

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 XIII, Issue 2, February 1977

John Dew, Editor
Walt Walker, Publisher
Dona Towell, Artist

COMING EVENTS

MARCH

- 9 - Board Meeting
- 16 - Regular Meeting
- 18-20 - Training

APRIL

- 13 - Board Meeting
- 20 - Annual Meeting, Elections
- 22-24 - Training

\$USTAINING MEMBERS—

BY MIKE DAUGHERTY

A quick glance at the names below makes one thing quite apparent. We are sustained by renewing members, as well as renewed by sustaining members. A "renewing", sustaining member is someone who has contributed before and has, we like to think, continued to support us on the basis of the evidence of our work, seen through the pages of this newsletter. In fact, many of those we list as renewing have actually renewed five, eight, ten, even fourteen times.

Against twenty-one in the renewing category this month there are but three who can lay claim to being "new". Between us, I know for sure that at least two of these "new" members are really phonies. One is an associate member of the team who has contributed sweat and blood in the past instead of money. Now the scoundrel is trying to sneak in as a S/M. Don't worry, he won't get away with that. The other is related to a team member and, I suppose, can't really be counted as a new member. Instinctively my keen, analytical mind asks why such a large ratio, seven to one? (I'm good at math) Clearly there are two explanations: 1) As the sustaining membership grows, we get more and more renewals each month.

(GOOD) and 2) We haven't had to do many rescues in the past few months (ALSO GOOD) so our circle of friends isn't expanding as fast as it usually does (NOT SO GOOD).

Well, that's the theory. But, there's also a puzzle. How can we get new sustaining members **without** encouraging people to go out and get hurt or lost in the mountains so that we can come to rescue them? We've talked it over and everyone is agreed that **that** wouldn't be right--although it would allow us to schedule the rescue, and that would be an enormous help. Imagine the advertising campaign--"get lost tonight, your rescue team is awake". Oh well.

I'm afraid I don't have the answer. It may be another enigma like the great Ms. debate--we'll just never know. Anyhow, do let's keep up those renewals while we wait for new sustaining members to "discover" us.

New—

Victoria Animal Hospital
David Hadley
Ann Bridge Smith

Renewing—

*Dr./Mrs. N. H. Mellor
M/M G. W. Gardner
M/M McMillan
Herwil Bryant
Virginia Black
M/M Wilford Keith
M/M E. Hadley
Mrs. Rosemary Kraft
Irwin Kelly
M/M Jack Mihaylo
Fred Camphausen
M/M Hauschild
Elise Lamp
Mildred Montgomery
M/M Paul Matthews
M/M Elder Wester
M/M David Harrah
David Westheimer
*Kennel Club of Riverside
*Mrs. Emily Tompkins
Dr. Dale Huseboe

***Century Club** member,
donation of \$100 or more.

Search and Rescue

SEARCH

Mission No. 7704A

13 Feb., Sun.
Fisherman's Camp
Cleveland National Forest

The team was alerted about 6:30 p.m. Two people were missing from Fisherman's Camp area and we were to meet at the Elsinore Sheriff's sub-station.

Within a matter of minutes, a call cancelling the search was broadcast because the people had walked out!

■ RMRU

RESCUE

Mission No. 7705M

15 Feb., Tues.
Tahquitz Canyon,
near Palm Springs

By Steve Zappe

I was in speaking to a professor Tuesday afternoon when my pager blared away, interrupting our conversation. I quickly explained what it was all about and excused myself to make the phone call. Jerry Muratet, the callout coordinator said there was a guy with a broken foot between first and second falls in Tahquitz Canyon and that Don Landells would be flying in to shuttle us in at 16:00 (4 p.m.). Unfortunately it was now 14:50 (2:50 p.m.), meaning I had only 70 minutes to zip home, change clothes, pick up the gear that was

still drying out from the training up on San Gorgonio, and drive down to Palm Springs and still arrive when the helicopter did. As you might guess, there was an amazing number of CHP units on the freeway, but they were interested in other people than my unobtrusive flaming demon barreling down the road. I rolled up to Ann Dolly's house at 16:05 (4:05) and fortunately Don hadn't made it in yet. Jim was there with the van, and Walt, Kevin, and John Dew were assessing the situation. Pete Carlson wheeled in 5 minutes later, and it was decided then that Walt and Pete would fly in first, locate the guy and radio out what was needed in terms of manpower and additional equipment. Don swooped in a couple of minutes later, and they were picked up and flown up the canyon.

Fortunately, the injured man was found sitting under a tree only 75 yards from a big boulder which had been previously used as a helispot. Unfortunately, he was below it and couldn't scramble up to it due to his badly swollen foot, so Walt called down for two strong men without packs. I don't think I'd qualify as being stronger than average, but Kevin and I were the only ones available so we boarded the copter and were there in a flash.



RMRU PHOTO

RMRU member John Dew, helps the injured hiker from Don Landells Bell Ranger Helicopter, after his evacuation from Tahquitz Canyon.

Walt had already put an airsplint on the subject's foot and all we did was help him up on Walt's back as he carried him piggy-back up to the heliport. Nothing could have been easier . . . for me. Walt was having some trouble negotiating some of those 12 inch steps, but Pete, Kevin and I were there to push, pull, and guide him and his cargo up the canyon. We radioed out for Don and the whole rescue was complete by 17:00 (5 p. m.) . . . just in time for dinner.

There's one footnote, however. Just as Don flies off into the sunset after dropping us off, who should arrive but Art Bridge, Larry Brown, and Charles Bujon in one car and Randy Morrow in the other. At least Randy had an excuse - he'd never been to Ann Dolly's before. But I think the other three just drove down for the dinner. Come to think of it, it really was a beautiful evening to eat dinner in Palm Springs. . .

■ RMRU

RESCUE

Mission No. 7706C

**21 Feb., Mon.
Chino Canyon
Palm Springs Aerial Tram**

Due to strong winds, some cables on the tramway had become tangled. The tram cars were able only to inch along slowly. RMRU was contacted and asked to be ready in case the cars stopped completely and the people inside would have to be rescued. About three hours later, the good news was received that the cars were in their respective stations and that everyone was ok. ■ RMRU

SEARCH

Mission No. 7707C

**21 Feb., Mon.
Mt. Shasta,
Northern California**

The team was alerted that two individuals were overdue on Mt. Shasta and we were put on standby in case they did not return by the given time.

We were notified later that our services would not be needed.

■ RMRU

TRAINING



**11 - 13 Feb., Fri. - Sun.
Little Draw
San Gorgonio Wilderness**

By Tom Aldrich

Coming home from work Friday evening there was just enough light to make out San Gorgonio peak. Thoughts drifted from the traffic to a weekend in the snow. Those that were wise were already on the trail or in camp. Walt and Kevin Walker, John Dew and Jim Fairchild had hiked up that day. John Muratet and Ron Berry had left that afternoon. Steve Zappe, Steve Jensen and Randy Morrow had left before dusk. Bud White would join the group Saturday evening, but for the time now Hal Fulkman and I were bringing up the rear. Hitting the trail at 11:00 at night is a good simulation of a rescue situation. We told ourselves this as we left Poopout Hill but it assuaged our tired bodies little.

An hour later found us sneaking through South Fork Meadows. As we walked by some tents a voice called out "What group are you in?" Suppressing the urge to say something like "Troop 43" we replied in a more professional mode. "Riverside Mountain Rescue" "Did you see anyone on your way in?" "No."

Was there a party down the trail that we missed? Only when we casually signed off on the radio and Jim replied from up higher did the significance of the question hit us.

"Riverside 64 in South Fork, bedding down" meant that one of our teams was near by. Jim: "Who's in your group?" "Hal Fulkman and I." Jim: "You didn't see Ron or John on the way in?" "No."

As we bedded down I worried a little but then thought; oh well, there are some nice-looking women

up here and perhaps . . . I'm constantly occupied by pipe-dreams like this!

The next morning we got up around 6:00. Our friends in the tent were members of the Sierra Madre Search and Rescue team. After some introductions and a bit of "shooting the breeze" we headed out on the trail to Dry Lake. Near the end of Slushy Meadow we cut towards Christmas Tree Hill. Contouring across and working slowly up we hit Christmas Tree and took off on snowshoes. Hiking into Little Draw was much easier on the trail but we ended up walking right past camp.

Hal: "That might be camp."

"No, can't be, where's the Bishop tent then? Camp is where the line of trees up there ends." So we dragged our packs to right below the ice ax practice area.

Upon our reaching the slope, everyone already there broke for lunch. After lunch we went higher up and practiced sliding head first, face up and face down. Practicing ice ax arrests (stopping on a steep icy slope with the aid of an ice-ax.) Ed Hill had the task of performing the arrests picture perfect so that the newer members would get off on the right foot. Meanwhile Jim decided to show us how to really fall as he jumped backward. Others followed suit and the slope turned into a gymnasium with people jumping off the slope in every way. Walt Walker decided to call a halt to the circus antics and get down to some serious arresting.

Serious arresting in this case meant sliding without an ax to gain some speed and having your ax handed to you. This accomplishes two goals, 1) you get poise in positioning your ax and arresting at speed. 2) You appreciate your ax. However, Walt just wanted to see our faces as we slid down without an ax. None of these looks of anxiety surpassed Ed Hill's after Walt didn't get Ed's ax to him as he slid past Walt. Sixty feet lower Ed was passed an ax by Larry Roland and sent a plume of snow flying as he dug in his pick. John Muratet and Ron Berry joined in the fun as some of us headed back to camp.

As stoves were fired and dinners started Bud White steamed into camp and all were now accounted for. After dinner, 14 people managed to pack themselves into Steven Jen-

sens tent. From the sound of it, they had a pretty good time.

The next morning after a half lb. sausage, 4 eggs, 3 English muffins each, (and some hot chocolate) Hal and I headed up to the slope. After roping up in three-man teams and practicing team arrests some of us headed up to a large tree in a rock outcropping. Bud White demonstrated an arm rappel. We hesitantly followed suit. Having become accustomed to a carabiner rap, it was a bit spooky but ideally suited to the slope we were going down. After ropes were coiled we headed back to camp for a warm leisurely lunch.

After lunch we bombed down to Christmas Tree Hill where Bud White took us down a snowshoe route into Slushy Meadow. After tripping over a branch and falling face first into the powder snow and losing my ax, I found out that it's as important to hang on to your ax on the flat as on a slope. If you don't, your team members may spend half of an hour looking through the snow for your ax and stick you with writing up training. ■ RMRU

from Old'en Days

by Walt Walker

FEBRUARY

Ten years ago —

The Training Chairman reminded members of the coming physical fitness test in May and the need to be able to leave the house with full gear in 15 minutes when called for a mission.

FROM THE PRESIDENT: "From time to time the word professionalism has been mentioned. One of our former members was very keen on this, to quote him, "When you put on the patch (mountain rescue) you are saying that you are a professional." The entire team this past year has made great strides in this direction, but there is still room for improvement. With this new year let us all "THINK RMRU".

Five years ago —

RMRU started 1972 one day late on the second of January. Two young men were stranded on a ledge in Massacre Canyon, northeast of the City of San Jacinto. Using ropes, two RMRU members worked their way, carefully over the loose rock, to the two subjects. Securing the subjects to the ropes they were helped off the cliff. With the help of a hand line, the two were escorted by RMRU members to the canyon bottom and out to the road.

We were called by the Elsinore Station of the Riverside County Sheriff's Department to search for two 15 year old boys missing in the Ortega Mountains. While we were rolling the two boys walked in.

A Sunday afternoon call requesting RMRU's help was not welcomed by veteran RMRU member Mike Daugherty. In his write-up of the mission he mentioned that many members were not at home on the first call. Sixteen year old Candy Bland had fallen in Tahquitz Canyon and friends had hiked out to call for aid. Mike was met at the road-head by RMRU member Dr. Joe Bell. The good news for the day was that Don Landells was on the way in his helicopter. Mike was flown in first, he made a quick examination of the injured girl. Deep laceration of the forehead, abrasions along the back with possible spinal fractures and a large contusion, possibly associated with a fracture, on the inside of the left elbow, once again, having a hiking doctor on the unit was going to be great. Dr. Bell, Pete Carlson, John Murdock and Jack Schnurr were flown in along with the Stokes litter and the rescue sleeping bag. When Joe had completed the first aid, Candy was placed in the rescue sleeping bag and then into the litter. Don Landells flew back in and hovered with one runner on the rock, while the litter was secured to the helicopter. Mike climbed into the bird and they were on their way to the front lawn of the Palm Springs hospital. After landing Candy was moved to the emergency room and Mike looked at his watch, 3:50 p.m. It had taken 2½ hours from the original telephone call until the victim reached the hospital.

On the last weekend of the month we received a call that three Scouts were missing in the Sink area near Kitching Peak. Pete Carlson was the first member to be contacted (he was 7th on the call out list at that time) by Al Andrews. Pete had left training early, most of the rest of the members were probably still on the mountain participating in winter training. Pete picked up the rescue van and started toward Mallard Canyon. On the way Jim Fairchild spotted the van and turned around. Al had left word at the tram and a number of the members were given the word. Shortly af-

ter reaching the roadhead, a man hiked out and relayed the good news, the boys had been found.

At 4 p.m. we received a call from the Sierra Madre Search and Rescue Team requesting assistance in searching for two 13 year old girls missing in the San Gabriel Mountains. While our call out was in progress we received word that they had been found.

"WHAT A MONTH! What else can I say" is how Al Andrews started his Sustaining Members column. The following were welcomed aboard: *Mr. & Mrs. Loyd R. Rathbun, Mr. John W. Chappell, II, Mr. Wayne A. Ford, Mr. Russell L. Gausin, Mr. Bernie R. McIlvoy, Mr. Chris W. Pope, Mr. James Shockley, Mr. Loren E. Wand, Mr. C. Clifford Wright, Mr. & Mrs. David L. Morris, The Wednesday Club.

Thanks was given to the following for renewing their memberships: Mr. & Mrs. W. Paul Matthews, *Mr. & Mrs. Peter F. Rathbun, Mr. W. P. Danforth, Mr. & Mrs. James Fairchild, Mr. John F. Gilbert, Mr. Frederick McNally, Mr. Theodore W. Morgan, Mr. Clifford E. Smith, Mr. & Mrs. Alfred W. King, *Mr. & Mrs. Jack L. Bamberger, Rotary Club of Rubidoux, *Dr. & Mrs. Norman H. Mellor, *Kennel Club of Riverside.

**Century Club Members*

The winter shadedown training was written up by RMRU member Jim Fairchild. He wrote of why we have the shakedown, newer members with little or no snowshoeing experience, bindings that came loose, packs that were too heavy, not enough aerobic points earned, the mirth created by the antics of members struggling in the deep soft snow. However, that was why they were there, to obtain the training necessary for a winter mission. •RMRU