

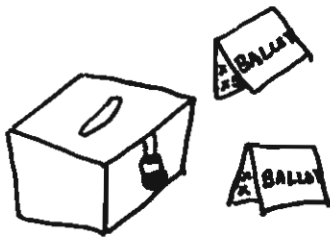
# RMRU NEWSLETTER

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 5, May 1974

Walt Walker, Editor

# 1974 ELECTION RESULTS!



## 1974- 1975 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Walt Walker, President  
Rich Quackenbush, Vice-President  
Ed Hill, Secretary  
Pete Carlson, Treasurer  
Dan MacIntosh, Director  
Bernie McIlvoy, Director  
Steve Stephens, Director



*It has been quite a few years since I have written for this column. As I set down before the typewriter, many things ran through my head as I thought about past years of RMRU.*

*At our most recent training weekend, where we photographed a new slide program, I looked around and found myself an 'old timer' amongst a new young eager group. The newer members far outnumber the veterans today. In early days radio communication was a chance at best, today we're blessed with the best that money can buy. The "best" has paid off many times in the last few years by saving lives that might not have made it had they had to wait. We used to carry packs that weighed 10 or 15 pounds. Today we're lucky if we get out of base with 45. Ten years ago a complete first aid kit weighed maybe a pound, today 6 pounds including stethoscope and blood pressure cuff. My 14½ year old son, Kevin, carried in RMRU's specialized oxygen pack on our most recent training. There just wasn't any oxygen in the early days. RMRU is only 1½ years younger than Kevin. In the very beginning we didn't own a vehicle, then we were donated a used panel truck and finally the big, new, super van that goes to every mission today.*

*You ask, "How did this all happen?" Dedication by two groups, first the regular members of RMRU, secondly the very outstanding group of people who believe in what we do, the "Sustaining Members".*

*As I begin this term as president, I would first like to thank, on behalf of the team, Jim Fairchild for the tremendous job he has done while at the head of RMRU. If you are not a regular RMRU member you have no idea of the dedication and time the 'Roadrunner' has given. Jim and I learned the rescue game together, and I know he is truly a member of the "unpaid professionals".*

*With help of the Sustaining Members we have just this month completed our drive to raise money for our radio pagers. By the end of the month, we should have 21 pagers in operation.*

*The new Board of Directors will have met by the time you receive this newsletter. I'm sure that they will have set even higher goals for RMRU to reach. Let it be your goal to help in the attainment of those goals. Pres. Walt*

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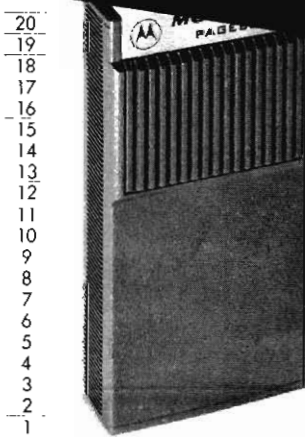
## COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Al Andrews, Communications  
Bernie McIlvoy, Equipment Development  
Pete Carlson, Finance  
Walt Walker, MRA Representative  
Ray Castilonia, M.D. and  
Norm Mellor, M.D., Medical  
Bud White, Membership  
Walt Walker, Newsletter  
Hank Schmel, Public Relations  
Dan MacIntosh, Rescue  
Mike Daugherty, Sustaining Membership  
Jim Fairchild, Training  
Rick Polhers, Vehicle & Equipment

## Sustaining Members

by Mike Daugherty

## Pager Fund



The past several months have been excellent ones for the sustaining membership. This is fortunate because we stand now on the threshold of summer — frequently a very busy season for RMRU. Since we (the sustaining members and the rescue members) seem to be doing so well together I won't risk spoiling it by waxing eloquent. Instead, I'll just say thanks to all of you and keep up the good work!

### New Sustaining Members

Mrs. R. Alyce Crafts  
Dave Liston  
The 39'ers (Idyllwild)  
Gertrude McBeth  
Daniel Yawczalc  
L. L. Frickland

### Renewing Members

Mrs. E. Marie Fowler  
Richard Fleming  
\* J. Korber Foundation, Inc.  
David Westheimer  
\* Soroptimist Club of San Jacinto-Hemet Valley  
Mr. and Mrs. J. Leroy Dooly  
R. L. Haglund

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

## Search and Rescue

7 APR., SUN. — SEARCH — No. 7411M

Juniper Flats, near Hemet

by Gary Anderson

Ah, those magical RMRU telephones which tell their owners that there's a mission on even before they pick up that receiver. Sure enough, Sunday morning reassured me that my phone had not lost any of its possessed power. Having just returned a week earlier from five months of travel, I found that it was really a nice feeling to once again be responding to a RMRU callout.

Sharing a ride with Jack Schnurr, I was informed that we were to search in the Juniper Flats area for a 37 yr. old male who was last seen at about 1600 the previous day. Added information stated that the victim was on medication which, once depleted, left him disoriented.

Strategy for a search such as this calls for a large amount of manpower to search the field by various methods. And manpower we had. Fifty-seven searchers from eight different agencies and search units signed in during the day. Foot searchers and 4WD searchers began the operation by trying to cut tracks and by checking with local residents. At the same time the Sheriff's Department had their fixed wing plan observing over the area. After a couple of hours of this had failed to turn up any clues, more searchers and a tracking dog were ready to be deployed. The early afternoon saw the addition of yet more searchers, including the Riverside County Mounted Sheriff's Posse.

Finally, about 1630, a report came in that a person fitting the victims description had been spotted on the previous day by a local resident. He had been seen going into the hills in an area three miles south of our search location. A quick move of base camp was accompanied by the immediate use of the dog in the new area. No luck. After some two hours, a report, again brought in by a 4WD searchers, stated that another local resident had reliably spotted the victim. This time he had been seen earlier in the day crossing a highway near the town of Homeland.

Once it was confirmed that the victim had been tracked out of the hills, the Sheriff's Department took over and RMRU searching was terminated. Wait a minute! Just as the team was about to leave, a third report came in from Sunset Nudist Camp saying that they believed that the victim might be in the area of the Camp. Just let me say that none of the veterans or anyone else have ever seen Base Camp Operator Bud White move so fast. He took immediate command of the situation! However, it was to no avail (mission-wise) as the report turned out to be negative.

Thanks once again are due to Sierra Madre Search and Rescue Team for the use of their tracking dog and for their high degree of cooperation. Other cooperating units which were valuable in the search include Hemet Valley Search and Rescue Team, the Calif. Div. of Forestry, NuView VFD, and Ryan Field VFD.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)

An interesting sidenote of the mission concerns ex-RMRU member Jake Johnson. After spotting the RMRU direction arrows, Jake left a note with an open invitation to any members to stop by his place. So on the way home from the search Bud and Jim Garvey did just that and had a nice visit with Jake. The truth is evident; once a person gets the spirit of RMRU inside himself, he never loses it.

## 7 APR., SUN. — SEARCH — NO. 7412A

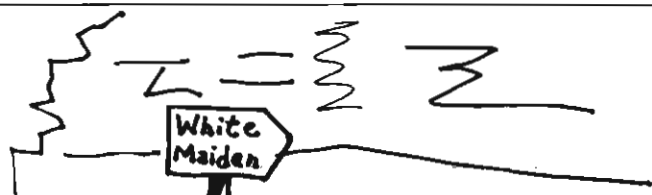
### San Jacinto Mountains

by Walt Walker

When the phone rang late Sunday evening I knew that this was going to be one of those weeks. Al Andrews reported that a couple was long overdue.

Stopping at the Idyllwild Fire Department, one of RMRU's usual meeting places, we found the couple there talking to the deputy.

When we learned of calls of help from Tahquitz Rock we talked to the couple as they had climbed on the rock that day. (See the next mission.)



## 7 & 8 APR., SUN. & MON. — RESCUE — NO. 7413M

### Tahquitz Rock, above Idyllwild

by Sonny Lawrence

The call for the Tahquitz Rock rescue came late at night on Sunday, April 7. The couple from the previous mission had reported that they had passed three other climbers on the White Maiden. This is a low class five climb which takes from three to four hours to complete.

RMRU people arrived at Humber Park around 0200 Monday morning. We packed two 150 foot and one 300 foot ropes, a variety of climbing nuts, brake bars, carabiners, food and clothes.

The walk up to the rock itself is the same ole grind! Very steep, dusty trails with loose rocks and tree roots make the travel slow. However, it was a cool night which made it nice for the rescue team.

The team hiked together up to Lunch Rock which is at the base of Tahquitz. We yelled until we got an answer from the three climbers. We were fairly certain that they were stranded on the White Maiden so we climbed around to the back-side of Tahquitz Rock. The team eventually split into two teams. Bernie, Pete C., Sonny and Larry climbed so as to come up from below the exit point of the White Maiden. Jim F., Jim. G., Rick, Bob, and Gary climbed up to the top and dropped down onto the exit point. This splitting of the team made travel faster since there would not be as much bottle-necking at different places. Pete F. and Ed joined us later. Ray and Jack operated base.

This is now a classical RMRU Tahquitz Rock Rescue according to Bernie. Apparently many people read how easy the climb is and how short it is time-wise and decide to just run up it. However, there are many route finding problems. Consequently it is easy to waste

time. Since it is a classic, the rescue went quite smoothly. One man was dropped 150 feet straight down to the three stranded climbers on the 300 foot rope. He pulled the two 150 foot ropes along with him. After the stranded climbers were dressed with down jackets, watered down and cheered up, they were tied together via their ropes and the extra 150 foot ropes. Thus each was in turn belayed up the route to the top. They went up in fine fashion, no problems at all. The first man up, Randy, got to the top just at daybreak. Hot soup and food were waiting for them.

The climbers were Dan Yawczak, 22, Randy Cushman, 24, and Dane Liston, 20, all of the Hermosa Beach area. They are students at a junior college there.

Four things high-lighted the rescue. We had a full moon which made the white rocks of the Idyllwild area shine. A beautiful clear night allowed us to see most of the valley. A small dog, nick-named "Dummie" by Jim F. followed us up to the top and down with the minimum amount of assistance from us. And Jack, through the Sheriff's Department, had arranged a hot breakfast to be waiting for us at the Alpine Pantry in Idyllwild when we came down.



## 9 APR., TUES. - SEARCH - No. 7414M

### San Jacinto Mountains

by Walt Walker

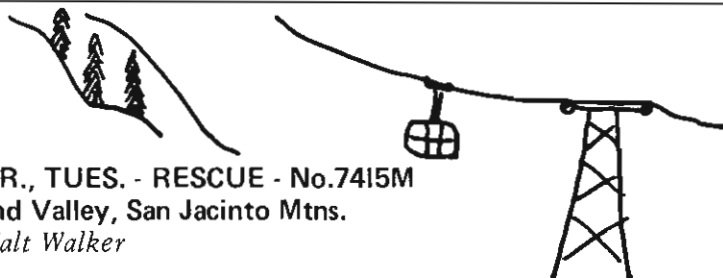
1:45 a.m.: You guessed it, Al Andrews related that the Banning station of the Riverside County Sheriff's Department had called. A wife and mother had reported her husband and daughter were almost twelve hours overdue from a hike on the Pacific Crest Trail.

Since I live the closest, I drew the assignment to drive over and talk to the informant. When I arrived I found a very worried wife and mother. She said she had dropped her husband and daughter off Saturday morning at Hurkey Creek, which is on the southwestern side of the San Jacinto Mountains to hike the 'Crest' trail. They were due to arrive at Cabazon Monday afternoon. This is on the north side of the San Jacinto massif.

Since there was still plenty of snow in the high country, I know someone not familiar with the area could get off the trail. So I called Al and told him to start the call and have everyone meet at the Banning station at 0500.

When everyone had arrived at the station, I briefed the assembled members. We decided on a two pronged attack. One group would drive around to Palm Springs, ride up the tram and hike towards Mt. San Jacinto. The other group would drive up the Black Mountain road and then hike up the Fuller Ridge trail.

While we were driving along the Black Mountain road, the missing pair were sighted walking along. They had indeed got off the Fuller Ridge trail on Monday and drifted into the deserted YMCA camp. After spending the night there, they began walking the dirt road where we found them. We loaded their packs into my Jeep Wagoneer and everyone climbed in and we started back towards Banning. We had driven less than a mile when the radio reported we were needed in Round Valley.



**9 APR., TUES. - RESCUE - No.7415M**  
**Round Valley, San Jacinto Mtns.**  
*by Walt Walker*

We had already sent a group to the tram for the previous mission, in fact, the group led by Jim Fairchild was at the lower terminal when the call was received.

Someone had reported to the Rangers in Long Valley that there was a person with a broken leg and another one suffering from Hypothermia somewhere above Round Valley. When our team arrived at the upper terminal they immediately started hiking for Round Valley. About half way there they were notified by radio that they could return to Long Valley.

It seems that there was someone who was suffering the first stages of Hypothermia, but they had been taken to the Ranger cabin in Round Valley and the Ranger had been able to warm them up. However, the report about a broken leg was false. Our team spent about 45 minutes at the Long Valley Ranger station checking out all the information to make sure everyone was all right.

**9 & 10 APR., TUES. & WED. - SEARCH - No.7416M**  
**South Ridge, San Jacinto Mountains**  
*by Walt Walker*

Being a little tired from missing a whole lot of sleep, I went to bed early hoping to catch up. As the phone woke me up I felt like throwing it out the window. After chasing it around the night stand for two more rings I finally answered, only to be rewarded with, "Conference call for Mr. Walt Walker from Mr. Andrews." Thinking just wait till I get Al, I almost fell back asleep waiting for the call to be completed. Finally, the connections were completed and Al said RMRU's help was needed as an unexperienced hiker, unfamiliar with the area was missing.

As I drove up to Idyllwild, I thought about my father and business partner. It sure wasn't going to go over too big, not showing up for work again. About that time, I arrived at the Idyllwild Fire Department. Meeting with the deputy and the informants, I did find out one good piece of information, the missing man was wearing a very unusual type of shoe.

As members arrived they were formed into teams and sent into the miserable cold, windy darkness. It wasn't long until one of the teams reported that the unusual shoe print had been sighted. It appeared that the missing man was going in and out every jeep road in the area, crossing over his own tracks in the now foggy darkness.

The next morning, as we continued the search, we began to realize how cold it had really been. There was frost rime ice a quarter inch thick on all the trees and bushes. As the warming sun reached over the ridge we were following the unusual prints down towards Idyllwild when base radioed us that the missing man had called. He had hiked out the evening before, hitchhiked home and went to bed. That morning he had contacted friends and they told him that a search was in progress. Bitter, you bet!

**15 APR., MON., - RESCUE - No.7417M**  
**Chino Canyon**  
*by Hank Schmel*

After the initial call at 11:00 p.m. Sunday night, a team of nine members met at the Palm Springs tram at 6:30 Monday morning. Claybrook was waiting there as Jim and I drove up in the van, soon followed by the arrival of Brown, Carlson, Frickland, Polhers, McIlvoy, and Stevens. The problem . . . well, two boys, Doug Sendejas and Dach Curry took a walk up Chino Canyon and found the going a little rough when they got in the vicinity of Coffman crag. For those of you who have been on the Tram, it's just to the left of tower 4 going up and 200 feet below the upper station. We loaded our gear onto the tram and prepared for the Herculean task of rescue in Chino Canyon.

As we approached tower 4, the operator slowed to a crawl while we tried to get the exact location of the two boys. We spotted them at the base of a solid ice sheet which is what stopped their progress. The car stopped at tower 4 and the equipment was passed out to the platform on the tower. This was followed by bold and daring leaps from the car to the tower by the team. When it was my turn to jump, I had a perplexed and a propensity toward procrastination . . . then I thought . . . "there are old Rescuers and there are Bold Rescuers, but there ain't any Old Bold Rescuers." With this thought in mind I jumped. Bernie in the meantime had looked over the situation and said "Hank, let's take a walk." The effort took ten minutes. Pete had joined us as we led the boys back to the tower. I will add that even though this was rather spineless for a rescue, Chino Canyon can be very mean. BIV WAC-CA-WAC-CA.

**19 APR., SAT., - RESCUE - No.7418M**  
**Tahquitz Rock, San Jacinto Mtn.**  
*by Jim Fairchild*

During a rare Saturday evening in town, while watching "Emergency", the erstwhile combination of "General Hospital" and "Fire House", I was trying to take my wife's blood pressure, pulse & respiration rate in 3.5 seconds, as they do in the TV program. JoAnne is recuperating from a fractured/sprained ankle, suffered in a spectacular fall off our patio steps. I was laughing so hard at the antics of the "para-medics" that I got the blood pressure cuff on upside down, and then the phone rang.

Dr. Norman Mellor, our team member who spends weekends just below Tahquitz Rock/Suicide Rock in his Sky Yacht, reported that people were lustily calling for help from high on Tahquitz Rock. Well, OK, our services may be needed, so we set our call-out system in motion. I drove the van to Humber Park where Norm is listening to the "rock", and we find that climbers are already evacuating four scantily-clad stranded climbers from the "White Maiden", the favorite route on which climbers get stranded. Pete and Bernie start hiking anyway to see what's going on and if any assistance is needed. Half-way up to Lunch Rock they encounter descending climbers who report that very competent, experienced climber-rescuers are at work, so we secure the mission (I guess that's the term used to say we ceased further action). As you've already read, we were needed last time up there, we will probably be needed next time.



All of the photographs on this page were taken the Saturday afternoon in December after Helitac training. Bud White had offered his front yard as an area to unload all the equipment out of the van. While some of the members checked all the equipment to see that it was in good working condition, others, and their sons and daughters washed the big orange van and waxed it. Even our president, big Jim (right), was put to work with a hose and a wash rag.



## from Old'en Days

5 YEARS AGO IN THE "RMRU NEWSLETTER"  
May 1969

### THE PRESIDENT'S BOX RMRU Rescuettes Smashing Success

Wives of RMRU members held a Rummage Sale that was so successful that they raised enough money to purchase another 5 watt handitalkie radio for the team.

### ELECTION RESULTS

Walt Walker, President; Don Ricker, Vice-President and Quartermaster; Al Andrews, Secretary; Bill Speck, Treasurer; Art Bridge, Mike Daugherty and Jim Fairchild, Directors.

### SUSTAINING MEMBERS

RMRU thanked the following for their support of the team: Rubidoux Grange, Mr. & Mrs. Philip Modica, Mr. & Mrs. John B. Morgan and Mr. & Mrs. J. Leroy Dooly.

**Coming Events ---**

- 12 June, Board of Director Meeting.
- 26 June, Regular Meeting.
- 29-30 June, Training
- 10 July, Board of Directors Meeting.
- 24 July, Regular Meeting.
- 27 July, Training.