

RIVERSIDE MOUNTAIN RESCUE UNIT

Technical Rock Training

Oct 24, 2020
Joshua Tree, Indian Cove
2020-T10

Written by Eric Holden.

This month's training was Technical Rock out in Joshua Tree. We had missed our last technical training due to the COVID-19 surge happening at the same time as our planned training so many team members were looking forward to it. We had a huge turnout of 16 people. It would be a three-day training, typically Friday and Sunday are freeform, and Saturday is our main day for raises and lowers.

Friday - We meet out at Indian Cove and I put up a top rope on a 50-foot wall inside our campground. This top rope would serve as lots of fun at night as there were three routes ranging from 5.5 to 5.10ish on it. Many members showed up later in the afternoon and 4 of us went and climbed Moose Dog Tower via the Tranquility Route (5.6).



Eric Belaying Tyler 1st pitch Moose Dog Tower



Tyler leading 2cd pitch and Josh leading 1st pitch.

Saturday - We began our day learning about all the individual pieces of gear, from our raise and lower systems, to cams and nuts. We then split into smaller groups and practiced placing natural anchors. Before lunch we used the 50ft wall we had climbed at night to build a raise and lower system.



All the Gear it takes for Technical Raises and Lowers.



Setting the Anchors for Raises and Lowers.



Eric with Rigging on top for Raises and Lowers.



Shani with Kaitlyn in Litter.



Shani and Kaitlyn going up.

Due to the small ledge we were working on we built multiple anchors with only cams and nuts, no boulder wrapping here. Half the team worked up above on the ledge while the other half work on either litter attendant, litter tie-ins or more anchors. After lunch we swapped teams and continued through our rotations until darkness started to set.



Team Work on Top doing a Raise.



Josh with Litter being lowered.



Beth personal skills Ascending Rope.



Personal Skills Ascending.

Saturday Night - Due to multiple pokes and prods from the crew I was coaxed into leading Apparition as an aid climb. Unfortunately, all the training took it out of me and was only able to get about halfway up the pitch (also they had Carne Asada nachos down below). James and Josh would finish the climb well after the dark.



The Famous Nachos for everyone.



Nacho Time while Eric Aid climbs.



Night time Fun Climbing by lights.

Sunday - Most of the team had left in the morning and a few of us stayed to create a Tyrolean Traverse. I hope to next year take the team up the Lost Arrow Spire for our 60th and one of the ways back is utilizing the Tyrol. We learned a lot about how to create one and the forces generated on our anchors. All 4 crossed the Tyrolean Traverse and we went home for the day. Was a long, hot, fun weekend.



Eric on Tyrolean.



James going across Tyrolean.



Josh takes a turn on Tyrolean.

RMRU Members Involved: Kase Chong, Cameron Dickinson, Derek Donovan, Blake Douglas, James Eckhardt, Corey Ellison, Josh Gould, Glenn Henderson, Eric Holden, Tony Hughes, Beth Jeffery, Kaitlyn Purington, Shani Pynn, Vinay Rao, Tyler Shumway, and Raymond Weden.