

# RMRU NEWSLETTER

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE RIVERSIDE MOUNTAIN RESCUE UNIT, INC.  
A VOLUNTEER NON-PROFIT CORPORATION

Volume IV, Issue 4 April 1968  
17 April - Board Meeting  
20 April - California Region Workshop  
24 April - Regular Meeting  
27 April - Training  
8 May - Board Meeting  
15 May - Regular Meeting  
17-19 May- Training  
24-26 May- MRA Meeting

This is the first issue of the expanded RMRU NEWSLETTER, planned hopefully to give full information about all Unit activities, for the benefit of everyone in any way connected with RMRU. The mailing list is also being expanded.

A BIT OF HISTORY. A small group of mountaineers interested in search and rescue worked with the Riverside County Sheriff's Department as reserve deputies. These men with the encouragement of the Mountain Rescue Association formed the nucleus. 1961 was the year that RMRU really got started as a Search & Rescue Unit in Riverside County, with 5 men and a used truck donated by Helms Bakery. Operations continued for a few years as we added members (a goodly number from out-of-county) and increased our capabilities. In January, 1964, we incorporated under the laws of the State of California. Since then we have built a program of training and operating procedures that have brought us to a high standard of preparedness for wilderness search and rescue. We strive continually to improve our material and physical readiness and skill. Our missions have taken us as far south as Canyon Diablo in Baja, California, north to the Tahoe Region, into the High Sierra and Charleston Mountains of Nevada, and usually, of course, to the San Jacinto

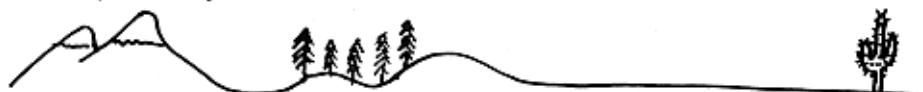


Mountains of Riverside County. The year with the most missions was 1966 (26), it looks like 1968 will be the low with none to this date. We wish to emphasize our fine relationship of mutual cooperation and helpfulness with the Riverside County Sheriff's Department, under the leadership of Ben Clark, Sheriff.

**PARTICIPATION.** The number of hours devoted to Unit activities on both a corporate and individual basis is significant because we are 100% volunteer. In 1967 the Unit as a whole put in 6,428 hours, with 2400 devoted to search and rescue, several individuals with over 500 hours each. This kind of dedication is easy to understand when we see people rescued from what appear to be terminal circumstances. Hmm, that's a stiff way to say we get satisfaction from saving lives.

**NEW MEMBERS.** We now have fifteen active men. That is at least ten short of what we would like--our operations are more effective with at least sixteen men on every mission and that is hard to achieve with only fifteen volunteers. If all of us talk up wilderness rescue to capable outdoorsmen, we may attract new members.

RMRU-



Are you as prepared for wilderness search and rescue as you would want your rescuers to be?

**ELECTION.** At the regular meeting, 24 April, we will elect five men to the Board of Directors. This group will then determine who will be Unit President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Quartermaster, and appoint Committee Chairmen. Only the President must be a member of the board, the other offices may be held by men on or off the board. Read the Unit's Constitution and By-Laws before the meeting, then be sure you are there to vote. We know some changes will occur, you might be part of them.

**WINTER TRAINING.** Some trip! Balmy nights, warm days, good snow conditions, and get this-- 100% of the members present, plus two inactive members. Our objectives of practicing self- and team-arrest, climbing and belaying, and rescue from steep snow were accomplished. All we need now is a mission on steep snow. Actually, we are in dire need of any kind of mission! We must not fail to mention the presence and intensive participation of Jim White, Bud's son; Dave Hadley and Steve Bryant, candidates. Steve will be 21 in August and will be a fine addition to the Unit. Dave has a much longer time to wait. Several members of the San Diego Unit came up Saturday to observe and participate. Their unit is in the process of qualifying for MRA acceptance.

**Notes:** How many windpants got ventilated by sharp crampon points? A number of noses are peeling this week. Bob MacPherson used an excellent rig for making a toboggan from skis. Fairchild about had a stroke when Briggs said the new perlon had a cut in it; inspection showed the mantle just got a tiny snag -- Bill has good eyes -- Jim has a low threshold for worry. Briggs and Webster slept in the igloo Saturday night, probably to escape the singing around the campfire. How about that terraced fire-ring? Jim White did well with the guitar, no pick and 25 deg. F. If you were not there you would not believe the gourmet menus, luxurious accommodations, and conviviality enjoyed by all. Which leads us to... next year's winter trip. We go Spartan and spend Saturday night bivouacked just below the cornice line in the Big Draw. This sounds like music to the Training Chairman's ears.

**COMING EVENTS.** Carefully check the dates listed at top of sheet. The April Board Meeting is at Walkers, 1900. Regular Meeting at Highland Outfitters, 1930. California Region (MRA) Workshop at Williamson Rock. April training session at Big Rock, 0700. Bring all your gear, we'll have an equipment show after lunch. Time and place of May Board and Regular Meeting to be announced. May training, see Training Schedule for place. The MRA Meeting will be in Yosemite Valley: meeting on Saturday; testing of new teams on Sunday.

**CALIFORNIA REGION WORKSHOP.** The Montrose Search and Rescue Team is hosting this workshop. They will have men at the Horse Flats Campground, just off the Angeles Crest Highway, Friday afternoon 19 April. This weekend workshop is for rescue members and their families. The workshop will be devoted to technical evacuation and related subjects. There will be a campfire Saturday evening for everyone. The workshop will start at 0800 Saturday and end at noon on Sunday. Direction: Follow Interstate 15 up the Cajon Pass. Take Highway 138, then Highway 2. The Horse Flats Campground is approximately 50 miles from Interstate 15. Watch for markers as you near. Since this workshop is limited to Region teams, it will be small and should be educational. All RMRU members are urged to attend.

**MONDAYS ON THE ROCKS.** Meet at 1900, 9th & Loring, for technical training on Mt. Rubidoux, every Monday in April. If you have not attended an "on the rocks" evening, you have missed more than just training. Come on out and see.

**DUES.** Please, everybody pay your dues for the last six months of the 1967-68 fiscal year. There are still 3 active members and 2 inactive members who haven't paid. All inactive members who have not paid their dues by the beginning of the new fiscal year will be dropped from the team roster. Dues time is here again for everyone, at least six months is required in advance. It would really help if everyone paid for a whole year in advance. We could go ahead and get those much needed and wanted RMRU shoulder patches.

**SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIP.** We wish to thank the Hemacinto Lions Club for their very generous contribution and to welcome them as one of RMRU's sustaining members. Our sustaining membership drive is getting under way slowly but surely, as we get more and more exposure with our new slide show and talks to service clubs and youth groups. All RMRU members, active and inactive, should keep this sustaining membership drive in mind and contact friends and acquaintances about becoming RMRU supporters. They may be more interested than you think.

**SLIDE SHOW.** If any RMRU members have been approached about giving our new slide show, have them contact Larry Percy and he will be glad to set up a showing to service clubs, youth groups, church groups, etc. Also Larry would welcome the help of any member at these various showings, especially service club luncheons.

TIME VALUE - PLEASE EXPEDITE

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Riverside, Calif.  
Permit No. 482

Riverside Mountain Rescue Unit, Inc.  
Post Office Box 5444  
Riverside, California 92507



*A volunteer organization dedicated to saving lives through rescue and mountain safety education.*