

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 3, March 1969
Editor, Jim Fairchild

15 March Helitac training
26 March Regular meeting
29 March First Aid Seminar
9 April Board meeting

COMING EVENTS --

15 March - Helitac training at Miro Field, Rialto. See the training sheet handed out at the February meeting for details.

26 March - Regular meeting, 1930, Highland Outfitters. Again, business of vital importance to the unit, plans for training, news of SAR from around the Region, knot practice, and, a surprise special feature -- Rudy Haluza, the fourth place winner in the 10 kilometer walk at the '68 Olympics, will talk with us.

29 March - First Aid Seminar. See February Newsletter. Bring full call-out gear, lunch, and plenty of practice dressing and bandage materials. Read carefully beforehand: Red Cross First Aid Text; Medicine for Mountaineering; RMRU Training Manual section on first aid, practice thoroughly beforehand: dressings & bandages; splinting; control of bleeding and artificial respiration.

9 April - Board meeting, 1900, Highland Outfitters.

18-19 April - RUMMAGE SALE being put on by wives of RMRU members. Proceeds to be donated to the unit. Plans are shaping up for our sale, but we need the help of everyone...we hope you are collecting rummage for us. Contact one of the following if you have articles to be picked up: Jim Fairchild, 683-2657; Larry Percy, 689-2448; or Bill Speck, 688-6947. The sale will be held on April 18 & 19 from 9 to 6 at Shamel House (adjacent to Shamel Park Pool) 3650 Arlington Ave., Riverside, (Note to RMRU gals: Next meeting is to be at Alice Ricker's, 1125 Blaine St., Riverside on March 26th at 7:30 P.M. Wear old clothes as we plan to paint publicity posters.)

23 April - Annual meeting and election of the Board of Directors.

25-27 April - Training session where we climb the No. Face of Mt. San Jacinto.!

SEARCH & RESCUE--

Search - 21 February

With 14 members of a 21 member rescue team on training in the Little Draw of Mt. San Gorgonio, a little girl wandered away from her parents campsite in the Joshua Tree National Monument. At 2110 on Friday evening the 21st of February Don Ricker received a call from Capt. Fountain of the Riverside County Sheriff's Department (Indio sub-station). 'Sugar', our tracking Bloodhound was needed. Only 7 members would be available, one of those is inactive and another is in Viet Nam, Don found Chris Rush and Larry Percy at home, Ron Harris was found at the Fox Theater in the middle of a movie, and Al Andrews was at relatives for the evening. Many thanks to Kathy Percy who did a fine job of ferreting out these two. Don and Larry went to San Jacinto (Walt Walker's home) to pick up Sugar and then on to Pera Campground, arriving there about 0115 on the 22nd. They immediately fired the dog, she charged right off toward the main road, as the dog and the handlers reached the road they came across several San Bernardino Sheriff Posse trailers with horses tied to them. It's a rare Bloodhound

indeed that isn't affected by the scent of horses, and this night Sugar was no exception. After the horse scent Sugar just began to wander, Don took her back to the starting point and fired her again with the same scent article, but to no avail. By that time the other three available members had arrived, Ron Harris, Al Andrews and one of our newest members, Chris Rush, a veteran of Viet Nam. The five started to search around the general camp area, something that had already been done by some thirty or forty people, members of the San Bernardino Search and Rescue Team, Sheriff's Mounted Posse, and people camped in the area. But it was felt that the 3 year old girl, Ronda Meyette, could have been missed or even wandered back into the area. As the five RMRU members started circling the camp, the temperature dropped, the wind began to blow harder, it began snowing in earnest, and everyone's fears for the little girl became much greater. At about 0500 everyone went in to warm-up and grab a bite to eat. At dawn, assignments were given and the assigned areas were covered very well. Ron and Larry had just arrived back in base camp for food and re-assignment when word was received that good, clear footprints had been found on the opposite side of the main road. This was the area that Sugar had started for before cutting the scent of horses earlier that morning. Ron and Larry were asked to go to the area at once and start visual tracking. When they arrived excellent prints were found and the tracking began to go very fast. Then someone with a radio called out "she's been found, dead". The snow, wind and cold had been too much for such a little girl, she probably had succumbed by midnight or 0100. Ron and Larry started the long walk back to base camp with tears in their eyes.

Evacuation - 25 February

Shortly after 1400 Lt. Brown of the Riverside County Sheriff's Department (Banning sub-station) called in regards to some people stranded by flooding waters in the Cherry Valley area. Just driving out there through the rain was marginal because this year's answer to two decades of drought continued to soak the terrain. We spent about four hours slogging and driving the jeep across flooded roads and fields, unsticking the jeep, and getting a bit wet and muddy. The people for whom we came were not as needful of our help as indicated, but a couple of them were evacuated anyway.



The Road
Runner sez-

Just a rhetorical question. When we are called for a search, what will it take to stop us? Will we give up when the snow gets deep, when the rain soaks us, when we become fatigued, when other obstacles seem to stymie our efforts? Just how tenacious and determined is RMRU corporately and individually? When lives are in danger will we sacrifice time, comfort, convenience, and safety to give of ourselves to help? A mission may pass the reasonable point of continuance, but we must stay with it until that point is passed. This all goes back to our "rhetorical" motto: "Are you as prepared for SAR as you would want your rescuers to be?"

NEW SHIRTS

The March meeting will be the time to place your order for the new shirts. We need to place a quantity order to receive the special price. It is hoped that everyone will order at least two shirts. Don't forget your \$5.00 per shirt.

"DO YOU REMEMBER WHERE & WHEN?"

The photograph in the February issue of the newsletter was taken just below the summit of Mt San Jacinto by Chuck Kassler, of the Sierra Madre Search and Rescue Team, on 12 February 1963. If you look closely you can see the summit shelter. This was the mission where Jackson Jordon was found later in the day frozen to

death. The eight man party who found him spent the night on the mountain. The next day, in a whiteout storm, the men hauled the body to Round Valley where there was enough visibility for the choppers to come in.

NOBIDCUX ON THE ROCKS, AGAIN -- 12 & 19 MARCH

If you have not tried it, you ought to. Once again, Big Jim, will oversee the special individual attention sessions on technical rock. It was reported that at the last session Mike had quite a ride on a Tyrolean traverse in the dark.

SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIP

We had the pleasure of adding four new names to our sustaining membership this month. They are Charles Reinhardt, John Lase, Jim Dodson, and Mr. & Mrs. Bud White. We also had two renewing members: Mr. & Mrs. Earl Cannon and Norman Mellor, M.D. Again we would like to thank each of you for this most needed support. - Al



Last year at this time RMRU had not even received a call for a mission. In fact it was the middle of May when we finally rolled. 1969 is quite another story. January and February have produced five missions and we have not even had time to add up the hours as yet. We will give you a run down in next months newsletter.

RMRU runs on a fiscal year and the 1968-1969 year ends on April 30th. The last meeting of the fiscal year is the annual meeting where elections are held. As your chairman I urge each RMRU member to carefully consider each member as to his qualifications for election to the Board of Directors. Your selection could go beyond the usual, 'he's a great guy or climber'. Is he willing to put in the extra hours of work required of board members? Does he have time even if he is interested? How long has he been a member and how well does he know the ins and outs of RMRU? There are many more considerations but these are some of the more important ones. - Walt

Baden-Powell, originator of Scouting for Boys, was once asked, "Why the motto, 'Be Prepared'-- prepared for what?" Baden-Powell answered, "Well, prepared for any old thing."

DO YOU
REMEMBER
WHERE
AND
WHEN
?



TIME VALUE - PLEASE EXPEDITE

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