

# RMRU NEWSLETTER

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

Volume VII, Issue 6, June 1971  
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## Coming Events ---

- 9 June, Board Meeting, 1900.
- 23 June, Regular Meeting, 1930, County Hall of Records.
- 25-27 June, Training Session, Descent of Tahquitz Canyon. This one will probably be as tough as the North Face trip, but in different ways. We will hike to the ridge above Caramba Friday night, bivouac, then start down early Saturday morning. We will bivouac again Saturday night and Sunday will see us climbing, rappeling and yes, probably swimming. The temperatures Sunday will probably be above 100 degrees by quite a bit.
- 7 July, Mailing Session, 1900, Highlands. Committee meetings afterwards.
- 14 July, Board Meeting
- 28 July, Regular Meeting.
- 31 July, Training Session, Tahquitz Rock and Wives buffet dinner.
- 2 October, Tenth Anniversary Dinner. RMRU will be ten years old this September and we are planning a dinner to celebrate the occasion. Everyone, RMRU Regular and Sustaining Members, friends, relatives and anybody you would like to bring will be welcome. We hope to have more details in the next RMRU Newsletter.

### 1 MAY - MOUNTAIN SAFETY PROGRAM Old Baldy Council, B.S.A.

A very pleasant Saturday afternoon was spent at the Holcomb Valley Scout Reservation three miles north of Big Bear Lake. The event was the annual Coahuilla District Camporee. Five hundred of the Riverside Mountain Rescue Unit gave over four hundred boys and leaders several seminars and demonstrations relating to mountain safety and rescue. Topics included: Technical skills and equipment demonstration, Bernie McIlvoy; Tyrolean traverse and call-out gear demonstration, Lee Mickelson and Hank Schmel; Winter gear demonstration, Tom Dadson; Mountain safety and lost procedures, Jack Schnurr. Highlights of the afternoon were the colorful orange smoke flares, Bernie's unique Jumar-Rappelling demonstration, a Tyrolean traverse that carried several Scout "victims" and a fine equipment display.



PHOTO BY LEE MICKELSON

RMRU members, Jack Schnurr, Tom Dadson, Hank Schmel and Bernie McIlvoy demonstrate that the volunteer victim is secured into the litter.

Three of the team members decided to stay over and enjoy Hank Schmel's fine Order of the Arrow dance team

program plus a steak dinner, however, just as dinner was served a San Bernardino County Sheriff drove into the camp asking for members of the Riverside Mountain Rescue Unit. (If I'm not mistaken, that's two such interruptions within a month. I wonder if fate is against me having steak for dinner?!!) Realizing that we were about two hours, at least, from Idyllwild, we guessed at man power problems. The deputy, James Kingma, related that we were to call Mrs. Al Andrews for information on a rescue. The Scout Ranch not having a phone, Deputy Kingma drove Bernie and myself about three miles to the nearest phone. The subsequent call confirmed our suspicions, there was an injured climber on Tahquitz Rock, and RMRU was having problems locating enough men for the mission.

Retrieving our gear at the Scout ranch, Kingma gave us a escort through the heavy week-end mountain traffic to the edge of his district, about 30 miles. This was especially helpful as he got us quickly past the crowded towns. In an hour and a half we arrived in Banning to check-in at the Riverside Sheriff's sub-station. We learned that the victim was off the rock and on his way to the road head. Somewhat relieved and suddenly very tired from the day's events, we made our way home to a late dinner.

- Jack Schnurr

## *Sustaining Members*

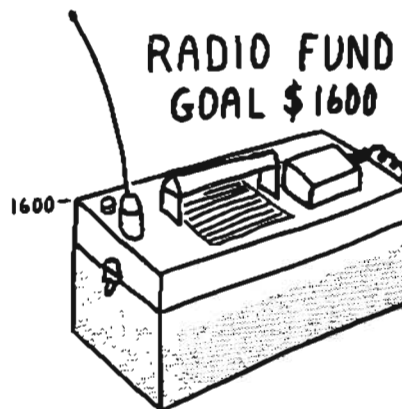
The members of RMRU want to again thank the following people for their continued support:

Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth L. Andrews  
Mrs. D. A. Newcomb  
Mrs. Esther R. Briggs  
Dr. & Mrs. Jay Wallis  
Hemet - San Jacinto Grange

We are very pleased that you renewed your memberships. You and people like yourselves have made it possible for us to purchase one of two additional handi-talkies. Our

new radio will be shipped from Motorola in Chicago by 19 June, just in time for the "busy season".

This month we are also adding Mr. & Mrs. E. Leo Slaggie to our sustaining membership list. Our many thanks to you all! - Al Andrews



## *Search and Rescue*

1 MAY - TECHNICAL EVACUATION  
Tahquitz Rock - #7111,

During Saturday morning many people were on Tahquitz Rock to climb its tremendous variation of interesting routes. Paul Gleeson and Ralph Glenn planned to climb the Super Pooper, a route on the north face of the rock. Ralph led up the first pitch about 15 foot and fell, injuring his foot. Paul was assisting him back over to Lunch Rock when they heard the noise of a huge rock rumbling down near where they had been climbing. Then came the ominous calls for help. This happened about 1330.

Bill Scott, 27, of San Diego, and partner were climbing the White Maiden. About 400 foot up "traffic" caused Bill to seek another route, so he got over on the Fool's Rush, a much harder route. Around a corner and up about 50 feet from his belayer he fell, pulling loose a large piton, and a huge rock around which he had placed a sling. The rock missed Bill, but his right ankle had already been badly fractured. He could not communicate

with his belayer, but people above notified him of the fall. Bill managed to get down a bit to a ledge. Paul left Ralph at Lunch Rock and took some ropes and climbed up to Bill. Soon he was joined by Bill Stronge of the China Lake Mountain Rescue Group. Ray Palmer, a former member of RMRU, and Keith Leamon, were on the scene. Keith went for a litter, Ray went over to Lunch Rock and dispatched a climber to call RMRU. Paul and Bill Stronge and two other climbers lowered Bill Scott in a very well done horizontal lower to a large ledge. They had first immobilized the leg with a wire splint.

At 1455 the phone rang when I was working in the garden. A deputy of the Riverside County Sheriff's Dept. said a man was injured on Tahquitz. While my wife made calls I drove over to get the rescue van. Dave Hadley arrived and we drove to Humber Park. It was a great relief to see, through binoculars, the first lower being just about completed.

With Sgt. Bill Herring in charge of base, Dave Crimi joined Dave Hadley and me in a hike to the rock (up 800') and a scramble to the ledge. We met Al Green of China Lake as well as Keith and Ray Palmer. The full leg air splint we carried was put on Bill's leg, and we offered our 300' rope for the final 200 foot lower. Bill Stronge again accompanied the litter with Al operating the brake bar system. Ken McNutt and Dick (forgive me but I can not remember the last name) had arrived earlier and set up a belay for the litter. Meanwhile, Paul went back over to carry the injured Ralph down to Humber Park on his back. X-rays showed that Ralph had cracked a heel bone.

Once down on the scree below the rock many other climbers mobilized and soon had the victim over to Lunch Rock. Ray and Ken organized the group into three, six-man parties for carrying Bill down to Humber park. This went smooth and efficient.

When we arrived at Humber Park more men from China Lake MRG were there along with several from the San Diego Mountain Rescue Team. The ambulance attendants let us transfer Bill from litter to gurney, and they headed for the Hemet Hospital. X-rays there showed serious fractures and the need for an immediate operation -- Bill opted to have it done in San Diego, so he was driven there. The doctor at Hemet felt that Bill could be climbing again in four months or so.

We want to cite the exceptionally fine work done by all who participated, and the helpfulness and cooperation which contributed to the successful rescue. RMRU played a small role this time, wishing there was always that much capable manpower on the scene. - Jim Fairchild

16 MAY 1971 - EVACUATION - #7112  
Dark Canyon, San Jacinto Mtns.

On Sunday afternoon at 1330 we rolled to Fuller Mill Creek campground. A 21 year old male, Ruben Vara, we



PHOTO BY PETE CARLSON

Walt Walker checks the splinting of Ray Ross (back to camera), Don Rickler (right) and Pete Carlson (taking the photo).

weighing in excess of 250 pounds had fallen off a rock into the creek and had a suspected fractured right patella, (knee cap). Arriving at the camp at 1440 we took a radio, a 150 foot rope, large pulleys, and a first aid belt. Bud White, recovering from surgery on his foot, was left as base camp operator.

Hiking down the canyon to the victim we were looking for the best route for the carry out. We found a trail that went down one side of the canyon almost to the victim. Reaching the victim at 1505 we found some of the Pine Cove Fire Dept. volunteers who had put a half leg air splint on the leg and had the victim in a litter. Don Ricker, Ray Ross, and I took off the small air splint and put on our full leg splint. Meanwhile Jim Fairchild and Dick Webster set up a M.A. for the first haul up the side. Walt obtained information from the victim as Don checked the pulse. All was good and as we were ready to start the carry out, Tom Dadson, Hank Schmel and Bob Nelson arrived.



PHOTO BY PETE CARLSON

If you look carefully at the faces you will notice the strain of the evacuation of the heaviest victim that RMRU has carried to date.

The carry out took some doing, going up steep slopes, over large boulders, and through the water in places. Besides RMRU we were lucky to have some of the Pine Cove Firemen and several people in the area helping us with carry out. We are grateful to all for their help, thanks again.

We had Ruben to the road head by 1630 and he was feeling good considering what he went through. We packed our gear away and went over to Idyllwild for dinner. (Note: As we were driving home we received a call via the Sheriff's radio to stand-by while they checked out a report of a missing boy scout in the San Jacinto Mountains. Luck was with us that day, the boy was all right as he had showed up at the tramway. - Pete Carlson



## YOUR ACCOUNT WITH LIFE \$

If you had a bank that credited your account with \$86,400 that carried over NO balance from day to day, and allowed you to keep cash in your account, and every evening cancelled whatever part of the amount you had failed to use during the day, what would you do? DRAW OUT EVERY CENT, of course.

Well you do have such a bank. It's name is TIME. Every morning it credits you with 86,400 seconds. Every night it rules off, as lost, whatever of this time you have failed to invest to good purpose. It carries over NO balance, it allows NO over drafts. If you fail to use the days' deposits, the loss is yours. THINK ABOUT IT!





IT'S RUMORED THAT THERE IS A PHOTO OF WALT THAT INSPIRED THE DRAWING

As you might have noted, RMRU has had only two missions this past month. We started the year with a bang. However, I believe that this is only the lull before the storm if past years mean anything. June and July have traditionally been our busiest.

As chairman of RMRU, I would like to express the thanks of the group to our SUSTAINING MEMBERS for once again making it possible to purchase another 5 watt handi-talkie radio. We have had several missions in the past few months when another radio would have been very helpful.

The recent evacuation of the heavy set young man has prompted me to get ball rolling again for a wheeled litter. We have some very definite ideas on what we believe will do the job best for our area. I hope that we will be able to report progress within the next month.

Once again we are asking for suggestions from anyone in the Riverside area for a place to park our new van undercover and with security. If you have any suggestions please write to the team or phone me at my business, 654-9101.

- Pres. Walt



Long time member Al Andrews is now down to only one job. Al was employed by the Naval Ordnance Laboratory in Norco (now closing) and he was also involved in starting a new manufacturing corporation. Now that he is only working 23 hours a day instead of 28 we hope to see more of Al.

It is with regret that the board accepted the resignation of Mike Orr. Although Mike was one of the newer members he was one of the more dedicated. We all wish him the best of everything.

We are losing another good member. Lee Mickelson has accepted a position in Germany. Although Lee is not leaving until August he had to resign now to complete work for his Doctorate in Physics. He will be missed as a very active member, as a fine photographer and also as a friend. Good luck to you and Kitty!

RMRU welcomes its newest probationary member, Joe Bell, M.D., to the ranks. When he was interviewed by the membership committee he stated that he was getting in shape by riding his bicycle 17 miles a day. He must be doing it as Joe was one of the ten who made it to the top of San Jac via the north face. Welcome to the gang Joe.

## TRAINING

THE NORTH FACE OF SAN JACINTO (REVISITED) 21-23 May

Under threatening skies, ten of us met at the Snow Creek community Friday evening, bent on renewing our acquaintance with the North Face of Mt. San Jacinto. While there are many who regard the ascent of the east fork of Snow Creek (almost 9000 feet of elevation gain) as indicative of borderline insanity, it has been rumored that there are those among us who have indulged in numerous prior ascents. Whatever the truth of these shocking stories, the increasing popularity of this climb, coupled with its potential for misadventure, have served to place it high on our list of "what if ...." possibilities. All one needs to do to precipitate a lively conversation is to gather three or more RMRU men around a campfire and suggest the possibility of an accident at the 7500 foot level on Snow Creek. The upper 3000 feet consists

of reasonably steep couloirs usually filled with snow, and sometimes with ice, while below there are polished granite waterfalls and, further down, in the sonoran heat, one can encounter absolutely excrable brush.

However, as we marched uphill into Friday's gathering darkness, our minds were more occupied by the prospects of a soggy bivouac than by more distant eventualities. Our plan was to spend Friday night camped at 4000 feet on the "isthmus", a narrow neck of high land between Snow and Falls creeks. Picking our way between the boulders and the blooming Yuccas, we hoped to reach the isthmus without resorting to our flashlights. But, as it always does, it finally became obvious that we had lost the battle with the night, and we reluctantly dredged our lights from the depths of our packs, only to find ourselves standing astride our objective. Pursuant to a corollary of the theorem that "it never rains at night in the summer in the Sierra", we were somehow spared baptism that night and emerged bleary eyed into Saturday at 5 a.m.

Guided by the oldtimers up in front, who debated the relative merits of passing to the right or left of every cactus, we slithered upward, deftly sidestepping each of the problems and rendering the mountain's defenses impotent. After a brief excursion into the scrub Oak, just to set the rest of our route into perspective, we arrived on the snow in the main canyon at 5500 ft. Before us lay a simple task; kick steps uphill for 5300 vertical feet and sign the summit register. There's something about that sort of task that calms the soul. And so, since simple chores demand plain actions, a thin orange line formed and began to zig and zag upward, breathing and sweating on a giant white ladder.

Midday found us sprawled on the warm rocks, soaking in the sunlight and rejoicing in the novel wonders of each others lunches. But, too soon we were back at our task, la-



PHOTO BY LEE MICKELSON

boring upward. Alas, about 2 p.m., this revery of exertion was interrupted by a problem. Lee Mickelson, who had undergone knee surgery last summer, was experiencing pain in both knees. Fortunately, our newest member, Dr. Joe Bell, was with us. Doc Bell took care of Lee and we took care of his pack. Then, at a reduced pace, we crept upward once again. Finally, about 6 p.m., we scrambled over the summit boulders and stood on the top. A few quick pictures and then down to a hot dinner and a long nights sleep in the pine duff.

Sunday morning came noticeably later than had Saturday. When finally we had eaten breakfast and repacked, we just had time to climb up Cornell Peak and play the boulderer's game on the summit block before descending to meet our rides in the shimmering desert heat.

To many this may sound like recreation, and I believe that it was, although there may have been those along who would take issue with that. At any rate, a rescue team is not formed of mountaineers who have not climbed together. Besides, it can't all be 2 a.m. in the rain.

- Mike Daugherty