

## COMING EVENTS

### SEPTEMBER

- 7 — Regular Meeting
- 9-11 — Training
- 21 — Board Meeting

### OCTOBER

- 5 — Regular Meeting
- 7-9 — Training
- 26 — Board Meeting



## Pancake Breakfast Izaak Walton League

14 Aug., Sun.  
Idyllwild

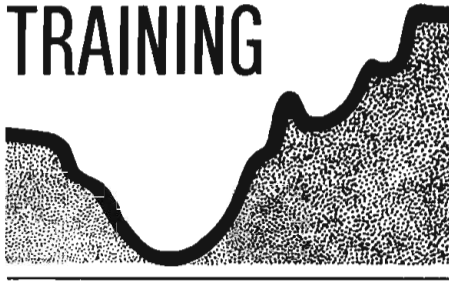
By Norman Mellor, M.D.

The Idyllwild Izaak Walton League's Annual Woodsmen's Breakfast for RMRU on 14 August 1977 again gave us a chance to show off our men and machinery to the club that has given us our greatest long-term financial support.

The Ikes, led by Ernie Maxwell, their perennial president since 1948, supplied a backup crew of fifteen while RMRU men and ladies did the cooking and serving.

Due to the increased popularity in number of breakfasts by other organizations on the hill, less persons have been turning out for the Ikes. They originated, built, supplied and maintain the facilities. Prior to next year's event, it behooves RMRU to mount an advertising campaign, to actively sell tickets, to turn out the sustaining members, and to have all of the activities participate. If we do not, this source of income and new sustaining members may cease! • RMRU

## TRAINING



20-21 Aug., Sat.-Sun.  
Suicide Rock, Tahquitz Valley

By Bud White

August training was the last of the third weekend-of-the-month trainings which have been a tradition for fifteen years. But, due to a multitude of good reasons, training will move to the second weekend beginning in September.

This month's training followed the Izaak Walton League's breakfast by one week giving us consecutive weekends in beautiful Idyllwild. The usual plan was followed; i.e., come up Friday night and stay at the Sky Yacht (side yard) or be there by 8 a.m. ready to hike to Suicide. It used to be 7 a.m. but a 50% show was a big deal and everybody would stand around until 8 or 8:30, so this time it was changed to 8 and 75% got to stand around which I guess is progress.

Training this weekend was a multiple experience. First to Suicide and a 300 foot multiple lower on the weeping wall. Old age must cancel fear because old dad (me) went over the side with Bernie and then rappelled off. Time was when I wouldn't rappel 30 feet without a belay.

John Dew was my hero on this 300 foot exercise. He rappelled with a pack so heavy I had to stand up and brace myself to pick it up.

In the afternoon we went around to the north face of Suicide and practiced jumaring up a 150 foot face and lowering a litter and raising it an-

other face several times. We then hiked down to the Sky Skiff (Mike Daughterty's cabin near Norm Mellor's) and had some side band oil. Dinner at the Chart House for most of us and then regrouping at Mike's we hiked to the little ridge northeast of the ranger cabin in Tahquitz Valley and spent the night.

Up early Sunday morning, we split into two groups and two rabbits for a tracking exercise. Mike Daughterty was Rabbit No. 1 and after getting a half hour head start, led his group on a merry chase over Tahquitz Peak and cross country back to his cabin.

I was Rabbit No. 2 and led my group north of Skunk Cabbage and then west up to Marion Peak ridge and then down into Strawberry drainage. In order to leave a trail I had to be very obvious because there had been a recent rain and you just don't leave a trail on damp pine needles and rocks. My group finally lost my track when they knew my perverse nature would cause me to stick to the buck brush. As it turned out, I spent as little time as possible in the buck brush and went down a beautiful chute with no problems and spent quite a bit of time sunning myself on a rock, enjoying the view, my book and the sounds of my pursuers thrashing around in the brush when they could have had easy sailing if they had let their eyes do the tracking instead of their heads. We got together however, and for most of us traversed the Strawberry drainage for the first time.

The weekend was varied, instructional and enjoyable. Thanks again to Mike and Kay Daugherty and daughters for their daily hospitality.

• RMRU



# Search and Rescue

## SEARCH

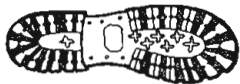
Mission No. 7721A

13 Aug., Sat.  
Idyllwild

It was early afternoon when the pagers alerted the team that a mission was in the works. Calls were made to the coordinator and we started rolling toward the Idyllwild Sheriff's Substation.

The only information we had was that a 10 year old mentally retarded boy was lost.

Just as the rescue van was crossing Sanderson Avenue on Ramona Boulevard in San Jacinto approximately 45 minutes after the call, we received a message from the Sheriff's Department that the boy had returned and our services would not be needed on this one; but it was a beautiful afternoon for a ride! • RMRU



## RESCUE

Mission No. 7722C

15 Aug., Mon.  
China Lake, Calif.

We received a call from the China Lake Mountain Rescue Group for 5/5 or better climbers (climbers capable of semi-difficult to very difficult rock faces) to help on a rescue in the High Sierras.

After some calling we only had one RMRU member able to go. We elected not to have one man drive that far alone and the decision was made to let this opportunity pass with the hope of having a better response next time.

• RMRU

## from Old'en Days

by Walt Walker

AUGUST

Ten years ago —

The first article 'Last Month' related the training accident that occurred. RMRU members were climbing Mt. Sill when a large rock broke Bob MacPherson's leg. The training then turned into an actual mission as the members gave first aid and evacuated Bob off the mountain to the Palisade Glacier. Two members hiked out Saturday evening to arrange for a helicopter. Sunday morning Bob was airlifted to the Bishop hospital.

Under 'Training' it was noted that there would not be an August session due to the fact that too many members would be away on vacation. Also mentioned were changes in future training plans.

The new masthead for the newsletter was unveiled and it was mentioned that the new style was made to make more room for information, but that it was not needed that month.

Five new sheets for the RMRU training manual were announced as being ready and would be available at the next regular meeting for distribution.

Five years ago —

The 'Sustaining Members' column, by Al Andrews, was on the front page with the good news that enough funds had been received to purchase two pagers. He thanked the following for becoming Sustaining Members: Mr. & Mrs. Ray F. Ross, Mr. E. C. Folger, Mrs. Marie Fowler, Mr. H. H. Wentland, Mr. & Mrs. John W. Murdock and Mr. Jerry Brown. A long list of people were thanked for renewing their memberships: Dr. & Mrs. Noel E. Kirkby, Mrs. James L. Chapman, Mr. & Mrs. R. O. Ridenour, Mr. Jay W. Wiley, Jr., Mr. Robert H. O'Bier, Dr. & Mrs. M. R. MacPherson, Mr. & Mrs. Roy C. Adair, Mr. & Mrs. L. A. Echols, Mr. H. E. Divine, Dr. & Mrs. Jay Wallis, Dale O. Huseboe, D.D.S., Hemet - San Jacinto Grange and Mr. & Mrs. Wynlow Swick.

The Training write-up told of the annual wife's pot-luck dinner at Norm and Maggie

Mellor's Sky Yacht and the excellent multi-pitch lowering practice (complete with rain) that preceded the dinner.

Under 'Search and Rescue' — The search for a three old started on a hot Tuesday afternoon from the Lia Hona Lodge near Pine Cove. MRA teams from Montrose, San Diego and Sierra Madre sent members to help in the search. Also, volunteers from the Idyllwild and Pine Cove Fire Departments sent help. The CHP helicopter, based in Indio, was pressed into service. At daybreak, 49 men from a CDF trustee unit expanded the growing army of searchers. About noon on Wednesday Operations Leader Jim Fairchild sent a four man RMRU team down Logan Creek for a second time. Dave Hadley soon spotted barefoot tracks. Then came a reply to the searchers calls. In record time, Bernie McIlvooy and Dave were up the side of the brush-choked canyon. There they found the three old. In good condition, but badly scratched from being shirtless and barefoot the entire time. Soon, Art Bridge and his son, Art Jr., were at the scene. They then broke a half mile path through the brush to the waiting CHP helicopter. The bird flew the boy out and another mission was completed with a very happy ending.

On a Monday afternoon, we received a call from the Sheriff's office that 21 year old, Mark Seils, was missing in the San Jacinto Mountains. He had last been seen by a hiking companion about noon on Sunday at Reed's Meadow. Members were sent to the area to check for tracks and of course try for actual contact with Mark. The CHP helicopter was called for and Walt Walker rode as observer for a search of the hiker trap, Tahquitz Canyon. Tuesday morning members of the Sierra Madre and San Diego teams sent members to assist in the search. A helicopter from the Los Angeles County Fire Department flew a four man team to the Caramba helispot for a descent of Tahquitz Canyon. That team completed their assignment on Wednesday. Base was moved to Palm Springs, then a report came through that Mark was seen near Skunk Cabbage Meadow and might be avoiding searchers. So, base was moved back to Idyllwild at Camp Maranatha. The Thursday plan called for an undercover operation, no orange shirts or insignia, no radios apparent. The area was repeatedly swept, the water holes and springs were staked out till late at night. The next day, the same plan was tried. Saturday a full scale air and ground operation was put into operation. The CHP bird was joined by Don Landells' supercharged Bell. Several members soon gained a rock-by-rock, pool-by-pool knowledge of the high country as they flew as observer. Our efforts ended that evening with "nothing". The following is a

direct quote from the original write-up by Jim Fairchild, "This account is a brief description of our first real failure. I guess it's a failure, it has not absolutely been proven just where Mark is (was) — on the mountain or off." (About two years later Mark's camp, I.D. and equipment were found, but to this day nothing has been learned about Mark's whereabouts.)

The last day of the above search, Walt Walker had just gotten airborne with CHP pilot Bill Carbaugh when a San Diego team, hiking up the Devil's Slide trail, radioed that they had received a report that a man had had a possible heart attack further up the trail. The bird tried to locate the scene, could not, and then headed back towards base to pick up the RMRU oxygen pack and change pilots to Art Trask, as he had more mountain experience. The San Diego team arrived at the scene and took over the CPR from the Scouts. The CHP bird took Walt to the Saddle Junction area where he made a Helitac jump and headed down to the victim while the bird returned to base to pick up RMRU member Dr. Norm Mellor. Walt, upon arriving at the scene, assembled the oxygen system and began positive breathing for the victim. Norm jumped from the bird and hurried down to the scene and gave the victim an injection. He examined the victim as our efforts continued. He finally told us we could stop. Everyone had tried their very best. Norm made a statement that is still remembered by veteran members, "We're not God and you don't have to feel bad when a victim dies when you know he had the best care from the very first moment." With the help of Explorer Scouts the body was moved to Skunk Cabbage Meadow and then flown to base by the CHP helicopter.

The 'Road Runner sez-' column by Jim Fairchild told about an extremely serious mission in Baja where rescue team members, from the San Diego and De Anza teams almost became victims themselves, from high temperature conditions. He also told of how he had had to carefully weigh where he sent crews during the Mark Seils search because of the 100° temperatures that were present much of the time during the mission. • RMRU