

RMRU Fresh Tracks

The Newsletter of Riverside Mountain Rescue Unit, Riverside County, California

December 2004

IN MEMORIAL *for some of* OUR OWN



Glenn Henderson shown presenting plaque of appreciation to Dr. Mellor after a training at his "Sky Yacht," in Idyllwild.



John Willis, a former member of the team and the person that did most of the work on the web page for RMRU.



Funeral of Dr. Norman Hoyt Mellor with Walt Walker, Glenn Henderson and Jim Fairchild shown.



Dr. Norman Hoyt Mellor died and the honor Guard [left] was present. He was a founder of our team some 40+ years ago. On the Joshua Tree mission [# 14], 2 members of San Bernardino team were killed in an Auto crash while driving to the search. The Honor Guard [right] attended to honor those lost in the line of duty. We also lost John Willis, a former member of the team, and the person that made the arrangements for and did the original work on our www.rmru.org web page.



In Memory of Norman Hoyt Mellor, M.D.

by Jim Fairchild,

Norman Hoyt Mellor, M.D., was for most of his life, an enthusiastic champion of new concepts and finding a better way of doing things. My first contact with him was in 1938 as a new member of the famous Boy Scout Troop 13, here in Riverside. Norm was a pre-med student at Stanford University, while I was a new Scout with a growing interest in field birding. Norm was already an expert in field birding, and we soon began making birding trips together. He and his wife Maggie searched the planet for birds, spotting thousands of species. When the airplane called the "China Clipper" began service to the Hawaiian Islands, it became a favorite vacation spot for Norm's family and they made many flights over there. Of course, birding in the islands is a treat in itself.



Always innovative and ahead of his time, Norm was first to teach CPR. He and I taught together before the Red Cross embraced the technique. Two other human care functions Norm was early to recommend were: 1) cold-water first aid for thermal burns, and 2) to drink copious amounts of water whether exercise is involved or not. Prior to 1941, the concept of drinking water during exercise was not encouraged. His change in belief was founded while leading Troop 13 and other Scouts from Camp Emerson to Round Valley, which is a nine-mile hike on a hot dry trail. Norm said, "Don't drink water, you'll get sick". He quickly discovered the opposite was fact!

Norm's medical specialty was knee injuries and he treated numerous RMRU members with joint problems. He also established the cardiac care section of a hospital in Corona.

Fast-forwarding to 1961 when RMRU was founded, I recall asking Norm if he would serve as our physician. He proceeded to train us in many aspects of wilderness subject care. He and his wife Maggie owned a cabin called the "Sky Yacht" just below Humber Park. He would at times diagnose over the radio, a subject's injuries or illness. Our annual technical trainings on either Tahquitz or Suicide Rock, were hosted by Norm and Maggie at their cabin, followed by a dinner party.

Norm had many other accomplishments and awards. Just to name a few, he and I were jointly presented the Silver Beaver Award for service to Scouts. Norm was also active nationally in conservation, and was awarded the Hornaday Award.

These are only a few remembrances from our association with Norm. His tragic passing this summer leaves us with a great legacy and sadness that he is gone. Our condolences and prayers for strength go out to the extensive Mellor family!

Norm, you will be missed.

In Memory of John Willis By Glenn Henderson

On Monday, August 6, RMRU lost one of our own when John Willis was killed in a Paragliding accident in San Diego. John joined our team in the early 90's while still a student at Riverside Community College. In 1995 John (sort – of) left the team to enlist in the Navy Seals. That was John, always looking for something new and challenging. After some time training to become a Seal, John decided that the Seals was not for him but stayed in the Navy. John was stationed in Japan and Bahrain but kept in contact with the team. After leaving the Navy John moved to Switzerland working for a computer company. While there John started the RMRU web site. This kept John in continual contact with the team, posting our missions and trainings. John left Switzerland in June 2001. He again was with RMRU for a short time when the Navy Seals called him away again. He again left the service in June 2001 where he left the Navy but was hired on as a civilian contractor for the Navy. John was in and out of RMRU's life showing up for trainings when he was in town and helped on missions when he could. John was a joy to hike with and to be around. He never had a cross word for anyone and could find something good in any situation. John left RMRU a great legacy through our web site. Our friend will be greatly missed. John is survived by his wife Sarah, daughter Hannah, and son Nicholas. At John's services Sarah said it best, "I am at peace with the circumstances of John's death. I know in my heart if John could choose his death it would be while he was in flight. He was doing exactly what he wanted and loved it up until the end. I hope you take peace in this as I have."



Mission #08 04/17/2004 Missing hikers late coming out at the Upper Tram. Aborted.
Mission #09 06/05/2004 Marine severely dehydrated on PCT around Snow Creek.
Rescued. By Patrick McCurdy

The page went out about 0300 for a severely dehydrated Marine on the Pacific Crest Trail, above Snow Creek. I was the second person on scene, arriving just after Jim Bakos. It was a warm, windy, incredibly clear morning in the desert, and Jim and I stared up at the beautiful San Jacinto Mountains waiting for the rest of the team to arrive. As we gazed at the mountains, Jim spotted a cone of light circling high above, searching the mountain, and correctly identified it as the Sheriff's helicopter.



The helicopter landed nearby as the rest of the team arrived, and the crew conferred with us about possible locations for the sick Marine. It took off again and fairly quickly located the subject, lifted him out, and flew him to the hospital in Palm Springs, while his buddies hiked down the trail to their car. They came driving down the canyon as we were packing up to leave and were rather grumpy at Jim's suggesting that they pose for a photo for our newsletter.

Lesson learned: Don't tease tired, grumpy Marines about needing to be rescued!

Mission #10 06/12/2004 Deer Springs Trail. Hiker with difficulty breathing on Trail.
Aborted

Mission #11 06/26/2004 Humber Park Devil's Slide Trail. Injured hiker short way out.
Aborted.

Mission #12 07/11/2004 Snow Creek Fire. Hikers may need help. Arrived on scene.
Aborted. By Glenn Henderson

Called to assist in the evacuation of a hiker that may be in the path of a newly started brushfire. Mission was cancelled as we arrived at Snow creek. 13 members responded.



Mission #13 07/12/2004 Snow Creek Fire. Broken leg. Aborted.

Mission #14 07/16-17-18- & 19 Jumbo Rock in Joshua Tree. Search for 17 yr. Old male.
By Glenn Henderson

We received a call Friday morning at 0300 on July 16 for a missing 17-year-old camper in Joshua Tree National Park. Team member's responded early Friday morning to search for Eric Sears at the Jumbo Rocks campground in the park. It seems that Eric and friend Ben Fogelstrom, 17, had been hiking and became separated. Ben returned to camp but Eric never showed up. With many days of 100 plus heat, it was really an emergency to find Eric as quickly as possible. The campground was searched thoroughly and the search area was expanded to the rocky areas outside of the campground. Jumbo Rocks is a beautiful area of giant sized boulders strewn about in great jumbles of rocks. There are literally hundreds of places where a person could crawl or fall into and not be seen by anyone walking by. All of these areas had to be searched; taking many people hours to crawl into, rappel into or otherwise get into to be sure Eric was not there trying to get out of the heat. Friday ended with frustration and no clues.



Saturday morning was again going to be another hot day at 107. During the night investigators determined that

Eric and Ben had brewed up some Jimson Weed as a tea. Jimson Weed (*Datura*) is a dangerous hallucinogen that has proven fatal in many cases. A region callout was done during the night and many other teams were now on hand to help in the search. These teams included search dogs, mounted searchers, Sheriff's helicopter and other rescue teams.

Saturday turned out to be a SAR teams worst nightmare come true. Two members of the San Geronio Search and Rescue Team were killed in a head on collision while responding to the search. Five members of their team were traveling through Morongo Valley when their Chevy suburban was struck head on by another truck. Scott Johnston, 30, of Redlands and Phil Calvert, 58, of Mentone, died of injuries suffered in the crash. Two others were injured.

Base Camp was a very subdued place but the search continued knowing that time was running out for Eric as it would be 107 this Saturday. After searching and researching again, nothing was found. This continued until Wednesday when the search was scaled back but not abandoned. Early in the week a homicide investigation was started in addition to the search. No one has been charged to date. On Saturday friends and family members started their own search and did find Erik 2 ½ miles from Jumbo Rocks. It was not known how he died or when. Our team found out about finding Eric over the radio as we were driving to services for Scott.

Mission #15 08/04/2004 Cranston Ranger Station. Mission accomplished with young male. By Kirk Cloyd

RMRU responded to Cranston Ranger Station at approx. 0730 where Riverside County Sheriff Deputies and the aviation unit that fire officials had voice contact with a missing male that had a possible broken leg. The subject had obtained a three day pass from his parole officer in order to go backpacking. I deployed with the air unit (STAR 91) and located the subject just before sundown at the bottom of a box canyon on Lake Hemet Water District property. At this time I was lowered from the helicopter to evaluate the subject. The subject was found to be in reasonable condition. He had found an old sleeping bag stuffed with a can of beans and a bottle of cheese wiz. This along with the water puddle on the valley floor sustained the subject for the three days. The subject had lost his shoes over a cliff the first day out and the bottoms of his feet were like raw hamburger. I placed the subject in a full body harness. By this time, the sun had gone down below the western horizon. Due to the windy conditions, it was difficult to get the cable and hook to our location. I informed the subject to be ready to be rapidly hoisted when I returned with the cable and hook. I signaled STAR 91 to lower the hook up the hillside. I climbed to the hook, turned and slid down to the subject. As I slid down to him, I clipped into his harness and signaled STAR 91 to begin hoisting. The subject did not want to stand on his injured feet. As STAR 91 began to hoist, the subject lay on his back and began an uphill slide. I immediately grabbed the subject's legs and rotated him face down. He immediately stood up and was hoisted into the awaiting helicopter. It was now my turn. I climbed to the top of the nearby slope and clipped into the hoist. Once airborne, the wind shifted the helicopter forward about fifteen feet. I began to pendulum rapidly toward the silhouette of a large tree.



I stopped about two feet short of the tree and then started my swing in the other direction. As I swung under the air ship I looked up and realized that I was looking up at the opposite side of the helicopter. The hoist operator then stopped his raise. As the cable settled in the hoist, I dropped about two inches. In the dark night with the lights of the Hemet Valley a hundred feet below me it might as well have been ten feet. This was one of those times when your life flashes before you. This same scenario happened a second time at a higher altitude but eventually I was in the helicopter with the subject and heading back to the LZ and the awaiting ambulance.

Mission #16 08/02-03-04-05/2004 Out of county. San Bernardino search for 9 yr. old boy

**Mission #16 08/04/2004 Big Bear Search EXTENDED
By Brenda DeLuna**



We deployed at approx. 0730 into an area approx. 6 miles North East of the Hanna Flats campground. We divided the area into two halves with Pete, Will, Phil and Bill (all the ill's) covering one half and Bruce, Steve and Brenda covering the other. We attempted a line grid search, but with so few people it was hard to get a very high POD (probability of detection). We finished our assignment at approximately 1400 and were on our way back to base when we were flagged down by the Orange Co. and Sierra Madre team. They had a report of a child crying "Daddy, Daddy" in that area. We all spread out and grid searched the area, but came up with nothing. A few members of the Sierra

Madre team felt that David might be frightened by all the yelling, so they waited until things quieted down and went into a listening mode. We returned to base at approx. 1530, ate lunch and then immediately responded to the Angel's Glide rescue (see mission report for more details.)

Members present: Steve Bryant, Phil Thompson, Bruce Sanny, Pete Carlson, Will Carlson, Brenda DeLuna and Bill Morris

**Mission #17 08/04/2004 Angels Glide Man suffering from heat exhaustion. Aborted
The team arrived on site as the man was being brought out.**

Mission # 18 08/08/2004 Salton Sea. Search for man separated from Group.

This search was on a miserably hot and humid day at the Salton Sea. We got the all to assist teams from the desert that were already on scene.

We arrived around noon and immediately started gulping down ice water, since it was so disgustingly hot. During the briefing we learned that four men had taken a 1980's Trans Am onto the rugged dirt roads near the Salton Sea. They had gone fishing in the canal and had gotten their ill-equipped car stuck in the sand on the drive home. They had tried for a few hours to free the car but eventually conceded that it was stuck and that they would have to walk back. The highway was several miles away and the temperature was well over 110 degrees with an appallingly high humidity level. And to make matters worse they had little to no water. After a few hours of walking one of the men said they were going the wrong way. The other three disagreed. There was an argument and the one man went his own way.

The three men finally made it to the highway after 2000. They were picked up by a passing car and were so dehydrated they needed immediate hospitalization. The next morning they had not heard from the one man who had gone off alone. So they called the Sheriff's office and the search was underway.

Just as we started to deploy into the field the subject was found...at home. What we found out was that the lone walker actually did go the right way. He made it to the highway hours before his friends did and just went home, not knowing that his friends were still very much in danger out in the desert. He was at home while his buddies were in the hospital. He called them the next morning to hang out and was told that there was a search going on for him and that he should probably call the Sheriff's department. He did and we all went home shortly after, very much relieved that we didn't have to hike around out there in that heat. A total of 10 members were present.

**Mission #19 08/10/2004 Evidence/Body Search at South Fork Trailhead
By Travis Henderson**



RMRU was asked by the Sheriff's Department to join the Riverside County Search Dogs in the search for a man that had not been seen since February 2004. His family last saw the man in February and they had not heard or seen from him since. In July his car was found abandoned at the South Fork Trailhead, otherwise known as the Mixing Station. It was known that the man had a history of mental illness and that he was distraught after the illness and passing of his father early this

When his car was found at the trailhead the detectives asked us, and the dog team, to search the area around the parking lot for any sign that the man might have been there and/or was still there. After a 0600 briefing at the Sheriff's substation in Valle Vista we started our search at around 0645. We were starting early in the morning since we didn't want to be searching during the hottest part of a hot day. Also the dogs are most effective when the air temperature is cooler since any scent that might be there will rise above the dog's nose when it gets too warm. After a thorough search of the area surrounding the parking lot and the hills and gulleys nearby it was determined that the man was not there and the search was called off.

Mission #20 08/14/2004 Car over the side in the Badlands
By Kirk Cloyd



Saturday night around 1900 three friends decided to take a company truck out for a little joy ride over the razorbacks in the badlands. Around 1930 the trio's truck slide over the edge of a razorback, fell approx. 200 feet and flipped. The driver was not seat belted in and was thrown from the truck. The two passengers hiked out to Gilman Hot Springs Rd. and contacted family and friends to help retrieve the driver and get him to a hospital. When they could not relocate the crash site, the CHP was contacted at 22:00 for a "non-injury" accident. The CHP and CDF arrived at 2230 and contacted STAR 91. STAR 91 used their night vision to locate the crash sight within five minutes. While the Paramedics made their way to the subject, STAR 91 requested RMRU. Dave Web and I met STAR 91 at Ryan Air Field. I drew the lucky straw and went up with the air ship. The hoist operator and I sat with our feet out the door so we could hold onto the Stokes litter so it would not hit the side of the helicopter. We flew across the valley and arrived over the scene where I was lowered with the Stokes litter to the ground. The Paramedics and I rolled the subject into the litter and he was hoisted to STAR 91. The air ship took the subject to Moreno Valley Hospital. I hiked out with the fire dept. over the razorbacks, rode in a fire engine to Gilman Hot Springs Rd. where an awaiting CHP cruiser transported me to the hospital. There I flew with STAR 91 back to Ryan Air Field. Talk about living a kids dream all in one night!

Mission #21 09/18/2004 Marion Mountain, two hikers separated from group.
By Will Carlson



The weather had finally changed. I sat around the house all day catching up on my college work. Earlier, I had thought to myself what a great day it would be for hiking. It was just before 2300 when I heard the pager. I had a feeling this mission was going to be a good one. I called the rescue line and a few minutes later my dad (Pete Carlson) and I were headed to the Marion Mountain Trail. We were told that two hikers were lost up near the summit of San Jacinto Peak.

We arrived around 0100 to find team members Lee Arnson, Max Brummett, and Terry Greenstein. Lee had already gathered the subject information, and with only five members we knew we needed to get going. We quickly devised a plan and got to it. Lee and I would be team 1 and head up the Seven Pines trail, while Pete and Max as team 2 would head up the Marion Mountain Trail. Terry would remain at the trailhead and run our base operations. Patrick McCurdy also joined up with team 1.

After completing our initial assignments, we all met at the junction of Deer Springs Trail and Fuller Ridge Trail and settled in for a few hours of sleep. By 0600 we were up and moving again. Team 1 headed up through Little Round Valley to the summit (note: the summit was also the point last seen). Team 2 decided to follow the Fuller Ridge Trail down to the Folly Ridge and then head for the summit.

By this time we had other teams arriving from out of county. We were sending teams up various trails and covering the previously covered trails in case the subjects were sleeping when the first teams moved through. Team 2 was positioned on the windy summit to act as a radio relay as team 1 headed down the other side to Laws camp. We were really worried about the subject's condition due to the fact of how cold it was the night before and the tremendous winds.

Team members Debby Riegle, Jeff Sutch, Bill Delo, Ray Hussey, Steve Bryant, and Lew Kingman also arrived. Debby headed down to Caramba with Clay and Jeremy, two members of Sierra Madre Search and Rescue Team. Bill and Jeff headed up to the Strawberry Cienaga Junction. While all of this searching was going on, Lew and Ray were preparing to head up to Little Round Valley, and later the summit.

By the middle of the afternoon we were stumped as to where these two hikers could be, yet we were confident that we would find them. Not too long after we were pondering their whereabouts we heard on the radio that the helicopter had spotted them. The missing hikers were located below Fuller Ridge Trail and appeared to be in good condition. Sierra Madre team 1 made their way to the subjects, along with RMRU team 2, and together they hiked them out. Everyone was back to their cars by 1800.

RMRU Members Present: Lee Arnson, Max Brummett, Terry Greenstein, Pete Carlson, Will Carlson, Patrick McCurdy, Jeff Sutch, Debby Riegle, Steve Bryant, Lew Kingman, Ray Hussey, Bill Delo.
Special Thanks to: Sierra Madre Search and Rescue Team, Rim of the World Search and Rescue, San Geronio Search and Rescue, and San Dimas Mountain Rescue.

Mission #22 09/25/2004 Upper Tram, FIRST OF THREE MISSIONS. **By Will Carlson**

I sprang to life as I heard my pager sound. It was still early in the evening so I figured it was a rescue. Sure enough, we were requested to the upper tramway to assist the State Park rangers with a four pitch raise and carry out of a woman with a possible broken ankle.



The majority of the team arrived at the tram station just after 1900 and twelve members were at the top of the tram by 1945, and ready to start in. A twenty minute hike took us to the State Park rangers and we began our assist. We sent fresh members down to relieve the rangers and carry the stretcher. After two raises we were to the trail. We attached the wheel to the stretcher and wheeled the patient to the tram and an awaiting ambulance. See picture on back page. As we packed up the rescue van we were called to two other searches. One was in Garner Valley and the other was out of Fern Basin.

Members present: Brad Scott, Dana Potts, Travis Henderson, Gwenda Yates, Ray Hussey, Dave Webb, John Dempsey, Pete Carlson, Will Carlson, Patrick McCurdy, Bill Morris, Rick Mascheck, Kirk Cloyd, Brenda DeLuna, and Debby Riegle.

Mission #23 09/25/2004 SECOND OF THREE MISSIONS. Apple Canyon Rd. **Aborted**

Mission #24 09/25/2004 THIRD OF THREE MISSIONS. Marion Mountain. **By Will Carlson**

Fresh off of the rescue at the tramway and an aborted search in Garner Valley, we responded to a search at the Marion Mountain trailhead. We were told that two hikers had failed to return from their summit bid on San Jacinto peak. We were just about packed and ready to begin searching when the subjects hiked out. They were in great shape. They had just kept going even when it got dark. After three missions in one night we were all ready for some sleep.



Members Present: Ray Hussey, Will Carlson, Pete Carlson, Debby Riegle, Dana Potts, Rick Mascheck, Brad Scott, Brenda DeLuna, Travis Henderson, Patrick McCurdy, Gwenda Yates, Mike George, Bill Morris, John Dempsey, Jim Fairchild, Kirk Cloyd, and Max Brummett.

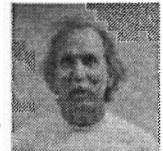
Mission #25 10/17/2004 Rescue to Tanaja Falls By Glenn Henderson



At 0720 Sunday morning Jim Fairchild called and told me the team had been activated to help evacuate an injured person on the trail to Tanaja Falls. Jim had a meeting at church that he could not get out of so he turned the mission over to me. I paged the team out with directions and information on the mission. Team members immediately started responding. I gathered up my gear, picked up team member Gwenda Yates, and went to the Sheriff's Department to get the White Van. We got to Winchester, about 15 miles, when dispatch called and said that we were no longer needed. BUMMER!!! We were looking forward to helping someone that needed our help. I called my wife, Robin, at home and had her put out a 90- 90 message to the team. 90- 90 means the mission is over.

We drove back to the 'Cop Shop' and backed the van into the garage. As I was showing Gwenda how to turn off the radios and electrical chargers, dispatch again called and said we were being "reactivated" for the same mission. I called Robin and had her put out another page. We again drove out heading for Tanaja Falls. As we got to within one mile of our destination we saw an ambulance and a fire truck heading back in the direction we had just come. You guessed it. The mission was over. CDF had hiked in and carried the injured girl out to the ambulance. From the story we got, a one and a half foot Oak Tree limb had fallen 30 feet into a tent at 0500 in the morning, injuring a girl sleeping inside. She suffered a broken left arm and injuries to her left hip. After getting some gas and something to eat, it was 1430 in the afternoon before we finally got back home. 12 members responded.

SAR-City 2004 By Rick Maschek



Several RMRU members attended this year's SAR-City for October's training. This annual event, organized by the Barstow Desert Rescue Squad, offers a wide selection of courses for search and rescue people in various positions from ground pounder to aviation to command post overhead management personnel. Teams with 5 or more people attending get a price break of \$65 each and this year our team had well over the five required.

This year was the 14th time I've been to SAR-City and for the forth consecutive year, I have taught the technical rope rescue course held at Barstow Community College and for the field portion of the class at Sawtooth Ridge (a rock climbing area south of Barstow). My "students" ranged from beginning novices to instructors and even two repeat students who wanted a refresher course. We started Friday evening with knot tying of the basic knots most often used in rope rescue and included passing a test of tying the knots with the lights turned off. The next morning found us out on the lawn setting up anchors, belays, raise & lowering systems, and mechanical advantage. After packing up the gear, we carpooled out to Sawtooth where we simulated numerous rescues of injured climbers, and we were also able to practice several rappels. We finished at 1700 and after eating the famous SAR-City steak dinner, spent time in the gym shopping the vendors and then settling down with the evening program by the state OES SAR coordinator, Matt Sharp. The next morning, we were back at Sawtooth continuing what we had practiced previously and were finished by noon. SAR-City has over the years been a place of instruction and camaraderie for the search and rescue community for years as well as serving as the Desert Rescue squad's primary fundraising event.

**HELP US BY DONATING TO THE RIVERSIDE MOUNTAIN RESCUE UNIT.
ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE AND ARE APPRECIATED**

RMRU Honor Guard Members By Dana Potts

In March of 2001, Mountain Rescue Association past presidents Tim Kovacs and Dave Moore formed the MRA Honor Guard. It was the first of its kind in the United States. Since its creation, in 2001, there have been several additions to the group. Two of which are from your very own RMRU. Kirk Cloyd and Dana Potts are the first and only current Honor Guard Members from California.

Since Dana has been a member of the Honor Guard, he has taken part in several services and events. Dana took part in his first event at the MRA annual conference in Idyllwild in 2004. Dana has also traveled as far away as Seattle Washington to honor two members of the Tacoma team who lost their lives in an ice climbing accident. More recently both Kirk and Dana attended the services for the San Bernardino team members who lost their lives while driving to Joshua Tree to take part in a rescue call out.

However, on September 6th, 2004, RMRU lost a beloved team member and friend John Charles Willis. John was a past field team member and at the time of his passing was the web designer and host for the teams web site www.rmrु.org. John's death was sudden and unexpected; he lost his life in a parasailing accident. John left behind his wife Sarah, daughter Hannah and son Nicholas. The Honor Guard was requested and Team Members Joe Erickson and Rob May assisted. (Sarah, John was a friend to all, a loving husband and loving father, RMRU will never forget "John Willis" End of watch Sept. 6th, 2004)

As the team began to recover from the unexpected loss of John, it was informed that Dr. Norman Hoyt Mellor a long time contributor to RMRU had passed away on September 17, 2004. Dr. Mellor served as one of the teams training physicians since 1965. Dr. Mellor's knowledge in the field of medicine and altitude related illnesses were of great help to new team members as they explored the backcountry as first responders. Dr. Mellor's service was held at his house in Corona, California. Dr. Mellor's family requested the MRA Honor Guard for his service and again we were able to assist. Again, RMRU members Joe Erickson and Rob May assisted as local team representatives. To Dr. Mellor's family, Dr. Mellor's dedication and contributions to RMRU will not be forgotten. www.mountainrescuehonorguard.org

San Gorgonio SAR Funerals By Dana Potts

The Month of July was hard on all SAR members with the loss of two local San Gorgonio SAR members in an automobile accident. Phil Calvert and Scott Johnston were doing what they loved, responding to a call for help.

As a member of the Mountain Rescue Association Honor Guard, I attended both funerals as part of the Honor Guard. Other Riverside Mtn. Rescue Unit members attended in their orange uniform shirts as requested by the San Gorgonio team.

As a Police Officer, I've attended several funerals and always expect a large turn out of uniformed personnel. I was not sure what to expect for a volunteers service. This was the first *line of duty* SAR funeral I had attended as an Honor Guard member. The massive turn out of Orange Shirts and friends was amazing.

There are no words that can be used to really explain the Honor and emotion I felt to be a part of the service and to be thanked personally by the family and members of the San Gorgonio Team us being there to honor their brother members. The only thing that I could tell them was that I was sorry for their loss and that I was the one that needed to thank them for letting us take part in honoring their members who made the greatest sacrifice anyone could make.

May Phil and Scott rest in peace and may their families and friends find peace in knowing that they are in Gods hands now and will be looking over all of us now.

Rescuer's Prayer

When I am called to duty, God, wherever people fall,
Give me strength to save a life, whatever be the call.
Help me embrace a little child before it is too late,
Or save an older person from the horror of that fate.
Enable me to be alert, and hear the weakest shout,
And quickly and effectively bring my neighbor out.
I want to fill my calling and to give back to their family.
And if according to your will, I have to loose my life,
please bless with your protecting hand,
my children and my wife.

9/12/2004 Repeater Coverage Testing for the Sheriff's Office By Patrick McCurdy

RMRU maintains a very positive relationship with our sponsor organization, Riverside Sheriff's Office (RSO). This has been particularly true lately with their help in securing a major donation for a new team vehicle, and their willingness to meet with us regarding ongoing communications issues, though no resolution has yet to come from the latter. So, when RSO asked us to do something out of the ordinary, we were eager to accommodate them.



San Jacinto Police Department recently transitioned to RSO patrol and the 800 MHz trunked radio system used by RSO. That left the old San Jacinto VHF repeater system with very limited use, and RSO wanted RMRU to check the coverage of this repeater in the San Jacinto Mountains.

On Sunday, September 12th, about a dozen team members met at Humber Park for the test. After an initial briefing on repeater use, six teams went out with radio and GPS to hike trails and drive dirt roads. Gwenda and I stayed at the base where we knew coverage was good, and team members did radio checks with base at intervals. Teams logged the quality of the coverage, as well as their GPS location. In addition to collecting radio coverage data, it was a good opportunity for members to familiarize themselves with trails and practice with the GPS. It was a beautiful day and everyone seemed to enjoy the fresh mountain air while avoiding the heat of the valley below.

The data collected was later plotted onto a map using green for good coverage, yellow for poor coverage and red for no coverage. This and a one page report was handed to RSO several days later. While we found that coverage was poor, RSO was very pleased to have the information for their own use and thanked RMRU for their fast response to this unusual request.

Members present were Kirk Cloyd, John Dempsey, Ray Hussey, Michael George, Terry Greenstein, Patrick McCurdy, Bill Morris, Brad Scott, and Gwenda Yates.

Last Spring Snow Survey of the Mountains By Lee Arnson

Monday, May 03, 2004 8:37 AM



On March 6, 2004 several members of the rescue team made the annual trek to the San Jacinto High Country to conduct a snow pack survey. This survey is sponsored by the four hill water agencies as a way to predict the summer water table. This is the sixth winter we have performed this service, and it has turned out to be a very fun and challenging trip.

Team members left Humber Park at 1800 and night hiked to Little Tahquitz Valley where we established our camp. It has become tradition on the night before the survey to have a huge cookout in the snow, followed by an even larger campfire. On this particular night, the moon was so full and bright that the fire was only needed for warmth.

The following morning we awoke to a spectacular sunrise, and got our gear together. It had snowed on and off the week prior to this trip and conditions were perfect. Snow shoes were a must, and coincidentally we all had new winter jackets so there was much debate on who was the best looking surveyor.

Little Tahquitz Valley and Lower Tahquitz Valley are the two sites where we take our measurements. Each site is 500 feet long and we take a total of 10 measurements at each site. The water districts are most interested in the water content of the snow and not its depth. On this particular trip, both sites yielded 40 inches of snow with a water content of 14 inches. We wrapped up the day with lunch in Tahquitz Valley and snow shod back to Humber Park via the old trail.

Members present:: Lee Arnson, Will Carlson, Pete Carlson and Tony Sandrini.

Sustaining Members

Benefactor Club	\$1,000 +	Elaine Landells Scott Brothers Dairy Farms Palm Springs Aviation, Inc. [Memory: Don Landells]		
Summit Club	\$ 500 +	Steve & Rosemarie Johnson	Norm Mellor	
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Forever fondly thinking of you. Praying for your safety and wellness. Immensely and eternally thanking you for all your help in searching and rescuing Marvin Matsumoto last year April 21 to April 25, 2003.

Marvin would not be alive without your intensive and undaunted search and rescue work. Never ending extreme thank you.

God Bless You,

Mits Matsumoto

Email: mtz_sja@yahoo.com

P.O. Box 612274

San Jose, CA 95161



Please see my attached message "God Bless" and please share my message to everyone who rescued Marvin Matsumoto - "Lost Joshua Tree Hiker-2003". Continuous Great Gratitude, Mits Matsumoto

Above was a sign we saw while traveling in Canada. We think that we have had a fire hazard.



▲ Broken Ankle Top of Tram # 22



▲ Mission #08 subjects walked out

Below are various training photos taken at various times and places. Riverside Mountain Rescue Unit has training each month of the first week-end after our meeting which is held on the first Wednesday of each month. Practice, practice and more practice becomes important in a life and death situation. We also do not want to rescue our own.



A special thanks to Magdy Farag of Greybar Printing located in the Smith Correctional Facility at Banning. He has found, corrected and in general cleaned up a lot of errors by the publisher. Because of him this looks a lot better.