

# 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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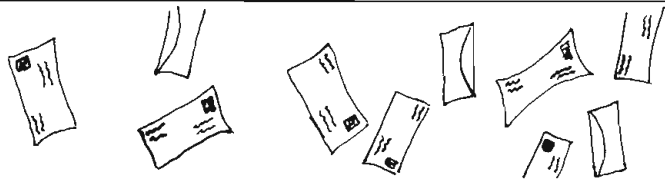
Walt Walker, Editor

# Thank you! Again Western!



PHOTO BY KEVIN WALKER

MIRO FIELD, HOME BASE FOR WESTERN HELICOPTERS, INC. OF RIALTO



# Sustaining Members

by Mike Daugherty

This month we have eighteen renewing members and just one new member. Actually, that new member is not new to anyone of us who received first aid training from the Riverside Chapter of the Red Cross. So really, we thank nineteen old friends. As evidence of their friendship, not one of them has forced me into a situation in which I might be tempted to use the Ms. form of address. Phew! I've gotten by another month unscathed. The cards and letters continue to "pour" in in response to my plea for guidance in this vital area. I'll put off a full evaluation of the results until later. However, I'd best take this opportunity to apologize to sustaining members Dr. and Mrs. Sydney Status (or Syd and Phil as they would rather be known). How foolish of me not to check our sustaining membership files before embarking on that alliterate binge.

The team members who do the work tell me that things have been slow of late in search and rescue. Strange as it may seem to us — that's good. However, it is important that the sustaining members not be lulled into a false sense of security and accompanying inactivity by the relaxed pace. This is just the time to gather strength for that onslaught of 9 operations in 5 days which probably lies just ahead. So, don't worry about the problems your sustaining membership chairman may experience searching for the proper form of address to match the names on your check. We'll handle it somehow.

## New

M/M John Kraft

## Renewing

M/M Everett Hadley

Mr. Wayne Ford

Mr. Theodore Morgan

Mr. Roger Anderson

\*Sorooptimist Club of San Jacinto-Hemet Valley

Hemacinto Lions Club

Mr. John W. Chappell

Kiwanis Club of Riverside

Memsahibs (So. Calif. Gas Co.)

M/M G. W. Gardner

Mr. R. A. Dewees

M/M George Ruptier

M/M Wilford Keith

Mr. Joseph Slavik

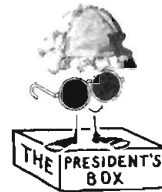
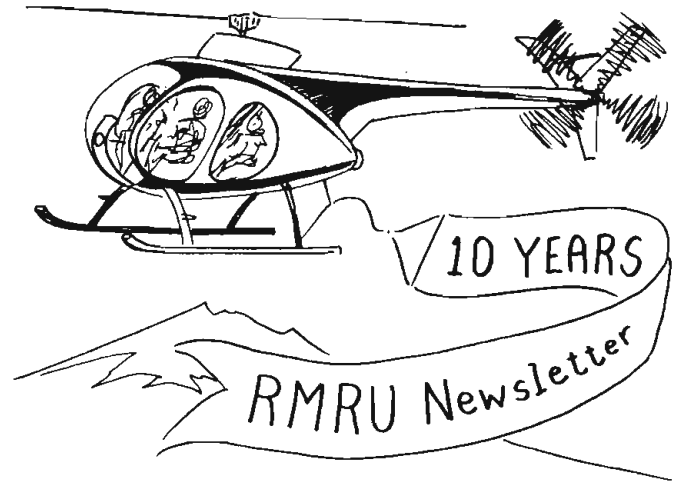
M/M David Harrah

M/M J. L. Daugherty

Dr. Noel Kirkby

\*M/M Earl Cannon

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



As can be seen by the reproduction, the "RMRU Newsletter" has come a long way from its first issue ten years ago. In the early years it was only used to communicate with the regular members, advising them of meetings and training sessions, plus an occasional recap of happenings.

We of RMRU are very proud of what our newsletter has become. It no longer just communicates with the regular members. It has grown to inform also our Sustaining Members of rescue missions and how their contributions are being spent. We hear the comment very often, "RMRU is one of the very few charitable organizations that shows you where the money is going".

As we start our eleventh year of publishing, we sincerely hope that there will be the same amount of improvement in the next ten years. (RMRU itself is 13½ years old.)

As 1974 drew to a close RMRU was happy to have a drought, as far missions were concerned. We have discussed this with other rescue teams across the nation at the recent Mountain Rescue Association meeting, and they too, are going through the same thing.

The following is a listing of our volunteer hours and number of missions for 1974:

21 Searches,	4,330*
12 Rescues,	670
10 Aborts,	210
6 Calls,	10
11 Trainings,	2,600
Public Education	383
	<u>8,002 Volunteer hours</u>

\*1,550 hours were spent on the Jensen Canyon search this past spring.

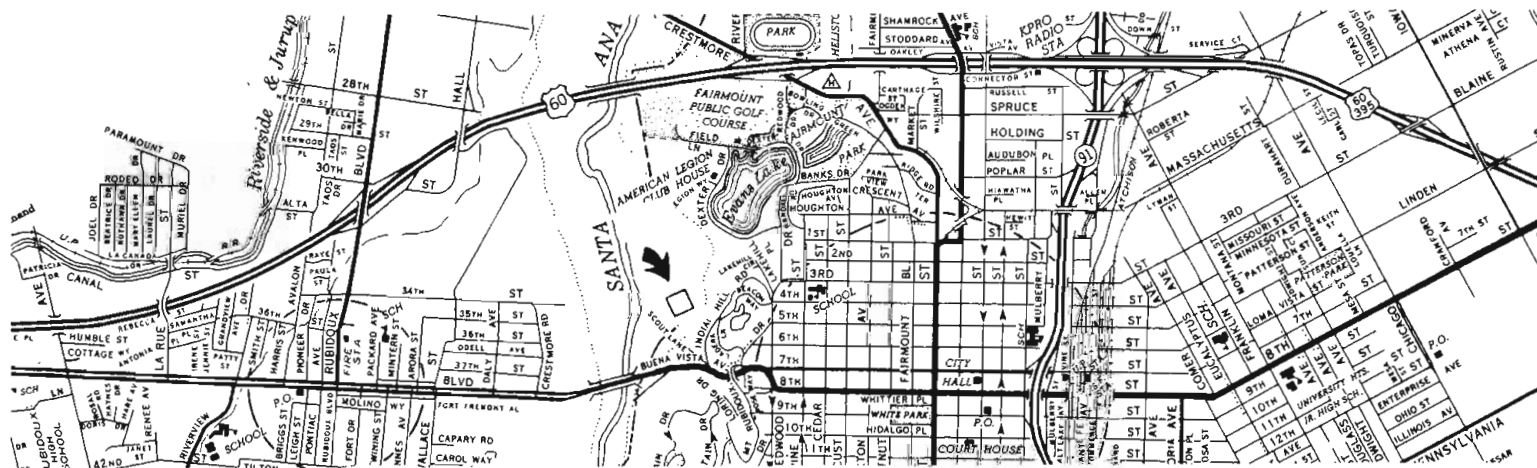
For the good of our fellow man, may the "drought" continue in 1975. We would be the first to vote for no more missions and lots more "serious hiking, just for fun". —Pres. Walt

# RMRU NEWSLETTER

LAST MONTH: April 24th - At the Association for Outdoor Education Conference in Idyllwild, we gave a very complete demonstration of our capabilities. The team met at 8 a.m. and after a short discussion of the plans for the day we went to the Strawberry Creek area and worked until 1 p.m. on the rescue demonstration that was to be given in the afternoon. (All morning the wind was blowing and the Schwartz was jumping for glee.) After lunch the wind died down and Paul drove down to Hemet to meet Dixon and Barbara with their Cessna 206. About 2:45 p.m. the plane came over and the ground wind was about 15 knots with gusts up to 25 knots. A smoke flare was set out and Paul dropped a spotter chute that landed about 3/4 of a mile away in the very tip top of a tall pine tree. After a couple of more passes, Paul jumped and landed 70 feet from the panels in a very small meadow. One of the gals from the AOE group left from the jump area and headed toward the rescue demonstration area. We had one of her blouses and gave 'Sugar' the scent and away she went. The direction the victim went was straight out the ridge road with the wind blowing across the ridge. Most of the time the hound was about 50 to 100 feet away from the road and most of the people thought that the dog was not on the trail (including the handler). But Sugar came through by going to the victim who was hiding in some rocks. We were now in the area of the planned rescue and there was 'Sierra Sam' (courtesy of S.M.S.R.) hanging on a face. The rescue and evacuation by aerial traverse went very well even though the team had a couple of trying moments. Paul reported later that the AOE group was very impressed and that they would be giving a donation. WE NEED SOME WORKOUTS LIKE THIS ONE.

April 28th - Annual meeting. The following men were elected to the Board of Directors: R. Watkins, D. Ricker, J. Fairchild, R. Minter, D. Jackson, W. Walker, P. Sanders, J. Johnson, D. Martin, A. Bridge, B. White and S. Hirsh. The board then elected the following officers: President, Walt Walker; 1st Vice-President, Paul Sanders; 2nd Vice-President, James Fairchild; Secretary-Treasurer, Don Ricker; Quartermaster, Jake Johnson; Asst. Quartermaster, Bob Minter.

REGULAR MEETING: May 26th, Wednesday 7:30 p.m. Camp Evans, BSA. We are hoping to meet with Capt. Crowell of the Riverside County Sheriff's Department.



## Coming Events ---

12 January, Board Meeting  
18 January, CR-MRA Meeting  
22 January, Regular Meeting  
25-26 January, Training  
12 February, Board Meeting  
19 February, Regular Meeting  
21-23 February, Training

## Search and Rescue

### 4 DEC., WED. — SEARCH — No. 7449C Mexico (mainland interior)

Just as we were walking out the building, where we hold our regular meetings, the ever present pager said the magic word. Calling Al Andrews, we were informed that the Sierra Madre Search & Rescue Team had requested our help to search for an American man missing in the Mexican jungle.

After considerable discussion, a six man team was selected and they began to make plans for a morning departure on an Air Force plane from March Air Force Base.

The Thursday morning departure came and went without anyone leaving, once again the political problems had brought the trip to a standstill. Meanwhile, four members of the Sierra Madre team departed in a private plane. They met the search and rescue team from Mexico City and began searching. It was not until the weekend that we learned that they had found the missing man dead.

### 6 DEC., FRI. — SEARCH — No. 7450M Mountains northwest of Elsinore by Rich Morris

I was just sitting down to dinner with my advisor and the rest of my laboratory when I heard the faint, high-pitched call of my pager in my jacket pocket. I made a quick call to Al Andrews who asked me to drive the truck to Temescal Canyon between Elsinore and Corona to look for a "crashed glider."

I took a last look at the good food and drink on the table and headed out the door. At my house a few blocks away my roommate Charles and his gal, Joan, threw my equipment into my car while I changed clothes. At Fire Station No. 3 Jim Fairchild met me and

after a few false starts we made it to the Ranger Station south of Corona.

At this point we met the informant who told us that his two friends, Bob Wills and Kurt Keever, had attempted to "hang glide" from the top of Santiago Peak to the town of Elsinore. (A hang glider is essentially a big kite that a person straps onto and then jumps off something high — a thrilling but somewhat dangerous sport). Well, to make a long story short, as the informant was driving down the fire road from the peak he saw one of the kites go over a ridge and into the wrong canyon. Further down the road he could see the kite down on a spur coming off the main ridge of Mayhen Canyon. The informant attempted, with several onlookers, to get to the kite but failed due to the rugged terrain and darkness. The Riverside County Sheriff's Department was called who in turn called RMRU.

As we heard the above information the team members began to arrive so we sent a few members up the road to the spot where the glider could be seen, with the help of a bright spotlight. Clark Kane, Sargent at the Elsinore Station, told us it was a "ten minute" drive. It took us 45 minutes. We assembled at the edge of the abyss above the canyon while Art Bridge and Ed Hill prepared to head up the canyon from the state highway down below.

Steve Stevens and myself got ready to hike. We gathered the necessary radios, brush hooks, and first aid kits. It looked like it was going to be a grim night . . . and very dirty. But alas, just as we were about to step into the cantankerous canyon we were snatched from the edge by a radio call informing us that the youths had been located — safe in town. We were greatly relieved. It is often better to serve in Riverside than to rule in a steep canyon infested with poison oak.

### 8 DEC., SUN. — SEARCH — No. 7451A Elsinore

Late in the evening RMRU received a call from the Elsinore station of the Riverside County Sheriff's Department requesting our help to search for a small boy.

Just as the telephoning was completed and most of us were loading equipment into vehicles, the pager sounded, and advised that the boy had been located.

### 31 DEC., TUE. — SEARCH — No. 7452A June Mountain, Mono County by Walt Walker

As best as I can remember, it was about 2 a.m. when my phone rang. Al Andrews had placed a conference call after receiving a call from the Mono County Sheriff's Department requesting RMRU's help to search for two missing skiers. It was going to be two separate searches, a 31 year old woman was missing from near the top of the mountain and a 14 year old boy was missing from near the lodge. We were advised to come prepared for low temperatures, strong winds and mounds of powder snow. As we were leaving Riverside, after picking up equipment from out of the rescue van, the pagers sounded the good news. Both the woman and the boy had been found alive and in good condition except for being very cold.



# TRAINING

## 7 DEC., SAT. — HELITAC TRAINING Miro Field, Western Helicopters, Inc.

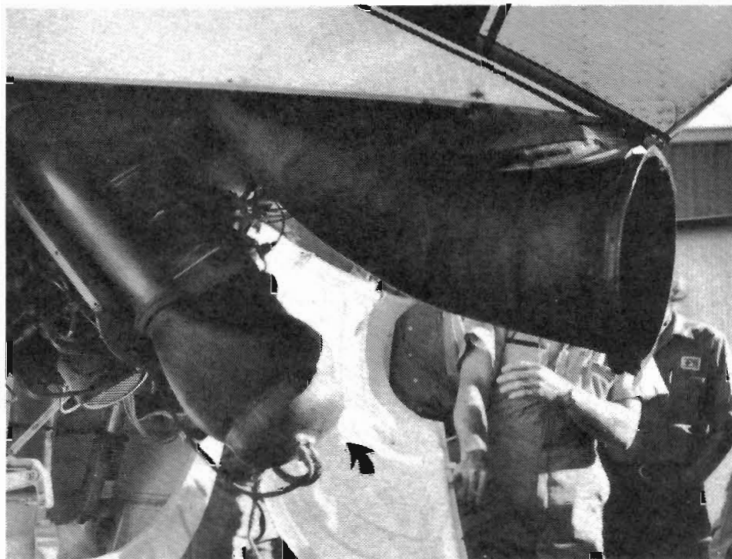
The day dawned crystal clear and somewhat cool but no strong winds as last year. For more years than many veteran members would like to remember, we again met for our annual Helitac training. (The word Helitac comes from a program the U.S. Forest Service developed years ago.) December is traditionally slow for RMRU and it is also the slowest time of the year for Western Helicopters. This works out good for both Western and RMRU.

We started the morning by reviewing safety procedures, getting in and out of the two different machines we would be flying in and some general information from the pilots. After the static training we moved to a large open field near Western's base. The photographs show better than words can describe the activity that took place.

For the third year in a row, Kevin Walker, son of RMRU member Walt Walker, took all the photographs in this issue of the newsletter. He has again done an outstanding job and we thank him for his fine work and interest in RMRU.



MIKE SMITH, Pilot



Pilot Mike Smith opened the rear doors of the 500C to give us a look at the business end, the turbine (arrow points to it) and the exhaust stack.



As fellow RMRU members watch, Hank Schmel, gives hand signals to the pilot as an unidentified member completes his Helitac jump with a parachute landing fall maneuver.



After loading new RMRU member, Ken Wyatt (who was tied into the litter) onto the hovering supercharged Bell piloted by Jerry Leeper, fellow members quickly move away as the machine gets ready to depart.



**JERRY LEEPER, Pilot**

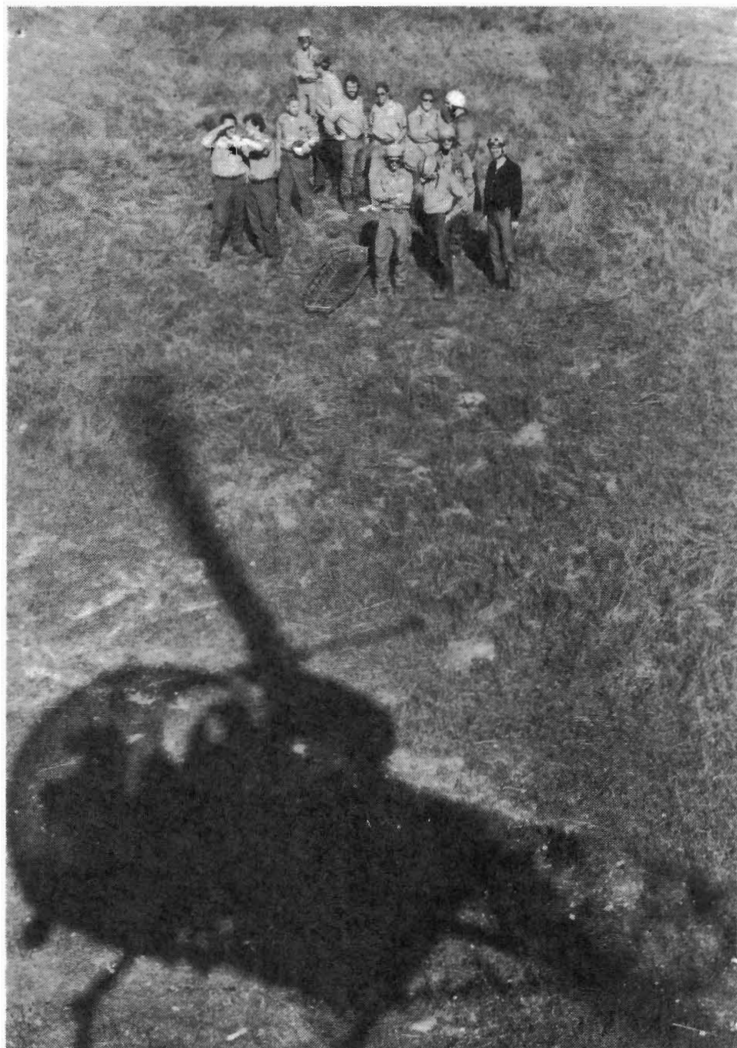
Jerry always takes his flying instructional manual and his parachute, even though it looked to us like it needed packing.



The turbine powered Hughes 500C is fastly becoming the mainstay for Western Helicopters. We have dubbed the strange looking machine, "the pregnant gnat".



It has now become a tradition after Helitac training to take the rescue van over to Bud White's house and unload the whole van, go over equipment (John Dew checks radios as Walt Walker goes over medical supplies), vacuum the interior and wash the outside.



**THE END**