

A man, Pete Carlson, stands on a vast, snow-covered mountain peak under a clear blue sky. He is wearing a bright orange jacket, black pants, a white helmet with a "MOUNTAIN HARD WEAR" logo, and sunglasses. He holds a red-handled ice axe in his right hand. His shadow is cast on the snow to his right.

**Pete Carlson -  
50 Years of Service**

**Missions  
December 2019 - June 2020**



# Thank You!

To all that volunteer their time and financial assistance....

**Countless people owe their lives**



## OUR SUSTAINING MEMBERS



**January 1, 2020 - June 30, 2020**

**BENEFACTOR CLUB \$1,000.00 +**  
Elaine and David Baldwin | Ellen Coleman

**SUMMIT CLUB \$500.00+**  
Florian Boyd

**PATRON CLUB \$200.00+**  
David Stewart

**CENTURY CLUB \$100.00+**  
Carol J. Lovatt | Rob Gardner | Network for Good | Henry Sawicki

**SUPPORTING < \$100.00**  
Karin Greenwood | GV Angelo | Michael Everett | Alexander Debbout

## RESCUE TEAM MEMBERS



**Steve Bryant** - Alta Loma | **Pete Carlson** - Blue Jay  
**Kase Chong** - Hemet | **Cameron Dickinson** - Temecula | **Kirk Cloyd** - Hemet  
**Derek Donovan** - Temecula | **Blake Douglas** - Riverside  
**James Eckhardt** - Riverside | **Corey Ellison** - Laguna Niguel | **Gary Farris** - Palm Desert  
**Michael George** - Riverside | **Donny Goetz** - Los Angeles  
**Josh Gould** - Murrieta | **Glenn Henderson** - Hemet | **Eric Holden** - Temecula  
**Tony Hughes** - Yorba Linda | **Beth Jeffery** - Temecula | **Kevin Kearn** - Huntington Beach  
**Rob May** - Riverside | **Dana Potts** - Corona | **Kaitlyn Purington** - Laguna Niguel  
**Shani Pynn** - Riverside | **Vinay Rao** - San Jacinto  
**Tyler Shumway** - Hemet | **Ray Weden** - Murrieta | **Gwenda Yates** - Hemet

### Support Members

Joe Erickson | Kaylean May | Roger May | Brad Scott | Ty Wittersheim

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TREVOR LAHER****Page 31****On the Cover -****Pete Carlson****Summit of****Mt. Rainier 14,410'***Photo: Pete Carlson - RMRU***Newsletter Editor -****Gary Farris****Training LRV 1975****After Mission 2008**

## Pete Carlson

### 50 Years of Service

On April 12, 1970 RMRU was teaching ice axe self-arrests to a Sierra Club Basic Mountaineering class in the Baldy Bowl. A just-turned-21-year-old young man was taking the class. In the afternoon class this young man completed a self-arrest and was hiking back up the snow slope when instructor Bud White, "A Founding Team Member", grabbed the back of his jacket and threw him headfirst on his back down the slope. Quickly doing what he had just been taught, the young man made an excellent self-arrest. As he was getting up, clearly upset about what had happened, Bud yelled down, "That was really good, want to join RMRU?"

The young man showed up on April 22 at Highland Outfitters for the monthly meeting of RMRU. After the meeting he turned in his application. Next month at the May 20, 1970 meeting Pete Carl-

son was accepted as a member of RMRU. Now 50 years later after hundreds of missions and trainings he is still a member of RMRU. In between there have been many adventures with the RMRU Family, hundreds of peaks climbed, trips to some high mountains in North and South America, many Sierra Nevada trips, and lots of just plain fun. Also, during this time Pete married and now has 3 married children and 4 grandkids.

#### **How long have you been on the team and when did you join?**

50 years having joined the team in May 20, 1970 at age 21, guess that makes me 71 now.

#### **What was your first mission?**

Sat morning June 27, 1970 at 7:30am we got a call to rescue two young men struck in Chino Canyon between towers 2 and 3

of the Tramway. I had never ridden the Tramway and my first ride only went up to tower 2. By climbing down tower 2 and traversing from its base along the east wall of the canyon we reached the subjects about 1000 yards up canyon. As a trainee I was teamed up with a veteran member and we were assigned to fix ropes on a traverse.

So out came the pitons and gold line rope that we used back in the day. I put in my first piton that day and started a learning period that is still going on today. You can never know it all. We climbed back up the tower and belayed the subjects up the tower where we waited for the next down car to pick us up.

#### **What has been your most memorable mission?**

Where to start?

First out-of-county search Aug 1971 for a 14-year-old boy, I was

**Continued on Page 16**

# Mission Reviews

December 2019 - June 2020

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



## Cold Hiker Rescue

December 1, 2019

Round Valley, San Jacinto Mts.

Written by Glenn Henderson

On Sunday evening at 11:05 PM the team was called out for an overdue hiker that had hiked the Skyline Trail to the summit of Mt. San Jacinto and was to return to the Palm Spring Tramway.



Technical Flight Officer  
and Campers

As we got dressed for the mission and were in our cars headed out, we were told to stand down as Sheriff's aviation unit Star 9 had

landed in Round Valley and picked up the hiker and transported him to the hospital with severe hypothermia.

The hiker was coming down from the peak and just ran out of energy, collapsing in the snow. He called out for help and luckily for him some campers in a tent in Round Valley heard him and went out to see what was wrong. They helped carry him back to their tent and called for help. When Star 9 came into the valley they helped carry him out to the helicopter. These campers in Round Valley saved this man's life.

### RMRU Members Involved:

James Eckhardt, Glenn Henderson, and Vinay Rao.



## Two Cold Hikers and Dog

December 7, 2019

Devils Slide Trail, Humber Park

Written by Josh Gould

On the morning of December 7, 2019, we got a call out for two hikers that are struggling to get off the mountain. We reported to the ranger station to set up base camp and wait for everyone to arrive.

I was first on scene. Followed by Glen, Vinay, Cameron, and Tyler. We established two teams. Tyler and I would be team one and move fast, and Cameron and Vinay would be following behind. Glen set up basecamp at the ranger station, assigned tasks and sent the rest of the rescuers up to Humber Park to gear up and move out. Blake arrived before team 2 left, so he joined them.



Rescuers and Subjects Hiking  
into Humber Park

As Tyler and I headed up the mountain, we asked the hikers we encountered to find out any information about our subject. We found out that they were in a tent right on the trail. We would thank each group and continue pushing forward. We also found out through the sheriffs that there was





Rescuers and Subjects(RAB jackets) and Dog Base

a dog with our subjects, too.

After about an hour and two and a half miles of hiking, we come up on the tent. The subjects were inside trying to stay warm. All their gear was wet from the rain and snow. The dog was shivering and didn't want to move. Tyler and I gave them some jackets, gloves, socks, and a sleeping bag to try warming up before we headed back down the mountain. While they were warming up, Vinay arrived. We had reports of a possible third subject, so Vinay and Tyler both went up to Saddle Junction to look and see if there was anything. We started to prepare for getting the dog off the mountain in case he couldn't move on his own. James, Corey, and Kaitlyn started to bring up the litter and wheel.

The subjects and dog started to warm up and decided it was time to get off the mountain. Tyler and I agreed it would be best if I escorted one of the subjects and the dog down the hill while he stayed back with Vinay and the other subject and packed up their gear. Our goal was to keep the dog moving to stay warm. On the way down,

Cameron and Blake joined us to head back down. We were moving at a good pace. Ended up running into James, Corey and Kaitlyn. We decided it'd be best that we don't put the dog in the litter at that time. Tyler, Vinay and the second subject made their way down shortly after. We regrouped at the base.

Upon the hike down, we found out that the subjects have been out on the mountain for three days. They packed plenty of food, water and gear for multiple days. They got a little lost when their GPS systems stopped working because of the loss of service. They headed to the wrong peak. In doing so they turned back and camped for the night. In the morning, continued to head back to saddle junction. It was getting late and started to hail on them. This caused them to set up camp for the second night. They camped out on the trail of Devils Slide. They were wet, cold and worried about their dog. They waited for the ranger station to open the next morning to call for help.

In all, this was a great mission.

Thank you to the San Jacinto Ranger Station, Riverside Sheriffs' office and the entire team of Riverside Mountain Rescue Unit.

#### RMRU Members Involved:

Cameron Dickinson, Blake Douglas, James Eckhardt, Corey Ellison, Josh Gould, Glenn Henderson, Kaitlyn Purington, Tyler Shumway, and Vinay Rao.



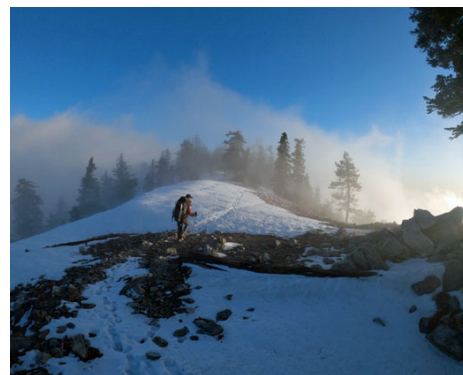
## Missing Hiker Mt. Baldy

December 9, 2019

Mt. Baldy Area

Written by James Eckhardt

At 3:00 AM on Monday, December 9, we were called to assist West Valley Search and Rescue in searching for a hiker. The hiker had attempted to summit Baldy via the Bear Flats trail, a difficult trail with over 5500 feet of elevation gain to the summit, on Sunday, December 8. He had started the hike with three others, but they turned back due to deteriorating whiteout conditions above 8000 feet.



Morning Clouds in the Search Area

Cameron and I responded at 11:00AM on Monday and were assigned to hike bear Flats Trail to the summit of Baldy. After a difficult first section of the trail which included bushwhacking and

crawling under brush from trees that had recently blown over, we approached snowline at 7000 feet. We made our way to about 8000 feet of elevation when we were requested to turn around due to approaching nightfall.



**James in Search Area.**

The search continued for the rest of the week, however no RMRU members were able to attend. Some potential clues were found and investigated; however, no sign of the subject was found. On Thursday, the Baldy area was closed to the public to prevent any more incidents.

On Friday, December 13, Glenn, Vinay, Kase, Donny, Blake and I were available and showed up for the greatly expanded search. Searchers from many California counties were on scene. Glenn, Vinay and Kase were on a team and searched lower elevations around the Baldy area. Donny, Blake and I were assigned to search a ridge running from just east of the Baldy summit into the Lytle Creek drainage.

After a long approach to the start of our assignment, we put on crampons and began searching down the ridge.

With no sign of the subject, we fin-

ished our search area in the South Fork of Lytle Creek. We had encountered soft snow conditions on the way down the ridge, so instead of hiking back up, a very strenuous task, we headed down Lytle Creek to the nearest road. This was greatly complicated by constant post holing when not climbing over precarious snow bridges or wet rock. We were picked up and arrived back at base at 11:30PM. Everyone was exhausted. As I was available on Saturday as well, I slept for four hours before Tyler picked me up for the 7th day of the search.



**Donny in Avalanche Probe Area.**

On Saturday, December 14, Cameron, Ray, Mike George, Eric and Shani, Tyler and I were available for the search. Cameron, Ray, Mike George, Eric and Shani searched Coldwater Canyon and found no sign of the subject. Tyler and I had requested a long, difficult assignment, and we were assigned to two canyons and an avalanche area on the west side of Bear Flats trail around 9400' elevation.

We hiked to our assignment area by going over Mt. Baldy summit, which was experiencing high winds, almost blowing me over. When we reached the top of our first assignment, we were redirected to a cell phone ping of the

subject in a canyon on the east side of the ridge we were on. After searching the nearby area and finding no sign, we went back to our assignment.



**Morning Briefing with over 100 Searchers.**

The drainage was narrow and had rapidly melting snow cover. This resulted in significant rockfall, so we agreed the area was too dangerous to search. We moved to the top of our next assignment and assessed it with the same conclusion as the first. There was too much danger from rockfall to complete the assignment. As we discussed the possibility of searching from adjacent ridges, we were called back to base.



**Donny and Team Heading to Search Area.**

When Tyler and I arrived at base, we heard that a member of West Valley Search and Rescue, Tim Staples, had died while searching. Everyone on RMRU is deeply grieved by the loss of a SAR brother and



would like to extend our thoughts and condolences to Tim's family, friends and West Valley SAR.

The search was suspended with no clear evidence of the subject. It's always disappointing to leave a search without finding anything. It's especially hard to leave and know that the family does not have closure.

#### RMRU Members Involved:

Kase Chong, Cameron Dickinson, Blake Douglas, James Eckhardt, Michael George, Donny Goetz, Glenn Henderson, Eric Holden, Shani Pynn, Vinay Rao, Tyler Shumway, and Raymond Weden

### Upper Skyline Rescue

December 27, 2019

Near Tramway 7,000 Foot Level

Written by Blake Douglas

Another snowstorm, another call-out. 'Tis the season.

This call came just after 4pm on a Friday, following a week of on-and-off snow throughout Southern California. Our only information was that our subject was on Skyline.

My first thought was "...I bet this guy didn't read my last mission writeup." The upper regions of Skyline were already under more than a foot of snow the last time we were there in late November (11-30-2019 Skyline Rescue) and the additional snowfall had certainly wiped out whatever tracks remained, plus this was literally the day after the storm- this guy would be breaking trail for the majority of the 20-mile hike! Most

of the online publicizing for Skyline describes it as a trail to be done as quickly as possible with a minimal amount of gear and suggests staying away from it in inclement weather or heavy snow conditions. Our last Skyline trip had taken seven hours...this was shaping up to be worse.



Cameron Greets Blake back at Hemet Ryan Airport

Fortunately, call captain Gwenda Yates called me just as I reached the Badlands and redirected me to the RSO hangar at Hemet Ryan. I had mentally ruled out the possibility of a helicopter but, Christmas miracle, they were available and the weather was agreeable for the moment. Since this is likely to change at a moment's notice in San Jacinto, we prepped for an overnight anyway, but kept our fingers crossed. Cameron and Glenn would also be coming to RSO hangar at Hemet Ryan as backup if more members were needed in the field. We always try to have backup members ready to go in case the mission changes.

Our subject had gotten off trail around the 7000' level and was reportedly in an ideal spot for a hover step (in which the helicopter doesn't actually land, and the technical flight officer, or TFO, assists in loading and unloading people and equipment). This would be my first hover step in the field, assuming all went as planned. Since the TFO

needs to stay on the helicopter to provide guidance to the pilot, I would jump out, assess the subject, and help load him if he was mobile. Ideally this would take no more than a minute or two...much better than a seven-hour hike.

Almost as soon as we approached the skyline ridge, we spotted the subject's cell phone light, overlooking a southern drainage. As we approached, his light abruptly turned off, and despite asking him to turn it back on using Star 9s loudspeaker, there was no response. I was beginning to assume a dead battery, or worse, hypothermia, when the light suddenly reappeared and we were able to target him immediately. He was on a crescent-shaped overlook about 20 feet across with trees and boulders framing him like a small amphitheater.

The subject took cover as we approached and smoothly entered a hover, with the lower skid only a few inches above the snow...which is no guarantee of how far down I'll go when I jump off. The TFO and I do a quick forearm-to-forearm grip and lower me down to the skids, and I still sink up to my thighs in snow when I hit the ground. As a little parting gift, the helicopter shocks me as I grab the skid to stabilize myself – a side effect of the fresh snow and the spinning blades.

The subject assures me his gear is accounted for and securely fastened in his pack, and we turn around – it feels like walking into a wind tunnel. When he reaches for the TFO's hand, the subject

is shocked...and when he reaches again, and again, each time pulling his hand back, thinking something is wrong. The blue arcs sparking between their hands are intimidating and the shock itself actually hurts, but once you've been shocked, you just must hold on- you've grounded yourself and can't be shocked further. I yell for the subject to just go for it, and he gets the idea and holds on his next try, the TFO pulling him in. I go up a moment later, although not before I managed to bang my knee on the skid, hard enough to feel it now a day later.

From there it was just a quick flight down to the tram parking lots to drop him off with Cabazon deputies and a happy reunion with his family, then we headed back to Hemet Ryan. Total mission time in the field was less than an hour.

#### What went wrong:

Our subject was almost totally unequipped for the conditions. I can say with confidence that without the helicopter, he would have been hypothermic by the time we hiked to him, and ground extraction would have been extremely difficult at that point. The bright side is that 1.) after calling for help, he stayed put as requested, and 2.) he called for help more than an hour before sunset.

#### RMRU Members Involved:

Cameron Dickinson, Blake Douglas, and Glenn Henderson.

#### RSO Aviation:

Pilot Chad Marlatt and TFO Ryan Burk.

## Grubs Notch

January 11, 2020

Near Tramway 7,500 Foot Level

Written by Editor

Our subject had gotten off trail around the 7,500-foot level and took a fall.

Another hiker heard her calling for help and called 911. When RMRU members got to the subject after the 911 call the subject was deceased.

Members stayed with the subject overnight, while other team members hiked the other hiker up to the Tramway to spend the night.

In the morning under direction of the Riverside Coroner the body was recovered and taken down the Tramway. We extend our thoughts and prayers to the subject's family.

#### RMRU Members Involved:

10 Members.

## Evidence Search

January 21, 2020

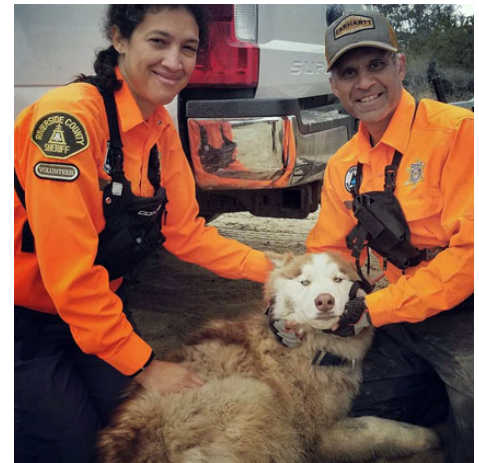
Aguanga area in

Riverside County

Written by Eric Holden

RMRU was called out to assist with an evidence search in the Aguanga area. We setup a Grid search and searched several miles.

No evidence was found, but we did find one super friendly dog that seemed to love everyone that was there.



Shani and Vinay with Friendly Dog

#### RMRU Members Involved:

Eric Holden, Tony Hughes, Shani Pynn, and Vinay Rao.

## Suicide Rock

February 02, 2020

Suicide Rock, Idyllwild

Written by Cameron Dickinson

This was a request for two RMRU members to respond to call, which would include myself and Donny. We were asked to be placed on stand-by at Suicide Rock (located near the town of Idyllwild) in case our services were required. This was in a response to a person in despair, with the intent of hurting themselves.

Thankfully, this person had a change of heart and decided to turn back and head downhill. However during the hike out, the person became lost. Since Sheriff's Deputies arrived on scene quickly, they proceeded to hike up the hill to meet with the person and hike back down and off the mountain to safety.

#### RMRU Members Involved:

Cameron Dickinson and Donny Goetz.



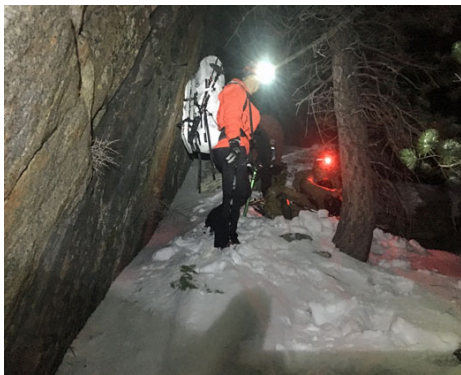
## Lost Hiker Skyline Trail

February 10, 2020

Near Upper Palm Springs  
Tramway

Written by Cameron Dickinson

Our team was dispatched at 3:00pm on a Monday afternoon in response to a hiker who was lost from the Skyline Trail. A male hiker in his early 20's made the trip out from Canada with a family member to spend some time in Palm Springs for vacation. After spending a few days in town, he decided to do an early AM solo hike starting from the Skyline Trailhead in Palm Springs and finishing at the Upper Aerial Tramway.



Cameron Standing with  
Subject Sitting

The following day, as well as the morning of his hike, 5-6" of snow had fallen on the mountain. Our hiker, who was well prepared for the very difficult hike and the colder weather, had proceeded up the trail. Once he made it above the snowline, he found himself off-trail, which made route finding more difficult with the fresh snow-fall covering the existing tracks. He did carry a GPS unit with him, but was having some operational issues with it. At this point he was able to make call to another family member, and expressed that he was lost. That same family

member made a call our Sheriff's Office, and was able to provide his GPS coordinates of his location on the mountain. Those coordinates would be relayed to our team.



Vinay, James, Eric, Subject,  
Cameron, Blake, Beth

Our first team out in the field consisted Blake, James, myself, followed later by our second team which included Vinay and Beth. Eric would manage base, and all team/Sheriff's communications.

We were able to make a relatively quick hike from the upper Tram and down Skyline Trail to locate hiker. He wasn't far off the trail and was found on a steep chute just adjacent to the trail.

Our hiker was healthy and good spirits. After gathering some is belongings, we were able to hike back up the trail where and soon be joined our second team. Our hiker was able to finish his intended hike, with a little guidance by our team.

### RMRU Members Involved:

Vinay Rao, Blake Douglas,  
Beth Jeffery, Eric Holden,  
James Eckhardt,  
Cameron Dickinson



Double Fisherman's Knot  
(AKA Grapevine Knot)

## Skyline Pickup

February 19, 2020

Skyline 5,000 Foot Level

Written by James Eckhardt

At 9:45PM on Wednesday night, we got a callout for a rescue on skyline. Blake and I responded to Hemet Ryan to prepare for a helicopter rescue. The subjects were in good condition, albeit a little cold, hungry and lost, their primary concern. We flew to the subjects' general location and searched from the helicopter for a few minutes before we saw the two subjects. The subjects were around 5000 feet in elevation, and there was nowhere to land. We flew to Palm Springs to reconfigure for a hover step and flew back to the subjects' location which had a lot of great places to perform a hover step.



Helicopter Flying out at Night

Blake and I were dropped off close to the subjects, advised them how to do a hover step and Blake completed a hover step with the first subject. I waited with the second subject for the helicopter to come back, and then completed the hover step without incident. We dropped the subjects off to the waiting deputies and Vinay and Beth.

### RMRU Members Involved:

Blake Douglas, James Eckhardt,  
Beth Jeffery, and Vinay Rao.

## PCT Broken Leg

February 20, 2020

Pacific Crest Trail

Written by Glenn Henderson

So, after a long day with extra time on the racquetball court I decided to go to bed a little early, 8:30. 9:00 PM and Gwenda calls and tells me that we have a woman on the PCT (Pacific Crest Trail) with a broken leg and I'm needed at the Hemet Ryan hanger for a hoist rescue. So much for early to bed.

I met teammate Cameron Dickinson at the hanger and discussed the plan with Pilot Manny Romero and TFO (Technical Flight Officer) Michael Chevalier. Our plan was to drop Cameron off first, then the fold up stretcher and then me. When we got to the injured person, we were too heavy to hold our position, so we flew to Keenwild helicopter base and dropped me off. Another flight back to drop Cam and the gear and then back to get me. It was a pretty tight area to fly in as there were big Pine trees all around us.

When I got to the subject, we had decided that it did not seem broken but was definitely injured. We decided to use a screamer suit to hoist our subjects' husband out first, fly him to Keenwild and then return to fly her out the same way and to a waiting ambulance.

This all happened without incident as Cameron and I gathered up all the belongings and prepare to be hoisted back into the helicopter. Cameron went up first, then the two subjects' packs, then our two packs plus medical equipment,

then the litter and then me last. They almost had enough room for me but only half of me. I and Michael were left half in and half out of the helicopter for the flight back to Hemet Ryan airbase. It was a little cold but fortunately was not as cold as it could have been.

When we got back to the hanger Michael told us that that was his first hoist. Just shows the great training that the Sheriff's Aviation unit has. Mike did 8 separate hoists flawlessly bringing the hook to us every time. Manny did his usual steady flying bring the helicopter in with trees all around him, flying like it was no big deal. Thanks, you guys. Always a pleasure to work with professionals.

### RMRU Members Involved:

Cameron Dickinson and Glenn Henderson.



## Hoist North Face

February 21, 2020

North Face 6,500-foot level,  
San Jacinto Peak

Written by Cameron Dickinson

As we were flying out to handle a call of a female hiker with a broken leg (See 2/20/20 write-up for more detail), another call came though from dispatch stating that two male hikers were stuck on the north face of the San Jacinto Peak. After communication with the two subjects, it was determined that they would bed down for the night, and rescue would occur the following morning. I decided to stay the night at the Sheriff's Aviation hangar, since I would be going out again in approximately 5hrs for

the next rescue.

The following morning, I would be joined up with fellow team member Glenn Henderson (whom also was involved the rescue with me the previous night) at the aviation hangar. Being provided with the coordinates of the location of our hikers, we would map out and verify the type of terrain that we would be encountering to reach our subjects. Their location (north of San Jacinto Peak, and well to the east of Fuller Ridge & PCT trail) was up in a steep and wide ravine, with large bolder slabs, and a large vertical drop off on the down slope of their specific location.



Glenn Flying into North Face

After consideration of all options, the safest and most efficient means for rescue would be with a hoist extraction with our Sheriff's helicopter. It was a logical option since we were already at the aviation hanger, however the reality is helicopter extractions are not always an option, as higher winds, cloud cover, law enforcement related activities, etc. could prevent us from using a helicop-



ter in any mission. If this mission required rescue team members having to hike to that location, set up and takedown of the technical gear, and navigating the steep and extremely rocky terrain, meant this rescue could have potentially taken 2 days to complete. We were grateful that all conditions were right for the extraction.



**Subject being Hoisted Out**

We proceeded to fly over to that location and would quickly locate our two hikers. Our Sheriff's pilot and technical flight officer would hover over and just adjacent to our hikers and would lower myself down on the hoist to the center of large boulder, followed by Glenn.



**Cameron with**

**View Down North Face**

The process to hoist out our two hikers was quick. They would be dropped off at the base of the mountain. Not long after, Glenn



**Glenn looking up the North Face**

and I would be hoisted back out, and we would fly back to the aviation hangar after completing this mission.

Not exactly sure of their path of travel or the intended adventure, but understand they were hiking down from the Peak area and ended up getting stuck in the ravine. The hikers were in their mid-20's, found in good health and spirit, had sufficient food, water, warmer clothing, but had only one ice axe (snow & ice was present at the upper elevations) and no ropes or technical gear. Staying on the designated trail would have prevented this, however it's easily possible they may have unintentionally hiked off or lost the trail and tried to hike down the mountain on a path of least resistance and ended up where there.

#### **RMRU Members Involved:**

Glenn Henderson and Cameron Dickinson.

#### **Riverside Sheriff's Aviation:**

Pilot Chad Marlatt and TFO Ray Hiers.

## **Alzheimer's Search**

**February 26, 2020**

**Sycamore Canyon Park,  
Riverside**

**Written by James Eckhardt**

On Thursday, we were called out to assist in a search for a man with dementia who had wandered away from his family. On Thursday, we began our search in Sycamore Canyon Park. We were able to finish searching the park on Thursday; however, we found no clues.

Our search continued Friday during which we searched nearby open areas. We finished the day with no clues found.

As the surroundings are mostly residential, and we had searched the open areas within our search area, our services were no longer needed.

This was a big search, and we would like to thank all those that helped during our involvement: Riverside Fire, Search Dogs, DSSAR, ROVE, Drone team, and Riverside County Parks.

#### **RMRU Members Involved:**

Steve Bryant, Kase Chong, Blake Douglas, James Eckhardt, Mike George, Glenn Henderson, Beth Jeffery, Kaylean May, Rob May, Shani Pynn, Vinay Rao, Jesse Rodriguez, and Tyler Shumway.



*Clove Hitch*

## Missing Male in Badlands

March 3, 2020

Beaumont, CA

Written by Cameron Dickinson

Our team was called out to aid in the search of a missing male on the morning of March 3.

It was reported by a roommate that the male was planning on riding his bicycle to a rural area known as Badlands located west of Beaumont. The friend became concerned when the male didn't return home, and reported it the authorities.



**RMRU Searches looking for missing person**

Prior to our team's arrival, Riverside Sheriff's ROVE team, Sheriff's Aviation, and Riverside County Search Dogs team had scoured the area in attempt it locating the missing male. During their search, they located various personal items, which were confirmed to belong to him.

When we arrived, we would quickly join up with our sister team, Desert Search & Rescue. Together we would break up in several smaller teams with specific search

assignments, and would initially focus on areas closer to where the personal belongings were located.

The terrain is a mix of low rolling hills with numerous dry creek washes, steeper slopes, rock outcroppings, with mix of dense brush and open fields. Within 2 hrs into our search, we were able to locate our missing male. Sadly, he was found deceased of unknown causes.

### **RMRU Members Involved:**

Cameron Dickinson, Blake Douglas, James Eckhardt, Michael George, Glenn Henderson, Eric Holden, Kevin Kearn and Gwenda Yates.

### **Other Agencies Involved:**

Riverside County Sheriff's Dept., Riverside County Search Dogs, and Desert Search & Rescue.

## Missing Pine Cove Man

March 06, 2020

Pine Cove, Webster Trail

Written by James Eckhardt & Cameron Dickinson

It was Friday, and RMRU members were just starting to show up to the search and tracking recertification we were hosting for all the California MRA teams, when, at 3:00PM, we got a callout. A resident of Pine Cove had not been seen since Wednesday, and his car was near a trail he often hiked.

We were able to immediately send four members, Tyler, Kase, Blake and I to respond. We did a hasty search of the nearby trails and dirt roads, while Star-9 searched by

air. We searched until dark with no sign.

On the weekend of March 7th, Riverside Mountain Rescue would host the California Region MRA Reaccreditation test, where all accredited mountain rescue teams within the state (approx. 450 searchers total) would venture to Camp Ronald McDonald in Garner Valley near Idyllwild where this event would be held. Despite the large involvement our team members during this event, we would be continuing to respond to rescue calls as usual if the situation arises. Well it turned out that our team would receive that call.

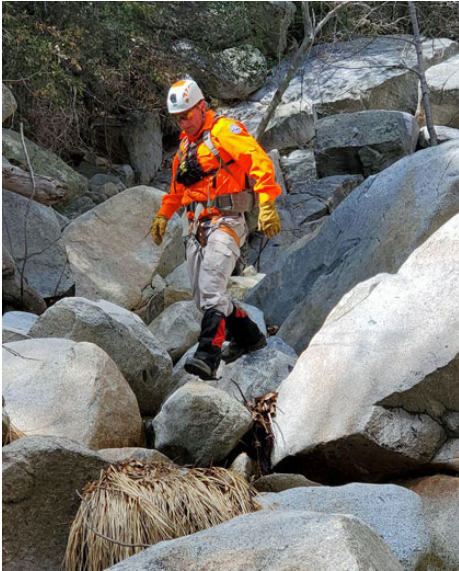
On Friday evening, RMRU would respond to a call that was received by Riverside County Sheriff's Dept. of a male that didn't return home. With the subject's car being located that evening in residential community of Idyllwild, team members were dispatched to that location to perform a hasty search within the surrounding vicinity. With more pertinent information funneling in, specific search assignments would be generated in preparation for a larger scale search the following day on Saturday.

### **Saturday 3/7/2020:**

If there's ever a day when extra rescue resources were needed quickly for a search, it would be the day that all the state's accredited mountain rescue teams happen to be in your town! All the necessary approvals were in place to utilize these outside SAR resources. Some of the larger teams were able to divide part of their team for this search, while still



having adequate member coverage to complete their reaccreditation testing. San Diego Mountain Rescue, Sierra Madre Search & Rescue (Los Angeles County), San Bernardino County (Cave Team), China Lake Mountain Rescue (Kern County), Santa Barbara County Mountain Rescue were some of the teams that we're able to provide personal. Desert Sheriff's Search & Rescue (Riverside County), Riverside County Search Dogs, and many members of our team also participated in the search.



Kevin in Boulder Field

I was part of a 3-man team which included fellow team Kevin and Blake. We would spend the day searching an out and back stretch of the North Fork San Jacinto River. This would be a slow and difficult search due to steep canyons, navigating on and around large and in some cases slippery boulders, large drop offs, downed trees, flowing water, and poison oak. We would complete this assignment without any sign of our missing subject.

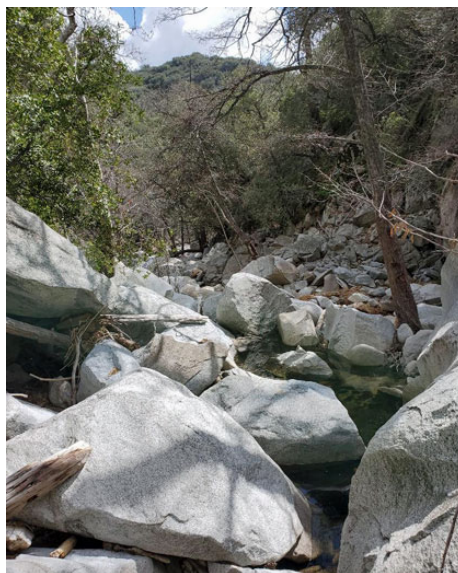
**Written by Eric Holden.**



Search Area Image

Unfortunately, the searches over the weekend had not turned up any clues to Roy's whereabouts. We did however speak with one of Roy's friends on Sunday that mentioned he always goes downhill and at one point said he would try to exit via the North Fork down to highway 74.

Monday morning knowing this, James and I would descend this route. It's a highly technical route involving 8 rappels in waterfalls. We got dropped off by the deputy, hiked down to the North Fork of San Jacinto and began our canyoneering decent. Putting on our wetsuits we called out for Roy and looked for any sign that he may have come down this way.



North Fork Search Area

After a 4- hour descent we did not find any additional clues. James

went off to work while I returned to base.

Just as I was about to leave base word came in that we had found a clue. We quickly concentrated all searching resources in that area. We didn't find any more evidence of Roy's disappearance. The search would be halted after today due to heavy rain fall until the weekend.

#### **RMRU Members Involved:**

Steve Bryant, Kase Chong, Blake Douglas, James Eckhardt, Gary Farris, Mike George, Glenn Henderson, Eric Holden, Beth Jeffery, Kaylean May, Rob May, Shani Pynn, Vinay Rao, Jesse Rodriguez, and Tyler Shumway.



#### **Injured PCT Hiker**

**March 10, 2020**

**Marion Mt. Trail**

**Written by Blake Douglas**

It was around 11pm on Monday March 9th, and I had just gotten home from day 4 of the Roy search. Tyler Shumway and I had deployed in the late afternoon to work on tracking our subject but were diverted to rescue two locals before an incoming rainstorm hit. Just as I was hanging up my field gear in the living room to dry, another mission came in, this time for Marion Mountain, with the word that the subject had a hip injury.

With limited information to go on, this appeared to be an intimidating mission. Most of our members had used a substantial amount of their free time on the Roy search and the MRA Recertification over the

course of the weekend, so very few of us were available. The weather (a warm, slow-moving storm) would prevent the use of a helicopter, and stir up all kinds of snow, ice and rain issues. The nature of the subject's injury would potentially require a carryout, which is always manpower-intensive, but particularly on a steep and uneven trail like Marion Mountain. Call Captain Gwenda Yates proceeded to request assistance from other local MRA teams.



**Rescuer with Full Winter Pack**

The subject was an 18-year-old PCT hiker who reported that he had suitable equipment to make it through the night, so we arranged for a dawn start time. Team members from RMRU, Sierra Madre, San Diego, and Orange County teams arrived at intervals and made their way up the trail as soon as possible.

RMRU members Derek, Jesse, and Beth were paired with the Orange County team. As the only responding member with snow experience, I was paired with two members of Sierra Madre; we were Team One.

The three of us carried the rescue sled, through intermittent rain

showers, up Marion Mountain trail and paused briefly at the junction, noting no signs of recent travel – there had been enough snowfall overnight to nearly wipe out the subject's tracks.

Due to garbled radio communications, we were under the impression that our subject was attempting to hobble down the trail toward us – which is not an ideal situation in snow, with an injury, in a place like the Marion Mountain junction. Fortunately, our subject was in fact, safe and sound in his tent, not far from the Fuller Ridge junction.

On evaluation, he was somewhat disoriented, but his injury was walkable; quite a relief because carrying him out would have required the efforts of every individual who responded.

The fall that caused the injury had destroyed the subject's phone, so he had no means of navigating and would need to exit the trail regardless of his medical condition. After lending him my helmet and micro spikes, we lashed his gear into the sled, and retraced our steps

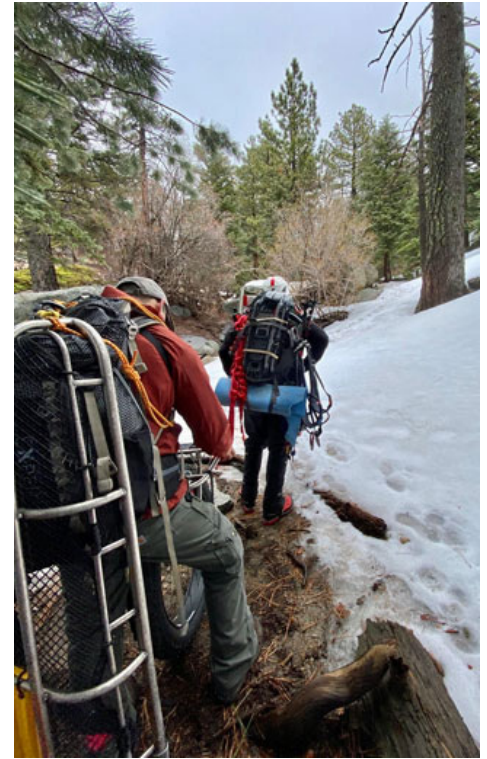


**Sierra Madre Members at Subject's Camp**

back down the trail, periodically encountering the other teams and

recruiting them to help with gear hauling.

We kept a close eye on our subject if his injuries worsened, but there were no issues and he arrived



**Rescuers with Litter and Wheel** under his own power. We were all happy for the outcome and the complete lack of complications, right down to the torrential rain striking just as we were packing up our vehicles.

### **Lessons:**

One of the rules I use to govern my choice of gear when going into the field is the following: "Two is One, and One is None".

The point being that any gear that is essential to your life and mission needs to be backed up and combined with a "plan B". Since our subject was relying completely on his phone for navigation, he was helpless when it broke, and had to activate his emergency beacon.



Always carry a backup means of navigation such as a (map and compass) and be familiar with the area you're going into before you go there.

RMRU Members Involved: Derek Donovan, Blake Douglas, Beth Jeffery and Jesse Rodriguez.

Other Teams: Sierra Madre, San Diego, and Orange County.



Eric putting Hat on Subject

him some warm dry clothing, a quick snack for fuel, and got him back to walking down the trail so he could generate some body heat. As we hiked back with him his condition improved greatly and he became more talkative.

We learned he had been lost in the snow for a couple of days after post holing and losing one of his shoes. He had run across some people snowshoeing this morning who told him he could follow their tracks back to the trail. Following their tracks had led him to the hiking pair who had checked on him,



Tyler handing Blue Jacket to Subject in Front of Eric  
lent him what dry clothing they had, and brought him down to us.

At roughly 3 PM myself and my teammates were turning around our hike up Devil's Slide trail. We were out on an overnight medical training and had just decided to change the location so we would be able to participate in an extended search in the morning. As we were about to start our hike back down the trail we were stopped by some hikers. They asked if we were on the search and rescue team and if we could help a hiker, they had found who was very cold.

Our subject, who the hikers had been helping down the trail, was very quiet and his clothes were quite wet. After a quick assessment my teammates determined he was suffering from hypothermia and we needed to get him warmed up quickly and down to more medical care as he could have other cold injuries. We gave

With more snacks and walking he continued to improve, and we were back at the trailhead by about 4 PM. Paramedics from Cal-Fire and AMR were waiting for us and were able to check him over for any other cold injuries. Remarkably, he had no other apparent injuries. He had a very lucky day.

#### RMRU Members Involved:

James Eckhardt, Josh Gould, Eric Holden, Tony Hughes, Shani Pynn, and Tyler Shumway.

## Mother and Daughter Lost

March 25, 2020

Marion Mt. Trail

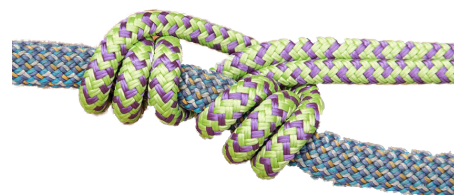
Written by Editor

Monday late we got the call that a Mother and 10-Year-Old Daughter where lost off the Marion Mt. Trail.

As members were driving to the Trailhead, we got word that they had walked out to where the Sheriff was waiting at the Trailhead.

#### RMRU Members Involved:

Blake Douglas, Corey Ellison, Glenn Henderson, Eric Holden, Tony Hughes, Beth Jeffery, Kaitlyn Purington, Shani Pynn, and Vinay Rao.



Prusik Knot

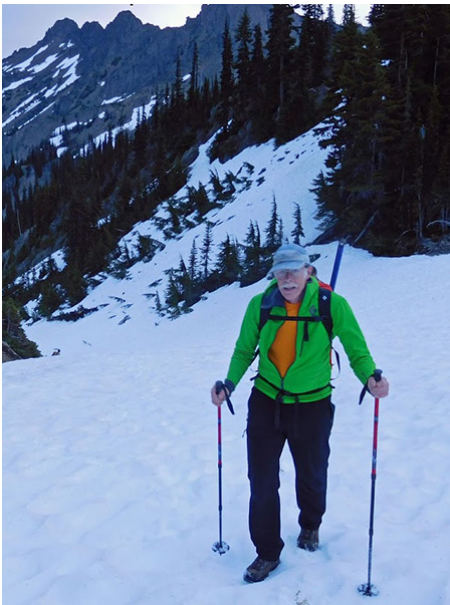
## PETE CARLSON - CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF SERVICE *and counting!*

Continued from Page 3

on the team that found him after 4 days.

**May 1973** finding a 3-year-old lost overnight for almost 18 hours; again I was on the team that found him.

**Nov 1975** 9 boys lost in a blizzard in Tahquitz Valley over night as 3 feet of snow fell that night. We found them all alive in the morning very cold and some with frostbite.



MRA Conference 2016  
Mt. Deception, Olympic Nat. Park

On we go through the late 1970's with lots of missions in Tahquitz Canyon, Tahquitz Rock, and all over the San Jacinto Mts. As we went into the 80's and 90's we saw the use of Helicopters and new technologies to help with search and rescue.

In the last years I have had many memorable missions with my son William who started helping out on missions in 2000 as a 15-year-old and joined the team in 2003 as a full MRA member right from the start.



Mt. San Jacinto Summit Cabin  
RMRU Training 1980

**May 2006** search for the couple from Texas, lost 5 days in the San Jacinto Mountains and I was again on the team that found them alive. Sept 2006 another hiker missing found after 5 days alive.

**Feb 2009** a hiker on the Skyline Trail in the ice chutes below the Tramway. This was an epic mission and RMRU would win the Rescue of the year award from the National MRA for this mission.

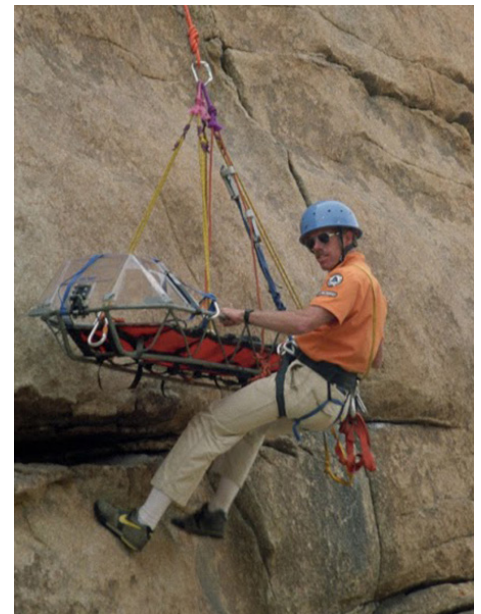
After all these years I do not think I can pick one mission, just too many great missions with great teammates. It is always a team effort and no missions are a success without all the team members working hard.

**What was your hardest rescue, most intense, physically or mentally?**

Was it the first time we had 3 missions in a row from Sunday noon till Tuesday 2am, 38 hours straight with no sleep? Or was it hiking up

from Humber Park with 3 feet of fresh powder snow at the bottom taking 4 hours on snowshoes with full winter packs in a blizzard? Or hiking down Tahquitz Canyon in 100+ degree heat for 12 hours straight on a search?

Again after 50 years memory fails and over beers at night the missions become more epic each time the story is told, but that is the way it should be. If we really remember how bad things were at the time we would not want to go back. Time heals our memory and we just keep coming back for more.



Joshua Tree  
RMRU Training 1990

Most missions are not that hard to someone who is in shape and hikes and climbs all the time. The key, keep feeling young no matter how old you are in years and keep active.

**What has being an RMRU member meant to you?**

Family: I have become close friends with so many people over





**RMRU Training - Suicide Rock with future wife Terri - 1982**

the years and they would do anything to help a fellow team member.



**Pete & Terri -**

**Muir Pass - John Muir Trail - 1982**

**Adventure:**

I have been to so many out of the way places in weather and at times of day/night that no one would want to be out in. But the beauty of these places is stunning and worth the effort to get there.

**Accomplishment:**

I have been able to help people in need, actually save lives, and make a difference in people's lives. I hope that they remember what someone did for them asking nothing in return and that someday they will do the same for someone else.

**Fun:**

I have had so many great times, with so many great people, in so many great places, and we share so many great memories together.

**What advice would you give someone wanting to get involved with RMRU?**

You must really enjoy being out-of-doors and hiking and camping. If you commit to RMRU the rewards are many, you get out of it what you put in. It can take many hours of your time and it takes time away from your family, but if it makes you happy, your family will benefit from your happiness.



**Pete, Terri and family  
Chicken Foot Lake - 1991**

**Here are my favorites outdoor quotes from others:**

1) How can I be lost if I do not care where I am?

2) Adventure is not in the guide-book and beauty is not on the map; Seek and you shall find!



**MRA Conference 2016  
Mt. Deception Summit**

3) You cannot stay on the summit forever. You have to come down again. So why bother in the first place?

Just this: What is above knows what is below, but what is below does not know what is above. One climbs, one sees, on descends, one sees no longer, but one has seen. There is an art of conducting oneself in the lower regions, by the memory of what one saw higher up. When one can no longer see, one can at least still know





## InReach Ping PCT

March 27, 2020

Near Little Tahquitz Valley

Written by Beth Jeffery

On March 26, 2020 at about 11:30 pm our team received an SOS call from a personal locator device from a hiker on the Pacific Crest Trail. The dispatch attempted to communicate with the hiker, but there was no further response.



Blake Making Tracks

The following morning at 7 am, Team 1, Blake and Beth, met at Base, which was being ran by Glenn. Team 1 headed up the Devils Slide trail in fresh snow and then south along the PCT. Team 2, which was Eric, Derek, and Jesse were in route behind for back up.

About 3.5 miles in, Team 1 called out for the subject and received a response from 2 PCT hikers. One of the hikers was escorting a female hiker who slipped and fell on the icy trail. After ensuring the female hiker was okay and notifying Team 2 to look for the female hiker, Team 1 continued their search.

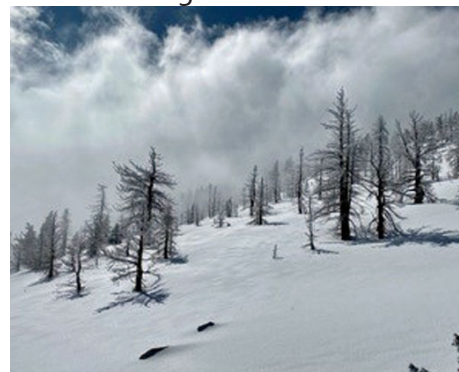
About 4.5 miles in, Team 1 met with the subject and another PCT hiker that was escorting him. Team 1 evaluated the subject, provided



No Trail to be seen

him water, and the team escorted him the 4.5 miles back through the snow to the Humber Park trail-head. From there the hiker was driven back to base to meet up with the Deputy and the subject's brother.

According to the subject he was hiking in snow and ice without traction when he slipped and fell. He scraped up his knuckles, tore his pants, and lost his tent poles. He slept under a rock in the snow-storm that night.



Fresh Snow in Morning Sun

### RMRU Members Involved:

Derek Donovan, Blake Douglas, Glenn Henderson, Eric Holden, Beth Jeffery, and Jesse Rodriguez.



Munter Hitch

## Lost PCT Hiker

March 27, 2020

Saddle Junction

Written by Eric Holden

Word came out last night that we had an InReach activation up near Red Tahquitz, see mission #2020-014. Unfortunately, I could not respond as I had an out of town guest I was hosting. My buddy Patrick and I had planned on hiking to San Jacinto peak that same day, so instead we opted to hike near where the subject went missing just in case I was needed to assist.



Eric, Lost Hiker Tatána, and Patrick

As we were heading up towards Chinquapin flats we got word that another PCT hiker was found lost and cold from the previous night's Storm. As we already had a team heading towards the InReach ping it was decided that it was now time to officially become a rescuer to help on this new mission.

We met up Tatána and Simon, both PCT through hikers. Because of the icy conditions and new snow fall, Tatána had taken a 50 meter fall the day before, lost the trail and spent the night lost in a bunch of rocks near Chinquapin flats. With the last 1% of her battery she posted on Facebook that she was lost. Simon saw the posting, and in the morning went looking for her.





Lost PCT Hiker Taťána and PCT Simon who helped her

He was able to find her about 5 minutes before RMRU rescuers were on scene. Simon was able to provide the great moral support she needed. As Patrick and I came across Simon and Taťána they were in good spirits and descending towards Idyllwild.

We hiked out with them to ensure they made it to town safe. As we were descending, we got word that RMRU members Jesse and Derek were on their way up to meet us, but they were called back as we were called out to another mission in the Apache Peak area.

#### RMRU Members Involved:

Derek Donovan, Blake Douglas, Glenn Henderson, Eric Holden, Beth Jeffery, and Jesse Rodriguez.

#### Civilian Personal Involved:

Patrick Lasu and PCT Hiker Simon.

#### Mountain Rescue Association

*consists of 100 teams with over 2,500 search and rescue volunteers located in the United States and Canada.*

*RMRU joined MRA in 1961 is a regular member.*

*RMRU hosted the MRA California Regions Tracking recertification in March 2020.*

## PCT Hikers Apache Peak

March 27, 2020

### PCT below Apache Peak

Written by Eric Holden

As I was completing mission for a Lost PCT Hiker at Saddle Junction and we got word that a hiker took a big fall near Apache Peak with two other hikers stuck on the icy slopes. As I was heading down to Lake Hemet, we got the word that the subject (Trevor) was killed as a result of a 600ft fall. Once on scene I spoke with Tyler. The plan was for him and Cameron to fly into Apache peak to rescue the 2 hikers stuck on the slope while I would assist CHP with recovering Trevor.



USFS and Sheriff watching Eric leave in CHP Helicopter

I was lowered via hoist down to the CHP medic. We got Trevor into litter, the CHP helicopter returned and picked him up, flying back to Lake Hemet. While waiting the Riverside Aviation (Star-9) let me know they would be picking me up and dropping me at the peak to assist Cameron with rescuing the last 2 subjects. Unfortunately, by this time winds had picked up significantly.

As I was about 1/4 of the way up a large gust of wind caused the helicopter to drift towards the mountain. The pilot (Chad) made

a hard turn away which cause me to have the ride of a life with a large pendulum swing under the helicopter. Luckily, I had an awesome crew and they quickly stopped my swinging and got me into the bird. We flew up to the peak and I was getting ready to be lowered to Cameron's position when another large gust of wind caused the helicopter to once again drift where it shouldn't go. The pilot again veered hard away from the mountain, this time I was hanging on the cable outside the helicopter. I grabbed hold of TFO Ray Heirs while we flew around to make another attempt. The winds were just too strong, and we had to abort. I was flow back to Lake Hemet to take a breather. As we had about 10 other people there, I let them finish up the mission.

#### Written by Cameron Dickinson.

On Friday, March 27th, the team would respond to call of a fallen hiker on the PCT trail just on the eastern slope of Apache Peak.

As I was driving out to this mission, I received a phone call that I needed to divert over to Hemet-Ryan Airport as I would be flown in by our Riverside Sheriff's Aviation, Star 9 helicopter. The week prior to this call, the local mountains around Idyllwild would receive a modest amount of snow, with a lighter amount that had fallen a day or two before. I had packed the extra provisions for the colder weather as well as technical conditions that I might be encountering for the rescue.

Much of team was already on the mountain, getting briefed for the

rescue, and gathering their gear. Because of the urgency of this call, the intent was to fly out the fallen hiker and his hiking partners. In case we encountered difficult weather to perform the helicopter rescue (high winds, thick cloud cover, etc.), our team would be on standby, ready to hike in to perform the rescue from the ground as necessary.



**Vinay, Tyler, Jesse, and Derek  
Ready to Go**

CalFire would be first on scene and would be in direct communication with CHP H-60 aircrew for initial rescue and/or scene assessment. As we were flying over and around Apache Peak, we can see H-60 aircrew hovering below us, with a CHP medic and fellow RMRU team member Eric Holden on ground near the fallen hiker. (NOTE: See Eric Holden's write-up for further detail).

Sadly, we received word that the hiker had died from injuries sustained in the fall. We were aware that the two hiking partners were staying in place nearby, but initially couldn't locate them. Within a couple minutes we found both hikers waving from behind some trees several hundred feet upslope on the mountain. The original plan

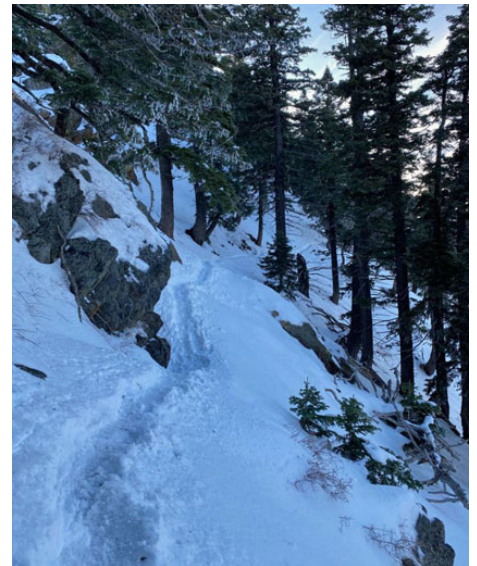
was that I would be lowered down on the hoist to a flatter section of the PCT trail with some additional rescue gear, Star 9 would head over pick team member Tyler Shumway who was awaiting at the command post, and drop him off with me so we can hoist out our two other hikers.

As I was waited a short period of time for Tyler, the winds on the mountain started to pick up. Soon I'd receive a radio call from our pilot indicating that the winds were gusting too high to safely hoist our hikers off the mountain, as well as drop off Tyler. High winds and weather are a common occurrence when we perform helicopter rescues, so alternate plans need to be made.

At that point our team would continue with the hike up the mountain. Luckily, the hikers stayed put on the PCT trail, making it easier for me to locate them. As you hike this stretch of the trail, it's relatively straight and maintains its elevation, but what makes this part of the trail more treacherous is that you're hiking across an angled slope which progressively increases as you hike further north on the trail. After putting on crampons and grabbing ice axe, I would hike over to a point where I had voice communication with them.

They stated that weren't injured, just a little cold from standing in one place for a long period of time. They had secured themselves to trees on hills upslope, which made waiting even more difficult. At this point in the hike, they didn't have ice axes or means of

traction for walking on snow/ice. They were understandably scared as well. Their plan was to pick up these items when they arrived in Idyllwild but were caught off guard by the recent storms that dropped snow on the mountains further south of the town. It was a little later in the afternoon, and my concerns grew as the soft snow started to slowly set up and harden from the dropping temperatures.



**Trail cut into Hard Snow Slope  
for Subjects**

The safest way to reach them would be to cut out a walking path that leads to our hikers, approximately 50-75 yards to safety. I would remove the top layer of soft snow, use my ice axe to cut out the hard pack angled layer underneath, and compress the pathway as I worked my way towards them. Once I reached the first hiker, I would put the extra traction that I had packed on his feet, and together we would slowly and carefully hike out of the area to safety.

I would continue bringing out the second hike in the same fashion. We regrouped on the flatter more sun exposed section of the trail to



the south. We would take a breather and chat for a few minutes. I radioed to the command post that the three of us would proceed to hike out together down the Spitler Peak Trail. Radio communications were also made to the incoming team that they were no longer needed at this point and to return to base.

Within a couple hours we were safely down the bottom of the mountain. The three of us would get a ride back to the command post where we would conclude our day.

Riverside Mountain Rescue Unit would like to express our sincere condolences to the family and friends of the fallen hiker.

#### **RMRU Members Involved:**

Cameron Dickinson,  
Derek Donovan, Blake Douglas,  
Mike George, Glenn Henderson,  
Eric Holden, Beth Jeffery,  
Kaitlyn Purington, Vinay Rao,  
Jesse Rodriguez, and  
Tyler Shumway.

#### **Other Agencies Involved:**

Riverside SO, Sheriff's Aviation,  
CalFire, CHP, U.S. Forest Service.

## **More PCT Hikers**

### **Apache Peak**

**March 28, 2020**

#### **PCT below Apache Peak**

Written by Glenn Henderson

The team was called out for a rescue of two PCT (Pacific Crest Trail through hikers) on Apache Peak. this is our second call to this same

area in the last 2 days. It seems that one female hiker was stuck in an ice section and her partner has slipped over the side and fallen about 60 feet.

They were both from France. More RMRU members were in route to the mission. Blake, Tyler, and I arrived at the Lake Hemet Sheriff's substation where we found that Cal Fire had airlifted 2 fire fighters into the area. They were able to get the two PCT Hikers out and flew them both back to the station. Other RMRU members were sent text to return home.

#### **RMRU Members Involved:**

Cameron Dickinson,  
Derek Donovan, Blake Douglas,  
Mike George, Glenn Henderson,  
Eric Holden, Beth Jeffery,  
Kaitlyn Purington, Vinay Rao,  
Jesse Rodriguez, and  
Tyler Shumway.

## **62-Yr-Old Overdue**

**April 1, 2020**

#### **Skyline to Idyllwild**

Written by Editor

The first Wednesday of the month is the team Regular Meeting. This month for the first time in over 50+ years we did not meet in person. Using technology, we held an online meeting with around 25 members and the several Riverside County Sheriff's members.

As the meeting was about 1- hour old Gwenda spoke up that she was taking a call about a mission. A few minutes later we found out that a 62-year-old started hiking a 5am in Palm Springs heading up the

Skyline Trail to San Jacinto Peak and then down to Humber Park in Idyllwild. His friend that was to pick him up said he had not shown up yet.

We were to meet at Humber Park and start from there. Five members said they could leave right away, and Vinay said he would pick up the Rescue Truck. Also, one of the Sheriff's was on duty up in Idyllwild and he said he would head to Humber Park to see if the subject showed up.

While the meeting continued the five began driving to Idyllwild. About 30 minutes later Gwenda cut in again and said the Sheriff at Humber Park had the subject who said the snow slowed him down way more then he thought it would and that is why he was late. Third but in good shape he rode to his friends' home with the Sheriff.

#### **RMRU Members Involved:**

Cameron Dickinson, Blake Douglas, Corey Ellison, Beth Jeffery, and Vinay Rao.

## **Overdue Hiker Skyline**

**April 6, 2020**

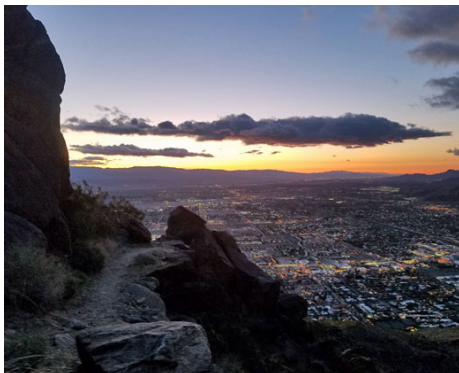
#### **Skyline Trail up from Palm Springs**

Written by Vinay Rao

At approximately 1:00am on Monday morning the RMRU team received call about a lost hiker on the Skyline Trail. This is a steep trail and starts at the Palm Springs Desert Museum and goes to the upper tram (Mt San Jacinto). The hiker had begun his hike sometime on Friday (04/03/20). Unfortunately, the family was not aware that

he was hiking or where he might have gone. After he did not return Friday evening, the family checked with friends and it was determined that he most likely had gone up the Skyline Trail. They called 911.

The command post for the search was set up at the Palm Springs Desert Museum at approximately 2:15am. At the initial briefing with the on-site RSO deputy, RMRU was notified that a relative of the hiker had started up the Skyline Trail at approximately 11:30 pm on Sunday night to begin his own search.



**Morning on the Skyline coming back**

Vinay & Blake (Team 1) immediately began going up the Trail while Cameron (Team 2) who arrived about 20 minutes later followed. Fortunately, the temperatures were not too low and it was a beautiful night with a full moon that helped with visibility.

At approximately the 2500 ft. level Team 1 ran into the relative who through sheer determination had found the missing hiker. Team 1 performed a basic medical assessment on the hiker who was exhausted but ok.

After giving the hiker some food and water Team 1 began a steady



**Cameron, Subject, Vinay, Relative, and Blake near Base descent, eventually meeting up with Team 2 and safely handing over both individuals to an awaiting ambulance crew and relieved family and friends.**



**Blake, Glenn, Vinay, Sheriff, and Cameron at Base**

**RMRU Members Involved:**  
Cameron Dickinson,  
Blake Douglas, Glenn Henderson,  
and Vinay Rao.

## **North Face Rescue**

**April 24, 2020**

**San Jacinto Peak**

**Written by Tyler Shumway**

RMRU received a call-out at 3:30 pm for two subjects on the North Face of San Jacinto mountain attempting Snow Creek. Luckily, they had cell signal at 7,000 feet and were able to report that they were okay but unable to move up or down due to extreme avalanche danger. It was over 100 degrees on the desert floor and with the

recent heavy snowstorm that occurred in early April, loose wet avalanches and rockfall were of primary concern. Blake and I were on scene at the utility station on Snow Creek Canyon Rd. while Star-9 was flying the route to assess the conditions. Aviation landed at the utility station and confirmed that we have favorable conditions to perform a hover step.

Pilot Manny Romero and Technical Flight Office Michael Chevalier flew Blake and I to a rock outcropping 50 yards below the subjects. This area was safely out of the couloir on climbers right at exactly 7,000 ft. After being deployed we then contacted the subjects to assess their condition.

They were a bit shaken up but otherwise uninjured. I quickly realized one of them was without a pack and after further discussion, they reported being struck by an avalanche and had lost their equipment.



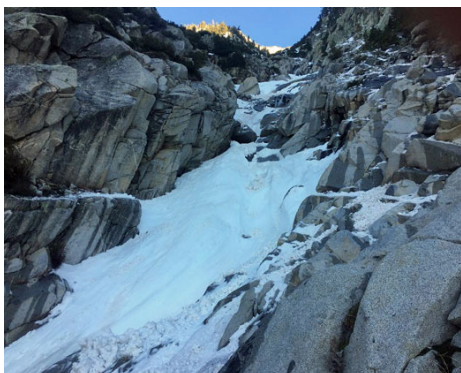
**Blake, Tyler, and TFO doing final check**

We then briefed them on the extraction plan and how to perform a hover step. Blake and one of the subjects would go first while I waited with the other since the helicopter could only fit 2 at a time.

After Star-9 loaded Blake and

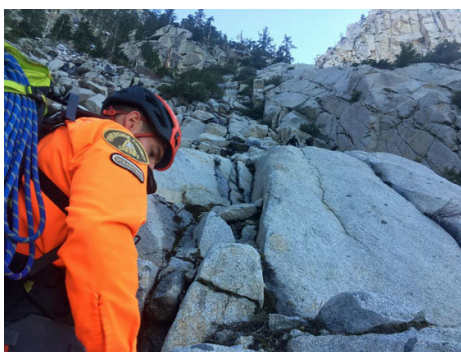


the subject, a massive loose wet avalanche occurred while we were waiting.



**North Face Avalanche Chute**

The subject that I was with stated this has been happening all afternoon. The slide continued for over 90 seconds. It was utterly amazing to witness the raw power of the mountain. Being at 7,000ft. they were at the worst spot since the entire north face of the mountain was being radiated by the sun and all the couloirs from Kristen Peak and San Jacinto Peak funnel into this chokepoint. Star-9 returned shortly after dropping Blake off and flew us back down to the desert floor without incident.

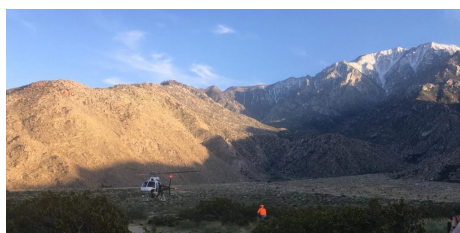


**Tyler with Subjects in Black middle right**

### **Subjects Plan:**

The two hikers started at 12:00 am that morning from the utility station on the desert floor and made it 7,000 feet by the afternoon when large loose wet avalanches

started occurring. They escaped the couloir climbers right onto a rocky outcropping but not before one of them was struck by a large block of snow. He had lost his pack and equipment except for his helmet which had a broken strap as a result. It is remarkable that he did not have a single scratch given the size of these slides. They thought about descending but the wet slides continued, and they did not feel comfortable down climbing the chockstone at 5,500ft. Their end goal was Marion Mountain Trailhead where they had a shuttle car parked since the Tram was closed. These two made the right choice to stay where they were and call for help.



**Helicopter coming into North Face Base**

**Lessons Learned:** When attempting a route like Snow Creek it is imperative that you have more than physical fitness and route-finding skills. This route is becoming a tick list for more and more people. Understanding snow composition and how each year is vastly different than the last is crucial in successfully completing this route. Conditions may only be favorable for a safe ascent a few weeks out of the year and even then, only a few years out of a decade will have these favorable conditions. It is also worth noting that when traveling in high-risk mountain terrain, wearing bright colors greatly helps being spotted if a rescue is ever needed. It took a little while to find

the subjects since they were wearing all dark clothing and blended in with the rocks and terrain.

Thank you, Riverside Sheriffs Aviation Unit Pilot Manny Romero and Technical Flight Officer Michael Chevalier for performing flawlessly. Without them this mission would not have been possible as getting to the subjects by foot would have been out of the question given the objective hazards.

### **RMRU members Involved:**

Cameron Dickinson, Blake Douglas, Michael George, Glenn Henderson, Tony Hughes, Beth Jeffery, Dana Potts, Vinay Rao, and Tyler Shumway.



## **Lost Hiker Black Mtn.**

**April 24, 2020**

**Black Mt. Trail**

**Written by Vinay Rao**

After a quiet two weeks the RMRU team was activated mid-Friday afternoon for a search for two stranded hikers on the North Face of Mt. San Jacinto, the Snow Creek area (see separate write-up by Tyler Shumway). While team members were driving to respond to that rescue a separate call-out came for a lost hiker that was in a drainage off the Black Mountain Trail. Call captains Glenn Henderson and Gwenda Yates had to make a quick decision to split the responding team members between the two callouts. Tyler Shumway and Blake Douglas were assigned to the Snow Creek rescue and the rest of the team was diverted to the Black Mountain rescue.

The lost hiker had begun his hike on a beautiful Friday morning and was enjoying the fantastic views offered by the Black Mountain Trail. On his way back down to his vehicle which was parked at the trailhead he started heading down a steep drainage to get water from a nicely flowing creek (Azalea Creek). Unfortunately, he continued quite a way down into the drainage and found himself in a very overgrown area and given the time of day he made a wise decision to call for help.



Cameron, Beth, Mike, Glenn, Subject, Dana, Vinay, Blake, Tony,

The command post ("CP"), composed of Glenn and Dana, for the search was set up at the Black Mountain trailhead at approximately 5:15pm. Team 1 (Vinay and Beth) were sent out as the hasty team; Team 2 (Cameron, Tony, Michael, Tyler and Blake) followed around 1 1/2 hours later. The cell phone ping for the hiker indicated that he was at approximately 5900' in the drainage. The Riverside Sheriff Office ("RSO") deputy assigned to the search was able to make cell phone contact with the hiker who was advised that rescuers were on the way and to STAY PUT.

Team 1 hiked the trail for about two miles to the beginning of the drainage and then entered. Given the overgrown conditions Team 1

had a slow descent. After approximately an hour of descending, Star 9 (the RSO helicopter) flew overhead and was able to locate the hiker. Team 1 found the hiker at around 7:45pm and performed a basic medical assessment on the extremely grateful hiker who was ok. After giving him some food and water to boost his spirits and a headlamp, Team 1 began a steady ascent back up the drainage, eventually meeting up with a portion Team 2. After reaching the trail again, the rest of the hike back to the CP was uneventful and we were able to see some amazing stars overhead on the way back!

#### RMRU Members Involved:

Cameron Dickinson, Blake Douglas, Michael George, Glenn Henderson, Tony Hughes, Beth Jeffery, Dana Potts, Vinay Rao, and Tyler Shumway.



### Skyline Hiker Overdue.

April 26, 2020

Near San Jacinto Peak

Written by Tyler Shumway

RMRU received another callout Sunday night at 7:30 pm. Our 3rd in three days. This time for a lost hiker near Wellman's Divide. The hiker was reported overdue by a family member and that he was attempting Cactus to Clouds. Star-9 flew the area and was able to locate him off-trail just north of where Sid Davis links up with the Peak Trail at 10,000 feet. He had a small fire going and was wrapped up in a space blanket.

Cameron and I reported to Hemet

Ryan Airport. Pilot Eric Bashta and Technical Flight Officer Jerry Osterloh with Riverside Sheriff Aviation briefed us that we would be inserted at Round Valley and hike up to the subject. We were to secure the subject and attempt to hike him back down to Round Valley where we would be picked up.

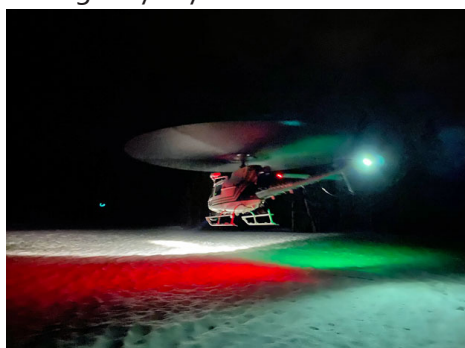
After being inserted at Round Valley, Cameron and I put on snowshoes since we started post-holing immediately. Temperatures were mild in the upper 40s low 50s. We made a direct ascent to Wellman's Divide and then took the Peak Trail. We made it to the subject in under an hour and once he saw our headlamps, he started hiking towards us. It was apparent that he was not suffering from any injuries. Communication was difficult due to the language barrier, but we were able to give him food, water and warm clothing. Cameron outfitted him with micro-spikes and trekking poles that had baskets.

He was ready to go as soon as we gave him water and gear so down, we went taking the Sid Davis drainage towards Round Valley. We anticipated a long hike down due to post-holing, but our snowshoe tracks proved efficient enough for us to make it down in 35 minutes. Upon arriving at Round Valley Star-9 flew in and loaded up the subject where he would be taken to Banning Airport to awaiting family members. Star-9 returned for Cameron and I and flew us back to Hemet Ryan. Subjects Plan:

Solo hiker was attempting Cactus to Clouds which is a grueling hike



from the desert floor to San Jacinto Peak. Due to the language barrier, it was unclear if he had made it to the peak and if his plan were to return down the Skyline Trail or continue into Idyllwild. He kept mentioning the PCT so perhaps he was planning a decent that way. Regardless, he was off trail in deep snow at 10,000 feet without proper gear to deal with the conditions. He had made a small fire to keep warm and wrapped himself in an emergency mylar blanket.



Stargy Landing in Round Valley at Night

**Lessons Learned:** Despite the warm temperatures there is still plenty of snow in the upper elevations. Proper footwear and equipment are still recommended in the high country especially off-trail due to soft melting snow. The east side of the mountain has had little travel since the temporary closure of the Tram. Cautious navigation is advised.

Thank you again to the Riverside Sheriffs Aviation Unit for another safe and successful mission.

**RMRU Members Involved:**  
Cameron Dickinson and Tyler Shumway.

## Climber Broken Ankle

April 29, 2020

Tahquitz Rock

Written by Editor

RMRU received another callout for a climber with a broken ankle on Tahquitz Rock. Team members where on there way for about 30 minutes when we got the call that Cal-Fire had been able to do a hoist. The climbers had lowered the injured person done to the base where the hoist took place. A big thanks to Cal-Fire for saving us a carry out from the Rock to Humber Park.

### RMRU Members Involved:

Derek Donovan, Blake Douglas, Cory Ellison, Glenn Henderson, Eric Holden, Tony Hughes, Beth Jeffery, and Vinay Rao.

## Climbers Stuck on Rock

May 5, 2020

Tahquitz Rock

Written by Corey Ellison

RMRU received a call out for a pair of climbers on Tahquitz at approximately 18:00. The pair were attempting to climb Whodunnit (5.9) when the lead climber ran out of protection between pitch three and four. The leader felt that his last placement (#4 stopper) was inadequate to protect a fall and did not feel down climbing was a viable option. The climbers were linking pitches with a 60-meter rope and did not have enough slack to lower to a more stable position. After realizing their predicament, the pair decided to call 911 and stay put.

The belayer was on a large belay ledge, the leader was on a small shelf protruding about four inches out of the wall. The two remained in their respective positions until RMRU made contact.



Tyler racked up and ready while Corey hocks up to descend.

Down in the valley RMRU had gathered its members and decided on an operations plan. The team would hike to the top of Tahquitz and send down two members to secure and lower the climbers to the bottom of the route. Riverside Sheriff Aviation Unit Star 9 was available for assistance and transported the ropes and technical gear to the top of the route while the rest of the team came up from Humber Park.

Upon arriving on top of Tahquitz an anchor was quickly constructed using a tensionless hitch around one of the boulders on top. Tyler and I were selected to descend to the climbers. We both decided to utilize our personal racks for the mission as we wanted the familiarity of our own equipment. Once everything was in place, ropes were thrown over the side and I descended over the side at approximately midnight.

About 200 feet down the rappel, I realized that I was on the wrong side of the arete and needed to cross over. I attempted to establish

multiple redirects and traverse the arete but the weight of the rope along with multiple snags below me impeded this plan. To free the stuck rope, I ended up descending the rest of the 600 ft of rope, flaking it over my legs as I ascended back up to try and prevent any tangles or snags from occurring.



**Cameron resting on the rock before going over the side.**

While I was completing this, Tyler had rappelled down about 200 feet and found a good place to create a redirect for the two of us once I reached him. From this redirect, I rappelled down to the lead climber and secured him to our mainline. After this I constructed an anchor and transferred both the climber and me onto it, freeing the mainline and allowing Tyler to finish the rappel to the belayer. During this I conducted a brief patient assessment on the leader, who was alert and oriented with stable vitals and in relatively good spirits, although very dehydrated and cold. After finishing a primary assessment, the leader was given a fleece and some electrolyte solution, water, and food.

Down about a hundred or so feet below us, Tyler was completing the same task, and confirming that the belayer was medically stable. At this point, Tyler and I were now

working on getting these two to the bottom I used a 60 meter climbing rope I had in my pack to lower the leader down to Tyler off my constructed anchor. Tyler received the leader and transferred the weight onto his system. Using the climber's rope as a tag line, I then rappelled down to Tyler and all four of us were together for the first time that night.

From the top of pitch two, we originally decided to complete a second multistage lower/rappel to the top of pitch one. I rappelled to the anchor, followed by the belayer, who felt comfortable making the rappel with a fireman's belay given from below by me. Upon reaching the bolted anchor for pitch one, day had started to break and I could see an easy walk-off that a single-line rap could reach I notified Tyler and he converted my rappel to a biner block so my rope would reach. Once I was down and confirmed the walk-off was doable, the belayer rappelled down with another fireman's belay.



**Kaitlyn keeping warm on top.**

Tyler then lowered the leader down to the walk-off. After the three of us were safely down, Tyler secured a tagline to the rope I came down on to the three of us. Tyler and I and the two subjects were on the ground at approximately 06:00. From there we had

about an hour-long hike down to Humber Park where the pair of climbers were returned to their vehicles by the Riverside County Sheriff's deputy.



**Blake catches some ZZZ's under the Rocks.**

Once we notified the team leader on the top of Tahquitz, the rest of the team began cleaning up the gear we had left behind, even collecting our redirect 200 feet down the rock. They then hiked the equipment and themselves down from Tahquitz, having spent a restless night on top providing critical support for the two of us.



**Rescuers and Subjects at Base.**

#### **RMRU Members Involved:**

Cameron Dickinson,  
Blake Douglas, Corey Ellison,  
Glenn Henderson, Eric Holden,  
Kaitlyn Purington, and  
Tyler Shumway.



**Alpine Butterfly Knot**



**Stuck Mt. Biker****May 9, 2020****Cleveland National Forest**

Written by Glenn Henderson

The team was called out on Thursday evening at 7:30 PM. We were called for a mountain biker in the Elsinore area. It seems that a 59-year-old male had borrowed a friend's e-bike and was riding on the Indian Truck Trail in the Cleveland National Forest. He had cut off the trail and was attempting to follow what he thought was a trail that eventually left him stuck in extremely steep terrain with six-foot-tall brush all around him.

He could not go down further, and it was too steep to go back up. Star 9 (sheriff's helicopter) located the biker but did not have a qualified pilot to do a hoist to get him out. We met at the base of the mountain and were getting ready for long, all night hike in when we heard that Orange County's helicopter was available with night vision and hoist capable.

They flew to the guy and were able to hoist him out. Our many thanks to them so we were able to return home at 1:30 AM. The biker was checked out by AMR (American Medical Response). He had no injuries. as a side note, we do not rescue bikes, so it is still there.

**RMRU Members Involved:**  
Cameron Dickinson,  
Blake Douglas, Corey Ellison,  
Glenn Henderson, Eric Holden,  
Tony Hughes, Beth Jeffery, and  
Vinay Rao.

**Hoist Ortega Falls****May 22, 2020****Cleveland National Forest**

Written by Glenn Henderson

Call Captain, Gwenda Yates called me to see if I was available for a hoist rescue since I am 10 minutes away from the hanger. I was, so I packed up my pack and left for Hemet Ryan Hanger where I met up with Pilot Eric Bashta and TFO (technical flight officer) Eric Hanum.

The call said that a man had fallen and suffered a broken leg. Cal Fire was on scene and had stabilized the patient, but they needed us to fly him out. We flew to Ortega Falls where I was lowered down to the patient. We got him in a litter and hoisted him out to a waiting ambulance on the Ortega Highway. I hiked up to the road with the Cal Fire personnel.

Eric and Eric were waiting for me in the middle of the road and we flew back to Hemet-Ryan airbase. Many thanks to Eric and Eric for another great job of flying and bringing me the hook perfectly.

**RMRU Members Involved:**

Glenn Henderson.

**Lost Hiker San Jacinto****May 22, 2020****Marion Mt. Trail**

Written by Beth Jeffery

RMRU received a call at 5:48 PM for a lost hiker who took the Marion Mountain trail up to San Jacinto Peak.

He got lost by the Fuller Ridge Trail on the way down due to snow.

Blake was first to respond. After that Cameron, Beth, and Shani arrived and we were coordinating the hasty team and team 2 to head up the Marion Mountain Trail to assist the subject and bring him down the trail.

Beth and Blake began their hike up the trail and within minutes we came across a hiker and asked if he was our subject. He said yes. We offered him something to drink, eat, and a jacket as he spoke with the deputy. The mission was successfully complete by 8:27pm.

**RMRU Members Involved:**

Cameron Dickinson,  
Blake Douglas, Beth Jeffery, and  
Shani Pynn.

**Lost Hiker****Skyline Corona****May 30, 2020****Cleveland National Forest**

Written by Cameron Dickinson

On Saturday, May 30th, the team was notified in response to a 911 call that was received of a lost male hiker in the hills on the south-eastern side of the Skyline Trail in Corona. Riverside County Sheriff's Aviation would initially do a flyover to confirm the location of the lost hiker. With the hiker located, Aviation would land their helicopter in a field adjacent to the Skyline Trailhead to wait on standby as RMRU team members were within minutes of arriving.

The hiker was located close to the

Skyline Trail but became disoriented and lost due to his lack of familiarity of the area as well as being away from any designated or well-travelled trails. Sheriff's Dept asked him to wait at his current location for rescue to arrive. I would be first to arrive on scene, and Sheriff's Aviation would fly me over and drop me off in an open field at the base of the hill relatively close to the hiker's location.



**Tony, Blake, Cameron, Subject, and Shani at Base.**

Our other team members Shani, Blake, and Tony would be on standby, with Beth in route. The hiker found himself in deep, heavy vegetation, and it would take me approximately 30 minutes of uphill bush whacking to get to him. I reached him and found him in good condition but needed to provide him with water as he did not bring hydration, food, or a pack with any supplies. I would notify my team that was on standby that I had reached our subject and would hike him out the short distance back to the command post. The hike back out would be a much easier process, and within 30-40 minutes we would soon be off the hill and heading back to base.

#### **RMRU Members Involved:**

Cameron Dickinson, Blake Douglas, Tony Hughes, Beth Jeffery, and Shani Pynn.

## **Injured PCT Hiker**

**June 07, 2020**

### **PCT Trail Near Snow Creek**

**Written by Tyler Shumway**

RMRU received a call out 0730 Sunday morning for a Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) hiker who activated her SOS device after suffering an ankle injury during the descent to Snow Creek. Most of the team was going to Dixon Lake for a day of climbing but we quickly turned around to respond to the mission.

We had a good turn out and good thing because a helicopter evac was out of the question due to the high winds and the hiker was non-ambulatory. This was going to be a carry out with the litter and wheel. She had the company of another hiker that she was section hiking with and was located at about 3,300 feet along the PCT as it descends into Snow Creek.



**James heading up fast.**

James and I were the hasty team while Blake, Josh, Shani, and Eric were shortly behind with the litter and wheel. Vinay and Derek would

soon follow with Glenn running Base Camp at the Truck.



**Eric hiking the Wheel Up.**

James and I made contact and provided medical attention, food, and water. The hiker was experiencing ankle pain since yesterday while completing the Fuller Ridge section of the PCT. She made her descent towards Snow Creek today and came to the point where she could no longer put weight on her left foot without agonizing pain. It was then that she decided she could no longer descend and requested assistance, which was the right call.



**Tyler and James Splinting Ankle.**

I applied a splint using her closed-cell foam pad, two trekking poles and webbing while we waited for the litter to arrive. Once we were able to assemble the litter and wheel, we packaged her up and started out.

We had a 4.5-mile, 2,000ft descent





to the DWA water faucet where Glenn was running Base and an ambulance was waiting to take her to the hospital.

This would be the longest carry out I have done since being with the team and proved to be quite exhausting. The 90-degree heat coupled with the rocky terrain and narrow trail made for a tedious descent.

We made good time despite the challenges and were down to the water faucet in just a little over 4 hours.

#### RMRU Members Involved:

Cameron Dickinson, Derek Donovan, Blake Douglas, James Eckhardt, Josh Gould, Glenn Henderson, Eric Holden, Shani Pynn, Vinay Rao, and Tyler Shumway.

### Search 65-year-old woman

June 09, 2020

Ranch on Apple Valley Road, Garner Valley

Written by Glenn Henderson

The team was called out on Monday evening for a search starting at 8 am Tuesday on a ranch at the end of Apple Valley Road in Garner Valley. We were searching for a 65-year-old woman that was reported missing on Sunday.

She was last seen by her boyfriend on Saturday afternoon around 2 PM. She was known to hike around her ranch which was 160 acres in all. We were met there by Sheriff's deputies, search dog team

and Swat teams due to the high incidence of marijuana growing nearby in some of the draws that had water.

We had set up our search grids the night before, so we were able to deploy search teams immediately after the briefing. The area had been burned over by a forest fire a couple years before, so the area was open. We had numerous assignments so as soon as one was completed another one was assigned. We searched until 6 PM with nothing found.

We met again on Wednesday at 8 am and started with new assignments and to redo some of the more difficult areas. Again, nothing was found. We completed all assignments by 6 pm and then detectives called the physical search off and they took over the investigation.

#### RMRU Members Involved:

Cameron Dickinson, Blake Douglas, James Eckhardt, Glenn Henderson, Eric Holden, Beth Jeffery, and Vinay Rao.

### Hoist Tin Mine Canyon

June 11, 2020

Cleveland National Forest above Corona

Written by Glenn Henderson

Ah, sweet dreams. I just got to sleep when call captain Gwenda Yates called. As soon as I saw who was calling, I knew sleep was out of the question. Gwenda asked if I wanted to do a quick hoist rescue in the Corona Hills? No, I do not, but I said yes, I would be at

the hanger in 20 minutes. I got dressed, grabbed my pack, and got to the hanger at 10:30 where I met pilot Ryan Burk and TFO (technical flight officer) Jerry Osterloh.

There I got the news that Ryan was not rated for a night hoist and we were going to pick up team mate Cameron Dickinson in Corona where they would fly us up to the top of the canyon that two boys were stuck in. They had climbed up to Tin Mine Canyon trail but went off on the wrong side of the ridge top and ended up in brush over their head and did not know where to go or how to get out.

Once we got to the top of the ridge Cameron and I got out and Ryan shut down to wait for us. This ended up being a really tough mission as we went cross country to get to them sliding down steep slopes and breaking through brush for 2 hours to get to them. Once we got to them, we gave them water and food and headed out. We were on top of a ridge, so Cameron led out a much easier way and were able to get out in half the time it took to get to the boys.

Ryan and Jerry flew one boy and Cameron out and then returned for me and the other boy. I got back to the hanger at 2 AM, off to home, shower and bed.

#### RMRU Members Involved:

Cameron Dickinson and Glenn Henderson.



Figure 8 Follow Through with Tie Off

# ABOUT RIVERSIDE MOUNTAIN RESCUE UNIT

FOUNDED 1961

MEMBER MOUNTAIN RESCUE ASSOCIATION 1963

GOVERNING BODY: RIVERSIDE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

MEMBERS: ORIGINAL: 6 | CURRENT MEMBERS: 31

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

MISSIONS: TOTAL OVER 2,000 | AVERAGE PER MONTH: 4.2

## RMRU BOARD MEMBERS 2020

Glenn Henderson - President

Ray Weden - 1st Vice-President | Eric Holden - 2nd Vice-President

Shani Pynn - Secretary | Kevin Kearn - Member at Large



## BECOME A SUSTAINING MEMBER



### SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Your Donation is deductible from both your state and federal taxes

RMRU tax ID number for Not-for-Profit status 95-2497048

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

#### Membership Types:

- ☐ Benefactor Club \$1,000 +
- ☐ Summit Club \$500
- ☐ Patron Club \$200
- ☐ Century Club \$100
- ☐ Supporting Club < \$100

Please send your donation to:

Riverside Mountain Rescue Unit  
43950 Acacia Street  
Hemet, California 92544



# Thank You!



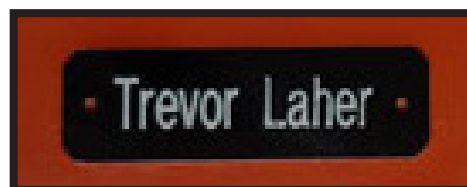
To all the people and organizations that donated to RMRU in memory of Trevor Laher, a young man who had an accident on the Pacific Crest Trail and passed-away on March 27, 2020.

## DONATIONS



The following people have donated \$5,000 in addition Trevor's Sister raised \$3,325 for a total of \$8,325

Lily Gerstenslager | Gilbert Russ | Jena Weeter | Georgianna Sergakis  
Sarah Varekojis | Jessica Schweller | Steve Mckaig | Steve Wainwright  
Mollie & Ryan Pillman | Kerry McNiven | Amanda Feil | Sheri Tooley  
David Foote | Brian Healy | John Hiser | Sarah Varekojis  
Katherine Blackmon | Natalie Napolitano | Andrew Crawford | CNTV  
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Dragonfly Capital Management, LLC | Christopher Kelly | Matt Lang  
Craig Miller | Donna Ostrin | Kristi Patrick | Shaw Turner | Iain boltin



Trevor Laher name plate  
on snow litter.

# IN MEMORY OF TREVOR LAHER

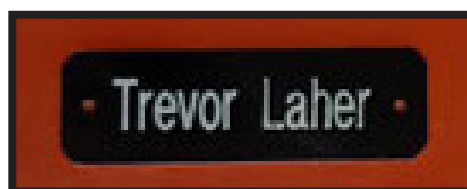
**RMRU is remembering Trevor Laher, a young man who had an accident on the Pacific Crest Trail and passed-away March 27, 2020.**

Trevor's memory will live on, using the money donated to us in memory of Trevor by over 50 people, we have purchased a new light weight snow litter. This new litter is half the weight of our 25+ year old one. Also, it can be broken in half to make it easier to carry in on a backpack and it works with our wheel once we get off the snow and onto dirt and rocks.



Some RMRU members with new snow litter with wheel attached in front of Rescue Van.

Trevor was a young man doing what he loved to do, hiking and being out of doors, just like all of us on RMRU love to do. This new litter will make it much easier for us on future missions when we have to carry out someone who is injured in the snow. We can pull it in the snow and when we come to the snow line and go back onto rocks and dirt, we can add the wheel and keep going. We have put his name on the litter so he will always be remembered. Our condolences to family and friends of Trevor Laher.



Trevor Laher name plate  
on snow litter.