

Coming Events-

JANUARY

11 — Regular Meeting

13-15 — Training

25 — Board Meeting

FEBRUARY

8 — Regular Meeting

10-12 — Training

22 — Board Meeting

\$USTAINING MEMBERS —

BY MIKE DAUGHERTY

This month RMRU has been the recipient of some generous contributions from some old friends. Several of these were accompanied by expressions of support and appreciation. This isn't really an uncommon event; it happens almost every month. But, for some reason, I don't always get around to mentioning it in this space. So this month I'll just pass along the special thanks of the team to those of you who give us a little extra support, financial and otherwise.

New—

Daly F. Cole
Patti Pattons
Upland Breakfast Lions Club

Renewing—

*M/M Kenneth Andrews
Jeff Divine
M/M J. Leroy Dooly
*M/M Ernie Edwards
M/M G. W. Gardner
R. L. Haglund
Keldon Paper Company
M/M Bert Leithold
*M/M John McCoy
John Murdock
*M/M George Ruptier

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



Search and Rescue

SEARCH

Mission No. 7729M

6 Nov., Sun.

Mt. San Jacinto State Park

By Steve Jensen

At 0230 hours (2:30 a.m.) Sunday morning RMRU was called out to search for Rick Brown, a San Jacinto State Park ranger. Rick was reported overdue on a Saturday day hike patrol by the Long Valley Ranger Station. His scheduled route was via trail from Long Valley to Wellman's Cienega, then cross country over Marion Mountain, Jean Peak saddle to Deer Springs, followed by a return on trail through Little Round Valley to Long Valley.

The last radio communication with Rick was at 1700 hours, (5:00 p.m.) on Saturday afternoon at which time the weather in the area he was patrolling was poor, with visibility of less than 100 feet and falling snow. The trans-

mission was badly broken and the only word understood for sure was "all right". When the hours passed with no sign of Rick, concern filled those who had heard that last radio broadcast. "Did we really hear the word "all right?" "Could we have possibly misunderstood?" "Why isn't he here? He knows these hills well." AND the worry started. To give him until nine thirty was ample time, but here it is well past midnight, so the call for help was made.

RMRU met at the Allendale Ranger Station at 0400 where Jim Fairchild (Base Camp Operator) made assignments for personnel to climb toward the area of the ranger's planned route from both sides of the mountain. Those ascending from the west were Tom Aldrich, Pete Carlson, Hal Fulkman, Rick Pohlers, Kevin Walker and Bob Snead (another State Park Ranger). From the east, (using the 0700 tram), came Ed Hill, Steve Jensen, Bernie McIlvoy, Steve Zappe and two State Park rangers, Mike Hamilton and Keith Molle. John Dew and new RMRU member Randy Beaty assisted Jim Fairchild at Base.

By 1015 a.m. the two teams climbing from the west had reached Little Round Valley and the Marion-Jean Saddle, while the teams ascending from the east had reached Wellman's Divide and Tamarack Junction. Soon thereafter the missing ranger was spotted descending on the trail at

Wellman's Divide. He was in good spirits but had spent a chilly night bivouacing on top of Jean Peak when the inclement weather prevented him from making any further progress. Complicating matters, the batteries in his radio had failed. This made it impossible for him to notify anyone of his situation, even though he thought he had done so.

Despite the call out at a most uncivilized hour of the morning, the search went quite smoothly, resulting in a happy conclusion. It gave RMRU an opportunity to meet and work with a number of the State Park Rangers, and the exhilaration of being on San Jacinto with a fresh dusting of snow more than made up for the lack of sleep the night before.

• RMRU

SEARCH

Mission No. 7730M

**7 Nov., Mon.
San Jacinto Mountains**

By Tom Aldrich

Actually, one o'clock in the morning isn't a bad time for a rescue if you went to bed at 7 PM. However, for Steve Jensen and Steve Zappe who rode out with me to Palm Springs, one o'clock was a bad time for a rescue and while I drove they made like buzz-saws. Perhaps looking for four young ladies aged 17 to 19 was a help in motivating them.

Five people in all were overdue: Bob Davenport, his two daughters Cathy and Barbara, Susan Cassman, and Carol Barton. They had left the tram on Saturday morning, hiked down the Willow Creek Trail towards Willow Creek and cut down to Laws Camp. When the storm hit Saturday afternoon they wisely looked for a place to pitch tents and sit it out. Cathy, who had a pack on her back for the first time, found a fine spot for their tents and they sat out the storm for that night. Sunday they stayed around their camp. Susan, Cathy, and Barbara had only tennis shoes. Not wanting to risk frostbite in the snow, they sat out Sunday also and decided to move out Monday morning. To some of the parents, however, Monday was a bit late. For us it was a bit early.



RMRU PHOTO BY JIM FAIRCHILD

The overdue hikers posed for the photographer, as they were hiking back to the tram, along with RMRU members Steve Zappe (far left) and Tom Aldrich (third from the right).

Actually, hiking at 5 AM is quite rewarding. As your boots crunch upon the light snow cover, guided by the light of your flashlight, your eyes are treated to as clear a view of the stars as can be had. Within a few moments the black of night gives way to light blue in the eastern sky. Flashlights are turned off as a bright orange band in the east begins to cast a faint shadow. When we left Hidden Lake, Steve Zappe and I hiked down towards Caramba. Bernie McIlvoy, John Muratet, Ed Hill and Rick Pohlrs went up from Idyllwild.

The frozen trail gave no distinct prints as we moved to Willow Creek. Near the creek, however, snow on the trail betrayed what we felt were prints the size appropriate to a woman's size 7 shoe. As we stopped at the creek, Steve heard voices from a knoll just east of south, down stream from where we were standing. We worked towards the knoll, Steve in the drainage, I on the ridge. I soon spotted the size 7 tracks which led to their camp.

Greeted by warm smiles and offers of breakfast by 5 eager, energetic backpackers whose names matched those of our searchees, led us to conclude that most of our worries were over. The rest of the morning can only be termed enjoyable. • RMRU

RESCUE

Mission No. 7731M

**11 Nov., Fri.
Tahquitz Rock**

By Ed Hill

Friday, November 11th, was Veteran's Day and a holiday for many high schools. Two parties of kids decided to attempt the White Maiden's Walkaway, an easy climb on the North side of Tahquitz Rock behind Idyllwild. Both parties started in the morning. At dusk, one party had made it to the ledge at the start of the last pitch: the other party was strung out in the gully leading up to the ledge where the first group was.

When darkness fell, it became cold; both parties yelled for help. Their cries were reported to the sheriff, and RMRU was called.

When I arrived at Humber Park, I found one group had already started up toward Lunch Rock to locate the climbers. Several other climbers had volunteered to carry some of our equipment. Rick Pohlrs, two volunteers, and I were to carry some of the

technical equipment while Pete Carlson, John Muratet and two other volunteers would carry the litter and the rest of the gear.

As we climbed up to Lunch Rock, we could hear one of the climbers yelling. We heard Walt Walker yell up to him to be quiet and that we were coming. The next thing that we heard was a radio message to sneak by the climbers on our way to the top of the rock to keep him from yelling again.

We slipped around to the top of the White Maiden and set up our anchors in the usual spots. Jim Fairchild, John Muratet and Steve Zappe decided that Bernie McIlvoy would be lowered on one rope to the lower party, while I would be lowered on another rope to the upper party. We would carry down jackets, food and water along with our climbing gear.

Bernie was lowered down the gully and found a fourteen and a fifteen year old standing on small ledges a rope length apart. He tied the lowest man into his rope, and asked the men on top to keep the rope taut while they climbed up to the ledge where the other three were.

Meanwhile I was lowered down to the upper three climbers. I found three seventeen year old kids shivering on the ledge. They were wearing light windbreakers. I got them into warm jackets and started to feed them. They were really hungry, and my dates and candy bars disappeared quickly. We rearranged ourselves on the ledge to leave room for the other party. Bernie left the man that he had brought up on the ledge and went back for the other man. Once he had reached our ledge, we started hauling them to the top of the rock. Each climber climbed as much as he could to make it easier for the men hauling on top. We set up a production line making each climber trail his climbing rope behind him to raise the next man on. In the end Bernie and I jumared up the ropes that we had been lowered on.

It was near dawn when we all got back to our van. While we were putting our gear back, our subjects quickly said 'Thank you' and disappeared before we or the sheriff could get their names and addresses. Five climbers in two parties were the most that we have had to rescue in one mission on the rock. • RMRU

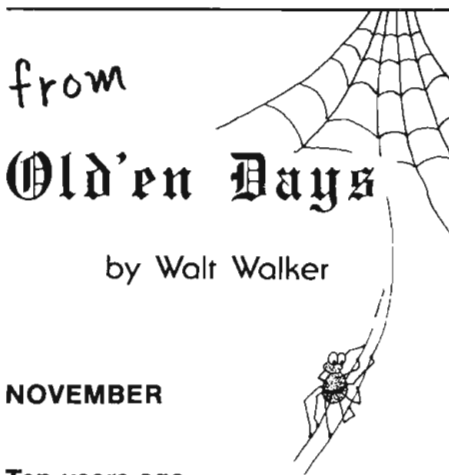
SEARCH

Mission No. 7732A

28 Nov., Wed.
North Face
Mt. San Jacinto

At just after noon a call came that a hiking party was past time of return from the North Face climb they were supposed to be doing.

Before the unit members could be telephoned, while the sheriff's department was still describing the situation to our coordinator, the overdue party returned. • RMRU



The first six items of the '67 issue were announcements of coming events (before there was a Coming Events column): Southern California Region (MRA) meeting to be held in Altadena with Al Andrews and Walt Walker as delegates; Standard First Aid class to be taught by Jim Fairchild at the Red Cross Chapter House; Board meeting at the home of Larry Percy; In place of training, a group picture of RMRU members and equipment to be taken on the UCR football field; A meeting of the RMRU Board of Directors with the newly formed Citizens Advisory Committee at the home of Al Andrews; The Mountain Rescue Association Convention to be held at Portland, Oregon.

There were two search missions reported on. (1) The Mono County Sheriff's Department requested help from the SCR-MRA, with Sierra Madre and RMRU sending men to search for a missing 16 year old deer hunter. Just as the search was started, the missing young man walked out after being lost for two days. (2) The SCR-MRA was requested by the Chief Ranger of Sequoia National Park for assistance in finding a 35 year old man. China Lake MRG, Montrose S & R, Sierra

Madre S & R and RMRU participated in a massive search that stretched from Onion Valley to Whitney Portal. The missing man had left a marked map and a 25 day itinerary with his brother. All the peaks he had planned to climb were checked, as well as the trail along his route. The MRA teams did not have any success. A few days after the search had ended some hikers found the missing man's pack. A helicopter flew into the area and spotted the man's body on the slopes of East Vidette Peak, which was not on his itinerary.

The last long paragraph told of the successful demonstration that Al Andrews, Jim Fairchild and Walt Walker presented to the B.S.A. Rubidoux District Camporee at Skunk Cabbage Meadow. However, the Tracking Bloodhounds, Sugar and Cary, stole the show. The board and regular meetings were reported on. The slide shooting session (for a new program) in and around Little Tahquitz Valley was well attended and very successful.

Five years ago-

Once again the Coming Events section began the newsletter with its list of meetings and training. Right below it was the Road Runner sez- column by Jim Fairchild. He commented on the prospect of a good winter, checking out our gear for winter and that his snowshoes were on the workbench ready for a coat of varnish. He also wrote of a special first aid course that would be aimed at rescue team members and others by application.

The Sustaining Members column by Al Andrews was one of the longest that he had put together, not from being wordy, but from the long list of contributors. Part of the long list was a group of new members which resulted when RMRU was designated the recipient of the Mr. Henry C. Vacher Memorial Fund. Mr. Vacher, father of Mrs. Camille S. Ware, a long time sustaining member, passed away on September 13, 1972. He thanked the following as new members: M/M Earl Miller, M/M Harold Hummel, M/M Frank Olson, M/M Ernest Keizur, M/M Lester Jarvis, Adele Asmer, Beth Parsons, M/M Clay Hassell, Vernetta Crist, Glenn Crist, Joe Deka, Hazel Johnson, Mrs. Paul Hughes, Stella Nemitz, M/M Jim Swales, M/M Z. Whitten, Bea Oxnan, M/M Rich Johnson, Thelma Potts, M/M Roger Johnson, M/M Frank Graves, M/M John Kane, M/M Roy Brown, M/M C. C. Jacob, M/M Clem Seils, M/M Paul Bryson, M/M Jim Montgomery, Marie Whittaker, Drs. Patricia & Derald Pearson, M/M R. Anderson, M/M L. P. Anderson & daughter, Etta Eyraud, John Eyraud, M/M F. H. Gilman, M/M Robert E. Zimmerlin, M/M Hadley Criest, M/M Leslie A. True, A. Kurkjian, Betty J.

Eden, Mrs. Robert A. Dillon, M/M Roy Fenn, M/M John Collins, M/M Al Makepeace, M/M Lee J. Ware, Mrs. Henry C. Vacher, Majorie Davis, Neste, Brudin & Stone, *The Exchange Club of Hemet - San Jacinto Valley, Inc.

Al also thanked the following for renewing their memberships: David, Westheimer, John J. McCoy, M/M Roland Wilhelmy, M/M Robert R. A. Dewees, M/M Wilford Keith and Florance Batchelor. *Century Club member, donation of \$100 or more.

The Search and Rescue column only had three missions for the whole month and two of those occurred on the same day in Tahuqitz Canyon.

On a Tuesday morning, 0900, we received a call from the Riverside County Sheriff's Department that there was an injured man somewhere in the lower part of the canyon. Pete Carlson, who did the write-up, arrived at the roadhead and was met by Hank Schmel and Walt Walker. There was bad news for everyone, Don Landells would not be able to fly his helicopter until the afternoon sometime. As members began packing for the hike up the canyon, the temperature started its climb upwards. The first group started hiking at 1030 hours. We had been informed that Daniel Burrows had fallen about 12 feet and landed on his shoulder and flipped onto his tailbone. The group was almost to the Second Falls at 1145 when they heard a call from a cliff high above them. There was a young man who appeared to be stranded. After a few shouts back and forth, it was determined he was in trouble and was advised to stay put until help arrived. Just then, and as a complete surprise, the injured man was spotted walking down canyon with some people helping him. Dan was helped over towards a large rock, used a Helispot in previous missions, that we happened to be standing upon. Pete Carlson rappelled down the 40 foot face and talked to the victim. It was decided to tie Dan into a harness and haul him up to the Helispot. Joe Bell, M.D., Dennis Simpson and Walt Walker had manned the mechanical advantage system. They also brought Pete up the same way. Don Landells came in at this point, and with his usual great flying, did a one-runner touch down and picked up the injured man and his friend and flew them out.

The second mission of the day was penned by one of our more colorful members and writers, Jack Schnurr. He began his article by mentioning that he was relaxing in the Super Pumpkin, sipping a cold drink, and listening to the progress of the "Bomb Squad" (that fortuitous crew that hikes in very quickly with monstrous packs to establish contact with victims and formulate the rescue plan). He was jolted from his repose when the radio at

base announced, "Looks like we have a stranded climber about 500 feet up the north canyon wall. Have Schnurr and McIlvoy prepare for a technical evacuation."

Jack radioed back, "How much rope?"

"A couple of 300's (ropes) and pickets."

(Pickets: four foot metal stakes driven into the dirt for anchors when the rock, or lack thereof, fail to provide anything secure for anchors. They are not the most popular thing with the technical people!)

Pickets?! Bernie was also aroused from a peaceful repose at the mention of the unconventional anchors. Bernie and Jack were flown up the canyon and around the bend where they assessed the problem from the air. Don Landells sharp eye spotted a marginal Helispot about 300 feet above the stranded climber. Don put one runner down and Bernie and Jack climbed out. They were greeted by a 500 foot drop on both sides. They carefully moved the equipment and themselves off the spectacular crag. Don's flying had once again saved us considerable time and effort in the rescue. It was impossible to get anywhere close to directly above the climber as a headwall prevented us from moving laterally. Bernie found a solid piece of rock to place a secure anchor for the first rappel. Jack rappelled down and worked laterally toward the climber. Jack stopped and placed another anchor that allowed him to continue laterally with more safety. Walt was transferred, by helicopter, to the crag. He worked his way over to the top anchor and rappelled down to the second anchor (to man that station). Jack continued downward until he reached the level of the stranded climber. He worked his way laterally, another 40 feet, until he was just below the climber. By using a pair of Jumars, and a lot of skill, he belayed himself while he climbed up to the stranded man. Dan was immediately tied into a belay rope that stretched to Bernie. A hard hat was secured on him and he carefully traversed to easier terrain that enabled him to climb directly towards Bernie. Walt guided the rope for Jack as he pedaled back across the face to the fall line of the rappel anchor. With everyone back to the Helispot, Don began flying loads of men and equipment out of the canyon.

On the last Sunday of the month, late in the evening, we received a report that there was a flashing light in the hills above Thermal, about two miles south of Lake Cahuilla. Bob Claybrook was the first member at the scene and he along with a deputy tried to make voice contact. Shortly Jim Fairchild and Pete Carlson arrived in the rescue van. Jim sent Pete and Bob to start hiking up the hill to see what they could find. About 20 minutes later they saw a light, but still no voice contact. They continued upward and found a white flag and nearby a smouldering fire. That was all they did find.

The annual technical training at Joshua Tree National Monument was written up by Rich Quackenbush. Saturday morning dawned clear and sunny. But it soon changed to intermittent clouds and breezes, along with a lowering of the temperature. The day was spent practicing litter raising and lowering. Sunday was even colder, but did not stop the training. It was more of the same, except the newer members took turns at being the operations leader, while the different systems were set up and used time and again. • RMRU

New Members-

The Board of Directors at their November meeting took action on two items that affected membership. The first, was to create a category to be known as Support Member, for people 18 to 20 years of age. The second, was to accept into membership, seven new people to RMRU. They are:

Randy Beaty

Don Chambers

Ken Dahlke

Darrell Hand

Jim Hanson

Carl Miller

Kevin Walker

These men are now members of RMRU on a probationary status, except one. The directors decided and voted, due to Kevin's long experience with the unit, to waive his probation and make him a full Support Member.

We the members of RMRU welcome you to the unit and hope that you are able to contribute your time and talents to the best of your ability. We also hope that you will receive a great deal of satisfaction, as we have and do, from your work with the unit.

Welcome!