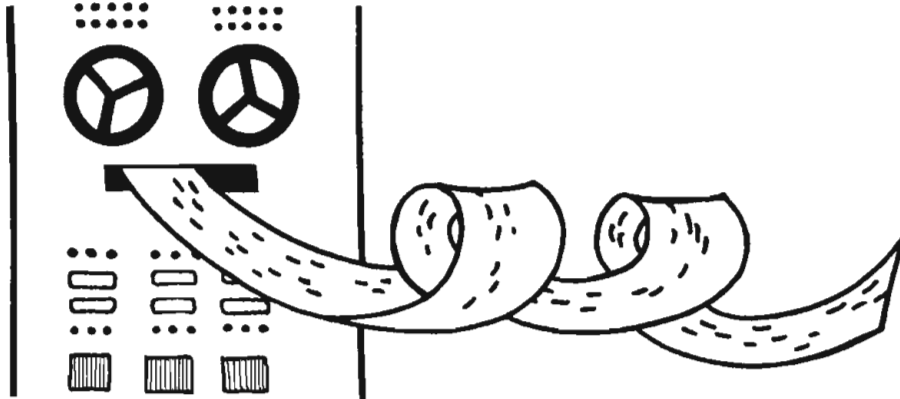


Volume XIII, Issue 10, October 1977 — John Dew, Editor — Walt Walker, Publisher — Dona Towell, Artist



\$USTAINING MEMBERS —

BY MIKE DAUGHERTY

Have you noticed a strange and wonderfully new sound? Probably not. To hear it you would have to pick the quietest time of the night, steal out to a lonely spot far from the freeways, hold still and listen intently. Then you just might hear a faint whirring sound apparently coming from a great distance. That's the sound of your vast Sustaining Membership bureaucracy purring through its incredibly smooth and efficient operation. Picture it in your mind's eye, row upon column of neat desks (without coffeestains) arrayed in every direction, each with an IBM typewriter and a single yellow rose in a crystal stem vase and all of it surrounded by the tinted glass and brushed chrome countenance of a massive computer. Although it may seem a digression, I'll interrupt this reverie to point out that this computer does **not** type our correspondence. We do each letter individually, by hand, just like we do our rescues, although not nearly so well. Strangely enough, this brings me to my point (so soon?).

In addition to being an extravagant waste of precious newsletter space, the first paragraph is an oblique introduction to an announcement of sorts. Our dynamite Sustaining Membership staff has just been augmented by fully half-

again of its former strength. Whereas we were two, we are now three. In a flush of noble but ill-advised generosity, which she has probably already come to regret, Marty Leithold has volunteered to help my wife Kay and me with some of the Sustaining Membership workload. Marty will be assisting us as a hardcopy implementation specialist (RMRU position code 1493/A). So, should you receive a letter over my signature (I can't type, thank heaven, but I can sign) you are not justified in assuming that Kay typed the letter; more likely it was Marty.

Our sincere thanks to Marty for her help, it is sorely needed and it should help us become more prompt (that's awkward, but it couldn't be prompter) in our correspondence. After all, if it weren't for Kay and Marty, I wouldn't have time to write these ghastly, tongue-in-cheek newsletter columns.

In spite of this and similar Sustaining Membership columns, we still have a few new and renewing members to thank this month. By name they are:

New—

Avis Anderson
*Martin Trudeau

Renewing—

Ruth Echols
Esther Briggs
*John Porter Jr.
*M/M James Fairchild
*Izaak Walton League,
San Jacinto Mountain Chapter
Gary and Lee Anderson

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

TRAINING



8-9 Oct., Sat.-Sun.
Joshua Tree Nat'l Monument

By Steve Zappe

As I was driving the van out to Joshua Tree Friday night I wondered what would what would be in store for me that weekend. I had been working in Houston all summer and this was to be my first encounter with rescue activities after an absence of nearly 4 months. Needless to say, I hadn't gotten any opportunities to put my mountain rescue training to the test during that time, primarily because there just aren't any mountains in Texas. Anyway, I was anxious to get back in the groove.

I rolled into Sheep Pass campground around 8 PM only to find Larry Roland and Jim Fairchild already involved in a search - for a flat place to sleep. I stayed up a little longer and did some school work, but finally gave in and hit the sack around 10:30. Unfortunately, a screaming band of lunatics (the rest of the team) got in at midnight and made their presence known by walking over me several times in the dark. But the most commotion occurred when Ed Hill discovered that he had forgotten the stove, his sleeping bag, and (most importantly) his FOLDING COT! There were anguished cries of "... but I thought you had it!" leaping back and forth over my head, and things didn't settle down until I'd volunteered the use of my stove and Ed had found one of the rescue sleeping bags and resigned himself to sleeping on the cold hard ground. (see Hard ground, page 2)



Search and Rescue

SEARCH

Mission No. 7727M
17 Oct., Mon.
Snow Creek Village

By John Dew

Hard ground . . . (continued from page 1)

Morning came too soon, and after breakfast we split up into pairs and went around to four inspection stations Larry had set up to help us review the important elements in a technical rescue - knots, anchor placement, mechanical advantage pulley systems and litter rigging. Aha, it was al(most) coming back to me. We all needed the review in this step by step manner before we actually tried to put all the pieces together in an actual technical raise or lower.

Our opportunity came that afternoon when we formed two teams - complete with victims - and headed toward some of the bouldery outcrops above the campground. We were to apply all of our freshly acquired or reinforced knowledge to lower a victim on one rock face and then move to another location, set up all over again, and perform a raise. Our victim was Jim Garvey's guest for the weekend, a comely young woman named Toni, and Bud White appointed me to be the litter attendant (I'll pay you off later, Bud!). With Toni securely strapped in and all the anchors set, we were lowered down a 40 foot cliff. She seemed to be enjoying the ride down until I happened to mention in passing that I'm not really a rock climber, after which she seemed to become rather anxious about reaching the bottom in one piece. No sweat. But I think she asked each time before she got into the litter after that if her attendant was a rock climber.

Everything ran smoothly throughout the afternoon, and that evening was spent around Bud's old wood

burning stove, following him on boulder problems, or having Bernie lead a group of us on our annual "space walk" by starlight in the Hidden Valley area. However, we were forewarned by Larry that we would have a big technical exercise the following day and should get a good nights sleep. I only wish somebody could tell us that whenever we have a **real** technical, all-night mission on Tahquitz Rock!

I don't remember too much of what we all did on Sunday, except we did more than anyone had anticipated. Larry and Bernie had planted a dummy victim on a nearly inaccessible point on Ryan Rock, just a few miles west of camp. It was a tough scramble to the top, and a lot of time was consumed in simply getting personnel and equipment to the victim. But that was easy compared to what followed. We were faced with the task of a lower of 150 feet and a raise of 30 feet to an adjacent rock platform, where we used the anchors and rigging from the previous raise to execute a final lower to the bottom of nearly 300 feet! Many problems arose and were eventually worked out by committee, mainly because no one particular person was acting as ops leader, so what was to have been a half day exercise stretched on into mid afternoon. But everyone pitched in and became involved in all aspects of the exercise until it was brought to a successful conclusion. I couldn't have asked for a better re-introduction to the team than this, and felt more than adequately prepared to go on our next technical mission. • RMRU

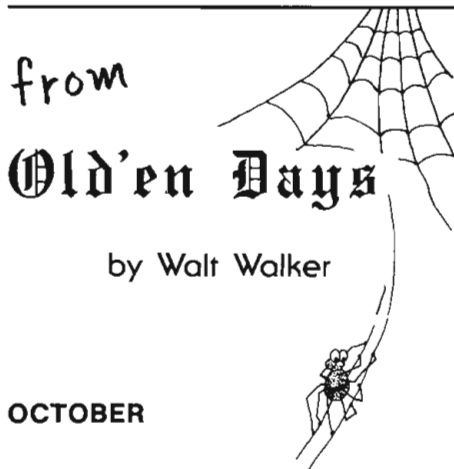
At 1030 hours (10:30 a.m.) the pagers activated alerting us that someone was in need. We called the coordinator and learned that two young men, Arthur Cole, 23 years old, and his companion, Johnny Wright, 19 years old, had left at about 1100 hours (11:00 a.m.) on Sunday (yesterday) for a day hike in the Snow Creek area just below the north face in the San Jacinto mountains. They were planning to be out before dark and had taken no equipment of any kind such as: sleeping bags, jackets, sweaters, etc.

These hikers had not returned by Monday morning and one of the boys' mothers drove from Covina where they lived to Snow Creek Village to try to ascertain the reason for the delay. She found the car securely locked and looking through the window, could tell by a shopping bag that they had stopped by a grocery store and purchased some food, though she did not know how much. Immediately, she notified the Banning office of the Riverside County Sheriff's Department of the overdue hikers.

After having talked with her briefly, they rolled RMRU and called Don Landells Aviation for a helicopter to meet us at Snow Creek Village. John Dew arrived on the scene first as he was working in Banning close by. When the helicopter arrived, he got in and explained the situation to Don. Captain Canova of the Sheriff's Department also got in and they were off to search the canyons. The flight was short as the two boys were spotted by John Dew just beyond the caretaker's cabin up in the canyon making their way back toward the car. The bird sat down on a level spot,

John ran to the boys to make sure they were the ones we were looking for and found for sure that they were. One of them had injured his ankle somewhat in a fall and was hobbling on it. Captain Canova stayed with them while a sheriff's car came in to take them back to the road head. Don flew John and his pack back to the road head and was on his way to greater things.

By this time, three other men, Jim Fairchild, John Muratet and Steve Jensen had arrived at the road head just in time to be told of the shortness of the mission. Several other members were rolling and were turned back by the pagers when the boys were brought out! • RMRU



Ten years ago—

The newsletter started with a reminder that the training committee would be meeting at Jim Fairchild's home to plan the 1968 schedule.

Another reminder stated that RMRU would be giving a demonstration to B.S.A. leaders at the Rudidoux District Camporee that was going to be held at Skunk Cabbage Meadow.

RMRU members along with members of the Sierra Madre Search & Rescue Team and the China Lake Mountain Rescue Group participated in a search for a missing Yosemite National Park Ranger. The ranger was found dead from a fall off of a cliff.

RMRU was called by the Riverside County Sheriff's Department to search for a possible suicide victim in the Corona area. The search was centered in the Prado Dam area and Walt Walker's Bloodhound 'Sugar', was used without any success. As the newsletter went to press the missing man had not been located.

SEARCH

Mission No. 7728C

**4 Nov., Fri.
North Face
Mt. San Jacinto**

At about 1600 hours (4:00 p.m.) a call came via the pagers that two men were on the North Face of San Jacinto mountain. This is a serious thing at that time in the afternoon, as there is little search time before dark.

RMRU was in the callout stages of the mission when another call came that the men had hiked out. • RMRU

Five years ago—

After, Coming Events, on the front page, began the Road Runner Sez column by Jim Fairchild. He commented that when we had just got long faces because our financial support seemed to dwindle, we were jolted back

into our thankful and grateful moods because of a great upsurge of donations. He also wrote of the fall season when callouts usually begin to slump and that we must be prepared for great temperature ranges and storms.

The next item on the front page was Search and Rescue. The only actual mission started on Tahquitz Rock when Chris de St. Croix fell while climbing and suffered a fractured tibia of the left leg. It was early afternoon when we received the call from the Riverside County Sheriff's Department. Jack Schnurr started as the lead climber with Rich Morris as his belayer. When Jack reached the injured climber he applied an air splint. Al Korber, Steve Wight, Bill Hunt and Ed Hill were also all in the first group that hiked to the base of the rock with mounds of technical equipment. Steve, Bill and Ed rigged a brake bar system to a tree about half way up. Jack belayed Rich up to a chockstone and they rigged a self equalizing anchor system that they would use to lower the litter. The area at the chockstone was very small and they had a difficult time of getting Chris into the litter. After Chris was secured into the litter, Jack tied in as the attendant and Rich lowered them with the litter in a vertical position. Walt Walker arrived about that time with the big wheel that would

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PHOTO BY HANK SCHMEL

"Victims", Tom Schmel, Bill Schmel and Kevin Walker appear to be happy after being "rescued". All kidding aside, these three young men spent a cold three hours up in the hills waiting to be rescued and missed a nights sleep for their bother. Their only compensation was breakfast and a job well done.

be secured to the bottom of the litter for the trip down to Humber Park. About half way down during the lowering process, one of the pitons anchoring the brake bar system pulled out, there was a quick drop of the litter accompanied by a rather wide eyed Jack Schnurr, as the load was taken up by the remaining pitons in the self equalizing anchor system. When Jack arrived at the ledge where the next anchor system had been set up, the litter was re-rigged for a horizontal lower and Walt tied in as a second attendant. Rich belayed with the original lowering line while Steve and Ed manned the new lowering line. Bernie McIlvoy arrived just in time to help Rich clean all the pitons and gear that was used during the multiple lower. Upon reaching the bottom of the rock, Chris was placed in the rescue sleeping bag and placed in a litter that the wheel had been secured to. Darkness fell as the group picked their way carefully down the talus slope. Jim Fairchild and Dave Nehan arrived at base and were told that no more manpower was needed as the group was almost out.

At the end of the month there were three aborted searches, Tahquitz Valley (Friday), Fern Basin Campground (Saturday) and Southern Riverside County (Sunday).

During the above mentioned weekend we also had our regular training session. It was a mock mission that started Friday evening in the Soboba Hills east of the city of San Jacinto. The three boys in the photo, all sons of team members, were the victims. The boys had to be located by searching (they were about half way up Massacre Canyon) and evacuated down a rubble filled chute and over a water fall. The whole process was completed as the sun came up Saturday morning and we all went to breakfast.

In the Sustaining Members column by Al Andrews, he thanked the following as new members: Mrs. Henry C. Vacher, Mr. & Mrs. Lee J. Ware, Mrs. Ina F. Titus, Mr. George Phillips, Mr. & Mrs. J. D. Markley, Mrs. Faye McDuffee, Joan A Michel, Janice Waldo, Mr. Weston Robinson, Mr. & Mrs. B. B. Garrett and Kelty Pack Inc. He also thanked the following for renewing their memberships: *Idyllwild Property Owners Association, Mrs. Camille s. Ware and Mr. William F. Zauche. *Century Club Member - donation of \$100 or more.

The following was printed on pages three and four of the October issue and is reprinted here as it is still applicable:

**FINALLY THE WORD IS OUT!!
QUALIFICATIONS FOR
HOLDING OFFICES IN RMRU**

Board of Directors,

Walks on water.

President,

Walks on water, if the water is calm.

Vice-President,

Walks on water, in indoor swimming pools.

Treasurer,

Can stay afloat, if properly instructed in the use of a Mae West.

Newsletter Editor,

Plays in mud puddles.

Membership Chairman,

Freezes water with single glance.

Most other Committee Chairmen,

Can dog paddle, if thrown in water.

• RMRU