



# RMRU Fresh Tracks

November 2002

The Newsletter of Riverside Mountain Rescue Unit

## New Home for RMRU

RMRU finally has a permanent home. We officially moved in the night of our last meeting, November 6, 2002. At our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary dinner the Sheriff's department and the county supervisors gave us the greatest birthday present ever, a building to house our gear and vehicles. After 40 years of living out of team members houses, garages, and any other place we could store gear, we now are home at 43950 Acacia St., Hemet, Ca. 92544. Dr. Ray Hussey and Ralph Hoetger made a sign that they put up just before the meeting. It was nice to see the sign up and our vehicles in, out of the weather and ready to roll when the call goes out for a mission. We are now setting up a training wall to develop ascending and descending a rope, and do short "rescues" in a controlled environment. Our heart felt thanks to all who contributed to our HOME.



*Glenn Henderson accepts symbolic key to our Home at the rear of the Sheriff's office in Valle Vista at 40th Dinner.*



*Mission Accomplished !*

## Missions for 2002

Wow! Never has RMRU has such a slow year for missions. Why?? I don't really know. Some members think that since 9-11, people are being more careful. Maybe people that venture into the wilderness truly are becoming more safety conscious creating fewer injured or lost people. The Cleveland National Forest being closed to the public these last few weeks may have reduced the chances for injured or lost people. (The forest was closed due to the greatest drought on record). Since the rainstorm on 11 - 8,9--02, the closure has been lifted. Hopefully the rain will be the beginning of the end to a drought that has lasted for the last 3 years. Whatever the reason the team is thankful for the safety of the public we serve. We will continue to teach and train every month for the inevitable missions that will happen in the future. God Bless and watch over all during the coming Holiday season.

## **Mission #15 08/22/2002**

By Gene Baune

F02257042 SO #

RMRU was called at 18:00 by the Riverside Sheriff's Department to assist in a search for Norman Frank Bush Jr. [47 years old, 6'4" 224 Lbs.] riding his bike some where in the Cleveland National Forest west of Lake Elsinore.

Upon arrival the reporting party (the victim's son) stated that Norman had departed their residence in Lake Elsinore on a mountain bike at 05:30 am. He intended to ride from Lake Elsinore to Terra Cotta then north near Tom's Farms, and then south completing his ride near the fire station on Ortega Highway. His intentions were to ride most of the route off road. At 09:00 he contacted his son by phone and stated that he was out of water and didn't know his location. The battery on the cell phone ran out at that time. The reporting party contacted Riverside Sheriffs Office at 17:00 and RMRU began arriving on scene by 18:00.

The fire department, forest service and Corona Police Department Helicopter made a preliminary search of the major roads and truck trails with no results. Star 80 arrived at dusk but had to return to base to install their FLIR and lights for a night search.

Ops determined that the best course of action for RMRU to take at night was a search by vehicle and then begin the ground search at dawn. As teams were forming and preparing to depart the subject arrived at his home in Lake Elsinore

## **#16 09/26/2002 Humber Park. Overdue hiker. Walks out and call out aborted.**

### **September Training Pine Cove Park and Tahquitz Peak September 7th & 8th, 2002 By Jim Fairchild**

At about 08:00 Saturday morning training began with fourteen members in attendance. Dr. Steve Bryant initiated our Wilderness Patient Care Course with an in-depth description of primary and secondary examinations of ill or injured hikers and climbers, going well beyond what is printed in texts. Questions and discussion were interspersed. Dr. Ray Hussey then gave us a long, interesting, and exceptionally pertinent verbal view of central nervous system damage and care, again, revealing information not found in laymen's books. His material reminded me of a number of CNS damage cases RMRU has handled through the years. Dr. Bill Delo finished the intense morning with CPR lore, again in-depth. He fielded numerous questions about other serious problems that can be incurred far away from medical facilities. During several previous months we had planned for a time to begin the course, we wanted to focus upon life-threatening scenarios, and practice them.

Turns out this is very timely, because RMRU was recently accused of being inept and unable to handle life-threatening, ALS (Advanced Life Support) situations. It has been easy to reminisce back through the numerous incidents of that nature RMRU has successfully carried out, and to the first one I encountered. Picture a High Sierra peak (University Peak, 13,666' el.) in July 1954, when I was leading a group of Boy Scouts toward the summit. At 12,500' a 15 yr. old tried to climb a crevice topped by an 80-pound chockstone. He pulled on the stone and fell 15 feet backwards onto a ledge, the stone crushing his chest. The result was triple trouble: Pneumothorax; penetrating injury to the chest; and

flail chest. While the other Scouts descended to our camp 2000' below, I fashioned a Vaseline plastic sheet flutter valve to prevent further lung collapse and intrusion on the other lung. One Scout's father, an ophthalmologist, ascended to suture the double wounds. Using ice ax and rope, we lowered the boy to camp down a snow slope, packers gave him a ride to Onion Valley on Horseback, thence by auto to the hospital in Riverside -- he recovered. This occurred 7 years prior to the inception of RMRU.

Actually, caring for seriously injured or ill persons in the wilderness is neither complicated nor difficult. However, it can be made to seem that way. Following lunch, Bryant, Cloyd, Delo, DeLuna, George, Greenstein, Glenn Henderson, Hussey, Maschek, Potts, Sanchez, Webb, and the writer headed west a few yards to a 100' plus high cliff to practice plucking patients off the verticality and into a Stokes litter for evacuation. Of course, it was necessary to evaluate injury, stabilize, and so on. Two newer members were instructed in and practiced rappelling. Our full day of training was acclaimed as beneficial.

The next day two of us continued "training" with a pleasant (slow) ascent of Tahquitz Peak via the South Ridge Trail. For one of us it was the 305th time up, and for the other the first, resulting in great familiarization along with expressions of wonder at the spectacular view from the top at the lookout cabin. Michael George was the "other" hiker.

**Be sure to see pictures of group on Address Page [2x].**

### **November Training at Snow Creek November 9th by Brenda DeLuna**

Training coordinators were Rick Maschek and Terry Greenstein. Members present were Dana Potts, Angie James, Brenda DeLuna, Michael George, Brad Scott and Bruce Sanny. The focus of the training was night man-tracking. Training started at 1700 and was predicted to last as long as 0500. However, mother nature had other plans for us. I personally learned a lot about what not to do at a night search. I learned that LED lights are virtually worthless for picking up tracks, (they tend to wash out the track); I learned that walking sticks do not make good tracking sticks, (the basket blocks the light from your attached flashlight); goggles in the desert are a must, (the sand in the eyes slows things down a bit); flash floods tend to mess up your tracks; Cholla cactus really do jump out and getcha and large backpacks can and will be used as sails during powerful gusts of wind.

This training was exceptionally good in preparing us for real life situations. We had strong winds and rain at times (even a UFO). Even so, we were able to somewhat successfully complete one of the trails. Bruce was the proud winner of the dollar reward. At about 2400 we started to head back towards the cars and the third trail but we found a creek between us and our cars. Actually our cars were in the creek. The third track was also underwater so we resorted to going to Denny's for a debriefing instead. All in all it was a super training and I think we should have many more like this. It is much better to make mistakes and learn from them at a training than at an actual search. Thank you Rick and Terry for a terrific training.



## **SAR - City 2002**

*By Rick Maschek*

Four RMRU team members and a prospective member took advantage of this year's SAR-City event for October's training. SAR-City is an annual event put on by the Barstow Desert Rescue Squad of the San Bernardino County Sheriff Department. This event attracts a variety of rescue people from California and elsewhere to participate in the many classes offered. Michael George, Brenda Deluna, and myself (Rick Maschek) were the instructors for the Low-Angle rope rescue course. Angie James, a prospective member for our team was a participant in the class along with fourteen other SAR people from around the state. The class started Friday evening with a short video on rope rescue followed by instruction in different types of knots used in rope rescue and ended just after 20:00.

Michael George and myself slept on the athletic field while Bruce Sanny (who was taking a variety of other classes at SAR-City) slept in his camper while Brenda and Angela slept in a wonderful Barstow motel. Many of the participants at SAR-City camp out in the athletic field or parking lot of Barstow Community College where the event is held.

Saturday morning we were joined by RMRU member Jeri Sanchez. After a quick breakfast, it was outside to refresh knots, litter packaging, anchors, belays, and mechanical advantage (MA) systems during which Hey, it's now lunch time after which we drove to Sawtooth Ridge, an area about 15 miles south of the college that provided a vertical challenge to the learning process. Since the class was a "low" angle rope rescue class, all the practice scenarios involved rescuing our "dummy" from terrain no steeper than 60 degrees. With darkness approaching and our dinner waiting back at the college, we left to return in the morning.

The evening program at SAR-City this year featured a speaker from the 9-11 incident present in New York City who talked about, among other things, setting up the first medical triage stations after the collapse. This presentation was followed by the raffle and time to purchase equipment from the vendors.

The next morning found us back at Sawtooth for additional practice with the litter concluding with solo rappels of some vertical and overhanging cliffs by the remaining diehards still with the class. This was my ninth SAR-City and my eighth as an instructor (the other one was as a representative for REI back in 1990 when I worked for them). Though many classes are offered, I have only been to a few but have heard that some are excellent and while a few might be? SAR-City is still an excellent event for search and rescue people.

## **SPECIAL STORY**

By Pete Carlson

Friday afternoon seven-year-old Allen, his Mother, two brothers, and a friend went camping in the Boulder Basin Area. It was Allen's first camping trip and they were having lots of fun. Saturday morning around 08:15 they were playing in some boulders when Alan thought he heard a waterfall and went to find it. His brothers and friend went back to camp 100 yards away. His Mom asked, where is Allen?

They told her and she went to get him. After 15 minutes she could not find him and went to find a ranger. At 10:45 RMRU's pagers went off.

Base camp was set up next to Alan's camp and by 12:00 noon the first teams were in the field looking for tracks from the Point-Last-Seen (PLS).

I arrived about 13:00 and choose an assignment 2 ½ miles from the PLS to go down a ridge yelling and looking for tracks. We drove a dirt road to the beginning of the ridge and as we started out we were team 7, with 6 two-person teams already searching. I had a newer member with me and explained what our assignment would be to him. We started down the ridge to a rock outcropping about ¼ of a mile down the ridge. When we got there we could see the whole area where Allen could have gone; it was about 15 square miles.

We gave our first yell, ALLEN. After 10 seconds we heard, What do you want? It was coming from 1,200 feet below us and across on the next ridge. We yelled again and the answer was, I am coming to you.

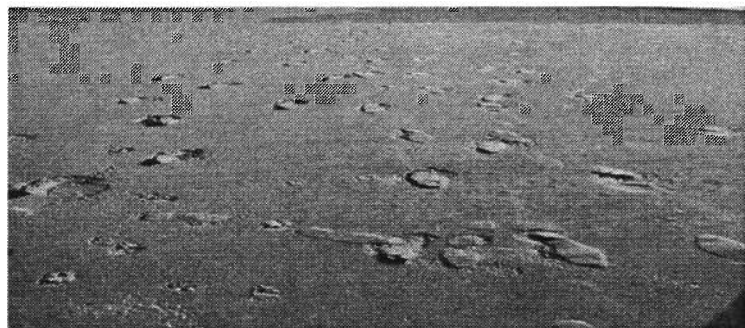
We tried to yell to Allen to stay put and we would come to him. We called base and ask for more people in our area that we had voice contact with the subject.

We started a traverse down and across to the next ridge. It was very steep and some 3rd class climbing. We tried yelling every five minutes, but Allen did not answer again. After 30 minutes we were on the next ridge down about 400 feet. This time Allen answered, but he was no longer on the ridge but in the bottom of the canyon we had just crossed. So we started going back down from the ridge into the canyon. This time Allen answers every time we yelled. After a 20-minute decent into the canyon we got visual contact with Allen. Shortly after we were together.

Allen was calm and not scared at all. He said he was thirsty and hungry. It was now 8 hours that he had been lost. During this time we had gotten Steve DeJesus from Landells Aviation with a helicopter to help with an air search. He flew over us and we asked him to find a spot where he could pick us up. While we gave Allen kool-aid and food, Steve found a spot on the ridge were he could do a 1 runner touch down on a large boulder. We told him it would take us 45 minutes or more to get to it, so he went to pick up other teams that were all over the mountain and take them back to base.

After 20 minutes of food and water we started the traverse and climb to the helispot. It ended up taking over 1 hour to get to the boulder through the thick brush and up the steep slopes. Steve then returned and picked the three of us up and took us back to base around 17:45. This was a text book search and it went just like it should have. We had 8 teams in the field and 2 more just starting out when first contact was made with Allen. Teams were on the tracks and others where out cutting ahead for tracks and others were out, like my team, just yelling. It was true team-work that made this search a success. Everyone from base camp to field personnel deserves credit for this find.

See picture on last page next to sunset.



Riverside Mountain Rescue Unit is in the process of gearing up for the June Meeting of Mountain Rescue Association. Along with that, Jessie Odom of [www.idyllweb.com](http://www.idyllweb.com) is in the process of designing a web page for us. Parts of this web page are under construction as new information arrives and as we finalize arrangements. To view the current information go to the following address: [www.idyllweb.com/rmru](http://www.idyllweb.com/rmru) and parts of the information are available to be seen today. Other portions will be available as soon as the information becomes available.

Dates for the MRA meeting to be held at Buckhorn Camp in Idyllwild will be: June 13-14-15, 2003.

**Registration Contact:**

Glenn Henderson

Riverside Mountain Rescue Unit

(909)925-4848

Address

40980 Camellia Dr. Hemet Ca, 92544

[glennrobin@hotmail.com](mailto:glennrobin@hotmail.com)

Our Thanks to Jessie Odom for helping us with our web page.

**Conference Fee:**

**Before May 6, 2003:**

MRA members \$100.00 per person

non-MRA members 110.00 per person

**After May 6, 2003:**

MRA members 120.00 per person

non-MRA members 135.00 per person

**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. Blood donors gave on Monday Oct. 28. Glenn Henderson, Brenda DeLuna, Robert Poe, Kelly Sullivan, Robert Poe, and Angie James. All gave for the RMRU account. All are teachers at Santa Fe Middle School in Hemet. Glenn, Brenda, and Angie are RMRU Members. This is something that all can do to help others and to help our team if and when we need blood. If there is a blood drive in your area, PLEASE give and use the **"GRMR"** code so we receive credit for it. The Life you save, may be your own.

**Taking your Cell Phone into the back country?**

Self-reliance is #1. Rely on yourself, not your cell phone! Prepare yourself with all the clothing, food and personal skills you need in order to not rely on the cell phone.

Do not rely on your cell phone to bring you non-emergency services in the back country!

Do not rely on your cell phone to bring you help immediately. It may take hours or days to get to you!

Use the cell phone when you have a true emergency!

Be courteous, discreet and quiet when using your cell phone!

**For those who make a donation use the tax number on your check.  
Tax ID Number 85-2497048 is for Non Profit Status for the RMRU**

# Sustaining Members

<b>Benefactor Club</b>	<b>\$1,000 +</b>	Scott Brothers Dairy Farms Palm Springs Aviation, Inc. [Memory: Don Landells]		
<b>Summit Club</b>	<b>\$ 500 +</b>	Steve & Rosemarie Johnson	Dr. Norman Mellor	
<b>Patron Club</b>	<b>\$ 200 +</b>	Gordon Austerman Marvin M. Oliver, Esq. David M. Hadley	R & S Krieger Jon Goldman	
<b>Century Club</b>	<b>\$ 100 +</b>	J & T Larson Dr. & Mrs. Schnurr Larry & Nancy Carter Alan Note Jerome H. Niswonger Betty & John Moore Mrs. John Kraft	A & N Andrews J & S Murdock Rosemary Kraft Won Sok Yang Kathy Machir Lucinda Harton	D & R Harrah James Collins T & D Young Rotary Anns Brett Faron Milana De Beauvoir
<b>Supporting Club</b>	<b>\$ 25 +</b>	Bill & Juanita Starmer L & K Venable Stuart & Ann Glickman Jan Beyers & G Riechers [Memory: Joseph Lennox] Elva Bess Cook	Dr. & Mrs. Ray George Mary & Cloie Swain Dr. & Mrs. Jay Wallis D. Ryan	

## ROOM FOR YOUR NAME ALSO

### Sustaining Membership Application

Your donation is deductible from ***both*** your state and federal tax

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

A receipt of your tax deductible donation will be mailed to you.

**85-2497048 Tax I D Number for RMRU Not-for-Profit Status.**

### Memberships

<b>Benefactor club</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>
<b>Summit Club</b>	<b>\$ 500</b>
<b>Patron Club</b>	<b>\$ 200</b>
<b>Century Club</b>	<b>\$ 100</b>
<b>Supporting Club</b>	<b>\$ 25</b>

Please send your donation with application to:

**Attn: RMRU Box  
C/O Riverside Sheriffs Office  
43950 Acacia Street  
Hemet, California 92544**





▲ September Training [Medical] Pine Cove ▲



Special Story of "Allen" mission

Jim Fairchild

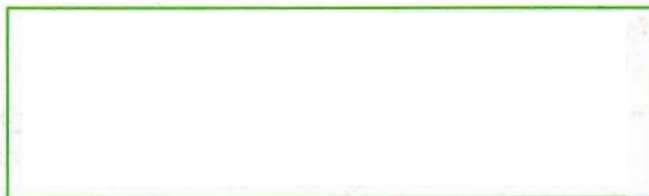


Sunset over San Jacinto

**NEW RETURN ADDRESS**

**Attn: RMRU Box**  
**C/O Riverside Sheriffs Office**  
43950 Acacia Street  
Hemet, California 92544

Place  
Stamp  
Here



*Address Correction Requested*