

Volume XIX, Issue XII, December 1983

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Seasons Greetings



Search and Rescue

RESCUE

Mission No. 8339M

27-28 December, Tues.-Wed.

Angel's Glide Trail,
San Jacinto Mountains

By Walt Walker



It was nearing the end of another workday (about 4 p.m.) when RMRU received a call from the Riverside County Sheriff's Department that a young man had slipped and slid down an icy mountainside. It was reported to us that a hiking partner had come out for help and that he was at the Mt. San Jacinto State

Park headquarters in Idyllwild. When I called Ranger Ernie Brown answered the telephone and he told me that the informant Scott Sand was there. He put Scott on the line and I asked him to tell me what had happened.

Scott related that he and two other men had started hiking on Monday. They camped Monday night near Saddle Junction. Tuesday morning they started hiking up the Angel's Glide Trail. Slightly before the boundary between the State Park and the Forest Service areas they stopped for lunch. After lunch David Sprague walked down the trail a short distance to try and get a better view of the snow covered trail. He slipped on an icy patch and began to slide down the slope. He struck a number of small trees and finally was stopped, approximately 200 feet down, by a large downed tree. The group had been hiking and had not planned on any climbing, so they had not carried any rope. It appeared that there was no way they could descend to the injured man. At that time Scott went for help and the third man, William Thomas remained with the packs.

It was approximately 5:30 p.m. when my son Kevin and I arrived at the State Park Headquarters. We went inside and I began to interview Scott for more details. Just minutes later Mary Bowman, Glenn

Henderson and Bruce Gahagan showed up.

The five RMRU members plus Scott drove up to Humber Park in the rain. It was decided that Kevin, Glenn, Bruce and I would start up the Devil's Slide Trail immediately as a bash team. (A small group who hikes in as quickly as possible to give first aid.) Scott wanted to go back in with us and he looked young and healthy, so we said o.k. This proved to be a poor decision on my part, as Scott had already hiked many miles that day, which slowed us down.

As we hiked along we discussed what equipment would be needed. Shortly we radioed back to base and told Mary what gear we wanted brought in by the next group. Shortly after 6:00 p.m. more RMRU members began to arrive at base. The second team comprised of Mel Krug, Jim Fairchild, Craig Beasley and Don Ricker started up the trail with the wheeled litter and technical hardware. Later, Dave Ezell, Rob Gardner and Brian Hixson became the third group and they carried with them extra clothing and water.

The bash team ran into some ice on the trail below Powder Box spring and when we arrived at Saddle Junction, the entire area where the trails meet, was covered with ice. Just before we reached the top of

Angel's Glide we stopped and strapped our crampons onto our boots. We topped the "Glide" and started downward toward Wellman's Cienega. Scott said we were nearing the area where he had left William and the packs.



RMRU PHOTO BY JIM FAIRCHILD

FINAL PREPARATION — RMRU members finish securing injured subject David Sprague into the wheeled litter. Once completed, David was raised up the steep ice covered slope to the trail 200 feet above.

Using the teams large portable spotlight, I looked further down the trail. Just 100 feet away were the packs, but no William. We started looking and calling. About 150 feet down from the trail I heard a reply from our calling. Shining the big light in the direction of the call I spotted two heads sticking out of a sleeping bag. I hurried over to the sleeping bag and found William and David.

During the afternoon William had slid from tree to tree with a sleeping bag in hand with him. My worst fears had been that David would be deep into hypothermia. William had done a very brave thing indeed. While Kevin set up a stove to heat water, Bruce and Glenn broke out two rescue ropes and secured one end to a tree. They then started down the slope towards Kevin and I. Talking to David about his injuries I learned that he had lacerated his hand, sustained some type of injury to his thigh and to the area near the tailbone.

Upon examining David I found a puncture wound in the back of his thigh. I dressed and bandaged the laceration to his hand and determined that he had probably sustained a fracture to his tailbone. Considering how far he had traveled he was lucky to have received rather



RMRU PHOTO BY GLENN HENDERSON

BACK ON TOP — Once up to the trail, the wheel is adjusted by RMRU members for the long wheel out to Humber Park. Because of ice conditions the trip out took nearly six hours.

minor injuries. Kevin brought over soup for David and William, which they eagerly accepted.

The second team radioed that they were at the packs left on the trail. We radioed back for them to follow the rope down to us. They descended with the wheeled litter. We quickly discussed how we would lift David and move the wheeled litter. Six of us knelt around David, grasped the sleeping bag and lifted him up, the litter was rolled under him and we lowered him into it. He was then secured into the litter. While this was being done a hauling system had been set up at the trail. We radioed that four of us would come up with the litter. Two team members tied William into a sit harness, secured it to the rope and they helped him up the slope.

The third team arrived just in time to help with the hauling. The hauling team radioed that they were ready and we radioed back that we were ready to be pulled up the slope. In a fairly short time, as hauls go, we reached the trail. While we took turns holding the litter, each member loaded extra team gear into his pack. With this completed we started down towards Saddle Junction. We stopped at the junction for a breather. Before starting again we checked David and how he was doing.

Gathering around the litter again, we started down the Devil's Slide Trail. It was 7:00 a.m. when we arrived at Humber Park. • RMRU



Winter Technical

**10 December, Sat.
Long Valley,
San Jacinto Mountains**

By Pete Carlson



When 6:00 A.M. rolled around, a perplexed group of RMRU stood around looking at a locked gate to the tram. The plan was to catch a 6:30 car to the top station, but apparently our eager training chairman did not realize that there were no cars that early in the morning. Never the less we were soon at the lower station sorting team gear for the days activities.

Not long after 7:30, we were arriving at the mountain station. Surprisingly it was not as cold as predicted, in fact, when we went out the back of the tram and could see into Long Valley, we found that most of the snow was gone from the early November storms. At any rate we hiked down the concrete trail to the valley floor, and then made our way the short



distance to the top of the Skyline trail. There T.O. Jim Fairchild told of the days planned activities.

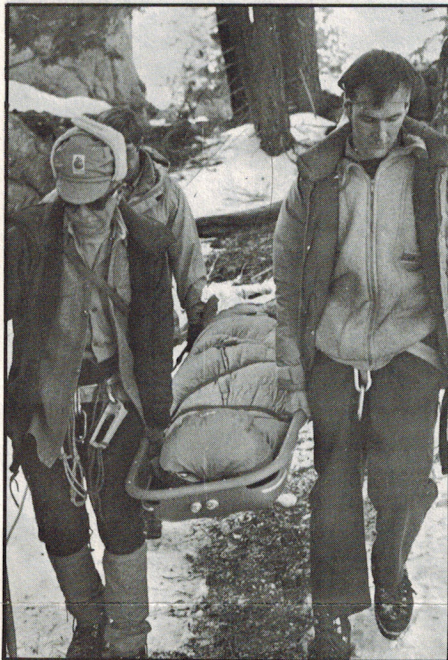
First, we split into different groups, setting up anchors, ropes, litter rigging, and preparation for a Mechanical Advantage (M.A.). Using a friend of Jim's as the injured subject along with two RMRU members, we lowered them down two

hundred feet, changed to a M.A. and raised them back up again. We then broke down the system, changed stations, and did the operation again.

As the noon hour approached we moved over to desert view number two and had lunch. Of course during lunch things deteriorate quickly, and soon Mel and Kevin were throwing snowballs at

one another AND others. Finally things got moving again, and we were setting up systems to go down the chutes below. But because of lack of snow, we were limited in what we could do.

At 3:00 P.M. we re-sorted gear and hiked back up to the tram, caught a car down, and headed for home. • RMRU



RMRU PHOTO BY JIM FAIRCHILD

WINTER TECHNICS—RMRU members Bud White, John Muratet (foreground), Pete Carlson and Mel Krug (obscured), carry the litter away from an ice slope after completing a raise.



RMRU PHOTO BY JIM FAIRCHILD

DOWN THE CHUTE—RMRU members Mark Hebert and Pete Carlson guide the snow litter as they are lowered down an ice chute where several people were injured and one killed only the year before.

\$USTAINING MEMBERS

BY KEVIN WALKER

Once again another year draws to a close. And once again here we are catching up on the newsletter. 1983 was not one of RMRU's busier years (for which we are thankful), but it gave us several very difficult missions that tested our members, and our equipment. Fortunately, because of our drive to train and improve ourselves, we met the challenges. And because of those who believe in us, and support our efforts, the equipment met the challenges with no major problems. Of course, one of the most memorable highlights this past year was participating with our friends in Idyllwild and finding three lost children far above the small community. Knowing that they would be able to see the new year makes it all worthwhile. 1983 also saw a large need for RMRU, that being the call for help to improve the teams pager sys-

tem. Again, because of some very special people, the need has almost been met, and we will soon be ordering a new set of pagers for our members. Indeed RMRU is very lucky to have the friends that we do. From all of us, thank you, and may you have a very happy and safe new year.

APRIL

New -

Mountain High, LTD
Methodist Men of Hemet
Dr. Marvin Frankel

Renewing -

Circle City Hospital
Richard & Karin Greenwood
M/M Rodney Anderson
H.B. Moore
Lloyd & Ann Allen
Howard & Corinne Haering
*Hemet Noontimers Lions Club
Nuview Union School District
Harold & Dorothy Carlson
*Kenneth & Helen Andrews
*The Rubidoux Grange

MAY

New -

Mission Bell PTA-ASB
*Robert D. Muir
*V. Clair Murray

Renewing -

Pedley PTA-ASB
*William Stewart
Jack & Grace Mihaylo
100 Peaks Section, Sierra Club

JUNE

Renewing -

*Karolyn Stanovich
Dr. & Mrs. Sid Brickman
*Corona Breakfast Lions Club
Lloyd & Ann Allen
Circle City Hospital
M/M Harrison R. Toenjes

JULY

New -

Mardorice Powers
*Carol Cook
*D. S. Carburation

Renewing -

- Circle City Hospital
- *Banning Womens Club
- *Circle City Auxiliary

AUGUST

New -

- Joan & Fred Grade
- Elva Bess Cook
- Banning Mini Storage
- Robert Gum

Renewing -

- Lloyd & Ann Allen
- Circle City Hospital
- Richard Elliott
- *Kiwanis Club of Uptown Riverside
- Gene & Barbara Garlinger
- Sylvia Broadbent

SEPTEMBER

New -

- Frank S. Williams
- Cooper & Joy Lindley
- John Podolsky

Renewing -

- *Ruth Echols
- *Izaak Walton League
- Circle City Hospital

OCTOBER

New -

- Susan & Terry Henderson
- *Sun City Breakfast Lions Club
- Theda R. Simpson
- Community Lumber Co.

Renewing -

- Shirley & Lester Albertson
- *Hemet Lions Club
- *San Jacinto Lions Club
- Circle City Hospital

NOVEMBER

New -

- The Nix Family
- *Mrs. John Kraft
- *Orco Block Co., Inc.
- Dorothy Pulido
- Larry & Nancy Carter

Renewing -

- M/M Malcomb Alexander
- Hebert & Inge Schwartz
- Barbara & Lloyd Allen, Sr.
- John & Betty Moore
- Rodney & Beatrice Anderson
- *David & Rita Harraw
- Howard & Florence Switzer
- *Ernest & Shirley Edwards
- *Bud Nelson
- M/M H.E. Carlson
- Mrs. Verna Keith
- *Mrs. Avis M. Anderson
- George & Marjorie Shipway
- M/M R.L. Haglund
- David Westheimer
- *M/M John Pohlers
- Circle City Hospital
- *Phil & Ruth Peters
- M/M Hefferlins

- John Kolenich
- Fred James
- Wayne Steinmtz, Chemistry
- Department, Pomona College
- M/M H.C. Baumeister
- *Esther Briggs
- *M/M J.F. Gilbert
- M/M Cliff Rose
- Keldon Paper Co.
- C.O. Barker, Jr.
- M/M C.B. McMillan
- Katherine Merzals
- *Milton Levy
- Richard & Karin Greenwood
- M/M K. Harrison
- John & Madena Freitas
- M/M Charles Ricker
- Jeff Divine

DECEMBER

New -

- *Canyon Lake Lioness Club
- *Dr. M.R. MacPherson

Renewing -

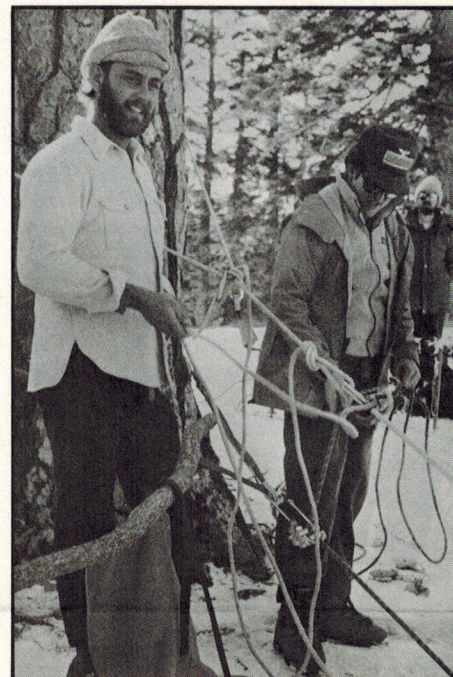
- Harry & Olga Hein
- William & Maryann Wickett
- M/M Clifford Lundquist
- Fred Camphausen
- M/M Robert Kowell
- *Rotary Club of Idyllwild
- Circle City Hospital
- *George Ruptier
- *Leon Barris
- *Dr. & Mrs. Thomas Gillen
- Richard & Barbara Huffer
- Majorie LaBonde



Ding Bat

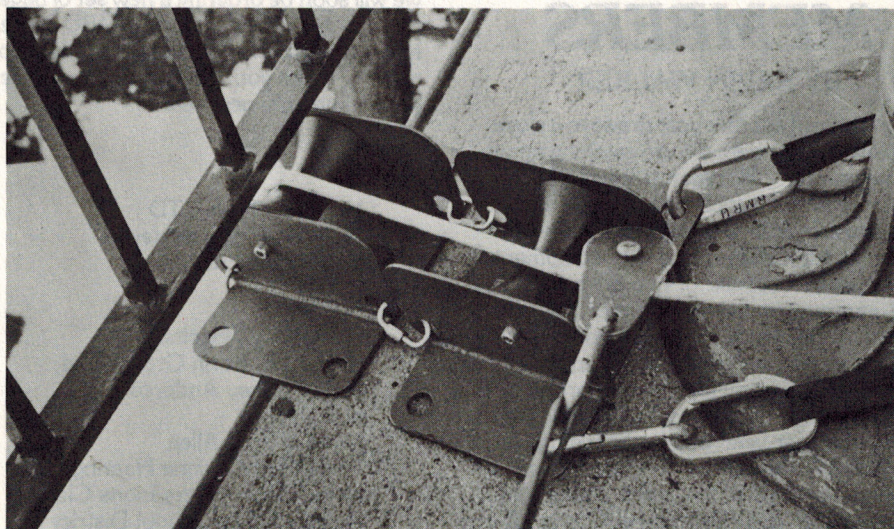
of the month

By Glenn Henderson ?



Mark Hebert and Kevin Walker qualify as this months 'Ding Bats' for their rope handling skill and/or "gold bricking" during training.

EQUIPMENT



Edge rollers