

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 XII, Issue 7, July 1976

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Search and Rescue

TRAINING



from Old'en Days

by Walt Walker

SEARCH

Mission No. 7634A

1 July, Thurs.
Carrizo Campground,
Santa Ana Mountains

We received an evening (1920 hr.) call from the Elsinore Sheriff's Station regarding a six-year-old boy missing from the campground. As is usual with a call originating in the daytime, the child was reported found just as we finished calling out the team. This meant we re-called the team to abort. ■ RMRU

SEARCH

Mission No. 7635A

4 July, Mon.
North Palisade Peak,
High Sierra

Here's a call Larry Roland and Jim Fairchild were looking forward to as they were packed and ready to drive.

Two climbers, male and female had been reported overdue from the day before. They were to have climbed this super 14,000' peak and return to their camp on the Palisade Glacier nearby. Ron Atkins of the China Lake Rescue Group gave us the information earlier, and Larry and I were eager to go. Ron also called to say the climbers had been found just seconds before we were to drive north. We were relieved for the missing couple. ■ RMRU

TECHNICAL

1 July, Sat.
Suicide Rock
San Jacinto Mountains

By John Dew

As is the custom for July training, the team met at the Sky Yacht at 0700 on Saturday morning.

Some had slept overnight in the yard, while others made their way up the hill on this beautiful day where the only unpleasantness was the early morning sun shining directly in their eyes on some of the treacherous curves.

We were on our way up to Suicide Rock shortly carrying our packs and all the team gear we felt was necessary for a day of training in technical rescues. Training in technical rescues involves going over the various knots, rigging the litter for raising and lowering on rock faces, placing anchors, rigging and anchoring the belay line to the litter, finding a "victim" to ride in the litter while being raised and lowered to make sure our rigging will hold, etc.

This year our practice was enhanced at mid-morning by the appearance of Norm Mellor and several of the wives, girlfriends and children of the team members climbing up to see what we were doing. Upon their arrival, we immediately decided that Joanne Fairchild would be the "victim". Her bravery was discovered when she said, "Sure, I'll do it", and

(See Bravery, Page 2)

JUNE

Ten Years Ago —

Walking into the meeting room, after a dinner board meeting, we were met by a bleeding and injured man. Everyone started in, doing the necessary first aid, while the victim did a great acting job. The rather startling opening was provided by Erik Auf der Heide.

Bud White was commended on his great job of planning the first RMRU familiarization training weekend in the San Jacinto Mountains. It just about killed me, about half way through the weekend, as I found out that an injured heel was not completely healed.

A search mission was rather briefly noted. It concerned a search that RMRU had participated in. The area was the Charleston Mountains in Clark County, Nevada. Having been one of the participants in what was one of the real epics, I remember well, "It's only 18 miles over the hump to Pahrump."

Five Years Ago —

Five RMRU members, Tom Daddon, Jack Schnurr, Hank Schmel, Bernie McIlvoy and Lee Mickelson, provided a Mountain Safety program at the Holcomb Valley Boy Scout Reservation.

In the Sustaining Members column it was noted that the radio fund had reached the half way mark and that a 5 watt handitalkie had been

(See Handitalkie, Page 2)

\$USTAINING MEMBERS —

BY MIKE DAUGHERTY

This month we have the following New and Renewing Sustaining Members:

New

- *John H. Porter, Jr.
M/M L. P. Donaldson
- *Ruth Boyle
Steve Bryant

In Memory of Joe Powers

Sandy and Skip McConicle

Renewing

Riverside County Pomona
Grange

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

Bravery

(Continued from page 1)

proceeded to lie down in the litter and be tied in. Her anxiety was discovered when a few moments later when she was ten feet off the ground on her way to the top of the rock face and she called out "Now, be careful - this is the first time I've ever done this." Her ability to endure shock was discovered when we jokingly called down to her "Don't worry about it - it's the first time we've done it, too."

When it was all said and done, training went well and we concluded the work about 4 o'clock and went back down the hill to the Sky Yacht, Norm and Maggie Mellor's mountain cabin which they so graciously open to us all during the year.

That evening, as in every July training, we enjoyed again a sumptuous feast with these lovely people and the RMRU wives and families who were able to get to the hill. At the conclusion of the meal, there was standing room only in the living room as everyone was competing for the best seat in the house to watch the Olympics.

Handitalkie

(Continued from page 1)

ordered. The following were thanked for their support of RMRU: Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth L. Andrews, Mrs. D. A. Newcomb, Mrs. Esther R. Briggs, Dr. & Mrs. Jay Wallis and the Hemet - San Jacinto Grange.

The rescue of an injured climber off Tahquitz Rock was written up by Jim Fairchild. Actually RMRU had very little to do with the rescue as there had been many competent climbers in the area when the young man fractured his ankle.

One of our **then** newer members, Pete Carlson, wrote up the evacuation of an extremely heavy young man. He had fallen while day hiking in Dark Canyon. It appeared that he had fractured his right knee cap. It was a beautiful sunny Sunday afternoon, but one we will long remember as Bernie McIlvoy had not yet invented RMRU's wheeled litter.

In my column, "The President's Box", I noted how the year had started with a bang, many missions, but that with only two in May it was only the lull before the storm. I also remarked that the evacuation of the young man had prompted me to get the ball rolling again on plans for a wheeled litter. RMRU's Sustaining Members were thanked for their help in making it possible to purchase another radio.

Mike Daugherty wrote on the unit training, climbing the North Face of Mt. San Jacinto. It almost rained on the group Friday night, Saturday was the traditional trudge upwards. Saturday afternoon was complicated by one member having knee problems. The summit boulder was finally reached at 6 p.m. Sunday brought a much slower pace, even climbing Cornell Peak on the way to the tram. ■ RMRU

JULY

Ten Years Ago -

The team spent a night searching for a 10 year old boy missing from Skunk Cabbage Meadow. Two days later a call came to search for a 4 year old, but he turned up while we were traveling.

Five Years Ago -

It was noted in the Sustaining Members column that 36 people had renewed their memberships and 14 new members had been added to our list of financial supporters since January. The following were thanked for their support: Mr. Robert H. O'Bier, Marshall Industries, Mr. and Mrs. Charles W. Ricker and Mr. and Mrs. R. G. Shipley.

The first SAR mission listed was in the infamous "Tahquitz Canyon". A man had fallen and dislocated his shoulder. We had to negotiate the Saturday afternoon downtown Palm Springs traffic and then hike up the canyon with the temperature in the mid 90's. New team member, Joe Bell, M.D., was on hand and saved the day for the injured man. Joe gave some injections, relocated the shoulder and bandaged the injury. We then all hiked back out, including the injured man.

The next mission was the distasteful job of removing the remains of four people that had been killed in a plane crash. We were all saved a very long hike by some great flying from Pilot Roy Cox of Western Helicopters. Three days later we flew in again to look for more remains and personal effects.

We were called in the early evening that two young men were stranded on Tahquitz Rock. Meeting at the usual spot, the climber's parking area at Humber Park, we sorted gear and discussed a plan of action. We had faint voice contact with the climbers on the rock. We hiked up to Lunch Rock, sent three members to the bottom of the White Maiden (a climbing route) to try to find out where the climbers were. After determining they were almost to the top, we hiked around the backside and quickly set up anchor points. Dick Webster rappelled down to the two young men. They were tied to a belay rope and climbed up with only a small amount of help from us. Dick then jumared up his rappel rope. We gave food and water to the rescued climbers and packed our gear. As the eastern sky brightened we hiked back to Humber Park. Ed Hill commented that after the grim rescues of the spring, it was great to rescue someone who was just cold and thirsty. ■ RMRU