



Rancho Simi Trail Blazers

A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation



Our bank will no longer accept dues or other checks made out to the Rancho Simi Trail Blazers. **ALL CHECKS must be made out to the Rancho Simi Foundation.**

Welcome NEW Member

Eileen Descallar Ringwald



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. We even enjoy going on overnight events. **Please join us** and see for yourself how much fun we have!

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

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



RSTB CLUB MEETING

This month's RSTB meeting will be at: Sycamore Drive Community Center 1692 Sycamore Drive – Room B-1

Wednesday September 20, 2017 5:30PM

Everyone Welcome to attend!

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

Upcoming Events

September 2nd Carpenteria Bluffs to Tar Pits Park State Park and Beyond * 7.1 MRT – Easy to Moderate Lollipop Loop (300' elevation gain/loss) **8AM**

September 9th Charmlee Wilderness Loop 4 MRT Loop – Easy (~600' elevation gain/loss) **8AM**

September 16th Westward Beach to Pt. Dume and Paradise Cove * 5.0 MRT – Easy to Moderate (425' elevation gain/loss) **8AM**

September 20th Club Board Meeting The Sycamore Drive Community Center - 1692 Sycamore Drive - Room B-1 **Everyone Welcome to attend! 5:30PM**

September 23rd Solstice Canyon * 6.3 MRT – Moderate (1,200' of elevation gain/loss) **8AM**

September 30th Upper Zuma Canyon and Zuma Ridge to Buzzards Roost * 8.5 MRT – Moderate (1,750' elevation gain/loss) **8AM**

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

What is Labor Day?

Always the first Monday in September, Labor Day was the idea of Peter J. Maguire (although recent research



LABOR DAY

has shown that it might have been his brother Matthew's idea), a labor union leader who in 1882 proposed a celebration honoring the American worker.

The date chosen was simply "convenient," according to Maguire, because it was midway between the Fourth of July and Thanksgiving.

Although the day's focus on organized labor has diminished over the years, the holiday has become a way to mark the end of the summer season—and the start of the school year.

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.

July 29th – Alamos Canyon Exploratory Hike



19 hikers gathered in the Simi Valley Sanitation parking lot at 600 W. Los Angeles Avenue (as previously arranged) on a pleasant summer

morning cooled by an overcast sky. We began our hike along the nearby Los Alamos Canyon Road which we followed northward, passing under Hwy 118 to the Alamos Canyon Open Space, 326 acres of which were acquired last December by the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District (RSRPD).

Everyone was excited by the rare opportunity to explore a new-to-us area in Simi Valley. We headed northwest along a dirt road through a dry, mostly open landscape which offered a wide view of distant Big Mountain (on the northern side of which is Happy Camp Canyon). Soon we headed eastward along a connector road until we reached the Scarab Fire Road (according to Google Earth) which we followed southward to Alamos Canyon Road thus completing a loop. We returned to our vehicles having completed an easy 5-mile hike with about 425' of elevation gain/loss (and we once again "beat the heat" thanks to our 7 AM start). NOTE: RSRPD plans to construct a small parking lot, a trailhead, and a connecting trail from Oak Park County Park (near Moorpark) to Alamos Canyon Road to support public access to the Alamos Canyon Open Space.

August 12th – Serrano Canyon Loop

16 hikers carpoled to the day-hiker's parking lot at the Big Sycamore Canyon Campground on Pacific Coast Highway in Point Mugu State Park on a foggy morning near the ocean. Our hike began by walking through the campground and then



hiking 1.1 miles north on the dirt Sycamore Canyon Fire Road which we shared with bicyclists and mosquitos (fortunately we had some insect repellent which was quickly applied). We then headed 1.7 miles east on the Serrano ("from the mountains") Trail as it climbed gradually upstream through the beautiful shaded canyon. We enjoyed some late-blooming plants along the trail, including lots of

cliff asters and poison oak (which provided a festive red and green touch). We emerged from the canyon into lovely Serrano Valley which is ringed on all sides by mountains; it consists mainly of large meadows covered by wild grasses and dotted with a few trees and some bushes along the seasonal streams. There we began hiking the Serrano Valley Loop in a clockwise direction, stopping briefly to examine an old water pump. The west side of the loop climbed part way up the mountain before reaching a fork and turning right (east). We followed the now-narrow but well-defined trail as it climbed into the foothills along the north side of the loop [the left fork would have taken us to the Old Boney Trail]; it provided great views of the towering mountains to the northeast. Soon the trail began descending along the east side of the loop affording us with excellent views of the western part of Serrano Valley and the mountains to the south. Refreshed by cool ocean breezes, we completed the loop and then descended through pleasantly cool Serrano Canyon to Big Sycamore Canyon where we returned along the wide dirt road to the campground, said our goodbyes to friends, and returned to Simi Valley having completed a 9 mile "lollipop loop" hike with 1,350' of elevation gain/loss on a surprisingly pleasant day for hiking.

August 19th – Mt. Pinos to Sheep Camp

19 hikers carpoled to the Chula Vista parking lot (favored by stargazers) about two miles from the summit of Mt. Pinos (8,847') in the Los Padres National Forest. The hike began under a clear blue sky on a pleasantly cool morning by following a dirt road through a lovely aromatic pine forest to the Tumamait-Mt. Pinos Trail (21W03) trailhead at the Condor Observation Point where the views to the north, south and west were somewhat obscured by smog.

The well-maintained dirt trail then entered the Chumash Wilderness as we descended the open western slope of Mt. Pinos – which displayed a variety of wildflowers, particularly rabbit brush and Indian paintbrush – via switchbacks; we then crossed a saddle and ascended the forested eastern slope of Sawmill Mountain. Then we followed an unsigned "use" trail to the Sawmill Mountain peak (8,818'), marked by a large rock monument where we were greeted by a large contingent of hikers from Santa Clarita's Community Hiking Club [they had hiked over from Mt. Abel (aka Cerro Noroeste)]. Returning cross-country to the main trail, we descended to a junction with the North Fork Trail (22W02) which we followed as it descended southward half a mile to Sheep Primitive Camp (8,200') under a stand of Jeffrey Pines. There we took a rest/lunch break and enjoyed the pleasant forest environment. We then retraced our route up Sawmill Mountain and back to the Condor Observation Point. As we climbed the western slope of Mt. Pinos we were lightly pelted by small hailstones (something more often experienced in the Sierra Nevada). After regrouping atop Mt. Pinos on a still-cool day, we hiked back to the parking lot and then returned home having completed a 10-mile hike with 1,875' of elevation gain/loss.



RSTB Calendar SEPTEMBER



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 Carpinteria Bluffs to Tar Pits Park State and Beyond * 8AM See Schedule
3 Rocky Peak Fire Road 5PM See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Joseph Farrar	4 LABOR DAY	5 Mt. McCoy Trail 6PM See Schedule	6	7 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule	8	9 Charmlee Wilderness Park Loop * 8AM See Schedule
10 Rocky Peak Fire Road 5PM See Schedule	11 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Scott Margolin	12 Mt. McCoy Trail 6PM See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Debbie DeGoey	13	14 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule	15	16 Westward Beach to Pt. Dume and Paradise Cove* 8AM See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> Joshus Wolfe
17 Rocky Peak Fire Road 5PM See Schedule	18	19 Mt. McCoy Trail 6PM See Schedule	20 Club Board Meeting The Everyone Welcome to attend! 5:30PM <i>Happy Rosh Hashanah</i> <i>Happy Birthday</i> Erika Wolfe	21 Chumash Trail 6PM <i>Happy Rosh Hashanah</i> See Schedule	22 <i>Happy Rosh Hashanah</i> 	23 Solstice Canyon * 8AM <i>Happy Birthday</i> Michele Sumandra Les Wilson
24 Rocky Peak Fire Road 5PM See Schedule	25	26 Mt. McCoy Trail 6PM See Schedule	27	28 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule	29 Yom Kippur	30 Upper Zuma Canyon and Zuma Ridge to Buzzards Roost* 8AM Yom Kippur

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 (Scroll down to map)

RANCHO SIMI TRAIL BLAZERS

A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation

Executive Chair:	Mike Kuhn	HM (805) 583-2345	hannahmike@me.com
Treasurer:	Santiago Homsí		
Park District Liaison:	Jeannie Liss	WK (805) 584-4453	volunteers@rsrpd.us
Work Parties Chair:	VOLUNTEER NEEDED		Contact Mike Kuhn at: 805-583-2345
Hiking Chair:	Mark Gilmore	HM (805) 990-1460	markinthepark@sbcglobal.net
Vice Hiking Chair:	Les Wilson	HM (805) 522-2642	les.wilson@roadrunner.com
Website:	Mark Gilmore	HM (805) 529-5581	markinthepark@sbcglobal.net
Ways & Means Chair:	Marty Richards	HM (805) 526-4414	mlrrdh@yahoo.com
Publicity Chair:	VOLUNTEER NEEDED		Contact Mike Kuhn at: 805-583-2345
Newsletter Editor:	Linda Mann	Cell: 805-501-5229	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 _____

Email Email address _____

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 1231, Simi Valley, CA 93062**



U.S. Postage

RSTB
P.O. Box 1231
Simi Valley, CA 93062

JEDEDIAH SMITH AND GRIZZLIES IN CALIFORNIA IN 1828

[Quoted portion from Tracy I. Storer and Lloyd P. Tevis, Jr., *California Grizzly*, U.C. Press (1996), p.166]

Jedediah Smith was one of the earliest and most significant mountain men. As a partner in a fur trapping company, he seemed more interested in exploring the west than in seeking furs. While on a trip to Santa Fe, and alone, he was killed by Indians. A manuscript he had prepared about his years of exploring the American west was lost at that time. He made two trips to California. One in 1826-1828 yielded this written description, in his own words, of encounters with grizzlies three miles up Mill Creek from the Sacramento River in 1828:

In the evening we shot several Bear and they ran into thickets...Several of us followed one that was badly wounded...We went on foot because the thicket was too close to admit a Man on horseback.

As we advanced I saw one and shot him in the head when he immediately...fell – Apparently dead. I went in to bring him out without reloading my gun and when I arrived within 4 yards of the place where the bear lay the man that was following me close behind spoke and said, "He is alive." I told him in answer that he was certainly dead and was observing the one I had shot so intently that I did not see one that lay close by his side which was the one the man behind me had referred to. At that moment the bear sprang towards us with open mouth and made no pleasant noise.

Fortunately the thicket was close on the bank of the creek and the second spring I plunged head foremost into the water. The bear ran over the man next to me and made a furious rush on the third man Joseph Lapoint. But Lapoint had...a Bayonet fixed on his gun and as the Bear came in he gave him a severe wound in the neck which induced him to change his course and run into another thicket close at hand. We followed him there and found another in company with him. One of them was killed and the other went off badly wounded.

I then went on horse Back with two men to look for another that was wounded. I rode up close to the thicket in which I supposed him to be and rode around it several times halloeing but without making any discovery. I rode up for a last look when the Bear sprang for the horse. He

was so close that the horse could not be got underway before he caught him by the tail. The horse being strong and much frightened...[exerted] himself so powerfully that he gave the Bear no opportunity to close upon him and actually drew him 40 or 50 yards before he relinquished his hold.

The Bear did not continue the pursuit but went off and [I]...returned to camp to feast on the spoils and talk of the incidents of our eventful hunt.

Tales like this were common in the American west. Often, however, someone was hurt or killed. The men relished in the hunt and needed the meat. Even during the Spanish/Mexican period Americans from the east were often employed to kill bears. They did it as a business. The Californios did it for sport.

Certainly, this story was considered extraordinary. Every thicket along a stream was not filled with bears. However, it does suggest that bears were common in that part of the country.

Mike Kuhn
8-29-07

THE OLD HUMMINGBIRD RANCH

Tucked away in the hills at the northern end of Kuehner Drive is the old Hummingbird Ranch. A little under 100 acres in size, it is focused on a north-south relatively level area within the Hummingbird Creek drainage. It is surrounded by beautiful golden sandstone rock outcroppings of the Chatsworth Formation. When you're "on the Hummingbird," it seems like you are completely isolated from the rest of the world - except for the airplanes on their approaches to Burbank, Van Nuys and other airports. The ranch is now owned by David Saperstien, who reestablished the original name - "the Hummingbird's Nest" Ranch.

Charles Hoar leased the eastern end of Simi Valley, some 13,000 acres, in 1872 or 1873 and occupied the Hummingbird at that time. Mr. Hoar was then 23 years of age and a Harvard-trained lawyer. What comes down to us is that he decided to call the ranch "the Hummingbird's Nest" - "after the old name." Indeed, one source says that prior to Mr. Hoar's purchase, "Juan Pucillo lived at the Hummingbird's Nest." There apparently was an adobe, which Pucillo and his mother occupied. (That adobe is now reduced to what archaeologists refer to as "adobe melt.") Now, I have long suspected that the name probably comes down from the

Chumash name for the area, because the hummingbird was a frequently referred to "dream helper" in western Indian oral tradition. (I once had a coworker, a Luiseno, whose dream helper was a hummingbird.) Chumash vaqueros were known to have sewn desiccated hummingbirds into their saddles "for luck." Birds could fly to the "upper, or spirit world." In western North America shaman were often depicted in rock art with bird feet and bird heads. When a shaman achieved a dream state, they believed that they were changed into a bird for their transit to the spirit world. The term "nest" is sometimes associated with sacred places. For example, a mountain (We don't know which one.) west of the San Fernando Valley was referred as "the Eagle's Nest" (kaspat kaslo'w) by the Chumash. Another example was "the heron's nest" (kaspat kahwa), a place west of Matilija Creek, northwest of the Ojai Valley. These two examples suggest that the first part of the Chumash name for the Hummingbird's Nest, if indeed the name is derived from the Chumash, would have been "kaspat." Rocks with cracks and caves were accesses to the spiritual world and were powerful places for all Indians in the west, so it is very probable that the Chatsworth Formation, with its massive rock outcroppings, were very important to the Chumash. Certainly, there is abundant evidence that the Hummingbird's Nest was well known to the Chumash.

A photograph, taken in the 1880s, at the Hummingbird's Nest Ranch is labeled on the back "El Nido de la Chupa Rosa." This Spanish name means "the nest of the sucking bird" (Chupa rosa means hummingbird in Mexican Spanish.) and confirms that the Spanish name preceded the English language translation. Nearly all of the residents in Simi Valley in 1873 were Spanish speakers and most were also Chumash speakers.

I am fascinated to think that the name of the ranch has come down to us from the Chumash and reflect the sacred significance of the place. Certainly, nearly all of the early 19th Century residents of Simi Valley were Chumash Indians, for they were the vaqueros and the shepherders - even for Mr. Hoar. They knew the land and saw little reason to adopt new names for places the names for which had been known and were of significance to many generations of their ancestors. No doubt Mr. Hoar respected this sense of place and the historic continuity of the name.

Mike Kuhn

11-15-04 (revised 6-18-10)



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.



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

Sunday Evening - Rocky Peak Fire Road

Meet at **5PM** 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) **(We Meet at 5PM during daylight saving time.)**

Tuesday Evening - Mt. McCoy Trail

Meet at **6PM** in the parking lot, located to the south of Donut Delite, near the NE corner of Madera and Royal. (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.)

SEPTEMBER HIKES AND ACTIVITIES

September 2nd Carpinteria Bluffs to Tar Pits Park State and Beyond *

7.1 MRT – Easy to Moderate Lolipop Loop (300' elevation gain/loss) Meet at **8AM** near Donut Delite at the corner of Madera and Royal. Bring 2 to 3 quarts of water, lunch and sunscreen. Wear boots. 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.

September 9th Charmlee Wilderness Park Loop *

4 MRT Loop – Easy (~600' elevation gain/loss) Meet at **8AM** near Donut Delite at the corner of Madera and Royal. Bring 2 to 3 quarts of water, lunch and sunscreen. Wear boots. This area (also known as the Charmlee Natural Area) overlooks Malibu and the Pacific Ocean on its south side. It contains live oak woodlands, coastal sage scrub, and grassy meadows. The hike follows the Botany Trail to the Fire Ecology Trail to an ocean overlook, then other trails to an old reservoir and the ruins of the original ranch house.

September 16th Westward Beach to Pt. Dume and Paradise Cove *

5.0 MRT – Easy to Moderate (425' elevation gain/loss) Meet at **8AM** near Donut Delite at the corner of Madera and Royal. Bring 2 to 3 quarts of water, lunch and sunscreen. Wear boots. 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.

September 20th Club Meeting *Everyone Welcome to attend!*


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

September 23rd – Solstice Canyon *

6.3 MRT – Moderate (1,200' of elevation gain/loss) Meet at **8AM** near Donut Delite at the corner of Madera and Royal. Bring 2 to 3 quarts of water and lunch/snacks. Wear boots. Our hike begins with a partially shaded walk along the one-mile dirt road in the bottom of Solstice Canyon leading toward Tropical Terrace and the nearby waterfalls. After a rest/lunch break we'll retrace our route along the Solstice Canyon Trail to the parking lot.

September 30th – Upper Zuma Canyon and Zuma Ridge to Buzzards Roost *

8.5 MRT – Moderate (1,750' elevation gain/loss) Meet at **8AM** near Donut Delite at the corner of Madera and Royal. Bring 2 to 3 quarts of water, lunch and sunscreen. Wear boots. Our hike will begin in the parking lot near Tunnel #1 where the Backbone Trail (BBT) crosses Kanan-Dume Road. We'll continue along the BBT in Upper Zuma Canyon to the abandoned Zuma Ridge Motorway which we'll follow as it climbs to a point near Buzzard's Roost at the crest of Zuma Ridge. We'll return the way we came.

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/index.php/calendar/>