

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

Coming Events ---

- 13 September, Board Meeting.
- 20 September, Regular Meeting.
- 23 September, Training, First Aid and Technical.
- 27 September, Rubidoux-on-the-Rocks Technical Basics, 1900 at the upper parking lot.
- 11 October, Board Meeting.
- 25 October, Regular Meeting.
- 28 & 29 October, Training, Jumbo Rocks, Joshua Tree N.M.



The Road

Runner sez-

In our last column, we touched upon the problem posed by the incredible proliferation of "search and rescue" groups. I suppose thoughts about rescue conjure up scenes of glamor and excitement, hence, a lot more people are becoming attracted to the idea of forming a group to perform search and rescue. In the first place, the Sheriff's Office of any county is charged with responsibility along this line. They will call the best "tool" to accomplish the task. Second, mountain, or really wilderness rescue, is quite different from any other. Many more mental and physical skills enter the picture, and the time element becomes prominent. Through the last two decades here in Southern California a number of volunteer units have developed methods of SAR that are dependable and effective. Veteran members of these units lead the operations in the field and train new men. There is a continuity of the many skills required. These people know the wilderness and can operate competently in it.

Now there is a plethora of groups claiming to be capable of SAR, formal and informal, civil and governmental. To those of us familiar with what it takes to find, sustain, and evacuate victims of injury, exposure, and anxiety, it's downright scary. I would personally be terrified if I were injured in a remote location awaiting "rescue" by a group not accredited by the Mountain Rescue Association. But this situa-

tion will probably be resolved in time. The glory and glamor really aren't there, it's just too much hard work, there are too many exacting skills to master, there's too much gear to lug up the hills, operations come at entirely too inconvenient moments. One does not become a competent, capable rescue type just by having the desire or being engaged in an indirectly allied occupation. It is sincerely hoped that agencies everywhere will call and employ only those SAR units that are established and proven.

During some of the early years of RMRU the August training was cancelled due to lack of participants. In recent years, and particularly this year, we've had a fine turn-out. Our last time on Suicide Rock was a valuable session where a number of newer men who had only observed "over-the-side" techniques were able to practice them. Our Technical capability has risen greatly amongst the newer members. It is wonderful to see the interest, persistence, and perceptivity of fellow members during training. September should be great - everyone home again - Steve's got a real surprise brewing. —Pres. Jim

Search and Rescue

25 AUG., FRI. - SEARCH - No. 7247A
San Jacinto Mountains

Once again the Riverside County Sheriff's Department called regarding a nine year old boy missing from Camp Lawler. He was located while we were on the way.

14 AUG., MON. - SEARCH - No. 7245C
Mono County

The Mono County Sheriff's office requested assistance in searching for a child lost six hours at the time of the call. We had to turn it down because over half of the team was away.

19 AUG., SAT. - SEARCH - No. 7246A
San Jacinto Mountains

The Riverside County Sheriff's Department requested help in finding an eight year old boy lost out of the Black Mountain Campground. While enroute the boy showed up.

TRAINING



AUG. 26, 1972

After spending 9 weeks in the High Sierra, I returned home just in time for the Aug. training, a technical on Suicide Rock. Friday night we shouldered heavy packs, 50 lbs. plus, and started for the top. Jim Fairchild and I reached the top first, then came Hank and Rick slowly up with a watermelon in each of their packs. Next came Joe Bell, Bernie, Jim Waters, Dave Nehan and Bob Claybrook. We all shared some good food and drink and were asleep by 2400 hours.

About 0400 we had an unexpected awakening as rain began to fall and lightning flashed above with thunder not far behind. Being rescue men and always prepared, we all hurried around and waterproofed everything, turned over our bivouac sacks, waterproof side up, and went back to sleep.

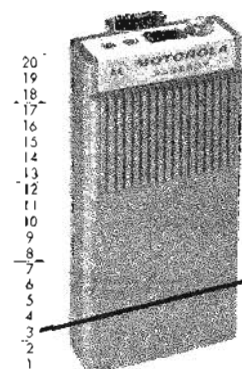
The rain turned out to be very little and at 0700 we were up under clear skies eating breakfast. First for the day was some repelling and jumaring (ascending the rope with mechanical devices). So over the side went a 300 foot rope. I went down first, followed by Dave, Bob, and Bernie. Then we ascended the rope with our jumars. Next we all joined in and set up a 3 pitch lower of the litter. It is lowered on one rope and a second is used as a belay. When all the rope is out on the lowering line, they put tension on

it. Then the belay rope is dropped down and a new anchor is set up on the face of the rock. The belay rope then becomes the lowering rope and the old lowering line becomes the belay rope. After we finished the 3 lowers we left the litter at the bottom and assended the ropes to our packs on top for lunch.

The watermelons Hank and Rick brought were in great demand and everyone had all they could eat. After lunch most people repelled down with their packs, then two persons untied the rope and dropped it down, then hiked down. At the bottom of the rock we set up SEA's and MA's and practiced passing knots on repel and jumars, and other basic skills. Then a few boulder problems to finish up a great training before heading home.

-- Pete Carlson

Pager Fund



Sustaining Members

The Pager Fund has continued to grow throughout the month, with all credit going to the sustaining members. Our first pager has yet to be put in service but should have a good workout by next month.

This month we welcome the following:

- *Mr. Theodore L. Young
- Mr. Phil Perry
- Mr. & Mrs. Everett Hadley
- Mr. S. R. Brown

The following are our renewing members:

- John E. Fischbach, M.D.
- *Izaak Walton League - San Jacinto Mtn. Chpt.
- Miss Ramona Flinchpaugh
- Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Merrick
- Dr. & Mrs. Paul Trotta
- Memsahibs - Womens Committee - So. California Gas Co.
- Mr. John C. Boyd

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

Thank you all for your most generous donations.

--Al Andrews