



Rancho Simi Trail Blazers

A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation



Weekly hikes!!



Has anyone ever told you to take a hike?

Did you know that in Simi Valley you can take many hikes with the Rancho Simi Trail Blazers and explore the beauty of Simi Valley and other beautiful locations? We have so much fun taking photos, talking and just viewing the beautiful scenery like the photo above.

Hikes are every Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday, and most Saturdays



Volunteers Needed!!



If anyone is interested in volunteering for the **work parties chair** or the **Publicity chair** contact Mike Kuhn at:

mike.kuhn@simitrailblazers.com

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

RSTB CLUB MEETING

This month's RSTB meeting will be at:
Sycamore Drive Community Center
1692 Sycamore Drive – Room B-1
Wednesday: September 17, 2014
5:30PM (NOTE: Early Start Time)
Everyone Welcome to attend!

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

Upcoming Events

September 6th Mt. Islip*

7 miles MRT - Moderate to Strenuous (elevation gain 1500') **8AM**

September 13th Nicholas Flat from Leo Carillo State Park*

7.5 MRT- Moderate to Strenuous (elevation gain 1,900') **8AM**

September 17th Club Meeting

The Sycamore Drive Community Center - 1692 Sycamore Drive - Room B-1
Everyone Welcome to attend!
(NOTE: Early Start Time) 5:30PM

September 20th Simi Valley:

Long Canyon, Oak Canyon, View Trail Loop 8.1 Mile loop - Moderate-to-strenuous (1,430' elevation gain/loss) **8AM**

September 27th Arroyo Simi

Bike Path Ride - Madera Road to Ralston Street 12.5 MRT - Easy (elevation gain/loss: ~120') **8AM**



RSTB LOGO T-SHIRTS

Sporting the beautiful RSTB logo, these are great shirts! Please call Mike Kuhn if you'd like to order at 805-583-2345.

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



Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District events can be viewed at <http://www.rsprd.org> to see what is happening next!

CHINESE LABORERS

During much of the last one hundred years of the Anglo-American period of settlement in California, labor from the Far East was not welcomed in California. Individuals of Chinese origin could not own land, become a citizen, marry Anglos and, while they may have entered California legally, they weren't here legally. As a result, there was considerable underground traffic in Chinese laborers.

During the mid-1980s, I was told by Ralph Chamberlain, (then an employee of the Simi Valley Unified School District), about a cave he and some of his young friends had visited on Burro Flats in 1918. His recollection was that a large sandstone rock outcropping included a ground level east-facing rockshelter with a small cave above which was largely hidden from view. He said that he remembered that there were rock paintings in the upper cave. He also said that they had been told (at the time) that the rockshelter and upper cave had been used by smugglers of Chinese laborers. The laborers, he explained, had been moved at night and were then hidden in the upper cave during the daylight period. The smugglers masqueraded as hunters and campers during the day and passed food and drink up to their charges. On a rainy Saturday morning, I was permitted to search for the rock shelter and cave - properly escorted of course.

I did find a rockshelter and cave that satisfied the description I was given. It was east facing, contained a small upper cave and was in approximately the location that had been described. The rockshelter exhibits evidence of use by the Indians and later by campers during the Anglo-American period. The upper cave could have been used to conceal a modest number of uncomfortable individuals. However, there are no pictographs or any signs of native American rock art in the cave. It is likely that Mr. Chamberlain had confused this cave with a memory of

the rock art in other nearby caves. The name "China Flats" is thought to have its origin in the use of the area for the movement through the high country of Chinese laborers. So, it is possible that the story of the use of the cave for that purpose is based upon a memory of local residents. On the other hand, like many stories, the basic features of the story may not be accurate.

Mike Kuhn
11-9-04

DISASTER AT SEA

Chumash culture was based on the perception that people acquired supernatural power and that that power could be used for either good or evil. Above all, acquired power must be respected, honored and feared. When the Spanish came on the scene, with horses and other livestock, firearms, domesticated crops (many of which from the New World), and metal, etc., the Chumash perceived that they had unlimited amounts of power. They were to be honored, followed and respected. Yes, feared too. The Chumash placed great confidence in the priests. Those men were at the head of the universe and were the spokesmen of the universal spirit. The following story illustrates the respect and blind faith placed by the Indians in the Mission fathers. The story reflects the arrogance of at least one priest and the unquestioning faith of the Mission Indians. The story is rivetingly tragic and a commentary on what can happen when two cultures clumsily collide. The story was told to John Peabody Harrington by Fernando Librado ("Kitsepawit"), who in turn heard it from Francisco "Kuliwit." [Source: *Tomol: Chumash Watercraft as Described in the Ethnographic Notes of John P. Harrington*, Ballena Press (1978), pp. 148-150]

Sometime during the second decade of the 19th Century, Father Jose Senan ordered the Chief of the Mission La Purisima Indians, "Timiyaqaut," to take 30 tomols (the Chumash plank canoe) to San Miguel Island and bring the 30 Indians on the island to the mainland.

Each tomol would have had a crew of two paddlers and one bailer. Only one passenger was planned per tomol.

The Indians started out for the Cojo ranch on the coast. The chief ("wol") told them, "We must obey the priest." When they reached the coast, they found the greatest storm they had ever seen raging at sea. A Chumash boatman, left to his own judgment, would never have ventured onto the water under those conditions. Nevertheless, they launched their tomols and headed for San Miguel Island. At the order of the Chief, most turned back but nearly all of the boats and crews were lost. Two tomols made it back to the coast. One boat was lost, but the crew survived. Another crew managed to land their tomol on the mainland. The chief and his tomol made it to San Miguel Island, to return later to the mainland. All of the others perished in the sea. One can only imagine that the loss of more than 70 adult male mission Indians at one time. With so many widows and fatherless children, it must have put a great strain on the social and economic fabric of the community.

Mike Kuhn
11-12-04 (revised 5-10-10)



July 26th - Newton Canyon



Eight intrepid hikers met at the Donut Delite trailhead and carpoled to the Newton Canyon Trailhead on Kanan Road. The Newton Canon trail follows a segment of the Backbone Trail and is known for its extensive riparian canopy. It is the shade, provided by this canopy, that make this hike a good choice in the hot summer months. A quick check with NOAA indicated that the forecast trailhead temperature, (at the end our hike), should be about 85 degrees. Humidity was very high, so the comfort window was short. Turns out, NOAA's forecast was spot on. It was indeed 85 degrees when we returned to our cars at the trailhead. The drought thinned out our canopy a bit, and the trail was dustier than in past years. There were no wildflowers in evidence, except for the very hardy and ever present California Buckwheat, and a few examples of Cliff Aster and Wand Chicory. The car AC felt very good, having completed just over 7.5 miles, with just under 1,700' of total elevation gain.

August 17th - Westward Beach to Paradise Cove

Eight hikers met at Donut Delight and carpoled to the end of Westward Beach Road in Malibu. There were no empty parking spots near our trailhead, so we had to park some distance away. Along the way, we found an orphan hiker, from a Los Angeles hiking group, who never found his intended trailhead. We gladly adopted him. Jeremy proved to be fine addition to our group. It was a perfect day, with cool temperatures and relatively clear skies. The tide was quite low, even on our return from Paradise Cove, so none of us got our feet wet. This allowed us to spend all the time we wished relaxing at Paradise Cove. The beach had an unusual treat for us. There were a good number of some very unusual of sea creatures called Velella. They are also known by other names, such as sea raft, by-the-wind sailer, purple sail, and little sail. They are bizarre and

fascinating creatures. On our return trip, we visited the overlook just below and south of the top of Pt. Dume. A plethora of sea lions were on the rocks far below us. Next, we spent a



short time at the top, enjoying the expansive view up and down the coast. Having returned to our cars, the GPS confirmed that we hiked almost exactly 7 miles, with 420' of elevation gain. What a wonderful way to beat the heat back at home.

August 23rd - Mt. Pinos to Sheep Camp










Seven sleepy Trail Blazers, met at the Stearns St. Park & Ride, a whole hour earlier than usual. We've done this hike, several times in the past, and it has always

proven to be an all-day event. The hike itself is arguably one of the very best hikes in Ventura County. Spectacular views can be had just two miles in from the trail head at Mt. Pinos, at the highest point in all the Los Padres Mountain Range. The air is thin at 8,847', but no one seemed to notice. The expansive views of the southern Central Valley, the southernmost Sierra Nevada, much of northern Ventura county, much of the Santa Barbara County mountains, the Caliente Range and the Carrizo Plain are so delightfully overwhelming. Along the way, we spent some time enjoying the summit views, then descended down to the saddle between Pt. Pinos and Sawmill Mountain, and finally on to Sheep Camp. Sheep Camp is a primitive backwoods camp, with a spring that runs all year. This time around, barely a few drops came from its pipe. We later learned that a dead squirrel plugged up the works ahead of the pipe. The weather was unseasonably cool. When we started the hike, it was only 61 degrees. When we returned to the trailhead, it was 72 degrees. Perfect hiking weather. In total, our hike was 10.5 miles, with about 2,000' of total elevation gain.



RSTB Calendar September



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 See Schedule	1  See Schedule	2 Mt. McCoy Trail 6PM See Schedule	3 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Armando Caro Joseph Farrar	4 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule	5 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Jamuna Ramnath Christian Prentke	6 Mt. Islip* 8AM See Schedule
7 Rocky Peak Fire Road 5PM See Schedule	8 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Tom Gnad	9 Mt. McCoy Trail 6PM See Schedule	10	11 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule	12 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Debbie DeGoey	13 Nicholas Flat from Leo Carillo State Park* 8AM See Schedule
14 Rocky Peak Fire Road 5PM See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> John Meier	15	16 Mt. McCoy Trail 6PM See Schedule	17 Club Meeting 5:30PM <i>(NOTE: Early Start Time)</i> See Schedule <i>Everyone Welcome to attend!</i> <i>Happy Birthday</i> Lisa Hamilton	18 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule	19	20 Simi Valley: Long Canyon, Oak Canyon, View Trail Loop 8AM See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Cynthia Vournas Julie Warner
21 Rocky Peak Fire Road 5PM See Schedule	22  <i>Fall begins</i> <i>Happy Birthday</i> Ray Johnson	23 Mt. McCoy Trail 6PM See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Michele Sumandra Les Wilson	24 Rosh Hashana 	25 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule Rosh Hashana <i>(continued)</i>	26 Rosh Hashana <i>(continued)</i>	27 Arroyo Simi Bike Path Ride - Madera Road to Ralston Street 8AM See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Cesar Fabros
28 Rocky Peak Fire Road 5PM See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Kristin Stiles Green	29	30 Mt. McCoy Trail 6PM See Schedule				



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REGULARLY SCHEDULED HIKES
(Rain cancels – No hikes on holidays)

Sunday Evening - Rocky Peak Fire Road

Meet at **5PM** at the Rocky Peak Fire Road trailhead. 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. **(We Meet at 5PM during daylight saving time.)** (Strenuous - 4.8 MRT - 1,200' elevation gain)

Tuesday Evening - Mt. McCoy Trail

Meet at **6PM** in the parking lot, located to the south of Donut Delite, located near the NE corner of Madera and Royal. (Moderate - 4.0 MRT - 675' 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 end of Flanagan Drive. (Moderate to Strenuous - 5.4 MRT - 1300' total elevation gain.)

SEPTMEBER HIKES AND ACTIVITIES

September 6th Mt. Islip* 7 miles MRT - Moderate to Strenuous (elevation gain 1500')

Hike through pine and fir forests with panoramic views of the Mojave Desert and the LA metropolis. An Adventure Pass is required to park at the trailhead. Meet at **8AM** at the Stearns St. Park & Ride. Bring 2 - 4 quarts of water and lunch. Wear boots. View website at: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/detailfull/r5/passes-permits/recreation/?cid=stelprdb5208699&width=full>

September 13th 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.

September 17th Everyone Welcome to attend! (NOTE: Early Start Time)

5:30PM - The Sycamore Drive Community Center - 1692 Sycamore Drive - Room B-1

September 20th Simi Valley: Long Canyon, Oak Canyon, Montgomery Canyon, Challenger Park, Coyote Hills Park, Canyon View Trail Loop

8.1 Mile loop - Moderate-to-strenuous (1,430' elevation gain/loss) or 5.2 Mile loop - Moderate (950' elevation gain/loss) or Easy-to-moderate (4-mile loop w/500' elevation gain/loss)

The trail begins at the Long Canyon Trailhead in Wood Ranch; it climbs 500' in the first 0.7 mile and then descends into Oak Canyon before ascending 500' to a ridge overlooking Montgomery Canyon. After dropping into Montgomery Canyon the trail leads north to Challenger Park. From there an equestrian trail leads westward to Coyote Hills Park. The trail then climbs 350' to the Canyon View Trail and follows it southward to complete the loop. There are excellent views of the west end of Simi Valley from the ridges. Meet at **8AM** at the trailhead in the parking lot just west of the junction of Long Canyon Road and Wood Ranch Parkway. Bring 2 to 3 quarts of water and a snack. Wear boots.

September 27th Arroyo Simi Bike Path Ride - Madera Road to Ralston Street 12.5 MRT - Easy

(elevation gain/loss: ~120') The Arroyo Simi Bike Path is a two lane bike path in Simi Valley that runs from Madera Road, just south of Easy Street on the west, and ends at Cochran Avenue, between Fig Street and Ralston Street on the east. Dust off your bikes and your helmets and enjoy the ride with us. Meet at **8AM** at the intersection of Madera Road and East Street. Parking is available in the industrial park at the northeast corner of the intersection.

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 <http://www.simitrailblazers.com/activities/index.html>

RANCHO SIMI TRAIL BLAZERS

A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation

Executive Chair:	Mike Kuhn	HM (805) 583-2345	hannahmike@me.com
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Park District Liaison:	Jeannie Liss	WK (805) 584-4453	volunteers@rsrpd.us
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Newsletter Editor:	Linda Mann		linda.martins.mann@simitrailblazers.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 _____ Birth Month _____ Day _____

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

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

How do you want to receive the Newsletter? Check all that apply.

Mail Mailing address _____

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How did you find out about the RSTB? _____

Please make out tax deductible member dues check for the year to:

Rancho Simi Foundation and mail it to RSTB, P.O. Box 630445, Simi Valley, CA 93063-0399



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