

# RMRU NEWSLETTER

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE RIVERSIDE MOUNTAIN RESCUE UNIT, INC  
A VOLUNTEER NON-PROFIT CORPORATION  
P. O. BOX 5444, RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA 92507  
MEMBER OF THE MOUNTAIN RESCUE ASSOCIATION

Volume VII, Issue 5, May 1970  
Editor, Jim Fairchild  
Photographer, Bill Speck

## COMING EVENTS ---

- 13 May, Board Meeting, 1900 at Al Andrews'.
- 20 May, Regular Meeting, 1930 at Highland Outfitters.  
Selection of operating committees; medical training, knot tying; planning for the training session.
- 23 May, Training Session  
We will practice and conduct all the skills involved with technical rescue: knots; anchors; rigging; litter raising and lowering; first aid en rappel. Also: belaying, climbing, and catching falls.
- 27 May, Wednesday On The Rocks, Mt. Rubidoux.  
Small group instruction on climbing and technical rescue skills.
- 10 June, Board Meeting, time and place to be announced.

## SEARCH AND RESCUE ACTIVITY ---

March 28-29 - Meadowbrook Search - An explanation of how we spent Easter.

A quite Saturday afternoon filled with domestic chores is suspended by the ringing of the telephone. It's Al calling to relate that the Riverside County Sheriff has asked for assistance in locating a 41 year old man lost near Meadowbrook, a small town between Perris and Elsinore. Walt is at the Open House air show at March AFB and has not yet been reached. Subsequent telephone calls find only a few RMRU men at home. As Al and Don roll to the scene, two more calls for assistance arrive, one a woman lost near Dripping Springs Campground in the Cleveland National Forest while the other involves a suspected drowning. More attempts to reach Walt and other team members are interrupted by a call notifying us that the lost woman has been found. Finally I manage to get off the telephone and Ron and I depart for Meadowbrook. On our way past March AFB, we encounter an automobile accident involving some injuries. First things first, so we stop and give aid. After stabilizing the situation, dressing a few superficial wounds and splinting a suspected fracture, an ambulance arrives and we are on our way once again. About this time Walt is finally reached and begins a long struggle with the traffic in order to get off the base.

The prospects for success in the search at Meadowbrook are not bright. The subject is a very ill man who has been missing more than 24 hours. Having a large area to search we decide to call in the San Diego Mountain Rescue Team for assistance. In late afternoon we discover tracks which carry us into the sloping, rocky shores of Railroad Canyon Reservoir and into the darkness of night. By the small hours of the next day we have lost the tracks and find ourselves regrouped at base. After consultation we decide to retire for a short night's rest on the hard floor of the Elsinore Sheriff's substation.

Shortly after dawn we are welcomed at breakfast by the unpleasant news that there are two separate parties lost in the Joshua Tree National Monument. So....we call the Sierra Madre Search and Rescue Team for additional manpower and with part of the San Diego team we depart for the desert. By the time we reach Cabazon, both parties at Joshua Tree have been found

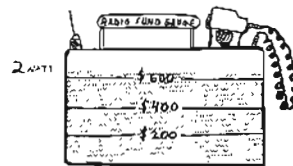
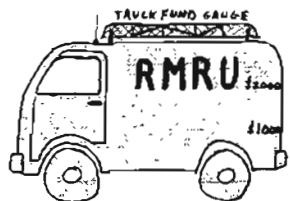
and we retrace our path back to Meadowbrook arriving at base just as Sierra Madre pulls up.

Now about 40 strong we spend the day in an intensive sweep search of the area and attempting to use our Bloodhound to follow the vanishing tracks discovered the night before. Neither effort bears fruit, but in mid-afternoon the sweep line finds something it wasn't looking for. In an area aswarm with rattlesnakes Rae Anderson of the Sierra Madre Team has the abject misfortune of being bitten. He is rushed by jeep and Helicopter to USC County Medical Center where his condition is at first grave and improves only very slowly. With great caution we resume the search but by late afternoon we reluctantly decide to terminate our efforts.

A lot of lawns didn't get mowed and a lot of Easter dinners went uneaten and it isn't always immediately obvious that it makes a difference. But as the Roadrunner says "its just like the old firehorse, when the fire bell rings....." - Mike Daugherty

SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIP ---

WOULD YOU BELIEVE CHRISTMAS IN APRIL! Two and one half years ago we started planning for the purchase of a new rescue truck, never realizing it would become a reality so soon. During this 2½ year period much effort has gone into selecting a vehicle that would best fit our needs for the majority of our missions. Every type of utility vehicle was considered with the end result being the selection of a van-type for its assessibility to a large equipment storage area. Through the efforts of our sustaining mem-



bership and the RMRU wives for their rummage sale proceeds, the purchase of this truck is possible. We have ordered a 1970 Ford Super Van E-300 series and it should be here by mid-June. THANK YOU ONE AND ALL! Not to be forgotten are the new sustaining members we want to welcome: Mr. & Mrs. Harold E. Carlson, Hemet-San Jacinto Grange, Mr. Seth A. Fessenden, The 39'ers--Idyllwild, Dr. & Mrs. Paul Trotta, and Mr. & Mrs. Peter Rathbun. Also our thanks to the following for renewing their memberships: Mr. & Mrs. Richard E. Fleming, Rotary Club of San Jacinto and Mr. William F. Zauche. --Al

WANTED!!! The team has need of a file cabinet--2 or more drawers. If anyone has such a cabinet they no longer are in need of, please call Al Andrews at 682-7207 or drop a note to P. O. Box 5444, Riverside, Calif. 92507. -- Al

SIERRA CLUB BACKPACKING-MOUNTAINEERING COURSE (BMC) ---

This winter and fall the Riverside Chapter of the Sierra Club conducted a course designed to acquaint newcomers to wilderness travel with means of entering the wilderness safely. There were lectures and outings. RMRU personnel lectured on Orientation and Route Finding (Bud White), Rock Climbing (Jack Schnurr), Desert Travel & Safety and Corrective Measures (Jim Fairchild), then we helped instruct on ice ax and snow travel up on Mt. Baldy April 10 and 11 (Bill Briggs, Tom Dadson, Mike Daugherty, Jim Fairchild, Phil Moedt, Bud White, Walt Walker).

TRAINING MISSION - Martinez Peak, April 24-26



A troop of Boy Scouts camping at Horsethief Creek were impressed as RMRU members hiked through their camp late Friday night and early Saturday morning. Tom Dadson and I after spending the night at Pinyon Flats campground arrived just in time to share part of the steak and eggs breakfast that Art, Bud and Don were enjoying. After breakfast we continued up the Cactus Spring's trail toward the southwest ridge of Martinez. The trail led up a sandy wash and it was warm going. The 'Roadrunner' gave us tips on how to travel in the heat - hike slowly and take frequent breaks. Once we were on the ridge the wind cooled us down. We looked over at the rugged brush and tree covered slopes of Toro Peak and remarked how we would hate to have to search that country. We ate lunch in the shade of a large Pinyon pine. With the wind blowing most of us sat in the sun. After lunch we climbed slowly up the ridge watching for buzztails. The snakebite on our last search had made

us all extremely wary of snakes. The ridge was a brush and boulder pile giving all of us a good test of our route finding abilities. We changed leaders often but one route was as bad as another.

It was mid-afternoon by the time we reached a level area just below the summit rocks. We set up camp and signed in on the top. Several hats were lost to the wind that was blowing across the summit. The smog and haze had not dispersed so we could barely see Mt. San Jacinto. When we returned to camp, we noticed that Don Ricker was missing. A hasty search was organized and our new members got a chance to practice tracking. They followed 'little Donny' Ricker's six foot strides all around the plateau and reached him just before he went over the edge to the desert below. At the campfire that evening we found out why Tom Dadson was hiking so slowly up the ridge. He had been carrying a thirteen pound watermelon in his pack. We had no trouble in finishing off that watermelon.



The next day was clear and windy. We went back up to the summit pin-

nacle to practice setting up mechanical advantages and self equalizing anchors. While we were setting things up some of the team did a short fifth class pitch on the summit. We also practiced shooting compass bearings of Toro, San Jacinto and San Gorgonio peaks. Instead of taking the trail back to the cars we hiked down Horsethief Creek. The creek has cut quite a gorge in places. The gorge was lush and green with Cottonwood and Ash trees in it. The greenery in the gorge make quite a contrast to the dry desert just alongside. The whole trip was one of those weekends you were glad you were along. -Ed Hill

#### ANNUAL MEETING & ELECTION ---

RMRU runs on a fiscal year that starts on May 1 and ends on April 30th. The following members were elected to the Board of Directors for 1970-71: Al Andrews, Mike Daugherty, Jim Fairchild, Ron Harris, Don Ricker, Bill Speck and Walt Walker. The directors then voted the following into office: President, Walt Walker; Vice President, Jim Fairchild; Secretary, Al Andrews; Treasurer, Bill Speck; Quartermaster, Don Ricker.

#### FIRST AID COURSE ---

Again this fall we plan to conduct a first aid course for people who frequent the wilderness areas -- outdoorsmen, youth and adult group leaders, SAR men, and others. As is our custom we will instruct with realistic problems and stress techniques for keeping injured victims alive when medical care is a long time coming. This will be 27 hours of interesting, active, and, if past history is any indication, life saving instruction and practice. First session Tues., Sept. 15, '70. Full details may appear in a full page insert later.



#### The Road

Runner sez-

A lot of interesting information and narratives of SAR activity is to be found in the few newsletters we receive from other MRA units here in the west. We wish most sincerely and encourage stongly all other units to compile material related to their operations and print some kind of monthly letter. And send it to other units, of course. Is it not a strange situation wherein emergency vehicles driven by police, game wardens, ambulance personnel, firemen, and a host of others can speed along with red light and siren, but we who roll on SAR calls in just as serious and potentially life-saving a mode must abide by posted speed limits and be subject to apprehension and citation?

You may remember a few years ago there were "words for the birds?" Well, the owl sez, "No SAR man is worth a hoot on a mission if he isn't there." A saying popular in RMRU now is, "When you put your feet in your mouth, stop walking." You don't even have to put your foot in your mouth if the laces of one boot get caught in the lace hooks of the other boot! You'll stop walking and start falling in a fraction.

Once again the RMRU RESCUETTES (wives of members) have done a tremendous job with the Rummage Sale. This year's two day sale was even a greater success than the year before. When the doors were opened at nine Friday morning a great throng pushed in and in minutes all the rooms were full of people selecting items to purchase. The Rescuettes were again led by Mary Speck. Her committee was completed with the following, Natalie Andrews, Kay Daugherty, Joanne Fair-



child, Linda Harris and Alice Ricker. Friends and relatives were also of great help selling. Even Al Andrews, Bill Speck and I took Friday off and helped the gals with the selling. Mr. Kenneth Andrews, father of Al, was busy repairing radios, waffle irons, mixers and other electrical appliances. We missed Mrs. Kenneth Andrews this year but she was doing her part by baby sitting with her new granddaughter. Besides the sale being a tremendous success the clothing and goods that were not sold were given to a number of charities.

We are happy to report that Rae Anderson, snakebite victim from Sierra Madre, is home from the hospital. He has long way to go until he will be completely healed, but at least he is started in that direction after 14 days on the critical list. We of RMRU wish Rae the best of everything.

This issue of the newsletter will be late as you will know by the time you have read this. The Fifth Mountain Rescue Seminar at Idyllwild and a mission have delayed all of us in preparing this issue. We will have details in next month's issue. - Pres. Walt



Mary Speck busy at the cash box.



A young early bird buyer waits to be checked out.

Borrowed from the Tacoma Unit's newsletter, the 'RESCUE RUCKSACK':-

HANDLING PEOPLE need not be so difficult. All you need is inexhaustible patience, unfailing insight, unshakable nervous stability, and unbreakable will, decisive judgment, infrangible physique, irrepressible spirits and an awful lot of experience.