

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

FEBRUARY

- 2 - Board Meeting
- 9 - Regular Meeting
- 11-13 - Training

MARCH

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

Search and Rescue

SEARCH

Mission No. 7701A

1 Jan., Sat.
Mallard Canyon
North of Banning

The team was called for a search at about 1100 hours (11 a.m.) for a search in the canyons just north of Banning.

We rolled to the Banning substation, learned that two 20-year olds, a boy and a girl, had gone in on Tuesday up Mallard Canyon and were going to hike to Raywood Flats, a distance of 3 or 4 miles in the direction of San Gorgonio Peak. They were to come out on Friday and Saturday at noon, they were not yet out.

Their first two days of hiking were clear, dry; then, the snow started falling in the mountains down to exactly the level where they had left their car which removed all possibility of tracking from the car.

We had just decided on a plan of action, packed our packs for a winter search and been assigned certain

areas to cover first, when the phone rang in the Sheriff's Department and informed them that the two young people had just hiked out and were calling from Cabazon, five miles down the freeway. ■ RMRU

EVACUATION

Mission No. 7702C

5 Jan., Wed.
Pico del Diablo,
Baja, Mexico

A person had fallen, near Pico del Diablo, and had died from severe injuries. The California Region teams had been requested to evacuate the body to the nearest road. RMRU was not able to send any members.

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RESCUE & TRAINING

Mission No. 7703M

28 - 30 Jan., Fri. - Sun.
Tamarack Valley,
San Jacinto Mountains

By Rick Pohlers

It was pleasant to be into cool, crisp mountain air after the tram ride up the hill. We had come up on our annual winter shakedown and were all anxious to try out our skills and equipment. Thus, began what was to be an exciting weekend.

Soon after hitting the trail, we split into two groups, one taking the snowshoe trail and the other the regular trail. Most of the group took the snowshoe trail and some members soon found out the limitations of their snowshoes and/or bindings in steep powder-type snow.

Jim Fairchild, Larry Roland and the author had taken the regular trail and reached the campsite on a

ridge over looking the Willow Creek drainage well ahead of the snowshoe trail group headed by "Mr. Bad", Walt Walker and company.

After a restful, quiet night, everyone reluctantly arose. Fairchild and company were first on the trail, while "Mr. Bad's" group took their time to enjoy a hearty breakfast with all the trimmings. Eventually, old guys like Mike Daugherty and Art Bridge finally got the new guys like Charles Bujan, Hal Fulkman, Steve Zappe and Tom Aldrich up and going.

The plan for the day was to proceed to Tamarack Valley, then on to Miller Peak and perhaps on to San Jacinto Peak. Jim's team soon reached Tamarack Valley although Jim was experiencing some difficulty with his hip. Because of his malady, it was decided that he would stay there along with Walt's group, including his son, Kevin and John Dew. About lunch time the rest of the troops reached Tamarack and decided to continue on up the hill. Larry Roland joined the group going up which also included Pete Carlson, Ed Hill, Hal Fulkman, Larry Brown, Charles Bujan, old guys Art Bridge and Mike Daugherty and the dynamic duo "A & Z" (Tom Aldrich and Steve Zappe).

While the "summit team" was trucking up the slopes, the group down below was setting up camp and snowshoeing around the valley. It was at this time that Jim really got uncomfortable and discussed the possibility of not being able to walk out. So what started out to be an ordinary training soon became an extraordinary rescue. (We haven't seen many rescues lately, so we have to create our own. Ed. Note)

For some reason the guys up the hill were less than enthusiastic about coming down since the big grunt up, setting up camp and starting supper. However, Art and Mike came down to keep Jim company and have less of a hike in the morning.

"Commander" Walker meanwhile had taken charge of the situation and after issuing orders to the staff



RMRU PHOTO BY STEVE ZAPPE

Pictured above is the RMRU dogsled team as it entered Round Valley, with injured Jim Fairchild in the new rescue toboggan (far left). Dogsled team members from left to right: Walt Walker, Tom Aldrich, Rich Quackenbush, Kevin Walker (partially hidden), Pete Carlson, Ed Hill and Hal Fulkman in the lead spot.

about getting the team dogsled up early the next morning, left for the tram. The "Commander" was accompanied by aide-de-camp, "Corporal" Kevin.

Jim felt better the next morning, after a nice supper and restful night, but was still in no shape to walk out. So the Ranger Station was contacted by radio and they in turn gave the "GO" sign to "Commander Bad".

Mike and Art packed up and left after breakfast followed by Larry Brown and Charles Bujan who had come down late the previous evening. Meanwhile, the rest of the troops slowly got going up the hill, as there was going to be a lot of walking and might as well conserve energy.

The plan was for everyone to go down to the tram, dump weight and then march back with the toboggan. Bernie McIlvoy brought the sled out from Riverside and met Walt and Kevin at the tram. Walt and Kevin then teamed up with Mike, Art and Charles to bring in the sleigh. So with cursing, sweating, the gnashing of teeth and agony, the bulky sled was pushed, towed, pulled and kicked up the hill. We had never used it and this "mission" was proving to be an eye opener.

It took a while for the uphill team to get downhill and then back up the hill, never catching up with the sled which had been towed up the trail at breakneck speed by "Jean Claude" Walker's team on skis. (Skinny skiers, watch out! Here he comes!) So, by lunch time everyone was back together again at the head of Tamarack Valley. The faithful sled dogs had come back up the hill eager to tow the sled down the trail with its precious cargo. Harnesses were rigged, loads distributed and Jim firmly tied and tucked in. And we were off with the barking and howls of the eager beasts (sound effects courtesy of Steve Zappe. Good job, Steve!) The sled was expertly guided by long-time dog expert "Jean Claude" Walker on his 12-foot boards.

The race downhill was uneventful except for the gasps and queries from tourists and skinny skiers: "Is he hurt bad?" "No lady, he got tired of walking!" They were all impressed at the tram when we dumped Jim out and he painfully walked up the ramp.

And thus, another job done, another life saved, another adventure lived by that fearless, funny band of mountaineers. ■ RMRU

from Old'en Days

by Walt Walker

JANUARY

Ten years ago —

As was so often in the early years of RMRU, the newsletter was short and to the point. It listed and described the coming events for the next month.

Five years ago —

The "Road Runner", (Jim Fairchild) commented on how well 1971 had gone and was looking forward to another good year. He also praised a number of RMRU members for their dedication and hard work.

The Sustaining Members were thanked by Al Andrews for making it possible to purchase another 5-watt portable radio. He welcomed one new member, Mr. George Dessaux and thanked the following for their continued support: Kennel Club of Riverside, Mr. & Mrs. John A. Revie, Mr. & Mrs. Wynlow L. Swicks, Mr. Howard M. Loy, Mr. & Mrs. E. J. Fischer, Mr. & Mrs. Fred Camp-hausen, Mr. & Mrs. Ronald E. Harris, Mrs. M. A. Johnston and Mr. David Harrah.

RMRU was contacted late Sunday evening and requested to search for two boys overdue from a climb of the North Face of Mt. San Jacinto. Since we split our forces, one group rode the tram and started hiking for the peak, while the other group started from the Snow-creek community, two different members did a write-up apiece.

Art Bridge wrote about the group that rode the tram. He described very poor conditions, 30 to 50 mph winds and everything covered with ice. During their hike to the peak, Lt. Ed Brown of the Riverside County Sheriff's Department obtained the services of the California Highway Patrol turbine powered helicopter. The powerful helicopter started searching the North Face and located the two boys near the 5000' level. They were all right and hiking downward. Jim Fairchild and Pete Carlson (who wrote about the group that started from the bottom) were quickly on their way towards the boys. After about two hours of

hiking, they met up with the boys and directed them downward via the shortest route.

Bob Nelson was assigned the next write-up, a search in the Ortega Mountains above Elsinore. Four teenagers were missing from a day hike. We started searching Morrell Canyon, split into two groups, examined tracks going and coming, struggled through the brush and called their names. Jim Fairchild first heard a reply to our calls. We worked our way down the canyon. In about 30 minutes we met up with four cold and tired teenagers. Warm clothing, food and dry socks quickly came out of our packs. First aid was given to Hank Schmel who had smashed a finger. Then the entire group hiked down the canyon to the highway.

The annual December Helitac training at Alec Ferguson's Western Helicopters Inc. of Rialto was reported as once again being a huge success. RMRU members had the opportunity to fly with five of Western's pilots: Bill Barrett, Roy Cox, Darrel Elenberg, Ron Hittle and Carl Wickham. •RMRU

(Editor's note — The photograph's on this page were all in the January 1972 issue of the 'RMRU NEWSLETTER'. They are reproduced here with the same captions that accompanied them.)



RMRU PHOTO BY PETE CARLSON

The sheriff of 'Big Dome' (Jack Schnurr) and Steve Bryant volunteered irreverent comments as Dr. Joe Bell worked on Hank's crushed finger. Dave Hadley watched silently, looking splendid in his Florsheim Siege boots (loafers). Although Hank had crushed only the end of one finger, Joe was so enthralled with his new type of bandage that he fashioned a huge white monument that threatened to envelope poor Hank. Only because of our forcible intervention and continued insistence did he agree to leave an opening through which Hank could breathe



RMRU PHOTO BY PETE CARLSON

UNUSUAL BASE CAMP DUTIES — Walt Walker takes a turn scanning the North Face in search of the two missing boys.



RMRU PHOTO BY PETE CARLSON

THE WATERFALL — Chip and Lyn pause a moment, on the way down, before the falls that slowed them down in their try for San Jac