



Missions January - June 2026

LIFESAVING AWARD CEREMONY

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MISSION REVIEWS

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*-Lifesaving Award***On the Cover -**

RMRU Training -

Top of Tahquitz Rock

Newsletter Editor -

Gary Farris - RMRU



President's Message

Richard Yocum

Some of our missions seem rather routine – often we head out to locate hikers who got off trail in the dark and are getting cold and unprepared to spend the night.

We find them, warm them up, and guide them safely back to the trailhead. I may wonder to myself how much they really needed us. But the most memorable missions are those where we know, without any doubt, that we saved a life.

In this newsletter we recognized four members of RMRU (Alex Cochran, Andy Hayt, Blake Rankin, and Richard Yocum) along with four members of San Bernardino County SAR teams who on June 30 received lifesaving awards from the Riverside Sheriff's Office.

Although only eight of the total 62 SAR volunteers (and more than 80 total personnel) who all struggled through extremely adverse conditions to make that mission a success received this award, it cannot be stressed enough how much our missions are always a team effort.

It's teamwork that comes from a lot of collective training leading to mutual trust and confidence, seamless collaboration, and coordinated execution by every participant involved. And it's the toughest missions and a dose of mutual suffering that builds strong family bonds on the team.

These award recipients stand as representatives of the entire team effort behind this lifesaving mission, and all of RMRU stands together in celebration of our shared successes.



While external recognition is nice, SAR volunteers aren't in it to win awards. We are driven by intrinsic motivations, including an internal drive to help others in need, civic duty, and sense of fulfillment of the team working together and a job well done. You can read about Mission 2025-07 in our January-June 2025 newsletter.

The mission was featured on ABC TV's weekly "Hearts of Heroes" show Season 7 Episode 26 and is now available on YouTube: https://youtu.be/ycokyDBFy_I?si=BNEa29qjoH-QCcFfm.

Stay safe,
Richard Yocum

Mission Reviews

January - June 2026

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



Missing Hiker near Lake Hemet Dam

January 17-18, 2026

Lake Hemet Dam, Mountain Center

2026-01

Written by: Alex Cochran and Richard Yocum

The callout came in at 9:40 pm on Saturday, initially for "three fishermen who fell off Lake Hemet Dam." Like so many missions, the initial information was inaccurate and incomplete – it was actually 4 hikers who were reported lost and overdue on their day-hike up Bautista Canyon to join family members at a campsite at Lake Hemet.



Pulling the Litter Back up the Dam

They found themselves off trail, in the dark, and exhausted, in need of food, water, and light sources. En route to the scene, we learned that

RSO Rescueg helicopter had hoisted 3 hikers and we wondered if the mission was concluded, but then learned that a 4th hiker had not been hoisted and that his father had left the family's campsite on his own with flashlights and supplies to try to find the hikers.

The 4th hiker found his way back to Lake Hemet but now the missing father, last seen near Lake Hemet Dam, became the subject of our search. After resolving with the son references to the "first dam" and "second dam," indicating the spillway vs. dam in reference to their direction of travel, we had a good idea of where to begin our search. This was corroborated by a Rescueg report of a motionless light down a steep slope aside the dam.

As RMRU members began to arrive at the Lake Hemet Mountain Station, we requested additional resources, namely Cal Fire and RSO Starg with FLIR. FLIR was able to image a motionless human form further downslope from where the light was observed.



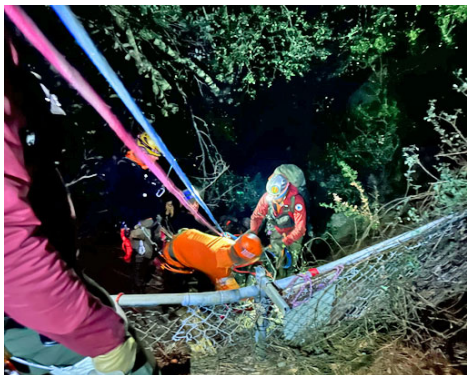
Rigging the Litter before Going Down

Alex and Vinay built an anchor on a sturdy fence at the top of the approximate fall line of the figure who had been seen using FLIR and light that was visible from the ground team at the dam. Alex passed the light while being lowered, and when she had descended approximately 130 feet, she made visual contact with the subject who had landed from a fall directly below her.

She was lowered further to a safe location, verified that the subject

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was deceased, and communicated that information to CP. It was assessed that a helicopter hoist extraction was not recommended due to the dense tree canopy and vegetation.



Rescue Members with Litter Coming up the Dam

Alex was instructed to document the scene and wait for two more members to assist with extricating the subject. Solan and Matt were lowered with the litter and the three of them packaged the subject for a raise. Alex ascended her rope and assisted the rope teams up top who had built a twin tension rope system using a truck as an anchor.

The overhung terrain and dense debris on the steep angle slope made the 195-foot raise strenuous and challenging for all members of the team. The rope teams were able to raise the subject, Solan, and Matt using a high redirect to assist in passing the litter over the fence on the way back up.

Three individuals from the coroner's office met the team at the top of the raise and the subject was transferred into their care at approximately 6 am. The mission was successfully completed using solid teamwork, in spite of the

considerable physical and emotional challenges it entailed. The team extends its sincere condolences to the family, who endured the tragic loss of their loved one on their family outing.

RMRU Members Involved:

David Altenburg, David Bever, Alex Cochran, Nathaniel Desforges, Matt Frenken, William Pendleton, Guillaume Plateau, Vinay Rao, Solan Watts, and Richard Yocum

Other Agencies Involved:

RSO Aviation Rescue9 and Starg FLIR, CalFire E53, and Patrol 29, RSO personnel, and Medical Examiner's Office



Teams Searching along the Ridge

At 8:30 am from the established Incident Command Post (ICP) at a turnout along Hwy 74, all six Search and Rescue (SAR) members made their way 0.6 mi. to the upper waterfall where they began to traverse the steep side of the canyon to the coordinates provided by the RP. Those coordinates were about 115 feet and considerably higher in elevation from where the remains were found, which prompted a discussion of the differences between WGS84 and NAD27 map datum systems.

While the default for modern GPS units in the US currently is WGS84, the difference using NAD27 could be as much as about 200 meters.

After locating the known remains the team of six split into two teams of three. Team 1 led by Richard went down to the bottom of the waterfall where the remains believed to be from a mission during 2025 were found in November. Richard, Ed, and William began to comb the wash and canyon

Human Remains at Carrizo Creek

**January 31, 2026
Carrizo Creek, near Palm Desert
2026-02**

Written by: Will Pendleton

RMRU reported to Riverside Sheriff's Office (RSO) Lake Hemet Mountain Station at 7 am to receive a scheduled briefing for recovery of remains and further searching of the Carrizo Creek, where the reporting party (RP) of a previous recovery had possibly found more human remains.

Only minutes into the briefing RMRU received a request for mutual aid to LA County for a missing hiker, and so our group split into two groups to cover both missions. We received instructions on how to photograph and collect evidence from the field.



Shani and Team Going through the Boulders

bottom looking for any other remains or evidence.

Team 2 led by Shani with David and Geoffry remained at the location of the known evidence and began their search there, including two large areas on the side of the steep canyon. Additional findings were communicated to the ICP. By



Rescuers Heading to the Bottom of the Canyon

2 pm the two teams reunited, then each hiked back from the search area, and made it back to the ICP for debriefing at 3:30 pm.

The teams operated effectively setting up a multi-department ICP (RMUR & SERT) to perform a search and recovery operation.

The six-person search team navigated a challenging canyoneering operation with grace and was able to divide and conquer the Carrizo Creek canyon to scour the area for remains following a tragic incident within their community with the help of Riverside County Sheriff's Emergency Response Team.



Team in Canyon Bottom

RMUR Members Involved:

David Altenburg, Edgar Gelabert, Geoffry Marshall, Shani McCullough-Holden, William Pendleton, Ray Weden, and Richard Yocum

Other Agencies Involved:

RSO and Sherriff's Emergence Responds Team (SERT)

Mutual Aid of Lost Hiker

January 31, 2026

Josephine Peak, Los Angeles National Forest

2026-003

Written by: Dave Kosmal



Rescue Members Returning to Base in Helicopter

RMUR received a mutual aid call to assist the Montrose Search and Rescue Team looking for a lost hiker on the Josephine Truck Trail in Angeles National Forest. The hiker had separated from her party and had not returned during the day. Throughout the night local SAR teams searched the canyons adjacent to the truck trail and heard intermittent calls for help but did not locate the subject.

RMUR team members arrived around 10 am and were assigned three search areas in the canyons and ridgelines south of Josephine Peak. After several hours, an RMUR team made verbal contact with the subject after performing a callout. Her voice was coming from an adjacent canyon, but the team could not see her or pinpoint her location. The subject reported that she was not injured except for a headache.

Searchers continued to move toward the location of the subject, and she was found about an hour





Subject being Hoisted Out by
LA County Fire Helicopter

later by an RMRU team. The subject was airlifted out by a LA County Fire helicopter.

RMRU Members Involved:

Trygve Anderson, Kase Chong, Alex Cochran, Nathaniel Desforges, Andy Hayt, Dave Kosmal, and Solan Watts

Other Agencies Involved:

Montrose Search and Rescue Team, Altadena Mountain Rescue Team, Sierra Madre Search and Rescue Team, San Dimas Mountain Rescue Team, Antelope Valley Search and Rescue, Orange County Sheriff's Department Search and Rescue, Ventura County East Valley Search and Rescue Team, and Los Angeles County Fire Department



Figure 8 Follow Through
with Safety Knot

Upper Skyline Trail – Lost Hikers

February 17, 2026

Skyline Trail / Grubbs Notch Area,
Mount San Jacinto State Park

2026-004

Written by: Blake Rankin

Riverside Mountain Rescue Unit was activated at approximately 1500 hours for two overdue hikers on the Skyline Trail. A cell phone location ping placed the subjects near Notch 3 above the trail.

The subjects, two adult female hikers described as experienced, had departed the Skyline Trail trailhead at approximately 0400 hours. No direct phone contact could be established at the time of the callout.



RMRU Members with 2 Subjects
(Light Blue and White Jackets)

Weather conditions were severe, with temperatures near 23°F, southwest winds of 20 mph gusting to 40 mph, and moderate snowfall with active accumulation.

Team 101 (Blake, Trygve, Tobias, Dave K., and Chad) boarded the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway at 1720 hours while Dave B. established Incident Command at the Valley Station. After arriving at the Mountain Station, Team 101 coordinated with State Parks Rangers



Rescuers in Deep Snow where
Subjects Were Found

and received updated subject coordinates. A State Parks sergeant had previously reached within approximately 150 meters of the reported location but was unable to establish contact, and snowfall had obscured tracks in the area.

Team 101 descended Grubbs Notch and split at approximately 1838 hours. Team 101 traversed east toward updated subject coordinates while Team 102 continued down the Skyline Trail. Snow and terrain conditions presented significant fall hazard, and snow consistency prevented effective ice axe self-arrest.

Following a GAR safety assessment, teams continued operations while minimizing high-angle exposure. Team 101 searched both updated coordinate locations without locating the subjects, who were later determined to be at the original reported location rather than the updated positions.

During continued callouts, rescuers heard faint voices and whistle responses. Team 102 made contact with the subjects shortly before Team 101 arrived. The hikers were located under a rock overhang above the trail in Notch 3.



Subjects Getting Warmed up before Moving to Trail and Up

Both subjects were cold, wet, and inadequately dressed for winter conditions. After receiving food, warm fluids, and additional insulating layers, both initially improved. Subject 1 was able to walk with assistance, while Subject 2 required support descending to the trail.

During evacuation, Subject 2's condition worsened from mild to moderate hypothermia, with declining coordination and increasing weakness.

Due to environmental exposure and terrain limitations, rescuers determined continued movement toward evacuation provided the best chance for recovery rather

than attempting additional rewarming in place.

As the descent continued, Subject 2 deteriorated to severe hypothermia and became unable to assist with movement. RMRU members conducted alternating assisted walking and manual carries for approximately 700 vertical feet under difficult snow conditions. Use of a litter was deemed impractical due to steep terrain and snow conditions.

After additional rescuers and a State Parks Ranger arrived, the team transitioned to a multi-person carry utilizing a climbing harness and sling system. A Green, Red, Amber (GAR) assessment identified a rescuer at risk for hypothermia after donating clothing to a subject; that rescuer escorted the ambulatory subject ahead to the tram station.



RMRU and Palm Springs Fire Putting Subject in Litter Top of Grubbs

At the top of Grubbs Notch, Palm Springs Fire personnel packaged the patient into a State Parks rescue sled and transported her to the Mountain Station, where care was transferred to AMR. Both subjects were transported to Desert Regional Medical Center.

Upon hospital arrival, Subject 2's core temperature was recorded at

82°F, confirming severe hypothermia.



Palm Springs Fire and RMRU Pulling Subject up to Tramway

The mission concluded with successful location and evacuation of both subjects despite severe winter conditions.

RMRU Members Involved: Blake Rankin, Trygve Anderson, Tobias Moyneur, Dave Kosmal, Chad Becker, and Dave Bever

Other Agencies Involved: California State Parks, Palm Springs Fire Department, and American Medical Response



Lost Hikers Deer Springs Trail

January 16, 2026

Deer Springs Trail, Idyllwild, CA
2026-005

Written by: Andy Hayt

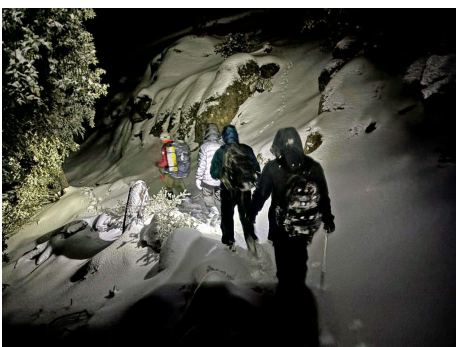
On Friday at 8:00 PM RMRU received a callout for two stranded hikers on the Deer Springs Trail, approximately 1.5 miles from the trailhead.

This callout came as the first major winter storm of the 2026 season was moving in, and it had already snowed approximately 6" in Idyllwild when the first search-

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ers arrived at the trailhead around 10:00 PM. This was a busy night for RMRU as Mission 2026-004 was taking place on the other side of the mountain to rescue two individuals on Skyline Trail.

The two hikers had summited Mt. San Jacinto via Deer Springs Trail, having started their hike at 2:00 AM on the 16th (they had been out for approximately 23 hours by the time we walked them out on the 17th) and were caught in the storm as they descended back to their car.



RMRU Member Leading Hikers Out

They did not expect conditions to deteriorate as quickly as they did, and when their flashlight batteries died, they were unable to continue locating the trail due to quickly accumulating snow cover. They made the decision to shelter in place on the trail and call for Search and Rescue (SAR).

RMRU teams deployed from the trailhead at approximately 10:30 PM and reached the subjects by 11:30 PM. When we reached them, one subject was exhibiting signs of hypothermia and steps were taken to rewarm the individual before starting the hike back down to the trailhead. Hikers and searchers were back to the trailhead parking

lot by 1:00 AM. The hikers were evaluated by AMR and Idyllwild Fire and released to begin their drive home.



Base Camp in Fresh Snow

RMRU would like to remind hikers to always check detailed weather reports before setting out, as conditions in the mountains can change rapidly. These hikers did the right thing by calling 911 when they realized they were in trouble and were staying put. They were exactly where they said they would be and searchers were able to locate them without any issues.

RMRU Members Involved:

David Altenburg, Coby Brown, Ed Gelabert, Andy Hayt, Stephanie Robertson, and Richard Yocum

Missing Person near South Fork San Jacinto River Trailhead

February 17, 2026

South Fork San Jacinto River Trailhead near Mountain Center Mission 2026-006

Written by: Richard Yocum

Only a few hours after coming off two overnight missions for lost hikers in the snowstorm, at 7:55 am RMRU was asked to assist the Riverside Sheriff's Office in a missing person search. The 28-year-old

woman was last seen about 9:15 pm the night before in Idyllwild before she became separated from her boyfriend and she had not been seen or heard from since. The major clue we had was a "Find My" phone location, mapping to a difficult-to-access canyon close to the South Fork San Jacinto River Trailhead off Hwy 74. While generally very accurate, we were aware that steep canyon walls may significantly reduce the accuracy of "Find My" phone tracking.

We had 5 responders from RMRU along with 5 members of the Riverside County Search Dogs. We set up an Incident Command Post along Hwy 74 that appeared to have closest access to the phone GPS coordinates, searched for signs of a person exiting the roadway from that location, and quickly deployed a hasty team to try to reach the phone location. Very soon after that we were notified that our missing person was identified as associated with an incident in Anza and was tracked in a vehicle that had left the area. After waiting some time for confirmation that the person was one in the same, the SAR mission was concluded and all searchers departed for home. Later that day we learned that the missing person had been located out of the area.

RMRU Members Involved:

Chad Becker, David Bever, Dave Kosmal, Vinay Rao, and Richard Yocum

Other Agencies Involved:

Riverside Sheriff Emergency Response Team (SERT) and Riverside County Search Dogs

Missing Person in Cucamonga Creek

February 18 and 21, 2026
Cucamonga Creek in Chino
Mission 2026-007

Written by: Richard Yocum

It was noon on Wednesday when RMRU was activated to assist with the search for someone washed away in flood waters due to recent heavy rains.



Incident Command Post

At about 2 pm on Monday a bystander had phoned 911 to report an adult male a few blocks north of the I-10 in San Bernardino (SB) County being washed down the Cucamonga Creek flood channel. Chino FD quickly launched their drone and tracked the victim in the channel, having passed under two freeways, underneath the runways of Ontario Airport, and through a corner of Riverside County until he disappeared under the water's surface about 150 feet before the channel re-entered SB County, more than 9 miles from where he was initially reported.

The creek then traversed about 2 miles of SB County before re-entering Riverside County. It was agreed that this mission would be conducted under a Unified Command structure and include Riverside County Sheriff's Office

(RSO) and SAR, (SB) Sheriff and SAR, and Chino PD and Fire. There was no report of a missing person, and the identity of the victim was unknown.

For RMRU's first operational period (OP) on 2/18, the SB Co. Sheriff's Dept. (SBCSD) SAR had searched both that day and the day prior. With little remaining daylight by the time I arrived mid-afternoon, most of the effort that day was sharing all available information among the multiple agencies and planning next efforts.

A decision was made to plan for a major ground team effort on Saturday and continue aerial searching in the interim. RMRU then conducted pre-planning sessions, first with RMRU and Riverside County Search Dogs, and then with SBSD-SAR, to coordinate efforts for OP2.



Searching in Brush by River

The OP2 search on 2/21 was extensive and involved ground SAR teams and Human Remains Detection (HRD) canine teams searching both sides of the river in both counties, drones and RSO Rescue 9 helicopter searching by air, RSO Dive Team searching by boat and in the river, and a Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) searching a long underground overflow culvert. The creek empties into the

huge Prado Flood Control Basin and there was about 2.5 square miles of flooded basin at the time of our search.



Dive Team Searching River

Unfortunately, we were not able to locate our victim, who could be trapped underwater, hidden in very dense vegetation along the creek, or be virtually anywhere in the huge, flooded basin.

Pending a full after-action review, there was consideration of returning in several months for another search effort when the basin would be largely dried up.

RMRU Members Involved:

Alex Cochran, Kase Chong, Matt Frenken, Michael George, Glenn Henderson, Eric Holden, Dave Kosmal, William Pendleton, Ray Weden, and Richard Yocum

Other Agencies Involved:

Riverside Sheriff's Emergency Response Team (SERT), Aviation, and Dive Team; Riverside County Search Dogs; Desert Sheriff's SAR; SBCSD SAR; and Chino PD and Chino Fire including drones



Figure 8 on a Bight

Lake Elsinore Missing Hiker

March 3, 2026

Lake Elsinore, CA

2026-08

Written by: David Bever

RMRU was requested to assist with a search for a missing 45-year-old male subject who left to hike with his dog from his residence sometime in the evening of March 2, 2026.

Shortly before midnight, the subject contacted his brother indicating he was in the hills above his residence and unable to return home due to Elsinore gang members waiting to kill him.

In the early morning hours, the subject called 911 indicating his dog had been attacked by 3 mountain lions before his phone died.

RSO deputies, RSQ9, and a drone unit began the search after sunrise. RSO STAR9 joined the search without success.

RMRU was activated at 7:30 am and searchers Matt and Dave began a foot search of the area at approximately 9:30 am. David Bever was in the CP as the Search Manager.

After just over an hour, the subject was located in the neighbor's backyard along with his uninjured dog. It is unknown where the subject spent the night or how long he had been in the backyard.

CalFire E11 and AMR 447 evaluated the subject and transported to Inland Valley Hospital with minor

lacerations to his arms and a mental health evaluation hold.

RMRU Members Involved: David Bever, Matt Frenken, and Dave Kosmal

Other Agencies Involved: RSO Elsinore patrol deputies, STAR96, RSQ9, Elsinore UAS unit, CalFire, AMR



Lost PCT Hiker

March 7, 2026

Marion Mountain Trail, Idyllwild, CA

Mission # 2026-08

Written by: Ed Gelabert

At 1856, March 7, via text, there was a callout to the members of Riverside Mountain Rescue Unit (RMRU) for 3 lost hikers on the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT).



Subjects Getting Warmed Up

Responders were Dave Kosmal, Will Pendleton, David Bever, Blake Rankin, Jeffrey Leisner and myself. Initial Incident Command

Post (ICP) was Vista Grande Fire Station, off Highway 243, where deputies of the Riverside Sheriff's Office (RSO) met with the RMRU responders. Once gathered, deputies and RMRU responders relocated the ICP to Marion Mountain Trailhead (MMT).

Rescue 9 (RSQ9), the responding RSO Aviation Unit, was enroute to the Last Known Position (LKP) of the hikers from mobile phone data when the callout was given. They experienced high winds at that location. At 1901, Call Captain Ray Weden declared that RSQ9 was standing down. At 1907 Ray stated that subjects used the Cal Topo (a navigation app) locator, which put them 60 feet from their LKP.

At 2015, names of subjects were given to the responders by the Call Captain. They stated (via mobile phone) that they had cold feet and requested extra warm socks. They also said that they can hike once they got warm.

At approximately 2030, Will, Blake, and I met at Vista Grande Fire Station. Kos and Bever arrived fifteen minutes later. We assessed the cold weather gear that we had for ourselves and 3 subjects. Temperature at initial ICP was in the mid 30F range. We knew it would be windier and colder at elevation. After initial SAR GAR (Search and Rescue safety assessment) we relocated ICP to MMT, a few miles south.

Once at MMT, we did a second, hasty SAR GAR and started up the trail at approx. 2130, at 6300

feet, as a team of four with Bever remaining at ICP as Incident Commander (IC). Jeff later joined him and assisted at the ICP.

At approx. 7400 feet, we encountered significant snow that over freeze-thaw cycles turned into ice. I was the only member with microspikes, which would become an issue on the descent, as well as members not having adequate, or extra, headlamps.



Rescuers and Subjects at Base

At 0030, March 8, we reached the subjects 60 feet west of the Deer Springs Trail, 0.25 mile south of the junction between the Marion Mountain Trail and the Deer Springs Trail, huddled next to some boulders. Winds were gusting up to 40 miles an hour with temperatures feeling like they were in the low 20F range.

Subjects were 3 males in their mid-30s, fit, alert and not injured. They were suffering mild hypothermia, which was obviously worsening with their intense shivering. They lacked proper clothing, light, and they were low on food and water.

Blake and David K. got to work giving them the clothes and a sleeping bag we had, and getting them water and calories. They were

not suffering from any medical or traumatic issues, just environmental. Will and I assisted with food, re-packing gear, and getting the subjects ready for descent. They recovered quickly. At 0100, we began our descent.

Coming down without spikes was a problem for everyone. And proper light between members and subjects was lacking. With spikes the descent was easy. All members responding to such incidents should have 2 pairs of spikes, one for themselves and one for the subject. Also, 2 pairs of headlamps. At one point one of the subjects fell. Luckily, it was a minor fall.

At 0337, we were back at the MMT with RSO, the Idyllwild Fire Department, and David B. and Jeff waiting. Subjects were interviewed by RSO and taken by their families. Mission complete.

RMRU Members Involved:

David Bever, Ed Gelabert, Dave Kosmal, Jeffrey Leisner, William Pendleton, and Blake Rankin

Other Agencies Involved:

RSO, Idyllwild Fire Department



Munter Hitch

Lost Hiker Sky Valley

March 16, 2026

Pushawalla Palms Trailhead

Mission 2026-010

Written by: Dave Kosmal

RMRU received a call to assist Desert Sheriff Search and Rescue Team (DSSAR) looking for a lost hiker last reported at the Pushawalla Palms trailhead east of Palm Springs.

The hiker was reported missing the day before by a companion who stayed behind at the trailhead. The reporting party said that the hiker was looking for wildflowers to photograph. That evening DSSAR and search dogs searched along the popular trail in the area but found no clues.

During the night, Cal OES performed a technical analysis of the subject's cell phone signal history. The cell phone was no longer active, but data from the previous day identified a likely route of travel that was north of the previous search area.

DSSAR called for assistance and the search was resumed the next day with members of RMRU and DSSAR. A team began searching along the route identified by the cell phone activity.

About 400 yards from the trailhead the team located the deceased subject. Searchers notified Command Center, who called in the coroner. The coroner arrived about an hour later, examined the remains and prepared a litter for

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transport. RMRU and DSSAR team members carried the subject to the trailhead.

RMRU Members involved:

Dave Kosmal

Other Agencies Involved:

RSO Deputies, Desert Search and Rescue

rooftop camper over their vehicle and found them barely responsive to only voice and pain stimuli. In typical SAR team fashion, everyone sprang into action, including immediately calling 911, several other medical personnel joining me in the camper, and others serving as scribes and documenting the event.

In the confined space of the rooftop camper, we managed to move them into litter, and all hands present assisted in moving the litter down the ladder to a nearby picnic table just as Apple Valley Fire pulled up on scene and took over their care.

They transported them to a nearby hospital. As everyone on site was trying to process the sudden and unexpected turn of events, a consensus was reached that the accreditation testing would be postponed to another day.

As of this report, our fellow SAR member was improving over several days in the hospital and undergoing additional testing. The skills we acquire working in SAR automatically kick in when there is a job to be done.

It isn't until after the event that there is time to begin processing what just happened. While the care we deliver is the same regardless of the person we are managing, the emotional impact is a lot harder when it is a fellow teammate we have worked side by side with or someone we have gotten to know as a friend over the years.

We now join together as a SAR community in wishing for a rapid and complete recovery.

RMRU Members Involved:

Nathaniel Desforges, Eric Holden, Guillaume Plateau, and Richard Yocum

Other Agencies Involved:

SB Cave and Technical Rescue Team, China Lake Mountain Rescue Group, Ventura County Sheriff's SAR, Ventura East Valley SAR Team, San Diego Mountain Rescue Team, Contra Costa County Sheriff's SAR Team, Bay Area Mountain Rescue Unit, Inyo County SAR, and Apple Valley Fire

Fellow SAR

Member Unresponsive Horseman's Camp in Apple Valley

March 22, 2026

2026-011

Written by: Richard Yocum

Once each year RMRU undergoes reaccreditation testing by the Mountain Rescue Association (MRA). This year 22 members of RMRU traveled to Horseman's Camp in Apple Valley in San Bernardino County along with other MRA teams from across southern California and passed its testing in technical rock rescue.

A few SAR members remained on site and camped for the night in preparation for new accreditation testing the next day for a team working toward joining the MRA. The evening was relaxed, as a half dozen SAR members from various teams shared burritos, stories, and an amazing sunset.

The next morning, just several minutes before our 7:30 am planned briefing for the day's testing, I was urgently summoned to assess a fellow SAR member who was not awakening from their sleep. I climbed the ladder to where they spent the night in the

Hard Fall on Tahquitz Rock

March 22, 2026

Tahquitz Rock

2026-012

Written by: Eric Holden

We received word that an Apple Watch registered a "Hard Fall" on Tahquitz Rock.

While we were heading to the rock it was determined that the person was OK and it was a false alarm.

RMRU Members:

Alex Cochran, David Altenburg, David Bever, Edgar Gelabert, Guillaume Plateau, Matt Frenken, Nathaniel Desforges, Solan Watts, Tobias Moyneur, and William Pendleton

Missing Child in Simpson Park

April 3, 2026

Simpson Park, Hemet, CA

Mission 2026-13

Written by: Tobias Moyneur

On April 3, RMRU responded to a report of a missing autistic child in the Simpson Park area. At the time of the callout, much of the team was participating in a training event in Joshua Tree and was redirected directly to the incident.

As I was not attending the training, I was among the earlier RMRU members deployed into the field after initial information was gathered by the team and the Riverside County Sheriff's Office. Search assignments were quickly developed and teams were sent into various areas surrounding the child's last known location.

I was paired with Chad B. and assigned to search an area approximately half a mile from Base, just off a nearby trail. Riverside Sheriff's bloodhounds had shown strong interest in this location, making it a priority search area.

After Shani M. completed her assignment assisting the bloodhound team, she joined our search team as we continued operations in the area.

Despite conducting a thorough search, we found no signs of the child in the initial area. We then adjusted our strategy and began searching the nearby dirt trails for signs of travel. After obtaining information about the child's shoe

pattern and size, we located a positive footprint match heading down trail from our location. We began actively tracking the footprints for approximately 20 minutes before receiving an update that a mountain biker had located the child on an adjacent backcountry trail.

Our team responded quickly and rendezvoused with the mountain biker, the child, and two Riverside Sheriff's deputies. Fortunately, the child was in good spirits. After being provided water and snacks, he was escorted out along the mountain bike trail to awaiting family members and medical personnel.

The child was ultimately located roughly half a mile, as the crow flies, from his last known location.

Interestingly, there was no obvious direct route connecting his location to the trail where he was found, and the terrain between the two points was difficult to navigate. Team members remain curious about the exact route he may have taken.

Special thanks goes to the mountain biker who initially located the child. After hearing about the incident in the area, he voluntarily began checking nearby trails in hopes of assisting with the search. His initiative played a critical role in the successful outcome of the mission

RMRU Members Involved:

David Altenburg, Trygve Anderson, Caroline Baber, Chad Becker, David Bever, Jon Butler, Alex Cochran, Nathaniel Des, Eric, Andy Hayt, Dave Kosmal, Geoffrey Mar-

shall, Shani McCullough, Tobias Moyneur, Vinay Rao, Stephanie Robertson, Solan Watts, and Richard Yocum

Other Agencies Involved:

Riverside Sheriff Emergency Response Team (SERT) and Riverside County Search Dogs



Missing Hiker Near Onyx Summit

April 9 and 10, 2026

Onyx Summit, San Bernardino National Forest

Mission 2026-14

Written by: Richard Yocum

On April 8, 2026 a 58-year-old woman with suspected early dementia was on a short walk at a remote location in the San Bernardino National Forest near Juniper Springs Campground with her husband when they became separated at about 12:30 pm and he could not find her.



Morning Incident Briefing

San Bernardino County search and rescue (SAR) teams were activated and searched for her well into the night without finding her. Because of the urgency created by a major late winter storm predicted to arrive in 3 days and the challenges that would present at the 7,730-

MISSION REVIEWS JANUARY - JUNE 2026

foot elevation, mutual aid from other counties was requested for the next day.



Hoisting the Subject

I had just arrived at the Palm Springs Tramway upper station on April 9 to begin a meeting with the Riverside County Emergency Management Department (EMD) when the RMRU callout came in at 9:57 am. After collecting information about the callout, I boarded the next tram down the mountain and made the 2-hour drive to the Incident Command Post (ICP).

Dave Kosmal, Dave Bever, and I from RMRU were assigned to one field team to search a 90-acre segment including a drainage descending from the last known point (LKP), where the couple became separated. We returned to the ICP at dusk, having found nothing of significance. Blake Rankin arrived later and searched on a different field team.

Other SAR teams searching during that Operational Period 2 (OP2), making up a total of 13 field teams, were West Valley SAR (WVSAR), Bear Valley SAR (BVSAR), Bear Valley Posse (BVP), Rim of the World Search and Rescue (RimSAR), BSSAR, San Gorgonio SAR (SGSAR), San Bernardino County Sheriff's Cave and Technical Rescue Team (Cave), San Diego

Mountain Rescue Team (SDMRT), and San Diego Sheriff's Office SAR (SDSOSAR). A trailing canine showed interest along trails to about ½ mile east of the LKP.

SB Sheriff's deputies searched outlying road and trails using off-highway vehicles. A search by a Fire Integrated Real Time Intelligence Systems (FIRIS) aircraft was negative except for a heat signature that was confirmed by a ground team to be a deer.



Searching the Forest and Wilderness

Both Daves left for home and I remained at the ICP to monitor two members from San Diego Mountain Rescue Team (SDMRT) for whom I was responsible until they returned to the ICP at midnight. I then stayed the night at the ICP.

Mutual aid assistance had also been requested through the California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) from the Forensic Analysis of Location from Cellular, Online, and Networks (FALCON) group, and I took the lead for integrating their analyses into the

search strategy.

The missing subject's cell phone was tracked approaching where they parked their car, was in the vicinity of the LKP at the time they got separated, then tracked moving east, and then south until it reversed direction to head north after about 2 hours.

At 3 pm the phone switched to a different cell tower and remained connected to that tower for the next two hours. We used a Radio Frequency (RF) map to focus our search on the specific terrain areas where the phone could have been connected to that cell tower.

The mutual aid response for the 7 am briefing on April 10 for Operational Period 3 (OP3) was large, and included teams from WVSAR, RimSAR, San Bernardino Mountain SAR (SBMtnSAR), SGSAR, Cave, BVSAR, BVP, SDMRT, SDSOSAR, and RMRU (Blake Rankin, Vinay Rao, Solan Watts, Jeff Leisner, and Richard Yocum). I was assigned as part of the Incident Management Team (IMT) at the ICP. Field teams were deployed to search many areas farther out than the OP2 efforts.

After just a couple hours, we heard radio traffic that two different field teams both had visual on a person lying in a drainage 1 mile east of the LKP.

They converged to find our missing subject lying on a contorted position, completely disoriented, and complaining of back pain and having fallen multiple times. She was assessed with stable vital

signs but unable to walk. She was hoisted by helicopter and flown to a hospital for further medical evaluation. We were elated to have found her alive, before the approaching storm.

RMRU Members Involved:

Dave Bever, Dave Kosmal, Jeff Leisner, Blake Rankin, Vinay Rao, Solan Watts, and Richard Yocum

Other Agencies Involved:

WVSAR, BVSAR, BVP, RimSAR, BSSAR, SGSAR, San Bernardino County Sheriff's Cave and Technical Rescue Team, SBMtnSAR, SDMRT, SDSOSAR, FIRIS, FALCON, and many law enforcement personnel, including those San Bernardino, Riverside, and San Diego County

Response Team (SERT). Team members assembled at 1945 at the Lake Hemet Sheriff's substation, which served as the Command Post (CP). Following a 2015 briefing, two teams were deployed to approach the subject via separate routes.

Team T101, led by Alex, took a shorter route via Pine Springs Ranch to the PCT. Team T102, led by Dave K., ascended via Spitler Peak Trail toward Apache Peak. Conditions worsened with elevation, including steady rain, reduced visibility, and wind gusts up to 40 miles per hour along Apache Ridge.

T102 reached the PCT at 2256 and made contact with the subject at 2337. She was found inside a wet tent, despondent. A verbal medical assessment was conducted. Dry insulating layers and a waterproof shell were provided, and she changed into dry clothing. The team provided food and assisted with packing.

The subject began ambulating but reported dizziness after approximately 20 meters. Her pack was removed and redistributed among rescuers, after which she was able to continue with minimal assistance. Upon reaching the PCT, visual contact was established with Team T101 via headlamps, and the teams consolidated.

At that time, the subject's pack was noted to be excessively heavy for long-distance travel. The team reduced the load by discarding approximately 3 liters of excess water. A secondary medical as-

essment was initiated by T101 personnel but was abbreviated due to hazardous wind conditions along Apache Ridge.

The combined teams began descent via Spitler Creek Trail, making periodic stops for hydration, nutrition, and reassessment. At approximately 0150, the subject again reported lightheadedness. As a precaution, two rescuers were sent ahead to the trailhead to stage a litter and coordinate with the rescue vehicle in the event the subject's condition worsened.

After rest, the subject was able to ambulate independently for the remainder of the descent. The team reached the Spitler Peak Trailhead at approximately 0340, where the subject was transferred to Cal Fire and American Medical Response (AMR) personnel.

All RMRU personnel and equipment were accounted for, and the team returned to the Sheriff's substation for debrief.

RMRU Members Involved:

David Altenburg, David Bever, Jon Butler, Alex Cochran, Nathaniel Desforjes, Ed Gelabert, Dave Kosmal, Will Pendleton

Other Agencies Involved:

Riverside County Sheriff's Office (RSO), Cal Fire, American Medical Response (AMR)

Hypothermic Pacific Crest Trail Hiker

April 12, 2026

Apache Peak, San Jacinto Mountains

Mission 2026-15

Written by: Will Pendleton

At 1748, Riverside County Sheriff's Office (RSO) received a request for aid for a disoriented Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) hiker near Apache Peak. The subject was wet, low on food, and reporting signs consistent with mild hypothermia. She reported a history of autism and Raynaud's phenomenon. She was instructed to establish shelter and remain in place. Sheriff's Aviation was unavailable due to weather but remained on standby.

At 1821, Riverside Mountain Rescue Unit (RMRU) was activated by the Riverside Sheriff's Emergency

Dizzy PCT Hiker near Cedar Springs

May 5, 2026

Cedar Springs, CA

Mission 2026-16

Written by: Eric Holden

The team received a callout for a PCT hiker that was having dizzy spells and fainting. While the team was heading to the trailhead, Cal FIRE 301 was able to perform a hoist to get her to medical care.

RMRU Members Involved:

Alex Cochran, Dave Kosmal, Eric Holden, Matt Frenken, Richard Yocum, Solan Watts, and William Pendleton

Other Agencies Involved:

CAL FIRE 301

Missing 69-Year-Old Female, Idyllwild

May 7, 2026

Cedar Springs, CA

Mission 2026-17

Written by: Eric Holden

We received a call about for a missing 69-year-old female with dementia in the Idyllwild area. As we were heading to the CP the subject was found.

RMRU Members Involved:

Alex Cochran, Dave Kosmal, Edgar Gelabert, Eric Holden, and Richard Yocum

Missing Female in the Eagle Mountain Area

May 15, 2026

Eagle Mountain, CA

Mission 2026-18

Written by: Eric Holden

The team received a callout for a missing female in the Eagle Mountain area out in the desert, east of Joshua Tree.

The subject's vehicle was found the previous day and Joshua Tree NPS Rangers were able to track her until the area became too rocky and dark to continue for the night. RMRU was heading out to pickup where last night's tracking team left off.

While en route to the site, the Riverside Aviation Unit located the subject, unfortunately deceased, a short distance from the last known tracks. RMRU sends our thoughts and prayers to the subject's family and friends.

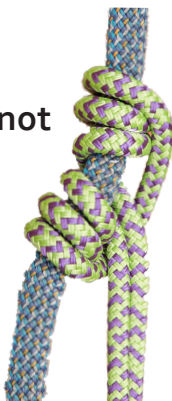
RMRU Members Involved:

Jon Butler, Eric Holden, Dave Kosmal, Blake Rankin, Solan Watts

Additional Agencies Involved:

Joshua Tree National Park Service, Riverside County Aviation Unit

Prusik Knot



Missing Person Outside Palm Desert

June 4-5, 2026

Location: Palm Desert

Mission 2026-19

Written by: William Pendleton

Riverside Mountain Rescue Unit (RMRU) was activated to help locate the missing person in the Palm Desert area with Operational Period 1 (OP1) starting at 0500 on the fourth of June.

OP1 consisted of search dog teams and tracking teams that searched the immediate area, roads, and valleys closest to the last reported location.

With temperatures being well over 100°F on the day of the 4th, OP2 started the evening of the 4th with three tracking teams that searched the next set of valleys and roads that were left unsearched from OP1.

After several hours in the field that night all initially assigned search areas were completed. OP3 started the next morning at 0500, with more than eight operational teams ranging from tracking and dog teams to a helicopter.

Around 0740, the RSO helicopter team, Starg, found the missing person 1.5 miles away from where they were last reported as being seen.

Ground teams responded and found the subject deceased at the location with further confirmation by Riverside Sheriff's Office.

RMRU and the agencies involved send their deepest condolences

to the missing person's family and friends.

RMRU Members Involved:

David Bever, Jonathan Butler, Alex Cochran, Matt Frenken, Glenn Henderson, Geoffrey Marshall, Shani McCullough, William Pendleton, and Richard Yocum

Other Agencies Involved:

Riverside Sheriff's Office (RSO) Emergency Response Team (SERT), RSO Aviation, Riverside County Search Dogs, and Desert Sheriff's Search and Rescue (DS-SAR)

followed up on possible sightings along with talking to people in the area with no luck. The search concluded at 2:00 am on June 9 with no sightings or any more clues to his whereabouts. RMRU hopes that he is found soon.

RMRU Members Involved:

David Altenburg, David Bever, Coby Brown, Matt Frenken, Glenn Henderson, and Vinay Rao

Other Agencies Involved:

RSO Deputies, Hemet Police Department

consisted of a roughly 4-mile walk out back to Humber Park. From there, RSO arranged transportation for the subject party back to their vehicles, located at the base of the Palm Springs Tram.

RMRU Members Involved:

Dave Bever, Alexandra Cochran, Nathaniel Desforges, and Matt Frenken

Other Agencies Involved:

Riverside County Sheriff's Office

Missing Person in Hemet

June 8, 2026

Hemet, CA

Mission 2026-20

Written by: Coby Brown

Around 8:30 pm on June 8, 2026, RMRU was called out to assist the Riverside Sheriff's Office (RSO) in a missing person case in Hemet.

Shortly after midnight the 60-year-old male with dementia and schizophrenia had been discharged unaccompanied from Hemet Hospital and had not been seen since that time. He had told the hospital that he wanted to return to the street rather than his living facility.

RSO was notified and tasked RMRU with doing a vehicle search of Hemet and the surrounding areas where there was closed-circuit TV footage of the missing person. RMRU had 6 team members in three vehicles all searching different assigned areas. RMRU

King Trail Lost Hikers

June 14, 2026

Hemet, CA

Mission 2026-21

Written by: Nathaniel Desforges

RMRU Team Members received a callout at 10:00 pm for 3 lost hikers east of Saddle Junction along the King Trail without food, water, shelter, or warming layers. One subject also reported symptoms of food poisoning. All 4 responding members of RMRU arrived on scene at Humber Park by 12:15 am and were briefed on the subject party status and resources. Team members then collected their gear and were dispatched into the field via the Devils Slide Trail at 12:50 am.

Team members made contact with the subject party along a spur intersecting the King Trail at 2:56 am. There, the team performed a medical assessment and provided the necessary rest, warming, and resources for each subject. Team members began extracting the subject party at 3:40 am, which

Snow Creek Exhausted Hiker

June 27, 2026

Snow Creek

Mission 2026-22

Written by: Wayne Clark

During our monthly Search and Rescue Academy (SARA) at the Riverside County Sheriff's Office (RSO) Hemet substation, our instructor Eric was monitoring RSO Aviation radio traffic concerning RSO Star 9 Sheriff's rescue helicopter attempting a rescue for a 70-year-old exhausted and dehydrated male hiker above Snow Creek on the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT).

The crew of Star 9 reported that they would be unable to effect a rescue due to high winds and asked for Desert Sheriff's Search and Rescue Team (DSSAR). At this time, Eric alerted us to the possibility of us being added to the mission.

We were officially dispatched and en route to Falls Creek Road where a Command Post (CP) was set up.

A plan was formulated and agreed on. Hasty Team 101 started up the trail with water and food to locate subject.

A second team (102) proceeded up with the litter and wheel in case it was needed. Two additional teams were added to support the mission. Our subject wisely chose to stay in place until help arrived.

He was located 3.6 miles up the trail. A full medical assessment was performed. It was determined that the subject, after rehydration, would be able to hike out with RMRU assisting as needed.

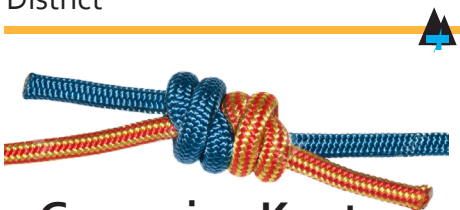
He was able to successfully hike down to the CP where care was handed off to American Medical Response (AMR) ambulance along with Riverside County Fire Department Medic Squad 24.

RMRU Members Involved:

David Altenburg, Trygve Anderson, Jon Butler, Wayne Clark, Nathaniel Desforges, Ed Gelabert, Andy Hayt, Eric Holden, Geoffrey Marshall, Will Pendleton, Solan Watts, and Richard Yocum

Other Agencies Involved:

Riverside County Sheriff's Office (RSO), Desert Sheriff's Search and Rescue (DSSAR), AMR ambulance service, Riverside County Fire Department, Snow Creek Water District



Grapevine Knot
(Double Fisherman)

Two Stuck Climbers on Tahquitz Rock

June 27-28, 2026

Tahquitz Rock, Idyllwild

Mission 2026-23

Written by: Richard Yocum

When RMRU received the call-out at 10:24 pm on 6/27/2026 for two climbers stuck in the dark on Tahquitz Rock, it was just one hour after the team had completed a 6-hour mission for a dehydrated, exhausted PCT hiker 3.6 miles and 1,430 feet higher elevation from Snow Creek. Team members were enjoying a late dinner in Palm Springs and most drove directly to Humber Park and began arriving at about 11:30 pm.

The climbers had requested help that reached Riverside Sheriff's Office (RSO) Dispatch, presumably via the SOS on their iPhone. RSO Rescue helicopter flew the area but determined the winds were too high for them to conduct a rescue. No one was able to contact the climbers to request additional information. Other than a set of GPS coordinates from RSO Dispatch, nothing was known about the climbers except that they got stuck in the darkness. There was no report of injury or medical problem.

The coordinates placed the climbers on the north face and likely more than half the way up, but in order to plan how to reach and extricate them RMRU sought additional information, such as the route they were on and how far up the route they were on.

They were not visible using RM



Tahquitz Rock from Humber Park in Daylight

RU's comm van spotlight on the rock. Using the RSO patrol unit loudspeaker, we requested that they flash a light if they could hear us. They responded with two flashes of light. Additional requests, such as how many pitches they were up, were met with only a confusing series of light flashes, but they must have heard the queries because a short time later we were informed by Dispatch that they were on the West Lark route. RMRU estimated that they were 200-400 feet from the top of their route.

With only 7 RMRU members at Humber Park, most of who were fatigued from the just-completed mission, not to mention their physical activities earlier in the day, RMRU conducted a careful review of the options for rescue. The upper sections of routes on the north face are notorious for dangerous loose rock and several climbers have died as a result.

The night was clear with low risk

of significant hypothermia. There was no report of injury or medical illness. The number of rescuers on scene was minimal to conduct a rescue system raise of both subjects. RMRU made the difficult decision that the risks outweighed the benefits for initiating a rescue during the night, and instead at 1:30 am on 6/28 requested mutual aid assistance from other SAR teams, with plans to assemble adequate resources at 5:00 am and begin the rescue at first light.



Climbers on Tahquitz Rock

With me running the Command Post at Humber Park, a team of 5 RMRU members deployed at 6 am to take the Climber's Trail to the Tahquitz Rock notch and then traverse to the top of West Lark, make voice contact with the climbers, and build anchors for a lowering/raising rope system. Team members would set rock pro at various locations on the lower to serve as directionals to keep the ropes as far away from loose rock as possible. The team made voice contact with them, confirming no injuries. A second team, consisting of 5 members of Sierra Madre, was deployed at 8:40 am, also carrying gear for another rope system. A third team, consisting of members of both San Diego County teams, was formed and also instructed to following the same route and bring



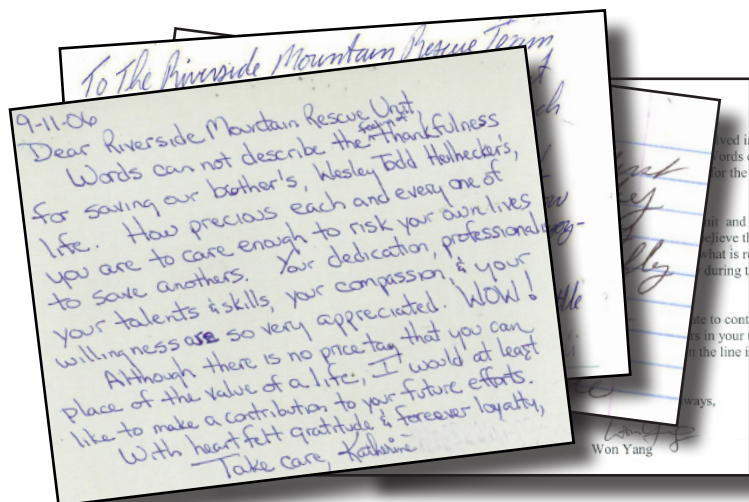
a full rope system.

Meanwhile, RMRU had earlier requested aerial support by RSO Aviation and/or drone team, but both determined that the winds, with forecast of gusts up to 50 mph, were too high. When Los Angeles Sheriff's Department (LASD) Air Rescue 5 Super Puma helicopter requested to assist, discussion ensued about the benefits versus risks of an extraction by ground teams versus a hoist, especially given the winds, high-angle terrain, and that RSO Aviation had previously declined.

The ground teams and both climbers were instructed to secure themselves against the powerful rotor wash from Air Rescue 5, which arrived on scene at 9:15 am. Battling the winds, Air 5 was able to hoist both subjects and transport them to the nearest landing zone, at Keenwild Fire Station, in Mountain Center. The SAR teams hiked back to Humber Park and the mission was wrapped up at about noon. It remains unknown exactly how the climbers were "stuck."

RMRU Members Involved: David Altenburg, Dave Bever, Jon Butler, Nathaniel Desforges, Matt Frenken, Eric Holden, Geoff Marshall, Will Pendleton, Stephanie Robertson, and Richard Yocum

Other Agencies Involved: Sierra Madre Search and Rescue, San Diego Mountain Rescue Team, San Diego Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue Unit, RSO Sheriff's Emergency Response Team (SERT), RSO Aviation, and LASD Air Rescue 5 helicopter



Testimonials

Our Reward
are the people we help



Dear Riverside Mountain Rescue Unit,

I am writing this letter with overwhelming gratitude and still a bit of disbelief that I am here to write it at all. You - the brave volunteers of RMRU - saved my life during that brutal snow storm on the mountain, and I will never be able to fully express how much that means to me.

What began as a hike turned into a nightmare as the storm hit hard and fast. The snow blinded everything, the cold seeped into my bones. As the sun went down, the night stretched on endlessly, I was terrified, hypothermic, and convinced I wouldn't survive until morning.

Then your team found me and me my friend. You pushed through the same ferocious conditions - long hours in the dark, fighting wind, snow, and exhaustion to reach me when I could no longer help myself. You kept me warm and safe, and then you literally carried me off the mountain to get me to safety. Every step you took with me was an act of pure heroism and selflessness.

Because of your skill, determination, training and compassion, I get to wake up each day, see my loved ones, and keep living the life you gave back to me. You didn't just perform a rescue - you gave me second chance, and I think about that every single day.

I know you are all volunteers who leave your homes, families, and jobs at a moment's notice, without any expectations of thanks or reward. Your dedication of helping strangers in the harshest conditions is truly inspiring. Thank you for everything: the long, cold night on the mountain to the physical effort to carry me out, the medical care, and most of all, for never giving up on me.

Words feel small compared to what you did, but from the deepest part of my heart - thank you. Thank you to every single team member who was out there that night, and to the entire RMRU family for the incredible work you do year after year.

Thank You for Saving my
mom on the snowy mountain
I'll never forget how brave and kind
you were that day. It means
the world to me!

I'm 12 BTW
Don't think
I'm 9

Thank You
for saving
my mom
or else she could
not be at my
birth day!

Mountain Rescue Association

mra.org



The Mountain Rescue Association, established in 1959 at Timberline Lodge at Mount Hood, Oregon is the oldest Search and Rescue Association in the United States. MRA is an organization of teams dedicated to saving lives through rescue and mountain safety education.

We do so by improving the quality, availability, and safety of mountain search and rescue.

With over 100 government authorized units, MRA has grown to become the critical mountain search and rescue resource in North America.

RMRU joined the MRA in 1961 and is a regular member.

RESCUE TEAM MEMBERS



David Altenburg - Winchester | **Trygve Anderson (MRA)** - Loma Linda
Caroline Baber - Palm Springs | **Chad Becker** - Indio
David Bever - Temecula | **Coby Brown** - Hemet
Jonathan Butler - Desert Hot Springs | **Kase Chong (MRA)** - Pasadena
Wayne Clark - Idyllwild | **Alexandra Cochran** - Hemet
Nathaniel Desforges - Riverside | **Matt Frenken** - Eastvale
Edgar Gelabert Jr - Idyllwild | **Michael George (MRA)** - Riverside
Donny Goetz (MRA) - Idyllwild | **Shana Gutovich** - Temecula
Andy Hayt (MRA) - Fallbrook | **Glenn Henderson (MRA)** - Hemet
Eric Holden (MRA) - Temecula | **Dave Kosmal** - Temecula
Jeffery Leisner - Orange | **Geoffrey Marshall** - Orange
Benjamin Mata - San Diego | **Shani McCullough (MRA)** - Temecula
Tobias Moyneur - Calimesa | **William Pendleton** - Loma Linda
Guillaume Plateau - Del Mar | **Blake Rankin** - Twenty Nine Palms
Vinay Rao - San Jacinto | **Stephanie Robertson** - Chino Hills
Solan Watts - Palm Desert | **Ray Weden (MRA)** - Murrieta
Richard Yocum (MRA) - Idyllwild

Support Members

Steve Bryant (MRA) | **Pete Carlson (MRA)** | **Joe Erickson** | **Gary Farris (MRA)**
Beth Jeffery | **Grant Nelson** | **Robert Newton (MRA)**
Tabatha Ann Nuner | **Brad Scott** | **Ty Wittersheim**

ABOUT RIVERSIDE MOUNTAIN RESCUE UNIT

FOUNDED 1961

MEMBER MOUNTAIN RESCUE ASSOCIATION 1963

GOVERNING BODY: RIVERSIDE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

MEMBERS: ORIGINAL: 6 | CURRENT MEMBERS: 43

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

MISSIONS: TOTAL OVER 2,000 | AVERAGE PER MONTH: 3.8

RMRU BOARD MEMBERS 2026 - 2027

Richard Yocum - President

Ray Weden - 1st Vice-President | Matt Frenken - 2nd Vice-President

David Bever - Secretary | Eric Holden - 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 Avenue
Hemet, California 92544**

Help save a life.

Join RMRU

rmru.org



**Courage
Commitment
Compassion**

