

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

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Publisher, Walt Walker

IT DOESN'T HAPPEN VERY OFTEN...

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PALO VERDE VALLEY TIMES

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EDITORIAL PAGE

Lifesavers. . . for free

It almost makes you want to stand up and cheer when people volunteer for "extra duty" — and receive no compensation.

Some may call it stupidity. Dick Ingram calls it wonderful.

Ingram was stranded in the Little Maria Mountains northwest of Blythe for 43 hours, but was rescued Tuesday thanks to a dedicated band of men who gave their time and effort to keep him safe.

They were members of the Riverside Mountain Rescue Unit, a non-profit organization whose sole mission is to retrieve lost or stranded people — whether 10,000 feet above sea level or on the hot desert floor. As Ingram said, "They'll get

my donations from now on. They just came and all they wanted was thanks."

The rescue squad uses donations — and their own funds — to keep the organization alive. Contributions may be mailed to the unit at P.O. Box 5444, Riverside, Calif. 92507.

They could save your life next.

Ingram can also thank the men from the Riverside County Sheriff's Department, who also gave up their off-duty hours to assist in the search.

And not to forget the citizen's band operators, who were in constant touch with Ingram and kept his spirits up.

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Letter to the Editor

Coming Events - - -

- 10 November, Board Meeting at Pete Carlson's, 1900.
- 17 November, Regular Meeting at County Hall of Records, 1930.
- 20-21 November, Technical Training, Jumbo Rocks, Joshua Tree National Monument, Family camp. Details at meeting.
- 26 November, MRA Meeting, Disneyland.
- 1 December, Board Meeting.
- 8 December, Regular Meeting.
- 11 December, Training, Helitac, Miro Rield, Rialto.
- 6 January 1972, The First Aid Course. Note Change of date due to reservation schedule for the Southern California Gas Company auditorium where the sessions will be held. Ten consecutive Thursdays, 7 - 10 p.m.

Search and Rescue

3 Oct. - Search for Non-existent Victim, #7123
Strawberry Creek drainage - Fern Valley

1815 hours, Sunday night. Once again on our way to Idyllwild. Tonight's action packed adventure is billed as a thirty-two year old man missing about eighteen hours from a cabin in Fern Valley where he has been visiting this week-end. Al Korber and myself are speculating the chances for a Banning abort as Art Bridge drives us towards the mountain. No such luck, the customary Banning sub-station check-in reaffirms currency of the original call with possibilities of another mission also in Idyllwild. 1930, check-in at the Sky Yacht, (Dr. Mellor's cabin) designated rendezvous for this mission. Additional information on victim: name, Wilford Allen Cameron, Al for short, age, 32, 5'11", 180 lbs., blond hair, blue eyes. Wearing blue jeans and a dark plaid shirt. Size 9, Sears type hiking boot. Victim's car parked in Malibu; he rode to Idyllwild with a friend. 1950, Operations Leader Walt Walker sends a field team of Jim Fairchild, Hank Schmel and Al Korber to a dirt road near the cabin where Al was last seen: they will check for tracks. 2010, Walt sends out two more teams consisting of Pete Carlson, Art Bridge and Jack Schnurr, team 1; Dave Hadley, Rich Morris, Bob Nelson and Steve Bryant, team 2. Hank's team

was unable to find tracks so the additional teams will join with Hank to sweep down the Strawberry Creek drainage starting about three quarters of a mile above the cabin where the man was last seen.

2200, Los Angeles County Sheriff's deputies check the victim's home in Malibu; no one home. 2215, continuous, intensive searching results in negative results. All teams report to base camp (Sky Yacht) for further instructions. 2245, L. A. deputies check victim's mother's house; find Al asleep in bed.

2300, chicken and shrimp dinners for the rescue team. Sixty-six man hours have been spent searching for someone who hitchhiked home and didn't bother to tell anyone. Hours spent for nothing. These types of searches are necessary only from the standpoint that the victim could be in the wilderness and we must search until his safety is ascertained. Maybe people will learn to think someday.....
0100 hours, 4 October, home to bed.

-- Jack Schnurr

21 OCTOBER - SEARCH - #7124
Icehouse Canyon - Mt. Baldy area

"Strange things are done,
in the land of the Midnight Sun."
... Robert Service

About 2200 on Thursday evening the worried voice of a husband told of a missing wife, overdue on a short hike into the canyon. The car was there at the roadhead. A daughter at home had refused her mother's invitation to hike along. It was dark and cold, we rolled. But not until after another unit had told us they would handle it, only to be prevented by superiors until morning. We organized at the roadhead and started up the trail in a group, ready to split into parties at the saddle. In a little way we came across the husband who had searched fruitlessly. He hiked on back to the cars. We found, followed, and lost tracks, wondering if they were the right ones. No definite tracks at the saddle. Some of us bivouacked there, others at Kelley's Camp, for a whole hour and a quarter. We theorized that if in the wilderness, she must be in the canyon. We made a methodical, intensive search almost all the way back down where we met the West End Sheriff's group. All this time piecemeal information had accumulated to influence us to more than theorize that she might not be in the wilderness. But no, we must not quit. Back up to the saddle, split to search the Cucamonga and Ontario Peaks areas. The West End group searched a couple of peak areas to the north. Toward evening theory became almost fact with another bit of information--she may have left the area with another man. The least of us had hiked twenty miles, all of us found our call-out food "old" and in need of replacement, none of us would have given up had there been a reasonable basis for continuing. We adjourned to a local restaurant for dinner, then home for rest. -- Jim Fairchild

"Perhaps on the next mission,
lives will depend upon our dedication."
... Anonymous



The Road

Runner sez-

A most hearty "Thank You" in appreciation to the many people who helped make our Tenth Anniversary Dinner a success! It was great to

meet a lot of new people and to renew friendships with others we've not seen for a while. We retain a warm and abiding feeling that we have many friends who believe in the mission of RMRU. We continue to strive to improve our operation and with the help of God will be ready to effectively help those in need in the wilderness.

The days become shorter, a couple of cold storms cool the earth, migrating birds seek warmer latitudes, and RMRU must "winterize." Put more down clothing in the ready packs, switch to winter foods and put in the stove, get out the double boots, varnish the snowshoes and try the bindings, sharpen crampons and ice axe, ad infinitum. Then the vehicles: anti-freeze, mud-snow tires and chains, does the battery need replacing? Will we be caught unprepared on the first mission into snow-covered terrain featuring sub-freezing temperatures and strong winds? Of course not! -- Jim



PHOTO BY LEE MICKELSON

Hank Schmel appears to be receiving instructions in how to use a pencil from John Murdock and Ray Ross at a recent training session.

Sustaining Members

Thank you very much to each and every Sustaining member who found time to attend our Tenth anniversary dinner. We are sorry all of you could not attend, but we hope that in the future we can thank each of you in person for your past support.

We have formed two new classes of memberships within the sustaining members... first is the "Century Club" made up of those who have contributed \$100 within a one year period, and second is the "Ten Century Club" which is made of people who have given \$1000 or more to RMRU. Certificates were given to those present at the anniversary dinner and the others will be mailed soon.

This month we want to welcome the following new members:

Mr. & Mrs. Melvin L. Parker
Mrs. Rosa S. Kolish

Those renewing their memberships are as follows:

Idyllwild Lions Club
Mr. & Mrs. Earl N. Cannon
Mr. & Mrs. T. C. Pruess
Mr. George Ruptier

Thank you all! -- Al Andrews



If you were one of the unfortunate who missed RMRU's Tenth anniversary dinner, I believe you missed one of those once in a lifetime experiences.

Renewing old friendships and meeting new

people was very much a part of the evening. It was truly great to meet with and thank those people who have believed in RMRU by supporting it with donations.

Everyone who worked on the program and dinner turned in a great job. The evening program was fast paced and there was a great amount of humor. I would like to thank Bud White for the very kind words as he spoke of the two past presidents. I'm proud to admit that I had a lump in the back of my throat as the group gave me a standing ovation.

-- Walt Walker

TRAINING

The October training was on the 30th and 31st. These dates are past the copy deadline for the newsletter. The write-up will be in the December issue.

To You
AND YOURS -
THE BEST
OF EVERYTHING
AT
THANKSGIVING
FROM
RMRU