

RMRU NEWSLETTER

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

Volume IV, Issue 5, May 1968

4 May - Testing & Demo at Idyllwild
7 May - Program at Sierra Club Dinner
8 May - Board Meeting
15 May - Regular Meeting
17-19 May-Training Session
24-26 May-MRA Meeting at Yosemite Valley

Our expanded NEWSLETTER for April stimulated considerable comment, all good. We certainly welcome contact from anyone who reads it. It is our goal to always print readable, informative copy that will be eagerly awaited each month.

THE PRESIDENT'S BOX As you may or may not know, RMRU runs on a fiscal year, starting May 1 and running through April 30. It is outlined in the By-laws that the last meeting in April shall be the annual meeting and election of directors to the board. On April 24th the annual meeting was held for 1968. The following men were elected to the board of directors: Al Andrews, Bill Briggs, Jim Fairchild, Larry Percy and Walt Walker. The new board then met and elected the following:

Walt Walker, President
Jim Fairchild, Vice-President
Al Andrews, Secretary
Larry Percy, Treasurer

The board after lengthy discussion appointed the following committees:

Equipment Development
Fred Camphausen, Chr.
(also Quartermaster)
Bill Speck
Bob MacPherson
Al Andrews

Membership
Jim Fairchild, Chr.
Dick Webster
Woody Stark

Ways and Means
King Dalton, Chr.
Board of Directors

Training
Bill Briggs, Chr.
Jim Fairchild
Art Bridge

Public Relations
Larry Percy, Chr.
Jim Dodson
Jim Foote

The new board of directors has drafted a new policy requiring committee chairman to attend the board meeting quarterly (July, October, January, April) and report to the board. The committee chairman are urged to set early dates to meet with their committeemen and get things rolling. RMRU has improved tremendously in the past couple of years but still has room for improvement by striving for higher goals. As president I am asking each and every RMRU member's help in making RMRU better.

If you carefully read the list of committees, you may have noted that the training committee is packed with tigers. I'm sure we can look forward to some 'interesting' training sessions in the future. (I think I will arrange to be out of town on business when the winter trip comes up next year. Camping below the cornice in the Big Draw sounds tough to me.) - Walt

What does RMRU have to offer? To answer this query we will break the subject into "Group" and "Individual" phases, the first phase this time, the second in June. Primarily RMRU maintains a high degree of preparedness for wilderness search and rescue missions (S & R). We have a Call Sheet that is revised semi-annually and given to agencies (especially the Sheriff's Dept.) who call us. Through our calling system we alert the unit and can be at a roadhead in the San Jacinto Mts. within two hours of the first call. We then interrogate the people involved, organize the unit into teams. If the subject's location is unknown we must decide where and how to search. If the location is known, we decide how to get him out. The skills that might be needed for any mission are inseparable from individual skills and will be discussed next month. We believe that RMRU is capable of safely and efficiently performing any search and rescue operation for which we might be called. We have the training and equipment necessary, and the desire. We will roll not only to the distant, difficult areas, but

places like the riverbottom and local hills -- anyplace and anytime. Another capability that is most valuable is tracking with dogs. We have bloodhounds (owned by Walt Walker and Don Ricker) that are trained and ready. Along the line of education we have a slide show that depicts our operation, booths on which we can exhibit gear, and plenty of equipment for display. We are eager to conduct outdoor training for hikers and campers, especially youth groups. We believe our skills would be most useful in case of train or plane wrecks, earthquakes, floods, and fires. Look for this section next month when we tell about individual talents.

SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIPS. RMRU would like to thank Mr. & Mrs. Charles G. Smith, Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth L. Andrews, and the Hemet-San Jacinto Rockhounds Club for their very generous contributions and welcome them as RMRU's newest sustaining members. This money will go to help us maintain a high level of material readiness, and will buy new, good equipment which will keep victims and ourselves safer. Again, thanks for your help.

COMING EVENTS. 4 May. Meet 0730 at Idyllwild Grammar School. We'll set up a problem in Strawberry Canyon for the San Diego team, then help with a first aid demo in the village. Bring uniform, call-out gear. We should be home in time for supper.

SLIDE SHOW -- On May 7 at 7:30 p.m. RMRU will present the slide show at the regular meeting of the Riverside Chapter of the Sierra Club. The meeting is at the Izaak Walton League Club House in Fairmount Park. Any RMRU members who come should definitely wear their uniforms. Lets have a real big turn out of RMRU personnel, this is excellent publicity for the team.

8 May. Board Meeting at Fairchild's, 1700. 4855 Central Avenue, Riverside.

15 May. Regular Meeting at Highland Outfitter's, 1930. Board meets for dinner at Sir George's, 1800. Hint: read your training manual and practice knots. Henceforth, meetings will be short on business (but thorough) and long on training and special features.

17-19 May. Training Session. This full weekend will be a backpacking familiarity trip in the Dark Canyon area. Full details at the May 15th meeting.

4-26 May. The MRA meeting in Yosemite Valley will feature business, equipment testing, new team testing, and spring scenery in one of the world's most spectacular settings.

Big Rock Training. On 27 April a dozen members met for nine hours of bouldering, climbing, knots and rigging, first aid on rappel, litter lore, and equipment display. The area around Big Rock and the rock itself have been desecrated by spray paint nuts. They've put names and symbols all over. Then the trash, insects, and smog, along with Friday night parties combined to chop enthusiasm. It was still a worthwhile session.

DUES. Dues time is here again. If everyone will pay the full year in advance, that's \$13.00 (\$12.00 dues and \$1.00 for MRA Newsletter), we'll have enough money to have a batch of new team shoulder patches made up. We have some real nice ones lined up this time, they won't come apart after two or three washings. I'm sure nearly everyone of us is in need of at least one set of shoulder patches.

LITERATURE. Two exceptional books deserve mention, should be required reading!

MEDICINE FOR MOUNTAINEERS. Ed. by James A. Wilkerson, M.D. Pub. by The Mountaineers, Seattle, Washington. A most enlightening 300 pages of first and second aid written for people who may be faced with caring for accident victims in the wilderness. Send a remittance for \$7.65 to The Mountaineers, P.O. Box 122, Seattle, Washington 98111.

AEROBICS. By Major Kenneth H. Cooper, M. D., M.P.H. Pub. by Bantam Books, PS3911. An absorbing account of how to achieve true physical fitness and optimum health. No kidding, this is it. Most unit members are already in the program. Everyone who reads this NEWSLETTER should obtain a copy. Try the Book Nook in Riverside, or the local paperback stands and racks. This \$1.00 book can change your life -- for the better!

MERCHANDISE FOR SALE -- In case some of the members don't remember, the team has several items for sale, to members only. Bedayn carabiners, ground to air signal panels, first aid belts (these can also be sold to people other than members), American Alpine Club's "Accidents in North American Mountaineering" several old issues are available, "D" cell Alkaline batteries, MRA shoulder patches, first aid patches, RMRU window decals, and MRA lapel pins. See Larry Pearcy if you have need of any of these items.

TIME VALUE - PLEASE EXPEDITE

Jim Fairchild
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