

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 VIII, Issue 11, November 1972

Editor & Publisher, Walt Walker
Photography by the members

Coming Events ---

29 November, Board Meeting at Carlson's, 1900.

6 December, Regular Meeting at County Hall of Records, 1930.

9 December, Helitac training, Miro Field, Rialto, 0800.

Note the early dates this month, because of the holidays.

10 January 1973, Board Meeting.



The Road Runner

sez- by Pres. Jim Fairchild

A gap in the clouds granted a glimpse of snow-covered Cucamonga Peak, indicating that the long-awaited white stuff is there. Our hopes for much more this winter than last soars for the moment. We are reminded of the need to check our gear and vehicles for winter capability—my snowshoes are on the work bench awaiting a coat of varnish.

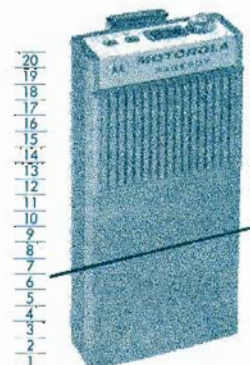
Department of the incredible! Can you believe that you can be certified as an Advanced First Aider by the American Red Cross and not even own a band-aid? Since 1946 I've been intensively involved in teaching first aid to Boy and Girl Scouts, outdoor groups, and, of course, rescue people. Some years ago Walt Walker and I began an annual collaboration in teaching a course that was somewhat longer and more advanced than called for in the green ARC text. Results of the course have been more than rewarding by testimony of those who participated. We even taught new instructors who carried on in that vein of much realistic, dramatized, outdoor practice. Then came the phone call from an ARC official telling me that we were wrong in requiring a complete if not elaborate first aid kit to be assembled by students. My answer to that is a question, "Would you want to be seriously injured, anyplace, and have your rescuers show up with just the clothes on their backs?" This is perhaps a wordy introduction to a genuine rescue-type first aid course we may plan and conduct next

year. It would be open to rescue team members and others by application. It would cover material in three texts, include lots of realistic outdoor practice, and, we will require students to assemble a first aid kit commensurate to the knowledge and skills they develop and can employ. Needless to say, we've discontinued teaching public classes.

Sustaining Members

by Al Andrews

Pager Fund



This month saw a large number of new members which resulted when RMRU was designated the recipient of the Mr. Henry C. Vacher Memorial Fund. Mr. Vacher, father of Mrs. Camille S. Ware, a long

time sustaining member, passed away on September 13, 1972. We of RMRU are sincerely grateful for the donations received in Mr. Vacher's name.

Mr. & Mrs. Earl Miller
Mr. & Mrs. Harold Hummel
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Olson
Mr. & Mrs. Ernest Keizur
Mr. & Mrs. Lester Jarvis
Mrs. Adele Asmer
Mrs. Beth Parsons
Mr. & Mrs. Clay Hassell
Mrs. Vernetta Crist
Mr. Glenn Crist
Mr. Joe Deka
Mrs. Hazel Johnson
Mrs. Paul Hughes
Mrs. Stella Nemitz
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Swales
Mr. & Mrs. Z. Whitten
Mrs. Bea Oxnan
Mr. & Mrs. Rich Johnson
Mrs. Thelma Potts
Mr. & Mrs. Roger Johnson
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Graves
Mr. & Mrs. John Kane
Mr. & Mrs. Roy Brown
Mr. & Mrs. C. C. Jacob
Mr. & Mrs. Clem Seils
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Bryson
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Montgomery
Mrs. Marie Whittaker

Drs. Patricia & Derald Pearson
Mr. & Mrs. R. Anderson
Mr. & Mrs. L. P. Anderson & daughter
Mrs. Etta Eyraud
Mr. John Eyraud
Mr. & Mrs. F. H. Gilman
Mr. & Mrs. Robert E. Zimmerlin
Mr. & Mrs. Hadley Criest
Mr. & Mrs. Leslie A. True
Mr. A. Kurkjian
Mrs. Betty J. Eden
Mrs. Robert A. Dillon
Mr. & Mrs. Roy Fenn
Mr. & Mrs. John Collins
Mr. & Mrs. Al Makepeace
Mr. & Mrs. Lee J. Ware
Mrs. Henry C. Vacher
Marjorie Davis
Neste, Brudin & Stone
*The Exchange Club of Hemet/San Jacinto Valley, Inc.

We also want to thank the following for renewing their memberships:

David Westheimer
Mr. John Jay McCoy
Mr. & Mrs. Roland Wilhelmy
Mr. & Mrs. R. A. Dewees
Mr. & Mrs. Wilford Keith
Mrs. Florence Batchelor

**Century Club Member Donation of \$100 or more.*

Search and Rescue

24 OCT., TUE. — RESCUE — No. 7252M
Tahquitz Canyon
By Pete Carlson

The call came at 0900, from the Riverside County Sheriff's Department, that there was an injured man in Tahquitz Canyon somewhere. Driving out I thought I would be back by 1300 and get an afternoon's work in. Arriving at the roadhead I found Walt and Hank with the rescue van. The bad word was that Don Landells cannot come until afternoon, so we prepared to hike in, as the temperature started to climb.

We started in at 1030 with the victim's friend who told us of the possible injuries. Danial Burrows took a fall of about 12 feet and landed on his left shoulder and flipped onto his tailbone. He had been able to get up but did not think he could hike out. At 1145 we were almost to the camp spot when we heard a call from a cliff high above us. There was a young man who appeared to be stuck. We called and



The injured man, Danial Burrows, describes his injuries to team member, Joe Bell, M.D., as the informant crosses in front of the camera and team member, Dennis Simpson, coils a climbing rope.

found out he was indeed in trouble. We told him to stay put and we would help him in a minute. (Read next write up.) Then to our surprise we saw the injured man walking down with some people helping him. We called and they came over below our rock used in helitec evacuations before.

I rappelled down a 40 foot rock and talked to him, and we decided to put my swami belt, leg loops, and a chest harness on him. Then from above, Walt, Joe and Dennis rigged up an M.A. and hauled him up. Then I got the free ride up.

Don Landells came in at this point, and with his usual great flying, did a one-runner touch down and picked up the injured man and his friend and flew them out. Then back with more men and equipment for the climber on the other side of the canyon.

24 OCT., TUE. - RESCUE - No. 7253M
Tahquitz Canyon
by Jack Schnurr

Relaxing quite comfortably in the Super Pumpkin parked at Ramona Road I gloated as the radio sporadically updated progress of field team 458 working their way up Tahquitz Canyon to the injured hiker. By attending classes I was deviously able to arrive at the roadhead an hour and a half late thus avoiding the "Bomb Squad", that fortuitous crew that hikes in very quickly with monstrous packs to establish contact with the victim and formulate the rescue plan.

While sipping a cold drink from Mrs. Dolly's gracious refrigerator and contemplating what a nice day it was to go flying, (when possible, crew two brings in needed supplies via helicopter) Walt Walker decided to make the day more interesting.

"Base, 458."

"Base by."

"Looks like we have a stranded climber about five hundred feet up the north canyon wall. Have Schnurr and McIlvoy prepare for a technical evacuation."

"How much rope?"

"A couple of 300's (ropes) and pickets."

(Pickets: four foot metal stakes driven into the dirt for anchors when the rock, or lack thereof, fail to provide anything secure for anchors. They are not the most popular anchors with the technical people!)

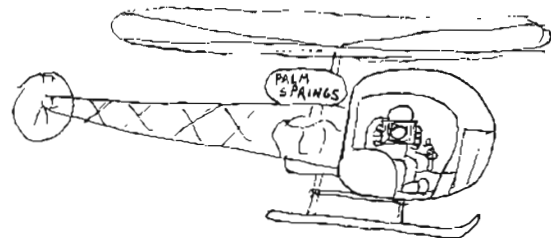
Pickets?! Bernie was aroused from peaceful repose at the mention of the unconventional anchors.

The young afternoon took new purpose as Don Landell's helicopter beat it's way up the canyon. As we approached the vicinity of the Second Falls, rescue team orange dotted the familiar helispot. Field group 458 had their victim ready to fly out as Bernie

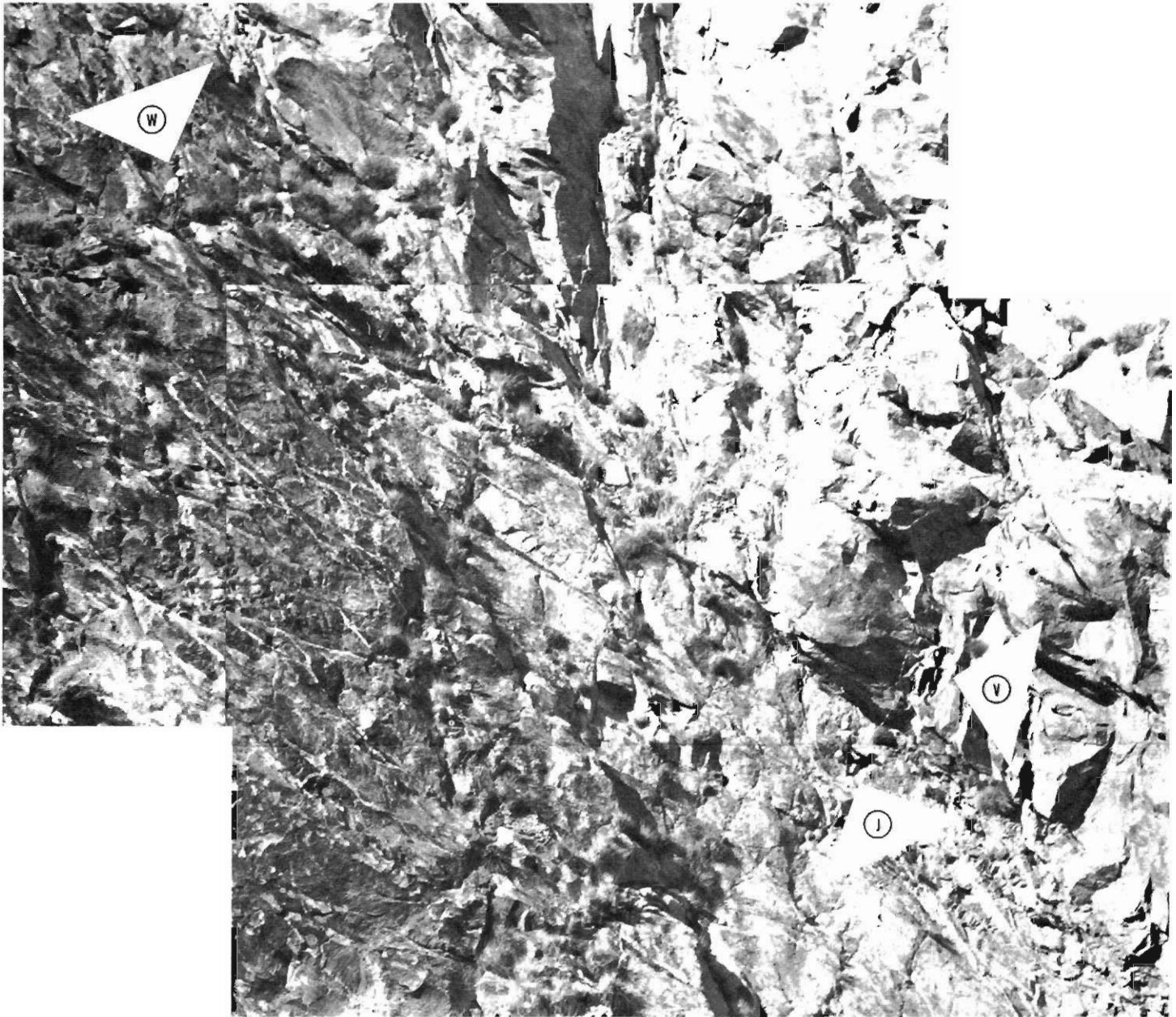
and I assessed the technical from the circling chopper. High above the men in orange, perched on a doubtful stance, the stranded climber watched as the bird circled. As we surveyed the degenerative rock/dirt conglomerate, "Eagle eye" Don spotted a marginal helispot about three hundred feet above the climber; by keeping the helicopter's engines roaring at a high RPM, Don was able to hover and set one of his runners down on a large rock protruding from the mountain side. Bernie and I quickly unloaded on a spectacular crag overlooking a five hundred foot drop on either side straight to the sloping canyon walls below. Most exhilarating to say the least. Once again, Don's extra-ordinary flying skill had saved us considerable time and effort in the rescue.

We were now two hundred and fifty feet above and one hundred feet to the lateral of our quest. It was impossible to get anywhere close to directly above the climber as a headwall prevented us from moving laterally in his direction. The loose rock and debris would be a hazard if we attempted to descend too close to him anyway. Bernie found a solid piece of rock to place a secure anchor for the first rappel. As he placed the first bolt, I sorted gear and prepared to go over the side. I rappelled working laterally toward the climber and after seventy feet decided to stop and place another anchor. The new anchor would allow me to continue my lateral rappel with more safety. Walt was soon transferred to our lefty vantage point and rappelled down to man the second rappel station. I dropped laterally another hundred and twenty feet and assumed the level of the climber; he was still another forty feet to my right. By continuing to rappel, I was able to reach some easier rock and traverse the forty feet until I was directly below the climber. By using a jumar (rope clamp) on the rappel line, I was able to give myself a belay and climb to the victim's position.

The climber was immediately tied into a belay rope that stretched to Bernie. Securing a hard hat, he began a careful traverse to easier, but still rotten terrain that enabled him to climb directly to Bernie. Walt guided the rope as I pendulumed back across the face to the fall line of my rappel anchor. We made it back to the helispot and soon were on our way out. For Steve Kodish, 18, from 29 Palms, I'm sure it was a nice day to be flying!!!



SEE SPECTACULAR AERIAL PHOTO OF RESCUE
BY HANK SCHMEL, ON THE NEXT PAGE...



The above photographic composite, shot by Hank Schmel while being flown by Don Landells of Palm Springs Aviation, gives some idea of the scope of the rescue in the preceding write-up. The lettered arrows point to the rescuers and the rescuee. W - RMRU member Walt Walker. J - RMRU member Jack Schnurr. V - Victim Steve Kodish.

29 OCTOBER, SUN. — SEARCH — No. 7254M
Thermal, Lake Cahuilla
by Bob Claybrook

At 2220, I received a phone call from my Call Captain, Walt Walker, informing me of a report of a flashing light spotted in the hills of Thermal, located two miles south of Lake Cahuilla where I met two Sheriff Officers who had received the same type of report. They tried voice contact but there was no response. I proceeded to wait for the team.

At 2300, Jim Fairchild and Pete Carlson arrived in a rescue truck. I told Jim the situation. He then

sent Pete and myself up the hill to see what we could find. With the help of the Sheriff Officers we found the right canyon. Pete and I then proceeded to climb. Twenty minutes later we saw a light and tried voice contact again, still no response. We used our spot lights but saw nothing. Then all of a sudden, we saw a white flag on the hill; we again called out, but no response.

We radioed Jim and told him of the flag. He told us to continue and we did. We started up the hill slowly, and when we reached the flag, we spotted a smoldering fire. We then looked for foot prints, tracks, trash, anything we could find, but there was nothing.

We started down the hill. When we arrived back at the truck we saw three other members of our rescue team — Don MacIntosh, Ed Hill, and Rich Quackenbush.



28 & 29 OCTOBER, SAT. & SUN. — TECHNICAL
By Rich Quackenbush

About a dozen participating members gathered at Jumbo Rocks Camp Grounds in Joshua Tree National Monument Friday night, October 27, including families of Fairchild, Poler, and McIlvoy, assorted girlfriends and wives, and an observer from the Palm Springs Mounted Police (Larry Paul). We awakened on Saturday to a bright, warm October sun, which changed soon to intermittent clouds and breezes. Starting at about 8:30, under the direction of President Jim Fairchild, we gathered ropes, a litter, and assorted technical gear together and repaired to a nearby rock that had a nice flat top and about a 20-foot face for us to practice on. Half of us went to the top and rigged a self-equalizing anchor (SEA), which is used to anchor the braking system for lowering the litter or the pulley system for raising it. The other half stayed at the bottom and tied one of the gals, who played the part of victim, into the litter. We then raised the litter horizontally up the face and then switched jobs and, redoing the rigging and the tying of the victim, lowered it.

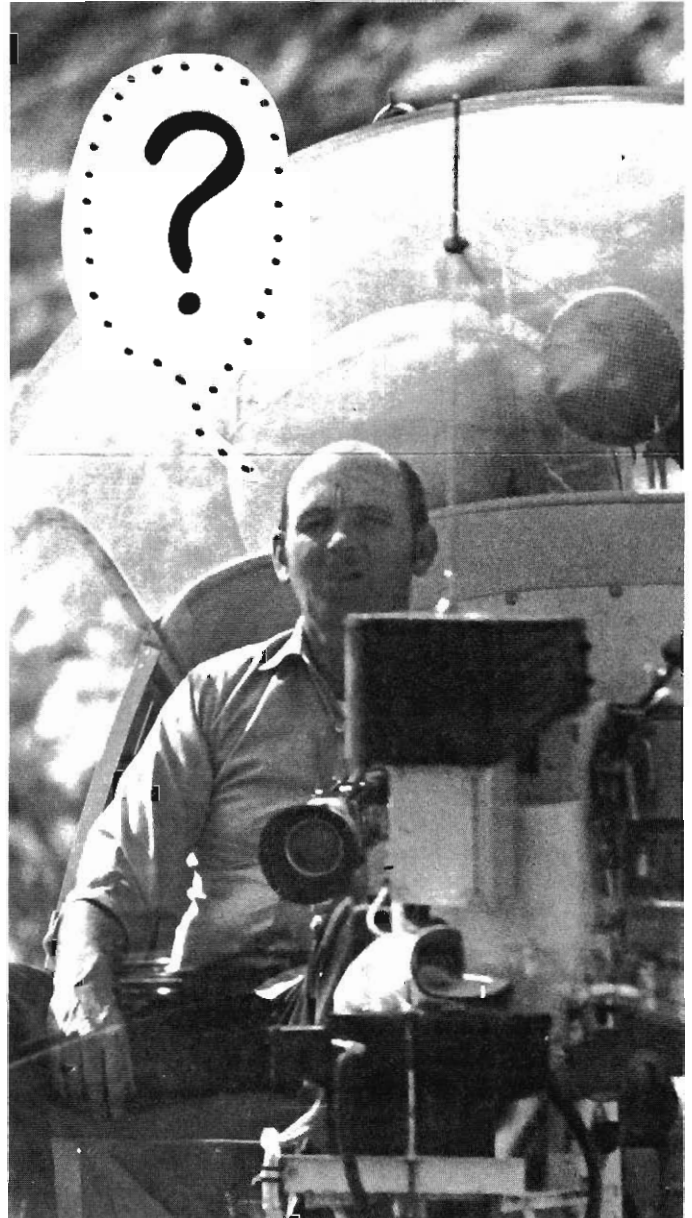
After lunch, we practiced rappelling down and jumaring up a 100-foot face.

Saturday night, 8 or 9 gathered in a VW bus for a game of hearts with 2 decks of cards, kibitzers harassing from outside.

Amidst brisk, cool winds and overcast skies on Sunday morning, the newer members practiced horizontal lowering and raising of the litter back at our Saturday morning practice site. The old timers sat back and watched us novices make mistakes and correct them (some of them). Then, before the actual raising or lowering they would point out what we missed or fouled up. Every time an operation was done a new member was appointed operations leader and another one safety officer. This was terrific training for us, and noon was upon us before we knew it. Without doubt, this sort of training helps both the new and seasoned member learn and

perfect the rescue techniques and the leadership abilities necessary to direct them.

Ding Bat
of the month



On the rescue mission in Tahquitz canyon, Hank Schmel showed up without his hiking boots and uniform. He then was assigned the job of Base Camp Operator. Somehow he arranged to re-assign that job to someone and got his camera equipment out. Just as he was about to be lifted aloft in the chopper he thought, "Did I put film in the camera?"