

Volume XXV, Issue V, May 1989

SEARCH & RESCUE

ABORT

Mission No. 8915A

**3 May, Wed.
Live Oak Springs,
South of Aguanga**

The RMRU was called out to search for a couple of overdue hikers at Live Oak Springs, near the Pacific Crest Trail, south of Aguanga. The hikers walked out while RMRU was responding, and the mission was cancelled. • RMRU

RESCUE

Mission No. 8916M

**7-8 May, Sun.-Mon.
North Face,
Mt. San Jacinto**

By Victor Caro

The pager was activated at 1645 Hrs. informing all RMRU members to call Rick Pohlers concerning a search. A quick phone call to Rick, and the following information was given: three overdue climbers on the North face of Mt. San Jacinto. The meeting place was Snowcreek. At Snowcreek, the helicopter and I arrived simultaneously. In the helicopter was Rob Gardner, Kevin Walker and the pilot Steve DeJesus. Dona Halcrow and John Dew were also on the scene.

Once airborne, I knew this was going to be a great ride. At the 4500 ft. level we spotted the tracks left by the climbers leading towards Miller Peak, and not the North face route up to Mt. San Jacinto Peak. Carefully following the tracks, we spotted the climbers at the 7100 ft. level. Kevin quickly established contact with the climbers, and they indicated everything was alright.

It was decided not to leave the climbers alone, so I was dropped off above the climbers at Miller Peak. The landing was with only one skid on a big boulder. My assignment was to make contact with the climbers, and to wait for further assistance. As I was making my way down to contact the climbers, I tried to establish

radio communication with the helicopter and was unsuccessful.

After a few more steps, I was able to communicate with base, but still no communication with the helicopter. However, there was no problem in contacting the climbers; they were approximately 200 yards below my location. About 20 minutes later, Kevin joined up, and we both waited for the climbers. Upon further examination of the radio, Kevin discovered that the pl (personal line) had been accidentally activated; and also it was turned down in wattage from 5 to 2 watts. Consequently, the pl mode coupled with decrease in wattage made communications impossible with the helicopter.

About 15 minutes from Kevin's arrival, the climbers were now at our location. After a short rest, the entire group proceeded over the ridge to a relatively flat and snowless area. The climbers were given ample time to change into dry clothing, eat raisins, and to drink plenty of water.

At the Round Valley ranger station, Joe Erickson and Walt Walker were waiting with hot fluids ready for the group. Within 2 hours, the group reached Round Valley. The climbers replenished their tired bodies with hot soup and chocolate. After 15-20 minutes the group, now with Joe and Walt, were ready to hike the final leg to the tramway. As the tram approached the lower station, the excited faces from the family members really boosted everyone's morale. Time out was 0145 Hrs. • RMRU

RESCUE

Mission No. 8917M

**8-9 May, Mon.-Tues.
Suicide Rock**

On Monday night RMRU responded to a mission on Suicide Rock. • RMRU

SEARCH

Mission No. 8918M

**22 May, Mon.
Skunk Cabbage Meadow,
Mt. San Jacinto**

RMRU responded for a search of a missing U.S. Forest Service employee. Kathy Thomas (23 years old) was reported miss-

ing when her horse returned to Idyllwild without her. As the search was getting underway, Kathy appeared. • RMRU

RESCUE

Mission No. 8919M

**27 May, Sat.
Deer Springs trail,
Mt. San Jacinto**

RMRU responded to a mission on the Deer Springs trail, on the western slope of Mt. San Jacinto. • RMRU

SEARCH

Mission No. 8920M

**27 May, Sat.
South Ridge Trail,
San Jacinto Mountains**

By Glenn Henderson

Sixteen year old Shawn Williams was reported missing off the South Ridge Trail to the Forest Service in the late afternoon. Forest Service personnel made a hasty search and soon called for our help. Kevin Walker and I drove up together and arrived at the trail head at 5:45 pm. Walt Walker was the Operations Leader and sent Kevin, myself and Mike Cassidy of the Forest Service up the South Ridge Trail. Other team members -Henry Negrete, Mike Wimbrow, Dona Halcrow, Joe Erickson, Ray Hussey, Jay Pion, Pat Tillman, Alan Ewert and Victor Caro were divided up into teams of two or three and sent below the trail to try and cut him off.

After forty minutes of hiking we found signs where someone had left the trail and headed down the hillside and away from the trail. Just as we were starting to follow the tracks, Frank Smith of the Forest Service showed up at base with Shawn. Frank had been searching since the first report and by doing lots of shouting and moving cross country finally met up with Shawn. It took them over an hour to get back to the road but they made it without any problems. Shawn was fine, just hungry and thirsty. At 8:00 pm all personnel was back to base camp and released to go home. Great job by the Forest Service. Thanks Guys. • RMRU