

RMRU NEWSLETTER

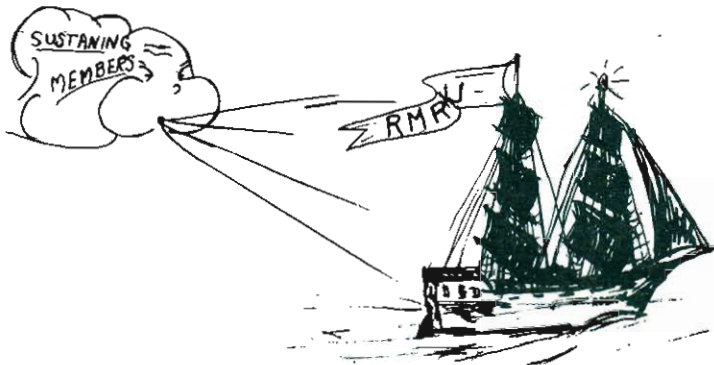
PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE RIVERSIDE MOUNTAIN RESCUE UNIT, INC.
A VOLUNTEER NON-PROFIT CORPORATION
P. O. BOX 5444, RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA 92507
MEMBER OF THE MOUNTAIN RESCUE ASSOCIATION

Issue 11, November 1973

Sustaining Members

by Mike Daugherty

This month I am happy to be able to report that we seem to have made good our escape from the financial doldrums, in which we had lain becalmed throughout the late summer. This development has been greeted by the crew with obvious relief – not the least of it experienced by the sustaining membership chairman, who had begun to fear that he had acceded to his high office with the inverse Midas touch.



Lest this good news lead to an outbreak of euphoria among the sustaining membership, I hasten to add that we are hardly under full canvas as yet. In fact, we are only now once again confident of coming up with our monthly operating expenses, which, all things considered, come to about \$500. That is we have not bought any equipment in some time and we are nowhere close to being able to continue extending our radio pager system to the entire unit. Thus, we are hopeful that the trend so recently reversed will not return. (In case you don't recognize it through the clever working, this is an oblique plea for donations).

Those who have come to our aid so that we may come to the aid of others are listed below. There are a goodly number of new sustaining members who are very welcome to the ranks, as well as recognition of help from some old and reliable friends.

New Members:

Mr. and Mrs. Rodney A. Anderson
Altina Carey

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Mr. Brian Cleary
Mrs. Francis V. Viele
The Pants Pocket
Elise Ericksen Lamp
Helen L. Williams
Mrs. Marian I. Eastham
Mr. and Mrs. H. R. Peebles
Mr. Vernon L. Rhodes
Mrs. Edith Hopper
G. O. Sweet

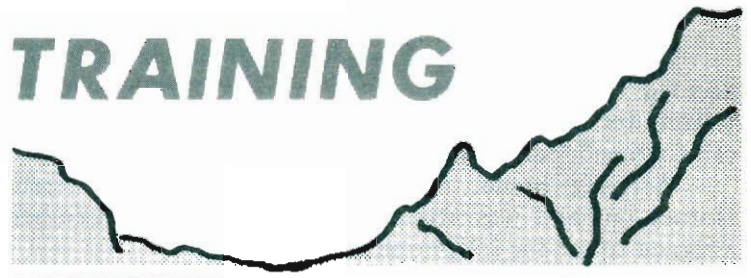
*The American Association of Retired Persons
(Chapter 237, Riverside)

Renewing Members:

Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Gardner
Mr. Donald A. Jeffrey
*Dr. Norman Mellor
Mr. Charles W. Ricker
Dr. Noel E. Kirkby
Mr. John W. Murdock

**Century Club Member – donation of \$100 or more.*

TRAINING



27 & 28 OCT., SAT. & SUN. – TECHNICAL

By Rich Quackenbush

Training took place October 27th and 28th at Jumbo Rocks in Joshua Tree National Monument. The turn out was good with some members arriving Friday afternoon and others Saturday morning just in time to start training.

While we were getting our equipment together Jim Fairchild came into the campground with the (Mock) information that someone had fallen in the rocks nearby.

Dan MacIntosh was designated operations leader and we were soon on our way to the "Victim".

The victim (one of the girl friends) was at the foot of a 100' rock face. The problem being to get to her,

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administer first aid, put her into a litter, raise the litter up the face horizontally and lower her down the other side. This enabled us to practice rappelling down the face, perform first aid, rig the litter, secure the victim into the litter, use mechanical ascenders to climb back up the face, rig the ropes and pulleys necessary to raise and lower the litter, practice radio communications, etc.

All of which very closely approximated the problems encountered on a rescue mission. In the afternoon and on Sunday morning we practiced the same skills without using the framework of a mock mission, taking turns performing the skills on which we were individually weak.

Sunday afternoon most of us drove to Hidden Valley for some rock climbing. It was all in all a profitable weekend for the team.

Search and Rescue

13 OCT., SAT. — RESCUE — No. 7351M
Canyon South of Cabazon
By Walt Walker

With the late warm weather my son, Kevin, and I had decided to try an afternoon of soaring. While we were waiting for a sailplane the familiar, "Walt, there's a rescue call for you", ended the idea of soaring.

Arriving home, my wife Sondra, had my rescue clothes out and was attempting to contact the members assigned to me for telephoning, with no luck.

When Kevin and I arrived at the roadhead, much to my surprise, there were no other RMRU members there. Surmising that few people had been contacted, Kevin and I started hiking towards the mouth of the canyon. We met Sgt. Thomas from the Banning station of the Riverside County Sheriff's Department who filled us in on the situation. About noon a fourteen year old boy had fallen and injured an ankle. A friend had hiked out and contacted the Sheriff's Department. It was now 4:30 and the canyon was deep in shadow.

Continuing our hike, Kevin and I surmounted some easy boulders and climbed around two steep, dry waterfalls. We climbed one more finger of granite and were with the injured young man. One look at his badly swollen ankle indicated either a fracture or a sever sprain. A closer examination of the ankle revealed, pain when touched and very cold. He was beginning to shake and show the general symptoms of shock. After dressing a

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elbow wound, I put my parka on him and wrapped the injured ankle in my wool sweater. About this time a call from below brought word that Bernie McIlvoy and Mike Orr were on the way up.

When Bernie and Mike arrived we discussed the problem at hand. We decided on a vertical lower, and while we waited for more manpower and equipment, Bernie and Mike would start setting up anchors. The small radio in my pack came to life, Rich Morris was driving the big orange van and asking what we needed. Using the small radio, I related the problem and what was needed: a steel stokes litter; two 150' climbing ropes; the rescue sleeping bag; the litter package; full leg air splint. Rich said he would start in with the equipment using two men who were at basecamp (non-RMRU members).

When Rich was part way in, the radio sounded again and Dan MacIntosh related he was at the van with a climbing friend of his. Quickly telling him about the situation, via the radio, I told him to come on in as quickly as possible. In a short time we relayed the air splint and the rescue sleeping bag up to the victim.



Fortunately about two years ago RMRU had descended Cabazon Canyon on a training mission and the jumbled mass of boulders were not entirely forgotten. One of the biggest hazards in all canyons is the slippery rock caused by the water polishing when water is flowing after winter rains. Because of this factor everyone was extra careful. Pictured from left to right: Rich Morris, Walt Walker, Dan MacIntosh and Kevin Walker. The injured boy was hidden from the camera by the members.

We applied the air splint, and inflated it, and put the boy into the sleeping bag. The stokes litter was quick to follow and we placed the injured young man into it and secured him with nylon webbing. By the time we had the rope tied to the litter, Dan was ready with the brake bar system and Bernie tied in and was ready to be lowered with the litter.

With the first lower completed we carried the litter over to the next anchor. Quickly a second lower was

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completed. Just as we were about to start another carry, RMRU member Dr. Ray Castilonia arrived and was unceremoniously put to work carrying the litter. We passed the litter over and down many ledges and boulders trying to stay out of the occasional clumps of Poison Oak.

Kevin had hiked out ahead of us carrying Dan's rescue pack and a climbing rope. When we arrived at the sandy wash he had my Jeep Wagoneer there and we put the litter, with the injured boy in it, into the back. We drove to the roadhead where we were met by the young man's mother and friends. We transferred him to her car, advising her that he be taken to a hospital. After the usual sorting and haggling over gear we drove to a restaurant for dinner and a critique of the mission.

22-23 OCT., MON.-TUE. — SEARCH — No. 7152M
San Jacinto Mountains
By Richard Morris

The pagers went off just after dinner and a quick call to Al Andrews revealed that a hiker was overdue in the high country of the San Jacinto Mountains.

Upon arriving at Humber Park we learned that Larry Stutts and his companion had become separated while hiking out from the vicinity of Mt. San Jacinto. The companion waited for his friend; but when he did not show, the Riverside County Sheriff was called.

As we gleaned the facts from the informant team members who had been on a long, hard climb in the High Sierra during the three previous days arrived. As soon as they had returned home from their long trip they received the message and began to roll.

The search plan was similar to most in this area. Get a team to Caramba (6600'), and send other teams criss-crossing the watershed looking for tracks or other signs of the victim. We packed up and moved out to the saddle (8100'), where Pete Carlson and Bernie McIlvoy served as radio relay. Rich Quackenbush, Pete Frick, and Gary Anderson set out for distant Caramba via Tahquitz Valley and Reed's Meadow while Ed Hill and myself searched Skunk Cabbage Meadow and the trail to Willow Creek Crossing. Late into the night we stopped at the crossing and caught a few winks while being serenaded by Sierra Madre's "rescue room" radio. (Ed note: Certain ambulance services and Sierra Madre SAR unit have powerful transmitters.)

The next morning we awoke to crisp, cold air and a rather spectacular sunrise. We started to cook breakfast but were interrupted by Dan MacIntosh who was in Don Landell's chopper. They had spotted an orange shelter below us and they wanted us to check it out. After several bad starts we found the shelter but it was empty. At this point Ed and I began to ascend the drainage towards Reed's Meadow with the idea of rechecking some of the area that Rich Quackenbush's crew had covered the night before. As we ascended the trail Ed suggested that we stay in the creek bed rather than on the trail high upon

the ridge. We continued to climb, calling our victim's name. However, suddenly we heard a response. At first we couldn't tell from which direction the call was coming from because of the high wind. After a few more calls we spotted the victim walking uphill towards us. Larry was in fairly good shape, just cold, hundry, and of course tired from his ordeal. We walked him into Reed's Meadow where Don evacuated him via helicopter.

After talking to the victim we surmised that he had headed down the drainage, but instead of ending up at the top of Tahquitz Canyon as many past victims, he wandered over to San Andreas Canyon. Fortunately at this point he realized that he couldn't get off the mountain in this direction and started back up the watershed. Somewhere along the way he dumped his pack and spent a cold night sleeping on a rock. As mentioned, Larry was headed uphill when found; a very unusual action for a lost hiker.

The experience of finding Larry emphasized to me two very important rules of a search: 1) Look everywhere for the victim and 2) keep hollering his name as often and as loud as possible. Indeed, if this is done the victim will often find you.

Besides those already mentioned, Jim Fairchild and Ray Castilonia participated in the search. Thanks are also due to Sierra Madre and San Diego Mountain Rescue teams who were rolling to assist us before the victim was located.
