

# 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

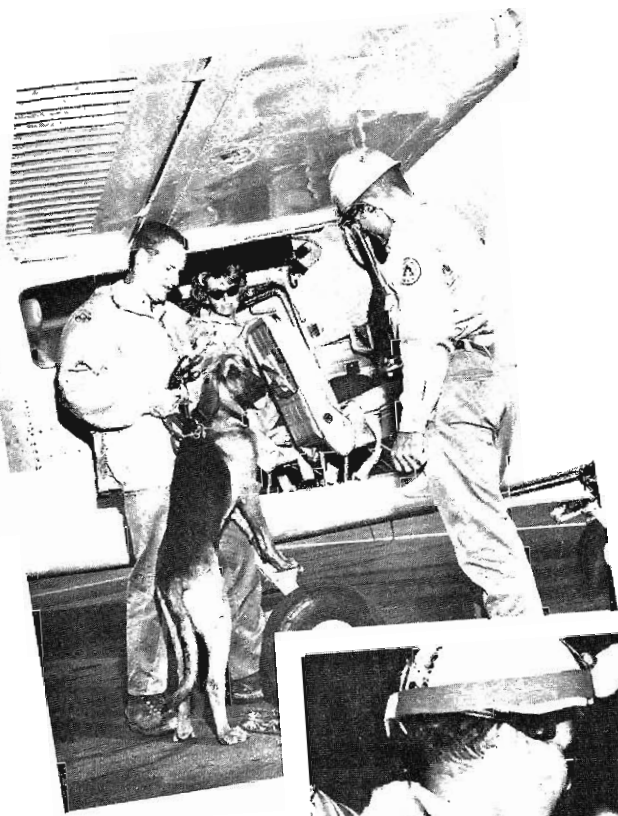
Volume VII, Issue 3, March 1971

WE SAY GOODBYE.....to eighty pounds of endless energy, to two huge soft brown eyes, and uncanny ears that 'knew' when rescues began simply by the sound of gear coming from bedroom closet, to impatient feet pounding at her gate as she waited for the moment when in approximately five leaps she cleared the front lawn and landed in the back of the station wagon - tail high in the air with excitement, to practice hunts as she bounded up to her catch eagerly awaiting the square of chocolate that signified a job well done, to being dragged oblivious to all around her through brush under downed trees, over rocks, then knee--deep water or into ravines as the right scent led her on an unseen trail, to simple joy in watching her strive to please, to watching happy parents reunited with their 'missing child' because she had done her job well, to midwifing the arrival of 14 unbelievably small black puppies she was inordinately proud of, to the beloved first dog of our family, to RMRU's first tracking Bloodhound, to..

TROOPER'S SUGAR BABY

(Dec. 23, 1963 - Feb. 24, 1971)

.....WE SAY GOODBYE



COMING EVENTS ===

- 10 March, Board Meeting, 1900, at Specks.  
13 & 14 March, BMC Ice Axe Training. RMRU provides instructors for this most crucial skill. We already have a fine sign-up for it.  
24 March, Regular Meeting, 1930, County Hall of Records. Besides training, business -- we hope all you photographers will bring ten to twenty slides you would like to show the rest of us -- of missions, training, personal mountaineering.  
26-28 March, Training, North Face of Mt. San Jacinto. Well, here it is! This spectacular climb can be done by many routes, several years ago RMRU ascended via the East Fork of Snowcreek. Our plans are not only to climb the face, but to include numerous realistic training items besides "conditioning" and familiarization. We plan to set up groups of three to four men to combine those with long experience and physical ability with those still striving to develop these facets. No one on the unit need feel hesitant about going because we plan for plenty of time to ascend the 9000' vertical feet and descend to Marion Mt. C.G. We'll climb to 4000' Friday evening, ascend as far as we feel like on Saturday, possibly with a bivouac (or bivouac-awakka), then finish on Sunday. This is potentially the toughest area in which we could have a real mission, so our efforts will be to discuss (with some realism through surprises) how to handle a real one up there.  
14 April, Board Meeting.  
21 April, Regular Meeting. This our Annual Meeting. Elections!  
24 April, Training.

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SEARCH & RESCUE ACTIVITY ---

13 Feb. - Evacuation, Lower  
Lower Tahquitz Canyon - 7004

"This is Al Andrews with a rescue  
call. Can you go?"

"Sure."

"Good. It's in Tahquitz Canyon.  
Girl dove into a pool. Head injuries.  
May be unconscious."

"I'm on my way. So Long."

I hurried along Route 10 towards the  
glaring desert. Soon Walt Walker  
and Mike Orr caught up and we slow-  
ed to a crawl on the crowded stre-  
ets of Palm Springs. (The Bob Hope  
golf tournament was on).

Eventually we reached the road's end  
in an exclusive neighborhood near  
the mouth of the infamous canyon.  
As we laced our boots and hurriedly  
sorted gear, a half-dressed, sun-

burned teen-age boy gave us details  
in a stumbling speech.

"She's.....'bout half-way up. Near  
a.....waterfall. She was in shock.  
She's.....conscious now."

As the sheriff radioed for a heli-  
copter, Don Ricker drove in with the  
shining orange truck, threw open the  
doors, installed the radio antenna  
and started making out the log.  
Steve Bryant and Ed Hill rolled in  
and were soon sorting out ropes and  
preparing the breakdown litter and  
the helicopter litter.

Then Jim Fairchild and Mike Daugh-  
erty arrived; they would be first  
up the canyon. They emptied their  
packs on the street, sorted out cold  
weather and bivouac gear and repack-  
ed first aid belts, pitons, carabi-  
ners and slings.

Don Landell's copter beat its way up  
the hill and settled onto the street  
raising stinging clouds of dirt and  
twigs. The rotors slowed and, as we  
installed an RMRU radio for the

pilot, Mike and Jim lashed their packs to the cargo rack and got inside. After our thumbs-up signal, the helicopter rose, circled overhead and climbed into the shadowy canyon.

In only eight minutes, the copter returned. Working near the heat and roar of the exhaust, we removed a cargo rack and set our copter litter in place. It didn't fit this copter so we quickly substituted our alternate clamps. Then the other litter was strapped on. Walt and Mike Orr got in and the copter soared into the canyon again.

The radio blared as Jim said that the victim, Chris Roberts, had a swollen forehead and a gash across her upper lip. After bandaging these injuries and making a thorough exam, he, both Mikes' and Walt moved her to the litter where she was kept warm by the special rescue down sleeping bag.

Art Bridge and I flew in next, followed closely by Ed Hill and Steve Bryant.

To get to a helispot, Chris would have to be hoisted up a 70-foot cliff. Then she could be carried up a short slope to a large rock with enough room for one copter runner and three men to load the litter.

Above the cliff, Daugherty and Orr hammered pitons into a horizontal crack. They snapped a carabiner into each pin and threaded a 150-foot rope through the 'biners'. They clipped more 'biners' to the rope between each pin. A bowline knot was added, its tail was looped through the in-between 'biners' and the zig-zag of rope known as a self-equalizing anchor (SEA) was finished.

With the SEA, a rope's load divides evenly among the pitons. And if a piton pulls loose, the SEA redistributes the load among the remaining pitons. For this rescue, the load would be only 300 pounds or so.

A second rope was threaded through a Jumar rope clamp and two pulleys to form a Z-shaped mechanical advantage (MA). With the MA, three men could raise the load easily. But the MA allows only about 10 feet of hauling before the Jumar is moved for another "bite". To hold the litter while the Jumar is moved (and to provide a safety rope) we used a separate belay rope and two brake bars tied to more pitons.

Down below, Chris' untimely need delayed litter preparations. Jim and Walt thought the need could be absorbed and contained by towels backed with plastic. After handing her the towels, they discretely turned to gaze down the canyon and exchange penetrating comments on the hardness of the rocks, the blueness of the sky, the brightness of the sun and the longness of the day.

Before long, we carried the litter to the cliff and attached the hauling rope and the belay rope. The belay rope was also tied around Chris' waist for added safety. Since Walt was to guide the litter, he was attached to the hauling rope with a long sling. When everything was ready, Jim and I pulled ourself-



ves up the hauling rope to help with the hauling.

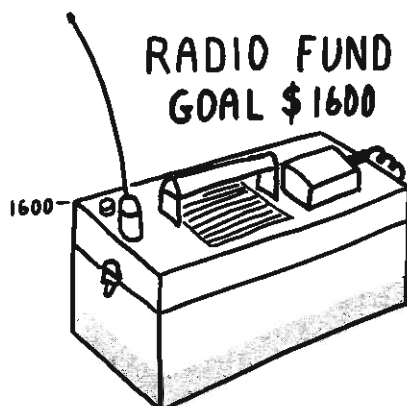
After only five minutes of alternately hauling and moving the Jumar, Walt and Chris were on top. As a call was sent for the copter, ropes were removed, a second belay was attached and we carried the litter up to the helispot. Four of us waited to load the litter on the approaching copter. Others coiled ropes, gathered "biners" and hammered out pitons.

The copter touched one runner on the boulder and Jim eased himself inside as we strapped the litter on. Giving the thumbs-up signal, we backed away and huddled in the roar as the copter rose and swooped down the canyon.

Dave Crimi met the copter at the hospital and brought Jim back to base camp where the rest of us waited. We critiqued our performance, packed our gear and drove through the dark to Shakey's for a pizza dinner. -- Bob Nelson

## SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIP

For those of you who are new readers of our newsletter, here are a few notes about our sustaining membership. RMRU's financial support is acquired entirely from our regular and sustaining members. Our regular members are those who have the time to get out and do the actual search and rescue work. Our sustaining members are best described as people who have an interest in



the service of our organization, but for one or more reasons are unable to actively participate. They are, however, a very important group within RMRU, as their financial support is very essential to the life of our unit. As a sustaining member you have an opportunity to play a supporting role in a genuine life-saving enterprise. Your annual donation, 100% of it, goes to pay for unit radios, vehicle, ropes and other technical gear, their maintenance and repair and for other unit operational costs. This month we want to thank the following people for renewing their memberships: *The Rubidoux Grange- Committee of Women's Activities; Mr. & Mrs. R. O. Ridenour; Mr. & Mrs. R. E. Fleming; and Mr. & Mrs. J. Leroy Dooley. -Al*



## FEBRUARY TRAINING WINTER---SAN GORGONIO AREA

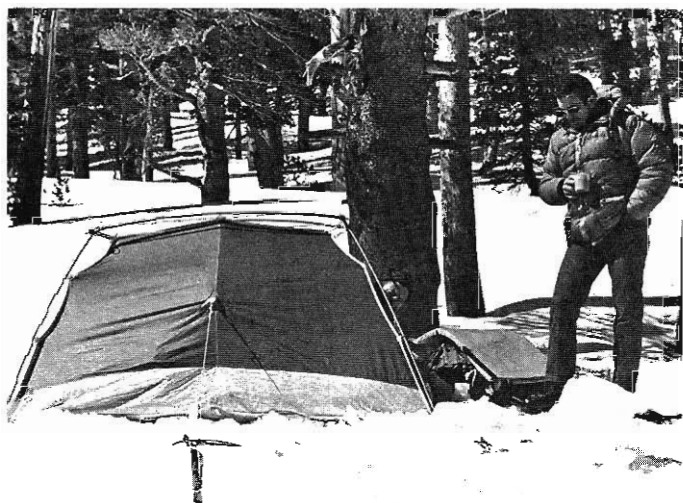
Once again the *intrepid* mountaineers of RMRU snowshoed and skied into the winter wonderland of snow at 10,000 feet. Some groups started Friday morning, enjoying the beauty of the mountainsides, others began after dark and hurried as fast as possible on snowshoes.

The early birds, Don Ricker, Steve Stephens and Walt Walker constructed the largest RMRU igloo to date. The snow was just right for cutting blocks with the new snow saw. However they had not realized the time it takes to build a snow home that



one can stand in. With flashlights and freezing fingers, their home for the weekend was completed after dark. They report that an igloo is fine until you get two stoves going, then it rains.

Other groups roughed it, by sleeping out in the open with varying degrees of success. Different types of tents were set up, from the very



smallest one-man to the deluxe Bishop Ulitimate that Mike Daugherty and Jack Schnurr packed in.

The primary reason for the winter trip each year is to train the new members, and refresh the old-timers, in ice axe arrests. From the bouncing, sliding it was apparent that a lot was being learned. Team member

Lee Mickelson, who took and processed all the photos of the winter trip, caught a fellow team member starting to make a good arrest.



However, if you look carefully you see that this man's left knee is not bent enough and his crampon caught in the snow with the following results. After some tumbling he was able to arrest his fall and stop.



#### RMRU PEOPLE ---

Mike Daugherty has successfully completed his PhD. program. It was at a celebration at his home the other night that we got a call to La Quinta for a missing man who later was more or less located. In the Walking Wound Dept. during the San Geronio Winter Trip we had Lee Mickel-



son and Bob MacPherson doing pretty well on their knees that were recently operated upon; Bud White's Achilles tendon keeps on giving him trouble; Walt Walker's shoulder, injured in the helicopter crash, came slightly un-glued; Hank Schmel still has numb toes. Probably there's more, but we did not hear about it. Daugherty again; he was escorted down the hill Saturday afternoon after being afflicted with a 103 deg. fever and cough. We mention this to caution anyone that a fever at high altitude, complicated with a cough, means get the victim down to lower elevations. Dr. Norm Mellor and wife are vacationing for three weeks across the South Pacific, taking in such places as Tahiti and New Zealand. How hard to take! Ed. note. We would solicit news items involving RMRU members and their families. Just interesting facts from the mundane to the heroic.



## The Road

### Runner sez-

We have been trying to figure out why some of the call-out packs carried on missions contain somewhat less than the prescribed complement of gear. Perhaps it's because over half the present members of RMRU have never been on a mission where they stayed in the field for over twenty-four hours, or even sustainably less. The gear listed in the training manual for the basic call-out pack is there for a purpose--to sustain the member and the victim for 48 hours. Here's what you'd find in the Roadrunner's pack: flashlight ("C" cell size & small tracking; extra batteries & bulbs; maps of area; compass; matches in three waterproof containers; fire-starters; several flare pencils; day-night flare; 6-cup wide-mouth canteen; cup; spoon; food for 48 hours; 50' nylon cord; 100' 7mm. Perlon rope; 3 slings (nylon 1"x 15'); 6 'biners; brake bar; pulley; two short prusik slings; signal mirror; whistle; trail tape; notebook & pencil; first aid belt, complete;

eighth-inch ensolite pad; bivvy cover; 9x12 vinyl plastic sheet; binoculars; down sweater; wind parka & pants; leather gloves; toilet tissue; air splint (athletic leg); miscellaneous kit with all kinds of junk, useful that is; carried in a Millet 370 Rucksack, or Joe Brown pack, depending upon how much team gear, even go to a bigger pack depending upon expected demands of the mission. Let's re-phrase an old question printed in the newsletter in the past: *"Am I as prepared in every way for the next mission as I would want my teammates to be if I were the victim?"*



As president of the board of directors, I am issuing a plea on behalf of the other members of the board. We are at present spending to much time in discussion with non-board members. We of the board still

solicit your attendance at board meetings if you have an interest or have something to bring before the board. However, please be as brief as possible and stay on the subject.

In case you have not read your By-Laws recently or you are a member of less than one year, I bring to your attention the Annual RMRU meeting when the general membership elects the seven man board of directors. Would you please give the election some of your 'thought' time. tim

Also, be thinking about where you could most help RMRU as a member of one or more of the many committies. A sign-up list will be circulated at the annual meeting.

We of the RMRU Newsletter staff ask for your comments on the new format and any other comments, good or bad that you may have. Once again we apologize for the late arrival of the February Newsletter. - Pres.Walt