

RMRU NEWSLETTER

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A VOLUNTEER NON-PROFIT CORPORATION
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MEMBER OF THE MOUNTAIN RESCUE ASSOCIATION

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Coming Events

10 September, Board Meeting
24 September, Regular Meeting
27-28 September, Training



RMRU STARTS BLOOD BANK

It has been the feeling for some time that a blood bank for victims rescued by RMRU and possibly RMRU members would be a helpful thing in case of emergency. At last the RMRU Blood Bank has become a reality.

After asking many questions of the blood bank officials, having discussions with the RMRU Board and general membership, on July 9 the account was opened. For an account to be opened and active, it must start with at least 20 pints and must maintain at least 10 pints.

RMRU members as well as relatives and friends opened the account with 21 pints. This is a good start, but more is going to be needed if this is going to be an effective endeavor. Those who have already given will be reminded at the proper time that they are eligible to give again. A person is eligible to give again two months after he has given.

Perhaps there are those who were unaware of this project who would like to help at this time. If you would like to become a donor to the RMRU Blood Bank, you may do so by giving either at the Riverside or the San Bernardino Blood Bank. Be sure to specify that you are giving for Riverside Mountain Rescue Unit Account. While this does not entitle each donor to be eligible to draw on the bank, it will give each donor the satisfaction of knowing that he has possibly saved the life of an injured person.

We of the RMRU Team wish to thank you in advance for joining us in this most worthwhile endeavor.

from Old'en Days



We had a technical training on Mt. Rubidoux ten years ago, and I can still remember watching as Bud White's unexcelled humor got Walt Walker laughing just as he was finishing a steep climbing pitch. Weakened by the laughter, he slid down a few feet scraping his elbow badly.

Five years ago was the big "stress testing" session wherein members of RMRU were put on a treadmill, monitored, and generally listened to for heart rate, etc. During training on later weekend that month we had our blood sample taken three times in one day to see whether the stresses of harrowing technical rescue practice would make any changes. No, they didn't but I'll bet imbibing of the "side-band oil" after the third blood drawing did make some changes in the blood chemistry! Further, but before arriving back at the Sky Yacht, Lee Mickleson fell spectacularly just as we all got off the rock, thus providing us with a real evacuation problem. He suffered no real damage because he was wearing a hard hat.

Al Andrews, then Sustaining Membership Chm., mentioned that our new van was here. Well, it's been very much "here" in the years following.

TRAINING



TRAINING 26 JULY, SAT. — TECHNICAL

Mike has already referred to the training, another epic on a portion of the huge granite formation known as Suicide Rock. We practiced lowering and raising the litter with victim strapped in an attendant attached in a position of guidance. We had ropes and more ropes over the edge and in stacks of slack at the top. We're always setting up the rigging so as to both improve the systems and to make real the potential problems that may occur in actual operations. After several ups and downs of the litter everything was well worked out.

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RMRU PHOTO BY WALT WALKER

Newest RMRU member Keith Borges was secured into the Stokes litter and veteran RMRU member Ed Hill went along as the attendant during one of the lowering and raising sessions at the July training at Suicide Rock.

Off to one side on an adjoining 150' high face we practiced individual skills like ascending with clamps, roping down with various techniques, and tying-off to work at a desired point on the cliff.

Shortly after lunch everyone began to think of the refreshments and dinner that awaited 800 feet directly below—we could even see the roast barbecuing on the porch of the Sky Yacht. By shortly after 4 p.m. we were down there with wives and friends enjoying good company and good food. Earlier, under "From Olden Days," we mentioned the first annual event of this nature.

We give our deepest thanks to Norm and Maggie Mellor for their hospitality and generosity given so freely for this annual dinner and in other ways.



The Road Runner

sez— by Jim Fairchild

Those of us who are concerned with the welfare of RMRU can occasionally get into a rather negative frame of mind when considering such variable problems as finances, participation, legal ramifications, etc. Then an overwhelming surge of positive joy puts the so-called problems in proper perspective. We consider and savor such positive circumstances as excellent rapport with the Riverside County Sheriff Department, the continuing support from our Sustaining Membership, the dedicated friends and fellow team members who make the unit what it is (nothing mysterious about a rescue unit—just a group of human beings who put forth the effort to help other human beings), a society which still tolerates a remnant of volunteer endeavors not directed by Big Brother, and a sufficient understanding from relatives and employers to make it possible for us to roll at a moment's notice.

Search and Rescue

5-6 JULY, SAT.-SUN., RESCUE NO. 7517M.

North Face San Jacinto Peak

By Jim Fairchild

Here we were, happily ensconced at Norm and Maggi's Sky Yacht above Idyllwild, in our Alaskan Camper. Enjoying the forest, the stream, the scenery, the company, truly a fine holiday to relax and type a lot on RMRU's revised and expanded Training Manual.

The phone rang and Maggi answered. Their phone often rings as one would expect because the Mellors have lots of family and patients. But this one was for Jim. It was Al Andrews who mentioned that a thirsty Marine Electronics Sergeant had come to the Long Valley Ranger Station to say that his buddy was stranded and dehydrated back down on the ridge at 7300' el. between Falls Creek drainage and Chino Canyon. Keith Borges, 25, had finished the last 1300' of the climb without water having told his partner Jim Ash, 37, to stay put and await rescue. Our callout occurred at about 1730, Keith had left Jim about 1430. Norm generously loaned his Ranchero for my trip to the valley station of the Tramway, where I met Rich Morris who had driven the van, Art Bridge, and Stony Stephens. Bob Claybrook had already gone up to the Ranger Station.

Upon arrival at said station, we found the informant, Keith, got information, and loaded up with water for the hike back to Jim. Keith led us a fast chase up the Round Valley trail a ways, then north up a canyon he thought he came down from the ridge. Sure enough, Stony found his tracks, and we headed up to find the ridge between the canyons which would lead us down to Jim A. Now, this was a very interesting descent! Darkness fell just as we got on the right ridge. Thus began a nightmare of boulder-hopping, brush-busting, cliff dodging, and rolling rocks. At one point Art did two somersaults down and through a manzanita bush, luckily no damage and no cliff below. At another point we ascended a fallen dead pine tree to regain the ridge. Finally, about half a mile away, we saw Jim's lantern. Upon getting closer we made voice contact and he excitedly said a lot about his predicament and asked how long would it be. More gully descents, we got out on a flying ridge two hundred feet above Jim A., then Art and Stony found the right way and Jim F. slid along behind. Keith flamed out and bivouacked with Bob a couple hundred yards short of Jim A. Art ministered to Jim with water, fruit, and tomatoes—Jim A. revived. This all sounds forthright and droll, but, Jim's plan for morning indicated right then that we had saved a life by arriving in the middle of the night (2300). Jim allowed as how he was going to stay at his perch until 0900 today, then traverse over 300 yds. to a saddle and descend toward Chino Canyon. I estimated that he would last until maybe noon or so, maybe down to about 5000' el. or so. Then the sun would have finished its job. We may not have been able to catch him in time had we not

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opted (as we nearly always do) to go in at night. It was hot, dangerous, and even miserable descending to him, but he's alive and well, grateful and edified. His family is relieved too.

Well, back to the story. After Jim's re-hydration we traversed over to the aforementioned saddle and went to sleep on nice level ground. During the descent we had made arrangements for the helicopter. Our bivouac site would make a great helispot, we hoped, and so it did when Pete Gillies of Western Helicopters arrived at 0630. He dropped some brush hooks and we soon had a spot ready. Pete made five trips from the lower tram station (2600' el.) up to our saddle and carried us all down.

Rich Quackenbush and Larry Brown manned a relay at Long Valley Ranger Station and came down with the 0700 tram car. Rick Pohlers manned the base radio, poor guy, we kept him in quite a quandry while making plans regarding the wheres and hows of helicopter operation.

Before 1030 I was back at the Sky Yacht, re-ensconced in the camper, typing again. Hmm, wonder what, if anything, tonight will bring? Actually, I'm typing under an incense cedar, swatting mosquitoes and deer flies and listening to climbers' calls on Suicide and Tahquitz Rocks, re-hydrating with cool drinks from dear wife.

8 July, TUE. — SEARCH — NO. 7518C Arizona

RMRU Coordinator, Al Andrews, received a call from the Sierra Madre Search and Rescue Team for assistance to search for a man missing in Arizona. Due to the fact that many RMRU members were on vacation, it was decided that we could not send any members and leave our own area (Riverside County), very much under strength.

Sustaining Members

by Mike Daugherty

I crawled out from my wintertime hiding place last month and attended the July training. As usual it was held on Suicide Rock above Idyllwild. There, in the company of 15 or so other RMRU members, I was reimmersed in the complexities of technical rescue; mechanical advantages, pulleys, brake-bar systems, horizontal litter rigging, safety lines, Jumar and Gibbs ascenders, anchor placement, etc. etc. I also got a forceful reminder about how much practice it takes to stay competent. Procedures which I used to be able to do in the dark (and often did) seemed a little vague and difficult to visualize after a few years absence from the active list. Obviously, when life is at stake, everyone must have a clear picture of exactly what is going on at every instant. And so we work; work to stay competent, work to train new members, work to maintain our old equipment and to obtain or fabricate new equipment. Over the 9 years I've been associated with RMRU, I've seen the Unit's equipment go from rudimentary to its present highly developed state. Much of the equipment (e.g. our radios, the Rescue Van, etc.) was simply bought outright with the money provided by the Sustaining Members. But, quite a lot has been developed, built, improved and maintained by RMRU

members who had or have developed special areas of competence. To pick three examples at random; our Communications Chairman, Al Andrews, has installed radio equipment and built antennas and battery checkers. The Equipment Development Chairman, Bernie McIlvoy, has designed and built wheeled litters and rescue pulleys. The Chairman of the Vehicle and Equipment Committee, Rich Pohlers, has labored mightily over the maintenance and improvement of the rescue van. The list goes on and includes members whose major non-rescue contributions are advisory, organizational or administrative (e.g. Medical, Personnel Coordinator, Finance, newsletter, membership, training, sustaining membership, etc.). It used to be a standing joke that there were more committees than members and I suspect it's still true. Of course, no one is paid for this work and I doubt that you could pay most of the members for their labors. (I'll probably hear about that comment at the next meeting.) But, when RMRU needs something, the money is usually there, thanks to our Sustaining Membership. Money from the Sustaining Members is used to buy equipment and to cover the substantial costs of operating a rescue unit (e.g. gas for the van, van maintenance, telephone, postage, radio upkeep, etc.). The regular income provided by those listed below and many more who contribute regularly to RMRU provides the financial base which makes possible the contributions of the regular members.

NEW

Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Printy
Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Glenn
Mr. Stan Eisman
Ms. Sylvia Broadbent
Ms. Bonnie Brownell

RENEWING

Mr. and Mrs. McMillan
*Soroptimist Club of San Jacinto-Hemet Valley
*Mr. and Mrs. Carl Tennant
Mr. Bruce Dodd
*Mr. Tom Dadson
Mr. George Sweet
Mr. John Murdock
Mrs. Florence Batchelor
Mr. R. L. Haglund
Mr. and Mrs. John Moore
*Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Andrews
Mr. John Johnston
Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Folger
Mrs. K. N. Robertson
Dr. and Mrs. David Randel
Alcan Management Club of Riverside
Mrs. Kathleen Murphy
Mr. and Mrs. Albert Grorud
Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Whitt
Mr. and Mrs. Philip Perry
Dr. Dale Huseboe
Dr. Edward Woods
*Dr. and Mrs. Nelson Gidcumb
Mr. John Boyd
*American Association of Retired Persons, Ch. 237
*Century Club: Donation of \$100 or more