



RMRU

Fresh Tracks

To RMRU and all the Volunteers for 40 years of community service !



*We hope you can join us for R.M.R.U's 40th Anniversary
on Saturday, September 29th at 17:00
at Valley-Wide Recreation located at
901 West Esplanade Ave in San Jacinto, California.*

R.S.V.P Deputy Kim Judge at

909 791 3409

*Happy hour 17:00-18:00. Dinner served 18:00.
Menu Chicken or steak with green beans, potatoes and
rolls. Cost \$20.00 @.*

Please RSVP as soon as you can.

Presidents Letter

WOW! We are on the downward side of 2001. Where has the time gone? We have had a really slow year as far as search and rescues go, but that is a good statistic. People are being safe, making good decisions, and are taking care of them selves in the wilderness, which makes our job much easier. In spite of the fact that our mission count is down we have had a few significant incidents. You'll read about them later. The big story this year is that the team is turning 40. We have an anniversary dinner planned on September 29 at Valley Wide Recreation Center in San Jacinto.

When I hear the stories of what the founding members had to do and the sacrifices they had to make, makes me thankful to all of them for our team and proud to be a member. When I joined 20 years ago, I had no idea of what I really was getting into. I thought we just did our job and then went home. I've found out that the job isn't really a job but a way of life that involves everyone around us. Our families, friends, co-workers, all make sacrifices to enable the team to help assist complete strangers in the wilderness. On mothers Day many years ago I invited my Mom to Hemet from San Diego to take her out to brunch. My wife, Mom, and I had just been seated when the pager went off. It went off again and then a third time. I couldn't ignore it until after brunch so I called in. A hiker had fallen below Suicide Rock and had broken his leg in three places. When I told Mom and Robin what was up, there was no discussion or complaining about leaving. They knew someone needed help and understood why I left. I know that every person on the team has the same story to tell and appreciates the sacrifices those close to them have made. The same thing can be said of our supporting members. I know that each of you have made sacrifices in the way of money, equipment, time, and energy to help the team help those in need. To all of the teams' family members, friends' co-workers, and supporting members the team says "THANK YOU" and may God bless you all for you are the true heroes.

MOUNTAIN RESCUE -- DEDICATION FACTORS

With the decision to become an active part of Riverside Mountain Rescue Unit (RMRU) come several factors that change ones life to a greater or lesser degree. First, is the desire to help persons lost, injured, stranded in areas considered "Inaccessible" by the media, et. al. This desire burns brightly in some members, and it costs nothing in time, money, or effort. The following factors do have costs:

Continued on page #10

A letter to the editor,

UNIT: As described in the dictionary is; a) the smallest whole number; b) a magnitude or number regarded as an undivided whole. As a synonym, UNIT/UNITY implies the oneness, as in spirit, aims, feelings, etc., of that which is made up of diverse elements or individuals. Union implies the state of being united into a single organization for a common purpose.

We did not get the name Riverside Mountain Rescue UNIT by accident. Individuals formed this team the year I was born in '59, some of who are, to this day active and respond regularly. I know some of them are dinosaurs, however, do you realize that we have well over 100 years combined experience in mountain rescue, search, tracking, Helitac, familiarization of our territory, etc., to draw from? I am now to mountain rescue, I joined the UNIT in May of '96. I always have and still do consider myself a grunt on this UNIT. I don't care if my title is Van washer and toilet cleaner, as long as that title allows me to be a part of this UNIT. I was involved in ocean rescue from the ages of 12 (Junior lifeguards), until '97 and have been involved with swift water rescue since '94. Most tourists believe that lifeguarding is a solo rescue situation; they couldn't be farther from the truth. You NEVER leave your tower to enter the water without radio confirmation from dispatch or Zero tower that backup is responding to your tower; a) to aid you in the active rescue and, b) to cover your water while you can't. There is no room in any type of rescue for individual ANYTHING. When you leave your comfortable home at 03:00 hrs. you should be; a) driving safely, and; b) thinking about the message on the machine describing the call out. If you have a conflict personal or SAL related, with anyone on this UNIT or any other S.A.R. team we work with, try calling him or her. You'd be amazed at what an open line of communication can do, as opposed to mumbling under your breath to people who are never going to get the message to the person you want to have hear it. I can throw this out there because I am guilty of all of the above. If you are unable to resolve personal/professional issues, leave them at home before you get in your car to respond.

What we do is INHERENTLY dangerous, we are a UNIT. We count on each other to keep each other safe, let alone alive on both trainings and missions. Two or three winters ago R.M.R.U. was called out for a body recovery of a climber on Tahquitz. At some point after or during the helitac evacuation of the victim, a rescue member from S. B.S.A.R. fell approximately 500 horrifying feet. Thanks to the quick response and amazingly reactive skills of Lee Arnson, Bob Baker, Henry Negrete, Tony Bowen (pilot; Star 80), and a host of others, this rescuer survived his fall, however, he doesn't work continued next page

continued from previous page

search and rescue anymore and he and his family have a long road ahead of them. As I understand it, for at least the first week he was in I.C.U., at least one member from S.B.S.A.R. was with this rescuer and his family at the hospital 24 hrs. every day. That is textbook UNITY. People get dead doing what we do. Both on trainings and on missions there is no room for individual ANYTHING. When you pull into C.P., acquire information, organize what you're taking, get your assignment, and do what we do best; finding whatever it is that RSO has called us out to find, as SAFELY, EXPEDIENTLY, AND PROFESSIONALLY as we are capable. And we are a very capable UNIT.

My very first mission was at Humboldt Park for 2 climbers who were at the base of Tahquitz but could not get back to the parking lot due to an ankle injury to one in the party. I was given an assignment by Henry Negrete to retrieve a stokes litter about 1/4 mi. from the parking lot. En-route to my assignment I saw the subject being brought down by others of our UNIT. I immediately jumped in and helped transport the subject back to base. I was quite proud of myself for having helped. Upon returning to C.P. Henry asked me where the litter was? Looking like a puppy just hit with a rolled up newspaper I responded, "I forgot". Fortunately Henry doesn't beat around the bush any more than I do. I found that he is blunt and straightforward just like me; however, I think I have less tact. Knowing that I had screwed up, I ran back up the trail to Tahquitz and retrieved the litter back to C.P. as fast as I possibly could, thus completing the assignment I was given over an hour earlier. My feelings were hurt, not because Henry helped to teach me an important Lesson (when OPS. gives you an assignment, it is for a reason, keep on that assignment until OPS tells you otherwise), but because I knew I had screwed up and acted as an individual and not as a part of a UNIT.

The whole reason every rescue/team/unit debriefs and critiques every training/rescue, hopefully immediately after such, is because there never has been and never will be a perfect rescue. Every rescue/training is a chance, with open minds, to become better at what we do. That is why we do critiques.

When, at the last meeting, I brought up the need for more physical/aerobic trainings and less car camping, I considered myself at the top of the list in need of work. I respond every time from sea level. Usually, on searches, we start at a trailhead and bomb up trail. 90% of the time I dry heave about a mile or two up trail, then it's back to rock a roll rescue and continuing the task at hand. That last tactless sentence is proof to me that I need more conditioning, and I'm not a couch potato.

Critiques are for purposes of education, on a professional level, they are not, and should not, be personal attacks, or taken as such.

And remember, every S.A.R. team that responds for O.E.S., R.S.O., or at R.M.R.U.'s request, whether it's H.S.A.R., D.E.S.A.R.T., S.D.S.A.R., CARDA dog teams, et al., is there, volunteering their time, trying to find "whatever", SAFELY, EXPEDIENTLY, AND PROFESSIONALLY as they are capable. And when many agencies/teams are involved, all of those agencies/teams become one UNIT, working together to achieve a common goal.

Love,
Sully

FRS [Family Radio Service] as a safety device while hiking is VERY unreliable.

FRS is a handheld radio that families use to maintain contact in a specific area and have a limited range of about 2 miles. They may be great in your local shopping Mall but in a mountain area they are undependable and sporadic. They have been known to facilitate a rescue when the range was 75 miles but that is the unique and far, very far, from the norm.

These radios operate on 14 different frequencies, seven on 462.XXX and seven on 467.xxxx. Some of the more expensive ones have PL [38 available] tones. As a group you may select a Channel and a PL tone so you only hear those using the same Channel and PL tone. This will be a disadvantage for anyone needing assistance since, with the PL tone on, the calling individual will not know when someone is answering. Search and Rescue units rarely scan all FRS frequencies. Those lost, relying on a FRS unit, must also rely on pure chance that their call for help will be heard.

When in trouble turn OFF the PL tone to insure you hear anyone that answers. As with any radio, no matter what type, go for a high spot. Before you call for help know information like Who, What, Where and Why so you can provide it quickly and succinctly. The best safety factors you can have are to climb or hike in a team and of course have proper equipment and education. Let folks know what your plans are and of course don't ever climb alone. When using any radio be sure you are carrying extra FRESH batteries or insure you have charged the battery just prior to leaving. Don't use it unless there is a valid reason.

There are advances both in FRS and Cell phones that, in the future, will make both more reliable as a safety device. There is talk of adding a GPS [Global Positioning Service] feature to both. The technology is available now. Both price and privacy, of course, are considerations.

January 04, 2001
Dripping Springs
UTM 11S, 0502239, 3700512
2001-001

Bill Frenette, 57, and Jonathan Frenette, 14, started hiking on Wednesday the 3rd. They were to do a loop hike up to Wild Horse Peak and meet back at Dripping Springs Campground. RMRU was contacted and responded on by 03:00 Thursday morning. Desert Sheriff's Search and Rescue (DSSAR) also responded. A footprint was soon located and a picture was taken to be distributed to the searchers. Three search teams were formed and sent into the field. Riverside Sheriff's

Helicopter, Star 80, arrived shortly after first light. Star 80 was in the air for seven minutes before they spotted the missing hikers. They were in good condition and hiking. The search team that was closest to the hikers were redirected to their location. The other two teams returned to base. By 11:05 am Bill and John were back in base.



Ray Hussey

Hiker's heel print

RMRU members present: Jim Fairchild, Travis Henderson, Darrell Bell, Ray Hussey, and Mona Landfield.
DSSAR members present: Sharon Ollenburger, Roger Keezer, Alan Franks & Richard Dolezal

January 04, 2001

Top of the Tram

2001-002

During a training exercise at the top of the tram, the team was informed that there were people that had been hiking to the Tram that had become stuck about 1500' feet below. Glenn Henderson and Debbiy Riegle made a phone call and received permission for a mission. They sent out a page and they also called Lee Arnson and Darrell Bell. Lee was putting his gear together and Darrell Bell started down for the White Van.

The forest service became involved and helped the people out. An abort was sent out. Both Lee and Darrell [got the word in Mountain Center] ended the mission.

April 5, 2001

Marion Mountain

2001-003

Body Search

Search Aborted

April 9, 2001

Cleveland National Forest

2001-004

4 Adults and 5 **young** children over due

April 28, 2001

Marion Mtn

2001-005

By Gene Baune

15 members from RMRU assisted in man who had been missing under for nearly a month.

Phillip Benjamin Ackley, 52, of the Idyllwild, had last been seen at home When he didn't return home the next his 1978 Chevy van missing. Sheriff's parked on a nearby street on April 2. volunteers from the California Rescue Riverside Mountain Rescue Unit Mountain area on Saturday, 28 April.

searchers zero in on the area but the body was not located and exhumed until Sunday by sheriff's forensic teams due to the late hour and remote location.

RMRU had previously searched for Ben Ackley on 5 April but was unable to locate the grave site due to recent snowfall.

April 29, 2001

Marion Mtn

2001-006

Body Recovery



Darrell Bell

Dog team ready to start search

the search for an Idyllwild suspicious circumstances

Fern Valley area of by his wife on March 30. day, she reported him and deputies found the van Sheriff's deputies, Dog Association, and searched the Marion Scent dogs helped

RMRU was asked to assist with the carry-out of a body that was found in a shallow grave the previous day. The body may be that of Phillip Benjamin Ackley who has been missing since March 30. The body has not yet been positively identified. However, the Coroner said that the body suffered injuries about the same time Ackley disappeared.



Body loaded into Coroner's van
Coroner's van

June 9, 2001

2001-008

Lake Elsinore

2 year old lost

Aborted prior to arrival

June 17, 2001

Humber Park

2001-009

By Debbiy Riegler

RMRU responded to a call for James Leonard Schnell whom had a fall. The search for the hiker then turned into a body recovery due to a heart attack. San Bernardino's helicopter was called on scene. They found the subject and his wife and they dropped off one of their medics. RMRU sent teams up the Devils Slide Trail and two members were flown up to Skunk Cabbage Meadow. The subject's body was winched out by the helicopter while the teams out in the field went to meet the subject's wife. The subject's wife was escorted by RMRU to the trail head. Her husband was flown to Keenwild where the coroner was waiting.

July 31, 2001

Garner Valley

2001-010

Lost student

By Erin D. Randolph
The Press-Enterprise

A teen-ager with her heart set on playing badminton in her hometown in Japan wanted to get home, even if she was an ocean away at camp in the San Jacinto Mountains. She disappeared Tuesday from a Garner Valley Girl Scout camp, and her uncle figured she was trying to get home.

But more than 20 hours after disappearing, the homesick 13-year-old girl was found Wednesday afternoon hiding in some brush near a tack room on the campground, which is about 10 miles southeast of Idyllwild.



Yuri Kumagai

At least 50 search-and-rescue workers from as far away as Santa Clarita came out to search the 700-acre campground for the girl. Searchers used horses, search dogs and helicopters to try to find the missing teen, who was eventually found about a quarter-mile from where the search began.

Yuri Kumagai of Sendai, Japan, was at the Camp Scherman Girl Scout Camp with her two cousins when she decided to leave the camp around 4 p.m. Tuesday. Yuri, who is not a Girl Scout and speaks very little English, came to the camp with her cousins at her mother's insistence, said Ken Hamamoto, Yuri's uncle, who lives in Irvine. Her uncle believed Yuri was trying to return to Irvine and then catch a plane home.

Around 1:20 p.m. Wednesday, Riverside Sheriff's Mounted Posse volunteer Salvador Huereque spotted Yuri hiding in some brush near a tack room about a quarter-mile from the command post set up on Morris Ranch Road. Huereque, not realizing he had found Yuri, walked up to the girl and asked her if she knew the girl pictured on the flier he was carrying. After Yuri told him yes, Huereque realized she was wearing the blue sweatshirt reading "CHERRY" that he was looking for. Yuri appeared to be in good condition and was carrying a canteen with a small amount of water in it, Huereque said.

In Huereque's 15 years and 15 to 20 child searches with the mounted search-and-rescue team, Yuri was one of only two or three children he said he has found alive.

"You'll never know how it felt," Huereque said. "When you find a child alive, it makes life worth living."

Hamamoto was starting to lose hope of finding Yuri on Wednesday when he got the news that Yuri had been located.

"I'm ecstatic. I'm relieved," Hamamoto said.

Hamamoto spent most of Wednesday flying in a sheriff's department helicopter calling Yuri's name from a loudspeaker and speaking to her in Japanese hoping she would come out of hiding.

Yuri is scheduled to return to Japan on Wednesday but could return earlier if her mother comes to get her.

Hamamoto said it was best for him and the camp if Yuri went back to Irvine with him.

Hamamoto said he didn't know if Yuri realized how many people were searching for her. "She put a lot of people at risk. They expended a lot of effort to find her," Hamamoto said. "We will impress this upon her."

August 9, 2001

2001-011

Out of County

East Fork - San Bernardino Lost boy that walked out at Trout Hatchery on I-10
Young boy walked out after three days and many many miles.

August 13, 2001

DR01225056

2001-012

Flashing Lights on the Mountain.

Glenn Henderson called by Sgt. Secor to report flashing lights on the mountains. They seemed to be a distress signal. Henderson called Lee Arenson was asked to drive the control road and Phil Thompson was asked to drive the Bee Canyon road. At 22:00 a person called the Sheriff to report that he was flashing his lights. Someone had seen the lights and was helping him to get his car out which was off the road below Inspiration point. Phil took the trooper and found a different car over the side with a note written in the dust about being at yellow post. He went there and found two folks camped out, with tents and supplies. Since they were all right, he left. They had their car towed the next day.

People involved Debbiy Riegle, Glenn Henderson, Lee Arenson, Phil Thompson and Travis Henderson.

August 27, 2001

Out of County Julian, CA

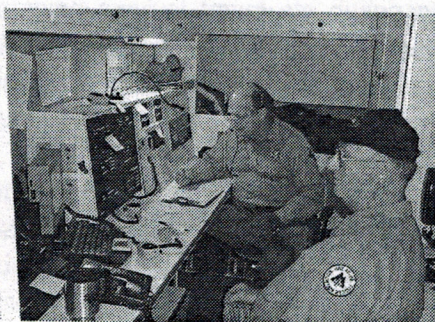
2001-013

KQ Ranch 5 miles South of Julian

Edith Baker, 79 of Lakeside, Ca. was reported missing Sunday morning August 26th by her family. This is a RV campsite and is for members only. The family had been there for about 4-6 days and it was her habit to take about a 20-minute walk around the park and return. She also walked with a cane and wore glasses. Sunday morning she awoke, dressed and started on her walk. The family returned to sleep. She never returned.

San Diego Sheriffs office was called and they started a search. At 02:30 Monday morning August 27th RMRU was paged out and a total of seven people responded to the search. Members of the RMRU team stayed for two nights and left at 11:00 on Wednesday. The San Diego Sheriffs office ended the search about 23:00 on Wednesday. She had

not been located as of that time.



Some of the other teams responding were several different K-9 teams, San Dimas, Sierra Madre and Border Patrol Search and Rescue.

Members responding were Ray Hussey, Kurt Sullivan, Travis Henderson, Glenn Henderson, Jim Fairchild, Larry Ross and Darrell Bell.

September 8, 2001

Rock Climbers Trail Humber Park Overdue Climbing Party

2001-014

RSO file number DR01231061

When my pager went off a little before 10 pm on Saturday September 8th announcing a search for overdue climbers at Tahquitz Rock it was easy to make the decision to put off trying to sleep in favor of searching. I had spent most of the day helping a close friend with the memorial service for his 21 year old daughter, and the hours of strenuous, purposeful hiking that are the usual hallmark of missions like this offered the chance to push the sense of loss and that unanswerable "why?" into the background for a while.

Frank Harton, a climber with experience climbing Tahquitz, and his 14 year-old son Julian had left Humber Park to climb Tahquitz Rock at about 11 am Saturday morning, and were expected back by Frank's wife Lucinda at about 6 pm. When they weren't back by 9:30, she called the Sheriff's department for help. A worried Lucinda related these details to us while her two younger children tried to sleep in the back seat of the car at Humber park. Unfortunately, she did not have any idea which one of the many climbing routes on Tahquitz Rock Frank and Julian were planning to climb.

The first team assignments were to have one team hike up the northern approach to the rock and search the base of the north side routes for signs of Frank and Julian,

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Participation can be hardest when a callout occurs and we must tear away from work, family activities, warm bed, or our own recreational backpacks. Callouts do not occur during rare times we wish one would occur. Money is a big factor as we look at a number of expenditures necessary to be well equipped and otherwise prepared to function with RMRU:

Packs -- need at least two, cost \$300.00 to \$469.00 for good ones.

Sleeping bags -- need two, cost \$300.00 to \$600.00 for good ones.

Tent -- up to \$600.00 to \$800.00 for all-season, models

Boots - for summer, \$200.00t. \$300.00, for winter, up to over \$500.00

Parka -- shell, \$300.00 and up, insulated, up to \$500.00 plus

Pants -- \$200.00 and up.

Flashlights -- need several, big expenditure, plus battery replacements. Other items include sleeping pads, bivvy covers, climbing gear, foods, stoves & fuel, cooking utensils, knives, vehicle upkeep, and so on. "Deals" are sometimes available.

Effort runs in the realm of determination and motivation for physical conditioning, not letting home projects lag, familiarizing oneself with road heads and mountain trails and topography, and generally staying abreast with mountain rescue methodology.

Training is the process that merges, integrates, and implements safe, efficient, and successful missions through the above factors and the actual in-the-field exercises to learn and practice how mountain rescue is done, performed and accomplished. So, what phases do we work on? First aid (subject care); search methods; map & compass & GPS; tracking; helicopter operations; familiarization; technical rescue on cliffs where anchors to the cliff, rigging with ropes, pulleys, brake bars, various camming clamps, ascending and descending devices, and carabineers are utilized, having been backpacked to the scene. Of course, there's Base Camp where our vans with equipment are, along with vital communications capability, record keeping, and directions from the Operations Leader.

Normally, we conduct one formal training a month, during a weekend. There are frequent informal sessions as well. Consider, over almost forty years of our existence, we've conducted nearly 400 formal trainings — they are great! always looked upon with eager anticipation.

June: A backpack up the Fuller Ridge Trail on the Northwest side of Mt. San Jacinto into the high country, featuring spectacular vies of the Snow Creek face of the mountain and familiarization with the topography.

July: Technical rescue techniques on Tahquitz Rock above Idyllwild, featuring the 900' high cliff where we practice elements listed above.

September: Black Mountain Friday Evening and all day Saturday. Training at Boulder Basin.

October: Desert Divide

November: Joshua Tree Technical Training

Hopefully, this has been an informative glimpse of who we are and what we do.

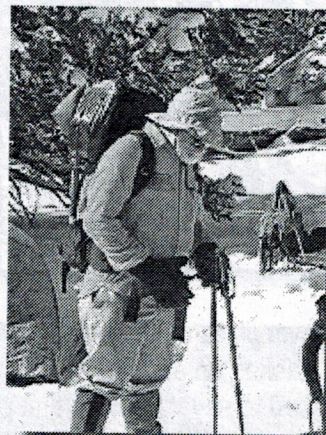
PAGERS

They are not something that you use just once in a while. They should #1, always be on. #2, always be with you no matter where you might go [yes, even out of town or to that great play you are attending]. #3 **ALWAYS** be answered. This means you should have the courtesy to call in and *RESPOND*. In town, out of town, the IC MUST have the ability to know who will or will not be available for the mission. It is your responsibility !!!

January 13, 2001 Winter Shakedown

By Glenn Henderson

Our January training this year was our usual winter shakedown on January 13 and 14. The tram helped out again by letting us catch the first car of the day with the working crew at 6:15 A.M. Once to the top we headed out for winter camping in the snow. Along the way we picked up Michael George who rode the tram up Friday night. Up until a few days before the 13th we weren't sure that there would be any snow but a big storm dumped about 2 feet of fresh snow in the high country. What a beautiful sight to see as we snow shod into the backcountry. Our winter shakedown is an annual training for new members to learn the basics of winter camping, survival, travel, etc. during winter in the high country. It is also a time when veteran and new members often use gear for the first time ever, or for the first time since last winter. It's a time to make sure everything still works and will be ready for any winter mission that may come up.



Once we got camp set up we had a pack inspection. Everyone opened their pack to show what kind of gear they brought so each member, especially new members, could see what was considered essential and what was not really necessary. This exercise also started the RMRU Winter Olympics. The person that had the most necessary gear earned points and a prize. Pete, his son, Will, and Steve Bryant hiked to the top of San Jacinto peak while the rest of us hiked to the edge of the northern escarpment. We ate lunch there and headed back to camp. Once at camp Jim Fairchild gave a lesson on how to build a snow cave. The lesson over, we split up into teams of two and each team had to build their own cave. Since the snow was fresh and not consolidated it was hard to build a cave big enough to hold a person, the teams had to use a lot of ingenuity to make them work. (Winter Olympics event # two.) Bruce Sanny won this event easily using two large boulders as side walls - a really great design! It was starting to get late so event # 3 was started. It was just a snowshoe race, no big deal, right? Except that you had to snowshoe backwards, and could only follow the signals given by your partner who was in front of you, and was not allowed to talk.



He had to guide the person backward to Jim Fairchild, about 100 yds away. The race started cleanly except for Debbiy Riegle who fell down at the beginning of the race and she wasn't even going backward! Somehow Debbiy and her partner, John Owens, managed to win that race. Next the partners switched places and raced to Jim again. This time my partner, Mike George and I won easily, with Travis Henderson and his partner, Terry Greenstein, in second and Debbiy and John a distant third. By now it was getting late in the day so we went back to camp and got dinner going.



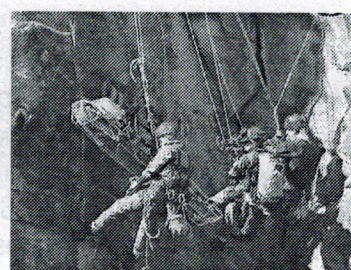
About 8:30 P.M. a few of us were still up talking when the pager went off. Great! A mission. We had to



Three hikers were hiking up the skyline trail from Palm Springs when they lost the trail in the snow. We Made a few phone calls that got the mission almost started when another page went out. The sheriff again. This time the report was that the Rangers at Long Valley were with the subjects. They were ok and would not need our assistance. Yea! Back to camp and into sleeping bags as it was now after 9:00.

After a late start in the morning, map and compass problems were given by Jim. Again teams were divided up and everyone set to answer Jim's questions. Points were awarded for the closest to Jim's many questions. When done we packed up and headed back to the tram for the awards ceremony over lunch at the tram. I am embarrassed to say that I won first place, a Sweetwater filter. Debbiy won second place, A Platypus water pack and Travis won third place, a pair of wool socks. I was embarrassed because it was too easy to win so maybe next winter more team members will show up to give me a challenge!! We all had a great time and were home by 15:00.

March 10, 2001 - MRA Rock Technical Recertification, Fossil Falls



Some of the Technical training that was accomplished by the RMRU team in order to certify for Mountain Rescue Association.

Boulder Basin, Black Mountain
September Training.

Friday evening both Ralph Hoetger and Dr. Ray Hussey conducted training on some First responder techniques. Training started at about 18:00 and continued until 20:00+

At 08:00 training was started again with Ralph presenting information about the e-trek GPS units showing people how to adjust them and use them. Several exercises were accomplished.

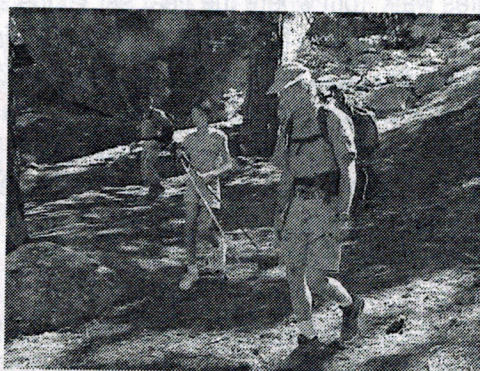
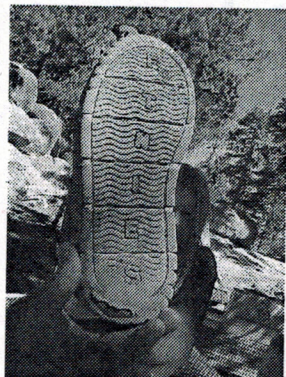
At about 09:30 Mr. & Mrs. Oliver Robinson of Oceanside, Ca. reported two children in the campground missing. Jeanie approached the group and reported that Shannon L. Dusoralzyk and Arinna Choza had left sometime earlier and had not been heard from. They carried a FRS radio and did not answer. [See article about FRS in this issue] Information was gathered, a foot print was found and a picture was taken. Two teams were formed of those attending the training. Some members of our group also had FRS radios and they were secured. There were some team radios and they were also used. The



search began. Some tracks were located and the team followed them. Soon both girls were located with one having a sprained ankle. She was carried back to the parents camp site.

The newly acquired skills in GPS [UTM] were used and the time clasped was from 09:40 until 10:02 when team T-2 found the subjects.

Other events took place after lunch and the group broke up later in the afternoon.



while another team went up the "climber's trail" to the base of the southern routes. Long-time RMRU team member Jim Zuberbuhler who moved to Idaho in January was back in town for the memorial service, and he and I got the assignment to cover the southern routes, while Ralph Hoetger and Gene Baune took the north side. After only minutes of walking Jim and I came upon a full set of climbing gear at the side of the Ernie Maxwell Scenic Trail, just where the climber's trail departs for the base of the rock. In base Darrell Bell and Jim Fairchild checked with Lucinda about the details of Frank's gear, and it became clear that it was his. Jim noticed that the foam sweat band of one of the helmets was still sweaty, indicating that the gear hadn't been there too long.

We were all pretty much stumped by this discovery. Frank's car was in Humber Park a couple of minutes walk from where the gear sat, at the end of the Scenic Trail – exactly the path that Jim and I had just walked. It's hard to imagine that a climber who had climbed Tahquitz many times would go the wrong direction on Scenic Trail, but even if they had why would they leave their gear behind? The best guess we could come up with was that they had lost their car keys on the climb and had taken Scenic Trail back toward Idyllwild and the cabin they were staying in, and had left the gear to lighten their load. So our next search team Travis Henderson and David Webb took off down Scenic Trail, while Team member Steve Bryant took Frank's wife Lucinda back to their cabin to see if the missing climbers were already there.

Both of these assignments were almost completed without finding our subjects, and those of us at base were starting to scratch our heads to figure where to look next, when Frank and Julian walked in to base. They were both fine, and were hoping we had their gear! It turned out that they had gotten down without their car keys, but they knew that they were at the base of the climb, so they went back up the climber's trail and then back down again. It hadn't occurred to us that having gotten down so late that they would go back up!

RMRU team members participating Darrell Bell, Ralph Hoetger, Gene Baune, Mike Wimbrow, Jim Zuberbuhler, Travis Henderson, David Webb, Steve Bryant and Lew Kingman.

September 9, 2001

"Who done it route" Tahquitz Rock

2001-15

Brett Farrow and Andres Torres of San Diego became stuck on the face of the rock due to darkness. They yelled to some other climbers for help and they left the area and called the SO.

Three team members went to the top of the rock with tech equipment for a lift. Others followed with additional gear and support. Jim Fairchild led many to the start of the trail and delivered water to the climbers when they were almost at the Ernie Maxwell trail. All were at the van about 05:30.

Tim Wescott, Ray Hussey, Jim Fairchild's, Glenn Henderson, Travis Henderson Janet Hillard, Kirk Cloyd and Darrell Bell responded. Paged out at 20:00 and mission ended at 05:30 on the 10th.

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The Sheriffs office takes part in different Public Relations events. This one took place in Yucaipa near a major shopping area. Several others participated in the event to show off what they did and how they did it. RMRU was asked to attend and set up the booth to sell T shirts and to promote the Cowboy Jubilee. Both the Jubilee and T shirt sales have provided cash for the RMRU treasury.



CAN YOU HELP WITH BLOOD?

RMRU has a blood credit number **"GRMR"** so that *any time* you donate some blood to a blood drive be sure that you ask them to give RMRU credit. To do this just tell them to credit it to **"GRMR"** and you will be able to Give the Gift of Life by giving blood. This is something that many can do and there has been a lot of press on how short the blood reserves have been. Henry Negrete is our chairman.

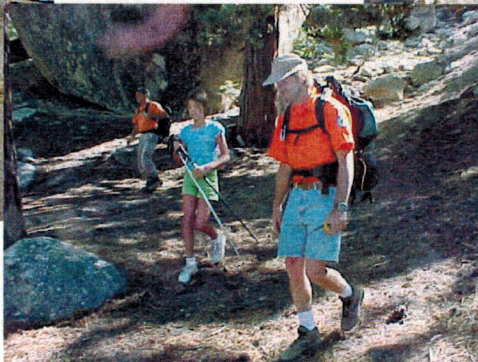
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October 12-13 & 14



RMRU

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