

Volume XXV, Issue VI, June 1989

● SEARCH & RESCUE

CALL

Mission No. 8921C

6 June, Tues.
Elsinore

The RMRU was called for a mission in the Elsinore area, but it was cancelled. • RMRU

CALL

Mission No. 8922C

23 June, Fri.
Indio

The RMRU was called for a mission near Indio, but it was cancelled. • RMRU

CALL

Mission No. 8923C

23 June, Fri.
Joshua Tree
National Monument

The RMRU was called for a mission in Joshua Tree National Monument, but it was cancelled. • RMRU

CALL

Mission No. 8924C

17 June, Sat.
Desert Divide,
San Jacinto Mountains

The RMRU was called for a mission on the Desert Divide, the long stretch of the Pacific Crest Trail that runs from Tahquitz Peak to Anza. Before the team could respond, the mission was cancelled. • RMRU

CALL

Mission No. 8925C

28 June, Wed.

The RMRU was called for a mission, but it was cancelled. • RMRU

● TRAINING

TRAINING

3-4 June, Sat.-Sun.
Palm Springs,
Aerial Tramway

By Rob Gardner

There was a BIG windstorm that came tearing through Southern California in the spring. It took trees out of the ground and shingles off of roofs. At the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway it took the upper station water tank top off like a flying saucer, and also half of the upper station roofing. All of the debris was blown a short ways and left in uncountable pieces all over the upper parts of the steep, scree-covered Chino Canyon. The RMRU was asked by the Aerial Tramway managers to recover the litter from Chino Canyon. Due to the dangerous nature of the canyon they felt the safest way to retrieve the refuse was to have mountaineers do the task. The RMRU agreed to take on the endeavor.

On Saturday morning over half of the team members arrived. An assessment of the task was completed and a plan made to begin the operation. Most significant was the use of safety ropes in and around the large loose rocks, scree and debris from the wind.

Mid-way through the day a great amount of the broken materials that once were part of the tramway structure, had been gathered and put into cargo nets. The contracted helicopter from Landell's Aviation was called in and mountain pilot Steve DeJesus began to skillfully remove the cargo nets by long-line and to fly the debris down to the truck-sized dumpsters at the lower tramway station parking lot.

The operation was restarted Sunday morning with a basic repeat of Saturday. A great deal of debris was removed, and in the process the team members practiced some of their skills in the steep canyon. • RMRU



RMRU PHOTO BY DONA HALCROW

SLING LOAD — As Steve DeJesus of Landell's Aviation hovers above, RMRU members below in Chino Canyon attach the long-line to a cargo net full of debris. The full cargo nets were transported down the canyon to be unloaded at the lower station.