

RMRU NEWSLETTER

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

19 June - Board Meeting
26 June - Regular Meeting
28-30 June - Training Session
17 July - Board Meeting
24 July - Regular Meeting
27 July - Training Session

COMING EVENTS.

Board Meeting, 19 June, Al Andrews' home, 5947 Green Valley, 1900.

Regular Meeting, 26 June, Shamel Park, Arlington Avenue, West of freeway, 1930

We will discuss the High Sierra Training Session, tie rope litters, and work on methods for removing victims from technical terrain on one's back, and naturally, Unit business.

Training Session to Ritter-Banner Peaks, 28-30 June. Drive to Agnew Mdw. Friday evening and camp. Hike up to Nydiver Lakes on Saturday and set up camp, climb Banner. Climb Ritter and return Sunday. Naturally this itinerary may undergo considerable modification.

Special gear: crampons, ice ax, fishing gear.

Board Meeting, 17 July, Jim Fairchild's home, 1900. Come help Jim celebrate his 42nd.

Regular Meeting, 24 July, 1930

Dr. Norman Mellor speaks on "How to Postpone or Prevent Heart Attacks". Plan for Training Session on Tahquitz Rock where we'll remove victims from TT.

Training Session, 27 July on Tahquitz Rock. Meet at Humber Park 0700. Enough said!

MEMORY NOTE. Board Members and Committee Chairmen meet at Sir George's Smorgasbord, 3525 Merrill, 1800, the night of regular meetings. Why? To gorge with George and then get set for the meeting, etc. This is every month unless notified to the contrary.

WHAT DOES RMRU HAVE TO OFFER? This month we consider the individual talents, having considered the unit capabilities in May.

When a man wishes to join RMRU he submits an application. Upon approval by the Board of Directors, he begins participation with the unit in a six month probation period. He demonstrates his ability in cooking, hiking, orientation, tracking, search, safety, weather, survival; acquires proper clothing and equipment; and qualifies as an Advanced Red Cross First Aider. He achieves a high level of prowess for hiking with a pack. He also gets used to fleeing his home fully clothed and packed within eight minutes of the call. Now he is a Support Member appropriately denoted by a "Support" bar affixed to the Mountain Rescue emblem. Following successful completion of the probationary period he may begin qualification for Rescue Member. There are such captivating and serious categories as: technical equipment acquisition; knot tying; rope handling; belaying; climbing; rappelling; prusiking; piton & bolt craft; fixing natural and artificial anchors; riggings; litter lore; snowshoeing and/or skiing; ice ax skill; and, naturally, plenty of practice in all these things, on snow and rock, in realistic environment. There are ratings to work for too: first aid instructor; dog handler; helitac; search director; technical rescue director. Upon qualification as Rescue Member the Support bar is clipped off.

A look at an "average" RMRU member will find a man in his thirties, with a family, in excellent physical condition, capable of doing his share in any kind of mission he might be called for. He has a background of great interest and participation in sport backpacking, probably mountaineering as well. He owns over \$500 worth of gear useful in SAR. He is used to the hardships, frustrations, and disappointments attendant to SAR, always looking forward to the next victim saved from terminal circumstances. In various pairings and groupings we are good friends outside of SAR endeavors. The "esprit de corps" within the unit is tremendous. But this average tag is hard to tie on. We have quite a span in age, 26 to 51. Most of us are in the "Aerobics" physical training program, several men run five miles or more regularly, a few even twenty. We have seven first aid instructors, and one man qualified to train instructors. One man is an active National Ski Patrol leader.

Two important factors unite into one in order to determine whether a man is qualified for Support and Rescue Member, and for ratings: first, evaluation by the Training Committee; second, evaluation by the member himself. A high level of individual integrity fosters complete trust in other members--without this we could be in trouble.

The foregoing material on unit and individual capabilities is intended to acquaint you and remind us (RMRU) of what the unit should and does offer when its services are needed. Beginning in the July issue we will print a picture and biographic review of each member of RMRU. This will further amplify the individual.

In coming issues we'll state our stand on topical questions like: Why should a government agency call a unit that is a member of the Mountain Rescue Association; To what degree and how intensively should we seek realistic practice on technical snow and rock terrain; How long do we persist in a search before saying "we've no more hope"; and what are the variable circumstances? What comprehensive guideline could be given governmental agencies to define when a SAR unit should be called and when it should not be called?

Another successful training weekend was completed May 18-19 on San Jacinto. Saturday morning the team gathered at Strawberry Creek on the USC campus. A special technical problem was set up--lowering a person over a vertical rock cliff in a litter -- to both give the team additional training in this operation and to obtain photographs for the new brochure. This was quickly done so the team adjourned to Lawler Park on the Banning-to-Idyllwild highway to begin the descent of Dark Canyon (north fork of the San Jacinto River). Everyone had either rucksacks or cut-down keltys for ease of movement in the rugged terrain. It was a trip on which you could go very light as it was quite warm, yet everyone with the usual RMRU aplomb, was carrying a gourmet's delight for dinner (or according to Mike Daugherty a glutton's delight). The descent went easy Saturday afternoon, with lots of poison oak, ladybugs, no waterfalls, and no fish for our president. We fortunately stopped at about the only campsite large enough for the group (ten members) on a sandy bench next to the creek. All was well until when going to bed, it was discovered that we had been invaded by enormous ants and various sundry insects. Despite these hardships, the team slept well with the knowledge that the phone would not ring in the middle of the night. The next day, after a hearty breakfast, the team continued its descent. Since no members had previously traversed this section of the canyon, curiosity was high as to if any unknown waterfalls would be encountered. Indeed this was the case with the discovery of two falls above the recognized three. Both could be surmounted easily, the fifth, high on either side and the fourth, on the left in the canyon. The other three waterfalls it was recalled should be passed high on the right after running into difficulty on the left. The team walked out to the road in 95°F weather shortly after noon with the firm resolve to never again schedule a canyon descent in the summer. - Bill

THE PRESIDENT'S BOX - May has been a month to remember for RMRU. Early in the month Jim Fairchild, Fred Camphausen and I presented the new colored slide program to the Riverside Chapter of the Sierra Club. Fred drove the rescue truck down to the meeting and unloaded a lot of the equipment and displayed it on the lawn. 'Cary', the team's biggest Bloodhound was on hand and everyone enjoyed his long sad face and quiet disposition. The slide program was very well accepted and the questions numerous and interesting.

The Sustaining Membership drive seemed to catch hold and there have been a number of donations, even without the new brochures. The RMRU Board of Directors met with some of the members of the Citizens Advisory Committee and finalized the new brochure. We hope to have the brochure from the printers by the middle of June. At that time we will put the Sustaining Membership drive into full swing.

Starting on Sunday night May 12th RMRU searched for two groups overdue from Mt. San Jacinto. Then a rescue on Friday May 24th in the Mecca area. At noon on Sunday May 26th we started a search for two Scouts missing from Skunk Cabbage Meadow in the San Jacinto Mountains. The long dry spell of no missions was ended with a real deluge. The details of the above missions are elsewhere in this issue.

Three members who have been inactive for awhile have joined us again. We welcome Mike Daugherty, Ron Harris, and Dave Martin back. The extra manpower is most welcome since we are still undermanned.

It is with sorrow that I report that one of the team's young bloodhounds had to be put to sleep.

He had developed numerous cancer tumors and the prognosis was that if they were removed surgically they would probably return.

While I was typing up this section RMRU received a call that a mentally retarded woman was missing. While the call out was in progress, she was reported found. - Pres. Walt

SAR MISSIONS. 13 May. At midnight Sunday (12 May) RMRU was called by the Riverside County Sheriff's Department with the information that six people were stranded on San Jacinto Peak. Saturday night and morning a snow had fallen. We gathered at the Idyllwild Sheriff's Sub Station, then drove to Humber Park, starting up the trail at 0245. The six of us proceeded up the Angel's Glide Trail from Saddle Junction. About a mile from there we came to a confusion of tracks, gave a yell, and were answered by a three-boy party from Long Beach. They had come down that far from the peak and lost the trail, pitched a tent, and were in good shape. MacPherson escorted them back to Idyllwild after they told there were still six people (UCR students) at the peak. At Wellman's Divide Daugherty and Camphausen split off to check Round Valley and Long Valley. Fairchild, Foote, and Stark continued on to the top. More slogging along the slippery trail in the dawn hour and we were greeted by the stranded group comfortably enjoying the cabin near the summit. After breakfast and packing, we escorted them down to Round Valley and thence to the tram. Walker and Andrews met us just below Round Valley and roped up one of the gals who was slipping a lot on the snow, because there were some "hairy" spots on the trail.

TECHNICAL RESCUE. Late Friday evening on May 24th, the Indio office of the Riverside County Sheriff's Department, under the command of Capt. Del Fountain called for assistance. A church group had had a picnic in Painted Canyon and a 17 year old boy from the group had climbed up into the infamous 'Mecca Mud Hills'. On the way down he slipped and fell into a sitting position on a very small ledge. (The next bounce would have been about a 90 footer.) When RMRU arrived on the scene it had been a number of hours since the boy had fallen and he was in a poor psychological condition. One of our men was appointed to stay at the bottom and converse with the boy and direct the rest of the team by radio as to the correct ravine and rockfall problems. If you have not been in this area you cannot really appreciate the problem that was facing the team. The hills are very steep and eroded dirt with almost no vegetation. The climbing was somewhat hazardous because nothing was solid. The team roped up to get past two particularly dangerous areas. Upon reaching the top of the ridge, we then had to locate the correct ravine. After this was accomplished the next problem was anchors. On a previous search into this area we had observed the conditions and had come to the conclusion that we would have to supply our own anchors if there was ever a technical mission into this area. So we came prepared with one inch aluminum angles 4 feet long (snow pickets) and a sledge hammer which is now going to have a shorter handle after we saw it off. Two of the pickets were driven into the dirt and used as the rappel and brake bar anchors. A man rappelled down to the victim on a 300 foot rope. He had taken with him the end of another 300 foot rope that had a rescue seat and chest harness tied into it. He reached the victim about 100 feet down and tied him in. He then rappelled with the boy as the team lowered the boy to the bottom. The team then set up a double rope and rappelled down. After everyone was down the 200 plus feet, we attempted to pull the rope down. After a lot of pulling and twisting of the two ropes we were finally able to retrieve the two 300 foot ropes. Once again the team had the thrill of participating in a technical rescue and saving a life with our special skills.-Walt

On the last weekend of May RMRU put in a little overtime. Everyone had just about recovered from the hairy technical rescue performed Friday night in the Mecca Mud Flats, when another rescue call came in Sunday at noon from the Riverside County Sheriff's Department. It turned out two Boy Scouts were far overdue, they were last seen at about 5:30 P.M. Saturday evening. The two boys, David Martin, age 18 and Craig Arend, age 14, were camped in Skunk Cabbage Meadow in the San Jacinto wilderness area with their troop (troop #5 from Riverside) when they decided to hike to another camp in the same meadow. Somehow they got turned around in route, and apparently feeling they would get their bearings shortly, did not call for help. They walked until approximately midnight and then stopped to rest. Dawn and the two lost boys started to walk again, at the same time the scoutmaster reported the missing boys to the park ranger on duty in the area. However, the report did not reach the Sheriff until noon Sunday and the Sheriff immediately called for assistance from RMRU. By 1:30 P.M. there were six RMRU members at the rendezvous point, as the boys were so long overdue it was decided to try

and get a helicopter from the Marine Air Station at El Toro, because the first thought was that the boys might have started downhill toward Palm Springs. If that was the case they might be in serious trouble, since the most obvious route is a very treacherous canyon with several high waterfalls. Walt Walker and Larry Percy were selected to take a helicopter ride and make a general search of the backcountry and Tahquitz Canyon which leads into Palm Springs. Al Andrews, Don Ricker, Ron Harris, and King Dalton would make the ground party to make a thorough search of the area where the boys were last seen. By six o'clock nothing had been turned up by either the chopper or the ground party, so the helicopter was landed so the two parties could confer on what to do next. As the chopper landed in the meadow, the two lost scouts walked into the same meadow, at that point they had been missing for over 24 hours. We'd like to thank the officials at the search and rescue facility at El Toro Marine Base for their help in getting a helicopter so fast, and commend the crew of that helicopter Capt. R. E. Byrnes, S/Sgt. R. L. Fryes, CPL. A.L. Carter for some real great flying in a helicopter that really wasn't equipped for that altitude.- Larry

SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIP. Just a note about our sustaining membership for those who may not be familiar with it. RMRU's financial support is acquired entirely from our regular and sustaining memberships. Our sustaining members are best described as people who have an interest in the service of our organization, but for one or more reasons are unable to actively participate. They are, however, a very important group within RMRU, as their financial expression of interest is very essential to the life of our unit. The available memberships are listed below:

\$10	Supporting	\$100	Life	\$1000	Benefactor
\$25	Contributing	\$250	Endowment		
\$50	Associate	\$500	Patron		

This month has been outstanding. We are very pleased to have eighteen new sustaining members. RMRU wants to again thank each and every one of you for your very generous donations.- Al

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| Julie Allen | Karin K. Linker |
| Mr. & Mrs. Wayne P. Brown | Norman H. Mellor, M. D. |
| Mr. & Mrs. Herwil M. Bryant | Mr. & Mrs. Albin Merzals |
| Linda Crabtree | Mr. & Mrs. D. L. Miller |
| Mr. & Mrs. Donald G. Crafts | Mr. & Mrs. John A. Revie |
| Col. C. H. Dingwell | Mr. & Mrs. Carl F. Tennant |
| Mr. & Mrs. Richard E. Fleming | Shirley Van Campen |
| Mr. & Mrs. David Harrah | Mr. & Mrs. Roland Wilhemy |
| Mr. & Mrs. John W. Harvey, Jr. | William F. Zauche |

\$80.00 TO GO....We only have \$80 to go before we can order the new and much better RMRU shoulder patches. To get a decent price we have to have 114 made up at one time. So if you haven't paid your dues please pay them as soon as possible. If you are looking for someone to give your money to, Larry Percy will be more than happy to take it from you. We still have several deluxe first aid belts for those that didn't get one. Also for sale are bedayn carabiners, ground to air signal panels, American Alpine Club's accidents in north american mountaineering, MRA rescue shoulder patches and MRA support shoulder patches, RMRU car decals and MRA car decals. These are all available from Larry Percy. -- Larry

NEW MEMBERS. After the above note on how decimated our numbers will be this summer, would you not agree that we need more manpower? For every good new member we receive about 5 applications, and for every 5 applications handed out we get about one back. Everyone who reads this NEWSLETTER in the vicinity of Riverside County should seriously think how he can influence the right kind of people to apply.

About the stranger(s) we meet on the trail or see at campsites. Do we smile, engage them in conversation, perhaps through our friendliness make their trip happier and safer, even prevent a tragedy? We can do this on real missions, training sessions, and our sport backpacking and climbing.

EXPEDITIONS AND VACATIONS. During the entire summer Bill Briggs, Jim Foote, Mike Daugherty, Woody Stark, and Dick Webster will be in Peru clambering up and around Huascuaran. Some of them won't be back until October. We wish them a safe and successful trip! That expedition takes a third of our unit, then in August all but about three or four men escape the rat race for vacations. In August '66 we had six missions, in August '67 we had none -- what's up for August '68?

BOOK REVIEW. MOUNTAINEERING -- The Freedom of the Hills. Second Edition. Harvey Manning, Chm. of the Editors, Pub. by The Mountaineers, Seattle, Washington. An exceptionally fine text on wilderness travel, first published in 1961, comes to us with considerable new material and widespread revision of old. This tome is on our required reading list and is worth all the reading and study one is willing to devote.

ORIGIN OF THE RMRU NEWSLETTER. Some of the members decided a printed communication to unit membership would be desirable to pass on information and remind about dates. Walt Walker probably broached the idea originally, then for several years gathered and printed the material. A year or so ago several others helped by submitting items. Then prior to the April '68 issue Walt asked Larry Percy and Jim Fairchild to become editors and submit copy to him for printing. Larry's many responsibilities caused him to desist from this duty.

Now Jim is ye olde editor, but has plenty of help. Walt writes a President's Box and reviews copy, Al Andrews writes items on finances and the Sustaining Membership Drive, Bill Briggs submits training news. The editor puts it together after writing a "few" lines, and gives it to Natalie, Al's wife, who types it for printing. The copy takes a buss ride to Walt's print shop in San Jacinto where he may put in photos and art work, then prints it. Then Wednesday evening the Board gets together to fold and address, Larry takes it to the post office the next morning. Anyone who reads the NEWSLETTER and would like to communicate with the editor or submit copy, contact Jim Fairchild, 4855 Central, Riverside, California 92504, (714) 683-2657. Items submitted and written by other people than editor will be so noted.



NOW THAT WE'RE ORGANIZED...WHAT THE HECK DO WE DO?

TIME VALUE - PLEASE EXPEDITE



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