



## 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 Members Lilia Alcantara and Larry Ribbeck~~

### 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.

#### ***September 7, 2019 – East Canyon to Mission Point\****

9.3 MRT – Moderate to Strenuous (1,750' elevation gain)

East Canyon is located in the 4,000-acre Santa Clarita Woodlands Park on the northeastern slope of the Santa Susana Mountains. Our well-shaded hike will begin along a small creek, the trail lined with bay laurel, black walnut, cottonwood, sycamore and oak trees. Soon we'll begin climbing uphill southward on the abandoned East Canyon Motorway with views of steep slopes to the west and relics of the bigcone Douglas-fir trees that once covered the mountain. After cresting the ridge and following the very pleasant Corral Sunshine Motorway to Mission Point, we'll have panoramic views of the San Fernando Valley and beyond.

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

#### ***September 9-15, 2019 all day – Yosemite National Park – Yosemite Valley Tent Camping\****

This very special event is open to Trail Blazer members in good standing only. The trip is for the entire family. You may join in on the yet to be planned hikes, or simply enjoy the sights. We will be tent camping in the Park. There is a non-refundable campground and parking fee, shared equally between all those who sign up. Space is limited, so be sure and make your reservations early.

#### ***September 18, 2019***

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

Everyone is welcome to attend.

#### ***September 21, 2019 – Fish Canyon Narrows from the Templin Highway Gate\****

11 MRT – Moderate (~1,000' elevation gain/loss)

After driving to the parking area at the gated eastern end of Templin Highway in the Sierra Pelona Mountains just north of Castaic Lake, we'll hike nearly three miles eastward on the no-longer-maintained Warm Springs Fish Canyon Truck Trail to the abandoned Cienega Campground that was damaged by flooding in 2002. Then we'll head north on a lovely single-track trail in Fish Canyon through which a pleasant stream flows. We'll have many easy stream crossings in the Narrows as it passes through hundred-foot cliffs with red rock walls reminiscent of the Zion National Park's Virgin River Narrows. We'll turn around at a backpacking campsite where there's a fork in the trail. NOTE: In 2009 Los Angeles Magazine published a list of "the ten best hikes in Los Angeles" and selected this hike as number one.

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

#### ***September 28, 2019 – Mission Point Loop via Neon Way & O'Melveny Park\****

6.2 MRT – Moderate (1,500' elevation gain/loss)

After parking in O'Melveny Park in Granada Hills, we'll walk along Sesnon Blvd to Neon Way which we'll follow a short distance to the lower end of the Sulphur Spring Fire Road (aka the Dr. Mario A. DeCampos Trail). We'll follow it up to Mission Point where there are expansive views of the San Fernando Valley. When we return, we'll follow the Grotto Trail down into O'Melveny Park.

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

## HIKE REPORTS

July 27, 2019 – Nicholas Flat : Cancelled due to extreme heat.

August 3, 2019 – Serrano Canyon Lollipop Loop



11 hikers carpoiled to the day-hiker's parking lot at the Big Sycamore Canyon Campground on Pacific Coast Highway in Point Mugu State Park on a slightly overcast 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 scores of high-school-student runners.

We then headed 1.7 miles east on the Serrano ("from the mountains") Trail as it climbed gradually upstream through the beautiful shaded – but somewhat overgrown in places (particularly the upper section) – canyon. We enjoyed the sound and sight of running water in the stream as well as a surprising number and variety of late-blooming plants along the trail, including cliff asters, buckwheat, morning glories, wild roses, cattails, Dudleya live forever chalk plants and poison oak (which we did our best to avoid).

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. After resting briefly to enjoy a cool ocean breeze, we began hiking the Serrano Valley Loop in a clockwise direction, stopping briefly to examine an old water pump. Resuming our hike, we soon reached a fork in the trail; we took the right fork and headed northeast, eventually dropping to a dry creek bed which we crossed and then continued eastward, climbing uphill. Upon reaching a narrow single-track trail on our right, we followed it as it headed southwest, spotting four mule deer just before crossing the dry creek bed again, and eventually completing the loop portion of our hike. We then followed our initial route downstream through Serrano Canyon and then Big Sycamore Canyon reaching our vehicles having completed a nearly 8-mile hike with 1,000' of elevation gain/loss on a surprisingly pleasant day for hiking (we "beat the heat").

August 10, 2019 – Carpinteria Bluffs to Tar Pits State Park



This time of year is often the warmest, so we schedule hikes in locations that afford us a break from the heat. This summer has been relatively cool. Temperatures in Simi Valley were in the mid-eighties today. It was still a welcome 68 degrees when our hike was over. So, while Les was high up in the Sierras yet again (<http://www.sierramulepacks.org/trips.html#trip4>), 10 hikers met at the trailhead next to Carpinteria Bluffs overlooking Bates Beach.

Again this year, there were no seals to be seen at Carpinteria Seal Sanctuary, except for one bobbing around just off the shore. Passing Carpinteria Bluffs Nature Preserve, Tar Pits Park was the next stop on our hike. It is second only in size to the famous La Brea Tar Pits in Los Angeles.

Next the trail took us to Carpinteria State Beach, where we left the trail to begin the first beach segment of our hike. We stopped briefly at the San Miguel Campground facilities, where several of us took water shoes to better enjoy the walk on the beach. The beach was especially inviting, with its unusually high water temperatures and a welcome change of pace from our usual hikes. Continuing past Marsh Park, we saw a large flock of seagulls enjoying the day too. The turn-around point of our hike was Sand Point, where we took a break on the stairs for lunch and snacks. A welcome and cool ocean breeze started just in time for our return. Just past the Nature Preserve, we took a short and steep connector trail that took us down to Bates Beach. On the way back to Rincon Park, we enjoyed exploring the unusual rock formations, and finding shells along the tide-line. We found several [Wavy Turban Snails](#), both alive and dead, in the surf. Our hike was 7.65 miles with 200' of elevation gain/loss.

## August 17, 2019 – Temescal Canyon



16 hikers carpooled to the lower parking lot at Temescal Gateway Park. A lovely refuge from the nearby urban congestion, it borders Topanga State Park. Our hike began on a shady trail along the streambed in Temescal Canyon and led pleasantly past rustic buildings constructed in the 1920's for the Methodist Church as a west coast center for the Chautauqua movement. The whole area is shaded by towering eucalyptus trees as well as oak trees and a variety of other non-native trees such as palms and conifers.

The trail began rising in Temescal Canyon as it entered Topanga State Park and we soon reached a wooden bridge crossing the streambed at a point where there is sometimes a series of cascades (a "waterfall") though there was very little water at this time of year. Continuing westward (and upward) along the trail we reached Temescal Ridge where there were panoramic views of the Santa Monica Mountains and the coastline and a hazy view of the Los Angeles skyline.

We then descended along the Temescal Ridge (aka Viewpoint) Trail to the canyon bottom where we made our way to a different trailhead for the second part our hike. We hiked eastward on a shady trail over another ridge and down into Rivas Canyon where the heavily shaded trail followed a seasonal stream (dry this day). Using a short connector trail, we reached Will Rogers State Historic Park where we took a lunch break on the front porch of the old ranch house and enjoyed the views of the spacious green lawn and the nearby polo field. We then returned to Temescal Gateway Park and our vehicles via the Rivas Canyon trail, completing a 9.3-mile hike with over 2,000' of elevation gain/loss on a pleasant day for hiking. NOTE: Though there weren't many wildflowers at this time of year, there were lots of Cliff Asters blooming along our way.

## August 24, 2019 – Ormand Beach to the Point Hueneme Lighthouse



12 hikers traveled to the gated Arnold Road entrance to Ormond Beach in Oxnard on a pleasant summer morning [Note: there is very limited parking at this entrance, so it's best to arrive early]. As we began the short walk from the parking area to the beach, we spotted over a dozen mallard ducks. The beach is "an 865-acre undeveloped beach in Oxnard that is off the beaten track. The beach is backed by acres of farmland and has an extensive dune structure."

It "also includes a salt marsh wetland preserve, mud flats, and a freshwater lagoon [and the] preserve is on the Pacific Flyway, a 2,000-mile migratory route providing habitat for birds between Alaska and Latin America." Due to our early morning start, we encountered only a few individual fishermen but quite a few sandpipers as we hiked northwest along the beautiful nearly deserted beach while enjoying the sound and sight of waves breaking as they approached land.

Eventually we reached Port Hueneme Beach Park, "a well-maintained, landscaped park to the southeast of the 1,600-acre Port Hueneme Naval Construction Battalion Center." The 50-acre park "has a wide sandy beach and a T-shaped recreational Pier that extends 1,240 feet out to sea [with] great views of the Ventura County coastline and the Channel Islands." Upon reaching our turnaround destination, the Point Hueneme Lighthouse, we learned that it is open for free tours on the 3rd Saturday of each month (sadly we arrived on the 4th Saturday of August).

As we started back the way we had come, we walked out to the end of the long fishing pier in Port Hueneme Beach Park and then continued back to our vehicles, returning home having completed an 8.5-mile hike with less than 100' of elevation gain/loss on a beautiful day to be at the beach.

NOTE: The 3.6-mile (RT) Bubbling Springs Recreational Greenbelt Trail is also available from our route (though we did not hike it). Bubbling Springs Park "is a long, narrow greenbelt extending from the ocean at Port Hueneme Beach Park to Port Hueneme's inner residential area."

## BEEP BEEP

The greater roadrunner (*Geococcyx californianus*) inhabits the hills surrounding our valley and are frequently observed by hikers and residents on the edge of the City. They feed on any animal that they can swallow whole. Their food includes lizards, snakes, small rodents, birds and insects, which they stab with their nearly two inch long beak. During the spring and summer months, they also eat fruit and seeds. They depend upon speed and keen eyesight to catch their prey. They can run up to speeds of 15 miles per hour, and when pressed will fly for relatively short distances. They do not interact with coyotes, but do compete directly with them for food. They drink when water is available. Otherwise they can survive on the moisture they get from their prey.

The roadrunner is a member of the cuckoo family, the only other member of which in our area is the yellow-billed cuckoo. Cuckoos have slender bodies, long tails and two toes forward and two toes back - therefore, you can always tell a roadrunner's track.

Roadrunners maintain the same territory throughout the year and do not migrate. They can withstand great temperature extremes. When hot, they rest in the shade. At night, their normal body temperature of 101 degrees Fahrenheit can drop as much as seven degrees. In the morning or on cold days, they warm themselves in the sun, turning their backs to the sun and raising their back feathers to expose a large dark patch of skin.

They mate for life and build nests in low trees and brush. Both male and female birds sit on the nests. When the nest is threatened by a predator, the adults feign broken legs and lead the predator away from the nest.

Mike Kuhn  
11-1-04

## 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 September 2019



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Rocky Peak Fire Road 5PM See Schedule	2 Labor Day	3 Mt. McCoy Trail 6PM See Schedule  Happy Birthday Joseph Farrar	4	5 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule	6	7 East Canyon to Mission Point* 7AM See Upcoming Events
8 Rocky Peak Fire Road 5PM See Schedule	9 Yosemite National Park Tent Camping Starts	10  Mt. McCoy Trail 6PM See Schedule	11	12  Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule  Happy Birthday Debbie DeGoey	13	14
15 Yosemite National Park Tent Camping Ends  Rocky Peak Fire Road 5PM See Schedule	16  Happy Birthday Joshus Wolfe	17 Mt. McCoy Trail 6PM See Schedule	18 Club Meeting 5:30PM	19 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule	20  Happy Birthday Erika Wolfe	21 Fish Canyon Narrows from the Templin Hwy Gate* 7AM See Upcoming Events
22 Rocky Peak Fire Road 5PM See Schedule	23  Happy Birthday Michele Sumandra & Les Wilson	24 Mt. McCoy Trail 6PM See Schedule	25	26 Chumash Trail 6PM See Schedule	27	28 Mission Point Loop via Neon Way & O'Melveny Park* 7AM See Upcoming Events
29 Rocky Peak Fire Road 5PM See Schedule	30					

**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**

<h2 style="margin: 0;">Rancho Simi Trailblazers</h2> <p style="margin: 0;"><i>A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation</i></p>			
Executive Chair:	Mike Kuhn	HM (805) 583-2345	<a href="mailto:mike.kuhn@simitrailblazers.com">mike.kuhn@simitrailblazers.com</a>
Treasurer:	Santiago Homsí		
Park District Liaison:	Jeannie Liss	WK (805) 584-4453	<a href="mailto:volunteers@rsrpd.us">volunteers@rsrpd.us</a>
Work Parties Chair:	<b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b>		<b>Contact Mike Kuhn at: 805-583-2345</b>
Hiking Chair:	Mark Gilmore	HM (805) 990-1460	<a href="mailto:markinthepark@simitrailblazers.com">markinthepark@simitrailblazers.com</a>
Vice Hiking Chair:	Les Wilson	HM (805) 522-2642	<a href="mailto:les.wilson@simitrailblazers.com">les.wilson@simitrailblazers.com</a>
Website:	Mark Gilmore	HM (805) 990-1460	<a href="mailto:markinthepark@simitrailblazers.com">markinthepark@simitrailblazers.com</a>
Ways & Means Chair:	Marty Richards	HM (805) 526-4414	<a href="mailto:marty.richards@simitrailblazers.com">marty.richards@simitrailblazers.com</a>
Membership Chair:	Louise Pomes		<a href="mailto:louise.pomes@simitrailblazers.com">louise.pomes@simitrailblazers.com</a>
Publicity Chair:	<b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b>		<b>Contact Mike Kuhn at: 805-583-2345</b>
Newsletter Editor:	Louise Pomes		<a href="mailto:louise.pomes@simitrailblazers.com">louise.pomes@simitrailblazers.com</a>