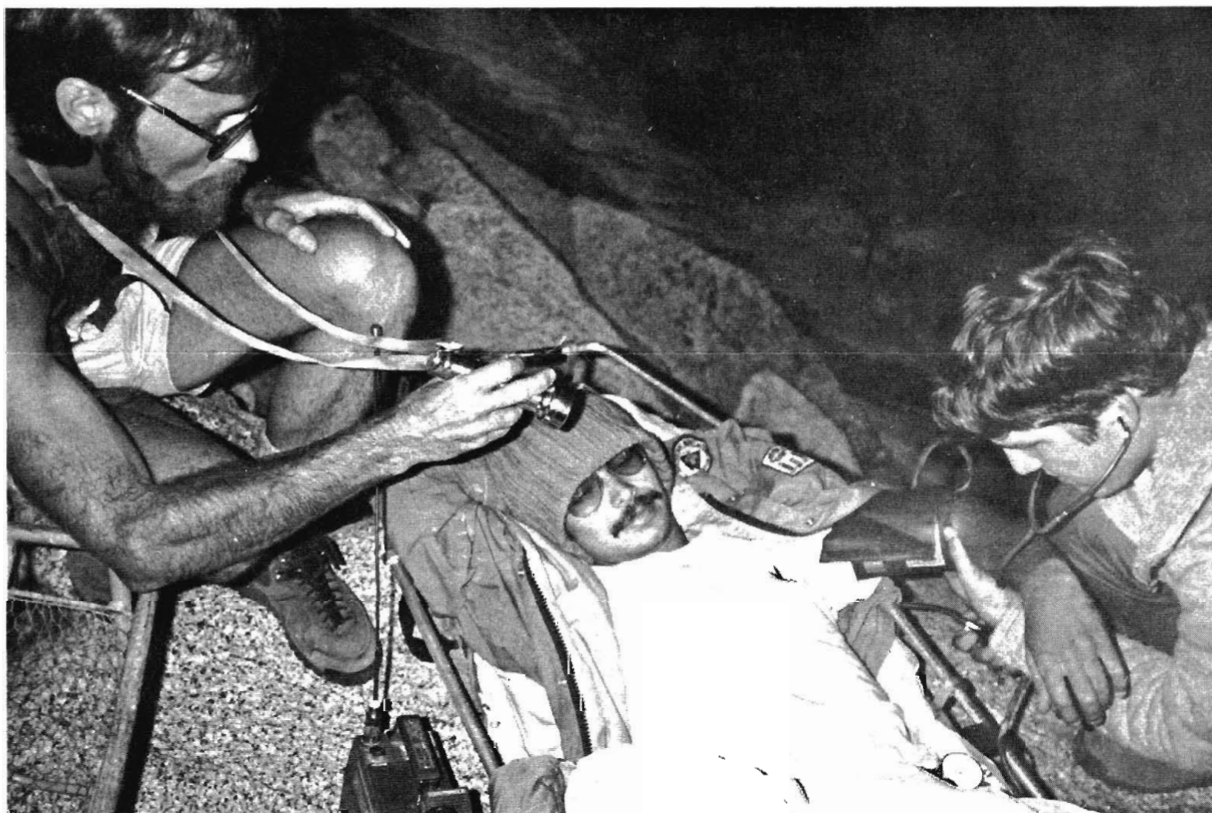


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Kevin Walker, Editor — Walt Walker, Publisher — Carolyn Parsons, Artist

Search and Rescue



RMRU PHOTO BY JIM FAIRCHILD

VITALS TAKEN — RMRU member Bernie McIlvoy shines a light so that fellow member, Kevin Walker can get a blood pressure reading on Eugene Mezereny, who had fallen near the base of Tahquitz Rock and possibly fractured his right femur. Whenever an injury is involved such precautions are standard.

RESCUE

Mission No. 8229M

**12-13 Aug., Thurs.-Fri.
Tahquitz Rock,
San Jacinto Mountains**

By John Dew

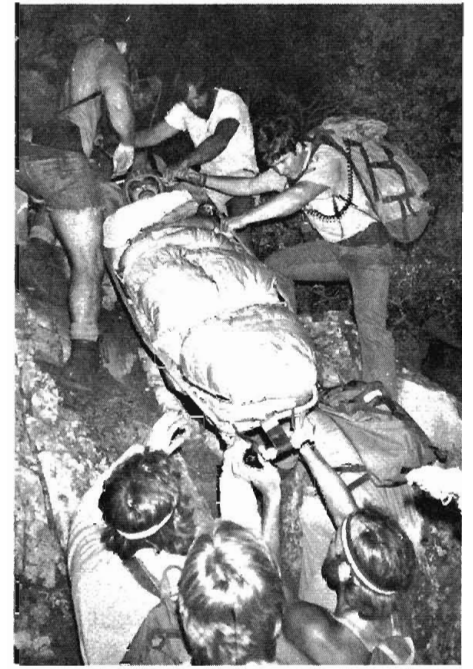
It was just about dinner time when the old faithful pagers started their familiar

vibration indicating our presence was desired somewhere besides at our own dinner table.

Upon phoning the number given us, we learned that a young man, Eugene Mezereny, had fallen while climbing on Tahquitz Rock and we were told, had broken his right femur. The roadhead was Humber Park above Idyllwild. We started arriving just before dark. Kevin Walker, Roy Dew (my son) and I were

there first, as we live in Hemet, which is at least 45 minutes closer than the members who live in Riverside and other places.

Being first there and hearing of the injury, we put on packs and started immediately. We were led in by Fred McKenney, who was the informant who had come out for help. He was able to take us the most direct route to the subject. This saved all the time of staying on the trail and looking for him.



RMRU PHOTOS BY JIM FAIRCHILD

STEEP DESCENT — The above photographs show how steep the descent from Tahquitz Rock to Humber Park is. They also show how difficult it was to get the litter containing Eugene

Mezereny past rock obstacles, and the team work necessary to get the litter safely down.

trail and looking for him. The direct route was straight up to the base of the Rock. Much time was saved and first aid was administered quickly.

Kevin gave first aid while I assisted. Others were arriving at Base Camp all the time, gathering gear and starting to our location.

We got Eugene into the litter about 10:30 or 11:00 o'clock and started down the mountain. Getting over the tallus boulders (which are all sizes from 2' diameter to 15') is accomplished by use of a belay, tied to a tree to take some of the weight of lowering the load. At the end of the rope another tree closer is found to use in the lower. This is repeated until we are safely off the hazardous loose rock, then the subject is rolled to the roadhead by use of our wheel litter.

He was treated at Hemet Valley Hospital and released. This indicated to us that the femur was not broken but probably just bruised.

Thus ended another successful mission. We ate dinner or breakfast or whatever one eats at 3:00 a.m. at Denny's in Hemet and went home for two hours sleep before going to work. • RMRU



RESCUE

Mission No. 8230M

**19 Aug., Thur.
Box Springs Mountain,
Riverside**

By Jim Fairchild

Above the eastern edge of Riverside City rises the steep, blocky massif of Box Springs Mountain. Its brush covered slopes gain 1500-2000ft. elevation before a more or less plateau-like formation, festooned with many radio and electronic devices on the peaks. Annually there are a number of fires that burn the grass and shrubs that resolutely grow back.

Late Wednesday afternoon a fire started just east of Belvedere Heights, which is a bit northeast of the University of California campus. About 150 firefighters from the California Department of Corrections successfully put lines around it, and by the middle of the night only spot fires flared and subsided.

Diego Bernal, 24, of Los Angeles, was cutting brush when he tumbled down a very steep, rock face about 35-50 feet and landed on more rocks. For a while he was able to continue working, but then complained of violent head pains, a sore shoulder, and pain about the tailbone. His crew-mates had him lie down while they sent for help.

Now, at 2:00 a.m. most mornings we of RMRU aren't usually up to see what's happening, even fires. Nevertheless, our

coordinator Al Andrews was busy calling us out, having been alerted to the need for evacuating Diego. I rolled to find Bernie McIlvoy and Jim Anholm putting the frame and wheel on the stokes litter. Soon we were sweating up a dirt road and then a horse trail looking for an informant who was to meet us near the accident scene. Before long we startled the informant into action, and shortly were examining Diego while his concerned friends watched. Nothing to serious, Dr. Jim determined, so we lifted Diego into the litter and wheeled him out. Part way down the trail we met and put to work John & Roy Dew, Rick Pohlers. Kevin Walker, and Mel Krug.

After seeing our patient aboard the ambulance we returned home to salvage a bit of sleep from our interrupted night.

• RMRU

SEARCH

Mission No. 8231M

**30 Aug., Mon.
Tahquitz Canyon,
San Jacinto Mountains**

By Kevin Walker

Just as we were about to break for lunch at work, the phone rang with news of a search in Tahquitz Canyon. So, skip lunch to get the #1 van, pick up Walt and drive to Palm Springs.

Base was set up in front of Ann Dolly's home. There Sgt. Dave Weakley from the

S.O. told us that three men had set out Saturday morning to hike down Tahquitz Canyon, and that they had planned to be out by Sunday evening. One of three things had happened, someone was injured, they were stranded, or they were taking much longer than planned.

Don Landells arrived with one of his Jet Rangers, as we were finishing loading our packs. Walt and I were the first load in. We would make a search run up the canyon, and then be let off to start searching on foot. As we searched up the canyon, various groups of people could be seen in the lower pools swimming and sunbathing, but as we lipped over the second falls the crowds thinned out. And as suspected Walt spotted the three men just up canyon from the third (largest) falls. Don quickly found a large boulder to let us off on. We made our way down to the subjects, confirmed it was indeed them, and led them back to the helispot. As we waited for Don to return, the leader of the group Bill Whittenberger explained that they had found some of the obstacles to be very hard to get around in the canyon. We then explained to them that the falls they were approaching would have proved to be too much for them and their equipment, and that the only way to go was up and out of the canyon if it was to be done on foot.

Don quickly returned, and two men were loaded and flown out. Next trip was the last of the three, and the cargo net loaded with their packs and our two. The last load was Walt and myself. Because of the location that the subjects were found, the mission went quickly and smoothly. So...after a quick lunch, it was back home and to work. • RMRU



Training

Familiarization
7-8 Aug., Sat.-Sun.
San Jacinto Mountains

By Glenn Henderson

This month's training began at the Fuller Ridge trailhead. Some members spent Friday night at the trailhead, and the remainder of us arrived early on Saturday morning.

After waiting for Joe to finish loading

Thanks — Izzak Walton League



RMRU PHOTO BY JIM FAIRCHILD

WHAT A SHOW — Veteran egg slinger Jim 'the spatch' Garvey dishes up some eggs, while the burn-em and leave-em boys, Bruce Gahagan and Glenn Henderson try their hand at pancakes. All kidding aside, RMRU's Idyllwild friends turned out in force and made our pancake breakfast a success. Many thanks are in order for the Izzak Walton League for sponsoring the event and making it all possible.

his pack, we took the Fuller Ridge trail to Deer Springs, down to the Strawberry junction, across the Strawberry Cienga and down the Angels Glide to Saddle Junction, and ultimately over to Tahquitz Valley.

We stopped many times to orient new members to the area and to review for some of the "vets" as we do not have too many missions in this area. It was a beautiful day for hiking with grand views and many small streams to cross as there was still a lot of water in the high country.

We arrived at the Tahquitz Valley ranger camp at about 3:30 p.m. After depositing precious cargo into the horse trough to cool off for later consumption we met up with John Dew and Mary Bowman who had hiked up the Devils Slide trail earlier.

They introduced us to all of the U.S. Forest Service personnel who had fixed us an entire mexican dinner that even included guacamole dip. After hiking all day this was a welcome treat that everyone appreciated immensely.

After that great meal and quaffing most of our precious cargo we retired to a campfire that was thoughtfully pro-

vided by the forest service. Here we swapped a few war stories but most of the evening was spent enlightening Kevin on the joys of parenthood. It did seem to be a 'pick on Kevin' evening but better thee than me.

The next morning everyone was up and ready to go early. Some members had prior commitments and had made arrangements to go down the Devils Slide trail in order to be out early but the rest of us continued on as planned. We hiked over to Hidden Lake where we took a break, dropped our packs, walked over to Desert View and saw, what else?, the desert. From there we hiked to Round Valley and up to the top of San Jacinto peak where we ate lunch. We then hiked down to Little Round Valley, down the Fuller Ridge trail and back to our cars.

P.S. See Kevin, I didn't even mention which group you hiked out with on Sunday morning. • RMRU

Editor's Note: A very special thanks is in order for Joy Shugart who made all the arrangements and purchased the food for the mexican style dinner. Joy, on behalf of all the members present thank you for a very enjoyable evening.

Ding BaT

of the month

by Kevin Walker



Joe



After having finished an outstanding mexican dinner provided by the U.S. Forest Service, RMRU members were relaxing around camp. As the evening air cooled the camp, it was decided a camp-fire would be in order. Local wise-guy Joe Erickson said that he had a new way to start fires, and asked everyone to gather round.

But, as you can see in the above photo, Joe's method called, '*Stick Magic*' just fizzled, and did nothing, as a disappointed group looked on.

Joe, remember when my pack use to disappear? Gotcha!