

The logo for the Riverside Mountain Rescue Unit (RMRU) is located in the top left corner. It consists of the letters "RMRU" in a large, bold, blue sans-serif font, enclosed within a white rectangular box with a thick orange border. Below the letters, the words "RIVERSIDE MOUNTAIN RESCUE UNIT" are written in a smaller, black, sans-serif font.

RMRU

RIVERSIDE MOUNTAIN RESCUE UNIT

The background of the entire page is a photograph of a massive, rugged mountain peak. The rock face is light grey and heavily textured with vertical fissures and ledges. A few small evergreen trees are scattered across the lower slopes. At the base of the mountain, there are patches of snow and a dense forest of green coniferous trees. The sky is a clear, bright blue.

MISSIONS

April - October 2018

Thank you!

To all that volunteer their time and financial assistance...
Countless people owe their lives



OUR SUSTAINING MEMBERS



March 1, 2018 - November 5, 2018

BENEFACTOR CLUB \$1,000.00 +
Riverside Elks

SUMMIT CLUB \$500.00+
Marvin & Mitsuru Matsumoto | Idyllwild Rotary Ann's

PATRON CLUB \$200.00+
Maxie Jayme | Brian and Chantal Harold | Patrick Olson

CENTURY CLUB \$100.00+
Janet Brewster | Donald Brewster | John Brewster | Gary Brewster
M. Scott Hooks, Inc. | Westcoe Realtors, Inc. | Rhonda Shumway
Allan and Nancy Rabin | Dr. Carol Lovatt | Robert Lennox

SUPPORTING < \$100.00
MaryDoris Powers | Gary and Susan Weber | David Stewart
Kenneth Williams | Laurence Charlet | Thomas Kaczmarek
Stanton Shannon | Benjamin Crowell

RESCUE TEAM MEMBERS



Steve Bryant - Alta Loma | **Pete Carlson** - Blue Jay
Corey Ellison - Laguna Niguel | **Gary Farris** - Palm Desert | **Michael George** - Riverside
Donny Goetz - Los Angeles | **Glenn Henderson** - Hemet | **Eric Holden** - Temecula
Tony Hughes - Yorba Linda | **Kevin Kearn** - Huntington Beach | **Rob May** - Riverside
Roger May - Riverside | **Dana Potts** - Corona | **Kaitlyn Purington** - Laguna Hills
Shani Pynn - Riverside | **Alex Rilloraza** - Corona | **Tyler Shumway** - Hemet
Frank Snider - Riverside | **Ray Weden** - Murrieta | **Gwenda Yates** - Hemet

Support Members

Kirk Cloyd | Joe Erickson | Kaylean May | Brad Scott | Ty Wittersheim

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April - October 2018

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On the Cover -

Tahquitz Rock - North Face

Idyllwild, California

Riverside Co. Sheriff Aviation /

RMRU Helicopter Operation

April, 2017

Photo: Gary Farris- RMRU

Photos Left and Below:

RMRU Team Members on

Lost Arrow Spire

Yosemite National Park

July 16, 2000

Photos: Pete Carlson - RMRU



About Riverside Mountain Rescue Unit

The Riverside Mountain Rescue Unit is a group of volunteers trained and ready to respond to wilderness emergencies.

At any hour of the day, law enforcement agencies, national park and military officials may call upon the Unit to aid an unfortunate victim.


The unit is on constant alert, via text messages, to search for and effect the rescue of hikers, skiers, rock climbers and outdoorsmen whenever and wherever tragedy strikes.

The unit performs about 95% of its missions in Riverside County. However, it has traveled south into Mexico, north into the High Sierras and into Nevada to accomplish its lifesaving missions.

The unit is currently comprised of 23 volunteers, who literally come

from all walks of life. They regularly leave their jobs (or in the middle of the night, their warm beds) to respond to a call for help.



They do not receive remuneration for time given to search and rescue. 

The members make up a small, but spirited, group of mountaineers who spend one weekend each month training to sharpen their rescue skills.

Each member must provide all of their own equipment at a cost of more than \$2,500.

Beside acting as highly competent rescue workers, members also work closely with schools, clubs, church groups, and Scout troops throughout the area to teach mountain safety. The ounce of prevention may well prevent the untimely pound of cure.

In this newsletter issue are summaries of all our missions from July 2017 through March 2018.

Summaries of all our missions dat

Continued on Page 12

Mission Reviews

April - October 2018

The following pages contain a selection of first hand accounts of RMRU missions written by the team members involved.



MISSION REVIEWS APRIL - OCTOBER 2018

Stranded Mom and Girls

March 30, 2018

Dripping Springs Area

Written by Glenn Henderson

I received a call at 5:30 from call captain Gwenda Yates that Star 9 was requesting one RMRU person to respond to Hemet Ryan airbase. I quickly gather up my gear and was on scene 20 minutes later.

A young mother had walked off the end of a trail near the Dripping Springs campground outside of Temecula with three small girls ages (7, 7, and 5). They were stranded on the side of a hill in heavy brush without water, food or warm clothing. Pilot Ryan Burk and TFO (Technical Flight Officer) Ray Heirs and I discussed how to plan the order of hoists to get them all out.

We lifted off at 6:10 and flew to the location of our stranded hikers. Ray put me on the hook and lowered me to them. Yikes!!!! The little girls were so small! The regular screamer suits were going to be way too big, so we would have to do three separate trips with our

one child size suit. The girls didn't want to go but after talking to them about how it would be a fun ride, just like Magic Mountain and that I would go with each of them they slowly consented. I got the first one suited up and connected us to a "two up". This is a device with an O ring that had two straps attached to it, one for me and one for her. As we lifted off I was able to wrap both arms around her and hold her tight until we got to the door of the helicopter. We got her inside, buckled into the seat and flew her to waiting Sheriff's deputies on the ground.

"A young mother had walked off the end of a trail with three small girls 7, 7, and 5)"

RMRU RESCUER -
GLENN HENDERSON

We then flew back and did the same routine two more times and flew each girl back to the deputies on the ground. We then flew back, and I hooked Mom up with another

screamer suit and she was lifted to the helicopter. I soon followed and we all flew back as the sun was now gone and it was getting dark.

We got back to Hemet Ryan around 7:15 for a debrief of the mission. Great flying by Ryan as this was his first rescue with RMRU. He did a very professional job holding the helicopter rock steady, and to veteran, Ray who never gets excited, just does his usual great job to bring the hook to me perfectly 5 times this evening.

RMRU Members Involved: Glenn Henderson.



Prusik Knot

Stranded Climbers Tahquitz Rock

April 22, 2018

Tahquitz Rock, Idyllwild

Written by Eric Holden

Sunday morning, I had just finished making breakfast for my family when at 8am the callout came. Two climbers have been stuck on the side of Tahquitz Rock since yesterday. They had been climbing Whodunit, a 5.9, 5-8 pitch climb up the northwest recess and got off route. I quickly tossed all my personal climbing gear and ropes into the car and headed out. I met with Glenn at Keenwild heliport and we get the information from the Riverside Sheriff's Aviation Unit (Star-9) who had flown over the subjects. They were approximately 200-300ft from the summit and under a roof.

We come up with a plan to move personal and gear to the top of Tahquitz Rock via helicopter and then would perform a pick off once on top. I would go over the side and Glenn would run operations,

Ray was down at Humber Park with binoculars to run communications and base. Glenn grabbed some gear and was the first to be inserted. While Glenn was dropped off Mike and Pete arrived at Keenwild. After Star-9 returned I loaded it with more ropes and gear. A quick flight later and Star-9 was expertly hovering above Tahquitz to allow a "Hover Step" of about 5 feet.

A couple more trips and we had all the ropes, gear and personnel at the top of the rock. Anchors were set up and I rappelled down to the two subjects.

As we didn't know their exact distance from the top I had an extra 200ft of rope on my back in case it was over 200ft. Turns out, it was almost exactly 200ft and we could perform the rescue without having to tie ropes together. The two subjects, Zach and Tom, spent the night wedged in a crack about a foot wide on a route called The Consolation Direct (5.10a/b).



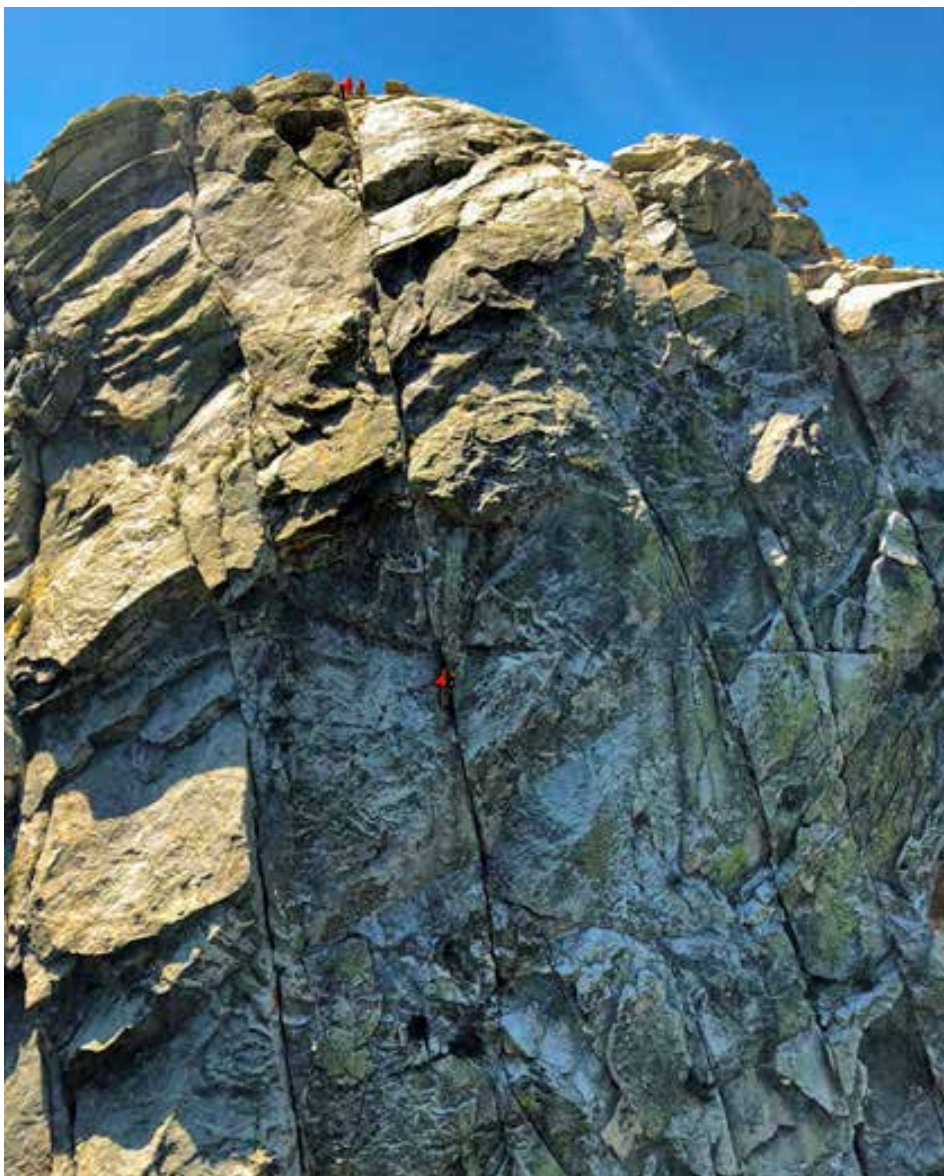
Subjects Zach top and Tom bottom where they spent the night

After a quick assessment neither was injured, both well hydrated and fed. I attached Tom to our two rescue lines and we had him start climbing up while Glenn, Pete and Mike used a 3:1 haul line with backup belay line to assist. While Tom was being raised, Star-9 came in and dropped off Tony (one of our two Yosemite big wall climbers on the team).

Once Tom was successfully raised, Tony was able to get both rescue lines back down to me. I hooked Zach up and he repeated his partners climb to the top of the rock. Hooking up my ascenders I began the fun process of jumaring back up the rope carrying a full pack, an extra rope, and the rope I was jumaring on. Once back on top I learned Corey had arrived and was making his way up the climber's trail to assist with carrying gear out. Corey quickly met up with the team and we all made the hike back down to Humber Park.



Eric Reppalling Trailing Two Ropes



Eric on Face with Tom Climbing Up and Rescue Members on Top

What went wrong? Our subjects got off route which put them in terrain that was out of their ability. They didn't feel they could safely descend, ascend, or get back on their target route and called 911. Having personally pulled two fatalities off the rock in less than 9 months, I am very glad they chose to sacrifice some pride instead of risking the consequences.

Things to learn? Always carry a good route description. A quick beta printout weighs next to nothing and can be carried by the

lead climber if any questions arise. Have a bailout plan and know where good rappel stations are. Know that on any climb you may have to sacrifice gear to make the bailout plan work.

RMRU Members Involved:

Pete Carlson, Corey Ellison, Glenn Henderson, Eric Holden, Tony Hughes, Michael George, and Raymond Weden.

Riverside Sheriff's Aviation:
Andy Rasmussen (Pilot) and
Eric Hannum (TFO).

Search Joshua Tree

April 24, 2018

Johnny Lang Canyon, Joshua
Tree National Park

Written by Shani Pynn

I woke up this morning well before dawn. It feels like I haven't been on a search in so long. I packed all my gear the night before, so all I had to do was head out the door. 6 AM I was meeting up with Alex and Glenn. I made it to J-Tree early and got to watch the sun rise. The Sheriffs, Desert Search and Rescue (DSAR), and RMRU had come to help the Joshua Tree Search and Rescue (JOSAR) crews.

The subject of our searching expedition was an older blind hiker with a past heart condition. This perplexingly adventurous elderly man had the foresight to have a plan. He had left a note on his car days before, advising at what time he should be searched for. That time was late Sunday, it was now Tuesday, and JOSAR had searched the day before. Since he hadn't been found we would search some more. Monday's search had turned up some clues, which to our ears was happy news. JOSAR had found tracks and arrows pointing his way, it seemed like today might be a good day.

Our subject started off from Quail Springs Picnic Area parking lot, headed to Johnny Lang Canyon in search of things that were buried. It seems he had an interest in the mines, so we would be watching for those too this time. After a safety check my team headed out on assignment. We had a waypoint and set out to find it. I checked our communications when we were



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out of sight. Basecamp could hear me clearly, so we were alright. We reached our point by about gam and found a spot with some shade to spend the time.



Shani at Radio Rock

Once teams 1 through 3 tracked our subject to a drainage we would head up there. Until then, we were staged nearby and enjoyed the fresh air. To check in by radio I had to find some higher ground, so I began searching around. Halfway up a hill was reception rock where I was able to sit and talk.

I checked in with Basecamp watching quail fly by and was advised to keep standing by. Team 2 radioed in they had a hiker following them. Without other direction they did their best to work around him. A little bit later he headed off ahead, much to team 2's trackers' dread. The search continued with more arrows and sign. My team listened to the reports, passing the time. Just after our latest check

in around 10:30 it seemed we had a reporting party (RP) hiker. Our elderly blind prospector was alive and awake, although he wasn't feeling that great. The RP said he had dehydration and abdominal pain and gave a waypoint to help our teams' aim. With a live subject and a point to guide the way, I thought it would turn out to be a good day.

Teams 2 and 3 headed towards our guy. The rest of the teams waited, standing by. Hearing on the radio that our subject was found, a Sheriff's helicopter let base know they were around. While team 2 headed toward the waypoint with speed, team 3 picked a different path. Team 3 got there first and we all waited, breath caught in our throats. The radio crackles and we were all listening. We heard "I have reached the subject. He has a pulse and he is breathing." A collective "Yes!" echoed across



Alex hiking out with Teams 4 and 5

the desert floor as our spirits were lifted once more. The Helicopter came in and pick up the subject to be flown back to Basecamp where an ambulance was waiting.

Hiking back to Basecamp with the helicopter up ahead, I had upbeat gos music stuck in my head. An ambulance ferried our subject away and our benevolent helicopter few off for another day. Back at Basecamp they gave us some food and water. We turned in our shared gear and cooled off with ice cubes. We were lucky so far, this could have gone a different way. I have to say, today was a good day.

RMRU Members Involved:

Glenn Henderson, Shani Pynn, and Alex Rilloraza.



Search & Rescue Lost Hiker

May 21, 2018

San Jacinto Peak

Written by Pete Carlson

At 6:20PM we got the call for a lost hiker in the San Jacinto Peak area. Riverside Sheriff's Aviation Unit was able to fly over the peak in high winds and spot the subject and tell us her location before it got dark. Because of high wind they would not be able to do a hoist. We arrived at the Tramway around 8:00PM and quickly made our plans. Eric and I would hike to the Peak while Glenn and Michael would stay back and run base and be available if we needed them to hike up. State Park Ranger Bill was staying over in the Ranger cabin and had cell phone communications with the Subject.

Maxie had started hiking late and reached the summit around 4:00PM. She was well equipped with jackets, food, and Water, but no topo map or GPS unit as she thought it was an easy hike on trails. But the summit of San Jacinto is a big pile of boulders and once you past the Summit Hut and start up the boulders you can no longer see the Summit Hut. Once on the Summit she took in the view and then started to head down. But she went down the wrong side towards Little Round Valley. She only went down 100 yards or so and realized she was in the wrong place but did not know which way to go. She called the Ranger Cabin number on her permit and spoke to Bill who told her to stay put, do not go walking around anymore and help would come to her.

Eric and I left the Ranger Cabin at 9:15PM and headed up. We took the Sid Davis trail as it is the fastest way to the Summit. We got to Tamarack Valley in 30 minutes and reached the main trail up below the gully up to Jean Peak in an

another 60 minutes. We took a short break and eat some energy food and drank water. We both were just wearing long sleeve shirts and were soaked in sweat. We continued up and contacted Maxie at 11:45PM only 2 ½ hours after starting our hike.



Subject at Break stop

She was in good spirits once she saw us. She was cold even with her jackets as she was just sitting since 5PM, almost 7 hours. We thought it was not too cold as we had been hiking hard. In fact, we found out it was 37 degrees at the Ranger Cabin. We wrap her up in a down sleeping bag and gave her energy food to eat and eat more ourselves taking about 15 minutes. Then we started back down to the Tramway. She was a strong hiker and

had no problems on the way back.

We reached the Ranger Cabin in 2 ¼ hours a little after 2:00AM. State Park Ranger Bill took down information from her for his reports and we relaxed in the cabin for about 20 minutes and then we did the dreaded walk up the tramway ramp and into the upper station to get a few hours sleep. At 6:12AM the lower tram station opened the doors to the car up top and we got in and they closed them behind us and we rode down.

A big thanks to the State Park (Bill) for keeping in touch with Maxi by cell phone and running the base radio for us during the mission. Also, to the Tramway Personal who are always friendly and helpful to us during a mission. And lastly to RSO Aviation (Eric Hannum) for perfect directions to the subject.

RMRU Members Involved:

Pete Carlson, Michael George, Glenn Henderson, and Eric Holden



Lost Worker

June 8, 2018

Black Mt. Campground

Written by Editor

Call Captain Gwenda sent out the text that we had a search for a worker lost around the Black Mt. Campground. The Deputy was at the campground waiting for us to arrive. While we were getting ready to leave for the search the Deputy called in that the missing worker had found his way back to the campground.

RMRU Members Involved:
Gwenda Yates



View from 10,000 foot level on San Jacinto

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16-year-old stuck

June 11, 2018

Massacre Canyon, San Jacinto City Area

Written by Editor

We got a call for a 16-year-old male stuck in Massacre Canyon. Glenn went and got the rescue truck and while he and others were driving to the canyon we got called off that others had helped the young man out of his problem and hiked him out

RMRU Members Involved:
Glenn Henderson



Palm Springs Rescue

July 07, 2018

Dry Falls, Palm Springs Area

Written by Shani Pynn

At about 4:00 AM I woke to the sound of our team being called out for a mission. We were to assist our neighbours, Palm Springs SAR, with a rescue of a stranded hiker they had been working on since the day before in the Las Palmas Estates area. So, I rolled out of bed and a few minutes later I was riding out to Palm Springs with Michael. Since I was riding shotgun, I checked in with our call captain Gwenda, and got some more info on the mission. Tyler, Tony, and Glenn were also on their way and Eric was going to come out a bit later. We were going to be assisting the Palm Springs team as necessary with their rescue.

We arrived at the command post at roughly 5:45 AM and I checked in with the SAR team. They had been hoping for some help carrying some of their gear up the hillside as it was going to be a very

hot day. By the time we were able to drive out though, they had decided to go for it and their people were already out in the field. I let them know how many people we had coming in and that we were here if they decided they wanted any help or anything else carried in. We chatted with them and watched their team with binoculars as they finished their hike in and began to set up their rescue system. They had a helicopter scheduled to fly out from LA at 6 and head our way to do a pick off of their subject, a man stranded on the slope below the trail. They weren't using Star 9 because the heat and terrain wouldn't allow it to get close enough to the subject to rescue him safely.

"We arrived at the command post at roughly 5:45 AM and I checked in with the SAR team."

RMRU RESCUER -
SHANI PYNN

At about 8:00 AM Glenn decided, and we agreed, that some of us should hike in to offer to help carry gear out since we were there anyways. Tyler, Michael, and I hiked in to the base of the slope the team was working on and checked in with the people up top over the radio. They had us stand by, so we waited where we were and had a nice view of the helicopter when it arrived. The helicopter was able to get to the hiker and transported him and the SAR team on the slope to a landing zone nearby. Since everything went smoothly we hiked back out to the command post and our vehicles. After

checking out just before 9:00 AM we headed home, happy to have been there as backup for our fellow SAR team.

RMRU Members Involved:

Michael George, Glenn Henderson, Eric Holden, Tony Hughes, Shani Pynn, and Tyler Shumway.



Lost Climbers Tahquitz Rock

July 15, 2018

Humber Park Area

Written by Eric Holden

At 2310 hours we got a call out for 3 lost hikers near Tahquitz Peak. Myself, Tyler, Corey, and Mike were all heading up to Humber Park. I was first on scene at the Idyllwild Ranger Station only to find that the RSO Deputy had just left as they subjects were by a house. Tyler arrived while the deputy drove them back to the ranger station.

Turns out the subjects were climbers and had just finished climbing a route call El Whampo. They attempted to take the North East gulley as their descent route but ended up heading west down towards the friction descent. They missed the trail and ended up heading down a random gulley until they hit the Ernie Maxwell trail. They followed that until they reached a house where the deputy picked them up. Lesson learned, always know your descent route, and bring headlamps even if you don't ever expect to use them.

RMRU Members Involved:

Corey Ellison, Michael George, Eric Holden, and Tyler Shumway.



Lost person near Suicide Rock

August 04, 2018

Suicide Rock Trail

Written by Tony Hughes

The Cranston Fire had closed most of the trails in the San Jacinto mountains. On August 4th some of the trails re-opened at Noon. A page went out at 4:40 PM that we had a lost hiker near Suicide Rock. Sheriff's Aviation in Star 9 was able to fly over and spot her. They captured her coordinates and told her to stay put. Mike, Kaitlyn, and I were all responding. Gwenda spoke to Aviation and given the fact that I was in Orange County and Mike was in Corona, they suggested we get picked up at Corona Airport. Kaitlyn, being the newest member of our team, had not yet completed Helicopter training and would have to wait this one out.

In the shortest drive I have ever made for a mission, I was at the airport in about 25 minutes. Mike was already there. We were confident we would be doing a hover step, where the helicopter would get close the ground or touches down a skid allowing us to get out. However, we wanted to prepare as plans sometimes change mid-flight, so we put on our harnesses and were prepared for a hoist. We also brought some light technical gear in case the area was steep. A family leaving the airport stopped while we were gearing up in the parking lot and asked if we were skydiving. We let them know we were going to rescue someone from the wilderness and a helicopter would be picking us up if they wanted to stay and watch. I guess

a helicopter isn't as exciting as skydiving, so they left.

Star 9 arrived a few minutes later and landed in a grass strip close to our cars. Mike and I got in and we started flying toward Idyllwild. The flight crew briefed us on the way and I entered the subjects coordinates in my GPS. We flew over the area of the Cranston fire. The fire teams did an amazing job protecting the homes and other structures on the mountain. Everything was burned except narrow areas of coverage around homes. The plan was to land at Keen-Wild and quickly reconfigured so our TFO, Jerry Osterloh, could be on the outside of the helicopter during the hover step. As we approached Keen-wild we quickly found out all 3 pads were occupied – 2 with

above Lake Hemet. Once we were reconfigured, we headed toward Suicide Rock. The subject was now in the shadows of the mountain and we were high enough to be in the sun, so we couldn't get a visual to confirm she hadn't moved. We circled around to the South-East side of Suicide Rock. Chad got us in close, hovering about 5 feet off a big rock outcropping. Jerry tossed our packs out. I was first out and despite telling the family we were not skydiving, I'm pretty sure our exit from the aircraft may have qualified as a base jump. I hit the ground and moved to a safe spot. Mike was prepping his jump and at the same time the thrust from the helicopter caused our packs to start rolling. Thankfully they rolled toward safety and not off the cliff. Mike jumped down, we signaled to



Tony, Subject, and Michael

helicopters and one with a pallet of water. The water was likely there to prevent someone from landing next to one of the helicopters with a large rotor.

Chad Marlot, our pilot, took us to an alternate spot on a ridge

Star 9 that we were all good, and they took off.

We quickly put on our packs and started heading toward the subject, who was about 1/3 of a mile away based on the coordinates we received. We did a few call outs on

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top of Suicide Rock just in case she moved. No response. We got to the saddle that joins Suicide Rock with the main Deer Springs Trail. We did another call out. We had a response. We stayed high and traversed across a few drainages. We used call outs like a game of Marco Polo combined with our GPS to hone in on her location. Within a few minutes we came around a big pine tree and there she was.

She didn't have any injuries but had run out of water. We gave her a bottle of water and started hiking down the valley to regain the climbers trail. She had come up the climber's trail to the top of Suicide Rock, a hike she had done many times, but had gotten off trail in some old growth forest on the way back down. She did the right thing by calling for help and staying put. We were able to get to her with about 30 minutes of daylight left. The pickup from Corona Airport had saved us hours and made the rescue much simpler.

We reached the climbers trail at the bottom of the valley just before dark. We had a good chat on the way down and everyone was in good spirits. We let the subject know that the team was holding our annual pancake breakfast the next morning and that she should stop by if she was still in the area.

This is the part of the trail that climbs up a bit before dropping down to the water tank by the private road. We followed the trail and reached the subjects car, parked at the top of a private road near the water tank on the climber's trail. The rescue had gone smoothly to this point, but what

would a rescue be without some sort of complication. The deputy was not at her car as we had been led to believe. Most people access the climbers trail from the other water tanks on Fern Valley road, so we assumed the officer was probably over there. Mike and I had no vehicle, our cars were in Corona. We had no cell service, and no one was responding on the radio. The subject had a car, but it was a 2-seater. Figuring the Deputy was probably on Fern Valley Road, Mike headed down there to see if he could spot him. Mike got to the road and no sign of the deputy. The subject and I got in her car and drove around to meet up with Mike. We continued up to Humber where we found the deputy. He interviewed the subject and she was free to go.

I put my stuff in the Deputies vehicle and this is when I found out the toss of my pack from Star 9 to the ground had blown a hole in my water bladder and got everything in my pack wet. We drove down the road and Mike had connected with the second deputy in the area. The deputies drove us over to Lake Hemet Station and confirmed dispatch had contacted Star 9.

A little while later Star 9 picked us up and took us back to Corona. On the way the pilots mentioned they could see hot spots from the Cranston fire still burning through their NGVs (Night Vision Goggles), even though they weren't visible to the naked eye. They brought up the FLIR on the console, but it didn't work the same way and didn't show any flames.

Star 9 dropped us off at our cars

and we were done for the night. Mike and I had a short night and quickly turned around and went to the pancake breakfast the next day.

Our subject stopped by and gave us each some cookies and a gift card. She also donated to the team and we are very much appreciate her support.

RMRU Members Involved:

Michael George, Tony Hughes, Kaitlyn Purington, and Gwenda Yates.

Sheriff's Aviation:

Pilot Chad Marlot and TFO Jerry Osterloh.

Riverside County Sheriff:

Deputy Burden and Deputy Bruce



Two Hikers near Wellman Divide

August 10, 2018
San Jacinto State Park
Written by Tyler Shumway

On Friday August 10th at 7:15pm I was at home when I received a call from Glenn Henderson about a possible hoist mission. The only information we had from g11 dispatch was a text message saying, "My friend is dead, and I am dying". While Glenn and I geared up at Hemet Ryan, Riverside County Sheriff's Aviation Unit Star 9 was already in route to assess the situation. Upon return, Star 9 was able to determine the subject's location and a possible drop in point. The location of the subject was 0.10 miles NW of Annie's Junction (PCT mile 181) along the

ing back to 1969 can be found on our Website at RMRU.org.

RMRU is always looking for new members!

We are an all-volunteer, non-profit team of rescue volunteers who are always looking for qualified people to join our team of dedicated rescue members. As a member of the Mountain Rescue Association, we are not your average search and rescue team. In addition to what is expected of most SAR teams, we specialize in high-angle rope rescue and extended back country and mountain rescue missions. If you think you have what it takes to be part of an elite mountain rescue team, please join us at one of our monthly meetings normally held the Wednesday of every month. While the regular meeting begins



Ray Weden - Lone Pine Recert. 2018



Technical Rock Training Joshua Tree

at 7 pm, a training season begins at 6 pm and is a great opportunity to meet one on one with team members. We meet at Sheriff's Office Valley Vista substation at 43950 Acacia Street in Hemet.

Email info@rmru.org ahead of time to make sure there will be someone out front to meet you.

We look forward to meeting you!

Even if you can't join us in the field, your contribution can help make a vital difference in our mission to save lives.

RMRU is a completely volunteer search and rescue team that covers Riverside County and assists other SAR teams in other counties and states. Each member purchases their own equipment and takes time off work, without compensation, to participate in search and rescue missions.

Team equipment is purchased from contributions from the community. We are a non-profit

Your donations allow us to keep our training and team gear updated and help us to save lives. This includes our rescue trucks and recent acquisition of a new communications van.



High Line Demo - Joshua Tree

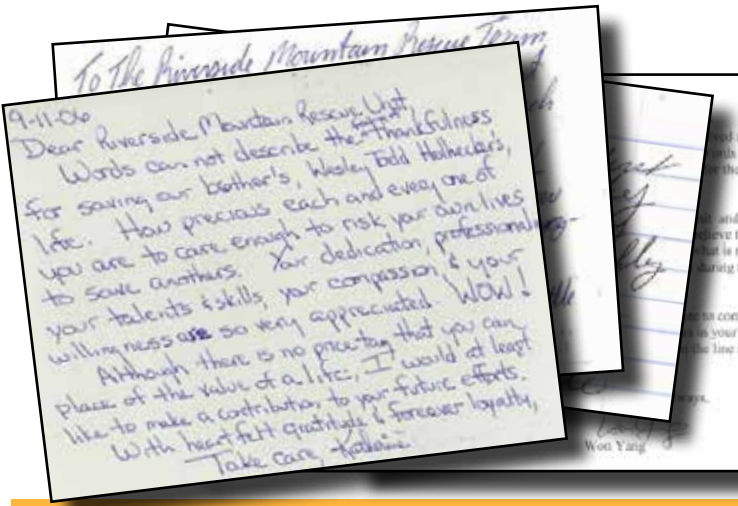
Donations of any size are appreciated, however if you would like be a sustaining member, please fill out the form below. **We also take PAYPAL donations at info@rmru.org.**



Munter Hitch

Testimonials

Our Reward
are the people we help



Dear Riverside Mountain Rescue Unit,

Words cannot describe the feelings and thankfulness for saving our brother's life. How precious each and every one of you are to care enough to risk your own lives to save another's. Your dedication, professionalism, your talents and skills, your compassion and your willingness are so very appreciated. WOW!! Katherine

To the Riverside Mountain Rescue Team,

Thank you for taking time out of your night on Friday to search for my friend Heidi, and I when we lost the trail on the way back from San Jacinto Peak. While I know it is something you gladly do – and enjoy – I do apologize for taking up your time because I made a very horrible mistake. You guys are awesome! Tom

Dear Sirs,

I wanted to express my sincere gratitude to everyone involved in the search and rescue from Cabazon Mountain. Words can never even begin to express the new found appreciation and admiration I have for the jobs that each and every one of you do.

I really appreciate the quick response to your Rescue Unit and the coordination with the Sheriff's department. Because of your quick action I believe that I am here today and with my family and now have a new outlook on life and what is really important, and I thank you for that. Thank you for staying with my family during this time. Your compassions for humanity really shows. Best Regards Always, Won

Dear Friends,

I just celebrated my first anniversary of being saved by your dedicated volunteers. My hats off to you especially Sully who went way beyond the call of duty. Keep up the good works. God Bless Al

Dear Sirs,

I would like to thank you on behalf of my husband and granddaughter for the assistance you gave and my son's family last night and this morning. My husband and I are not hikers (although my husband is a retired Marine) so this is something we don't ordinarily do. When we got stuck up in the forest overnight we knew we would have to fend for ourselves, but we also were pretty certain that our son and daughter-in-law would call for help. They did and you were magnificent.

I also want to thank the volunteer search and rescue team, which was following us even though we never saw them. I know that having such a group in your area gives your residents and guests a great sense of security. I know that they are not under your command, but would you please forward our thanks. Kim

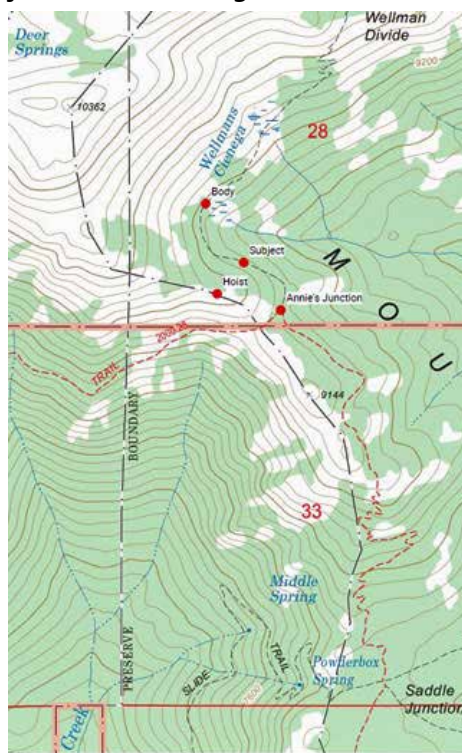
Wellman Divide Trail. During this time State Parks dispatched a park volunteer to that location from Round Valley. After passing Wellman Cienega (0.5 miles north of the Subject) State Parks was able to locate the friend and reported that he was deceased. He was then able to contact the second subject who had requested help and he was alive.

Star 9 flew us to Keenwild Helicopter base to pick up the stokes basket and to drop off Glenn. The drop off point required only one of us at time due to altitude and winds. Star 9 was able to drop me off at 9,200ft in a clearing on the ridgeline above Annie's Junction. This put me 200 yards uphill from the subject. I made my way down to them as Star 9 went back to Keenwild to pick up Glenn.

I made contact with State Parks Samuel King and the subject who was lying down in the middle of the trail. Samuel had done a great job of keeping him warm and as comfortable as possible while waiting for help. After providing fluids and encouragement we got him up on his feet, but he was very weak and was suffering from severe muscle cramps. We had to get him back to the helicopter pick up point (200 yards uphill) as the current location was not suitable for a hoist due to the topography. Sam and I assisted the subject to the extraction point where Glenn was already waiting with the Stokes basket assembled. He was able to bear weight on his own, so we opted to use a screamer suite instead of the stokes basket. Star 9 hoisted the Subject and returned him to Keenwild where AMR was

waiting to provide further medical attention.

State Parks member Samuel King returned to wait with the body overnight, while other members of State Parks were to arrive later. They would wait for the coroner to arrive Saturday morning and either hoisted the body out or wheel it back to tram. Then Star 9 returned to hoist Glenn and the stokes basket back to Keenwild and then back to hoist me. Mission was over just before midnight.



Map of where things happened

Thank you RSO Pilot Chad Marlatt and TFO Jerry Osterloh for a safe mission. Also thank you Samuel King of State Parks for hiking out and making initial contact and providing assistance.

Our sincerest condolences go out to the family and loved ones of the deceased.

Hikers Story:

The two hikers started from Humber Park with heavy packs at 12:00pm on August 10th. Their plan was to summit San Jacinto Peak and then camp overnight at Round Valley. Temperatures and humidity were above average in the high country. One of the hikers decided to hike ahead and passed Annie's Junction. The second hiker came upon his friend just before Wellman Cienega and found him lying on the trail. He reported that he found him unresponsive, not breathing and without a pulse. He tried doing CPR and quickly realized he needed to get help. After already hiking 4.5 miles with close to 3,000ft of elevation gain at altitude during the hottest part of the day he was experiencing symptoms of dehydration. He tried getting cell signal but was unable to get a distress call out. He made it back 0.10 miles NW of Annie's Junction where his body seized up and was unable to move. He continued to try to call for help and was finally able to get a text message out.

RMRU Members Involved:

Glenn Henderson and Tyler Shumway.

Sheriff's Aviation:

Pilot Chad Marlot and TFO Jerry Osterloh.

State Parks:

Samuel King and other State Park Persons who came out after we left.



MISSION REVIEWS APRIL - OCTOBER 2018

Lake Hemet Mud Flow**August 16, 2018****Garner Valley, Lake Hemet****Written by Eric Holden**

After the Cranston Fire RMRU was asked to assist multiple days with possible mudslides and actual mudslides.

*Truck after rain at Lake Hemet*

8/16 – We were asked to stage at Lake Hemet as thunderstorms were expected in the area. I met with Alex at the Sheriff station and started up the mountain. While driving along the 74 between Mountain Center and Lake Hemet a large cell passed overhead and was dumping lots of rain. Active mud flows were coming down the hillside we saw some minor rock fall. We arrived at the lake to a continued heavy downpour. We would wait a few hours more as Caltrans cleared the highway. Other than the debris on the road there were no other incidents.

*Home Owner thanking RMRU member Dana*

8/17 – We were called again after a large cell passed over Hurkey Creek and caused a large mudslide. From a witness “A 20ft high wall of mud and trees”. The mudslide was over, but we were tasked to head near the beginning of the mudslide as a few homes are back there. Shani, Dana and I met with DSSAR and RSO Deputies, James and Waters. We caravanned through the mudslides and had to pull one of the vehicles out due to how deep the mud was. We made it to the homeowners and miraculously the slide went all around their buildings but didn’t touch them. Power and water were cut off. They were very happy to see us. We checked on a few more homes before heading back down the mountain.

*Shani and Mudslide Pile Up*

8/20 – We were called out again due to possible thunder storms. I met Shani at the Station and we drove up to Lake Hemet. Once there the skies were clear, and the new weather report showed 0% chance of rain. We got the ok to leave the scene and headed back down the mountain.

RMRU Members Involved:

Eric Holden, Shani Pynn, Dana Potts, Alex Rilloraza, and Tyler Shumway.

Batista Canyon Search**August 27, 2018****Batista Canyon Hemet Area****Written by Kaitlyn Purington**

On Monday, Aug 27, at around 10pm at night, Dispatch received a call from a frantic and disoriented nephew. The nephew had claimed that his uncle and he were out near his uncle’s mine claim in Batista Canyon near Tripp Flats. When Riverside Sheriff’s Department responded, to the nephew, they found the nephew near the uncle’s vehicle on Forest Road 6S22 below Little Cahuilla Mountain.

According to the nephew, the vehicle’s window had been smashed in the nephews attempt to enter and hotwire the car to get help. After this attempt failed he called 911. The nephew who was at the time under the influence of drugs, was quickly sent to the hospital as the department tried to piece together the bits of information from the nephew.

After calling the uncle’s relatives, the department was able to put together a more complete story. The uncle, an avid miner and jewelry maker, had taken this short trip with his nephew. The uncle was experienced in spending the night outdoors and would often leave for a few days at a time to spend at his mine. The family reassured the department that this was normal.

RMRU was notified that night and was told that a search would be carried out in the morning of the 28th for the uncle. The department did a preliminary search during the night for the uncle. Since the story was still being pieced together, the

RIVERSIDE MOUNTAIN RESCUE UNIT

57 Years of Volunteer Service in Savings Lives
Over 2,000 Missions





department decided a morning search would be the safest and most effective for RMRU.

On the morning of the 28th, Steve, Kevin, Eric, and myself responded to the Hemet Sheriff Department at 0800 hours where we were debriefed. After that, we drove to a location to see if we could observe the truck through binoculars. After a bit of trouble being able to see over a small hill. Steve, Kevin, Eric, and I, were driven by one of the deputies to the location of the truck. We rode in the sheriff's vehicle as a helicopter team had determined that the road was not suitable for the RMRU truck the night before.

"The nephew had claimed that his uncle and he were out near his uncle's mine claim"

RMRU RESCUER -
KAITLYN PURINGTON

When we arrived at the location of where the truck was the night before, it was no longer there. The uncle had driven away sometime between our arrival and the night before. A few days later, the Sheriff Department got word from the Uncle's family that he had contacted them and that he was okay.

RMRU Members Involved:
Steve Bryant, Eric Holden,
Kevin Kearn, and
Kaitlyn Purington.

Lost Hiker - **Hagador Canyon** August 31, 2018 **South of Tin Mine Canyon** Written by Tyler Shumway

I received a call out at 1:40pm while I was in Banning taking pictures for work. I was to report to Hemet Ryan for a hoist mission. After suiting up we were in the air just before 2:30pm. Sheriff's Aviation had located a female hiker off trail and in steep terrain after she was able to call 911 for assistance. She was on a steep face in Hagador Canyon which is just south of the popular Tin Mine Canyon.

I was inserted in a nearby clearing that allowed me to contour along the hill side to the subject's location. After a short bushwhack I made contact. She was in good spirits and stated that she got off trail and could not continue any further due to the steep and loose terrain. I gave her water and snacks as she had run out a few hours ago.

After carefully side hilling in dense bush we made our way back to the clearing for the hoist. We were both hoisted one after the other and returned to Corona Municipal Airport for drop off. We then flew back to Hemet Ryan. Mission was a go by 3:30pm.

RMRU Members Involved:
Tyler Shumway.

Sheriff's Aviation:
Pilot Eric Bashta and
TFO Jerry Osterloh

Fern Basin Rescue September 13, 2018 **Fern Valley Basin Campground** Written by Glenn Henderson

The team received a call for a missing 80-year-old man out of the Fern Valley Basin Campground at 2:30 PM. I responded to the Hemet Sheriff's station and drove one of our rescue trucks to the campground. While driving to basecamp I heard that he had not been missing only two hours but had been last seen at 9 AM. This gave him a lot more time to get further away into the wilderness.

When I arrived at base Deputy George Scott's bloodhound, Copper, had picked up his trail and had tracked him about half a mile from camp. Our subject was off the trail and down but otherwise in pretty good shape. I got our litter and wheel and with help from other deputies and Cal Fire we wheeled down to the subject, loaded him up and carried him back to base camp. American Medical Response was waiting and started a medical evaluation. After some fluids were given to him it looked like he would be fine.

I loaded our gear back up and headed back to Hemet.

RMRU Members Involved:
Michael George, Glenn Henderson,
Shani Pynn, and Alex Rilloraza.



Figure 8 on a bite

MISSION REVIEWS APRIL - OCTOBER 2018

Box Springs

Missing Persons

September 18, 2018

Moreno Valley

Written by Glenn Henderson

The team was called out to Box Springs in Moreno Valley for four lost people at 9:20 PM. I responded to the basecamp and found that a local resident had a quad that he had driven close to the subjects. He was able to pick up two of them while a Sheriff's sergeant was able to use her vehicle to pick up the other two. Once everyone was out of the field we all went home at 11 PM.

RMRU Members Involved:

Corey Ellison, Michael George, Glenn Henderson, and Alex Rilloraza.

Juniper Flats Search

September 27, 2018

Perris Area

Written by Eric Holden

RMRU was activated to help search for a missing 78-year-old out of the Juniper Flats Area. RMRU, Riverside Search Dogs, Riverside Sheriff Bloodhounds, Riverside Aviation, ROVE, Mounted Posse and the Drone team would search over the next three days. Unfortunately, he was found deceased. Our thoughts go out to his friends and family.

RMRU Members Involved:

Steve Bryant, Glenn Henderson, Eric Holden, Shani Pynn, Alex Rilloraza, and Gwenda Yates.

Lake Hemet

Mudslide Standby

October 01, 2018

Garner Valley, Lake Hemet

Written by Shani Pynn

At roughly 10:30 AM Monday we were called out to standby at Lake Hemet to assist with a response to potential mudslides later that day. We had been advised the week before that we might be called out, so I had already checked with the bosses about leaving work early. The Lake Hemet and Hurkey Creek areas had had mudslides already this year and the weather forecast had a large potential for rainfall.



RMRU and DSAR Rescuers Standing By

I picked up our team vehicle from the Sheriff's station and arrived at the Lake Hemet station at roughly 1:30 PM. There, I met Steve and Dana, as well as the folks from the Desert SAR team who had also come to help. During our time on standby the weather threatened to rain in the area with flood potential several times, but eventually cleared up enough that we were able to head home for the night. We left the station at about 8 PM and I returned our vehicle before heading home.

RMRU Members Involved:

Steve Bryant, Dana Potts, and Shani Pynn.

Rescue Massacre Canyon

October 03, 2018

Hills above city of San Jacinto

Written by Tyler Shumway

RMRU received a call out 9:00am on Wednesday for a stranded hiker in Massacre Canyon. Glenn and I were the first to arrive on scene. The hiker had cell signal and was able to call for help. She had climbed up the cliff side from the bottom of the canyon and could not go any further due to the steep and loose terrain.

Glenn and I geared up and took the high trail. Shani arrived shortly after and started in from the lower trail (canyon floor). Glenn and I contacted the subject within 20 minutes and noticed she was accompanied by another hiker. The hiker was not part of her group and had already ascended the cliff face to help. By the time we got directly above them they had already climbed up most of the way even after being told to stay put and wait for a rope.

I down climbed to them with a rope and put a coil on the subject who initially called for help as she was struggling the most. The hiker that provided helped was able to climb out without assistance. With Glenn on belaying, we climbed back up to the high trail and kept her on belay throughout the traverse back to the canyon floor. The hiker was reunited with her family and the mission was over by 11:30am.

RMRU Members Involved:

Glenn Henderson, Shani Pynn, Alex Rilloraza, and Tyler Shumway.

Flash Flood Search

October 04-06, 2018

Box Canyon Road near Mecca

Written by Kaitlyn Purington

On Saturday, October 6th, the search continued for the flash flood victim in the Box Canyon Road Flood. Tony, Michael, Shani, Eric, Corey, and I all responded at 0700 hours to the command post that had been established two days prior.



Rescuers Standing above Creek Flow

The search effort was bolstered by a mutual aid request through the California Office of Emergency Services, which brought search and rescue teams from throughout California. Search and Rescue Teams from Riverside County, San Bernardino County, Imperial County, San Diego County, Orange County, Los Angeles County, and Kern County, along with assistance from the Bureau of Land Management.

Additional resources included ground search teams, off-road vehicle searchers, helicopters and fixed-wing airplanes from the sheriff's department and the California Highway Patrol, the sheriff's department dive team, numerous search canine teams, and various specialized equipment from the Sheriff's Department Hazardous Device Team. That equipment included ground penetrating radar and excavation heavy equipment. The Joshua Tree Search and Rescue family support unit assisted in providing resources to Mr. Goyal's family.

This also allowed us to look from a higher vantage point into the canyon as we continued to look for the victim. During this time, Tony and Michael assisted other teams as they continued to look for more evidence within the lower parts of the canyon. During this search, nothing of interest was found.

After both areas were covered, RMRU members returned to the command station at around 1200 hours and received a second assignment. To the south of the canyon, following the path of the flood, there was a large debris field. Michael, Tony, Corey, Eric, Shani, Joe, and I went to this debris field and began to search. We conducted a line search to accurately cover the area. The debris field itself was about 1-3ft deep in some areas, covered in soil, trash, fallen logs, and other decaying plant material. During the search of this debris field,

After a quick briefing, the teams were divided and given search assignments. Team High Ground consisted of Eric, Shani, Corey, Joe (a member of DSAR), and I. The task for this group was to drive to the beginning of the canyon, to the point where the road remained intact. Once at this point, this team was further divided into two additional teams. Shani, Joe, and I searched along the western ridge of the canyon while Eric and Corey searched the eastern ridge. During this time, we were looking for any tracks or evidence that the victim might have tried to escape the flood to reach higher ground.



Road Undermined



Buried Sign

the only notable things that were found were some car parts that could have been from the victim's vehicle. After conducting a search of the field, this team continued to search around a few ponds that had been left by the flood a little east of the debris field. Again, this search did not find anything noteworthy. We returned to command and relayed this information at 1400 hours.



Another Buried Sign

Numerous items related to the vehicle were located throughout Box Canyon. Mr. Ankit was not located during the search. The ground search was suspended on October 6, 2018; however, other search efforts will continue.

RMRU Members Involved:

Corey Ellison, Michael George, Glenn Henderson, Eric Holden, Tony Hughes, Kaitlyn Purington, Shani Pynn, Alex Rilloraza, and Gwenda Yates.

Skyline Trail Technical Rescue

October 07, 2018

Near Tramway below

Grubs Notch

Written by Eric Holen

"Experience is simply the name we give our mistakes" Oscar Wilde

The call came out at 4pm, hoist for a stuck hiker (Alex) on the Skyline trail. Most helicopter hoist missions are quick and easy, this would be the exception to the norm. I met Glenn at the aviation hanger and we find out that we have a stuck hiker about 8,100ft up on the side of San Jacinto Mt. above the Skyline traverse. He had hiked, and then climbed, into an area where he could no longer ascend or descend. We grabbed a climbing rope and several slings and were quickly on our way with the Sheriff's Aviation team (Star-9) of Mike Calhoun (Pilot) and Eric Bashta (TFO). After circling the area many times, we finally located Alex. He was on a granite pillar on the side of a cliff.

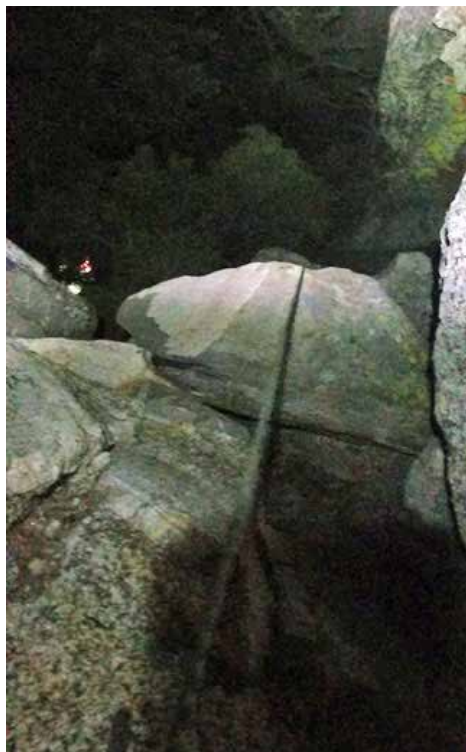
Unfortunately, the terrain was too steep and had too many trees to perform a hoist pickoff. Instead of putting the mission on hold, I let RSO aviation know that they could drop off at a known hoist extraction point at 7,400ft and we would hike from there. While Calhoun held the helicopter steady, Bashta would lower both Glenn and I down without incident. Star-9 proceeded to Palm Springs Airport to monitor our radio traffic and wait for the extraction call.

Glenn and I started our hike up the Skyline trail for about 100ft before ascending a 50-degree gulley heading towards Alex. With the sunlight fading, night quickly set upon us. Under headlamps the gulley eventually ran out and we were met by granite faces. We roped up and Glenn proceeded to belay me while I climbed until the rope ran out. I would then belay Glenn up to me. This process was repeated 3 times wrapping slings around trees and boulders for anchor points. My final climb was up the 20' Pillar to reach Alex. He was very cold,



Glenn coming up Gulley

shivering, and extremely thankful to see another soul.



Belay Rope going down

After getting Alex a jacket, I created a "Swiss Seat" out of webbing for him to use as a harness. I then belayed Alex back down off the pillar and back down to Glenn before down climbing myself. We would then setup 3 more belay stations to get back down to the "level" 50-degree gulley. From there it was a quick hike down to our insertion point.

Glenn contacted Star-9 and within minutes they were hovering overhead. We suited Alex up in a screamer suit which he gave truth to the name. As he was being lifted there was a resounding "Wooooaaah!". Aviation dropped Alex off and returned to pick up Glenn and myself. I finally made it back to my house at 1am the next day.... Not quite the quick hoist mission.

What went wrong?

Alex was hiking the Skyline trail, one of the hardest trails in North America. 8000ft of elevation gain over 11 miles. At the traverse around 7,500ft, he lost the trail and proceeded to head straight up the side of the mountain. He didn't realize that most of the slopes have about 200ft of steep granite before cresting the top.

He continued climbing and eventually couldn't go any further and was too sketched out to descend. He rightfully made the decision to stay put and call 911. If he had attempted to move, any mistake would have resulted in a fall with extreme injury or possibly worse.



Rescuers and Subject waiting for Star-9

RMRU Members Involved:

Glenn Henderson and Eric Holden.

Sheriff's Aviation Team (Star-9):

Mike Calhoun (Pilot) and Eric Bashta (TFO).

Lost Hiker Willow Creek October 10, 2018

San Jacinto Mountains

Written by Eric Holden

2100 hours, the call for a lost hiker (Richard) on the Willow Creek trail comes out. I meet Tyler at the Aviation Hanger only to be told

by STAR-9 that the mountain is socked in and they would be unable to fly. We get the message to the entire team that this is no longer a hoist, but a full team callout.

Tyler and I head to Humber park and begin our hike up Devil's Slide. If the subject stays put it will be about a 6-mile hike to him. If he moves and we cannot find him Shani and Alex will start up the trail heading towards Tahquitz Valley. About 1.7 miles up the trail Tyler goes "Did you hear that?" We stop and hear a call for help. We respond "Richard?" and confirm it is him. He is on the Devil's Slide trail hiking down. We quickly meet up with him using his cell phone as a light source and provide him with water, calories and a head lamp. We made it back to Humber park at 1:30am the next morning.

What went wrong? Richard went to hike the peak starting at 2pm from the tram. He decided to come back down at some point and missed the turn at Wellman's Divide. He took this to Saddle Junction and then started down Willow Creek Trail. Temps were in the high 30s and being lost and cold clouded his judgement causing him to back track multiple times trying to find a way out being unsure of his location. Once on the phone with RSO they were able to calm his nerves and he was able to return to Saddle Junction.

RMRU Members Involved:

Eric Holden, Shani Pynn,

Alex Rilloraza, and Tyler Shumway.

ABOUT RIVERSIDE MOUNTAIN RESCUE UNIT

FOUNDED 1961

MEMBER MOUNTAIN RESCUE ASSOCIATION 1963

GOVERNING BODY: RIVERSIDE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

MEMBERS: ORIGINAL: 6 | CURRENT MEMBERS: 32

ANNUAL BUDGET: ORIGINAL \$200 | CURRENT \$15,000

MISSIONS: TOTAL OVER 2,000 | AVERAGE PER MONTH: 3.33

TRAINING CALENDAR

Mt. Baldy Ice and Snow	Jan. 05 - 06
Mock Mission	January 26
Ice Axe, Snowshoe, & Anchors	Feb. 09 - 10
Re-Certification Snow & Ice	March 02
Technical Rock	April 06 -07
Helitac	May 04
MRA Spring Conference	June 07 -0 9

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