

RMRU

RIVERSIDE MOUNTAIN RESCUE UNIT

NEWSLETTER

12 ISSUES PER YEAR DISTRIBUTED BY THE RIVERSIDE MOUNTAIN RESCUE UNIT, INC. — POST OFFICE BOX 5444, RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA 92517
A VOLUNTEER NON-PROFIT TAX DEDUCTIBLE CORPORATION — MEMBER OF THE MOUNTAIN RESCUE ASSOCIATION

SEARCH

Mission No. 1

ID: 91002

1 January, Tuesday

South Ridge Trail, Idyllwild

By Bill Blaschko, M.D.

On the evening of January 1, the team was called out for an overdue hiker on South Ridge Trail. I was the first team member to arrive at the Idyllwild Fire

was in good condition, especially for Anna.

This may sound like a short, undistinguished, mission, but I classify it as one of RMRU's most successful because it got us a new member. Ming and Anna Li are both instructors at Idyllwild School of Music and the Arts. Anna had some previous interest in mountain rescue and came to the very next team meeting. Anna is now an active and important member of our team, thanks to her husband's "short-cut".

RMRU responded to the call out with 10 team members. Base was established at Humber Park and two teams were sent into the field. The climbers were located near the top of the rock; the fire they had built for warmth had led the team to them.

They were unfamiliar with the down-climb route and had elected to spend the night on top. The climbers were escorted off the rock and were at base by first light.

RESCUE

Mission No. 4

ID: 91009

22 January, Tuesday

Humber Park/Palm Springs Tramway

The call came just after midnight three men, one of them blind, where seven hours overdue on a hike from Humber Park to the Tramway. This did not surprise us because there was snow on the ground and it would be a long day hike for even experienced hikers.

One team went up the trail from Humber Park and the rest went around to the Tramway. Two teams went out from the Tramway and others set up base at the upper Tram Station.

Around 10:00 a.m. one of the Tramway teams spotted the group, cold and tired, but otherwise OK. They assisted the (3) men back to the Tramway for warming up and then we all had a nice lunch before heading home.



RESCUE

Mission No. 3

ID: 91008

19-20 January, Saturday & Sunday

Tahquitz Rock Area, Idyllwild

By Jim Zuberbuhler

Idyllwild Fire received a call regarding a fire in the Tahquitz Rock area late in the afternoon. A fire team, including our own Bob Baker, responded and could not locate any sign of fire.

Mid-evening two climbers were reported overdue from Tahquitz Rock.

Station and there I met Anna Li, the wife of the missing hiker. Anna reported to me that about half way from the trail head to Tahquitz Peak she had become separated from her husband when he took a "short-cut" off the trail. Anna described her husband Ming as very athletic but not very knowledgeable about the wilderness.

It was well after dark when we began to deploy teams to search likely locations. Just as teams were getting into the field, Mr. Li walked out to Mountain Center. There was a general feeling of relief at base camp when we found out that Ming



RMRU needs your help!

The Riverside Mountain Rescue Unit is a group of volunteers trained and ready to respond to wilderness emergencies. At any hour of any day, law enforcement agencies, national park and military officials may call upon the Unit to aid an unfortunate victim. The Unit is on constant alert, via radio pagers, to search for and effect the rescue of hikers, skiers, rock climbers and outdoorsmen whenever and wherever tragedy strikes. The Unit performs about 95% of its missions in Riverside County. However, it has traveled south into Mexico, north into the High Sierra and into Nevada to accomplish its lifesaving missions.

The Unit is comprised of volunteers, who literally come from all walks of life. They regularly leave their jobs (or in the middle of the night, their warm beds) to respond to a call for help. They also do not receive any remuneration for time given to search and rescue. The members make up a small, but spirited group of mountaineers who spend one weekend a month training to sharpen their rescue skills.

It is necessary to rely on contributions from friends—just like you—to provide this life saving equipment. Funds donated are spent so that our expanding Unit can be equipped to master unsurmountable odds on a life-or-death mission.

If you would be so thoughtful as to send a contribution today, you can help the Riverside Mountain Rescue Unit maintain its rescue and safety training efforts.

RESCUE

Mission No. 5

ID: 91014

28 February, Thursday

Santa Rosa Peak

It was raining outside when the call came (2:00 p.m.) that a car was stuck in the snow on the road to Santa Rosa Peak. It was snowing in the mountains and the sheriff needed someone equipped for bad weather to go get the people in the car. RMRU members with (2) Four Wheel Drive Vehicles started up the road. About half way up one of the Vehicles could go no further. The other only made it a little further. Then it was on to snowshoes, with extras tied on the packs.

After about 2 miles, the stuck vehicle was sighted and 3 cold people were found. After some hot drinks and soup, the extra snowshoes were put on the subjects feet and the hike down to the RMRU 4-Wheel Drives began. It took 1 1/2 hours to get back to the RMRU Vehicles. Another hour to reach the main highway. By the time everyone was home it was 10:00 p.m.

SEARCH

Mission No. 6

ID: 91015

3 March, Sunday

Strawberry Creek, Idyllwild

By Jim Zuberbuhler

The ISOMATA dean of students reported to the Sheriff's Office that two male students had failed to attend evening rehearsals and were late for dorm check-in. RMRU responded to the call-out. Base was established in the parking area off Apela Drive and three teams were sent into the field.

It was established that other students had last seen the boys heading in the direction of the Grotto. Two teams hiked through the Grotto and one team drove down toward the bottom of Bee Canyon. One hour into the search the boys were found hitchhiking up highway 74 near Cranston Station.

CALL

Mission No. 7

ID: 91017

5 March, Tuesday

Round Valley/Palm Springs Tramway

We received a call about four skiers going to Round Valley from the Tramway in a storm. Three turned back and the fourth was now overdue.

Just as members were starting to drive to the mission the call came in that the fourth skier had just shown up at the Tramway.

RECOVERY

Mission No. 8

ID: 91018

9-10 March, Saturday & Sunday

San Jacinto Peak, North Face

On Thursday night March 7, a Desert Hot Springs resident reported a fireball on the North Face of San Jacinto. On Friday, a small plane was reported overdue on a flight through the area. The informant was contacted to try to find out where the fireball was seen on the North Face.

After talking to the informant, we now had a good idea where the missing plane might have gone. But to find a plane in the wilderness is not an easy task. So a call out for all team members for Saturday morning was set up. We would have a helicopter and a fixed wing aircraft to search for the missing plane.

At 6:00 a.m. Saturday we met at Snow Creek, the base of the North Face. A helicopter was used for searching the area, but by 9:00 a.m., the missing plane had still not been sighted. RMRU sent teams up the Tramway to hike the ridges to view anything below. Also one team was flown in to the top of San Jacinto Peak and another team near the top of Miller Peak. 5 teams were out in the field and the helicopter continued on searching.

Around 2:00 p.m. one team called in that they saw a tree on the face that looked like it had recently burned. Other teams started looking in the area and confirmed the report. The helicopter was guided in by the field teams and spotted the wreck down in a canyon. A team was dropped into the area and climbed down to the wreck. The team found no one alive.

Because it was getting dark, everyone either hiked out or were flown out. A limited call out of 8 people were going to come back on Sunday and do the body recovery.

On Sunday morning the 8 members met and flew in with ropes and a stretcher to do the evacuation. It was cloudy and windy, the flying was very hard. The body was finally ready to be flown out about 1:00 p.m. Just then a call for a search for a missing 3 year old boy came over the radio. Members at base left immediately for the search area, Pinyon Flats. The field members were brought out just as a snow storm hit the area. The Members left for the new search area. More on the search in the next article.

SEARCH

Mission No. 9

ID: 91020

*10-13 March, Sunday through Wednesday
Pinyon Flats Area*

Members in full winter gear left the North Face of San Jacinto to head for a rain storm in Pinyon Flats. A 3 year old boy had been playing by his cabin in when his parents went to look for him he was gone, all in about 10 minutes. This happened around 12:00 noon and they had quickly called the Sheriff, who called RMRU.

The first members on scene started a detailed search of the P.L.S. (point last seen). Other members started to do a hasty search along known barriers, such as the highway, a canyon, and a high ridge. This is done in hopes of finding some foot prints in an area where no one else has walked. All this turned up nothing. At 5:00 p.m., only 3 hours after the search had started, we placed a call for help to all Mountain Rescue Association Teams in California. This is standard procedure with a lost child. Meanwhile, the weather was getting worse by the minute.

By 9:00 p.m. other teams began arriving. Everyone searched all night long with no results. This operation continued for 3 more days and no trace or sign of the boy was ever found. It is one of the few

times in our 30 years of Search and Rescue that we did not find the subject. Three more times over the course of March and April, Teams went out and searched the area trying to find some clue, but sadly nothing has ever been found.

We wish to thank all the other Mountain Rescue Teams and other Volunteer groups who assisted with this operation. Over 150 people were involved over the 3 days of the search.

SEARCH

Mission No. 10

ID: 91028

16 March, Saturday

Pine Cove Road to Hemet

By Bill Blaschko, M.D.

I'm sure many Southern Californians reading this will remember the welcome series of storms last March that helped avert a serious drought situation. As is so often the case though, what was a relief for many, was a problem for a few individuals.

Late in the evening on March 16, RMRU was called out to rescue four teenagers who were overdue after attempting to drive up a dirt road from Hemet to Pine Cove. There were two vehicles with a boy and a girl in each. I have driven the route they were on in good weather and found it to be a fun drive although quite rugged in places. With the thick layer of snow on the ground it was easy for me to imagine how their vehicles (only one was 4-wheel drive) could get stuck. After getting stuck in the snow a couple of miles short of their destination, the two boys walked to Pine Cove, called for help, and returned to the girls who were waiting in the cars.

RMRU members met with the Riverside County Sheriff's Deputy in Pine Cove and P.J. Hunt, our team member most experienced in driving in snow conditions was sent down the road to investigate. P.J. found the vehicles without any difficulty but there was no sign of the missing subjects. As we began to search local areas the teenagers might have strayed to, the Sheriff's Deputy recontacted the parents. We found out that all four of subjects had

walked to a friend's house in Pine Cove and had been warm and secure the entire time we were searching.

With the help of a shovel, a tow strap and some elbow grease we got the team van unstuck and everyone headed home.

SEARCH

Mission No. 11

ID: 91030

25-26 May, Saturday & Sunday

Tramway to Palm Springs, via Skyline Trail

By Pat Tillman

On May 25th at 8:00 p.m., we were called out to search for a man with a 10 year old boy and a 8 year old girl. The search was started at the Palm Springs Tramway. Bob Baker, Jimmy Z & Mike Wimbrow took the Tramway to the top and started hiking down the Skyline Trail, while Henry Negrete & Joe Erickson set off to hike up the same trail from the Desert Museum. Anna Li and I started hiking up the Skyline Trail from Ann Dolley's.

After a full night's searching, it was discovered that the lost party was at home in the comfort of their own beds. After the team hiked out, we went to breakfast. And so ends another mission for RMRU.

SEARCH

Mission No. 12

ID: 91031

25 May, Saturday

Pinyon Flats Campground, Pinyon Pines

By Julianne Christinson

In the afternoon the Sheriff's Office received a call that a six year old girl was missing from the Pinyon Flats Campground. RMRU responded to the call-out. While in transit to the base at Pinyon Flats Station the personnel in the rescue van intercepted the girl with her rescuer, an off-duty sheriff's deputy and Pinyon Flats resident, who had heard the call-out on his radio and immediately walked out his door to initiate a search.

He had participated in the Travis



search (the missing 3 year old) only weeks before and did not want a repeat of that outcome.

RESCUE

Mission No. 13

ID: 91032

15 June, Saturday

Devils Slide Trail, Idyllwild

By Henry Negrete

Summer hikes in our mountains are one of the neatest experiences one can have, and many people come up to our wilderness to escape the fast pace of the "Big City".

Unfortunately, many people don't realize that walking in the wilderness presents many more hazards than walking on the city sidewalks. Consequently, most folks don't carry emergency supplies or even a first aid kit.

On June 15, RMRU was called-out by the Riverside Sheriff's Department requesting our presence at Humber Park in Idyllwild. A hiker reported to the Idyllwild Fire Department, that a woman at the top of Devils Slide Trail had fallen on the trail and severely injured her ankle.

RMRU quickly responded to Humber Park, set up operations base and dispatched a "Hasty" team of two to travel up the trail as quickly as possible. Other team members readied additional medical aid equipment

to follow as needed.

The first team located our injured subject within one hour of being called out by the Sheriff's Office. She was a little skinned-up from her fall and her right ankle a bit swollen. She was very elated to have our assistance, after we dressed her injuries, we helped her down the trail and back to her home. We gave strong advice to seek further medical attention.

RESCUE

Mission No. 14

ID: 91033

22 June, Saturday

Saddle Junction Area, Idyllwild

By Henry Negrete

Group camping in the San Jacinto Wilderness can be great fun. Getting the group up the trail and to a camp site can be a great challenge.

On the morning of June 22nd, a Boy Scout Troop had set out from Humber Park on the Devils Slide Trail, looking forward to a group camp-out in the Skunk Cabbage area, elevation 7,960 feet.

In route up the steep zig-zagging trail, the group split into two groups, one traveling a little faster than the other.

One Scout in the front group began to tire, unable to stay-up with the rest of the group, he decided to sit and rest awhile and to wait for the second group to come by and

then continue with them.

After resting for a period, the young Scouter decided he would not wait for the rest of the Troop, instead, he would try to get catch his original group. When he arrived at the saddle trail junction, he was unsure which way the first group had gone and began to wander around looking for them; meanwhile the second group traveled past him not knowing he had separated from the first group.

After both groups rejoined at their destination, they realized that the Scout had not arrived with either group. A hasty search was launched by the adults in the Troop.

Unable to locate him, the decision was made to keep the Troop together at the campsite and send one adult back to Idyllwild to get help.

After reporting the incident, the adult Scouter returned to Humber Park and awaited the arrival of RMRU.



RMRU arrived within 20 minutes of being contacted and had several teams headed up the trail to begin the search.

Our first team headed directly for the Scout Troop campsite to secure the well being of the group, while other teams scoured the trails and meadows for our lost subject. The Scouter was located a couple of hours later, not too far from the vicinity of his Troop. He was in great condition and eager to get back to his group. While he was escorted back to the camp site from

above, the adult leader was escorted from below, for a happy reunion in the beautiful San Jacinto Wilderness.

SEARCH

Mission No. 15

ID: 91034

22 June, Saturday

Fern Basin Campground

By Pete Carlson

Most members had just returned home from Mission No. 14, a search on the Devils Slide Trail, Saddle Junction area. This call was for two missing 15 year old girls from Fern Basin Campground.

We rolled out of bed at 4:00 a.m. after 2 hours sleep and headed for the trailhead. As the first members started searching in the field, the girls returned to their tent. They had not been lost, but out partying at another camp site a 1/2 mile away.

We got a few hours sleep and all met in Idyllwild for breakfast at 8:00 a.m. before going home.

RESCUE

Mission No. 16

ID: 91035

22 June, Saturday

Suicide Rock, Idyllwild

By Pete Carlson

Having only been home 2 hours after back to back missions, I was just starting to relax when the pager went off again.

This time a climber had fallen on Suicide Rock in Idyllwild. I left at 12:30 p.m. for the 1½ hour drive. The Idyllwild team members got to the rock in 15 minutes and started up with equipment.

They met climbers coming out who were carrying the subject in a litter. A doctor on location had done first aid and was helping with the carry out. Our team members assisted the carry out, and an ambulance took the subject to Idyllwild Ball Field, where a Med-E-Vac helicopter flew him to Loma Linda Hospital. I arrived as the subject was being flown out.

We later found out the climber died of head injuries. After lunch and a review of the mission, we headed home. But not for long, read on to mission #17, only hours later.



RESCUE

Mission No. 17

ID: 91036

22-23 June, Saturday & Sunday

Boulder Basin Campground

By Henry Negrete

Boulder Basin is a beautiful campground nestled high atop Black Mountain in the San Jacinto Range. RMRU has held trainings in the area in the past; all of us love the campground, none of us like the long dusty switch backing road used to get there.

At approximately 6:00 p.m. on Saturday evening, RMRU was called to make this trip to search for a 43 year old man who had gone for a day hike with his wife and had not returned. Daylight was soon to leave us, so we rushed up the steep dusty road.

As we gathered in the campground, we quickly set up base and scoured the ground around his campsite to try and isolate any good shoe prints he may have left behind which might enable us to match them in the field and track him down. With good shoe-print information in hand, RMRU deployed several teams covering all nearby

trails and drainages.

Tracking became increasingly difficult because of the steepening terrain on the north slopes of the mountain, and travel was made more dangerous because of nightfall.

Julianne Christinson and I were assigned the western perimeter leading north down into the main drainage.

The late hours of night soon turned into the wee hours of the morning as we worked our way down the mountain side. We could soon see the lights of Cabazon off in the distance, and looking back into the darkness deep in the canyon, we could make out faint lights of scattered residences.

Suddenly our eyes fixed on an amber light well below which seemed to be twinkling. At first we thought it might be another search team with a mini strobe light, but after checking via radio with other teams, none of them were in that area. It was apparent that it might be a campfire, so Julianne and I requested a team to drive around the mountain and attempt to reach the fire from the bottom.

When we saw the bottom team (consisting of Ron Ackert and Jason Beeman) approaching we gave them coordinates to direct their way. Each time the bottom team tried to get closer they were stopped by huge, thick walls of brush. After many vain attempts to reach the campfire, the bottom team prepared a heli-spot so we could bring in a helicopter at first light. The CHP helicopter stationed in Thermal California was available to assist us.

As the bottom team worked to prepare the heli-spot, I decided that I would hike further down canyon and attempt to make voice contact with the keepers of the campfire.

Well, to make a long story short and to convey a lesson well learned, the campfire turned out to be that of the subject. He was in okay shape, and gratefully accepted a helicopter ride out of his predicament. As for me, I wound-up finding out just how thick the brush actually was, wishing all the while that I had brush clearing tools with me.

I spent quite a while working my way

to a clearing large enough for helicopter pickup. By then all other teams had either been picked-up by helicopter or able to hike back to base.

All ended well, and the subject learned about the importance of having a map on hand, and I now always carry a machete in my pack.

SEARCH

Mission No. 18

ID: 91037

22-23 June, Saturday & Sunday

Fuller Ridge Trail

By Henry Negrete

Sometimes RMRU gets very busy, such was the case on June 23rd.

While RMRU was already fielding search teams to look for one lost camper on Black Mountain in the San Jacinto Wilderness (see Mission #17) RMRU operations base was approached by one very concerned Boy Scout Master. It was reported to us by the Scout Master that he and his troop had been hiking from the Palm Springs Tramway in route to Boulder Basin campground. Along the way, they had stopped for a brief break on the trail, when he checked to make sure everyone was accounted for, he discovered that one Scout was missing.

He informed us that he and his troop back tracked for a while and yelled for the Scout to respond, but to no avail. They decided to hike to the campground and request help to locate the missing Scouter.

To their good fortune, when they arrived, they found **Riverside County's Finest Mountain Search and Rescue Team** already at task in the very same campground.

Fortunately, RMRU maintains a large enough membership to be able to coordinate simultaneous missions, and our operations base dispatched the first available team to start working the route of the Scout Troop.

Within hours, the Scout was located back on the trail, a bit scared, but no worse for the wear. He explained that he had jumped off the trail to short cut his trip to the campground and quickly got lost. After

wandering around for awhile, he came back to the trail and decided he'd better not leave it again. That was probably the best decision he made that day, it may have been a decision that saved his life.

SEARCH

Mission No. 19

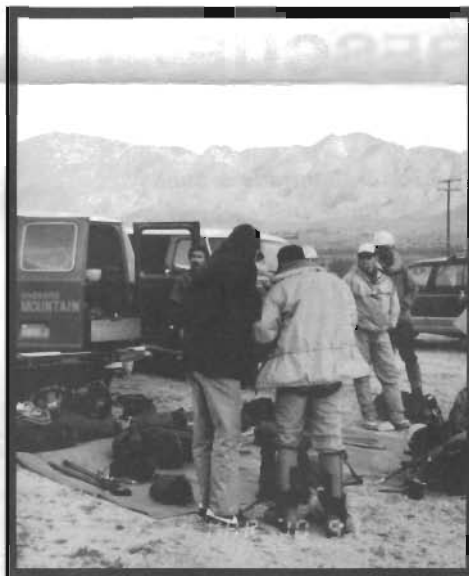
ID: 91039

30 June, Sunday

Humber Park, Idyllwild

By Henry Negrete

Early afternoon calls are rare, and short ones even more rare, such was the case on this warm afternoon at 3:30 p.m. RMRU was called out by the R.S.O. concerning a 20 year old woman who was with her church group for a day hike out of Humber Park. The Devil Slide Trail starts at Humber Park and switch backs for 2.2



miles relatively steeply to Saddle Junction, the "Gateway to the High Country".

The information we had been given was that she had been hiking up the trail with her group and as the steepness of the trail began to have its effect on the "novice" hikers, they became scattered all along the trail, hiking and stopping at different intervals. She was one of the first to reach Saddle Junction. When the rest of the group reached the Junction, all were accounted for but her. This occurred at 8:30 a.m., the group called and called for

her with no response. Group leaders hastily searched down nearby trails to no avail.

By the time RMRU was contacted, nearly seven hours had passed since her disappearance. This time element concerned us because the day had been extremely warm and it was unknown if she had carried any water with her. The cool mountain streams which usually flow this time of year were nearly nonexistent because of drought conditions.

RMRU quickly dispatched teams of two up different trails leading in and out of the "High Country" to cover any of her possible exits.

Bob Baker and I, both from Idyllwild, took the assignment of covering the Devils Slide trail. We charged up the trail, trying to cover the open territory as quickly as possible. About 3/4 of the way up, we ran into a hiker who said, if we were looking for a young woman who was lost, we could find her hiking down with a couple of hikers who had stopped to help her find her way back.

We proceeded up trail and soon found, as the other hiker had said, the subject was in good shape. We shared our water with her, which she graciously accepted, radioed into base and escorted her back to the welcome arms of her companions. A whole two hours had transpired, and I thought "wouldn't it be nice if most missions could be so short and with such sweet endings".

SEARCH

Mission No. 20

ID: 91040

8 July, Monday

Tahquitz Rock Area, Idyllwild

By Marsha Bronson

RMRU was called out to Humber Park after an unexpected thunderstorm. Two climbers had set out to climb Tahquitz Peak and failed to meet their wives at Humber Park at their prearranged time. The Sheriff was contacted and RMRU was dispatched.

Since the wives were unaware as to their husbands intended route on the Peak, four teams set out to surround the Peak and

cover all exits.

At 8:00 p.m., the two gentlemen walked out. The lighting had put up quite a show and they had taken cover until it was over. They were quite happy to see us but also a little embarrassed. Their first response was, "What will this cost us?" They were relived to find out that we are a volunteer service.

SEARCH

Mission No. 21

ID: 91048

*19 July, Friday through 4 August, Sunday
Mt. San Geronio Wilderness Area
By Patty Lyons*

A search in the San Geronio Wilderness Area for a lost 13 year old Boy Scout, Jahard Negrete, expanded over two weeks involving searchers from many teams. The boy scout was last seen on the Vivian Creek Trail and his camera was found off that trail with the last picture on the role a self portrait. **RMRU** logged nearly 700 man hours after becoming involved with the search on the third day.

With much regret, the 13 year old boy scout was never found. Only speculation could be made by the San Bernardino Sheriff's Department on several possible outcomes. The search was called off due to no further leads and the great expenses incurred.

The participation for **RMRU** and the Mountain Rescue Association created a significant and beneficial learning experience with the San Bernardino Sheriff's Department Search & Rescue Teams. A search of this magnitude and length presented the opportunity to work with multiple agencies on the State and County levels.

SEARCH

Mission No. 22

ID: 91049

*20 July, Saturday
Pinyon Pines Area
By Pete Carlson*

This was one of the researches for a 3 year old that was never found in March. The members went outside of the original search area and down some canyons and ridges that had not been searched because of the distance from the point last seen.

Again, as in past try's, nothing was found. Members got some good familiarization of the area and good desert training in temperatures over 100 degrees.

RECOVERY

Mission No. 23

ID: 91050

*6-7 August, Tuesday & Wednesday
Suicide Rock, Idyllwild
By Rick Phenicie*

Dinner was just winding down, kids were happy, I was just about ready to catch the evening news; BZZzzzz!...the pager sounded; rescue at Suicide Rock, a 17 year old boy had fallen from the top! I loaded my gear and headed for the mountain.

When I arrived at basecamp, there must have been at least 10 or 15 **RMRU** team members already there. I was told that a church group out for a day hike had hiked to the top of Suicide Rock and the boy had gotten too close to the edge and slipped off.

Team 1 was already out in the field searching the base of the rock. Other members were packing ropes and equipment needed for the rescue when the news came over the radio, the boy had been found, it didn't look good. Team 1 requested help with a body recovery.

With disappointment, we packed the rescue gear back into the van and unloaded what was needed to assist Team 1.

The trail to the base of Suicide Rock is steep and rugged, but with the help of team member Warren (*I can climb anything in the dark*) Egbert, we met up with Team 1 in no time.

After taking care of the job at hand, it was determined that the terrain was such that a carry-out was out of the question and we would wait until first light for a helicopter. The recovery was completed and everyone headed home.

RESCUE

Mission No. 24

ID: 91051

*5-7 September, Thursday through Saturday
San Jacinto Peak, Idyllwild
By Patty Lyons*

A 43 year old male experienced hiker was reported missing to the Sheriff by his girlfriend Monday evening. 18 searchers responded to the call-out at 11:40 p.m. The subject had filed a permit stating his intended route to be Marion Mountain Trail. Teams of trackers were quickly dispatched. The subject's car was located at the Marion Mountain trail-head. The rain earlier had washed away all possible foot prints from this area making confirmation of any print difficult.

Monday night, teams were also dispatched on other trails: Fuller Ridge Trail, Seven Pines Trail, Deer Springs Trail, and Devil Slide Trail. The trails were covered from Strawberry Cienega around the Pacific Crest Trail to Marion Mountain trail up to San Jacinto Peak. Also the other direction was covered from Wellmans Divide to Miller Peak to San Jacinto Peak. Tuesday morning no sign of the subject or tracks were reported. Helicopter support for an air search was obtained by 1:00 p.m. No sighting of the subject or tracks Tuesday evening. The basecamp was moved from Marion Mountain Trail head to Keenwild Heliport to accommodate the expanding operation.

MRA call-out reported approximately 37 searchers to respond for Wednesday morning from **RMRU**, Hemet, San Diego, Sierra Madre, Altadena, China Lake, San Dimas, CARDA and Montrose. Sergeant Donohoo from the Riverside Sheriffs Department bought up a motor home with a telephone for basecamp operations out of the Keenwild Heliport.

A possible sighting from a Sierra

Madre team member who had been out for a day hike on the same trail that same day was confirmed by faxing a photograph. Calls were made throughout Tuesday to other hikers who had filled out permits at the Forest Service Station.

Wednesday morning 6:00 a.m., teams arrived and were given assignments. Helicopter support transported teams to their assignments and had them all in location by 8:43 a.m. The teams were to search the trails again but in daylight. They went off trails and searched drainages covering a larger area.

During the day of the search, Channel 4 news televised the subjects photograph. A call came in at 5:30 p.m. from a hiker who confirmed seeing the subject Monday evening after two hail storms. This caller stated to have seen the subject coming up from Little Round Valley to the San Jacinto Peak. The caller also informed us that there was a lightening storm heading to the peak at the time they saw the subject heading up to the peak.

Wednesday evening still no sign of the subject or tracks from the search teams. OES/MRA call out reported 55 searchers to respond for the Thursday morning deployment of teams. The additional teams to assist in the search were San Bernardino, San Geronio, Montrose and IMRT.

Thursday morning teams were ready for their assignments but helicopters were delayed. Teams were in place by 11:35 a.m. At 1:39 p.m. China Lake, assigned to technical terrain, reported hearing a voice 1000 feet down from San Jacinto Peak at Snow Creek. The voice was confirmed as the subject Martin Copeland and he was reported as being O.K. A helicopter was dispatched to the sight for pickup and extraction of all teams in the field. By 4:00 p.m. all teams were removed from the field, briefed and feed.

SEARCH

Mission No. 25

ID: 91052

6 September, Friday

San Jacinto Peak, Idyllwild

During Mission #24 a search for a missing hiker found on the North Face of San Jacinto Peak, a report of another missing hiker in the area was called in to the Sheriff. RMRU members in the area of Round Valley where the new missing hiker was last seen, started looking for hiker #2.

One team coming up to San Jacinto Peak from Little Round Valley on their way to Round Valley found missing hiker #2 coming down the trail towards them.

They asked him where he was going and he said the Tramway. They informed him that he had gone the wrong way and the Tramway was down the other side of the mountain.

They then hiked with him back to Round Valley where a ranger going back to the Tramway took him back the rest of the way.

SEARCH

Mission No. 26

ID: 91059

23-24 October, Wednesday through Thursday

Reeds Meadow, Idyllwild

At 5 in the afternoon, we receive a call of a missing hiker last seen at the Saddle Junction after leaving Humber Park. She had been hiking with a group and fallen behind because she was tired. She said she knew the way and would meet her group at the cars. She never showed up.

Teams were sent up from Humber Park to the Saddle and then out the different trails. One team went towards Tahquitz Peak, another towards Tahquitz Valley, another to Skunk Cabbage Meadow, and the last towards San Jacinto Peak.

They hiked all night and found no sign of the missing women. The next morning around 7:00, a team got an answer to their calls. They followed the calls and found the missing hiker in Reeds Meadow, she had

been asleep all night and not heard the teams yelling. She was in good shape and they hiked her back her friends at Humber Park.

Everyone enjoyed a big breakfast in Idyllwild before going home to catch up on some lost sleep.



SEARCH

Mission No. 27

ID: 91060

26 November, Tuesday

Tahquitz Valley, Idyllwild

Friends called to say that a couple did not return from a day hike. Team members responded to Humber Park and started hiking up the Devils Slide Trail. The couple was going to Tahquitz Valley, so the first teams went there.

As they yelled through the Valley they got an answer. They closed in on the calling and talked to the couple, who were nice and warm in a tent and sleeping bags.

They said they had always intended on spending the night and were not due out until the next day.

The teams said good night and hiked back out. Everyone was out by 6:00 a.m. and had a nice breakfast before going off to work or sleep.