

RMRU NEWSLETTER

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A VOLUNTEER NON-PROFIT CORPORATION
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MEMBER OF THE MOUNTAIN RESCUE ASSOCIATION

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Coming Events ---

- 12 July, Technical Training, Mt. Rubidoux, 1900, litter raising and lowering.
- 14 July, Board Meeting at Pete Carlson's, 1900.
- 19 July, Technical Training, Mt. Rubidoux, 1900, set up Tyrolean Traverse.
- 28 July, Regular Meeting, County Hall of Records, 1930.
- 31 July, Technical Training on Tahquitz and Potluck at Mellor's Sky Yacht.
Kay Daugherty is heading up a group of RMRU wives to organize the food and activities of the potluck. She will be contacting you, already has some.
- 11 August, Board Meeting.
- 25 August, Regular Meeting.
- 27-29 August, Familiarization Training in high country of Mt. San Jacinto.
- 9, 16, 23, 25 September, First Aid Review course, 25th is training session.



The Road

Runner sez-

It is said that there is nothing more constant than change. We expect and accept many changes for they come in a continuous flow. When Walt Walker's letter of resignation from RMRU's Board of Directors arrived we felt the "bombshell" effect of sudden and unexpected change. A decade of memories came flashing by: working together for RMRU, sharing challenge, hardship, tragedy and success in SAR, close teamwork and friendship in all our common endeavors. It was a great relief to determine that Walt will continue as an active member. the press and urgency of family and occupation needs reached a point where the action was necessary. The dedication and leadership given by Walt has been top drawer. We will carry on with the intensive efforts needed to help RMRU grow as a more effective unit. Since the change we've had a regular meeting,

a short board meeting, and a long training session. It is obvious that our retrenching will go well. We don't even want to replace Walt, we just want to fill in and do our best. We'll retire the President's Box and continue with "The Roadrunner Sez," which is written by the new president....Jim Fairchild

Sustaining Members

As a matter of interest we thought we would review the growth of the sustaining membership thus far this year. To date 36 people have renewed their memberships and we have added 14 new members to our list of financial supporters.

This month we want to welcome:

Mr. Robert H. O'Bier
Marshall Industries

as new members and again thank:

Mr. & Mrs. Charles W. Ricker
Mr. & Mrs. R. G. Shipley

for renewing their memberships.

- Al Andrews



Search and Rescue

29 MAY - EVACUATION - #7113
Tahquitz Canyon

At 1250 on Saturday, May 29, 1971, the now-familiar call came again: "There's someone injured in Tahquitz Canyon - Can you roll?" This time it was a 29 year old named Al Quick, and he was reported to be just below the third falls. Information described the injury as a fracture or dislocation of the left shoulder.

After suffering through the frustration of Saturday afternoon Palm Springs traffic, we arrived at road head anxious to move out, and Mike set a pace up the canyon which soon removed the cobwebs from our boots. Fortunately the temperature was cool - somewhere in the mid 90's, so I only sweat about a gallon of liquid in the 50 minutes that it took us to get to the victim.

Al was in considerable pain, and his left shoulder was dislocated as reported. Happiness for Al was hearing us introduce, new team member, Dr. Joe Bell to him.

Dr. Bell gave a beautiful demonstration on how to relocate a shoulder while perched on a sloping, water-polished boulder above a stream. He solicited some of Mike's muscle power in the operation while sever-



PHOTO BY PETE CARLSON

Mike Daugherty, Walt Walker and Dr. Joe Bell work on the victim.

al of us held onto Al, Mike and Dr. Bell to keep them all from slipping into the stream.

The majority of Al's pain subsided when the shoulder was back in place, and he was a very relieved and grateful person. We secured his arm to his chest, tied two belay ropes to him, and then proceeded to walk him slowly down the canyon.

A thoughtful resident supplied us with some greatly appreciated ice water at road head, then after Al was taken to the hospital, we enjoyed a pizza dinner in Palm Springs.

The mission was completely successful, very instructive, and we were all home before dark. Why can't all missions be like that?

- Dick Webster

3 JUNE - PLANE CRASH - #7114
Grape Canyon

At 1415 Al Andrews called and said the CAP had spotted a plane wreck in the Banning area. Arrival at the airport found Walt Walker out in the helicopter looking at the wreck trying to see if we could land near it. I put on my boots, got out my helmet, and got my pack ready. Walt returned and said we could probably land, or if not, jump and clear a helispot.

We loaded the bird with our packs and brush hooks. Walt and I left in the bird while Jim and John Murdock went around with the truck to set up a base nearer the wreck. It was a long ride in to the wreck and as we flew by the plane wreck, my first, it looked like a toy among the trees.



PHOTO BY PETE CARLSON

The crumpled plane is examined by Bernie McIlvoy.

Our pilot, Roy Cox of Western Helicopters, brought the bird over a small clear spot on the ridge above the wreck and slowly started to come down. Walt watched the tail to make sure it would not hit any brush. I was nervously watching everything when the main rotors started to cut brush on the pilots side. Roy just slowly lifted up the bird with a big smile on his

face, calm as could be. This is more than I could say for myself. Roy then held the bird in a hover about six feet above the ground while Walt and I jumped down. We quickly reached up and got our packs and the brush hooks off the hovering bird. We got clear and gave Roy the all clear and he flew back for more men.

Walt and I quickly went to work cutting the brush back so Roy could land next time. This was some work in 80 degree plus heat and we quickly finished a quart of lemonade. The bird returned and Walt used our Helitac signals, worked out in practice with Western, to bring Roy in for a perfect landing. The first three men started down to the wreck while I stayed to bring in the bird again. Next in were Bernie McIlvoy and John, who I sent down to join the others.

While this was happening Jim made an interesting discovery, no bodies at the wreck. Then it became clear, Bear tracks all over. The wreck was two months old, our work was made easier by the Bears.

The helicopter came back with a FAA investigator and the coroner. The FAA man only got out and the bird went back to base. This was good as the slope the plane was on, was steep and had loose rock. We were coming down to the plane over the steep upper part when suddenly the ground started to move. I yelled rock and grabbed a tree as a huge rock three feet across broke loose. It went crashing down and those below watched as it flew 20 feet in the air as it passed them. We were all extra careful the rest of the day.

At the wreck we found wallets, some clothes, and a few bones. Going down, down the hill we found more bones and clothes. The FAA man did his work and we all flew out, Walt and Jim just as the sun was setting in the West and darkness coming.

We turned over all the identification to the coroner and said our thanks to Roy for a job of flying well done. At dinner in Beaumont the waitress came over and asked the question we all hate, "I have a call for a Walt Walker." As Walt went to the phone we all wondered what we would be doing after dinner.

Luck was with us, it was the coroner. He wanted RMRU to go back and look for more things to identify the people in the plane.

So on Friday morning Hank Schmel and I went to the Coroner's office in Riverside and talked to him. We decided that Saturday morning would be the best time for RMRU people since this was not a life or death mission. That way more people could show up being a weekend.

5 JUNE - SATURDAY

On Saturday morning at 6 a.m. we met with Roy and his bird at our base. We flew in and did a search of the area by the crash site. The plane had been taken out on Friday by the insurance company with the help of Western Helicopters. Bud White made the first big find, a diamond ring. Later on Jim found a watch, Walt the fourth wallet and Roy, who had landed in the canyon bottom, a leg bone.



PHOTO BY HANK SCHMEL

The supercharged Bell looked somewhat out of place parked in the rocky canyon bottom.

After four hours of searching we had several bags of things and decided on eating lunch. In the canyon bottom everyone brought out good things for lunch, including a new stove of Jim's used to make soup. The pilot, Roy, was amazed at all the food and had more offered to him than he could eat. After lunch we made another search before leaving. As we came back to our lunch area, about 20 yards away we found a full skull. Taking this, we left, now sure we had enough for positive identification of the victims.



PHOTO BY HANK SCHMEL

At lunch the 'war stories' of old were told again.

We flew back to base in 15 minute flights. We thanked Roy again for his great flying and he said he hoped he could help us again some time soon. As he flew off, up drove the sheriff, the CAP had found another wreck. We had no way of reaching Roy except by calling his airport and having them reach him. We did this and drove to the Banning Airport. After talking to the CAP, Walt thought this was an old wreck. The CHP's helicopter was available, so Roy was not needed. Walt flew in to look and sure enough, an old wreck. So off to dinner for RMRU and wondering when the next one would come.

- Pete Carlson

9 JUNE - PLANE CRASH - #7115
San Timoteo Canyon

Write-up next month.

20 JUNE - RESCUE - #7116
Tahquitz Rock

The call came at 2315 saying that two boys were stuck on Tahquitz Rock. For some of us, the call meant missing the conclusion of the movie, "Seven Days in May", that was on channel seven that night. For me, it meant get my gear and start the long drive to Idyllwild.

After being stopped by the same train in Yorba Linda and in Riverside (they are about thirty miles apart), I reached Humber Park to find Mike Daugherty, Phil Moedt, Charlie Nelson, Dave Crimi, and Dick Webster busily stuffing climbing gear into their packs. They told me that two boys, Steve and Gil, were stuck on the White Maiden, a popular climb for beginners. Shortly afterwards, we were joined by Walt Walker, Jim Fairchild and Don Ricker who had taken the rescue van to the upper parking lot to try our spotlight and one brought up by Nick Dobler of the Idyllwild Fire Department. We decided to hike up to Lunch Rock to see if we could figure out exactly where the climbers were at. Lunch Rock is right at the base of Tahquitz Rock. At this time, we thought that the climbers were low on the rock.

Once we reached Lunch Rock, we sent three men around to the start of the Maiden to make voice contact with the climbers. We discovered that the boys were at the bottom of the last pitch on the Maiden, and that they were cold and thirsty. We breathed a sigh of relief when we heard that they were uninjured. We asked them if they wanted to be rescued, and the answer was a prompt yes. Since they were so high on the rock, we decided to hike around to the top of the rock and rappel down to them instead of climbing up the Maiden to them in the dark.

Meanwhile Steve Bryant and two young climbers joined us at Lunch Rock, and we all hiked around to the top of the rock. We quickly rigged a rappel rope and a belay rope, and Dick Webster went over the side with Mike Daugherty helping him. Dick rappelled about sixty feet before he found the two young climbers. Steve and Gil were mainly thirsty. The two climbed the last pitch with an occasional assist, all the time being belayed from above. They made the top just as dawn broke. Dick soon followed, jumaring up his rappel rope.

After a hasty breakfast of call-out food and watching a Falcon ride a thermal high into the sky above us, we all trooped back to Humber Park and a real breakfast of steak and eggs at the Alpine Pantry.

After the grim rescues of this spring, it was great to rescue someone who was just cold and thirsty.

- Ed Hill



Walt Walker resigns as Chairman of the Board of Directors. He is a Scoutmaster, son Kevin in the troop. The Walkers plan to build a house on the property where they now live in a mobile home. Walt continues as Newsletter Publisher. Al Andrews is now working full time at Panoptic, an electronic manufacturing corporation Al helped found. He becomes an Associate Member, remaining as a Call Captain and heading up the Sustaining Membership effort. His wife Natalie does a lot on the calling and letter writing. Mike Daugherty becomes Vice-President of RMRU and continues as Membership Chairman. Jim Fairchild becomes President of RMRU, giving up chairmanship of Training & Rescue Committees. Wife JoAnne calls, "Cut more apricots for canning..."

The Dick Websters are with us only a month longer before moving to teaching posts in Arizona. We will lose another fine SAR man and technical climber. Hank Schmel becomes Newsletter Editor beginning with the August issue. He and Tom Dadsen, Public Relations Chairman, are working on new slide shows for the unit. Jack Schnurr goes to Circle B Scout Ranch of the Kennedy Meadows area in the southern end of the Sierra Nevada, for most of the summer. Ed Hill becomes Rescue Chairman, he'll keep us on our toes as to methods and techniques. Dr. Joe Bell went to the Mountain Medicine Seminar on Mt. Hood this last week. All members are happy that the late spring was not as hectic mission-wise as the last two years, but wonder when the "busy season" will be?

TRAINING

25-27 JUNE - TAHQUITZ TRAINING

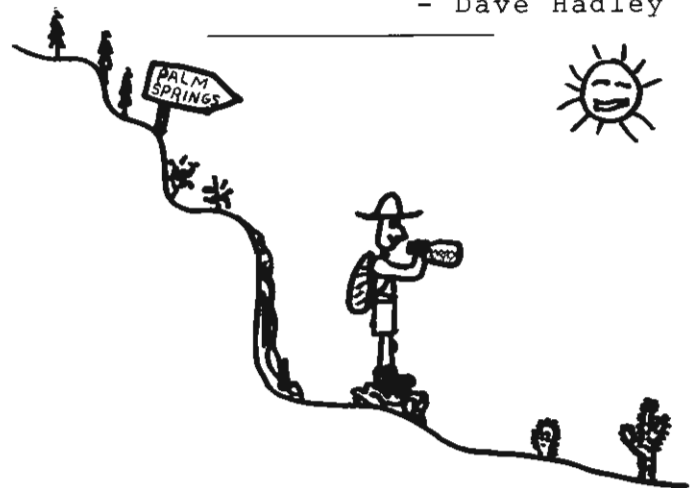
After a presentation on safety and camping Friday evening at the Riverside Girl Scout Camp, we met the rest of the team at Humber Park and had a pleasurable, if not informative hike into Laws Camp. We hiked along with a ranger who explained to us the new camping restrictions soon to be imposed on the wilderness. At Laws Camp we sat around Bud White's primus lantern - it was much too warm to sit around a fire, and ate popcorn. After a radio check at midnight we turned in.

After a quick breakfast we bid farewell to those unable to continue and headed for Caramba. As we passed through Caramba and down the Tahquitz drainage we found a sign: "Danger - Impassable Waterfall". I couldn't help but wonder what the canyon would be like. The morning was uneventful - we quickly dropped out of the pines and into the oaks and scattered maples. By early afternoon the temperature had hit about 100 degrees. Conveniently we found a large, cool pond with

a small waterfall. Ah - the temptation was too great. We dropped our packs and clothes and dove in. That nite we camped just below a pool about 50 feet long, 20 feet wide and 20 feet deep. After setting up camp we again indulged in a little skinny-dipping. After dinner some members broke out emergency fishing gear and soon had five trout. The night was so warm that we spent the better part of it on top of our sleeping bags.

Sunday found us looking down a series of ponds and small cascades. We set up a rope pulley system to portage our packs over the ponds and we slid down the water slides and swam the pools. The exquisite beauty of the canyon was slowly getting to us. Several members even suggested that perhaps the kids living in the bottom of the canyon had the right idea. After swimming a couple of more ponds we came to the top of the fourth falls. We had three men rappel down the falls to see if we could continue in the bottom of the canyon. They radioed back that the next falls was about 100 feet high, ended in a very deep pond and would require several hours to go down. Time lacking, we filled our canteens and climbed the ridge and bypassed what turned out to be a series of three falls. From there four men dropped back into the canyon and continued out. The rest of the team traveled down the ridge and met at the cars. Since so many of our missions are in Tahquitz Canyon this familiarization hike may prove invaluable.

- Dave Hadley



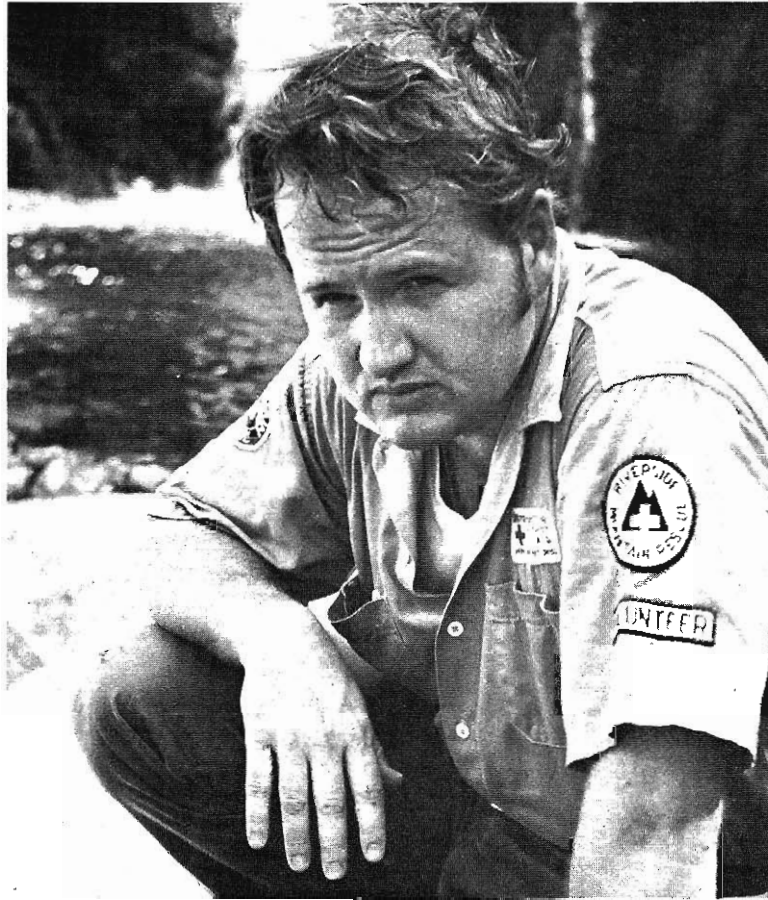


PHOTO BY PETE CARLSON

It was only after much thought and with a deep sense of loss that I sent in my letter of resignation from the Board of Directors of RMRU. It has been a great five plus years of my life being allowed and entrusted to be the Chairman of what I consider to be the 'elite' of MRA units. I can never totally give up my membership in RMRU. It is too much a part of my life. There are not words to express my intense pride in watching the men of RMRU work in the field, be it 300 feet above ground level, hanging within a network of rope, or crawling 3 feet above ground, scrambling through dense brush following small footprints. And being a part of this group is what and where I want to be. Watching the smooth transition the chain of leadership has taken is good, we will continue to function professionally in all we undertake. Only capable men are within our ranks, to keep our unit the finest one available, to fill an ever increasing need. And I want to be there, either 300 feet above or 3 feet above. Many, many thanks to the men who have made these five plus years ones filled with great accomplishment, camaraderie and fulfillment....Walt