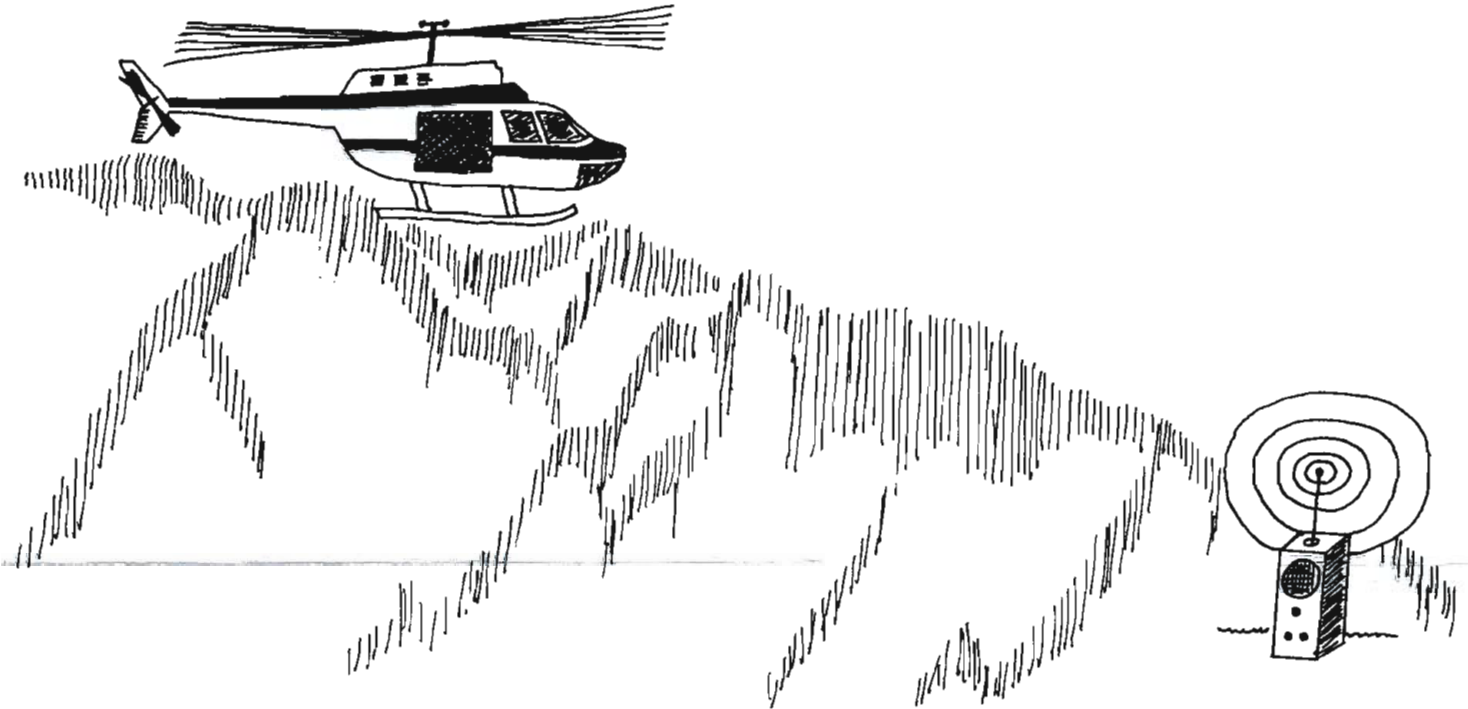


Volume XV, Issue V, May 1979 — Kevin Walker, Editor — Walt Walker, Publisher — Lisa Walker, Artist



Search and Rescue

SEARCH

Mission No. 7915A

7 May, Mon.
Tahquitz Canyon,
San Jacinto Mountains

We recieved a call from the Banning office of the Riverside County Sheriff's Department that two young men were overdue from a hike which started at the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway and was to be completed by descending Tahquitz Canyon. While enroute to Palm Springs, the pagers were activated with news that the two men had just walked out to Ann Dolley's residence. • RMRU

SEARCH

Mission No. 7916M

11 May, Fri.
Southwestern slope,
San Jacinto Mountains

By Kevin Walker

How does one begin to talk about a day that just shouldn't have been. My Dad, Walt Walker received a call from Capt. Ray Canova of the Banning station, Riverside County Sheriff's Department, that a man in his mid 20's had made contact with a Hemet React base station via C.B. radio. The message was quite weak, but he was able to tell the React base operator that he was at snow level in the Deer Springs area, **he thought**, and could not hike due to blisters on his feet.

Since we had a fairly good idea of where the lost man was, weather conditions being excellent and the gasoline shortage still hindering team members response time, it was decided that Walt, John Dew and myself would roll on this mission. We met Capt. Canova at the Banning Airport, shortly after that Don Landells arrived with his Bell Jet Ranger. Walt and I

quickly loaded our gear and ourselves into the bird, and were off to Deer Springs.

As we neared the Deer Springs area we thought we were going to knock this one off in a matter of minutes, because as we made our first pas over the area, we spotted a solo pair of tracks in the snow. Needless to say, Don rolled the chopper back around and then slowly followed the tracks down the ridge to where tracks left the snow, and then we lost the tracks. For over an hour and a half we tried to find the tracks further down the drainage. With no luck and low fuel, Walt and Don decided to drop me off on a ridge in the area where the tracks were to check and see what I could find, while they went back for fuel.

During the 45 minutes that the helicopter was gone, I did some looking and shouting, with no luck. Before they returned, I made contact (via MRA radio) with Steve Vaughn of the Hemet Search and Rescue Team. Steve had been monitoring the rescue from their base radio located in the Hemet Police station, and asked if he could be of service. Since we were getting no where, I asked if he could get someone to help relay to us from the React station. Since the subject had a

C.B., maybe he could transmit to Hemet and then Hemet could relay to us 'troopies' in the field, whenever we were close. Sound like the old hot and cold game?

When Walt and Don returned, they sat down and left me with a portable C.B. so that I might be able to hear the subject.

Like I said at the beginning, it was one of those days. For the next two hours I listened to the relay, from the subject to us, send Walt and Don from Black Mountain to Little Round Valley, all the while saying he could hear the chopper. Well needless to say, we were getting no where fast. Daylight would soon be a factor and we were running out of ideas. Walt came up with one last thing to try before darkness.

We would try a leap frog from ridge to ridge with the C.B. and see if I could home in on the subjects radio signal. After three attempts with no results (definitely a discouraging situation) Don moved me to a ridge that looked down towards Idyllwild on one side and the Banning highway on the other, not even close to the search area, but what the heck. After Don had left me out, I tried the radio, and got a response. The hiker had made it back around to the Idyllwild side. Sure enough, a few minutes later Walt spotted the hiker in very small clearing.

To make a long story short, we flew a very relieved and totally disoriented hiker back to Banning.

Comment: Should our very lost friend, really have taken a C.B.? Or should he have had a partner along? Should he have known the country better before going alone??? • RMRU

RESCUE

Mission No. 7917A

**12 May, Sat.
Palm Springs Tramway**

We received a call from the Riverside County Sheriff's Department that a man in his thirties became stranded while hiking below the mountain station. While enroute to Palm Springs, the mission was cancelled because the hiker had made it back to the top. • RMRU

RESCUE

Mission No. 7918M

**13 May, Sun.
Massacre Canyon,
San Jacinto Foothills**

By Brian Hixson

It was an awfully hot Sunday afternoon to be out on a rescue, but that didn't stop RMRU. We received a call from the Hem-

et office of the Riverside County Sheriff's Department, at about 1:00 in the afternoon, and the information was a man had fallen from the second falls in Massacre Canyon and had possibly fractured his leg. We were also told that the California Division of Forestry volunteers had already been dispatched to the area, and were attempting to bring the man out. While enroute, we contacted the Hemet Search and Rescue Team via MRA radio, and were advised that they were about 15 minutes behind us. Walt Walker, Kevin Walker, and myself were the first from our team to arrive at the roadhead. It then was a brisk 10 minute walk around to the top of the first falls where we found that the CDF volunteers had run into a problem, how to get the man down the 30 foot waterfall that was partially dry. Time for a little help from RMRU with a technical lower. Besides our technical gear, we had

brought in first aid gear, but found that the Hemet Valley Ambulance had also been dispatched before us and had already splinted the man's lower leg. Not long after that, Steve Vaughn, Gary Fritzingler, and Mike Giovani, Hemet team members arrived, and soon after that our own John Dew.

We then went to work on setting up anchors for a lower. With Kevin handling the lowering system, John Dew on the belay, and Walt and Steve Vaughn tending the litter, we proceeded to lower the man down the water fall to just arriving Jim Fairchild and Larry Roland with the wheeled litter. We then nested the CDF Stokes into our wheeled system. After a brief wait for John, Kevin and I to clean up (unhook) the lowering system, we wheeled the man out to the waiting ambulance. Now would come the real task, trying to obtain gasoline to make it home. • RMRU



RMRU PHOTO BY JIM FAIRCHILD

WET CREEK CROSSING — With the combined efforts of RMRU and the Hemet Search and Rescue Team, the injured sunbather was wheeled out to the waiting ambulance.

From the Editor's desk—

THANKS DONA!!!

For the past three years and seven months, RMRU has been fortunate enough to have had the services of Dona Towell as our artist. She now holds a staff position for a large advertising firm,

and will not be able to do all that she has done in the past.

Thanks Dona for all the time and effort you gave to RMRU.

If you look at the top of the front page you will notice a new name in the artists' spot. My younger sister, Lisa, will be taking over as our artist. Good luck Lisa, and we hope to have you with us for a long time. • RMRU

SEARCH

Mission No. 7919A

**30 May, Wed.
Tahquitz Canyon,
Palm Springs Area**

We received a call from the Indio office of the Riverside County Sheriff's Department that a young man had become separated from his hiking party in Tahquitz Canyon. While we were still driving, the pagers went off with the news that the young man had rejoined his companions and was unhurt. • RMRU

TRAINING



**5-6 May, Sat.-Sun.
Snow Creek Area,
San Jacinto Mountains**

By Jim Garvey and Kevin Walker

It was already climbing into the 80's as we met at Tony Loro's house in the Snow Creek community at 8:00. Our Training Chairman, Larry Roland, had come up with a combination technical (for new and OLD members alike) practice for Saturday morning. Then in the afternoon we would hike into the Isthmus (general familiarization), then for Sunday, a small group would attempt to climb the North Face of Mt. San Jacinto, while the rest of us troopies would return to Snow Creek for litter rigging practice.

Once everyone had arrived, we gathered up the technical gear and headed for a small canyon southwest of Snow Creek where we could practice technical skills. Upon our arrival at the spot that Larry had picked out, we split into two groups, one group working on personal jumaring and rappelling skills, the other group working on anchor placement practice.

It was a well spent morning for all team members involved. Everyone got something out of the morning exercise, including Jim Fairchild's dog, Kody, who had his first encounter with a rattlesnake (a safe one though, NO NOSE CONTACT). After the gear was gathered up, we headed back towards Tony's for lunch.

After a very relaxing lunch, everyone prepared their packs for the hike into the Isthmus. Jim Fairchild would remain in base camp due to a case of the flu. With

that, it was off, (not fast due to the heat) for the Isthmus.

After Saturday's hot, strenuous climb from the desert floor to our camp at the Isthmus, a narrow 50 foot wide ridge separating Falls Creek and Snow Creek at the base of Mt. San Jacinto, I was having second thoughts about the intensity of my desire to climb the North Face. The standard route up the North Face is an 8,000 foot direct ascent up Snow Creek, a snow-filled canyon between 35° and 50° in steepness.

In the month before this training RMRU had two rescue missions on this same route. One, an avalanche victim who suffered 14 rib fractures and the other, a climber who after falling high on the route, slid over 2,000 feet down the mountain. Both of these missions required helicopter evacuations.

After seeing Sunday's early light illuminating the North Face, the desire returned and I wanted nothing more that day than to be up on the mountain.

The four of us who chose to make the climb, Bernie McIlvoy, Larry Roland, Dave Ezell and myself, left camp at 7:00 a.m. The rest of the team was going back down to base in the village of Snow Creek to work on litter rigging. Following a rather animated discussion, several team members consented to carry our sleeping bags and other equipment back to base to help lighten our packs.

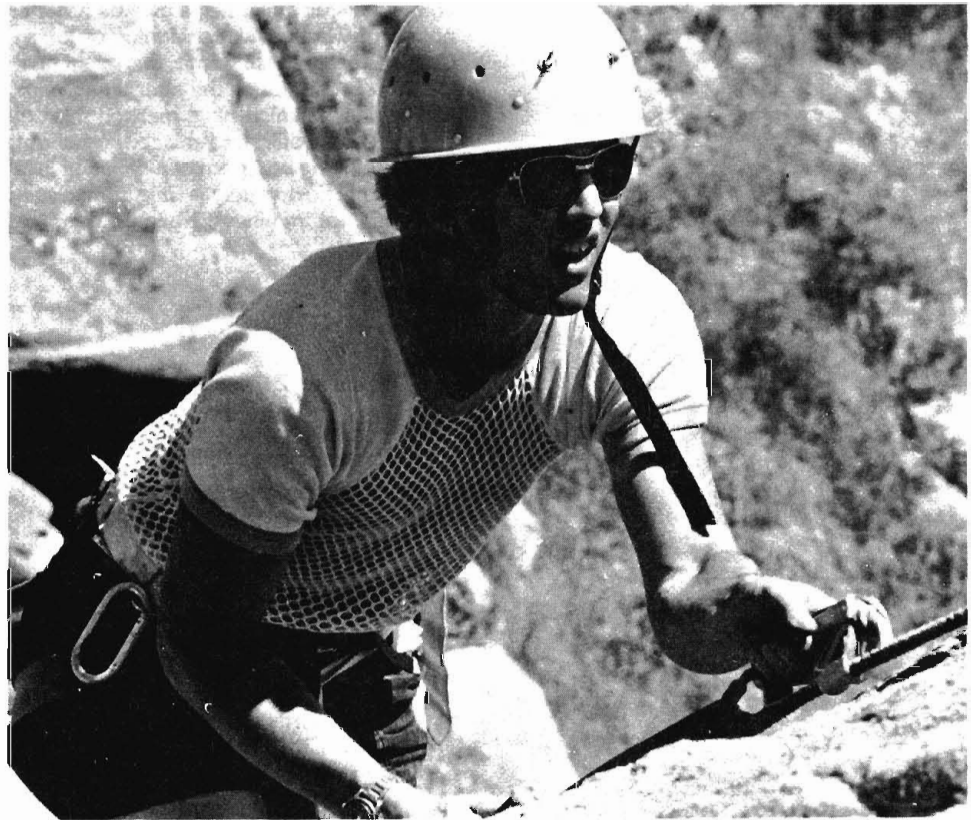
Two hours of cross-country climbing through dense vegetation brought us into Snow Creek proper and onto snow at about the 4,000 foot level. In fact, we were standing on a massive avalanche debris pile well over 80 feet deep! From here it was straight up for the rest of the climb.

We measured time in increments of 1,000 feet. Once settled into a good pace we averaged a little over 1,000 feet vertical an hour.

The chock stone, the most prominent feature along the route, is a giant boulder, larger than a good-sized car, wedged in the top of a 100 foot waterfall. Normally getting up and around the chock stone waterfall requires a good bit of rock climbing out on the canyon wall to bypass this obstacle. Today we had to look for the chock stone, due to the heavy accumulation of snow, we had walked right over it, waterfall and all.

The North Face climb, as I continued climbing, began to solidify itself in my mind as the quintessential alpine experience. The mix of scenery, exertion, companionship and the many other small but critical elements that make up a climb, or a half-day hike in the woods, were all present that day on the North Face.

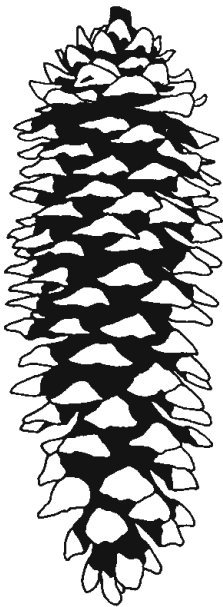
It was over before we knew it. Bernie and Larry disappeared from sight at 3:30 p.m. going over the summit ridge above Dave and myself. Crampons were put on



RMRU PHOTO BY JIM FAIRCHILD

HOLD THAT POSE — RMRU member Kevin Walker was caught by the photographers eye as he neared the end of a jumaring ascent from the canyon bottom.

as the snow got harder due to the sun going behind the mountain and the increasing angle of the slope. We found ourselves climbing through mixed rock and ice, a final short pitch requiring front pointing and a little easy ice climbing suddenly brought us over the edge of a small cornice exactly on the summit of Mt. San Jacinto, a little less than 11,000 feet in elevation. The little taste of ice climbing was the perfect end to a perfect day on the mountain and acted as a tonic for us. Meeting up with Bernie and Larry who were waiting for us in the summit hut, because of the cold wind blowing, we headed off cross-country for the upper tram station and a 20 minute ride down in comparison to what took eight hours to climb up. • RMRU



\$USTAINING MEMBERS

BY MIKE DAUGHERTY

At the risk of setting-off a wave of unjustified overconfidence, I'll venture the impression that things have improved over the past few months. If this impression is correct (It isn't the result of an accounting analysis), it seems probable that the credit is due our long-term members who have responded to our increasingly desperate entreaties. Whatever else you do, **DON'T STOP NOW!** If you do I'll have to pass every future S/M column past the treasurer for censorship to exclude the slightest trace of optimism.

The credit for this recovery belongs to many of you. This month, however, I'd like to take particular note of two of the names listed below. These are the Circle City Hospital and the Circle City Auxiliary of Corona. Both of these organizations have begun a program of regular, monthly contributions to the team. I rather imagine that I need not convince you that this kind of support is of immense help to us. There are several reasons why this is the case, most of them obvious. Not quite so obvious, perhaps, is the fact that this kind of regular income helps to flatten-out the peaks and valleys which characterize our donation income. This, in turn, helps give us a better notion of whether we're winning or losing. Carried to its eventual limit, this might finally result in an end to the alternating panic and euphoria which have marked this column. These would be replaced, no doubt, by the grinding boredom of a constant level of pleading. Fortunately, a transition to such a state is not imminent. Keep up the good work.

New—

Ada Pickett
Guenther Zaeschmar

Renewing—

*J. Korber Foundation
M/M Chandler McMillan
M/M Gary Anderson
Greg Bronson
M/M J. Leroy Dooly
Art Bridge
John Boyd
M/M R. O. Ridenour
Dr. Davis E. Randel
*Dr/Mrs Nelson Gidcumb
Bonnie Brownell
*Circle City Hospital
*Circle City Auxiliary
Jurupa Unified School District
Dr. Dale O. Huseboe

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

from Old'en Days

by Walt Walker

MAY

Ten years ago—

The front page had a banner headline, "RMRU RESCUETTES - SMASHING SUCCESS". The wives of unit members held a rummage sale that netted enough money to purchase another five watt handtalkie radio (better than \$750) for the unit's growing radio network.

The next article reported the election results: Walt Walker, President; Don Ricker, Vice-President; Al Andrews, Secretary; Bill Speck, Treasurer; Art Bridge, Director; Mike Daugherty, Director; Jim Fairchild, Director.

The 'Coming Events' section covered more than half a page. One paragraph briefly explained that there had been no rescue activity during the month.

Five years ago—

The headline on the front page read, "1974 ELECTION RESULTS!" Under the headline the following results were reported: Walt Walker, President; Rich Quackenbush, Vice-President; Ed Hill, Secretary; Pete Carlson, Treasurer; Dan MacIntosh, Director; Bernie McIlvooy, Director; Steve Stephens, Director.

The graphics in the Sustaining Members column by Mike Daugherty displayed that the fund drive to raise money to purchase 20 pagers had gone to the top. Mike thanked all the Sustaining Members for their support.

Two and one half pages of the newsletter were devoted to the **Search and Rescue** column. They are briefly listed below:

Search - No. 7411M
Juniper Flats, near Hemet
By Gary Anderson

We searched all day long for a 37 year old man who was on medication and who would become disoriented without the medication. With help from many different agencies, the search was stopped when the man was tracked to a major highway.



Search - No. 7412A
 San Jacinto Mountains
 By Walt Walker

The unit had been called to search for a couple that was overdue. When we arrived in Idyllwild we were advised that the couple were safely out of the mountains. However, they reported that they heard calls for help from high up on Tahquitz Rock.

Rescue - No. 7413M
 Tahquitz Rock
 By Sonny Lawrence

Once again a climbing party of three people were stranded on the upper part of a route called 'The White Maiden'. As so many times in the past, we loaded up the necessary equipment, hiked around the back side of the rock, climbed up on top, evacuated the climbers as the sun rose and then hiked back to Humber Park.

Search - No. 7414M
 San Jacinto Mountains
 By Walt Walker

A father and daughter were overdue from a hike. We put the search in motion by sending one group to the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway and another went up to the Black Mountain road in a four wheel drive vehicle. The group in the vehicle found the pair hiking along the road. After picking up the pair and starting down, a radio message said we were needed on another mission. (No. 7415M)

Rescue - No. 7415M
 Round Valley,
 San Jacinto Mountains
 By Walt Walker

The group that we had sent to the tram on the previous mission were at the lower station when word was received that one person had a broken leg and another was suffering from Hypothermia somewhere above Round Valley. Our group rode the tram up, and were about halfway to Round Valley, when we were notified that the rangers had found the person in the first stages of Hypothermia and took him to the Round Valley Ranger Cabin and warmed him up. The report of a person with a broken leg proved to be incorrect.

Search - No. 7416M
 South Ridge,
 San Jacinto Mountains
 By Walt Walker

This was the sixth call in four days. It was also going to be another night without sleep. An inexperienced hiker, unfamiliar with the area was missing. It was also a very cold, damp, and windy night. Part way through the night one of our teams found the subject's footprints. The tracking continued all night and shortly after sun-

rise we were advised that the missing man was home in bed.

Rescue - No. 7417M
 Chino Canyon,
 San Jacinto Mountains
 By Hank Schmel

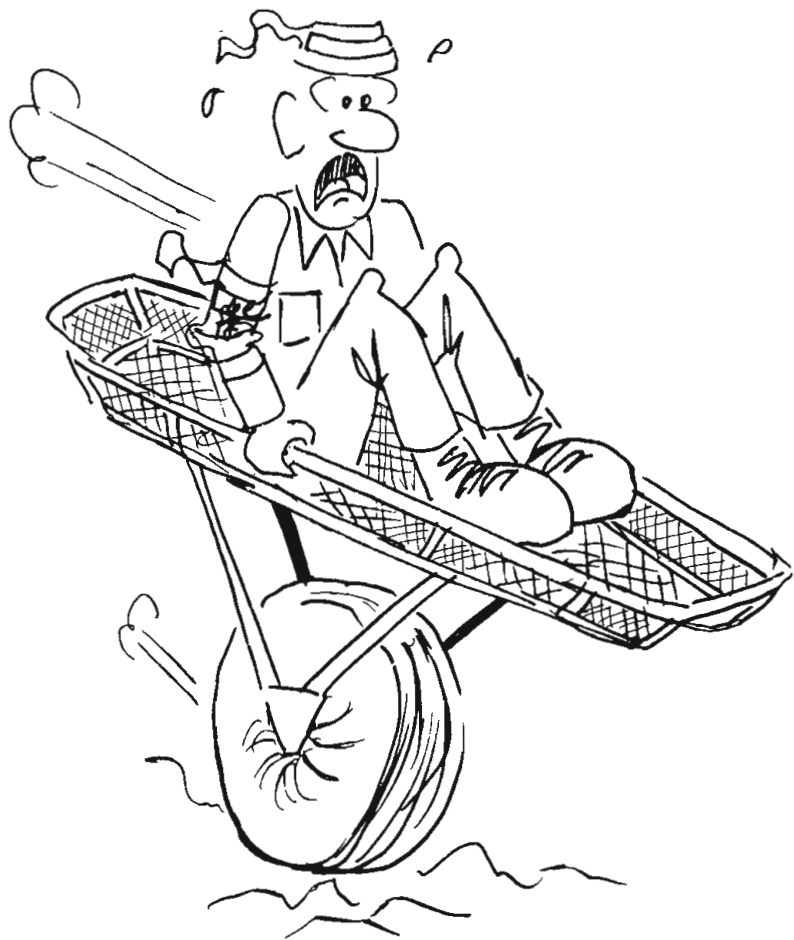
Two young men were stranded near tower four of the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway. We met at the lower station, loaded out gear into the tram car and rode up to tower four. The car was stopped and we jumped out to the tower, descended the tower and made our way over to the two subjects. In a very short time we had the pair loaded into the tram car and started down.

Rescue - No. 7418M
 Tahquitz Rock,
 San Jacinto Mountains
 By Jim Fairchild

Calls of help were echoing down from the 'White Maiden' and they were heard by team physician Dr. Norm Mellor. He relayed the calls and we responded. When we arrived at Humber Park information had been received that other climbers on the rock had helped the stranded group off the rock. Pete Carlson and Bernie McIlvoy were sent up to see if any assistance might be needed. Before they had reached Lunch Rock they met climbers who told them everything had been taken care of and no further help was needed. • RMRU

RMRU-toons

by RICK POHLERS



Hey guys, where the heck is the steering wheel?