

RMRU

RIVERSIDE MOUNTAIN RESCUE UNIT

NEWSLETTER

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Volume XXIII, Issue VIII, August 1987



FAMILIARIZATION

7-9 Aug., Fri.-Sun.
San Jacinto Mountains

By Eric Townsend



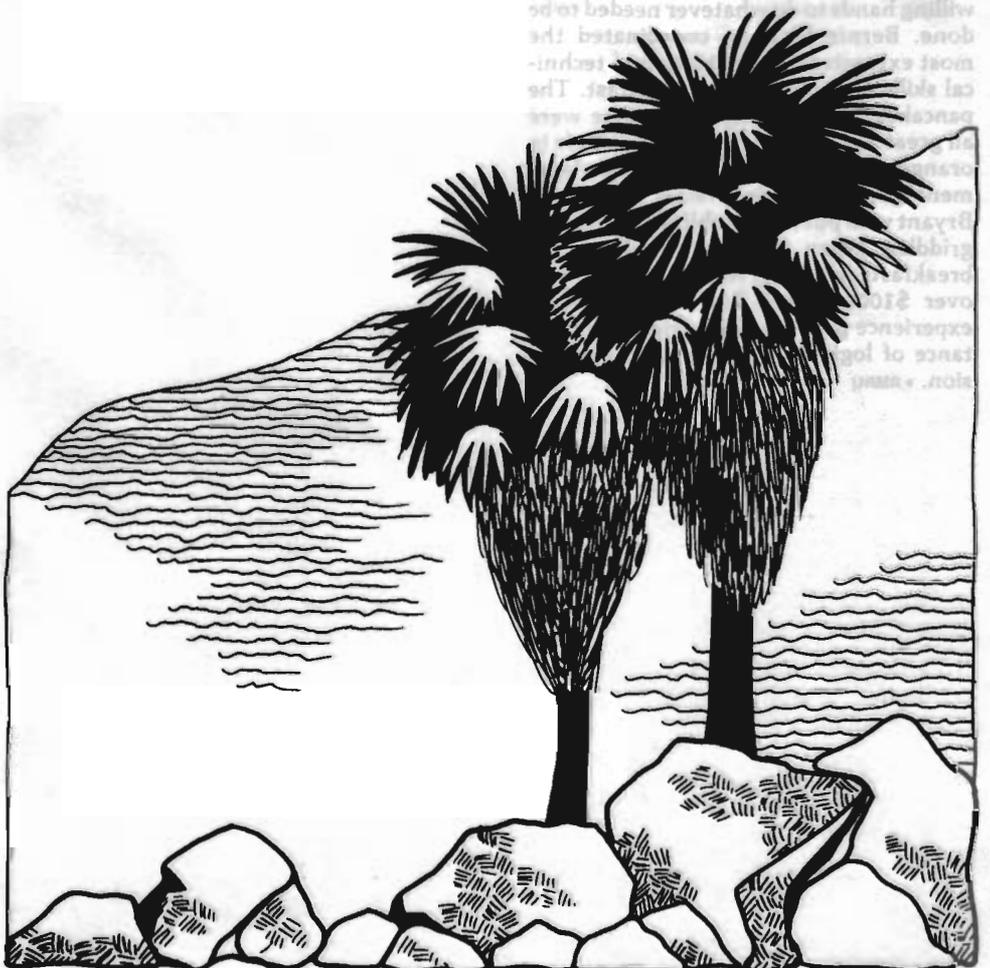
Ten members of RMRU toured key areas of the San Jacinto State and National Wilderness Areas for the August training. One objective for the weekend was to familiarize newer members with trails, shortcuts, helispots, (rare areas on the mountain where helicopters can take off and land), likely areas for picking up tracks of lost people, sources of water, key landmarks, and areas for best radio transmission and reception. The other objective was physical conditioning or, staying in shape.

Members left Humber Park at various times on Friday and the last to reach camp a Caramba Helispot arrived at 1:15 AM on Saturday. Most members arose at dawn and after a quick breakfast and a short training session on map and compass, we set off for Caramba. Here we refilled water bottles, took a dip in the pools, then set off for Shangri-la, our camp for Saturday night. On the way we met and conferred with Bill Weishart, the Ranger in charge of the State Wilderness Area, had some refreshment at the Upper Tram Terminal and refilled water bottles at the Long Valley Ranger Station. After an hour of rock climbing practice on the boulders at Shangri-la, we sacked out for the night.

Sunday we hiked out via Round Valley, (a reliable water source), and Wellman's Divide. Dona Halcrow joined the main party on the Angel's Glide trail after lunch. On the descent of the Devil's Slide

trail, Pete Carlson and Bernie McIlvoy proved that the old trail was faster than the new. Jim Fairchild, who also descended via the old trail, resolved to do some brush clearing to facilitate future use of the trail.

Besides those already mentioned, participating members were Bill Blaschko, Steve Bryant, Mark Rhoads, Eric Townsend, Bud White and Bob Wintz. We accomplished our familiarization objective and after covering 25 miles with 8000 feet of elevation gain and loss, we felt we'd had sufficient conditioning for one weekend. • RMRU



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this year. Eric Maxwell and Bud White
both were a great help in giving advice and
helping me to prepare for the breakfast.
Dona Halcrow donated her talent to paint
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— On the morning of August 27 every-
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most exciting part was the techni-
cal skills. The
experience
of the
morning.



By Bill Blaschko

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

23 Aug., Sun.
Idyllwild,
San Jacinto Mountains

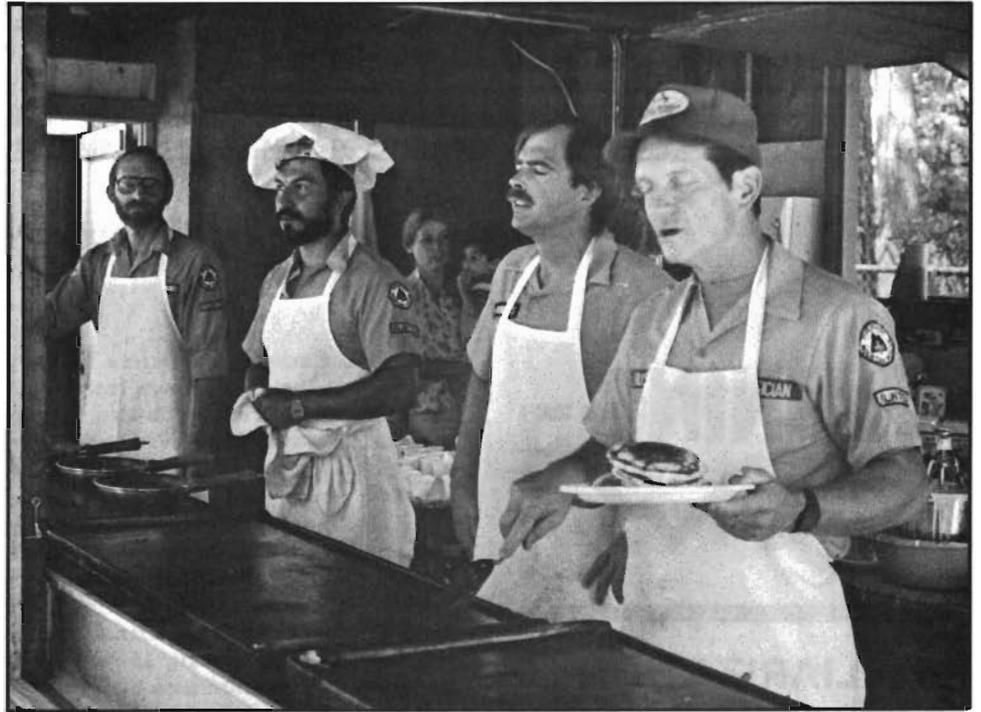
By Bill Blaschko



Part of every successful rescue mission is logistics. If the proper people and equipment aren't in the right place at the right time, disaster can occur. It is in this sense, as a training in logistics, that I look at

the twenty-third annual Izaak Walton League/RMRU pancake breakfast. I was asked to be chairman for the breakfast this year. Ernie Maxwell and Bud White both were a great help in giving advice and helping me to prepare for the breakfast. Dona Halcrow donated her talent to paint a banner advertising the event. Eric Townsend and Henry Negrete got in some extra practice in rope rigging when they helped put up the banner. Special thanks goes to Robert Thomas at Chef in the Forest Restaurant for arranging for the food.

On the morning of August 23 everything came together. There were lots of willing hands to do whatever needed to be done. Bernie McIlvoy coordinated the most extensive demonstration of technical skills ever put on at a breakfast. The pancakes, eggs, sausage and coffee were all great and prepared by smiling chefs in orange rescue shirts. Special acknowledgement goes to Kevin Walker and Steve Bryant who put in long shifts over the hot griddles. When the day was done, 400 breakfasts were served and RMRU was over \$1000 richer. For me, the whole experience proved once again the importance of logistics in any successful mission. • RMRU



RMRU PHOTO BY JIM FAIRCHILD

WOULD YOU TRUST YOUR STOMACH TO THESE BOYS — RMRU members Larry Roland, Henry Negrete, Cameron Robbins and Ray Hussey seem to be at a loss as to what to do with the grills.

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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 \$35.00 or more to:

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