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Rob Gardner, Editor — Kevin Walker, Publisher — Dona Halcrow, Artist

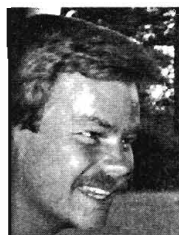
## Search and Rescue

### RESCUE

Mission No. 8607M

2-3 Mar., Sun.-Mon.  
Northeast of Mecca  
Riverside County

By Joe Erickson



We were called to this mission to assist the CDF in extricating a young teenager off of a fairly high angle dirt cliff. The area was east of the Salton Sea, outside of Mecca in Box Canyon (highway 195), also known as the Mecca Mud Hills.

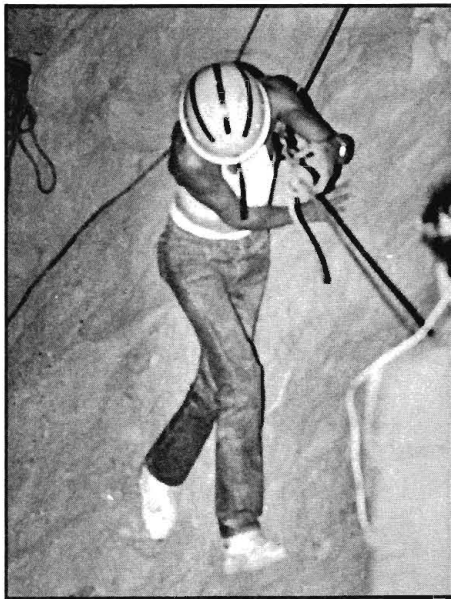
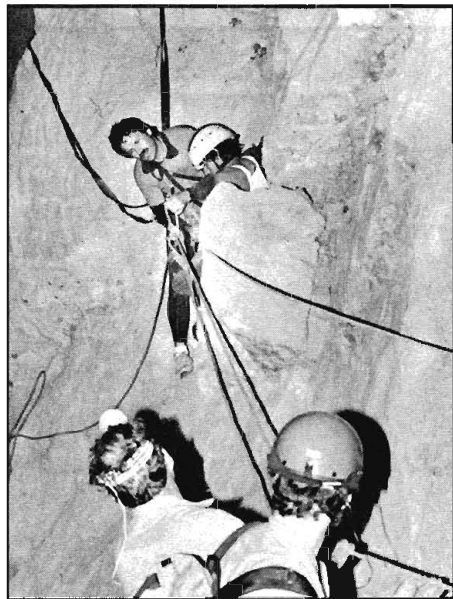
The Mecca Mud Hills were first formed as the ancient sea floor of the Gulf of California (before Lake Cahuilla or the Salton Sea). The Gulf shrank, leaving layers and layers of silt, dirt and other stuff. Uplifting occurred, tilting the large slabs into steep angles somewhat like dishes in a dishwasher. Wind and water erosion cleaned out the area between the slabs leaving little washes with steep high cliffs. Some of the cliff sides have broken and fallen leaving some grottos and caves that are fun to explore.

Our friend had climbed along a ridge and got stuck half way down, unable to continue because these dirt cliffs are very unstable, sometimes breaking under any weight.

The CDF personnel had gotten a rope and waist belt to him and somehow he had it on. If he had fallen this could have saved his life if not serious injury. But how to get him down, without unduly risking their lives or his was the big issue that evening.

When we arrived we could see how challenging and dangerous this was going to be. Fellow team member Rob Gardner had arrived earlier, as he lives in the desert. Rob had hiked over to where he

could see David Ochoa, age 16 of Indio clinging to the dirt cliff. Rob returned to the road and waited. When the vans arrived, Rob told us of the situation, and soon gear was out and we were on our way over the short distance to where David was, and then up onto the ridge. I looked on the ridge top to try and find a place to set up anchors, but was unable to find anything. Walt and Kevin went down to where the CDF had tossed over the rope to David. Kevin and Walt toyed with several ideas and finally came up with the plan of sending a person across the treacherous slope on belay, secure the line at the other end, and then bring David back across. It was decided that Bernie McIlvoy would go across, so Bernie put his harness on and got together the gear that he would need as the rest of us prepared rigging and anchors for the rescue operation. Once all was ready, Bernie clipped in to the belay line and carefully set out across where there was once a wide ledge. With Bernie's high skill at climbing it took him little time to get to David. Quickly and efficiently Bernie set up an anchor above him, tied David in, and was ready to go. With Walt and Bill Blaschko at one end holding David on belay, and Bernie at the other, David started across. Once David



RMRU PHOTOS BY JIM FAIRCHILD

**TECHNICAL DIRT** — Who ever said that a little dirt and mud could never hurt you was way out of line. In this series of photos 16 year old David Ochoa is seen being first tied in to safety lines by RMRU member Bernie McIlvoy, then being belayed by RMRU personnel across the section that had given way behind David hours earlier, and finally back up to the ridge top and safety. David indeed was a lucky young man, as the photos do not show that David, CDF and RMRU personnel were better than 100 vertical feet above the canyon floor

was past the broken section of cliff, he almost leaped into the arms of Walt and Bill. David was helped up to the ridge as Bernie started back across. As Bernie returned some more of the ledge broke away which made for some moderate excitement for all concerned.

David was helped back to the highway as we packed up and then ultimately returned to the vans ourselves. During the mission, we had learned of another request for assistance, so we passed on getting a meal, and headed back to Indio to find out more about the next call (see Mission No. 8608A).

On behalf of **RMRU** I would like to say thank you to the supervision and field personnel from the Sheriff's Department, and especially to the California Division of Forestry for doing a top notch job of protecting David Ochoa from injury after he became stranded. Hey guys, job well done. • **RMRU**

Volunteer Man Hours — 98

## ABORT

### Mission No. 8608A

**3 Mar., Mon.  
Ortega Mountains  
Near the County Line**

While performing a rescue in the Mecca Mud Hills (Mission No. 8607M) we were contacted through the Elsinore Station of the Riverside County Sheriff's Department that a teenage couple had not returned to the Ortega Highway from an afternoon outing together. Because of the distance involved, and the other rescue in progress, it was decided to have an Orange County Squad (who was already on scene) do some searching and have **RMRU** respond at first light. As members rolled to the mission in the morning the couple was located, and were found to be unharmed. The mission was aborted. • **RMRU**

## SEARCH

### Mission No. 8609M

**5 Mar., Weds.  
Skyline Trail  
San Jacinto Mountains**

By Rob Gardner



At 5:20 a.m. the **RMRU** was called out to assist the Palm Springs Mounted Police (PSMP) Search and Rescue team. PSMP initiated a search the previous evening for an overdue solo hiker who was trekking on the Skyline Trail. The **RMRU** reported to PSMP base camp at Highway 111 and Tramway

Road in Palm Springs.

The overdue hiker was Tommy Craxford, twenty-one years of age. Reportedly, Tommy had hiking experience in the state of Florida but was unfamiliar with the San Jacinto Mountain range.

Tommy had started his trek at the Desert Museum trail head to the Lichen Trail on Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. His destination was Long Valley, where the upper Palm Springs Aerial Tramway Station is located. He planned to ride the Tramway back down to the desert. He reportedly estimated he would be home by 4:00 p.m. (which is not a feasible time estimate). The Lichen Trail does junction with the old Skyline Trail, which leads to Long Valley from the desert floor. This trail has been an area of almost continual problems over the past twenty or more years.

Problems on the Skyline Trail have primarily been related to people underestimating the time and strength needed to reach the end of the trail, lack of water on the trail, and lack of a distinct trail. At certain times of year snow and ice at the top portion of the trail complicate the hike substantially. There have been several tragedies and fatalities on the upper half of this trail and numerous search and rescues over the years. Hikers have become lost and disoriented on this trail, accidentally descending into Chino Canyon or Tahquitz Canyon. Both of these canyons, at higher elevations, are very difficult to hike and are for the experienced mountaineer only.

The PSMP had searched the Lichen Trail and lower Skyline Trail on Tuesday evening. Later they had a Jet Ranger Helicopter from Landells Aviation released to search from the air with flood lights.

The helicopter, piloted by Steve DeJesus, flew search throughout the night, without any sign of Tommy. Chris Maxwell was Rescue Coordinator (Operations Leader) for the PSMP.

At about 6:00 a.m. on Wednesday two PSMP searchers were flown to a point about two-thirds of the way up the trail and let out of the helicopter to reinstate foot search.

The **RMRU** personnel began to arrive and prepared to go into the field and search areas as asked by the PSMP. The first team, Rob Gardner and Kevin Walker, was to be flown to Long Valley. They would then proceed down the Skyline Trail looking for Tommy and checking for footprints or tracks in the snow and ice at the top of the trail. The second team to be led by Cameron Robbins, was going to search from the "fire ring" area on the trail down into Tahquitz Canyon. A third team was to be led by Major Disaster, alias Rick Pohlers.

As Rob and Kevin were being helio'd to their starting point word came by radio that the two PSMP searchers, Scott Davis and Mike, at the central vicinity of the trail had located Tommy and that he was in satisfactory condition. The two PSMP Search and Rescue men and Tommy were flown to base camp by helicopter. The search and rescue was not dramatic, but everybody was happy to see that the overdue hiker was safe.

While reports were being completed by PSMP, **RMRU** and PSMP personnel got a chance to swap mission stories and exchange thoughts on Search and Rescue techniques. After a short time all of the volunteer Search and Rescue personnel headed for home to clean up and go on to



RMRU PHOTO BY KEVIN WALKER

COMMAND CENTER — Members of the Palm Springs Mounted Police interview Tommy Craxford after he had been located by P.S. Mounties on the Skyline Ridge, and then flown out by the Mounties to assist in the search.

their regular employment.

Although, in the final analysis, it worked out that **RMRU** wasn't needed we were happy to respond to the PSMP call for a co-effort and look forward to more missions side by side, whenever appropriate.

Volunteer Man Hours — 83

• RMRU

## SEARCH

### Mission No. 8610M

**11 Mar., Tue.  
Above 7500' elevation  
San Jacinto Mountains**

By Walt Walker



When the telephone rings at 5 a.m. (that's night time to me) it usually means that **RMRU**'s services are needed. The Banning Station of the Riverside County Sheriff's Department had requested the unit's help

in searching for a solo overdue hiker. He had been reported missing by his parents. David Ayer, age 26, of Anaheim left his residence Saturday evening. He told his parents that he planned on hiking to the top of Mt. San Jacinto and staying overnight in the summit shelter. He planned to be home Monday evening for college classes.

When I talked to David's parents, by telephone, they told me he had planned on hiking up the Devil's Slide Trail (above Idyllwild on the west side of the mountain) and taking the high trail to the top of Mt. San Jacinto (elevation 10,804') and returning the same way. The Sheriff's Department reported that David's car was still in the parking lot at Humber Park.

The weather on the mountain had not been the greatest for hiking Sunday evening and all of Monday. It had snowed most of the time and there was anywhere from 12 to 24 inches of new snow. We were fairly sure that the missing hiker had lost the trail and could be almost anywhere on the mountain. Early Tuesday morning the storm was breaking up as we met RSO Capt. Larry Smith and Sgt. Dave Nordstrom at the bottom of the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway. We had requested the use of a helicopter and pilot Brian Novak of Landells Aviation arrived shortly after 7 a.m. in a Bell Jet Ranger.

The first place we wanted to check was the Mt. San Jacinto summit shelter hut. Ray Hussey and Kevin Walker climbed aboard the helicopter, Brian powered up the turbine and they were on their way to the top. When they neared the summit they radioed back that the winds were too strong to try a landing with all aboard and a heavy load of fuel. The bird returned



RMRU PHOTO BY KEVIN WALKER

MT. SAN JACINTO — Mountain pilot Brian Novak holds helicopter 16-Uniform on the summit of Mt. San Jacinto as RMRU member Ray Hussey exits the bird. Extremely high winds made things difficult for Brian, but he was able to let two teams of two off one at a time on the top of the San Jacinto range

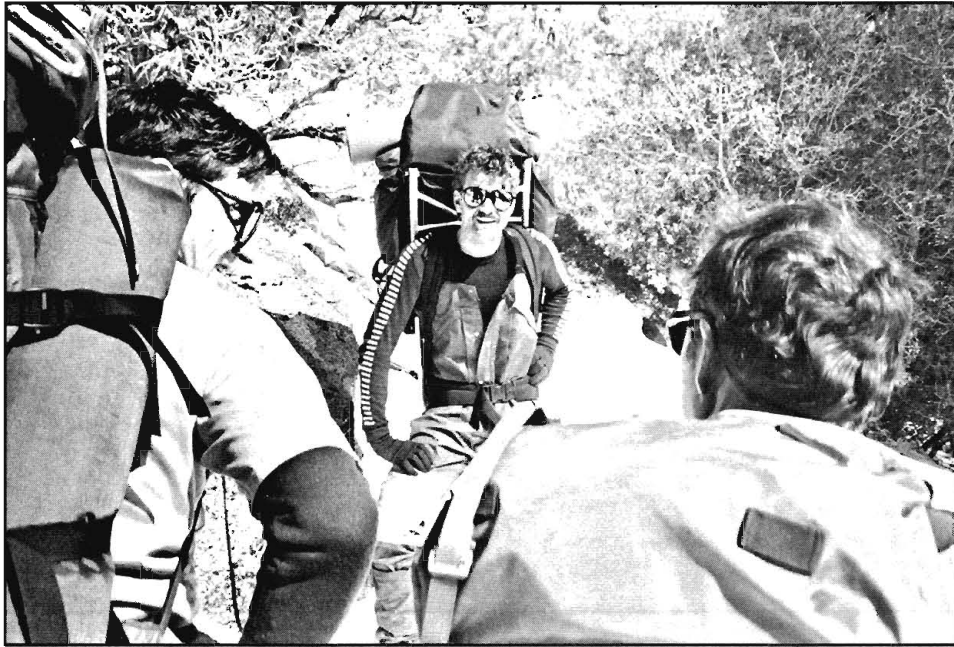
to base and Ray climbed out and off went Kevin and Brian for another try on the summit. Being able to get lower to the ground this time, Kevin radioed back that he could see tracks in the snow on the summit and around the shelter hut. Brian finally found a spot to put Kevin off and he started for the hut while Brian returned to pick up Ray. Kevin radioed back that the hut was empty but there was fairly recently tracked in snow on the floor of the hut. Ray was flown to the summit and he and Kevin started following the tracks down toward Frank Miller Peak.

Due to the continuing powerful wind gusts, 30 to 40 mph, only one man at a time could be flown to the summit. Rob Gardner and Cameron Robbins were airlifted to the summit in this manner. Their assignment was to head over to the San Jacinto - Jean Peak saddle and sweep below Jean Peak and head over to the Wellman Divide. Another crew consisting of Henry Negrete, Jay Pion and Jim Fairchild were flown to Round Valley. This three man crew was assigned to cover Round Valley, Tamarack Valley, the Sid Davis drainage and end up at Long Valley near the upper station of the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway. While all the above was going on Rick Pohlers rode up on the tram and became the new base using one of the portable radios.

Each trip up Brian flew a brief air search and did the same as he returned to base. A new storm was starting to build on the western slope and blow over onto the eastern side of the mountain. After refueling the helicopter Brian and I took off to try and get as much aerial searching completed as we could before the storm

prevented any more flying. We flew over towards Tahquitz Canyon up to Caramba Camp and started searching the area between Willow Creek and the Hidden Lake Divide. After only about five minutes of flying I spotted a single set of man tracks wandering through the trees about a half mile south of the Hidden Lake Saddle. Brian and I started tracking from the air and in a few minutes Brian spotted a man waving to us. We flew around the general area trying to find a spot to let me off. After trying to descend once down into a small clearing in the trees and the tops of several large boulders on the ridge we flew over to Hidden Lake and Brian landed on the bank of the small frozen lake. He then flew over and picked up first Kevin and then Ray and the three of us joined up as a three man team.

We put on our snowshoes and started around the lake and up towards the Hidden Lake Saddle. Topping the saddle we followed the trail down towards Willow Creek Crossing. When we reached the first major drainage we turned south and headed down. We had to work our way around boulders, brush and trees as we descended. In a short time we found the single set of tracks and started following them eastward. As we snowshoed along we called out numerous times and finally we heard a reply. We shouted for him to stay where he was. The three of us met up with David and he eagerly accepted our offer of food and water. His stove had malfunctioned and he had not been able to melt snow for water or cook any food. He indeed was lost, tired, thirsty and slightly hypothermic. We radioed to base that we would continue eastward looking for a



RMRU PHOTO BY KEVIN WALKER

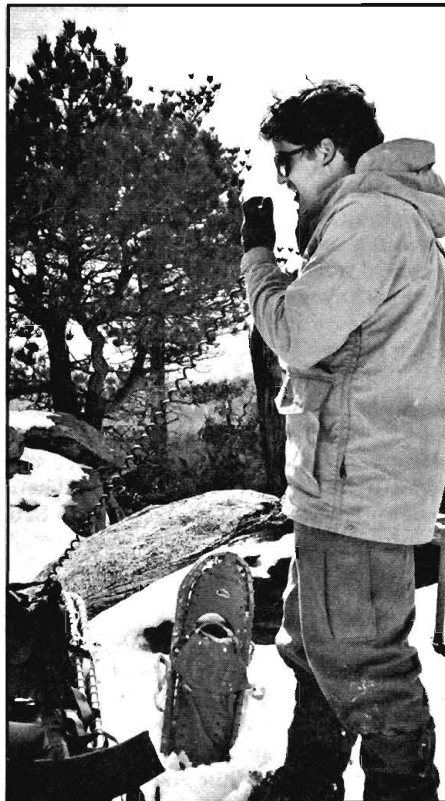
**SUBJECT LOCATED** — RMRU members Ray Hussey and Walt Walker talk with David Ayer after he had been located from the helicopter, and then caught up with by this field team. David was tired, wet and dehydrated, but had weathered the storm O K

helispot. Base radioed to all field teams to be ready to be quickly picked up and flown out as the storm pushed further eastward.

In about thirty minutes we found a fairly good helispot on the ridge that descends from the Hidden Lake Divide to Caramba Camp. We had to trim some brush that would be too close to the tail rotor and rolled a rock over to support the downhill runner of the helicopter. As we completed the helispot snow flakes began to blow down on us and Kevin radioed to base that we were ready. While we had been working Brian had flown all the other members off the mountain.

As the dark clouds pushed further and further over Saddle Junction Brian arrived. Kevin gave Helitac hand signals to Brian, I watched the tail rotor and Ray stayed with David. As soon as the bird was down Kevin and I helped David into the front seat and Ray climbed into the back seat and we handed him his and David's packs. Kevin gave the thumbs up and the powerful machine took off and headed for the bottom of the tram. The storm pushed further towards Kevin and I and we started to discuss where we bivouac for the night if the bird could not return for us. However, we didn't have to go for the plan "B" as Brian returned to pick us up. As we flew back to the lower base I thought of the mission we had worked on last November and of the man who had not been as fortunate as David. • RMRU

Volunteer Man Hours — 136



RMRU PHOTO BY WALT WALKER

**COME AND GET US** — With another storm front moving in, RMRU member Kevin Walker radioes out to base that the helispot is ready, and to send in the helicopter to pick up lost hiker David Ayer and RMRU personnel.

## RESCUE

**Mission No. 8611M**

**16 Mar., Sun.**

**Upper San Jacinto Mountains**

*By Henry Negrete*



The last hurrah of the winter season came on the weekend of the 15th and 16th of March. Like all winter storms this one was no respecter of persons. Such was the case of Edward Ferlise, 47 years old from San Diego. He chose this weekend to go cross country skiing, with nine other local Sierra Club members, from Long Valley to Mt. San Jacinto Peak and back to Long Valley.

The group was skiing down from the peak and Mr. Ferlise became separated from the others. Not anticipating this storm (which could overwhelm even the most experienced mountaineer if not prepared) the group went on ahead through Round Valley and eventually ended up back at the upper tramway station. At 6:00 p.m. the group reported to the State Park Ranger that Mr. Ferlise was missing. They reported that they had last seen him at 4:30 p.m. at the saddle between San Jacinto Peak and Jean Peak. By the time the Rangers were able to roll, the storm had settled in and it was snowing better than two inches an hour. The Park Rangers sent out two hasty search parties of two and the RMRU was contacted and put on stand-by status by 10:30 p.m. The Park Rangers searched without success in near white-out conditions.

It was requested that RMRU join the search at first light and the weather didn't care that we would be out there either. The temperature was in the teens and the wind was beginning to blow hard, making the wind chill factor below 0°F. RMRU members on site were: Joe Erickson, Jim Fairchild, Rob Gardner, Mark Rhoads, Bud White, Walt Walker, and Henry Negrete.

None of us were looking forward to pitching ourselves into the wiles of winter, but the thought of someone caught out there unprepared for the worst, gives those of us who are trained and equipped the willingness to go and do our best.

We deployed in three groups of two into the field with our operations leader manning radio at base. Our objective was to search the areas north and east of the point last seen (PLS) and converge with the Park units searching south and west.

The weather was not letting up and we were soon plagued with other problems. Two of our team members were succumbing to illnesses they were battling prior to the mission, so they were re-assigned to limited duties along the eastern



perimeter. (I tip my hat to those guys who go out and give a hand when no one expects them to). This left us with only two teams to penetrate deeper toward the PLS. Shortly after this incident one of the Park teams was sending broken transmissions (a sign of radio failure for the close proximity we were in) but his radio lasted just long enough to announce he had found Mr. Ferlise and that his general location was Tamarack Valley.

We were instructed by our Operations Leader, Walt Walker, to proceed toward Round Valley to meet Senior Park Ranger Bob Foster and assist with a litter.

We met up with the Ranger enroute and he advised us that he had another detail bringing in the litter, so we could head in to assist with Mr. Ferlise. As we hastened our pace toward Tamarack it



RMRU PHOTOS BY JIM FAIRCHILD AND WALT WALKER

**IT'S NOT ALL GLAMOUR...IT'S SERIOUS BUSINESS** — In the photos on this page, State Park personnel, RMRU members and Sgt. Dave Duncan from the Sheriff's Department work very hard to get hypothermic patient Edward Ferlise evacuated from the Tamarack Valley area out to Long Valley during a snow storm that went from light snowfall to blizzard-like conditions.

seemed like it would take forever, the snow was now over two feet deep, wet and heavy. (No fun even in snowshoes, if you know what I mean).

The Ranger was still unable to make radio contact to zero in on them, so we had to resort to shouting, and soon we heard the shrill of an emergency whistle. As we moved in we could see that Mr. Ferlise was down, though still conscious. He was dangerously deep into first stage hypothermia.

Dressed only in a light ski jacket, light gortex pants, and cross country ski boots, he had virtually no protection from this kind of storm.

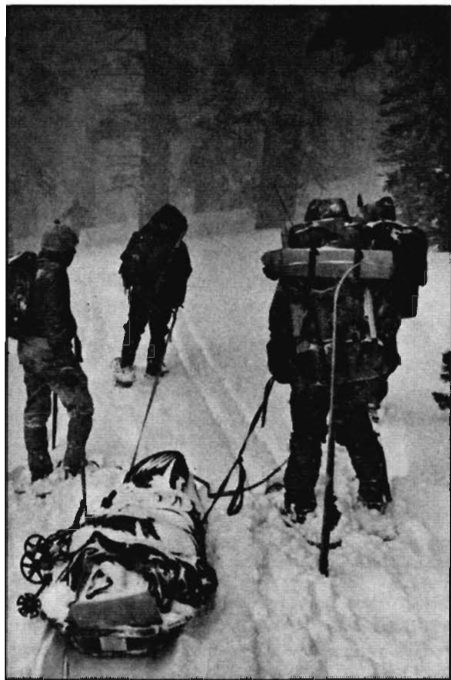
We administered warm soup to start warming him from the inside and all the dry clothing we had on board to his outside to try and stabilize him.

We considered setting up camp to administer further hypothermic aid, but opted to package him up in the litter and move to the Round Valley Rangers hut which was about a half mile away. And a long half mile it was. One would think that pulling a fiberglass litter in the snow would go easy. Under these snow conditions nothing was further from the truth.

The hut was a welcome sight and it felt darn good to have a break from the foul weather. As we rested, refueled our bodies, and reassessed Mr. Ferlise's condition, we also hoped and prayed for a break in the weather so that we could evacuate Mr. Ferlise by helicopter.

We kept in constant radio contact with base operations as to the weather conditions for a clearing, and meanwhile arrangements were being made to bring in the team's Cascade toboggan which is specially made for snow evacuation.

Well, like I said in the beginning: "The weather is no respecter of persons." After waiting it out for one and a half hours we had no choice but to resume on foot.



After about another two hours of slogging through the deep snow we met up with the toboggan team. Mr. Ferlise was transferred into the toboggan, litter and all, reassessed, and we were off with renewed vitality.

The going got a little more intense as we maneuvered along the tight trails which ran along the steep drainages, but once again the training in subject care and methodical planning paid off.

Everyone got a good work-out and never suffered a dull moment. All were relieved at the sight of the tram station, none more than Mr. Ferlise.

Back at the tram as we wound down this mission we all learned that Mr. Ferlise was a novelist. The first thought that came to me was, how lucky for him to be able to write about being literally snatched from the grips of death.

I hope all others we eventually will go in after will be so fortunate. • RMRU

Volunteer Man Hours — 154

## CALL

**Mission No. 8612C**

**18 Mar., Tues.**

**San Jacinto Mountains**

We received a call from the Banning Station of the Riverside County Sheriff's Department that two men were overdue in returning from a trip in the San Jacinto Mountains. The call came in the late afternoon, and with still enough light to fly, a helicopter was ordered. During the callout procedure, the two men walked out unharmed. • RMRU

## SEARCH

**Mission No. 8613M**

**23-24 Mar., Sun.-Mon.**

**North Face**

**San Jacinto Mountains**

*By Glenn Henderson*



Three people left Saturday morning to climb the North Face of Mt. San Jacinto, planning to stay the night on the peak and then ski out to Humber Park on Sunday afternoon. Sunday evening Christheld Anderson called the Sheriff's Office and reported her husband and two friends overdue. The RMRU was called out and told to report to Snow Creek at 6:30 a.m. Monday morning. Landells Aviation was also called and met us at Snow Creek with pilot Brian Novak flying the helicopter.

Kevin Walker and I went up in the bird to see if we could locate the overdue hikers from the air before we started putting teams into the field. We flew up the North Face and over the drainages without any luck. When we got almost to the top we finally spotted some tracks leading up the North Face and over the top but soon lost the tracks in a maze of other tracks on the summit of Mt. San

Jacinto. We searched around the hut near the mountain top and found the door open and tracks leading in and out but no one around. We then flew over Round Valley and saw two people crossing the valley on foot. Brian let Kevin and I off to talk to them. Sure enough they had climbed the North Face but they weren't the climbers that we were looking for. They said they were climbing the North Face and met up with the three we were searching for. It had been deep wet snow at lower elevations but extremely icy the last 1,000 feet to the summit, and this combination slowed them down. They reached the summit at about 10:00 p.m. Sunday night. Everyone was all right but they were out of stove fuel which meant they probably were out of water.

We took off again and soon found some skiers heading to Round Valley. We again landed in Round Valley and this time it was the three people we were looking for. We offered them a ride out but they said that they were fine and preferred to ski out to the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway and ride it down to Palm Springs where they would call someone to pick them up and take them around to Humber Park where their car was parked. We said OK and then flew back down to Snow Creek. We all then went to Banning for breakfast and then home. • RMRU

Volunteer Man Hours — 56

On March 6, 1986, RMRU team member Rob Gardner met with Cub Scout Den 2, Pack 79 in Rancho Mirage City to give a talk about being prepared in the wilderness and what gear to take along on a day hike (see the January 1986 RMRU Newsletter).

The Cub Scouts had asked for the presentation as part of their preparation for a day hike trip into Magnesia Falls Canyon planned for March 8, 1986. Rob displayed an assortment of equipment and answered numerous questions from

the Scouts about footwear, compasses, signaling devices, etc. The Scout leaders were reminded about the importance of preparation, group discipline, and weather advisories as important factors for a successful trip.

Hopefully, group requests for educational presentations will continue. Even the smallest amount of information that can be imparted to eager virgin hikers could be helpful in preventing unnecessary problems in the wilderness. • RMRU

Volunteer Man Hours — 4





## Search and Rescue

**8 Mar., Sat.  
Horsethief/Deep Canyon  
Santa Rosa Mountains**

*By Glenn Henderson*



Training was to be a one day mock search in the Horsethief Creek Canyon area in the Santa Rosa Mountains. It was a good turn out as 14 members showed up at the trailhead. Since this was new country to me

I was anxious to get into the field but cooler heads prevailed and I was made Operations Leader.

The scenario was that a single girl from out of state expressed an interest in the trail to Horsethief Creek Canyon on Friday afternoon for a short day hike. On Saturday morning the cook at the nearby restaurant where her car was parked noticed that it was still there. He became concerned and called the Sheriff who in turn called the RMRU.

We arrived at the trailhead and I sent out three teams right away, trying to put the newer members with the veterans. One team was sent to the car and another to the trailhead to try and find tracks. Sure enough both teams found 'sign' but there were two sets of tracks, not one. (She probably picked up some bum.) All teams were then sent down the trail except for two teams that were kept back. When the trail teams got to Horsethief Creek Canyon crossing one team followed the tracks upstream, another continued up the trail and dropped down to the stream in an effort to cut them off, and another team went downstream just in case

After about 40 minutes we realized that we had been 'had' as the tracks leading up stream stopped and more tracks were finally found downstream. This led to Deep Canyon so one reserve team was sent down past the confluence of Deep Canyon and Horsethief Creek Canyon. As Rick Pohlers would say "Bingo! Bingo!" They found two sets of prints leading downstream. With this news all field teams were sent downstream. It was not long before the Deep Canyon team found our two missing hikers. Sure enough our

subject, Dona Halcrow, did indeed pick up a bum, named Kevin Walker, who in turn led Dona astray and down into dangerous Deep Canyon where she took a nasty fall and had "broken" her leg.

After finding out the nature and extent of Dona's injuries I sent my last team in with the wheeled litter plus extra gear necessary to raise her out of where she had fallen. I went in with this last team to help out if needed but mostly to see the area firsthand.

It took about forty minutes of steady hiking to meet up with the other team members. Dona had a miraculous recovery and was standing up eating lunch when we arrived, so we did likewise. After lunch Dona's leg became broken again so we started on her evacuation.

We discussed first aid, splinting, and patient packaging. We tied our "victim" safely into the litter. A belay system was set up and the litter was wheeled up the steep canyon side wall to pass a large waterfall. We carried the litter around the waterfall and lowered it back to the canyon floor above the waterfall. We then started upstream with the litter and our subject, often wading through water that was three to four feet deep.

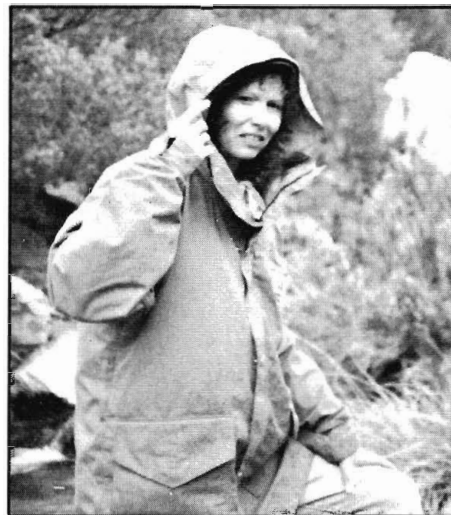
It soon began to rain so a sense of urgency was added to get out before it really cut loose. We didn't make it. It continued to rain as we worked with all hands getting experience in moving the litter over extremely rough terrain. It took three hours of steady hiking to reach the road and by then members were tired.

When we got out of the canyon we changed into warm clothes and ate dinner

at the Sugarloaf Cafe. A great big thank you to Dona for being a very able and cooperative victim. She never complained about anything and was a real trooper when the going got tough. Thanks again, Dona.

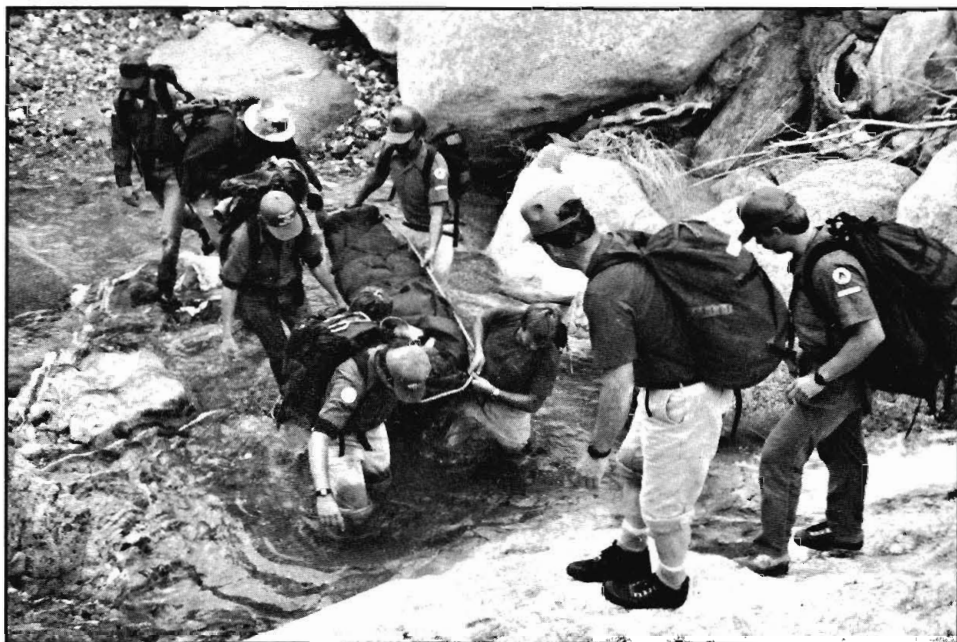
With everyone warmed up and fed we all headed home and waited for our pagers to interrupt our daily routine. • RMRU

Volunteer Man Hours — 168



RMRU PHOTO BY ROB GARDNER

**OUR SUBJECT** — Believe it or not RMRU newsletter artist Dona Halcrow did agree to be our subject for tracking and rescue training in Deep Canyon. It wasn't enough to have the running water of the creek below the litter, a storm front complete with heavy rain came through to make matters even wetter. Thanks Dona.



RMRU PHOTO BY GLENN HENDERSON

**EITHER WAY YOU LOOK AT IT YOU'RE WET** — With mock injured subject Dona Halcrow aboard, RMRU members make their way up the bottom of Deep Canyon near the Horsethief Creek confluence