



Missing 80 Year Old Male

January 17, 2003
Perris Area
2003-006

By Gwenda Yates

Well, so much for another good night's sleep as the pager goes off at 1:15 A.M. checking the number I see that it's Sheriff's dispatch. We have a search in the Perris area for a missing 80-year-old man. I wrote the information down and paged out the team. I arrived at the house where Nelson Friedt was last seen in front of the house at 6:00 P.M. The Riverside County Search Dog team is already there and had been searching since 10:00P,PM. Jim Fairchild directed me where to park our white van. Soon after I arrive Steve Bryant, Travis Henderson, Darrell Bell, Phil Thompson, Angie James, Rick Maschek, and Michael George arrive to help search. As we start getting topo maps printed and putting paper work together to decide on how to deploy teams, Phil notices a lot of people standing around. He asks them who wants to help and all raise their hands. Phil then got three radios from the van and sent them out to search roads and houses. Fifteen minutes later as our first teams are just leaving the area an excited call comes over the radio. It's Volunteer team 1 and she says "We've found him!!" As it turns out it's Mr. Friedt's great nephew and niece, Christina and Raymond Espinoza, that found him. Mr. Friedt was down at the end of a short paved road near his home, very cold and could not get up. We sent a sleeping bag down to help get him warmed up while an ambulance was called.

After the ambulance transported Mr. Friedt to the hospital for a check-up we packed up the van and went to Denny's in Perris for breakfast. I got home at 6:30 and slept until 7:30, got up and went to work.

RMRU is a volunteer search and rescue team that covers Riverside County and assists other teams with search and rescue efforts in other counties. Each member purchases their own equipment and takes time off work, without compensation, to participate in search and rescue missions. Team equipment is purchased from contributions from the community. We are a non-profit organization and are funded by [donations](#) from people like you.