

Volume XVI, Issue IX, September 1980 — Kevin Walker, Editor — Walt Walker, Publisher — Dona Towell, Artist

YOU ARE INVITED —

In September of 1971 RMRU celebrated its tenth anniversary, and honored its Sustaining Members. In September of 1976 the team and its friends gathered to remember 15 years of search and rescue. The evening was dedicated to the wives and families of members.

In September of 1981 there will be a very special evening honoring a very unique group of people. The kind of person who is willing to be awakened at three in the morning to go out into a winter storm to rescue an injured skier, to search in 110° heat for a lost child, or spend a long night out on Tahquitz Rock helping a stranded climber back to safety, and not ask for anything in return. Won't you join the members of the Riverside Mountain Rescue Unit, as they look back on 20 years of caring for others.

Please watch for more information (date, time and place) in up coming issues of the newsletter. • RMRU



Familiarization

**7 Sept., Sun.
Pacific Crest Trail,
San Jacinto Mountains**

By Ed Hill

We had heard rumors that the Pacific Crest Trail had been completed from Fuller Ridge to the West Fork of Snow Creek. The team needs to stay current on the trail network on the mountain, so we decided to hike it for our September

training. We would descend about seven thousand feet from the Fuller Ridge to the desert below.

We met at the Fuller Ridge Trail roadhead and found that the new trail started on the west side of the parking lot. It was cool and windy on the ridge. We were glad to drop down on the north side out of the wind. Where the trail crosses the road we found an old sign saying 'Trail ends in five miles', which we ignored.

The trail was one of the most level trails that we have ever seen. It wound back and forth slowly losing elevation and taking a long time to go anywhere. It traveled through an old burn, crossed a ridge and dropped down toward the west fork of Snow Creek.

We stopped at the lower tree line for a snack and a large drink of water. Hal Fulkman had forgotten his water, but we decided that on a cool day 11 liters would be plenty for eight people. The view of the North Face of Mt. San Jacinto, Folley Peak and both forks of Snow Creek was worth the trip.

The chapparel was mostly burned out due to the fire on the North Face about five years ago. Here and there the trail crew had been forced to cut a passageway through it.

We ate lunch on a rock outcropping overlooking the lower part of the trail. The sun came out and made us drowsy, so we took an hours nap after lunch.

We dropped directly down to the trail below us and followed it around into a small canyon. The trail abruptly stopped in a large bush in a small dry watercourse. We scouted around for signs of it, but found nothing.

It was decided that the best way out was to go back to the north ridge and descend directly down to team member Tony Loro's backyard. It was easy going to the ridge and a long steep trip down to Snow Creek. About three quarters of the way down we ran into a band of cliffs which hung us up for awhile. After several false starts we found a small chimney that we could down climb.

We ended up directly behind Tony's house and soon were enjoying beer and cold drinks. Several of us were stiff and sore for the next few days because of the four thousand foot cross country descent.

• RMRU

Search and Rescue

EVACUATION

Mission No. 8041M

3-4 Sept., Wed.-Thur.

Near Radee Junction,

Southwestern Riverside County

By Walt Walker

During our regular monthly team meeting the pagers, a whole chorus of them, notified us of a rescue mission. We quickly adjourned the meeting, made some quick plans, and off we went to pickup our personal gear.

It was reported that a VW van had gone off a backcountry dirt road, rolled down 1,200 feet, and that there were people trapped inside. We were all to meet one mile north of Radee Junction. Brian Hixson and John Dew, in the #1 van, were the first RMRU members to arrive at the roadhead. Kevin Walker and I were next, quickly followed by Hal Fulkman and Jim Fairchild. There were a number of other groups, including Hemet Search & Rescue Team members, also at the roadhead. We learned that the van had gone off the road and rolled and tumbled 600 feet down. The driver, a 16 year old boy, had been ejected. He had been only slightly injured and had gone for help. His 12 year brother was penned under the vehicle and was dead.

After discussing the situation, darkness, very steep terrain, loose rock, brush and a very high fire danger, it was decided to wait until morning to remove the body. It was also decided that Pete Boss and Lonnie Denny (HSAR) and Kevin Walker and I would help in the morning. Another agency had determined that the accident scene was in San Diego County.

The next morning, shortly before eight o'clock, quite a group had formed. There was a California Division of Forestry fire truck and rescue squad, a U. S.

Forest Service fire truck, a California Highway Patrol four wheel drive and a deputy coroner from San Diego County, a four wheel drive with Pete Boss and Lonnie Denny and my four wheel drive with Kevin and I. Plans were made and we drove about five miles up a winding dirt road. Once at the scene we began to get our gear ready. Then the bad news came, upon carefully checking the topo maps, we discovered the accident scene was about one half mile into Riverside County. This information was radioed out and we began a rather long wait for a deputy coroner from Riverside County.

By the time the coroner arrived, we had a plan worked out and were ready to go. We led the coroner to the scene. He took care of the legal details and we shoved the van off of the body. The body was placed into a body bag, secured into the litter and the 600 foot raise started. About 20 minutes later, our part of the mission was completed. We loaded up our gear and quietly headed for home. • RMRU

SEARCH

Mission No. 8042C

**6 Sept., Sat.
Big Pine, Owens Valley**

Early Saturday morning we received a call for a MRA (Mountain Rescue Association) search for an elderly man that had wandered away from his home in Big Pine late Friday. No RMRU members were sent due to a vacation shortage in our own area. • RMRU

SEARCH

Mission No. 8043C

**21 Sept., Sun.
Humber Park,
San Jacinto Mountains**

We received a call from the Banning office of the Riverside County Sheriff's Department that a family had been reported overdue in returning to Humber Park from a day hike the previous day. As team members were being called, the sheriff telephoned back that the family had returned to their car, and all were O.K. • RMRU



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Mission No. 8044C

**24 Sept., Wed.
Banning Station, RSO**

During the mid morning hours, we received a pager message to call the Banning Station of the Riverside County Sheriff's Department for a mission. Just after the first message was completed, a second pager message cancelled the first call.

• RMRU

RESCUE

Mission No. 8045M

**28 Sept., Sun.
Tahquitz Rock,
San Jacinto Mountains**

By Kevin Walker

Two days previously, my wife and I had just returned from our honeymoon. On this fine afternoon, Patrice was preparing her first meal for company. All was going smoothly inside, while I was working out in the yard, that is until the pager went off with news of an injured climber on Tahquitz Rock. Let's just say that my new bride was not overjoyed at my leaving this particular day.

My dad, Walt Walker, picked me up in the #1 van and within 45 minutes we were at Humber Park. Deputy MacWilliams from the Riverside County Sheriff's Department was on the scene. He informed us that Saddleback SAR (Orange County) had been practicing on Suicide Rock when the climber fell on Tahquitz. Some of their personnel along with a paramedic from the Idyllwild Fire Department had already hiked in to locate and give aid. Walt sat up base along with Jack Bowman, while I put a unit radio into my pack. I was sent up the climbers trail to Lunch Rock, and as I was about two thirds of the distance to the rock, Saddleback radioed out that they had reached Dave Slandy, a Huntington Beach resident. Dave had taken a leader fall of about 25 feet, and landed on a ledge near the base of the rock, on the South side. He had sustained serious chest injuries, and it was thought that he might have fractured ribs on both sides. Dave's climbing partner had lowered him down the 15 feet to the base. Shortly after that Saddleback and the IFD paramedic arrived.

I hiked past Lunch Rock and met the group when they were about 15 minutes from Lunch Rock. When I arrived I saw that Dave was having difficulty breathing, but otherwise he was in fairly good spirits. Upon reaching Lunch Rock we were met by the rest of RMRU who had brought up our wheel to put under the litter for the rest of the journey. Once the wheel was

in position, fellow team member Pete Carlson took the job of field leader, and gave litter assignments, and saw that the wheel-out went smoothly and safely for Dave. Within an hour and 15 minutes (now after dark) we arrived back at Humber Park. There Dave was transferred onto a gurney and placed into the IFD ambulance. He was taken to the Hemet Valley Hospital.

And luckily for me, my new wife had postponed the dinner till Monday night. Patrice, welcome to the RMRU family.

• RMRU

Coming Events-

OCTOBER

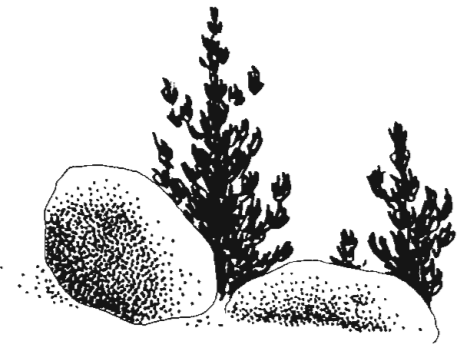
- 1 — Regular Meeting
- 4-5 — Training
- 22 — Board Meeting

NOVEMBER

- 5 — Regular Meeting
- 8-9 — Training
- 19 — Board Meeting

DECEMBER

- 3 — Regular Meeting
- 6-7 — Training
- 17 — Board Meeting



Notice!

The RMRU Newsletter is published 12 times per year by the Riverside Mountain Rescue Unit, Inc. It is intended primarily to inform the Regular and Sustaining Members.

If you would like to receive the newsletter on a regular basis, and at the same time become a Sustaining member, send your tax deductible donation of \$25 or more to:

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