



Possible Airplane Crash

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San Jacinto Mountains
1976-010

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RMRU was contacted by both individuals and agencies concerning an airplane overdue and presumed down. There had been rain and cloudy conditions when the plane was reported missing.

A search plane had reported a signal stamped out in the snow. I talked to the pilot of the search plane, and from his description, it sounded like Tahquitz Valley.

After discussing it with Captain Ray Canova, of the Banning office of the Riverside County Sheriff's Department, it was decided to try and do something that evening. He obtained the use of a Hughes 500c helicopter from the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department. He rode in the bird as an observer, but due to very strong winds they were not able to fly low enough for the search light on the bird to be very effective.

The following morning a Marine helicopter flew to Tahquitz Valley, only to find a pattern in the snow created by blocks having been cut from the snow to make an igloo by weekend skiers. Our part of the mission was canceled.

RMRU is a volunteer search and rescue team that covers Riverside County and assists other teams with search and rescue efforts in other counties. Each member purchases their own equipment and takes time off work, without compensation, to participate in search and rescue missions. Team equipment is purchased from contributions from the community. We are a non-profit organization and are funded by [donations](#) from people like you.