

RMRU

RIVERSIDE MOUNTAIN RESCUE UNIT

NEWSLETTER

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A VOLUNTEER NON-PROFIT TAX DEDUCTIBLE CORPORATION — MEMBER OF THE MOUNTAIN RESCUE ASSOCIATION

Volume XIII, Issue 7, July 1977 — John Dew, Editor — Walt Walker, Publisher — Dona Towell, Artist

NEW RMRU LOGO

At a recent board meeting, the directors approved a new layout for the newsletter masthead. This new design, by veteran RMRU member Walt Walker, was also approved as a general RMRU emblem.

The present by-laws restrict the use of the round RMRU patch to only the left shoulder of orange shirts and parkas. It can be used for no other purpose, such as packs and hats.

Presently RMRU is seeking bids for this design to be made into a new patch, which would be paid for by the regular members. This patch then could be used on hats, etc. and also could be used to identify equipment on joint missions with other rescue teams. • RMRU

TRAINING



**16 July, Sat.
Tahquitz Rock,
San Jacinto Mountains**

By Larry Roland

Upon awaking at 5:45 a.m. I found myself stirring around camp poking other members of the team to get up and get ready for training. Ed Hill and I were to take Kevin Walker and his

RMRU BUYS NEW VAN



RMRU PHOTO BY KEVIN WALKER

Photographed with RMRU's new (number 2) van as the transaction took place: RMRU treasurer Walt Walker presented a check to Warren-Anderson Ford's fleet manager H. L. Fletcher as RMRU president Pete Carlson received the keys. This van is being worked on presently by RMRU members. Photos and a story will appear in the *RMRU Newsletter* as soon as the van is completed.

friend Julie up to the N.E. Farce route on Tahquitz Rock where we would set up a multistage technical lower. Ed and I had previewed the location the week before and decided it offered an excellent location training site in that it provided several steep slabs above an overhang which would be a very nice introduction to some of our newer members.

After hiking the short distance to the bottom of the rock we arrived soon after seven and began the process of staging the mock accident. We were able to free climb approximately

120 feet up to a broad ledge where the operation could be easily supervised. From there we roped up and climbed part way up the route to place anchors for support to the "victim" Kevin who followed and worked his way out onto a narrow ledge 30 feet above the overhang. Julie was his climbing partner and was situated below where she could belay. The scenario called for a fallen climber with multiple injuries on a precarious ledge (Kevin) while his companion sustained severe rope burns and hypothermia in a state of shock (Julie).

We had radioed down earlier to inform the team of our emergency and location and we soon heard their voices as they arrived. Tom Aldrich was placed in charge as the operations leader and everyone was responding to his directions. There were 17 members who turned out which is an excellent attendance though the after-training party no doubt had an influence. Ron Barry, however, soon emerged as the lead climber for this operation and quickly reached the subject and assessed the situation. Bernie McIlvoy ascended and placed additional anchors for lowering and belaying the subjects, litter and attendant. Steve Jensen joined Ron and together they administered the necessary medical treatments and rigged the system under the watchful eye of Mike Daugherty the safety officer.

Meanwhile, Julie was being bandaged and receiving extraordinary first aid care under the direction of Bud White whose specialty is treating female victims! Fairchild, W. Walker, myself, Dew, Pohler, Carlson, Garvey, Muratet, and Brown were busy preparing the litter and setting up lower anchor stations for the handoff of the subject and attendant as they descended the rock face. Gradually Kevin was placed in the litter, secured, and via a pendulum traverse was lowered onto the ledge below. The main and belay lines were transferred into the new system and Gene Foley

took over as the attendant and continued the lower. One more pitch and the operation was over.

After a hard days work and a lot of instruction on the rocks, everyone was anxious to return to the Sky Yacht where we knew a feast was awaiting us. Of course someone had to object and it turned out to be Jim Fairchild when he announced he had lost his newest, priceless knife and requested that we help him look for it in the rock strewn slope! It was quickly located although we didn't tell Jim that until he had searched a little longer and learned his lesson.

Back at the Sky Yacht the wives and Al and Natalie Andrews and Norm and Maggie Mellor were busily putting the final touches on the dinner. As usual it was a delightful evening talking with friends, telling tales and recounted old experiences.

Our training critique once again re-emphasized the necessity for absolute safety for both the subjects and the rescuers. Being in an area of loose rock there is a real possibility of someone else being injured and it is up to each man to be careful and thereby protect those below. Perhaps this training proved to be exceedingly beneficial due to its simplicity and concentration on fundamentals of safety. Advance regular trainings are what make our rescues safe and we are looking forward to many more successful operations. • RMRU



Natalie and Al Andrews were caught by the cameraman as they built the six foot sandwiches that were enjoyed by all that attended the annual dinner.



Larry Roland (foreground) and Larry Brown (white hat) help playacting victim (rope burned hands) Julie Anderson down from the ledge she was injured on.

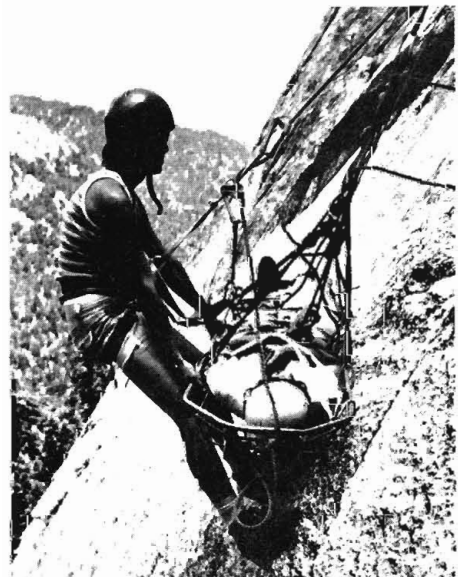
ALL THE PHOTOGRAPHS ON THIS PAGE WERE TAKEN WITH RMRU'S NEW 35mm CAMERA. THE PHOTOGRAPHER WAS PRESIDENT PETE CARLSON.



Kay Daugherty, (with back to the camera), looked on while her husband Mike entertained Maggie Mellor and Norm Mellor spoke with Mike's sister. Some of the other wives and members are pictured in the background.



Dr. Norm Mellor, member and perennial host to the RMRU wives and girlfriends annual appreciation dinner, sat at the head of one of the three tables set up on his Sky Yacht deck that overlooks Strawberry Creek.



Ron Barry, newer member and first time on the litter, handles the traversing evacuation of victim Kevin Walker.

Search and Rescue

SEARCH

Mission No. 7720C

28 July, Thur.

Palm Springs Aerial Tramway

At 2010 hours (8:10 p.m.) on Thursday night the phone rang in Jim Fairchild's home. It was a report by Sgt. Robarge of the Banning Sheriff's Substation that a 14 year old boy was three hours overdue from the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway. The report was made by his grandfather.

Just as the call was going out to the team members, the boy arrived at the lower station of the Tram. • RMRU

from
Old'en Days

by Walt Walker

JULY

Ten years ago —

It was noted that Art Bridge took the board of directors up on their invitation of regular members to attend board meetings. Art had some interesting suggestions and related a first aiders nightmare or dream depending on how you look at it.

The June Saturday morning technical training was reported as being well attended and that everyone gained from the session. In the afternoon the family picnic was held and nine games of volleyball were played

before everyone was ready to eat dinner.

The Altadena Mountain Rescue Squad invited RMRU members, and we accepted, to attend a lecture and demonstration on snake and insect bites. The speaker was the noted neurologist and herpetologist Dr. Findlay Russell of the University of Southern California Medical School. All RMRU members who attended the session learned some very interesting facts and fantasy on the treatment of poisonous snake and insect bites.

Five years ago -

The 'Road Runner sez-' column by Jim Fairchild, reported that RMRU member Dan MacIntosh provided the team, during training, with an actual rescue mission. He recalled that this was our second serious mishap during training sessions, the first being Bob MacPherson, when he broke his leg on Mt. Sill in the High Sierra some years before.

The Sustaining Members column by Al Andrews thanked the following new members: Mr. Gerald F. O'Connell, Riverside County Peace Officers Association, Mr. & Mrs. C. Corbin Devalon and Camp Maranatha. He also thanked the following for renewing their memberships: Mr. & Mrs. J. L. Daugherty, Mr. Phillip C. Moedt, *Mr. & Mrs. Milton M. Levy, Dr. & Mrs. John A. Murphy, Mr. & Mrs. Theodore C. Pruess, Mrs. Esther R. Briggs, Mr. & Mrs. Wynlow L. Swick, Mrs. Isabel Rivie, *Mr. & Mrs. Bud White, Mr. & Mrs. Melvin L. Parker, Mr. & Mrs. M. A. Hefferling, *Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth L. Andrews and Mr. & Mrs. Herwil M. Bryant. *Century Club Members: donation of \$100 or more.

We were called late on a Tuesday evening that three boys were overdue from a day hike and that it was raining. As RMRU members began arriving at Humber Park word was received that the boys had walked out safely.

RMRU member Dave Nehan wrote about a mission that he and Dan MacIntosh bumped into while on their way to the Friday evening meeting spot for the training weekend. They had just reached Saddle Junction when a ranger told them of two Boy Scouts who had eaten some poisonous plants at Skunk Cabbage Mead-

ow. They hurried down there and found five boys, not two, that were ill. A production line first aid system was set up and the boys were treated.

The next rescue article started out by describing the training plan for the weekend training session. Hike into the Caramba helispot Friday evening and camp. Then descend Tahquitz Canyon on Saturday and Sunday.

However, this plan was altered considerably Saturday just about noon. The group had descended to about the 4000 foot level and was in the process of climbing down a 70 foot waterfall. Bernie McIlvoy was leading and was almost at the bottom. Steve Wight was right behind Bernie and Bill Hunt was about in the middle. Walt Walker had just negotiated the two inch wide ledge and jumped to the chockstone. Dave Nehan was about ten feet behind Walt. Dan MacIntosh was just about to start across the ledge. A yell was heard and everyone jerked around, only to see Dan sliding down the moss cover rock. He slid about 40 feet and landed, standing up on a small ledge. However, with all his inertia, he continued on, bouncing off a rock wall, another small ledge, and finally, came to rest upside down wedged into a large crevice.

Bernie yelled loud and clear, "Walt, get down here in a hurry." Bernie, Steve and Bill were working to free Dan as Walt climbed, slid and bounced his way down. The last ten feet of rock were covered with Dan's blood. Everyone pulling together, couldn't budge Dan. He and his pack were tightly caught. Walt cut Dan's pack straps and with one of those adrenalin bursts of energy, pulled Dan out with only his left hand.

The group was greeted with a severely lacerated face and also with the question, "Where am I?" An examination along with first aid was started immediately. An area was cleared amongst the boulders and Dan was moved over to it. Bernie and Steve volunteered to hike out for help. They started down the canyon at the hottest part of the day (110 to 125°).

As the afternoon wore on, Dan slept for awhile. He awoke and complained of headache and slept again. About 4 p.m. he awoke and said he thought he was going to vomit. Bill, Dave and Walt had been taking turns tending him and were ready with a plastic bag. Shortly Dan did vomit, dark red

blood. Now another possibility loomed — internal injuries. Once again he vomited the same way. The trio was sure they were not going to receive help until morning and wondered if Dan would make it through the night.

About six o'clock, the trio was thinking about dinner when they heard the chop chop of an approaching helicopter. The radio came to life and it was Bernie. Don Landells was flying his supercharged bird once again, only this time to help one of us. Don's practiced eye spotted the same helispot that Dave and Walt had looked at earlier. Don hovered and Bernie jumped out. Bernie stated that Joe Bell, M.D., Jim Fairchild, Dave Hadley and Steve Bryant (all RMRU members) were ready to be flown in. As Bernie was physically exhausted, he went back out with Don. As the light continued to fail, Don flew in the four above men. The situation was discussed and it was decided that we could not move Dan to the helispot before dark. It was also decided that Walt would go out to arrange for more help. He called Al Andrews (RMRU co-ordinator) and they decided to request assistance from the San Diego Mountain Rescue Team.

At five, Sunday morning, Bernie, Steve, Rich Morris, Dave Cook and Walt met associate members Mike Daugherty, Mike Orr and Don Ricker. Don Landells arrived and we secured our chopper litter to his machine and then started flying men in. We received some good news: Dan was much improved and would be able to walk to the helispot with some help.

As Dan and equipment were moved to the helispot, members cleared brush around the one runner landing area. In less than four hours we had the mission completed and Dan was on the way to Loma Linda Hospital. We adjourned to breakfast, dinner, lunch, we couldn't remember which.

The same Saturday afternoon we were sweating it out in Tahquitz Canyon with Dan, RMRU received a call that a Boy Scout was missing. Al Andrews diverted the San Diego Mountain Rescue Team to Idyllwild and assigned RMRU member Ed Hill to be the operations leader. By five a.m. three teams were in the field. Ed led a team consisting of two San Diego members and a Border patrolman. They climbed up the steep Marion Mountain trail and found tracks just

below Deer Springs camp. Talking with a scout troop camped there, they learned that the boy had hiked down the trail through the camp and had turned around and gone up towards Little Round Valley. They followed his tracks to Little Round Valley where they learned that an alert scoutmaster from Troop 676 had realized that the boy was lost and had persuaded him to camp with them. He had just sent the boy and one of his adults over San Jacinto Peak to Round Valley where the boys' troop was camped. Ultimately the boy was met by the team that had gone to Round Valley and the boy was brought back to Humber Park.

• RMRU

COMING EVENTS

AUGUST

- 14 - Breakfast
- 17 - Regular Meeting
- 20-21 - Training
- 24 - Board Meeting

SEPTEMBER

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