

# 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 X, Issue 6, June 1974

Walt Walker, Editor

## Coming Events - - -

- 10 July, Board of Directors Meeting.
- 24 July, Regular Meeting.
- 27 July, Training.
- 14 August, Board of Directors Meeting.
- 21 August, Regular Meeting.
- 24-25 August, Training.

## Search and Rescue

### 5 MAY, SUN., - SEARCH - No. 7419A Maze Stone, West of Hemet

*By Walt Walker*

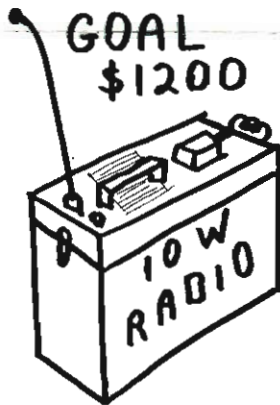
It was right in the middle of one of those Sunday afternoons, when you wish you were hiking or climbing, instead of working at home when the phone rang.

The Hemet Station of the Riverside County Sheriff's Department reported that a young boy was lost in the rattle snake Hills west of Hemet. When I arrived there, many members from the Hemet-Valley Search and Rescue Team were already assembled at the Maze Stone Park.

Capt. Bill Park and his men were in the process of checking out what appeared to be a hoax call. Within a few minutes it was established that it had been a false report. I requested that the sheriff's department activate our pagers so that the members still enroute could be turned around.

## Sustaining Members

by Mike Daugherty



Last month we went over the top on our fund drive for pagers. RMRU will shortly have twenty-one 'beepers' in service.

We are starting a new drive this month to raise the necessary funds to purchase a 10 watt handitalkie that is badly needed when we need a radio relay in missions that involve Tahquitz Canyon.

This month we welcome the following new members:

Mr. Jack Frost  
Charlotte A. Sprehn  
Dr. & Mrs. Bruce L. Bindel

and the following old friends:

Mrs. Esther R. Briggs  
Mr. Philip C. Moedt  
Mr. Theodore Pruess

- \* Rubidoux Grange No. 611
- \* Rubidoux Rexall Pharmacy

\*Century Club - donation of \$100 or more.

### 17-19 MAY, FRI. - SUN. - TRAINING SESSION AND SEARCH - No. 7420M

*By Jim Fairchild*

Our training began Friday evening after a sumptuous dinner at Idyllwild's Chart House. Ray Castilonia and I had spent some time at Lake Fulmor and James' Reserve trying to call up owls and whip-poor-wills, but the cold, damp atmosphere curtailed that.

The plan was to enter the San Jacinto Mountains via four separate roadheads, and we did. Our own group, besides Ray and me, included Rick Pohlars, Rich Quackenbush, and Bud White. We hiked up the Deer Springs Trail to its junction with the Suicide Rock Trail, and bivouacked. Delightful! Listening to a tape of the Nutcracker Suite while breezes caressed the pine needles. Dawn came too soon, breakfast was too short, but the day looked great. However, as we hiked along the temperature dropped, winds arose, and clouds appeared. By the time we reached Little Round Valley (9400' el.) it was obvious that a storm was coming, fast. We had met the group coming in from the Seven Pines Trail, and hiked with them up to a saddle between Folly and San Jacinto Peaks (10,400'). Other groups were assembling as the storm intensified. Suppers were

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cooked behind improvised shelters.

The "Freight Train" effect of the wind continued all night - 50 to 60 M.P.H. - the thermometer said 10 degrees F. - Bernie said, "Mr. Training Chm., you didn't tell us this was a survival trip!" (No one told me either) The plan for Sunday was to deploy a troop of Girl Scouts into four areas in the vicinity of Willow Creek Crossing, on the east side of the mountain. I hiked over to Saddle Junction to meet them and found they were about frozen, but ready for . . . hiking out! I jogged over to the crossing to meet the four girls who were to give me the news, and on the way back to the others we assisted a troop of little girls who were clearly in the incipient stages of hypothermia. The older scouts did a marvelous job of caring for them and whoever else was stiffly clumping out of the mountain.

It had to happen, and did. Dr. Norm Mellor's voice came from Base at his Sky Yacht, saying a 16 year old boy was missing from a church group outing at Law's Camp, at elevation 7400' and a couple miles east of Saddle Junction where I was with the troop. As the rest of RMRU came into radio contact they got the message, with a resultant "bombing" down to Law's Camp. We organized for a search as the storm abated somewhat. The subject, Juan Pinto, had gone for a late evening walk on Saturday and failed to return. It was his first visit to wilderness terrain. We guessed (from considerable past experience) that he had gone down Tahquitz Canyon, attempting to reach the desert floor where tempting lights shone. He had. Another writer will tell about the search. What bothers me (a little) is that some of my team mates still think this was planned, with the girl scouts as sort of a diversionary tactic.

*(Editor's note: The following story relates how the search was conducted.)*

*By Ed Hill*

The team was hiking near the summit of San Jacinto when Norm Mellor radioed that a young man was lost. He had last been seen at nine o'clock Saturday night at Law's Camp. It was storming on the mountain and had been bitter cold. Bud White's thermometer had read ten degrees that morning. We hiked to Wellman's Divide and held a short conference. Bud White and Rich Quackenbush would be the relay; Jack Schnurr, Bernie McIlvoy and Pete Carlson would bomb down to Law's Camp where they would meet Jim Fairchild; Steve Stephens, Doug Brewer, Jim Garvey and myself would hike to Little Tahquitz Valley and search the drainage down to Law's Camp. Finally Art Bridge, Ray Casilonia, Rich Pohlers and Larry Brown would hike to Law's Camp and be deployed from there.

It was a cold hike to Saddle Junction where we asked parties coming out if they had seen Juan Pinto, the missing man. No one had seen him but quite a few people had heard that he was missing. We found no one in Tahquitz and Little Tahquitz Valleys. Apparently the storm and cold had run them out. We searched the creek bed but found nothing. Over the radio we heard that Jack's group had found tracks in the creek bed below Law's Camp and heading downhill. It looked as if Juan was heading for Tahquitz Canyon and Palm Springs. Bernie, Jack and Art started descending Tahquitz Canyon from Caramba Camp. They found an occasional print as they went along. The rest of the team concentrated on searching the drainages between Law's Camp and Caramba Camp.

Jim radioed base to have the rest of the team called out. Gary Gillespie, Rich Morris and Sonny Lawrence were given the job of

packing in fresh batteries and food for the crews in the field. We had only brought food for the training mission and were running low. Walt Walker and Hank Schmel relieved Norm as ops leader and base camp operator when Norm had to leave the mountain.

The winds died down some in the afternoon so that Don Landell could fly his helicopter. Dan MacIntosh and Bob Claybrooke were flown into the canyon. They talked to a number of campers who said that they had talked with Juan as he had hiked through. One group had given him something to eat and told him how to get out of the canyon on the bottom. Art, Jack, and Bernie were flown part way down the canyon in an attempt to get ahead of Juan, but Juan was hiking too fast to be stopped. Jack asked for more man-power so Steve, Sonny and I hiked up to the Caramba Heliospot. Don came in and picked us up. We were flown down to where Dan had talked to the people who had last seen Juan, and told to search down to the top of the third falls. Dan was also flown in, and we started down canyon. The canyon was just right for hiking in. It was quite a change from the cold high country. We found an occasional print and everyone we met said that they had seen Juan.

Just above the third falls, Dan and I tangled with a cholla cactus and were flown out. At Ramon Road I was told to fly observer on a last search of the canyon and surrounding ridges. Don flew the canyon pointing out where various groups were camped. They signaled that they had not seen Juan. We then flew the ridges to the north. Near the Skyline Trail we spotted a doe who did her best to get away. We let her go and resumed flying back and forth on the face in back of Ramon Road.

We flew over a low ridge and both of us spotted a fire on an outcrop on the face. There was a single figure beside the fire who stared jumping up and down. Don did a one runner touchdown on a rock near the outcrop, and I scrambled over to Juan. He was a bit cold and tired from his long hike, but otherwise was in fine shape. We scrambled back to the rock and Don came in and picked up.

Talking to Juan, we learned that he had spent a very cold night in Tahquitz Creek above Caramba Camp. He had spent the night walking around a boulder. At dawn he had hiked through Caramba Camp and had been hiking steadily all day long. When we found him, he had just realized that he could not get down the face and was going to hike back up and around in the morning.

The Sheriff gave us an excellent dinner and drove us back up the mountain to the several roadheads where we had parked our cars.

Juan's hike down Tahquitz Canyon once again showed us how a lost person can hike right through a group camped at Caramba Camp and never be seen or see any of them.

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## 21-? MAY - TUES. - ? - SEARCH - No. 7421M

Baja California, Mexico

*By Jim Fairchild*

Tuesday evening we were called by Sierra Madre to assist in a search for Fred Mundy, 48, a pharmacist here in Riverside. I've been acquainted with him for 20 years, and wanted to go. My supervisor said O.K., and about 2200 Sonny Lawrence and I were on the way in his International Scout. We met men from Sierra Madre and Los Padres teams at the border and had an eventful crossing into Tijuana. We re-grouped at Ensenada and drove to a rendezvous with Bud Mundy, Fred's brother. Bud led on out to the Base #1 where San

Diego was in charge. Before long, Fred's motorcycle having been located, we caravanned "loosely" over to Base #2. From there the searching began. It seems that Fred was following the route of the Baja 500 race and took a wrong turn. I've heard many versions of how he got lost and where he is supposed to have driven since then until his bike ran out of gas.

Circumstances constrain me to omit details of the search other than to say his tracks were probably found (his, more or less for sure) at various places. Most of us were in the exceedingly frustrating position of not being able to directly address ourselves to the problem. Searching in Baja can be quite a foreign "ball game" compared to operations in the States. Today, 29 May, I've had two telephone conversations with Ed Goodell of the DeAnza Rescue Unit. He says that now two Border Patrol trackers and several Mexican cowboys are following six-day-old tracks northeasterly into a mountain range far removed from where Fred's bike was found.

Nothing much can be said until the search is resolved. If any of our readers are contemplating a trip into the back country of Baja, they would do well to counsel with people who are experienced down there.

*(Editor's note: Just at editorial deadline, Fred Mundy's body had been found.)*

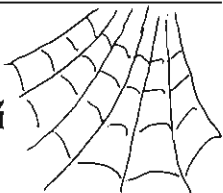
## 28 MAY, TUES. - SEARCH - No. 7422A Fuller Mill Creek, San Jacinto Mtns.

At mid-morning RMRU was requested by the Banning Station of the Riverside County Sheriff's Department to search for a missing eighteen year old girl. While members were arriving at Camp Lawler it reported that the girl had walked out.

## 31 MAY, FRI. - SEARCH - No. 7423C Northern California

Just before midnight RMRU was telephoned by the Sierra Madre Search & Rescue Team to aid in the search of a father and son who were missing while on a fishing trip. We declined to send any members as none of our operation leaders were able to make the long trip. The two were located the next day.

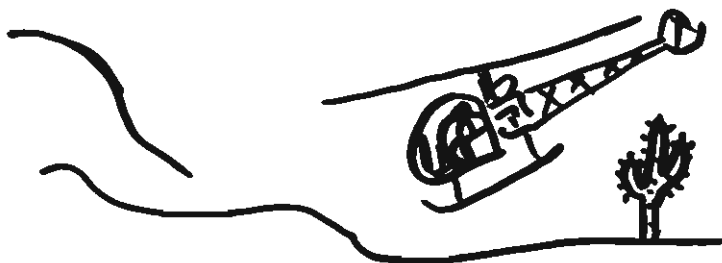
## from Old'en Days



## 5 YEARS AGO IN THE "RMRU NEWSLETTER" June 1969

### SEARCH & RESCUE ACTIVITY

RMRU participated with many other teams in searching for a seven year old boy lost near Mt. Signal in Baja, California. On the third day the young boy's body was found, having succumbed from the intense heat.



Just after dinner RMRU was notified that a man accompanying a Boy Scout troop on a hike up Martinez Peak was suffering what appeared to be a heart attack. We rushed to the area and hiked into the darkness. We arrived where the man was waiting, examined him, deciding the best course of action was to wait for a morning airlift out by helicopter! Before the sun was up, Don Landells arrived with his bird and the stricken man was loaded aboard with RMRU member Mike Daughtery as an attendant. In less than thirty minutes the man was in the intensive care ward at the Palm Springs hospital.

### TRAINING

Miro Field, in Rialto, was once again the scene for Helitac training provided by Alec Ferguson, owner, of Western Helicopters, Inc. Many new members were given the very important training and old timers were run through to refresh their memories.

Later in the month of May a hardy group of RMRU members ascended the North Face of Mt. San Jacinto. When the group finally surmounted the peak they were greeted by a young lad who said, "I didn't know just anybody could do it".

### SUSTAINING MEMBERS

Thanks to our Sustaining Members RMRU had just received its third five watt handtalkie.

The following people were thanked for their donations: Mr. & Mrs. K. N. Andrews, Girl Scout Troop 7 (Riverside), Mr. & Mrs. Paul Datner, Mr. & Mrs. M. A. Hefferlin, Mr. & Mrs. J. L. Merrick and Mr. & Mrs. E. J. Fischer.

A special thanks was given to RMRU wives, they had just completed a very successful Rummage Sale, and Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth L. Andrews for providing the necessary funds so that we could purchase 110 watt radio to use as a base station.



### DEMONSTRATION

RMRU set up a display on the Downtown Riverside Mall during the "Outdoor Recreation Show". We also raffled off the three story Law Building and set up a Tyrolean Traverse to the other side of the Mall. However, the tracking Bloodhounds once again stole the show.

### MT. JURUPA DEDICATION

RMRU was on hand as Mt. Jurupa was dedicated and we enjoyed the hike to the top. We were especially happy that our regular services were not needed.