

# 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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Walt Walker, Editor



PHOTO BY KEVIN WALKER

# Thank you!

# TRAINING



## 8 DEC., SAT. - HELITAC Western Helicopters, Rialto (Miro Field)

For more years than many veteran RMRU members would like to recall, Alec Ferguson, owner of Western Helicopters, Inc. has provided the unit the opportunity to stay sharp with choppers.

We were welcomed by Alec, bright and early Saturday morning, with coffee and doughnuts. After the usual stories of past missions and training sessions, we adjourned to Western's expanded facilities.

As happens so many times in December, a north wind was blowing directly out of the Cajon Pass. Alec showed us around the tie down areas and described the expanded use of turbine powered helicopters and especially the Hughes 500C.

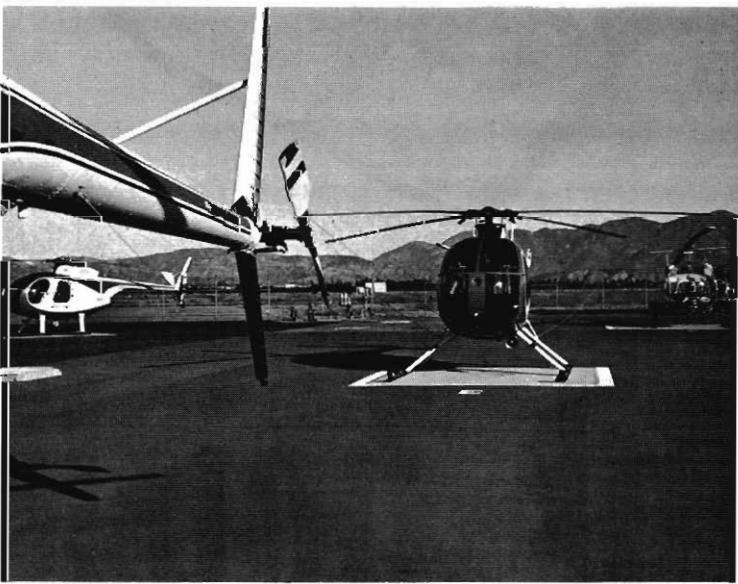
With many new RMRU members present, Alec introduced two of his pilots, Roy Cox and Darrell Ellenberg. Veteran RMRU members have worked with these fine pilots on many actual missions in the past. The pilots then went over Helitac operations and general safety around the machines. Finishing with static training, we drove over to the training field.

Since we had not worked with the Hughes 500C before, it was really great to be able to work with it. We split the group into two groups of combined veteran and new members. While one group was training with the 500C, the other group was working with a supercharged Bell.

For the second year in a row, Kevin Walker, son of veteran member Walt Walker, has covered the training session with two cameras. He used one camera with a normal lens and another with a telephoto lens. Once again he has done a very fine job of recording the Helitac training on film so that you may see the birds in action.



With the north wind blowing, Honk Schmel keeps a right grip on one of the three doors, that were removed for the Helitac training. The doors are usually removed on actual missions to facilitate entry and exit.



The lonely supercharged Bell (far right) seems to be pushed away by just three of the many Hughes 500C's that are tied down at greatly expanded facilities of Western Helicopters.



Since we had not worked with the Hughes 500C in the past, everyone took many turns entering and exiting during the static training at the tie down area.



If you combine the Helitac jump styles of, Pete Carlson, (left) arms against the body and Walt Walker, (right) feet together, the correct jump form would emerge.



## The Road Runner

sez- by Pres. Jim Fairchild

Only a couple days til Christmas, and we look back on a year for which we have a lot to be thankful. Our operations have been successful - we got the people back to safety with no injury to ourselves or those helping us. Our spirit and practice of cooperation with the Riverside County Sheriff Office and other agencies remains excellent. We have made progress in new techniques for rescue. Our wonderful members of the Sustaining Membership have enabled us to pay bills, make some capital acquisitions, and put away a bit for the future. And, in an area dear to my heart, we've remained independent and autonomous. Shall we remain static? Never! We must endeavor most diligently to complete plans and programs previously initiated, and undertake a number of highly desirable efforts that will further increase our efficiency and effectiveness. We have a great roster of talented, able men. Their spirit of dedication and cooperation is tremendous. Without it we would fold up. Now we need to further employ the talents in a manner that will benefit the team, hence the people whom we seek to serve. May all of us in RMRU bear in mind this question: How can I become a better SAR man, and how can I help the team? Then do it.

## Search and Rescue

5 DEC., WED. - ??? - No. 7355M  
Meadowbrook Hills  
By Walt Walker

Shortly after lunch Al Andrews called and said the Elsinore station of the Riverside County Sheriff's Department had called him and asked for RMRU's assistance. Two young men, while exploring one of the many mines in the area, had sighted what they believed to be a body. The sheriff's department had tried to descend the shaft to investigate but was turned back by the length and steepness.

When all the RMRU members, who had said yes to the call had arrived, we caravanned five miles into the hills in four wheel drive vehicles. Arriving at the tunnel entrance, we decided that a vehicle would be used for our main anchor and Bernie McIlvoy would rappel down the

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

shaft. Bernie was ready quickly and started his descent. He had to stop many times because of the dust that restricted both his vision and breathing. Upon arrival at the bottom, he shouted back that there was a stripped motorcycle frame (the S.O. checked and found it to be one that was listed as stolen). Bernie tied a rope to it and ascended his rappel rope using Jumars. We pulled up the frame, coiled our ropes, drove to the restaurant and yes, while eating dinner someone said, "another one of those 'wierdies' in Elsinore".

14 DEC., FRI. - SEARCH - No. 7356M  
Perris - Elsinore Area  
By Jack Schnurr

My pager activated at 5:45 p.m. as I was preparing for dinner at the Webb School dining hall. I met with other members of the West end group at the Ontario truck stop to combine transportation to Perris. We logged in at the rescue van at 7:30. Munching on sandwiches and candy from the local Circle K market, our meeting place, we moved several miles into the surrounding, rolling hills to establish a basecamp. We broke up into 4, three-man teams and started adjusting our search packs for the cool evening as Jim briefed us. A 70 year old rabbit hunter from L.A. had become separated from his two hunting companions earlier in the day and despite a search by the Riverside Police Department helicopter, the man hadn't been located.

After searching four hours through moderately thick brush the man was located in L.A. with some friends. Apparently he found his way out of the "wild" and hitchhiked home. Just love those Elsinore calls!!

## Coming Events - - -

10 January, Board Meeting.  
23 January, Regular Meeting.  
25-27 January, Winter "Shakedown" Training, San Jacinto Mountains.  
4 February, Art Bridge's First Aid Course begins.  
14 February, Board Meeting.  
20 February, Regular Meeting.  
22-24 February, Annual Show/Ice Training on Mount San Gorgonio.  
On 25 January four of our members leave for Argentina to climb Aconcagua: Pete Carlson, Ed Hill, Rich Quackenbush, and Dr. Ray Castilonia. Good climbing!

## Sustaining Members

by Mike Daugherty

It has now been something like six months since I "inherited" the position of Sustaining Membership Chairman from my predecessor, Al Andrews. While there are a few administrative tasks associated with the job (I can say "a few" tasks because they are usually done by my wife), the most difficult part is to find a new and apparently novel way to say **thank you** every month to the people who sustain RMRU. In an elaborate effort to avoid repeating myself I have resorted on occasion to what might have passed in a poor light for levity. However, as I survey the wreckage of 1973 in retrospect, I am given to wonder at least half seriously how something like RMRU can exist in a world such as this. Of course I know that people do things for reasons which are as numerous as they are complex. But eight years of association with RMRU and other volunteer mountain rescue teams seems sufficient to convince me that people (in this case rescue team members and sustaining members and a few ex-rescue member camp followers) can cooperate to do something which will never bring any of them material benefit at least in part because it is clear that it **ought** to be done. I suppose that that kind of optimism (however cautious) sounds at least naive if not downright corny. However, I have a lingering suspicion that it is shared by those whose names appear in this column each month. So I've found a new way to say thanks, not just for the support, but sharing that optimism.

### New Members:

\*Dave Crimi  
Robert Spenger

### Renewing Members:

Emmanuel Fischer  
David Harrah  
\*Idyllwild Property Owners Association  
Weston S. Robinson  
Mr. and Mrs. D. Rosenkraus  
Mr. and Mrs. A. King  
W. Paul Matthews

\*Century Club Member, donation of \$100 or more.

See page 5 for a new  
monthly feature!

And the pager fund gauge.

# from Old'en Days

5 YEARS AGO IN THE 'RMRU NEWSLETTER'--  
JANUARY 1969

TRAINING - 'Rubidoux on the Rocks' was started.

SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIP - Al Andrews reported that RMRU had purchased its first two 5 watt handitalkie radios and the conclusion of the first year of the 'Sustaining Membership' program. There were 63 sustaining members enrolled during that year. We thanked Mrs. Florence Batchelor and Mr. & Mrs. Wilford F. Keith for becoming Sustaining Members.

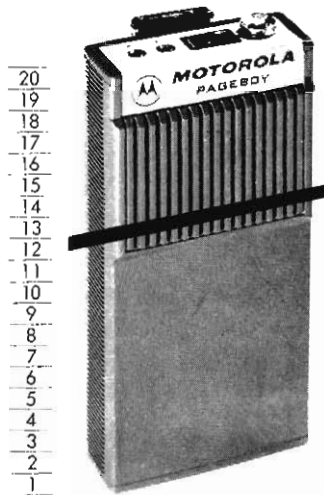
## DING BAT of the month

by HANK SCHMEL

"SEE WALT, I TOLD YOU ROAD RUNNERS COULDN'T FLY".



# Pager Fund



### from the editor—

In September of 1973 I resigned as Editor of the 'RMRU NEWSLETTER' after serving many years in that position.

Many people, both inside and outside RMRU, asked why I resigned. Since I am resuming the position of Editor I am now responding to the question.

As a founding member of RMRU I have worked long and hard with many other men to make RMRU one of the best mountain rescue teams available. As the years went by, many of the old members had to resign for one reason or the other. These men were slowly replaced, many times by much younger men. These newer members were not around when we struggled with poor radios and equipment, worked very hard to raise money to purchase the fine equipment RMRU has today.

The newer members could not, it seemed, accept the fact that the 'RMRU NEWSLETTER' is the prime source of obtaining funds for the unit. Due to their non-support the newsletter had suffered and so had our bank account. Under those conditions I would not serve and many times take the blame for the newsletter conditions.

Just recently most everyone on the unit have put their shoulders to the wheel and begun to push. So I have resumed the job of editor and watch out, I'm carrying a big black whip.