

R M R U NEWSLETTER

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

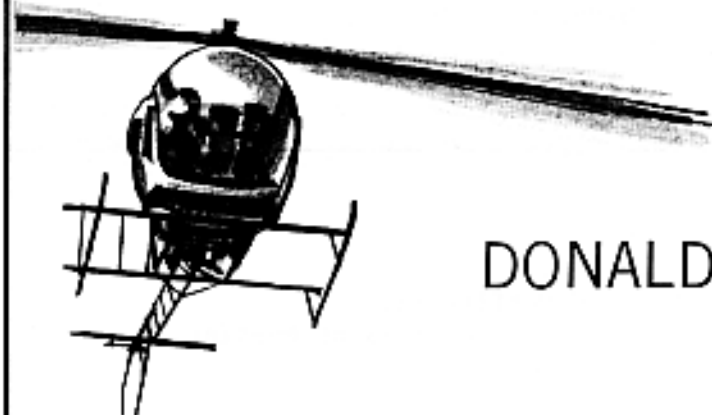
MEMBER OF THE MOUNTAIN RESCUE ASSOCIATION

Volume IV, Issue 9 - September 1968

Sub-Editor, Walt Walker

Sept 18 - Board meeting
Sept 25 - Regular meeting
Sept 27-29 - Training session

IN MEMORIAM



DONALD HARDENBERG

A man who believed and worked in mountain rescue is no longer with us. Helicopter pilot, Don Hardenberg, was killed when his machine crashed and burned while he was making water drops on the San Gabriel forest fire.

Death is of course inevitable, however, I don't think most of us think too much about it. This is probably very healthy, but when death takes someone you know it always comes as a tremendous shock. Just two weeks before Don's untimely death I had flown with him on a successful search. After the mission we had breakfast with Don and traded jokes, which he always had plenty of. His humor and his skill as a pilot will long be remembered by those of us who knew and flew with him. -- Walt

RMRU Newsletter Editor Jim Fairchild was on vacation for the month of August and I'm filling in for him this issue only. So don't blame Jim if you notice a difference.



Once again RMRU breaks its own record with another string of missions. Last year, in September, we participated in five missions in four weeks and of course this June we had four missions in one week. This past month (August) we had seven missions in fifteen days. This brings our manhours to 2339 for the year. This is only 130 short of last year which was our busiest. With-

out a doubt 1968 will set a record since there are still five months to go. If Captain Gilbert "Gib" Crowell goes on vacation again we will break our August record with no trouble at all. It almost seems that everytime he's gone we get called out.

On behalf of RMRU I would like to thank Norm Mellor, M. D. for obtaining some first aid and medical supplies for us. Also some cargo parachutes and information on a test drop he worked with. Norm is now working up material for a special paper on first aid for exposure victims in desert terrain.

We received a copy of the San Diego Mountain Rescue Team's newsletter and congratulate them on a very good issue. Hope they keep it up. We would like to see more teams send copies of their newsletters. This would help all of us to know what's happening with SAR in other areas.

RMRU just received copies of the 63D Military Airlift Wing, Search and Rescue Plan from Norton Air Force Base. We're sure happy to see that RMRU is listed as a "friendly force". All kidding aside - we are happy to try and assist Sgt. Koch and his group whenever they feel there is a need for us.

The family picnic was once again a great success, with more people attending and more having fun. Thanks to Al Andrews for lining things up. Bud White got all the men and boys to run around the lake. Thanks a lot Bud! When we arrived home there was a call for a rescue.

Radio Chairman Al Andrews has received our radio license from the FCC and word from Motorola that our two 5 watt radios should be shipped from the factory the week of September 16th. - Pres. Walt

COMING EVENTS

Board meeting 18 September 1900 at Jim Fairchild's home.

Regular meeting 25 September 1930 at Highland Outfitters.

Training - We'll try for Ritter and Banner again. Details at meeting.

RMRU PATCHES

The new patches and volunteer bars finally arrived and they really look great. Larry has them in the locker and you can pick yours up anytime. Thanks again to the Riverside County Sheriff's Association for making the purchase of the patches possible.

LOST AND FOUND

The team is missing a first aid belt complete with air splints. It was last seen on the rescue and evacuation from the North Face. If you have it or know its whereabouts, contact Fred.

FIRST AID CLASSES

If your advanced first aid card is about up or you think you could use a refresher and who doesn't, then get ready. Jim Fairchild will be instructing a course starting 9 September (7 to 10 p.m.) at the Red Cross Chapter House in Riverside. Walt Walker will start a course on 19 September (7 to 10 p.m.). It will probably be held at the Hemet High School. Both courses will run for ten weeks. Jim will also teach an instructor's course commencing after the completion of the ten weeks.



WHERE AND WHEN????

Round Valley, Mt. San Jacinto Wilderness State Park - February 12, 1963. This was the search for Jackson Jordan who froze to death near the summit of Mt. San Jacinto. Ex-team member Dennis Jackson hurries away from the 'Bell' as Walt Walker unties gear that was flown in. The pilot's name escapes us, however, he was the Australian who was impressed with our tall mountain.

SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIP

We are very pleased to add the names of Mr. & Mrs. James D. Pence and Mr. & Mrs. Milton M. Levy to our Sustaining Membership. Thanks to our sustaining members we were able to order two Motorola 5 watt handie-talkies. These units will be on the MRA frequency so that we can operate with the other MRA teams. THANKS AGAIN, SUSTAINING MEMBERS! -- Al



The Road Runner sez-

First, apologies for being on vacation during the three weeks the seven missions occurred--when the Roadrunner leaves town, people get into trouble in the wilderness. Second, prepare yourselves well for a cold winter. If the present trend of weather, and the tremendous food storing activity of birds and rodents in the mountains mean anything, this could be timely advice. Third, there seems to be an increasing tendency th some of us to leave the roadhead and forge into the field with insufficient gear-- assuming we won't need certain items. This is causing some problems, not to mention embarrassment. Please give close attention to the sheet on "Material Readiness," enclosed next month. Fourth, this avian intellect ("bird brain" in the vernacular) is mystified when considering the small number of people who need finding and rescuing in the wilderness when so many go there totally unprepared and untrained for that environment--lucky for RMRU this is so. Fifth, please heed what someone has termed our motto, "RMRU, are you as prepared for search and rescue as you would want your rescuers to be?" -- Jim

SEARCH AND EVACUATION - Tahquitz Canyon - 10 August

The Riverside County Sheriff's Department received a call Friday evening from a worried wife that her husband was overdue. On Wednesday evening the missing man was left at Humber Park (6600'), near Idyllwild, by his wife. He had planned to camp that evening at the base of Tahquitz Rock (7200'). Thursday, he was to climb a rock climbing route, SOLO, ascend the ridge to the peak (8826') and head for Tahquitz Canyon. Friday he planned on descending the canyon and being out on the road (455') by dark.

RMRU knows the above described country well and quickly surmized that the missing man had taken on quite a task and was most foolish in trying it alone. Team members Al Andrews and Walt Walker discussed the situation with Captain Crowell and it was decided to meet at the Palm Springs Airport Saturday morning. A supercharged Bell from Western Helicopters was ordered by the sheriff's department. Saturday morning RMRU members and two men from the Montrose Search and Rescue Team were ready when the chopper arrived. Don Hardenberg flew Walt into the Tahquitz Canyon area and the missing man was spotted on the South ridge (3500'). Don landed with hand signals from Walt (to keep the tail rotor out of the brush) and picked up the man who was short of water. It was only 0915 but it was already hot. The missing man's then flown to the airport where his wife was waiting. -- Walt

RESCUE AND EVACUATION - North Face Mt. San Jacinto - 15 August

Thursday morning Captain Crowell called RMRU and requested help to find two young Scouts missing somewhere on the North Face of Mt. San Jacinto (9000'). Three Scouts and a young

adult leader from the Riverside County Council of Scouts started on the San Jac '50 Miler'. On the second day out the group became confused and did not take the correct route. After realizing they were not in the right area, they started down the North Face. This was not a very wise choice, which they found out later. They descended down a canyon until their progress was blocked by a 200 foot waterfall. At this time they climbed up the side of the canyon and tried descending a small chute. But their way was blocked by a 40 foot dry waterfall. One of the Scouts and the leader lowered themselves with a very light rope. The other two decided they couldn't do it. So they stayed and the other two started out for help. The leader and the Scout arrived at the Snowcreek caretakers cabin (1900') the next day and asked for help.

A good part of the day was spent searching in a Bell from Western Helicopters. The boys were sighted and the pilot, Erben G. Brown, flew the bird deep down into the canyon and landed on a large boulder (4500'). After four more such trips there were enough RMRU members in the canyon to do the job. Bob MacPherson did a great job climbing up the waterfall. He reached the boys after placing a piton and securing a nylon sling to a bush. The boys were then roped up and lowered one at a time with a member rappelling with them. The boys were then helped to the bottom of the canyon and flown out to the Banning Airport. The last RMRU members were flown out as the sun was setting. - Walt

RESCUE - TAHQUITZ CANYON - 17 August

At 3:45 p.m. we were called to evacuate an injured hiker from just below the second falls in Tahquitz Canyon (2200'). We were met by Tom Mason of Western Helicopters at the Palm Springs Airport at 5:15 p.m. Ron Harris and Fred Camphausen were sent in first to perform first aid and clear a heliport. They were followed in by Bill Speck, Jake Johnson and Dave Martin with a litter and brush removal equipment. The reason for the small crew is that other than Al Andrews who was the operations leader, the remainder of RMRU's members were on various family vacations. The victim was quickly prepared for evacuation since daylight was not waiting for us. He was airlifted back to the airport and a waiting ambulance. Tom then returned to the canyon (with running lights on) and picked up all of the rescuers, two at a time, and returned them to the valley floor. Had it not been for the helicopter acquired by the Riverside County Sheriff's Department and Tom's eagerness and ability, this mission would have been a real gut-buster for six men (or even 12 men) to successfully complete.- Al

SEARCH - MURRIETA - 17-19 August

We received a call by radio while completing the Tahquitz Canyon Rescue requesting assistance in a search for a 68-year old deer hunter, missing in the hills behind Murrieta. Sierra Madre Search and Rescue Team was also called since we were already "busy". We arrived at the base of operation and were informed that Sierra Madre would be there soon with their dogs. At that point it was decided to give the dogs a chance to work the area before the search parties began to cover it. When daylight arrived and no trace of Oscar Scott had been found, all available manpower were put into the field for visual tracking. The brush and duff made tracking almost impossible especially since no tracks could be found in the area where Oscar was last seen at 9:00 a.m. Sunday was spent without finding any evidence of his whereabouts. On Monday, 19 August, late in the afternoon Oscar was found by his son and members of the San Diego Search and Rescue Team in the upper end of San Mateo Canyon, tired and hungry. -- Al

RESCUE - WHITEWATER CANYON - 24 August

Four boys started on a hike from the Whitewater fish hatchery late in the afternoon. At dusk they became stranded and called for help. The Sheriff's Department was contacted and in turn called RMRU for assistance. The Whitewater Canyon area is not a hard granite area. In fact it is a sedimentary conglomerate one,--in other words, just plain lousy. Jake Johnson and Ron Harris were sent up to see if there was a possible route, while awaiting more members. They found a route and did a great job of climbing to reach the boys. When more members arrived, they were sent up to assist. The boys were tied into climbing ropes and helped down to the road and anxious parents. -- Walt

SEARCH - WILDOMAR - 25 August.

We received a call from the Elsinore Sheriff's Sub-Station that help was needed to remove a sick hunter from a ridge near the Wildomar Guard Station. Two members of the party which had come out for help, had gone back in with water and were able to get the fellow back on his feet. As we arrived at the roadhead, the party walked out. Upon returning to the Elsinore Station, we received word that we were needed at Lake Allendale to help search for four girls. Some of the team had already been diverted to the area. The story of this search is given below. -- Al

SEARCH - LAKE ALLENDALE - 25 August

While Larry Percy was waiting at the Sheriff's Sub-Station in Elsinore for late arrivals on the evacuation of the downed hunter in the Wildomar area, word came over the Sheriff's radio that there was a group of children lost in the Lake Allendale area, near Idyllwild. Larry immediately volunteered the members that had yet to arrive and himself for the new emergency. So while part of the team was extricating the hunter from Wildomar, the remainder of the team started for Lake Allendale (6250'). Walt Walker was intercepted enroute to Wildomar and asked to get Sugar, our tracking Bloodhound, as this seemed the perfect situation for her.

The bulk of the team just had time to step out of the cars when word came through that the "children" had been found; they turned out to be four girls, two fourteen year olds, one twelve, and one eleven. Just to be sure that everything turned out O.K., RMRU stayed around for a while, and there just happened to be some unforeseen difficulties. The group that had located the four girls was having some problem in finding the correct route out of the canyon and also all four girls were barefoot. At this time three members of RMRU started down the canyon to get them on the right path. Ten minutes later the group, along with the four victims, was found and fifteen minutes after that everyone was safely back at Lake Allendale. As for the condition of the victims, they were in fine shape...a little frightened and maybe a little footsore! -- Larry



TIME VALUE - PLEASE EXPEDITE

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