

Volume XIV, Issue 7, July 1978 — Jim Garvey, Editor — Walt Walker, Publisher — Dona Towell, Artist

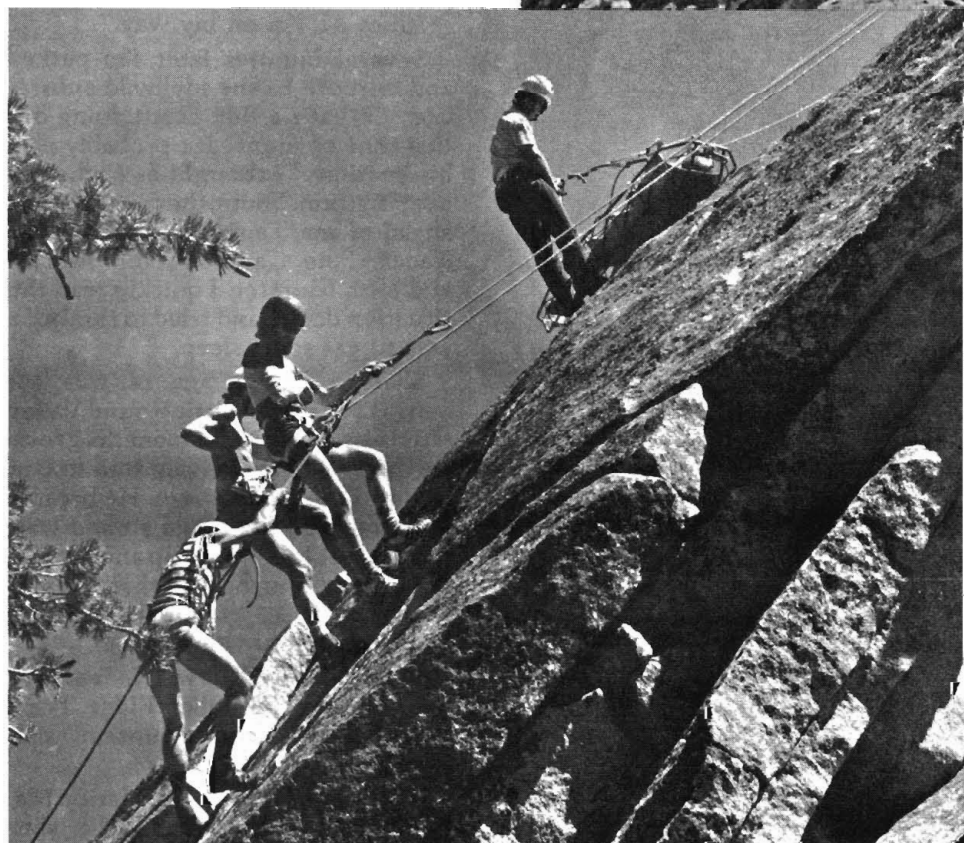
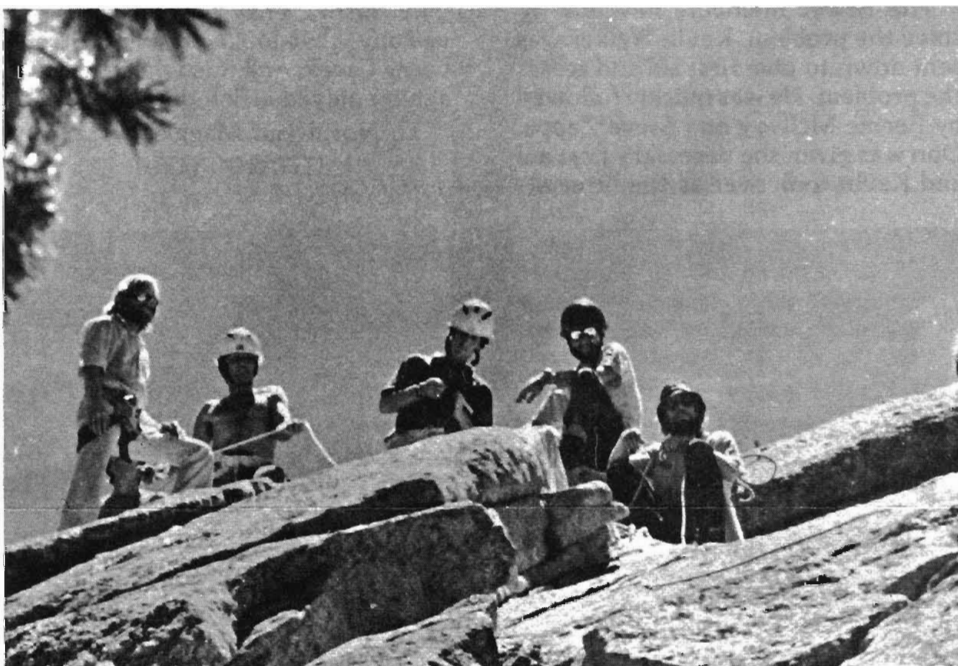
RMRU Takes to the Rock for Annual Technical Training

TRAINING



(RIGHT) — Tom Aldrich, Hal Fulkman, John Muratet, Walt Walker and Rick Pohlers look on, from above, while (below) Bernie McIlvoy and Steve Zappe assist Don Chambers (mock injury). Kevin Walker tends the litter with Don's wife Nancy inside as the mock victim. Training write-up has complete details of the technical training session.

RMRU PHOTOS BY JIM FAIRCHILD



15 July, Sat. Suicide Rock, above Idyllwild San Jacinto Mountains

By Walt Walker

Each July, for over ten years now, RMRU has had a technical training session on either Tahquitz Rock or Suicide Rock. These sessions have become more than just instruction.

Quite often the veteran members recreate a problem that occurred on a previous rescue mission. They then try to solve that problem. This year was no different, except that only three veterans knew what the problem was going to be. Also, newer members were going to be involved.

The morning was spent reviewing the normal systems we use on most technical rescues. After lunch we started a mock rescue. Nancy Chambers was our injured subject and she was secured into the Stokes litter for what everyone thought was going to

be a normal litter lowering. Her husband Don was the attendant that was being lowered with the litter.

About 50 feet down the real problem was put into motion. Everyone was told that a rock had been dislodged by the lowering rope and that Don had been struck by the rock and was injured. (We have almost had this happen twice, during actual rescues, as a falling rock has come close to hitting a litter attendant.)

The newer members now had to solve the problem. Kevin Walker was sent down to give first aid and access the problem. He was quickly followed by Bernie McIlvoy and Steve Zappe. Don was given the necessary first aid and Kevin took over as the litter at-

tendant while Bernie and Steve assisted Don down.

The problem had 'problems', but considering the whole situation, the solution worked very well. With the problem solved we coiled the ropes, loaded gear into our packs and started down for the second part of the annual July Saturday on the hill.

Norm and Maggie Mellor, each year, host the wives and girlfriends appreciation dinner at their beautiful 'Sky Yacht'. They have a very large balcony, that looks down on Strawberry Creek, and it is where we once again enjoyed a fine dinner.

To Norm and Maggie, we all say,
THANK YOU!

Search and Rescue

SEARCH

Mission No. 7833M

**8 July, Sat.
High Country,
San Jacinto Mountains**

By Larry Roland

"Larry, wake up!"

"Huh?"

"Wake up."

"What time is it?"

"You're wanted on the phone."

"It's midnight. Must be Al Andrews." Did you ever wonder why the majority of missions start about midnight?

"Hello, Al."

"Hi Larry, we got a lost Boy Scout in Little Round Valley. We need manpower, can you go?"

"Sure Al. I'm on my way."

Several minutes later I'm packed and enroute to the Idyllwild substation. "What's a Boy Scout doing out this time of night? It's probably past his bedtime," I thought as I wheeled in at 1:30 am. Four others were there ahead of me, Fairchild as operations leader, Pete Carlson, Tom Aldrich and John Muratet. I quickly read the situation dosier and tried to think of a way to get some sleep.

Sheldon Halper, age 14, was last seen at 5:30 pm in Little Round Valley after being separated from his group on the Wellman's Divide trail to San Jacinto Peak, 10,804 feet. He became tired and said he would sit and wait for the rest to climb on up and return. When they returned, all that remained were his 10 essentials. He was gone, taking only his canteen.

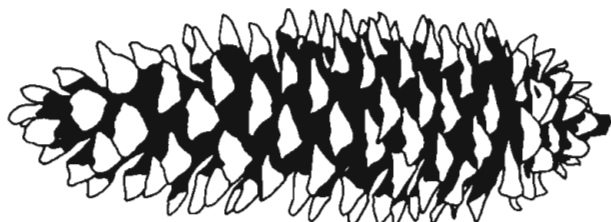
"Looks like we'll have two teams of two, one on the Fuller Ridge Trail, the other on Marion Mountain," said Fairchild.

"Larry and I'll go up the Marion Mt. Trail" Pete volunteered. The slim



RMRU PHOTO BY JIM FAIRCHILD

A tableful of veterans and their wives, after a fine dinner on the balcony, listened to Maggie Mellor. (L to R) — Jo Anne Fairchild, Al Andrews, Natalie Andrews, Sue White, Bud White, Sondra Walker, Walt Walker, Maggie and Norm Mellor (back to camera).



hope of a little more rest suddenly disappeared completely.

The Sheriff drove us to the trail-head and we had nothing to do but put our packs on and start hiking. We quickly warmed to the occasion! Although the Marion Mt. Trail is the shortest trail up the mountain (5 miles) it is also the steepest, 4,240 foot elevation gain. I rationalized that we'd just be working harder for a shorter period of time. Three hours later, 5:30 am we were in Little Round stirring the Rangers up to try and find out what was going on.

The Rangers, Art and Dave, were truly a congenial group for being wakened at such an hour on a Sunday morning. They even obliged us with hot water and offered a quick breakfast which Pete and I greatly appreciated after meager rations of jelly beans and dried prunes all night. We made a reconnaissance of the other campers in the area (we woke them all up except for a couple of scouts who couldn't help it anyway) to gather as much information as possible.

One of the groups of scouts said they saw him about 5:30 pm wearing a red plaid shirt and carrying his plastic Sparkletts bottle canteen by a rope around the handle. We said that was our man and thanked them. Sherlock Holmes couldn't have done better. We went back to the Rangers, finished breakfast and headed for the peak. We had learned in our sleuthing that the subject was headed back up the trail to rejoin his party. Sure enough, as we hit the trail above camp his prints were right on top. A blind man could have tracked him.

We radioed base via Sierra Madre on Mt. Wilson and informed them that the subject was headed up the trail and not down as previously thought and that other teams should be deployed on the north side of the mountain in the Tamarack/Round Valley Region or Wellman Divide Area. The Air Force helicopter had just arrived and was preparing to fly the troops in. Forty minutes from Little Round we were on the summit of San Jacinto. Just then the subject walked out to Round Valley and turned himself in to the Ranger. The mission was secured. • RMRU

RESCUE

Mission No. 7834M

**9-10 July, Sun. & Mon.
San Jacinto Mountains**

By Ed Hill

On Saturday, July 8th, Captains Michael Evinrude and Michael Johnson from the Marine base at Twenty-nine Palms started to climb the long ridge between Chino and Falls Canyon. The ridge starts at the desert floor and culminates in Sunday School Peak west of the mountain station of the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway. They planned to spend the night on the ridge and take the tram down Sunday. They carried sleeping bags, a tent, some food, and two quarts of water each.

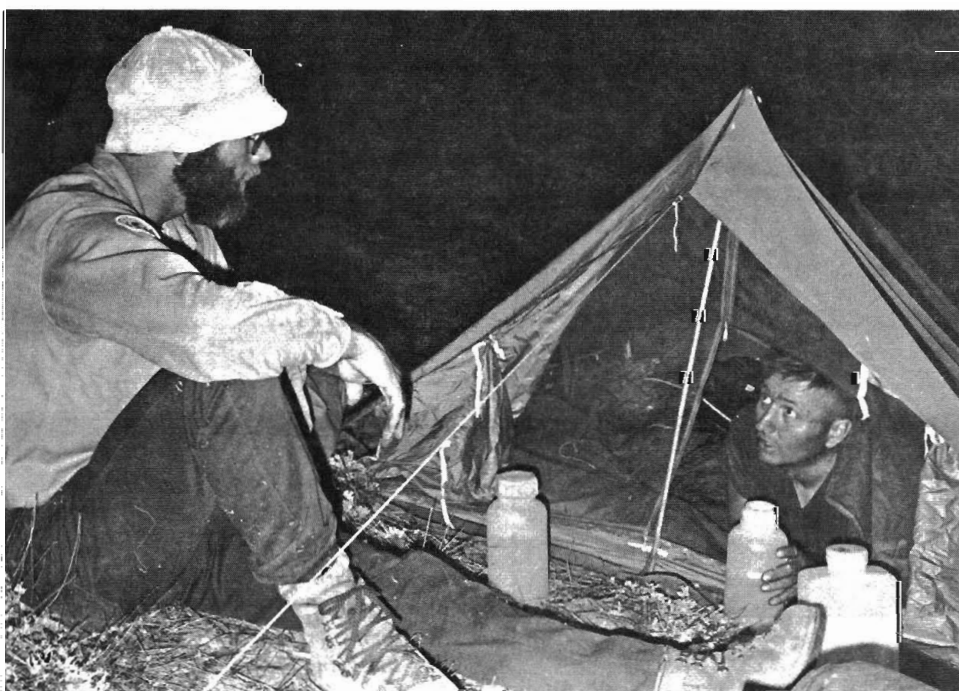
By Saturday night, they were at the 7000' level and were low on water. It was decided that Mike Johnson would drink the remaining water and finish the climb. He would bring help to Mike Evinrude who would stay on the ridge until Monday. It took Mike Johnson from 8 am to 5 pm to reach Long Valley Ranger Station where he reported the plight of his hiking companion.

The call came at six in the evening, a Marine stranded in Chino Canyon.

I envisioned a quick rescue from one of the tram towers. I packed my technical gear along with my search gear and left. We met at the Desert Station and learned that the stranded Marine was on the ridge. Tom Aldrich, J. R. Muratet, Steve Zappe and I were to hike down to him carrying water. Jim Fairchild would hold down base camp. Larry Roland would fly in a fixed wing aircraft over Mike and airdrop him some water. They made several passes and actually dropped three gallons of water. The water missed completely, and Mike was unaware that a water drop had taken place.

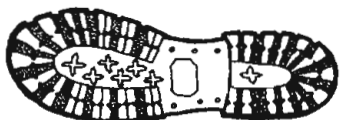
The hiking team rode up the tram and met two State Park Rangers who would go with us to Sunday School Peak. After some initial horsing around, we found the right ridge and started down. The moon had set, and we had trouble following the right ridge in the dark. We kept starting down small finger ridges and then would traverse back to the main ridge. At 1:30 am, Tom and J.R., who had been on an all night search the night before stopped, while Steve Zappe and I who had not, continued. Forty minutes later, we saw Mike's flashlight and found him inside his tent.

Mike was in good shape except for a lack of water. We gave him a water bottle to drink slowly and split a can



RMRU PHOTO BY STEVE ZAPPE

Veteran RMRU member and unit president, Ed Hill, talked to Mike Evinrude as he slowly drank the water his body needed.



of pears. The juice was the best part. We bedded down and fought mosquitos for the rest of the night.

At first light, we got the welcome news that an Air Force Helicopter was coming to pick us up. We looked around for a helispot but decided that he would have to be hoisted out from right where we were camped. J.R. and Tom came down covering in fifteen minutes what had taken Steve and I forty minutes to do in the dark.

The helicopter arrived and lowered two paramedics down to us. They showed us how to use the jungle penetrator. The jungle penetrator is sort of a seat on the end of a long cable that can be used to raise and lower people and equipment from a hovering helicopter. We were hoisted up two at a time. Steve Zappe and I were raised up through a small pine tree, which was exciting. We were flown down to the Desert Station and a good meal provided by the Sheriff's Department.

In retrospect, Mike did exactly the right thing by staying on the ridge. It would have been a long hard trip down into either canyon before reaching the stream. It also would have been much harder to locate him. • RMRU



RMRU PHOTO BY STEVE ZAPPE

As the powerful twin turbined Air Force helicopter hovered above the Pine trees, RMRU members John Muratet and Tom Aldrich were winched upward towards the big bird.

SEARCH

Mission No. 7835A

17 July, Mon.

San Jacinto Mountains

Two men were overdue from a hike that was to have ended at the upper station of the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway. While we were driving to the tram the pagers activated and we were advised that the two men had hiked out safely. • RMRU

SEARCH

Mission No. 7836C

23 July, Sun.

Yosemite National Park

Along with other California Region - Mountain Rescue Association teams, RMRU had been requested to participate in a search. When the calling process had been completed, we found that no RMRU operation leaders were available, even though some other members were. RMRU policy prohibits sending members out of county without an operation leader along. Due to this situation we declined to send any personnel. • RMRU

from

Old'en Days

by Walt Walker

JULY

Ten years ago-

The **Coming Events** section listed a long list of activities for RMRU. This was followed by a plea from Editor Jim Fairchild, that the members advise their call captain when they are going to be away from listed phones for a long period of time. There was also a comment, "Can we justify the degree of realism we put into staging problems on technical terrain, and the intensity of practice?" The con

was, we have had some pretty close calls during training. The pro was, RMRU's leaders have felt that pushing realism to the ragged edge results in safer, more efficient rescues. The real thing then presents fewer surprises and no insurmountable problems.

"That Was The Week That Was" was the headline on **The Presidents Box**, by Walt Walker. In the period, June 23-30, RMRU had its busiest week in its history with four missions. The members put in 702 manhours in three short missions and one very long one. The 702 hours represented 28% of the total search and rescue hours of 1967. A very generous donation made it possible to purchase the first two portable radios for RMRU.

Search and Rescue started with a call on the 16th from the Sierra Madre Search & Rescue Team to assist in a search for a missing child near Yosemite. The boy was found while we were preparing to leave town. On the 22nd a five year old boy wandered away, barefoot, from Twin Lake in Mono County. We searched along with other MRA teams for eight days. Sadly the boy was found dead. The members who had not gone to Mono County were called out on the 25th to rescue a young man from the Soboba Hills and on the 26th they searched for a missing nine year old boy. He was found, by a Sheriff's vehicle, shortly after we had obtained his direction of travel by using one of our tracking Bloodhounds. To finish up the week, on the first of the next month, we were called at two in the morning for a technical rescue on Tahquitz Rock. Two young men were stranded on the White Maiden route. Larry Percy was selected to rappel down and secure the climbers to our hauling line. They were hauled to the top, both in good condition, and we all hiked back to Humber Park.

Five years ago-

After the usual **Coming Events** section came the **Training** write-up by Jim Fairchild. He headlined his article "Survive the Heat," descent of Tahquitz Canyon. The training started Friday evening at the lower station of the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway. The group rode the tram up and hiked down to Caramba (6,600' elevation). Saturday morning they started down into the canyon. Hank Schmel, as the bombardier, and Walt Walker, as the pilot, attempted to make an ice cream drop. However, their accuracy was far from perfect. The group camped at the 2,900 foot level and enjoyed a cooling swim. Sunday morning they got an early start, 0700, encountered the second Rattlesnake of the trip and found the temperature to be 103° at the Grapevine helispot. They negotiated the waterfalls, climbed up on the high trail, bypassed

the first falls and headed to the roadhead in the 115° heat.

The Road Runner sez by Jim Fairchild commented on using the radio system properly. He related the correct and not so correct transmissions we sometimes hear.

The **Search and Rescue** column started out with three aborted searches (meaning we had started to roll) and two more searches where we had received the call but had not started to roll when the missing people were located. Tahquitz Canyon was the location for our next mission. Pete Carlson was the first RMRU member to be flown up the canyon by Don Landells, to where a young man had fallen approximately 300 feet. Pete told of his first look at the young man, he was in critical condition. He had sustained a massive head wound, which was still bleeding, both wrists and one arm fractured, fractured ribs and many abrasions. His chest was obviously deformed also. He was having a hard time breathing and his pulse was irregular and over 160/min. More members were flown in

and first aid was given. Pete flew with the young man to the hospital, tending him on the way. He was given emergency treatment and sent up to surgery. When the newsletter was printed the young man had not regained consciousness and was still in I.C.U. and listed in critical condition.

Nine days later we were called back to Tahquitz Canyon. This time for a young man who was sick and could not hike out. Pete Carlson, who was the operations leader, sent the sick man's girlfriend and Walt Walker up the canyon in Don Landells helicopter. Don circled the area pointed out by the girl. But the young man was nowhere in sight. So Don put a runner down on a boulder and Walt climbed out to question the numerous "al fresco" sun bathers in the area. The girlfriend spotted the young man about 200 feet down canyon from where Walt was. He hiked down to the man and helped him up to a helispot. Don picked them both up and returned to base. The mission was over in less than an hour instead of the exceedingly hot, dangerous five hours a carry-out would have taken.

The Riverside Police Department called and asked us to search the Santa Ana River area, near the sewage treatment plant, for a woman who was missing. This was during the time that there were packs of wild dogs in the area. There were a jumpy bunch of RMRU searchers that day. Unfortunately we did not find the woman or any tracks. Sometime later the woman was found, miles away, dead.

Our, then new, Sustaining Members chairman, Mike Daughtery started the **Sustaining Members** column expressing regret in having to ask for help. Expenditures were up and income was down. He welcomed the following as new members: Mr. Larry Brown, *North Valley YMCA, Guardian Construction Co., Mr. Bryan E. Gibson. He then thanked the following for renewing their memberships: Highland Outfitters, Inc., Mr. & Mrs. Theodore C. Pruess, Mr. & Mrs. John W. Murdock, Mr. Donald A. Jeffrey and Keldon Paper Co. *Century Club member, donation of \$100 or more. • RMRU



RMRU PHOTO BY KING DALTON

The above photograph appeared in the July 1973 issue of the *RMRU NEWSLETTER* under the heading RMRU PEOPLE from Old'en Days. The photograph was taken by RMRU member King Dalton on April 27, 1968. Before the construction of the Perris Dam RMRU regularly had tech-

nical practice near there, at 'Big Rock', a popular climbing area. Members pictured (L to R): Jim Dodson, Fred Camphausen, Steve Bryant (mock victim in the litter), Larry Percy and Bob MacPherson. We plan to try and publish more old photographs as space permits.