

Search and Rescue

SEARCH

Mission No. 7934M

20 Oct., Sat.
Palm Springs Area,
San Jacinto Mountains

By John Dew

At about one o'clock in the afternoon the pagers came to life informing us of a search in the Palm Springs area.

Three brothers were visiting each other and two of them had decided to ride the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway to the high country, stay a day or two and return. There were two circumstances which made this excursion unusual. One — They were going to return by hiking down Andreas Canyon, one of the most rugged canyons on the mountain, and... Two — These two brothers were 74 and 64 years old.

Either of these items could prove a problem, but to put the two of them together looked like a sure bet.

One more item was thrown in to compound the problem. It was raining and very cold on top of the mountain.

The team members arrived at the Banning Sheriff's Station soon after the call Assignments were made and those making up the various teams went out into the rain to get their gear together. Soon they were ready and started to their search area.

One team was sent to the top of the Tram to make their way to the top of Andreas Canyon via the regular trail. Another team was to start up Andreas from the bottom, while still another was to search from the bottom into Tahquitz Canyon.

After they were deployed word came to us that a light signal had been seen on the side of the mountain the evening before by someone in Palm Springs and the

Palm Springs Mounted Police had been working on that since the spotting.

Wondering why we had not been alerted earlier, possibly when the signal was seen, was uppermost in our minds and when the Sheriff's Office was asked about it they informed us that RMRU had been called just as soon as they had heard. They had heard nothing of the signal sighting the night before.

As base was being moved to Palm Springs, after our search teams were well on the way to their destination, a helicopter was seen flying toward Palm Springs by those running base.

The helicopter went to a location at the base of the mountain, made three or four trips up into the hills and out and was not seen again that afternoon.

RMRU was informed soon after that that one of the brothers had hiked out into Palm Springs and given the general location of his brother to the helicopter pilot. He was then flown out.

It was a happy ending to what could have been a tragic episode simply because the professionals were not called in time.

• RMRU

TRAINING



Familiarization

6-7 Oct., Sat. - Sun.
Western Slope,
San Jacinto Mountains

By Kevin Walker

As Dave Ezell put it as we arrived at the Riverside County Parks Visitors Center, it was a dandy day to go hiking. The plan for October Training called for two groups going in at different road heads and meeting for dinner at a central point on the mountain. Our group of eight started up the new Deer Springs Trail, while the others were heading in

the Fuller Ridge Trail. Ultimately we would meet at the old poachers camp below Jean Peak.

It indeed was a perfect day for hiking, a warm sun and a slight breeze made for a perfect morning. Upon reaching the Strawberry Junction, our group split into two groups of four, one going up the ridge towards Marion Mountain, and the other group traveling further around the base then attacking Marion from another angle. All went well for both groups except we ran out of water about half way up. So sticking to the shade as much as possible, we made our way to the Marion Saddle, and over to a nice creek on the other side where we enjoyed a leisurely lunch. After a short siesta we headed for the poachers camp.

The other group had made better time than our gang, so as we approached we found members like John Dew, and Tony Loro stretched out on their bed rollers taking it easy. That evening after dinner various groups headed into the hills for a night hike. Some went over to Little Round Valley, while others went over to Marion Mountain for a short night climb. All in all a well spent evening of familiarization.

The next morning after breakfast, Training Chairman, Larry Roland pulled a surprise inspection. With everyone's gear layed out on the ground, we went around and saw what members had and what members didn't have. Then a quick session in map familiarization. With that we packed up and headed out. By switching car keys, we were able to go out the way the other group had come in. Again a perfect day for hiking. At about 3:00 P.M. we were back to cars, then rendezvous to switch cars and off for home. • RMRU

\$USTAINING MEMBERS

BY MIKE DAUGHERTY

(Editor's note:) Due to a long list of problems there is no article from Mike this month. The names of new and renewing Sustaining Members for the month of October are in the November issue along with an article about RMRU's financial situation.

• RMRU

from

Old'en Days

by Walt Walker

OCTOBER

Ten years ago—

A large hand drawn headline—
'THINK SNOW'

started off the newsletter. (Appropriate again, ten years later!) The **Coming Events** took the usual note of meetings and trainings. The next item was **Search & Rescue**. Mike Daugherty described how he and fellow team member Bill Briggs had performed a technical rescue, along with the help of other climbers. They gave first aid to a injured climber, and then helped him and his partner off the rock. The team began arriving at Humber Park just as the injured climber was helped into the parking area. Walt Walker described how RMRU members had worked along with other CR-MRA teams in Kern County. The search had continued for nine days. The object of the search, a missing Deer hunter, had not been located. In the **Sustaining Members** column, Al Andrews described how and why the team had started a fund drive for the first rescue van.

Five years ago—

The front page was filled with the reproduction of a letter written by a nine year old boy that had been found by RMRU. He expressed his thanks to the members. The second page was almost filled by the **Sustaining Members** column written by Mike Daugherty. Next came the **Search & Rescue** column. Team member Steve Bryant described how the team had rescued, in the middle of the of course, two young men who had become stranded on Tahquitz Rock. • RMRU



A message from a veteran—

By Walt Walker

This is my 19th year as a member of the Riverside Mountain Rescue Unit. They have been very good years and I'm proud of the job that RMRU has done. In that period, of almost two decades, we have been able to save over 350 lives. A good deal of that credit goes to the regular members who hike and climb in the heat, rain, wind and snow. However, if it were not for our Sustaining Members, I'm sure the total lives saved would have been much lower. It takes costly and precisely made equipment to completely outfit a mountain rescue unit. We could not do the job we do, without the support we receive.

To you, the Sustaining Member, both new and renewing, I say, "thank you for responding to our call for help!"

From the Editor's desk—

If you are a regular reader, you might recall, a special notice was given in the August issue of the newsletter. Simply stated, it said that due to finances some names would probably be removed from our mailing list. These people were notified by a red stripe on their mailing label. If you have a red stripe on your mailing label, the grace period is up, your name will be removed from our mailing list after this mailing.

If we have made a mistake please write at once. However, if you would like to continue receiving the **RMRU Newsletter** in the future, send a tax deductible donation of \$25 or more to:

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

