

Volume XIX, Issue VII, July 1983

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Search and Rescue

RESCUE

Mission No. 8323M

1 July, Fri.

Willow Creek Crossing,
San Jacinto Mountains

By Kevin Walker



At a little after 8:00 A.M. I got a call with news of a rescue in the San Jacintos, rendezvous point, Camp Maranatha, Idyllwild. After getting the No. 1 van, I picked up Walt Walker and we headed for Idyll-

wild. As we arrived, so did the helicopter. Without haste Walt and I prepared our gear, loaded it in the bird and were off to Willow Creek. After a few orbits above Willow Creek crossing we spotted the described tent with a few people standing around it. Mike Donovan (Landells Aviation) flew us back to Skunk Cabbage Meadow as there are no helispots in the immediate are of the subject. With Walt and I out, Mike headed for Idyllwild to wait for more members. We then made the short trip over to the crossing. There we found Robert Wagner of Palm Desert in his tent. He was complaining of severe

back pains that had started the night before which left him unable to even walk. After a short wait Mel Krug and Joe Erickson arrived with the wheeled litter. We then carefully placed Robert into the litter and secured him in for the trip back to Skunk Cabbage. Just as we finished that, Glenn Henderson and I.F.D. Terry Griner joined up with us, and we started out. We travelled slowly so as not to cause any discomfort to Robert. Once back at Skunk Cabbage, we radioed out for the helicopter to return for pick up. Mike was soon there, and Robert was loaded, and flown out. Mike returned and made two more trips to get all personnel out. Robert was transported to his doctor by his hiking companion, and the mission was secured. • RMRU

CALL

Mission No. 8324C

16 July, Sat.

Dusy Basin,
High Sierra

We were called to assist in a search near Dusy Basin. Because of a lack of transportation no members were sent on this particular operation. • RMRU

RESCUE

Mission No. 8325M

20 July, Wed.

Tahquitz Valley,
San Jacinto Mountains

By Kevin Walker



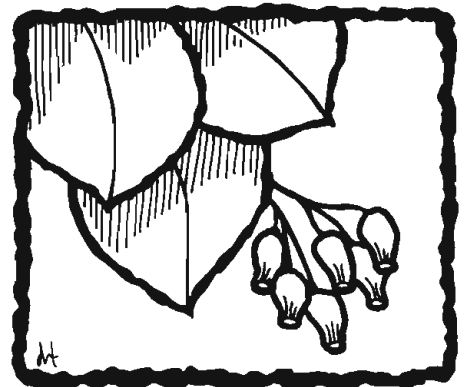
As it has happened so many times in the past, it did again. 1:00 P.M. the phone rang, it was the Sheriff's office in Hemet. This time with a different twist. A message had come out on a Forest Service radio stating that RMRU member Jim Fairchild's daughter Carol Cook had injured herself while the two were on a hiking trip of the San Jacintos. They were now in Tahquitz Valley and needed assistance. With that the team was activated, and

asked to roll to Camp Maranatha in Idyllwild.

Shortly after we were in Idyllwild waiting for the helicopter. Walt decided to have me go in first with the bird and assess the situation. Upon the arrival of Mike Donovan from Landells Aviation I loaded my pack in and we were off on the quick journey to Tahquitz Valley.

As we approached the valley a familiar face was out in the meadow giving hand signals, that being Jim. Once down I was greeted at the door by Jim who led me over to where Carol lay. As I approached I could see that she was indeed in a great deal of pain. Apparently during the night before while sleeping she strained a muscle, and then it got worse as they attempted to hike down. With the assistance of some friendly hikers and a Forest Service Volunteer, Carol was helped over to the valley and then waited for help.

Jim and I helped Carol into the helicopter, loaded the packs, and soon Mike had us safely back at Camp Maranatha. Since Jim and Carols vehicle was at the tram, Walt drove Jim and Carol to get the pick-up, and then drove Carol to their family physician. All went well and we are very happy to say that Carol is now fine and hiking. • RMRU



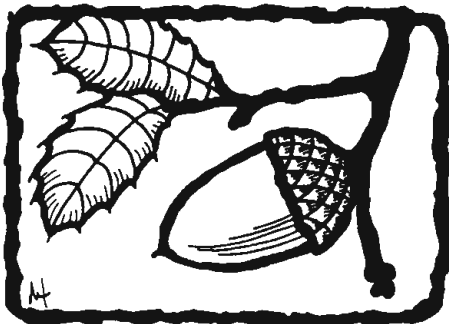
CALL

Mission No. 8326C

23 July, Sat.

Baja California

We were called for a search in Baja California for two missing hikers. Because no members were available for a long mission, no action was taken. • RMRU



CALL

Mission No. 8327C

**28 July, Thurs.
Yosemite Valley,
High Sierra**

We were called to assist in a search near Yosemite Valley. Because of transportation problems, no RMRU personnel were sent. • RMRU



Technical & Team Pot-Luck Dinner

**9 July, Sat.
Suicide Rock,
San Jacinto Mountains**

By Mark Hebert



Saturday was started off with juices and donuts provided by the Mellors at the Sky Yacht. Of course all good things must come to an end, and soon members were loading up packs and starting across the creek and then up the climbers path towards our training goal for the day, Suicide Rock.

Once at the base, acting training chairman, Bernie McIlvoy broke us into two groups. The first, composed of the majority present would have to try and solve a

very difficult technical rescue problem. And then a smaller group led by Bernie would test a new rescue system. I was with the first group. What we had to do was to first set up a fixed line to the top so that members could jumar and then get in position above two mock-injured climbers to set up rigging for an evac. After doing so, Joe Erickson and Randy Iwasiuk were assigned to go over the side with the litter and place the injured climber (who by the way was underneath an overhang) into the litter. This operation was done without the help of the veterans, and did take longer than usual, but that is why we train. After some thought the subject was loaded and raised back up.

Most everyone worked through lunch, which was true of Bernie's group. The small team set up a tyrolian of sorts. The idea being, to get an injured climber away from the rock face as quickly as possible when rock fall was a major hazard. When we finished our operation, we hiked around to the bottom and Bernie demonstrated his system. Using a Mechanical Advantage at the bottom and away from the rock to adjust the height of the tyrolian, the subject is then lowered out and away from the face. Once far enough out, using the M.A. the subject is then lowered directly down to the ground. All in all a good days training.

With that we loaded up gear and headed back to Norm and Maggie's at a high rate of speed. And of course, once there good food and drink was had by all. This dinner has always been great for wives and girl friends to get a chance to know one another and also team members. And also the same can be said for team members. To Norm and Maggie Mellor, thank you both so very much for taking us into your home, and for the friendship we share together. • RMRU