

Search and Rescue

RESCUE

Mission No. 7929C

8 Aug., Wed.
Caramba Camp,
San Jacinto Mountains

We received a call from the Banning office of the Riverside County Sheriffs Department that a woman had fallen and injured herself near Caramba. While still in the phone stage, the mission was cancelled. • RMRU

SEARCH

Mission No. 7430A

11 Aug., Sat.
San Jacinto Mountains

By Kevin Walker

It was a blustery Saturday afternoon when fellow team member Hal Fulkman, called my dad Walt Walker with news that a friend of his was overdue in returning to Humber Park. After having the Sheriff's Department check to see if the vehicle was still in the parking lot, and finding that it was, we decided to hike up the Devil Slide and try to locate the man. Since the man in question was only a few hours late, it was decided to send in only Hal and myself.

Hal picked me up shortly after that, and we were on our way to Idyllwild. Luckily though, just as we approached the Strawberry Creek bridge, Hal's friend passed us on his way home. After catching up and stopping him, we found that he had just been slowed down because of the rain that had occurred that day. • RMRU

RESCUE

Mission No. 7931M

25 Aug., Sat.
Tahquitz Rock,
San Jacinto Mountains

By Hal Fulkman

It was 10 or 15 minutes to Loma Linda E.R., air time, and as I watched Lunch Rock get smaller and smaller below us it seemed incredible that in 15 minutes a mission would be over that everyone expected to last three to four hours longer.

Four and one half hours earlier I was sitting in the backyard with my wife enjoying a Saturday afternoon when the all too familiar screech came from my pager. After contacting the number that was called out on the pager, I was informed that a climber had fallen on Tahquitz Rock and was badly injured. I left within 10 minutes of the first pager call, and wasted no time no time in getting to Humber Park, our designated rendezvous.

When I arrived I met the sheriff's deputy, and the informant, and soon learned that the injured climber was about one pitch up on a route called 'Super Pooper.' From the description of his injuries we didn't have any time to lose. I had just finished throwing in some extra first aid equipment into my pack when John Dew, the second RMRU member arrived, grabbed his pack and within a few minutes we were on the trail which leads to the base of Tahquitz Rock. After about 35 minutes we were at the base of the rock, where the route begins. By this time more team members had arrived and were on the trail, so John stayed there to guide the rest of the team to our position, while I climbed up to where the climber had fallen.

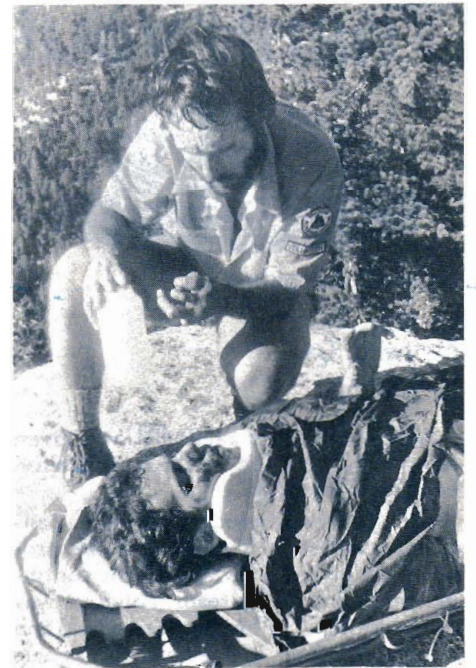
When I reached the climber I saw he was being attended by his climbing partner and by another climber who had been soloing. All three men were glad to see me. While I was examining him, he told me his name was Matthew and with the help of his friend, he explained what had happened.

Matthew was leading the climb and was in a very difficult position trying to get an anchor in a large crack. Matthew said he made four attempts to insert the anchor and didn't remember much after that, except falling backwards and seeing

his partner on the way down. When he hit the rocks below, he landed on his right side. His upper torso went into a crevice and saved his head from a direct impact.

After surveying Matthew, I determined that he had a broken jaw, fractured right wrist, a concussion, and numerous abrasions and contusions. Administering first aid was very difficult because of the small ledge that Matthew was laying on and in order to move around I had to tie into a safety line.

Within a short period of time additional team members were on the scene rigging lines to raise Matthew to a different ledge where it was possible to lower him all the way to the bottom. Because of numerous fires in Southern California that required the use of helicopters, we received the disappointing news that no helicopters were available to evacuate Matthew.



RMRU PHOTO BY JIM FAIRCHILD

READY FOR AIRLIFT — RMRU member Hal Fulkman prepares to give the injured climber a small amount of water, as they wait to be flown out to the Loma Linda Hospital.

One half of the way down the rock we received a message by radio that Don

Landells was about 10 minutes away with his Jet Ranger, and would try a pick up on Lunch Rock. After getting Matthew to the bottom, we transported him to Lunch Rock. Don flew in and made

a one runner landing nothing short of **spectacular** and within a few minutes Matthew and I were loaded and on our way to Loma Linda. • RMRU



RMRU PHOTO BY JIM FAIRCHILD

ONE RUNNER PICKUP — Hal Fulkman waits in the back of Don Landells Ranger, as Bernie McIlvoy and Avery Powers prepare to slide the litter into the helicopter

station of the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway. Training for this month, would be in the hands of Hal Fulkman and Bud White working on a first aid problem, and Jim Fairchild taking care of a short search operation while the first aid problem was being put together.

After catching the 7:00 car to the mountain station, we headed down to the Long Valley Ranger Station where we picked up our permit and left a RMRU radio at the station in case of a rescue operation. As the main group of us finished the final shuffle of gear, Hal and Bud went on their way to arrange the first aid exercise. Jim Fairchild, Miss Carol Cook (presently staying with Jim and JoAnne Fairchild), and new member Dr. Jerry Niswanger had come up Friday evening and were already in position for the morning operation.

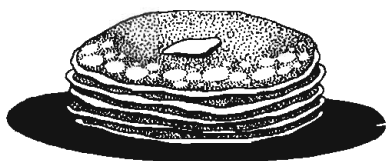
Just as we were approaching the trail junction that heads to Hidden Lake or towards Round Valley we were met by Dr. Jerry who was playing a very mixed up hiker. Jerry told us that his two hiking companions had become separated two days earlier and he had not found a trace of them. Jerry pointed us in the general direction of their camp, and off we went on a search operation. It did not take long to find the camp, but no Jim or Carol. We then split into two teams, one headed by Don Chambers with Dave Ezell, and Tony Loro joining him. Jim Garvey took team two with the help of Craig Beasley and yours truly.

To make a long story short, our team found a set of tracks heading from the camp down the ridge. After about 30 minutes of tracking, I faintly could here a moan for help. I called out again and got a response from up in a bluff of rocks. I quickly scrambled up onto the rocks and then found Jim who was suffering from dehydration. As I cared for Jim, Craig and Jim Garvey found Carol, who had fallen and injured herself. Craig radioed the other team, and shortly after that, they joined us. After giving Jim water, I declared him totally cured. Jim Garvey took charge of first aid. We treated Carol for a fractured left wrist, and multiple fractures of the leg. As that was being done Tony Loro constructed a rope litter. Shortly after that, we had Carol extricated from the rocks and back at her camp where the make believe helicopter would be coming to pick her and Jim up.

I would like to point out that this was Carol's first experience with RMRU, and I would just like to say, "Job well done, Carol." I hope you can help us out again real soon.

With that operation complete, we headed for Tamarack Valley where the next operation was to take place. Just as we came into the valley we could see people way up on Cornell Peak (an extremely steep pinnacle normally only used for climbing, not first aid training).

Thank you!



Pancake Breakfast

14 Aug., Sun.
Idyllwild, Ca.

By John Dew

Again on August 14, RMRU was given new encouragement by the Isaac Walton League of Idyllwild.

Each year these good people have a pancake breakfast in Idyllwild and the proceeds are given to RMRU for the continued operation of the team. This year was no exception. The breakfast was held and a great success. It seemed that people from all over Southern California were there.

It is seldom that we get the opportunity to meet our donors face to face, so we look forward to this annual event. It gives us a chance to meet people we have not seen for a year, as well as meeting new people interested in the work we do. It also gives us a chance to talk to and show some of our equipment to those attending.

Again this year, as in the past, we were at the site at six o'clock in the morning and still were unable to beat those dedicated citizens who sponsor this event. They were there ahead of us and getting things ready when the first of us arrived.

It is hard to think of **different** ways of thanking people who do something to help time after time, but we like to try, yet when it comes to the bottom line, no matter how you say it, it is always the same, "Many Thanks Isaac Walton League for a job well done again this year."

• RMRU



First Aid and Familiarization

4-5 Aug., Sat.-Sun.
San Jacinto Mountains

By Kevin Walker

It was a clear and warm Saturday morning as RMRU arrived at the lower

Just as we finished filling our canteens, Hal radioed down that five girls were climbing the peak when one girl fell, pulling the other four off also. Our job was to pretend that we were an assault team ahead of the rest. We were to only give the initial first aid and triage (assess the girls' injuries). It took about 30 minutes to reach the base of the climbing rock. Don Chambers made first contact with the girls, but he also found a man (Bud White: actor) who had suffered a heart attack. As Don tried to extend the man's neck, he found the man had been deceased for some time (he was stiff). "Good acting, Bud." While Don was taking care of Bud, I started up the rock to make an initial check of the girls. Right behind me was Jim Garvey though, so I headed for the two upper most girls, who were out on the face, and Jim took charge of first aid assignments for the other three. As I approached the girls, I could see that their rope was not tied into any protection, so I had Craig come up the rock with several slings. After securing the rope, I went over the side to one of the girls who had been silent as we ascended the face. Craig went to the other girl who was quite vocal about the climbing accident. So as not to confuse injuries, we number the girls. The lower most girl was number one, and so on up the rock to where Craig was with number five. After assessing all of the girls' injuries we came up with the following conclusions. Patient #1 - Fractured elbow, abrasions, patient slipping into shock. Patient #2 - Numerous abrasions, possible spinal injuries to the C area, shock. Patient #3 - Internal injuries and slipping into deep shock. Patient #4 - Abrasions, large laceration on the right leg, patient in deep shock due to exposure on the upper part of the rock, patient also unconscious. Patient #5 - Minor abrasions, serious fracture of the left knee, blood circulation cut off to the lower leg.

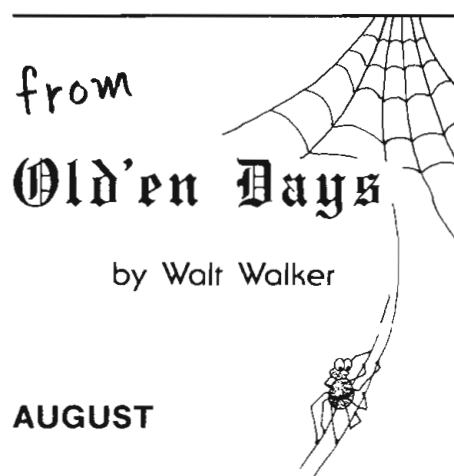
As you can see we had our hands full. But we did the job needed to be done. Initial first aid was completed, and a list of the order that the girls were to be evacuated was drawn up. After cleaning up all the clutter on the rock, a few of us finished the climb to the top of Cornell while the others headed for Round Valley.

That evening, the girls from Bud's troop and RMRU joined the State Park Rangers for an excellent dinner at the Round Valley Ranger Station. And who said rangers couldn't cook. That evening we were invited over to the Saturday night campfire put on by the rangers. It was a most enjoyable evening, sharing stories of old, with one another. To the State Park Rangers of the San Jacinto Wilderness, "Thanks."

The next morning we were awakened by the smell of Strawberry crepes cooking. Bud's girls had done it again. Old hungry Dave Ezell turned into a wild man

over that great cooking. Once camp was all cleaned up, we all headed for home... the long way. First stop was Mt. San Jacinto, a quick lunch and then over the western slope and down to 10,160 South (a peak below San Jac), and then over to Marion Mountain. From there it was all down hill to Deer Springs (during this time it started to lightly rain), and down the Seven Pines Trail to our waiting van for a ride down the mountain and back around to our cars at the tramway.

This training just would not have been the success it was, if not for the help of Miss Carol Cook, and the help of the following girls from Bud's Senior Girl Scout Troop, Misses Ann Thiessen, Melinda Thiessen, Yolanda Gamboa, Karen Carlson, and last but not least Miss Terri McCawley. Girls, thank you for a job very well done. • RMRU



Ten years ago—

After an 11 day lull in missions we received a call at two o'clock on a Monday morning. An 18 year old girl had fallen in Tahquitz Canyon. We started hiking in at 0400 and after a very frustrating time of searching and interrogating various groups we found the girl at 0830. She was seriously injured. (We later learned she had fractured all the ribs on her right side). She was having considerable trouble breathing. We performed the necessary first aid and secured her in the litter. The next task was to raise her up the canyon wall and move her to a nearby helispot. She was then flown by helicopter to Desert Hospital in Palm Springs.

Two weeks later on a Friday afternoon we received word that two brothers, ages seven and eight, were missing from the Boulder Basin Campground. We tried our tracking Bloodhound with little success. At 2130 that evening we found the eight year old downhill from the camp. He had lost his shoes, so the members put extra socks on him and wrapped his feet with elastic bandages. We searched all through the night and a helicopter was ordered to assist in the search. By midmorning

it was decided to call the CR-MRA teams for extra manpower. Late in the afternoon we received word that the seven year old had walked into the YMCA camp. We flew there in the bird and picked him up and reunited him with his parents.

Five years ago—

We were called to the Lake Hemet area to search for a young boy who was reported to have a broken leg. We had spent half the night searching when the sheriff's department decided it was probably a hoax.

We were on a technical training session at Suicide Rock when a young climber fell while we were eating lunch. His rope stopped him just three feet from the ground and Art Bridge and Walt Walker were at his side in about five seconds. He was examined by team doctor Ray Castilonia and we placed him in our wheeled litter. He was secured into the litter and we started downhill. We had radioed out and the Idyllwild Fire Department ambulance was waiting at the roadhead when we arrived. He was taken to the Hemet Hospital. It was later learned that he had not broken a single bone in his spectacular fall. • RMRU



Sad, but necessary!

The RMRU Board of Directors have been wrestling with finances for the past three months. They have carefully looked for any and all ways to trim expenses.

At the last board meeting they decided to carefully review the newsletter mailing list. They found 45 listings that are sent to agencies, former members, etc., that are sent without any donation having been made. It was decided to remove those listings, after a two month grace period.

If your mailing label had a red stripe on it, it means that you will probably no longer be on the mailing list. If you have donated and we have made a mistake, please write at once.

However, if you would like to continue receiving the **RMRU Newsletter**, send a donation of \$25 or more to:

Riverside Mountain Rescue Unit
P O Box 5444
Riverside, CA 92517