologize the name. It is possible that *topo* is not a place name and does not have anything to do with the origin of the place name *Ta'apu*. Hence, the question

of the meaning of *Ta'apu* remains in question.

Trails were usually named by the Indians for the places where they went. So there is a Tapo Canyon on both the northern and the southern slopes of the Santa Susana Mountains. Those canyons contained the trails to *Ta'apu*. When the train station was established at Santa Susana and the community of Santa Susana was established by town-site subdivision of farmland, Tapo Road ran north from the station to what is now Alamo Street and then meandered northwesterly to the mouth of Tapo Canyon. Tapo Road later became Tapo Street and the diagonal section of the road, connecting to the mouth of Tapo Canyon was abandoned with the creation of the final subdivision of the Tapo Ranch. Tapo Drive was part of the Tapo Ranch agricultural subdivision, and that road ran north south along a quarter section line connecting the mouth of Tapo Canyon with Palm Drive (now called Alamo Street). Tapo Drive became Tapo Canyon Road – probably in an attempt to quell the confusion caused by the two “Tapos.” It seems that confusion still exists, especially for visitors and newcomers to the valley. Tapo Street did not receive an interchange with the freeway because it was too close to the Tapo Canyon Road Interchange. The on and off ramps would have run into each other. Imagine the confusion that two interchanges with the name “Tapo” in them would have caused.

The name Tapo Canyon extends north from the mouth of the canyon and then follows Bennett Road up through the Gillibrand Quarry to the pass over the mountains. Historically there was an old wagon road over the ridge, connecting Simi Valley with the Santa Clara River Valley. That road was not taken as a public road by Ventura County, so had drop from use, except as a ranch and oil field service road. The name Gillibrand Canyon came about because of the settlement of the Gillibrand family in the canyon. Certainly, the old *Ta'apu* trail ran north from Bennett Road to the village of *Ta'apu*. Even though the De la

TAPO - continued

Guerra Adobe, which became the rancho headquarters, was built adjacent to one of the first historic sites of the village of *Ta'apu*, which became a sheep camp sometime after 1812, the concept of the trail to *Ta'apu* was transformed to the trail to "the Tapo". It is likely that the Indian trail ran north from the village site to cross the same saddle over Oak Ridge later used by the road. Transportation routes evolve through time and often drop from use due to changes in technology. Names on the land sometimes live on and provide an echo of the past.

Mike Kuhn  
8-16-08

### **August 16th 2008 - Carpinteria Bluffs**

15 hikers, all eager for a "day at the beach," participated in today's 5-mile hike from Rincon Park along the Carpinteria Bluffs (overlooking the ocean), past the Seal Sanctuary, and then to Tar Pit Park (the turnaround point) also overlooking the ocean. While there we spotted a fisherman (on the beach) who had just reeled in a small shark (which he returned to the ocean alive). The return trip led past the Seal Sanctuary again and then down to Bates Beach for a leisurely two-mile stroll beside the ocean back to Rincon Park. It was a mild day (in the low-to-mid-seventies); there were quite a few surfers and other beachgoers near each end of our hike. The Seal Sanctuary harbored no seals while we were there. However, we spotted quite a few of them out in the ocean (their heads were visible). Apparently their recent offspring have grown to a size that enables them to join the rest of the rookery on fishing expeditions. It was a pleasant, leisurely hike – a great way to spend a Saturday morning.



### **August 8th - 10th 2008 - Big Bear**

With all the 210 and 30 freeway construction complete, the drive to Big Bear now takes less than two and a half hours. Most of us arrived Friday morning and hiked the little known "Towne Trail", connecting the Snow Summit Mountain Resort and downtown Big Bear Lake. The evening faire included dining downtown at Boo Bear's. There were ten of us altogether. Saturday morning, we scaled Grey's Peak (7,920' -

1,200 elevation gain). Although the Forest Service lists this hike as 6 miles round trip, it's actually 7.5 miles. Near the end of the hike, the temperature climbed to about 78 degrees, but at elevation, and exposed to the direct sunlight, it felt much warmer. By the time we got back to our cars, we were hot and tired. About two miles into the hike, we traversed a large section of burn area from the devastating Green Valley Fire the previous year. The peak afforded spectacular views of the Big Bear area and an opportunity to rest up for the trip back down the mountain.

There was an antique car show in town, and ice cream too. The ice cream was calling our names, so some of us braved the crowds and enjoyed two scoops of ice cream's proven medicinal properties. Who needs a real lunch when the cure is so close? Some fine cars were on display, but the streets were closed and there was almost standing room only, so it was great to get outta town that afternoon. That same evening, we dined at B's Bar-B-Que on the lake, only to go back to Mike's condo and find even more opportunities for high calorie intake. So much for losing any weight on this trip...



Sunday morning we hiked the Pineknott Trail to Grandview Point (7,784' - 7 miles round trip - 1,400' elevation gain). The weather was a bit cooler than the previous day, so the hike was more enjoyable. At Grand View Point, there was even a strong breeze. August is a busy time in Big Bear, so there was a lot of bicycle and nearby off-road vehicle activity. There wasn't much solitude, like the previous day's hike to Gray's Peak. Still, it was an enjoyable hike with fine views highlighted by late season wildflowers







# RSTB Calendar September 2008



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Long Canyon 6:30 pm hike  See Schedule  <i>Happy Birthday Doug Temple Chris Stantz</i>	3	4 Chumash Trail 6pm hike  See Schedule	5   <i>Happy Birthday Bill Stantz</i>	6 Bicycle Ride Ojai Valley Trail - Ventura River 
7 Rocky Peak 5pm hike  See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday Sandra Fernandez- Achenbach</i>	8   <i>Happy Birthday Tom Gnad</i>	9 Long Canyon 6:30 pm hike  See Schedule	10 Zion National Park & Camping Trip	11 Zion National Park & Camping Trip  Chumash Trail 6pm hike  See Schedule	12 Zion National Park & Camping Trip   <i>Happy Birthday Debbie DeGoey</i>	13 Zion National Park & Camping Trip
14 Zion National Park & Camping Trip  Rocky Peak 5pm hike  See Schedule	15   <i>Happy Birthday Kim Zorick</i>	16 Long Canyon 6:30pm hike  See Schedule  <i>Happy Birthday Sandra Duarte</i>	17 RSTB Meeting 7:00 pm  See Page 1  <i>Happy Birthday Danielle Winfield</i>	18 Chumash Trail 6pm hike  See Schedule	19	20 Temescal Canyon Coastal Cleanup - Arroyo Simi  See Schedule  <i>Happy Birthday Brian Steffen</i>
21 Rocky Peak 5pm hike  See Schedule	22   <i>Happy Birthday Ray Johnson</i>	23 Long Canyon 6:30pm hike  See Schedule  <i>Happy Birthday Les Wilson Michele Sumandra</i>	24   <i>Happy Birthday Margaret Marasco</i>	25 Chumash Trail 6pm hike  See Schedule	26	27 Mt. Islip  See Schedule  <i>Happy Birthday Cesar Fabros</i>
28 Rocky Peak 5pm hike  See Schedule	29	30 Long Canyon 6:30pm hike  See Schedule				



# Rancho Simi Trail Blazers

A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation

## Hiking Schedule



### REGULARLY SCHEDULED HIKES

(Rain cancels – No hikes on holidays)

#### Sunday Evening - Rocky Peak

Meet 4 pm at Rocky Peak trailhead at the end of Rocky Peak Rd off Santa Susana Pass. (Strenuous, 4.8 MRT)

#### Tuesday Evening - Long Canyon

Meet at 6:30pm in 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. (Moderate, 3.0 MRT)

#### Thursday Evening - The Chumash Trail

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. (Strenuous, 5.2 MRT)

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### SEPTEMBER HIKES AND ACTIVITIES

#### September 6th **Bicycle Ride** - Ojai Valley Trail\* - Ventura River (17 MRT)

What? Trailblazers on bicycles? This pedestrian and bicycle path links the Ojai Valley Trail and the coastal Omer Rains Trail for one of the best 17-mile urban bike rides in Southern California! Meet at 8 AM near Donut Delite at the corner of Madera and Royal. Bring 2 to 3 quarts of water and a snack. If you have a multiple bicycle carrier, please bring it along.

#### September 10th - 14th **Zion National Park & Camping Trip\***

This very special event is limited to Trailblazer members only. Reservations are limited and close on September 3rd. This trip is for the entire family. We will be tent camping at the Watchman Campground. More information is posted on the website, so be sure to check there for all the details!

#### September 20th **Coastal Cleanup - Arroyo Simi**

The Trailblazers will support the Inland Waterway Cleanup in conjunction with Coastal Cleanup Day. 9 AM to Noon. Rancho Simi Community Park, 1765 Royal Avenue, at the intersection of Arroyo Simi and Erringer Rd. Bring gloves and drinking water.

#### September 20th **Temescal Canyon\***

5.4 MRT - Moderate (1,000' elevation gain)

Great views of the ocean on clear days, a seasonal waterfall, and a densely wooded canyon. Meet at 8 AM near Donut Delite at the corner of Madera and Royal. Bring 2 -3 quarts of water and a snack. Wear Boots.

#### September 27th **Mt. Islip\***

5 MRT - Moderate (1100' elevation gain)

Hike through pine and fir forests with panoramic views of the Mojave Desert and the LA metropolis. An **Adventure Pass** is required. Meet at 8 AM at the 118 & Stearns St. Park & Ride. Bring 2 - 4 quarts of water and lunch. Wear boots.

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



No dogs allowed on trail(s).

For 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*

Executive Chair:	Mike Kuhn	HM (805) 583-2345	hannahmike@roadrunner.com
Treasurer:	Peter Ely		
Park District Liaison:	Colleen Janssen	WK (805) 584-4453	volunteers@rsrpd.us
Work Parties Chair:		*** OPEN ***	
Hiking Chair:	Mark Gilmore	HM (805) 529-5581	markinthepark@sbcglobal.net
Vice Hiking Chair:	John Sabol	HM (805) 583-2541	jtsabol@sbcglobal.net
Website:	Mark Gilmore	HM (805) 529-5581	markinthepark@sbcglobal.net
Ways & Means Chair:	Marty Richards	HM (805) 526-4414	
Publicity Chair:	Carrie McCline		
Newsletter Editor:	Kelli Ham	HM (805) 577-1864	simitrailrunner@gmail.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 \_\_\_\_\_

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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