

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 ---

- 8 November, Board Meeting – Cancelled
- 14 November, Regular Meeting
- 16–18 November, Training, Mock Missions
- 29 November, Board Meeting
- 5 December, Regular Meeting
- 8 December, Training, Helitac

Note on 1974 Schedule. Our Training Session will occur during the last full weekend of the first four months, the third weekend of May, then back to the last full weekend of June through October, then the third weekend of November, the first Saturday of December. This is the same timing we've had for years. We will print a 1974 Activities Schedule with meeting dates, etc.

Search and Rescue

2 SEP., SUN. – RESCUE – No. 7345M
Ortega Highway, Above Elsinore
By Jack Schnurr

It was a call that is getting to be typical in Elsinore. Without giving the locale, I could describe the circumstance to any RMRU man and he would be able to stereotype, "Elsinore Mission."

Highly **PROBABLE**, use of intoxicants involved in vehicle operation resulting in an accident with the victim either physically or mentally incapable of recovering back to the roadway. This particular incident left an individual 350 feet down the side of the hill among some heavy

brush, where he wandered after the vehicle roved some 20 feet off of the roadway. A brief, but complete, examination revealed mental insufficiency coupled with a very slight abrasion on the left knee. A 300 foot rope was rigged through a pulley and the man lifted to the roadway via a stokes litter and approximately 13 quarts of sweat courtesy of 4 litter bearers and 6 rope pullers. The victim, John Chaffin, 18 yrs. of age, from Elsinore was received by his father at the roadway and transported by private auto to the hospital for a check-up.

Besides an extremely severe and traumatic red ant bite on the back of my leg, the serious concern of the night was the possibility of a second call for a fallen man in the Anza area. The U.S. Forest Service cancelled the call by the time we had finished our first obligation.

It's always nice to work with the ever-pleasant Sgt. Clark Kane & staff from the Elsinore substation who fed us a 4 a.m. brunch and wished us a very early "Happy Labor Day."

6 SEP., THUR. – SEARCH – No. 7346M
North of the City of San Jacinto
By Walt Walker

The telephone beside my bed rang at 0415 and at first I thought it was the alarm clock, but no such luck. The Hemet Station of the Riverside County Sheriff's Department was calling to ask for RMRU's help in searching for a two year old boy.

When I arrived at the College View Mobile Home Park, where he was missing from, I was met by Lt. Bill Park and he filled me in on the details. The Hemet Valley Search and Rescue Team was already searching and the Hemet – San Jacinto Sheriff's Mounted Posse was on the way.

While waiting for the rest of the RMRU members I walked around the park's lake with two members from the Hemet team. We found many footprints, but none small enough. The mounted posse arrived while we were at the lake and began searching towards the junior college.

RMRU's big orange van arrived, plus a number of RMRU members in their own cars. We had just begun discussing the situation when information that the boy had been found by the posse was relayed to us. The boy was cold but not injured and was taken to the hospital for observation.

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Since it was only 0630 we all headed home to get ready for the coming work day. When 1730 came that afternoon I was ready to quit work, getting up at 0415 makes a long day.

8 SEP., SAT. - SEARCH - No. 7347M
Marion Mt. Campground, San Jacinto Mtns.
By Walt Walker

RMRU was called at 1330 that a six year old boy was missing from the Marion Mt. Campground. Since I was home and scraping old paint, I naturally decided to go on the mission.

As the first RMRU member to arrive at the campground I questioned the mother and took a look at what was described as the missing boy's footprints.

Hank Schmel arrived with the rescue van and was followed by Gary Gillespie. As soon as they were ready to hike we walked over to take a look at the footprints. They immediately started hiking and I walked back to the truck and found Jack Schnurr, Steve Bryant and Dave Hadley getting gear ready.

Just as the above trio were ready to start searching Deputy Richard Buckman arrived with the young boy. He related that after taking his report of the missing boy, that he walked out from the camp calling for him. After a short while he heard the boy crying and hiked down to him and helped him down to the road where they were given a ride back to the campground.

23 SEP., SUN. - RESCUE - No. 7348M
Tahquitz Rock, San Jacinto Mtns.

No write-up was submitted to the RMRU Newsletter.

24 SEP., MON. - SEARCH - No. 7349M
Santa Rosa Mountains
By Pete Carlson

At 0430 a phone call awakened me to a search. It seems the pagers had not gone off the night before and almost everyone else had been on Tahquitz Rock all night while I was sleeping. At 0630 I met Jim with the van, having set up our base four miles from the Santa Rosa Mt. road we started the search for a lost hunter. Most of the team went to sleep for a couple of hours (after being up all night from the previous mission) and the Sierra Madre Search & Rescue Team had been called to help with fresh manpower.

I took a radio and drove up to where the hunter's camper was parked and found no one around. After a few calls I got voice contact and then saw two men walking towards the camper. The lost one had heard his friend

calling and answered, soon the two were together, one just a little cold and hungry after spending the night lost in a canyon.

27 SEP., THUR. - SEARCH - NO. 7350C
Lake Riverside, near Anza
By Walt Walker

In the early afternoon Lt. Bill Park, of the Riverside County Sheriff's Department, Hemet Station called and said a 78 year old man was missing from across the highway from Lake Riverside.

While I was talking to Al Andrews on the telephone about the mission, the operator cut into the line. Sgt. Henry from the Hemet Station reported that the man had been found.



The Road Runner

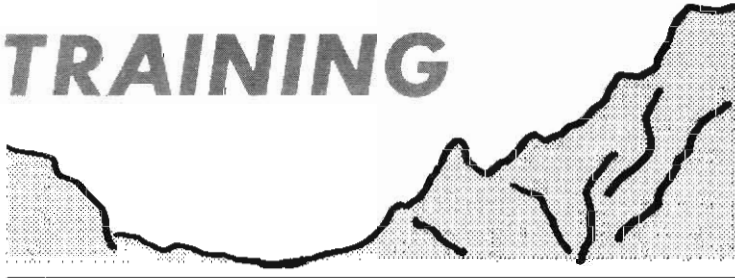
sez- by Pres. Jim Fairchild

Last month we touched upon the idea that governmental control is even creeping up on the search and rescue scene, and opined that volunteers can do it better. Here's why we believe volunteers can do it better: first, volunteer SAR units have a strong nucleus of mountaineers who have long used most of the skills necessary for SAR. They "got it together" on their own to help others using these skills, while developing further skills like tracking and technical evacuation procedures. They have put their own time, money, and efforts into building an effective unit. They have accrued sympathetic friends who back the unit financially. They train and integrate new members so as to sustain the effort. They have developed a state of trust and confidence in the agencies that call them out. Second, members of a volunteer unit are climbing and hiking "buddies," they know each other well - strengths, weaknesses, what to expect from each other, and so on. A lot of good SAR men have been at it for ten, fifteen, even twenty or more years. While there is quite a turnover of personnel, there is always that strong nucleus to pass on skills and techniques. Third, all equipment is our own to obtain, use, repair, and to replace when lost, damaged or worn out. We feel a lot of obligation in the care and use of every item, whether a lowly canteen or thousand dollar radio - it's ours, not "Uncle's." Fourth, no one "tells" us to do anything - we do it because we want to cooperate in such a way as to best help the poor soul who is lost or hurt in the wilderness. Our compelling desire is get into the field, to find or reach the victim so as to render aid, to get the victim back to safety. We have an absolute minimum of organizational structure, protocol, authoriza-

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tions, and what have you, standing between us and commencing the operation. Fifth, here is a statement I've shared with almost every representative of the Riverside County Sheriff's Dept. with whom we've worked, and others: "It does not seem any more logical to ask a Sheriff's Deputy to go on a long search or get a stranded person off a cliff than it is to ask a SAR man to arrest an armed murderer." They've all agreed. Now, don't get us wrong, we are not in SAR because of the lack of something else to do! Should Uncle squeeze us out, we'll be able to catch up on a tremendous lot of recreational mountaineering we've missed doing SAR, training, etc. We hope, for the sake of future "victims," that Uncle sees the light.

TRAINING



20-30 SEP., SAT. & SUN.
Long Weekend Hike

The September training mission was familiarization on the west side of San Jacinto and a review of fundamentals. Saturday morning ten of us started up the Seven Pines trail while Hank Schmel settled down to a weekend with the orange pumpkin at the roadhead. Ed Hill and Rich Quackenbush sported new team packs and boots. Dan MacIntosh and Steve Stevens were also carrying new team packs. The format of the day was hike until Ed's feet hurt and then stop and have a short talk on some phase of search and rescue or do a field exercise.

The trail ran over ridge, and 'little' Danny MacIntosh got lost trying to take a shortcut. Jim Fairchild and Rick Pohlars quickly picked up his trail and followed him down to the creek.

Ray Castilonia, just back from Nepal, gave us several useful talks on field sanitation and on his experiences abroad.

The next morning Bernie McIlvoy and Ed Hill got 'lost' hiking cross country to Little Round Valley. The team split into two groups and tracked them to Little Round Valley where they found Bernie. He told the searchers that Ed had fallen over a cliff during the night. He lead the team to the cliff where they found Ed sitting on a ledge with a broken arm. Pete Frickland rappelled down to the victim, splinted his arm and hauled him back up using a mechanical advantage engineered by Pete Carlson.

After lunch, we hiked out via the Fuller Ridge Trail and a cross country route down Dark Canyon. When we reached the roadhead, Hank greeted us with the report of a lost Boy Scout. We drove down to the Alandale Ranger Station, and just as we were ready to start the search, the Boy Scout walked in.
