

RMRU NEWSLETTER

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A VOLUNTEER NON-PROFIT CORPORATION

MEMBER OF THE MOUNTAIN RESCUE ASSOCIATION

Volume V, Issue 8, August 1969
Jim Fairchild, Editor

20 August	Regular meeting
23 & 24 Aug.	Training
3 Sept.	Board Meeting
11 Sept.	First Aid Course

COMING EVENTS ---

20 August, Regular meeting, 1930 at Highland Outfitters. Litter practice.

23 & 24 August, Training. The San Diego Mountain Rescue Team is sponsoring a workshop on 'Emergency Medical Care' and it will be held in the first floor lecture hall of the University of California at San Diego, School of Medicine, La Jolla, California. It will begin at 0830 on Saturday and end at 1730 on Sunday. Contact Al Andrews if you are planning to attend so that we may pool transportation. Everyone is urged to attend this workshop.

3 September, Board meeting, 1900 at Highland Outfitters.

11 September, First Aid Course, 1900-2200, at Red Cross Chapter House, 8880 Magnolia Ave., Riverside. This year we are "loaded for bear" to offer first aid training like it's never before been instructed. Those of you who need a refresher would enjoy and benefit from the whole Standard and Advanced, and, of course, it's a necessity for new members without the Advanced card.

RESCUE ACTIVITY ---



7 July, Tahquitz Canyon

Search and Rescue

At 0215 Monday the ringing of the phone ended RMRU's 11 day midsummer lull. A teenage girl, circa 18, was reported to have fallen in Tahquitz Canyon and was immobilized somewhere between the first and second falls.

The team started arriving at the bottom of the canyon by 0330 and was on its way by 0400. Daybreak found us down in the canyon between the falls interrogating various hippie colonies to no avail. After working our way up to the bottom of the second falls, word was received that the victim was only "a few hundred feet" above the top of the first falls. We then descended the canyon and at 0830 came upon the girl.

l to r: Walt Walker, Jim Fairchild and Mike Daugherty work at the strenuous and delicate task of evacuating the injured girl from the bottom of the canyon.

(Photo by RMRU member Bill Speck)

Editors note: The majority of the team were above the point in the picture hard at work operating the 6 to 1 mechanical advantage that was doing the job of raising the victim.

While Walt Walker, Jim Fairchild and Bill Speck rappelled down the side to her and administered First Aid, the rest of the team under the direction of Art Bridge readied a helispot and marked out an evacuation route. Since the victim had broken ribs and a badly lacerated and bruised leg it was apparent that would be a litter case. The litter, rope and other technical gear was flown in by Western Helicopters Inc. The first touchdown gave us all some very anxious moments as the tail rotor drifted dangerously close to rocks. As Art and I were struggling with getting the gear off the chopper, Mike Daugherty was having his hands full getting out of the bird and wound up in the uncomfortable position of straddling a runner.

Below, the members with the victim proceeded to tie the girl into the litter for a horizontal lift, and then carried her across waist deep Tahquitz Creek; while above the rest of the team rigged up a mechanical advantage. While Jim stayed below with the litter, the others climbed up to join the rest of the team, and the litter was hoisted up the face. Then, a short carry to the helispot, another chopper touchdown, and the victim was on her way down to Palm Springs Hospital. The team was then flown out, but not until Art Bridge got to coil 300 feet of rope impregnated with cactus thorns - ouch! Jim Dodson

20 July - Call out for search.

Late in the afternoon on a humid Sunday RMRU received a call that a 12 year old boy was missing in the Thomas Mountain area. While we were rolling the boy was found.

25 July - Black Mountain area, Search

On Friday afternoon at 1530 we received a call that a 7 year old and an 8 year old, brothers, were missing from the new Boulder Basin campground at the foot of Black Mountain. Most of the team arrived at the campground well before dark. The parents were interrogated, and since I had taken a spill on my bicycle two days earlier, Don Ricker selected a scent article from clothing worn by one of the boys. The dog was fired from where the boys were last seen playing. Sugar, one of RMRU's Bloodhounds, was not doing as good as she had done twice in June. After many starts and many stops, it was decided that the dog was not going to do the job and she was returned to base. Three teams worked down canyon and started picking up tracks. As they tracked they called the boys names. At 2130 a voice or voices answered from a ridge to the west.

The parents were at base and looked relieved as word was radioed of the latest development. But the joy was somewhat lessened when Art Bridge, the first man on the scene radioed back that he only had the 8 year old. He had lost his shoes and team members put extra socks on the lad and wrapped them with elastic bandages. He was then brought back to base and reunited with his parents. The situation did not look good at all as there was a very dangerous canyon just a few hundred feet away from the spot where the 8 year old was found. On through the night the teams covered the area, first negotiating technical terrain and then fighting dense brush as they descended. The teams were either picked up below by jeep or climbed back up the steep slope to base.

After a quick breakfast at first light, the teams once again started down the mountain in search of the 7 year old. When no new tracks were found it was decided that a helicopter was needed. Lt. Margrave, of the Riverside County Sheriff's Department, was in charge of the search. He ordered a chopper from Western Helicopters Inc. Base camp was moved down to the Twin Pines Boys Ranch. When the chopper arrived, piloted by E. G. Brown, I explained the sit-

uation and we took to the air. We flew for over two hours and neither, Brown, draws or I, spotted anything other than wildlife or team members during that time. Lt. Margrave, Al and I had a conference and decided we needed more manpower. So, I then called the California Region teams for assistance. As the team members arrived at ranch they were fed at the ranch and had their first regular meal in 18 hours. It was decided to start again at the top. Jim Fairchild and I took to the air again in the chopper. While we were searching we spotted a boy on the Black Mt. dirt road waving his shirt. We radioed to Don Ricker, in RMRU's truck, to drive to the spot. We continued to circle and discovered a bus just down the road. When Don arrived he found out that the bus had broken down and the boy was one of the passengers. A forest ranger drove up and related to Don that the missing boy had wandered into the YMCA camp. He radioed us and we flew to the camp and picked up the missing boy and flew him out to the highway where he was quickly returned to his parents and grandparents. - Walt



The Road Runner sez-

Try this question on for size, "What do we owe the subjects of SAR missions?" Some private citizens we've talked with have expressed disgust, "If they're dumb enough to get hurt or lost, let 'em get themselves out of it." No kidding, this is not an uncommon opinion. Some others say, "You fellows on the rescue team are to be highly commended for your willingness to give time and risk your necks..." And, naturally, there are many variations in between. At this point we might commence a dissertation on why we are SAR men, but that will wait a month or so. OK, what do we SAR people "owe" the subjects of our efforts? The BEST, our BEST. For example: our best physical effort; our best training level so we'll do the right things when needed; our best in equipment so we can care for those we find; our best in thinking, planning, and praying on behalf of those we've yet to find. This means we often struggle through the thickest part of the stream-bed growth; climb over another ridge of loose rock; offer food and water to the famished subject; use up several dollars worth of first aid supplies every time we find an injured victim; give them the shirt off our backs to keep warm; hold their hand when they become scared or full of pain; give them words of comfort and encouragement without a hint of blame or criticism -- maybe this helps most of all. These acts cover part of what we automatically do in the course of SAR missions. It even seems silly to mention all this, but here's why: we've had a lot of missions lately, and it's possible to become hardened or indifferent to the needs of those whom we seek to help -- the next ones will be in just as great a need of our concern and skills as the last ones -- we'll be just as happy and satisfied to return the next ones to safety as the last ones. End of sermon. By the way, the old roadrunner will be on vacation until 1 September. Happy Searching!

SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIP

Once again we feel it is time to review the progress of the sustaining membership. The membership consists of those people who are most interested in our cause, but for one or more reasons cannot participate in the actual search and rescue missions. Therefore, they provide the financial assistance which is so important to the existence of RMRU.

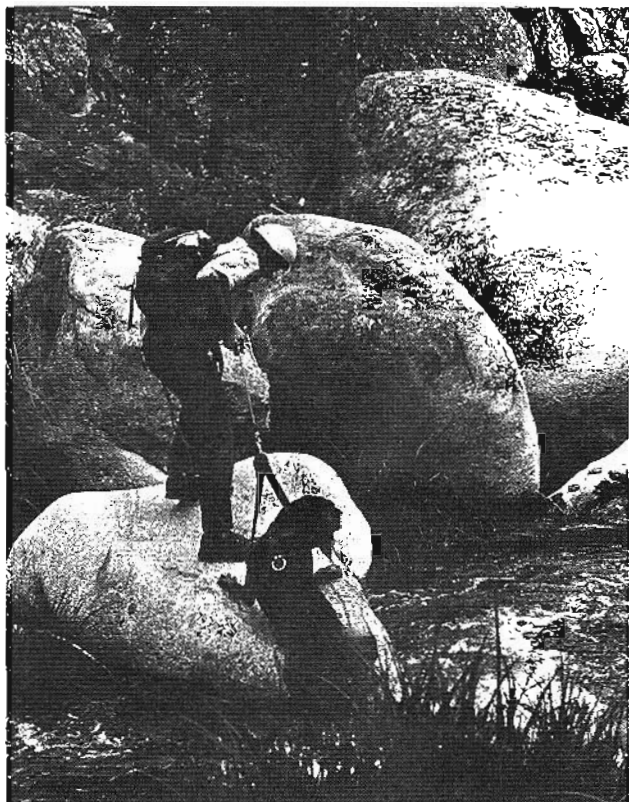
We feel that our financial supporters should know where their donations are being spent. In the past one and one-half years 118 individuals and organizations have made it possible for RMRU to purchase three 5-watt handtalkies (\$879 each) and one 110-watt base radio (\$775). The RMRU wives provided a

substantial amount for the base radio through proceeds of a rummage sale they gave last April. We have also been able to build our first-aid supplies to a more desirable level, although we are still in need of 4 additional air-splints at a cost of \$19 each. Just this month we purchased a 600 foot roll of 7/16" Goldline rope which cost \$80, again made possible by the sustaining members.

We now have a new and bigger problem to solve, and we would welcome any suggestions. In January of this year Mr. & Mrs. Roland Wilhelmy of San Diego donated to RMRU a 1963 Jeep pickup (4-wheel Gladiator series) which is in very good condition. We formed a committee to develop the Jeep into a rescue vehicle to serve the purpose of transporting team equipment to the operation area and also to protect the equipment from theft and bad weather. After much consideration, it was felt the true solution to the problem was to acquire a van-type vehicle. This would give a protected area for both equipment and personnel at base camp. It was, therefore, decided to sell the Jeep and apply the proceeds toward a van. If you know anyone who might be interested in the Jeep, have them contact us.

Our present rescue truck, a 1955 Chevrolet panel--donated by Helm's Bakery, is on its last legs. We have been promised a new van at dealer's cost and feel this offer should be accepted as soon as possible. Our major problem is the need of approximately \$2000 over and above the sale of our Jeep. We are wondering if someone might consider loaning this amount to RMRU on an interest free basis.

Not to be forgotten are the people whose names have been added to the sustaining membership this month: Mr. Eddie G. Willeford, Miss Lorenne E. Sisson, Mr. & Mrs. Spencer E. Bisby, Keldon Paper Company, Mr. & Mrs. Carl P. Miller, Jr., The Bargain Fair, Peter VanEtten, M.D., and Mr. and Mrs. Roy Bryant. We also want to thank the following people for their continuing support: Highland Outfitters, Inc., Mr. & Mrs. Earl N. Cannon, and Mr. & Mrs. R. A. Dewees. Our sincere apologies to Mr. & Mrs. B. E. Harris for failure to note their donation in the May Newsletter. - Al



You may have wondered where your copy of the RMRU Newsletter was this month. As you can see it was only late and once again our publishing process was interrupted by not one but two missions in one night. We will report on them in the September newsletter. August is always tough on the members who stay in town. It seems that August is very popular for vacations, including RMRU members. This puts somewhat of a strain on those of us who are at home or work.

We have now participated in 23 missions this year and we are only a few hours short of 2500 volunteer hours on just search and rescue. It would appear that 1969 will probably be our busiest. - Pres. Walt

(Photo at right) Last month Walt Walker was running his Bloodhound, Sugar, on a search. She went into the water while tracking and needed to be pulled out.