

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

Volume X, Issue 8, August 1974

Walt Walker, Editor

Coming Events ---

11 September, Board Meeting
25 September, Regular Meeting
28-29 September, Training
9 October, Board Meeting
23 October, Regular Meeting
26 October, CR-MRA Meeting, Sylmar
26-27 October, Training
13 November, Board Meeting
20 November, Regular Meeting
23-24 November, MRA Meeting, Sacramento
23-24 November, Training
27 November, Board Meeting (Dec.)
4 December, Regular Meeting
7 December, Training

Sustaining Members

by Mike Daugherty

As regular readers of this column are aware, we habitually divide our benefactors into two categories. There are the 'new' members — those who have not (according to a search of our records) contributed to RMRU before and the 'renewing' members — those who have. Among the renewing members there are some who have contributed with fierce regularity since the inception of the sustaining membership program in 1968. It is our belief, or more accurately our hope, that the renewing members continue to support RMRU because they can see through the pages of this newsletter how their support is converted directly into tangible good. As we perceive it, that is the primary function of this newsletter, to show those of you upon whom we rely for financial support just where and how that support is used. We don't mind admitting that we're pretty sure that those 'new' members who will be receiving the newsletter for the first time in the months ahead will find in it

plenty of evidence that their contribution to RMRU was money well spent.

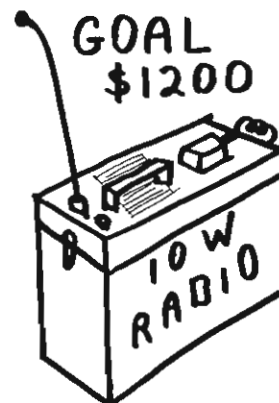
The new members joining us this month are:

Mr. and Mrs. T. L. Dayharsh
Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Whitt
Mr. Irwin Kelly
*Mr. Robert C. Speakman
*Kiwanis Club of Uptown Riverside
Riverside Municipal Museum
Mr. Roger G. Anderson

And those renewing their memberships are:

Mr. and Mrs. L. W. Simon Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Bryant
Mr. Herbert M. Wilson
Mr. and Mrs. Jim Fairchild
*Mr. and Mrs. John Murphy
*Mr. and Mrs. Carl Tennant
Mr. George O. Sweet

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



BOY IS MY FACE RED!

In the July RMRU NEWSLETTER there were a number of really tremendous photographs, both on a mission and training. However, Hank Schmel was given credit for the photographs, when actually Pete Carlson took all of them in the entire issue. Please accept my apologies Pete! Walt

Search and Rescue

**1 JULY, MON. — SEARCH — No. 7433A
Sequoia National Park**

At 1930 RMRU received a call from Jim Maclay of the Sierra Madre Search & Rescue Team requesting help in the search for a 17 year old boy who had last been seen June 25th. Just as the call-out was being completed, Jim called and said the youth had been located.

**12 & 13 JULY, SAT. & SUN. — SEARCH — No. 7434M
Lake Hemet Area, San Jacinto Mountains**
By Jim Fairchild

It was with great reluctance that Deputy Fred Grutzmacher, of the Riverside County Sheriff's Department, asked for our assistance. Here's why. At about 1600 Saturday, Greg Andert was hiking cross-country north of and above Lake Hemet when he heard sobs. He found Mike Davidson (ca. 12 yrs.) lying near a huge rock with what appeared to be a compound fracture of a leg, somewhat above the ankle, with the bone sticking through the pants leg. The boys decided Mike was in shock, but in a comfortable location. Greg went down to the lake and told two older boys the situation — they went up to help. Then Greg went up and over the considerable hill to the road east of Keen Summit, got a ride to the Ranger Station, reported the problem. The Sheriff's Office was called, they responded with six or so men from the Idyllwild Fire Dept., they went to the scene, found where Mike had lain, but not Mike. No reports from worried parents or Scout Leaders (Mike had on a Scout shirt). Fred was not completely satisfied that Mike was not around, so RMRU got into the act. We came up with the same results and called it off. On the way down to Hemet a rumor came over the air that Mike was at Riverside Community Hospital — this was soon found to be false.

This operation marks our first utilization of the Riverside County Amateur Radio Association. Curtis Hunt, who received Al's call, and his father, rolled to the scene and relayed messages through "hams" so that we had telephone contact with whomever we wished. We expect this to be a regular cooperation of considerable value.

**27 JULY, SAT. — SEARCH — No. 7435M
Suicide Rock, above Idyllwild**
By Walt Walker

The day started early, 7:30 a.m., for RMRU members as we had gathered at Norm and Maggie Mellor's Sky Yacht for training. As we unloaded equipment, to be used on the training, the late comers showed up as Maggie served hot coffee.

Finally at 8 a.m. we were ready to start hiking towards Suicide Rock. We had hardly crossed Strawberry Creek when the pre-spiration started to flow, the humidity had to have been in the high 70's.

When we reached the bottom of the rock we traversed around to the northeast side. When we had arrived at the start of a climb called, "the Guillotine", the training chairman, alias the Roadrunner Jim Fairchild, split the group. Most of the veteran members stayed at the Guillotine while the rest of the members went with Jim, Jim was going to review the different procedures needed in technical rescues while the rest of us were going to try and solve a problem that had occurred on a recent technical rescue mission.

After both groups had worked all morning we gathered for lunch and with the usual telling of war stories that always takes place. It was extremely warm and humid and the lunch hour lasted longer than a hour. Jim finally fired up his group and headed towards his practice area.

A couple of young men began climbing the Guillotine and as our anchors (for our litter problem) were right at the beginning of the climb, we waited for them to climb on up. While we were waiting Bernie McIlvoy reviewed nut and chock placements. (Nuts and chocks have almost completely replaced pitons as anchors in rock climbing.)

The lead climber had ascended about 100 feet and was near the hardest part of the climb and slightly off route. After watching him for about five minutes we all decided he was in trouble. Many climbers get very upset if strangers offer help, so we suggested to one of the lead climber's friends that he take a rope and go around to the top and give an upper belay.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)



RMRU PHOTO BY PETE CARLSON

RMRU members pressed into action, lift the injured climber into the litter very carefully due to the possible spine fractures.

The young climber then made a move to his left and towards the regular route. He then made a second move. The second move was unsuccessful and he slipped off the rock. He flew through the air, as we stood horror struck, for almost 30 feet before hitting the rock wall in a sitting position. Unfortunately his anchor did not hold and he continued falling. He finally came to a stop only three feet from the ground and right in front of us. We rushed towards him, Art Bridge and myself, reaching him first. Pete Carlson and Ed Hill quickly grabbed the litter we had been practicing with and brought it over to us.

Jim's group had heard the fall and thought it was one of us. They had immediately descended towards us. Just as we placed the young man in the litter, Jim's group arrived. In it, was RMRU member Ray Castilonia, M.D. He went to work examining the fallen climber. The climber complained of pain just below his waist on his backside. It appeared that he might have fractured his tailbone.

Picking up the handtalkie I had carried up, I radioed back to the Sky Yacht. Maggie answered and I told her what had happened and asked her to have Hank Schmel start up with the big wheel for the litter. (Hank had been up since 3 a.m. preparing a suckling pig for the Luau that had been planned for Saturday evening to honor wives and girlfriends.) He started up and Ed Hill and Rich Morris started down to meet him and hurry back with the wheel.



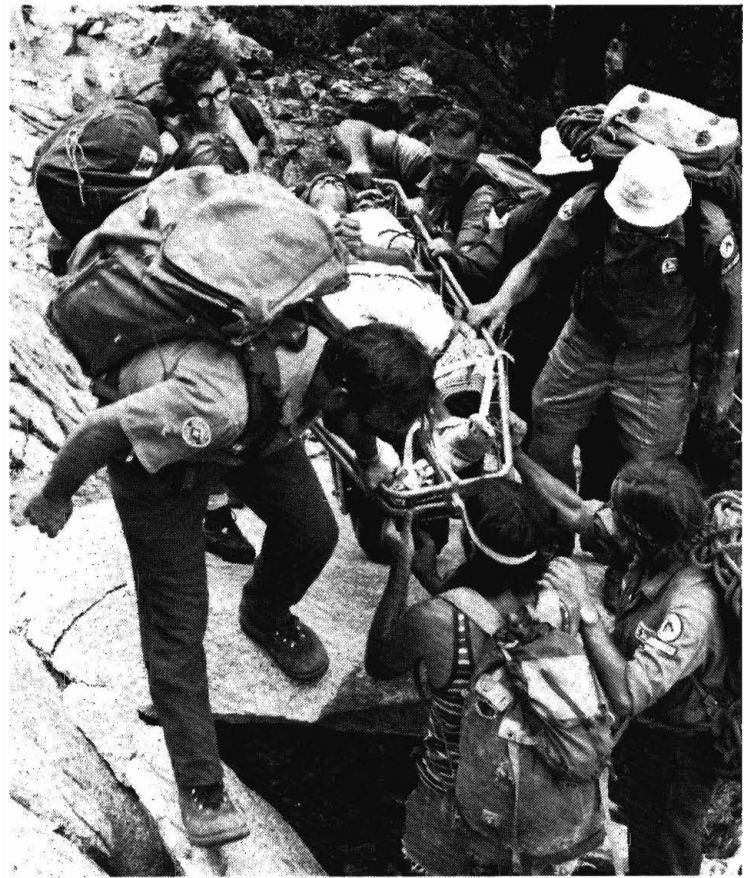
RMRU PHOTO BY PETE CARLSON

Ray Castilonia, RMRU doctor, takes the fallen climber's blood pressure and Walt Walker waits to record the findings that will be sent along with the victim to the hospital.

We secured the injured man into the litter, swung on our packs, picked up the litter and started carrying. By the time we had arrived at the south base of the rock, Ed and Rich had arrived with the wheel. As the wheel was secured to our second litter, everyone grabbed a quick breather.

Once again we started down and the belay that Jim Fairchild had been giving to the litter was needed even more with the wheel rolling along. We hiked, slipped, slid, broke brush and sweated as we headed down towards the roadhead where Norm Mellor, M.D. was waiting with the Idyllwild Fire Department ambulance. Their big orange ambulance was a welcome sight as we arrived at the roadhead. We quickly loaded the litter onto their gurney and helped lift the injured man into the ambulance.

It was only then a 10 minute hike over to the Sky Yacht. Al Andrews, personnel coordinator, handed me a beer as I walked up and it was gone before I even tasted it.



RMRU PHOTO BY PETE CARLSON

With the 'big wheel' under the litter, RMRU members transport the young climber down hill to the waiting ambulance. RMRU members pictured going clockwise from the bottom: Jim Garvey, Bernie McIlvoy, Walt Walker, Sonny Lawrence (top of head and bulging pack), Steve Stephens, Art Bridge, Bud White and Rich Quackenbush.

31 JULY, WED. — SEARCH — No. 7436A Picacho State Park, Southeastern Calif.

By Jim Fairchild

Wednesday morning, while in tranquil pursuit of my occupation, the pager said, "Beeep, . . . call Al Andrews (actually gave the phone number)". We had been requested to assist the DeAnza Rescue Unit of Imperial County in searching for a 16 year old boy who, with two companions, had been floating down the Colorado River on a raft. The victim had gotten cramps, left the raft to head back to camp and failed to show up.

What were his chances after more than 48 hours of wandering across a hot desert? Zero. Possibly, he stayed at the river under shelter and could survive. The four of us, Pete Carlson, Bob Claybrook, John Dew and I hoped for the miracle. A few miles south of Thermal the Sheriff's frequency announced over John's scanner that the boy had been found. We returned home.

For more details, I reached Mrs. Ron Ginet of DARU. The boy's body was found a mile from and in sight of the river, probably survived only until Monday noon. Had no shoes, just cut-off corduroy trousers. He had two companions who had reported him missing, then they headed off across the desert from the caretaker's house to look for him — the caretaker prevented two more deaths by bringing them back to safety. Most people obviously do not know that the desert heat can kill in only a few hours.