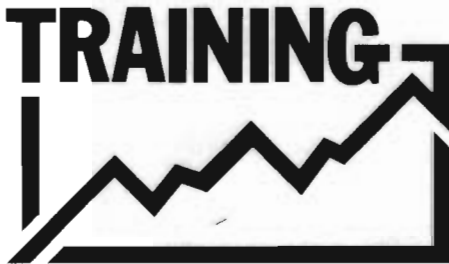


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Technical

7-8 March, Sat.-Sun.
Ryan Campground
Joshua Tree National Monument

By Rob Gardner



There was a great turnout of RMRU team members for the two day technical training at Ryan Campground, and vicinity, at Joshua Tree National Monument (JTNM). The training emphasized ascending and

descending skills, using ropes, Jumars, Gibbs ascending devices, and an assortment of rappelling devices. A Tyrolean traverse was set up on Sunday.

Some of the team members went out to JTNM on Friday evening and camped leisurely. Other members arrived early Saturday morning in time for the day's training. New members worked on ascending techniques on a thirty-five foot high boulder, with a bulge, under direction of senior members. The majority of the team ascended a two hundred-fifty foot vertical wall that included free hanging and a roof to get over at the top. They then rappelled down.

Most of the day was spent ascending and descending. Members exchanged ideas of variations of technique and fine tuned their equipment.

A little rain came at the end of this cold Saturday, and the team retreated to Ryan Camp for supper.

A highlight of the day was sitting under the stars watching videotapes of search and rescue operations involving RMRU and JOSAR (Joshua Tree Search & Rescue). A small generator powered the television, etc. The Master of Ceremonies was our

great friend, Tom Patterson, Ranger with JTNM and JOSAR. Tom had filmed the videos that we watched.

Sunday morning we awoke to a hot pot of coffee brewing over an open fire, that the JTNM Rangers had prepared. After a light breakfast, it was back to ascending and descending for a couple of hours, followed by experience with a seventy-five foot Tyrolean traverse. All in all, it was a great weekend of technical training with a great group of people. • RMRU

Volunteer Man Hours — 781



RMRU PHOTO BY JIM FAIRCHILD

LONG JUMAR — RMRU members Bernie McIlvoy and Ray Hussey are seen here jumaring up the team's 300 foot PMI rescue ropes. All members present participated in this exercise both for rescue skills and in preparation for the team's trip to the Lost Arrow Spire in Yosemite.



RMRU PHOTO BY JIM FAIRCHILD

TRYING SOMETHING NEW — New member Larry Carter prepares to rappel down and over a large overhang using one of the team's rappelling racks. There are different types of devices for descending the rope.



RMRU PHOTO BY GLENN HENDERSON

HARD WORK — RMRU member Kevin Walker was caught by the photographer taking an unauthorized break during technical training. Kevin stated that he was mentally preparing himself for the 300 foot jumar.