

RMRU NEWSLETTER

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

MEMBER OF THE MOUNTAIN RESCUE ASSOCIATION

Volume V, Issue 6, June 1969
Jim Fairchild, Editor

4 June	Board Meeting
25 June	Regular Meeting
28 June	Family Hike
9 July	Board Meeting

COMING EVENTS ---

4 June, Board Meeting, 1900 at Al Andrews, 5947 Green Valley, Riverside,

25 June, Regular Meeting 1930, Highland Outfitters, Riverside.

28 June, Family Hike. Meet at Humber Park at 0830, Saturday. Come prepared for a leisurely hike to Tahquitz Peak and return, perhaps with a side trip to Tahquitz Valley and Skunk Cabbage Meadow.

SEARCH & RESCUE ACTIVITY ---

28-30 April, Mt. Signal, Baja. On Sunday, 27 April, Keith Riley (7 yrs.) disappeared from a Sunday School picnic that was held just north of the USA-Mexico border adjacent Mt. Signal. The Imperial County Sheriff called the San Diego unit Monday morning, they called RMRU that afternoon. We rolled and arrived at base camp that night. Tuesday saw a large-scale search by two and four-wheeled vehicles, helicopters, and SAR people. The U. S. Border Patrol had its trackers working also. No results. On Wednesday even more people were involved, including military and high school personnel. A group of the latter found the boy's clothing, then his body in the middle of the afternoon. He was over the mountain from his starting point, at the last steep obstacle above the desert floor, and only three miles' walk around the mountain. - Jim

10-11 May, Martinez Mountain Rescue. About 6 p.m. on the evening of Saturday, 10 May, RMRU received a call from the wife of a member reporting that an adult leader participating in a Boy Scout outing being led by her husband had suffered an apparent coronary. As it developed, the man had been stricken about 12:30 p.m. that day, although the leader had not learned of his condition until 2:30 p.m. Since the incident occurred at the 5000 foot level on Martinez Mountain, about 6 miles from the nearest roadhead, several hours were required to carry out the call for help.

Within 20 minutes ten RMRU members were on their way, reaching the roadhead near the little town of Nightingale between 7:30 and 8:00 p.m. Leaving a Sheriff's deputy to man the radio, the team proceeded up the trail, across Horsethief Creek, toward the mountain. About 11:45 p.m. they encountered the party escorting the stricken man camped at the base of the peak. The victim was examined, and since his condition had apparently stabilized, it was decided that the safest course of action was to await morning to effect helicopter evacuation. At first light, Don Landells brought in the supercharged Bell, the victim was loaded aboard and by 6:30 a.m. he was in the intensive care ward of the Palm Springs hospital.

As it turned out, only a few men were really necessary to accomplish the evacuation in this case. However, since we seldom have complete or accurate information at the roadhead, it is always necessary to send in a party both large enough and well enough equipped to deal with whatever situation arises. It may, for example, be necessary to move the victim off technical terrain or to carry him out in the event of poor weather. It's always pleasant to discover that you're better prepared than you had to be. - Mike

MT. JURUPA DEDICATION

RMRU was asked to assist in the dedication of Mt. Jurupa on 16 May. We led a march of 131 people up the 3 mile dirt road to the top where the dedication ceremonies were held. By use of our handi-talkies, we were able to provide the remaining people at the Jurupa Cultural Center with a broadcast of the dedication. Western Helicopters, Inc. provided transportation for Smokey the Bear and other dignitaries to the top of Mt. Jurupa. Fortunately our service as a 'rescue team' were not needed! - Al

TRAINING ACTIVITY ---

10 May, Helitac, it finally happened after being rained out twice and once by gusty wind conditions. Also, once due to the emergencies created by the winter rains. With much enthusiasm almost all RMRU members were at Miro Field in Rialto by 0830. Western Helicopters, Inc. is based at Miro Field and once again they provided a supercharged Bell helicopter and a pilot. After ground school (information about the 'bird' itself, emergency procedures and practice jumping off a 3 foot box) we moved to an open field and practiced entering and exiting of the helicopter while it hovered in the air. We also loaded a litter onto it while it hovered. All the new members were impressed with the fact that you could up set the helicopter quite easily if you were not careful. We of RMRU would like to publicly thank Western Helicopters, Inc. for the generous use of both helicopter and pilot. - Walt

16-18 May, North Face of Mt. San Jacinto Climb. Warm sun and soft snow, salty sweat in the eyes and breaking steps -- the last fifteen hundred feet elevation gain made us pay for our previous pleasure. But the "best" was yet to come. A pair of teen-age heads peered over the final crest of snow while we stumped to the summit. One of the boys asked if we had indeed climbed the north face. Upon receipt of an affirmative reply an incredulous look crossed his visage and he said, "Gee, I didn't know just anybody could climb that!" He was lucky not to have been given a quick trip down it. Our climb had begun Friday evening as the sun was setting. We climbed up the plateau between Falls and the E. Fork of Snowcreek to the Isthmus at 4000'. The temperature that night did not go below 80 degrees F. The next morning we (ten of us) crossed the brushy bluffs on a contour and met the E. Fork where a tremendous depth of snowslide totally covered the first waterfall. Evidence of marginal destruction of vegetation and rock displacement was impressive. The snow made pleasant ramp all the way to the summit, except for a 700' section we detoured around up a bouldery canyon and hot slope covered with oak, buckbrush (ceonothus) and manzanita. We put on crampons when back to the snow and gleefully romped up to the soft stuff. As we descended past the still snow-covered cabin we met John Wehbring and Ed Goodell from the San Diego Rescue Team. They, supposedly, were just climbing the peak, but we wondered if they came to see if we would make it... We talked them into joining us for a delightful camp at Little Round Valley. We slept on a ten-foot depth of snow after a balmy evening. In the morning we were greeted by a 21 degree temperature. Before reaching the roadhead at Marion Mountain Campground we had encountered dusty trails and warm sun. Then back to the smog. At least the "just anybods" completed a most enjoyable outing for conditioning and familiarization. -Jim

SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIP

RMRU received our third 5-watt handi-talkie radio last week. We would again like to thank our sustaining members for making this purchase possible. We would also like to welcome the following people to our sustaining membership: Mr. & Mrs. K. N. Andrews, Girl Scout Troup 77 (Riverside), Mr. & Mrs. Paul Datner, Mr. & Mrs. M. A. Hefferlin, and Mr. & Mrs. J. L. Merrick. We now have a total of 80 sustaining members. We want to give a special thanks to Mr. & Mrs. E. J. Fischer for continuing their support.

A BIG THANKS to the RMRU wives (Rummage sale proceeds) and sustaining members Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth L. Andrews for making it possible for us to order a 110 watt mobile radio for our truck. This radio will be used as a base station for all of our operations, making it possible for our three handi-talkies to be used in the field. - Al



The Road
Runner sez-

Here's a situation each reader should consider most seriously. One or more of your close relatives go into the wilderness to ski, hike, or climb. For one or more reasons such as weather, injury, or becoming lost they fail to return at the stated time. You wait a bit and notify authorities. They wait some more then make half-hearted attempts through their local units

to locate your relatives. More time passes. A number of MRA units hear of the problem. They volunteer their services by contacting the authorities who refuse to permit them participate and even threaten arrest if they enter the area. How would you feel if you: 1) were the relative reporting; 2) were the victim and knew the situation was possible? Will more people have to die as a result of this callous political pride? The governmental agencies responsible for SAR in most counties are quick to call us and most cooperate during the mission, but a few are contributing greatly to unnecessary suffering

'THE ROAD RUNNER SEZ' (continued)

and death by stubbornly rejecting our assistance. This does not refer to any of the missions reported in the RMRU NEWSLETTER. - Jim

OF PLACE *(see the president's box)

22 May, aborted mission. Shortly after midnight RMRU received a call that two people from a Sierra Club trip to the Blue Bottle Peaks area of the Sierra San Pedro de Martir in Baja California were missing. During the day teams from the California Region of MRA rolled, RMRU at 1530. When we called back from Imperial Beach for late word, Walt told us the subjects were safely returned. We enjoyed a Mexican dinner and returned.



One of the lowly type jobs the president has is pasting the newsletter and in the rush the above item was not placed where it belonged. However, I believe I have a good excuse. Starting Friday evening, 30 May, RMRU worked on three missions over the Memorial Day weekend. The complete write-up will be in next months newsletter. Normally, I would have worked on the newsletter over the weekend. However, I just never got around to it. Editor Jim, says he is working on a system to smooth out the rough edges of our editorial problems. Anyone with any suggestions can contact Jim

and I'm sure he will put you to work at once.

On 23 and 24 May RMRU once again set up a display on the downtown mall of Riverside. We also put on a demonstration of technical techniques. You havn't lived till you have rappelled off a three story building with an old fashioned four foot cornice at the top. We also set up a tyrolean traverse from the three story building across the mall to 'Singer Ridge' (Singer sewing machine store). As usual the tracking Bloodhounds stole the lime light. The crowds were much smaller this year at the Outdoor Recreation Show. My only regret is the fact that the members don't turn out in larger numbers for demonstrations and displays. It is a lot of work but public relations is a must if we expect to continue to solicit funds from local people. - Pres. Walt

OTOS OF THE NORTH FACE CLIMB OF MT. SAN JACINTO BY RMRU MEMBER BILL SPECK.....



"I DIDN'T KNOW JUST ANYBODY COULD DO IT".

TIME VALUE - PLEASE EXPEDITE

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