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Search and Rescue

CALL

Mission No. 8605C

6 Feb., Thurs.
Perris,
Riverside County

At approximately 8:30 pm we received a call from the Elsinore Station of the Riverside County Sheriff's Department that a youth was missing in the rural area west of the city of Perris. While members were being contacted the youth was located and the mission was cancelled. • RMRU

SEARCH

Mission No. 8606M

24 Feb., Mon.
Rancho California Area,
Riverside County

By Kevin Walker



There are searches and there are searches. In all the time that I have been with the team I think that I can count on one hand the amount of missions in the Elsinore area that have been straight forward. I don't know

why, the staff out of Elsinore from the Sheriff's Department is top notch, and we have many friends there. If not I could not say these things.

We were called and asked to meet at first light near Lake Skinner in the Rancho California area to look for a missing dirt bike rider. Eleven members responded, and we were led in through a maze of dirt roads back to near where Rick Rhines, age 25, was last seen out in front of the group

he was riding with, heading away from Vail Lake. They were riding to a cabin that the group had back in the hills. Rick pulled away from the rest of the group and was not seen again. The Sheriff authorized a helicopter and Landells Aviation was contacted.

In the meantime we had Glenn's big heavy Ford Bronco and my all terrain four-wheel drive Jeep CJ5. Glenn took Rob Gardner and Cameron Robbins, and I took Henry Negrete and Ron Pierson. We followed the informants back into the more severe dirt roads that the group rode through the previous day. The hills were covered with hundreds of dirt roads, trails and other paths. Along the way something really entertaining happened. I went past a narrow spot in the road that had been partially washed out by recent rains, and of course my nimble Jeep had no problem with the obstacle but when Glenn came along with that thing of his, the ground naturally gave way. Well, there we were, I was in front on a road that stopped a short distance up on the end of

the ridge. At any rate we worked for awhile digging at the vehicle, not really getting anywhere. Cameron came up with a good idea, we dug out in front of the Bronco so that I could come in and push with the Jeep. After years of verbal abuse from Glenn about my Jeep, I finally had him where I wanted him. He had to say please. With a hard push from RMRU 4 (my Jeep), he was out. Fortunately that was the only major trouble of the day.

By mid morning Brian Novak from Landells Aviation arrived with a jet ranger. While we continued to search on the ground with our vehicles, Brian flew Walt Walker and a deputy in the search area. As the day progressed we traded people off in the helicopter and continued on the ground.

Late in the day we talked to some locals building a home, and asked if they had seen Rick. They said they had seen the group riding around and carrying on, and that they felt the group had been drinking. Well, come to find out they had been. As the sun was getting low on the horizon we



RMRU PHOTO BY GLENN HENDERSON

IF YOU'VE SEEN ONE ROAD.. — RMRU ground teams look over one of the many 4-wheel drive dirt roads in the Rancho California area trying to locate Rick Rhines, missing for better than a day

were called back to base. The subject had been located. Once back, we learned what had happened.

While riding the previous day Rick fell and had hurt his leg. He said he had wandered around for a while and ended up going down a canyon. He did not know where, but had spent the night out, fortunately for him we were experiencing spring like conditions so the nights were not that cold. He ended up walking out to a road and hitch-hiking in to Temecula. So the troops loaded up and made their way back to civilization and then home. Thanks to the Sheriff for their usual great support, Brian and Jim from Landells Aviation, and a special thanks to Glenn for making my day. • RMRU

Volunteer Man Hours — 145



Familiarization

8 Feb., Sat.
Long Valley - Hidden Lake
San Jacinto Mountains

By Steve Bryant



A dozen hardy RMRUers gathered at the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway at 0630 Saturday, the 8th of February, having intended to hike down the Skyline trail, which runs from Long Valley down into Palm Springs.

However, rain in Palm Springs turned to slush at 2500' elevation and to pure, fluffy snow at the 2800' elevation of the Lower Tramway Station. We decided that the Skyline trail could wait, since it was plan B for this weekend, assuming there would be no snow. As we now had snow, we decided to split the group, some members going to Mt. San Jacinto Peak, and others patrolling the Long Valley - Hidden Lake area.

We couldn't ride the 0630 tramway due to space limitations, so we waited at the Lower Tramway Station for about an hour until the Tram people could safely get another car ready for us. While waiting, we discussed plans, and watched absolutely beautiful fluffy snow fall on the palm trees outside the building. We were

\$USTAINING MEMBERS

BY KEVIN WALKER

There are so many things to say this time, the question is where to begin. First off, you are probably surprised to see the newsletter back on schedule. It indeed has been a long time since this publication was on any kind of deadline. The credit goes to fellow member and editor, Rob Gardner.

Second, 1986 will see new changes for RMRU, both in equipment and tasks performed by its personnel. We are planning to build a new garage for the team's two vehicles and equipment. By the first of May we hope to take delivery of two new multi-channel field radios. And after testing we will start a fund-raising drive to upgrade our field radio section. Also we are taking a more active role on the national level of mountain rescue, and by doing so are learning ways to improve existing equipment, and also learn of new equipment available for search and rescue.

And third, something very exciting. 25 years of caring for others. Because so much of what we have done over the years was

made possible by you, we are looking forward to celebrating our anniversary with you, so look forward to the next issue for dates and information.

Anyway, you can see that there is going to be lots happening in the near future. Because of your support, it has all been possible over the past 25 years, and with your continued help, we will have another 25th anniversary to look forward to.

JANUARY

Renewing —

John C. Boyd
Joan Muth
D.M. & M.K. Glenn
*M/M John Pohlers
*Circle City Hospital
Harold & Dorothy Carlson
Gene & Barbara Garlinger
*M/M Kenneth Andrews
*Earl & Adrienne Rice
*Hemet Noontimers Lions Club

FEBRUARY

Renewing

Robert D. Kayser, M.D.
Ramona Flinchpaugh
Circle City Hospital

*Century Club, donation of \$100 or more

provided with a tram car at about 0730, and taken up to the Mountain Station. The view was simply spectacular - 3 to 12" of snow on the stunning scenery of Chino Canyon!

After putting on warmer clothes at the Mountain Station, we walked down to the Long Valley Ranger Station, where Bill Blaschko promptly fainted - he had been working long hours with little sleep and less food. After he woke up (about 1 minute later), we helped him into the Ranger Station, where the Rangers helped us feed him and give him warm drinks. After being assured Bill was O.K., Cam Robbins, Bernie McIlvoy, and J.R. Muratet went hiking toward Tamarack Valley, to check on some people reportedly camped there. Part of the team then went down to the east end of Long Valley, while several members went back to the Mountain Station with Bill to have breakfast and make sure Bill was fully recuperated.

Bill soon perked up and was ready to go hiking, so everyone but Cam, Bernie and J.R. went down to the east end of Long Valley for familiarization, several members stopping by the infamous "Launching Pad" on the way back. While hiking around, we often stopped to gaze at the beauty of the individual snowflakes falling on our clothes - rarely do we see such finely sculptured snowflakes - just like Christmas time paper cutouts - on RMRU hikes.

It was a beautiful day, but it had to come

to an end and we headed down to our cars in good spirits. Fortunately, the snow on the road down to Palm Springs had melted, so we were able to drive, rather than slide, down to Highway 111 and then drive to our homes and families.

Thanks again to the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway for providing us with transportation for trainings, as well as missions.

• RMRU

Volunteer Man Hours — 121

