

# 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 XI, Issue 2, February 1975

Walt Walker, Editor

## Coming Events ---

12 February, Board Meeting  
19 February, Regular Meeting  
21-23 February, Training  
12 March, Board Meeting  
26 March, Regular Meeting  
29 March, Training

## Search and Rescue

## Sustaining Members

by Mike Daugherty

This month all of our contributions came from sustaining members reviewing their memberships. Technically, this means that each of the seven people below have contributed to RMRU at least once before. However, a closer look at our records reveals a truly unusual feature, something which is typical of our sustaining members. These seven people have contributed to RMRU a total of 37 times between them! This means that the average sustaining member this month has been helping to support RMRU for over five years. Among the seven names listed below, there are three who have renewed their memberships every single year since the year we started the program (1968). We deeply appreciate that kind of loyalty and hope that we will continue to merit your support.

### Renewing

Mr. and Mrs. Emmanuel Fischer  
Mr. and Mrs. Jack Bamberger  
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Matthews  
Mr. and Mrs. Weston Robinson  
\*Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Gillen  
Mr. and Mrs. Albin Merzals  
Mr. John Johnston

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

### 6 JAN., MON. — SEARCH — No. 7501A Santa Ana Mts. South of Elsinore

Somehow we skipped New Year's Day, first time in many years. This call came at 0600 and we were soon on our way, expecting to look for two hikers missing overnight. Their car and tracks had just been found. As we reached Perris in the van, word came that the hikers were seen heading back to their car. We instantly called for a pager message to turn the men back.

### 11 JAN., SAT. — SEARCH — No. 7502M Santa Ana Riverbottom, Riverside By Jim Fairchild

Birding ("Birdwatching") is a fascinating hobby that frequently takes us afield to distant places, but this morning only to a riparian thicket south of Fairmount Park here in Riverside. Suddenly the Riverside P.D.'s helicopter zoomed into view and began hovering about the nearby lake. I had noticed four civilians thrashing through the "jungle" behind me and wondered . . .

"We're looking for a small boy," was the answer.

Birding cancelled, I headed for a phone. Just before noon, following phone calls and a meeting, the police decided to make a full-scale search of the area from which 7 yr. old Charles Wade had probably been abducted (this was witnessed by a young companion), but there was a possibility of his being somewhere nearby.

Nine RUMRU men got into the field, searching for a boy where earlier I had been searching for birds. By sundown we were reasonably sure neither the boy nor evidence of him were in our sector. The police decided to cancel further search of this type, until and unless new circumstances warrant resumption.

Only an unflinching vigilance, a closer one, can cut down on the increasing number incidents such as this.

The *RMRU Newsletter* is published monthly by the Riverside Mountain Rescue Unit, Inc. It is intended primarily to inform the regular and sustaining members.

If you would like to receive the newsletter on a regular basis, and at the same time become a sustaining member, send your tax deductible donation of \$10 or more to:

Riverside Mountain Rescue Unit, Inc.  
P. O. Box 5444  
Riverside, Calif. 92507



### WINTER SHAKEDOWN

24-26 JAN., FRI. – SUN.

By Larry Roland

As a new member of RMRU I had been anxiously looking forward to testing my legs with the veterans. After checking my gear for the fiftieth time, I was prepared for most anything that a winter shakedown in the San Jacinto Mountains could offer.

Following a hearty meal at the Chart House in Idyllwild, everyone was eager to hit the trail but not before deciding whether snowshoes were appropriate. I guess the older guys just felt awkward going camping in January without snowshoes in spite of the abundant sun and mild temperatures. Finally it was all settled; we left the snowshoes at Humber Park and started hiking up Devil's Slide towards the saddle under full moonlight. All too soon we were in camp relaxing and conjecturing about the weather and discussing the next day's plans.

Sunrise found us rested and hungry. We eagerly cooked breakfast and packed our gear in preparation for the day's orientation hike up the summit trail toward the Strawberry Cienega Trail (8500'el.) then cross-country to Willow Creek and Reed's Meadow and up to our Saturday night campsite just north of Red Taquitz Peak. (8200'el.)

Training for the weekend was primarily familiarization of the area; learning the trails, peaks, passes and various landmarks which one must know in the event of a search or rescue in that area. There was also a good bit of mirror signaling and radio communications practice as Walt Walker and his son Kevin flew over and airdropped a package of animal crackers to us. The drop was amazingly accurate, landing only a few feet from us. Meanwhile, Dr. Norm Mellor at base camp was on the radio anxiously trying to find out what kind of delicious morsels he was missing. Sorry you didn't get any, Norm.

Back at camp a few of us felt that we hadn't hiked enough yet, so Ed Hill, Jim Garvey and I set off on the short climb to Red

Taquitz Peak. (8700'el.) A brisk wind kept us alert as we surveyed the Salton Sea, Murray and Andreas Canyons and the many adjacent ranges and peaks.

Of course a major portion of any RMRU outing are the eloquent gourmet meals. Dave Hadley mixed up a delicious pineapple cheesecake while others sizzled their steaks. Jim Fairchild and I had quesadillas for breakfast complete with onions and tomatoes.

Sunday morning everyone was up early and debating which route to take back down. As it turned out we split the party in two groups; one traversed Taquitz Ridge while the rest of us descended into Little Taquitz Valley (7900'el.) and then climbed up to Chinquapin Flats where both parties rejoined. While we were waiting for the party on the ridge, several of us walked on up to Taquitz Peak (8826'el.) where once again the view was tremendous. Jim Garvey took a couple hero photos as we looked out over the mountains and valleys. Even Santa Catalina and San Nicolas Islands were clearly visible.

From Chinquapin Flats we divided into three parties and descended to Humber Park. One group went back to the saddle and down Devil's Slide; one descended in the Eastern Strawberry Creek drainage below the palisades while I went with Ed Hill, Jim Garvey and Ken Wyatt down the South Ridge Trail. An hour and half later everyone walked out to the trail head having enjoyed a very delightful hike and a memorable winter training session without much snow.

## Ding Bats of the month

by HANK SCHMEL



PHOTO BY KEVIN WALKER

(RMRU members, clockwise from nine o'clock – Bud White holding the can, Pete Carlson holding an ice screw, John Dew hands on knees, Walt Walker wielding the ice hammer and Rich Morris looking at the camera.) It appears to the photographer that Bud was giving directions as usual; Pete was enjoying the fun; John was not quite sure of the whole thing; Walt was using the ice hammer just like he does the gavel; while Rich looked on in utter dismay.