

R M R U NEWSLETTER

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A VOLUNTEER NON-PROFIT CORPORATION

MEMBER OF THE MOUNTAIN RESCUE ASSOCIATION

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Bill Speck, Photographer
Contributions by members.

COMING EVENTS ---

Board Meeting, 11 Feb., 1900, Art Bridge's.

Regular Meeting, 25 Feb. 1930, Highland Outfitters. Dr. Mellor's instruction on hypodermic injections was postponed, so we get to stab one another this evening -- gives us a chance to seek hypnotic help.

Winter Snow Training, 27 Feb. - 1 Mar. Climb to base of Big Draw on Friday evening; conduct intensive practice with ice ax, crampon, team arrest on Sat. morning; climb to top of Big Draw sometime Sat. afternoon and camp at exposed location; practice more arrests, belaying, and rescue techniques on Sunday during the return trip. Roadhead will be Poopout Hill.

PAST EVENTS ---

Snowshoe Shakedown, 30-31 Jan. Mt. San Jacinto. Eighteen of us had a great trip into the high country where there was not enough snow for snowshoeing, but we did use crampons some. The weather was mild, windy, exceptionally clear, only dropped to 22 deg. F. Friday night. Our hike to the peak (10,831') Saturday was only good recreation but most instructive in several ways. We took our pulse rates immediately after strenuous climbing, then two minutes later. Our oldest member (52) is in fine shape aerobically and really goes up the hill, and get this, his pulse rate only went up to 104 per minute, and dropped to 72 in two minutes. At about five minutes I took it and it was 60. By comparison, another member, not aerobically conditioned, counted 186 beats per minute after he had "pushed" along the half-mile section of trail. Further, the 52 yr. old has a blood pressure of 120/70. A note that everyone should heed, because it makes for awkward situations: we must show up for rescues, training, and sport backpacking with packs that are only about half full of personal gear in order to stow community food & equipment, as well as unit necessities like radio, ropes, hardware, etc. To stuff our packs with fifty pounds of our own gear and be unable to carry any more causes overloads on others.

SAR ACTIVITY ---

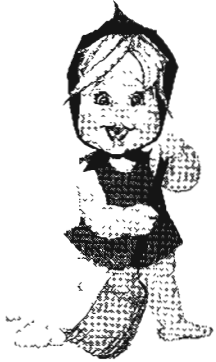
None in January. Looks like the missions will be "saved up" as they were last year and then we'll have five in one week. Let's not let our preparedness slip, because, as they used to say on Candid Camera, "...when you least expect it..."



The Road Runner sez-

The memory of a recent dream, nightmare rather, still haunts me. Seems that a friend called on late afternoon and said his son and a companion were overdue from a climb in the high country and a snowstorm was starting. The call-out attempt went something like this: member A had to meet a deadline at work; member B had an appointment with a client the next morning; member C was a teacher and of course could not miss Monday; member D was tired from skiing up north; member E had a date that night; member F had to study for an exam; member G was still paying for his sins of over imbibing; member H was flying to New York the next day; member I was having car trouble; member J felt he did not have adequate

gear for the cold weather; member K was celebrating an anniversary and of course could not go; member L -- then I awoke, mercifully. All beautiful reasons for not going, or are they? Would they be as beautiful if your son or my son were missing?



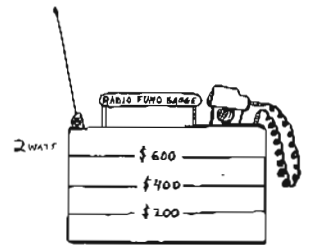
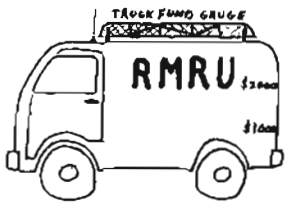
'SPRING' CLEAN *with the* RMRU RESCUETTES

Think back to last year at this time. Can you remember planning your spring cleaning and yet not quite having the energy to get started? Well, RMRU wives are again going to have a Rummage Sale in April. We hope that the early knowledge of this sale will give you incentive to start cleaning out the "extras" in the attic, basement and hall closet...so that RMRU might reap the benefits. Details are not yet firm on where we will hold this sale, but the time is now for starting our collecting. Response from several organizations and many, many individuals last year was credited with the fantastic success of our sale. The proceeds brought the team most of a 5-watt handi-talkie. This year's sale will be bigger and better (based on hindsight) "how 'bout that Wally Wog?" Proceeds will go to the newly established truck fund. We will keep you posted about the coming sale in the monthly newsletter.

SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIP

We are going to rely on the support of our sustaining membership more than ever during 1970. Every attempt is going to be made to acquire that "new rescue van" this year. We must also continue to meet our normal operating costs such as telephone, gas and oil for the truck, and replacement of handi-talkie batteries and other expended equipment during rescue missions. These costs usually run about \$500 per year. The grapevine tells me that the RMRU wives are planning another rummage sale. The proceeds from this sale plus the continuing support and growth of our sustaining membership will be necessary to obtain the

goal of a new rescue van. We are very pleased to have had the following people renew their memberships for 1970: Mr. & Mrs. Wilford F. Keith, Mr. & Mrs. Alfred W. King, Mr. & Mrs. Philip Modica, Mr. & Mrs. Ronald E. Harris, Dr. & Mrs. Norman H. Mellor, Mr. & Mrs. Albin Merzals, Mr. James B. Fairchild, Mr. Alison R. "Bud" White, Mr. Charles M. Reinhardt, Mr. Jim Dodson, The Kennel Club of Riverside, Mr. & Mrs. Carl F. Tennant, and Mr. & Mrs. E. J. Ficher. We also have several new members to welcome this month: Rotary Club of Rubidoux, Mr. & Mrs. Roy C. Adair, Mr. Walton Z. Crane, Mr. Jo E. Atkinson and Mr. Ted Castro. -Al



21 February, Tahquitz Rock. This prominent rock monolith lies above Idyllwild between 7200'-7900' el., has three broad faces, an average angle of steepness of 70 deg., and offers an extraordinary variety of climbing routes as regards difficulty and techniques used. There are probably over a hundred routes and variations now, with new ones being "put up" as time passes. Climbers from all over our country and abroad make this a most popular place. Amazingly, few falls occur with resultant serious injury. RMRU has taken quite a number of stranded climbers off the rock, then the last two missions there involved injuries.

At about 2pm Saturday, Stanley Kameny, 42, was leading a pitch above the gendarme on the White Maiden's Walkaway route, on the prominent northwest buttress. Our second and third hand information pieces together as follows: Stan was about thirty feet up the pitch and clipped into one piton fifteen feet below; he knew he was about to fall, did so, and on the way down while in a sitting posture struck a projection that fractured two vertebra. His belayer held as Stan wound up hanging upside down. He used his hands to right himself as two climbers nearby came to assist him to the ledge. Lack of feeling and control of his legs had convinced him of his injury immediately after the fall. The accident became known below and Don Lauria came up with the Stokes litter kept on Litter Ledge of the Angel's Fright route. Stan was then lowered in several pitches by the brake-bar method. One pitch above the ground Walt Walker arrived. When Stan was off technical terrain he was dressed in down, and the additional climbers who waited at the scene began the slow, torturous descent. Briggs and Fairchild joined in at Lunch Rock. As darkness fell seven more RMRU men arrived to help.

About two-thirds the way down the unavoidable jolts began to cause more pain, so Walt radioed to Dr. Mellor who advised that Stan be injected with Talwin. This done, the "ride" became much more bearable. The treacherous footing required that a constant belay be utilized on the litter, and that we pass it from group to group when obstructions prohibited passage. Once at Humber Park, the Idyllwild ambulance took Stan to Hemet Hospital where the Hemet Ambulance transferred him and proceeded to Riverside Community Hospital, where Stan is in the intensive care unit. A visit there last night with his mother and brother revealed great optimism that Stan will recover motor control. The immediate operation and subsequent suspension in traction will keep Stan's attention for quite some time.

A few notes on the mission: One of us received the call, gathered gear and packed (everything was scattered for inspection and re-shuffling) drove the sixty miles to Humber Park through the usual slow traffic and a long detour, donned a pack and hiked to meet the litter at Lunch Rock in one hour fifty minutes; here's a breakdown on what the men were doing when called. Walt was doing some carpentry at home; Art was with son Dick at the Scout House; Tom was buying a pair of klettershues; Mike was at UCR studying for his PhD. oral exam; Ron just walked in the house from work; Don was pouring concrete for a foundation; Bill had just walked in his house from bouldering; Leon was lifting the head off the engine of the unit jeep; Al was enjoying his infant daughter's company; Jim was washing his pick-up truck.

After Stan was on his way in the ambulance we learned that Maggie Mellor, Norm's wife, had invited the ten of us to dinner at their fine new cabin near Humber Park. We fared sumptuously on dips & chips, chicken stew, fruit salad, and cake. The Mellors' generosity and hospitality will be long remembered. --Jim



The Road

Runner sez-

One of our hobbies is birding -- traveling about the State searching for rare and vagrant birds. After looking around Monterey Bay and driving along the coast to Morro Bay, son John and I finished the day at the State Park. Here we called one of RMRU's sustaining members, Milton and Margaret Levy. They recently moved to Morro Bay following Milton's retirement. As a result of our phone call we met for breakfast the next morning at The Breakers. We discussed birding and rescue operations and other topics over the view of harbor and ocean. Their interest and enthusiasm in the men of RMRU and our activities are inspiring and encouraging. We mention this enjoyable interview because we know that many people whom we've not met and who support us and read of our efforts, are warm, sensitive folks who believe in wilderness rescue. We sincerely appreciate the support.

About a somber subject, aircraft wrecks. We would plead with pilots who are new to the San Geronio Pass not to fly through there when visibility is poor. We have gone in to recover the bodies of quite a number of people who went to their eternal reward following a brief but definite conclusion that they should not have tried to get through. Gathering remains and stuffing them in body bags is even more disagreeable as we think of unnecessarily bereaved relatives. One crash took parents of seven children. Whether pilot or passenger, think twice about flying through storms in light aircraft. Impacting the earth at 200 knots spoils your whole day.

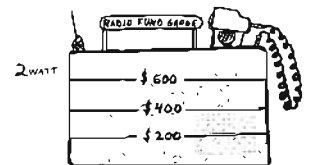
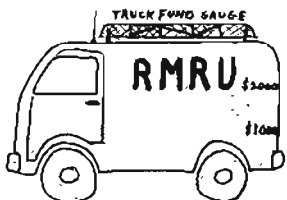
Guilty! Saturday evening the 14th, son John burst in the front door holding a smashed nose that dripped much blood. We got him to lie down, applied ice pack, then hauled him to emergency room at the hospital (old home week for John). The doctor arrived, sewed and packed the nose, we hauled the boy home. During the two hours of absence a call-out occurred and of course we missed the call. I had neglected to call my call captain. Soooo, I was guilty of the very thing I harp on all the time.



Plans are well under way for our 2nd annual rummage sale. We've set the date for Friday, April 17 and Saturday, April 18. So that we will have time to mark all items, please try to get all rummage to us by April 1. Phone any of the following members if you want your rummage to be picked up: 682-7207, 684-0919, or 688-6947. Experience has shown us that the following items sell quickly: artificial flowers, bric-a-brac (i.e.: figurines, vases), jewelry, children's clothing and kitchen items. Of course adult clothing, paperback books, games, toys, etc. are needed also. Two of the most profitable items to sell are furniture and rugs. We will leave you with this one thought: Success depends on YOU as a contributor of "trash and treasures."

SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIP

With the close of this month it is obvious that our sustaining members have the same philosophy of life as do RMRU members -- Help your fellow man in a time of need. A quick glance at the truck fund gauge reveals an increase of over \$1300 this month, all of which was provided by new and renewing sustaining members. It is beginning to look like we might have that new rescue van before the 1970 "busy season." A well deserved thank you goes to the Deutsch Company of Banning for their very generous donation. We also want to thank the Banning Sheriff Reserve



and Boy Scout Troop 43, Hemet Methodist Church for their donations. We have had more sustaining members renew their memberships thus far this year than did all last year. We want to thank the following people for their part: Mr. & Mrs. Earl N. Cannon, Mr. William F. Zauche, Mr. & Mrs. J. Leroy Dooly, Mr. & Mrs. Ralph O. Ridenour, Dr. & Mrs. John A. Murphy, Mr. & Mrs. Milton M. Levy, Mr. & Mrs. Theodore C. Pruess, the Rubidoux Grange - Committee of Women's Activities and the Rotary Club of Hemet. -Al



If you are a regular reader of the RMRU Newsletter you might have been puzzled that the small logo (same as one to the left) that identified this column was run off the bottom of the page last month. Well you can fall in line behind the 'ole prez'. Just one thing, you guys, let's show a little more respect, I can carry as much weight as anyone around here in more ways than one.

The past month was another milestone for RMRU in that we received the largest amount of contributions in one month than any in our past history. It makes me think about our early years when we received just a fraction of the amount for the whole year. Within the next month we will probably order the new van which will make everybody happy and in particular the quarter-master who generally ends up driving the old donut wagon now.

Would you be interested in a purebred Bloodhound puppy? We have a male and a female that are just about two months old that are not needed in our tracking program. They were sired by a AKC Champion of record and the mother is our own successful tracker 'Sugar'. Just take a look at the photograph below and you'll want one for sure. If you're interested, write to me in care of RMRU at the address as listed on the front of the newsletter. - Walt

