

Volume XXII, Issue VII, July 1986

Rob Gardner, Editor — Kevin Walker, Publisher — Dona Halcrow, Artist

## In Memoriam - Greg Mace



RMRU Photo - Maroon Bells by Walt Walker

Greg Mace, 42, died in a climbing accident on Saturday, July 26, 1986, on the Maroon Bells. He is survived by his wife, Julie, and two children, Brian, 9, and Laura, 11. Private funeral services were held on Monday, July 28, in the mountains near his home in Ashcroft. Memorial services were held on Saturday, August 2, in Ashcroft. MRA President Walt Walker and RMRU President Kevin Walker attended the service and conveyed to the assembled group the deep sense of loss that all MRA mountain rescue teams and members felt.

Shock and a deep sense of loss pervaded the entire search and rescue community Saturday night and Sunday as word of the accident spread. Greg was active with the Colorado Search and Rescue Board, representing Mountain Rescue - Aspen at most meetings and serving as the state training director. He also was a Colorado state mission coordinator, for many

years the only state coordinator on the western slope.

Greg was born and raised in Aspen, and became active with Mountain Rescue - Aspen fifteen years ago. During those years Greg served as rescue coordinator, president and a director of Mountain Rescue - Aspen. He was president of the Rocky Mountain Region of the Mountain Rescue Association at the time of his death.

Last Saturday, Greg and three other MRA members departed on a scheduled training exercise to scout alternative evacuation routes and to locate helicopter landing zones, and generally to get reacquainted with the Maroon Bells. They followed the standard route to the summit of North Maroon Bell, then over to the summit of South Maroon Bell. At the top of the long south couloir they sorted gear and put on crampons. Greg, with the strap of his ice axe on his wrist, stepped out onto the snow to test it. Somehow he lost his footing and fell, either on his side or his back. He rolled over to

self arrest, although he may not have been able to get his hand on top of the ice axe. While trying to arrest, Greg lost his ice axe and his wrist somehow came out of the strap.

Greg then slid approximately 700 feet down the snow and ice to a point where the couloir takes a turn, and went feet first into the rocks. His companions reached him quickly, but there was little they could do. One of them went for help, glissading the entire remaining length of the couloir and running out to the trailhead. The response from MRA was smooth, and a helicopter took off from Montrose almost immediately, but Greg succumbed to his injuries before outside help

could arrive. He had dislocated his left shoulder, broken virtually all the ribs on his left side and punctured his left lung. Greg died in the arms of his friends at 13,000 feet on the mountains he loved.

The Colorado Search and Rescue Board, the Mountain Rescue Association and its Rocky Mountain Region all have understated tributes to Greg in various stages of planning. Contributions may be sent to the:

Mountain Rescue Greg Mace Memorial Fund  
c/o Aspen Savings & Loan  
225 North Mill  
Aspen, CO 81612

# Search and Rescue

## SEARCH

Mission No. 8626M

13-14 July, Sun.-Mon.  
Reeds Meadow  
San Jacinto Mountains

By Rob Gardner



Ring. Ring. Ring.

"Uh, cough, cough, uh, hello."

"Hi Rob, this is Kevin!"

"What time is it?"

"5:30 a.m. We have a search."

"Hello."

"Come on, Rob, wake up. We have a search. A missing nineteen year old man last seen between Reeds Meadow and Red Tahquitz."

"Okay, I'm awake now. Where are we going to meet?"

"Camp Maranatha in Idyllwild. A helicopter has already been authorized. Landells Aviation will have the bird at Maranatha by 7:00 a.m. to deploy teams and do air search."

"Great. I should be there at about 6:45 a.m. You know I have fifty-five miles of mountain road between me and Camp Maranatha."

"Well, get moving and we'll see you there. Hopefully, we'll wrap this one up in a few hours."

"Okay Kevin. Good-bye."

I hung up the telephone and loaded my SAR (Search and Rescue) gear into my car. As I got underway it did not occur to me that what had the appearance of a routine search in a plateau like area would become a thirty-six hour search with a regional callout.

As I arrived at Camp Maranatha a good turn out of RMRU was present at the base camp. Many had remained in Idyllwild overnight, following the traditional July RMRU Bar-B-Que at the Mellor's cabin. They had intended to go sport rock climbing but plans were now changed.

Information on the lost subject was

limited. His name was David Vague, nineteen years of age, from Oceanside. He had been camping with a group from his church for a couple of days. While the group was rock climbing at Red Tahquitz, David wandered away from the group, reportedly in a non-social mood. He was last seen at about 4:30 p.m. on Saturday walking towards Reeds Meadow.

As the helicopter flew in at Camp Maranatha teams were ready for deployment. Teams were placed to search the Caramba area, Reeds Meadow to Caramba, Red Tahquitz to Caramba, Skunk Cabbage Meadow to Willow Creek, Laws Camp, Humber Park to Reeds Meadow, and upper Tahquitz Canyon. Many hours of hiking to assignments were saved by use of the helicopter to deploy people. Searchers on the ground were very important as the forest area hampered aerial search. The weather was good, to the advantage of both the lost man and searchers. Everybody was at their field assignment by 8:30 a.m.

It already had been over fifteen hours since David had been last seen by friends. When the friends had returned to their camp site Saturday night and David wasn't there they did a hasty search of their own before one of the group leaders hiked out to call for help. The Riverside Sheriff's Office (RSO) alerted the RMRU at about 5:00 a.m. and a call out followed. David was described as about 5'7" wearing glasses, and clothed in black jeans and a blue T-shirt with a Ghostbusters logo. He had left all of his gear and food at the group camp site.

The last team boarded the helicopter as spotters for the aerial search. The ground searchers scoured their assigned areas, frequently called David's name out, and interviewed campers and hikers in the area. The helicopter concentrated on Tahquitz Canyon and Andreas Canyon and occasionally moved ground teams to new assignments. Tracking was difficult due to the poor description of David's shoe, the great amount of tracks from other hikers, and ground cover that included rock and a thick carpet of pine needles.

As the day wore on no positive leads

## CALL

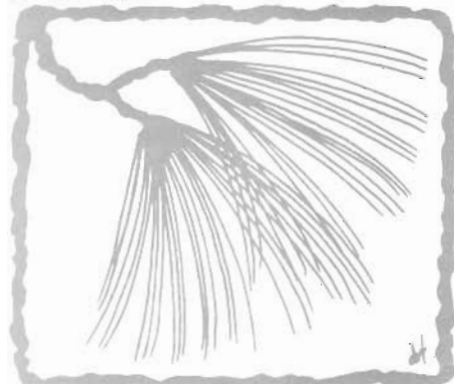
Mission No. 8625C

4 July, Sat.  
Pacific Crest Trail  
San Jacinto Mountains

At approximately 10:30 p.m. on July 4th a report was received that a person in the mountains was probably lost, or perhaps down. The Sheriff's office reported that a man who was riding a bicycle on the Pacific Crest Trail was past due at his point of being picked up on the highway below.

Three team members who live in the Idyllwild area were contacted. They got their packs ready to hike and stood by for more information from the Sheriff's Office. During that time the man arrived at the prearranged place of his waiting ride home.

The stand-by group was notified of this development and they returned to their homes. • RMRU





RMRU PHOTO BY ROB GARDNER

OUTBOUND — With team members from JOSAR onboard, and veteran mountain pilot Don Landells at the controls, helicopter 816 leaves Tahquitz Valley for the Caramba North helispot, as field team leader Kevin Walker looks on.

were found. Base camp personnel interviewed friends and relatives of David, looking for information which might be helpful in locating David. Eventually, it was determined that the RMRU could use some assistance. A call out of the California Region of the Mountain Rescue Association was made. The search was about to expand.

JOSAR (Joshua Tree Search and Rescue), a volunteer group associated with the National Park Service at Joshua Tree National Monument, arrived just before sundown. Their men were placed at key sites for the night. They lit lanterns to light the way to help for David. By Monday morning SAR team searchers from San Dimas, China Lake, Sierra Madre, JOSAR, and CARDAs (Calif. Rescue Dog Assoc.) had joined RMRU on the scene. Don Landells was flying his Jet Ranger III helicopter and our other SAR helicopter friends from El Toro Marine Corps base, were flying search as well. The search had been in progress for over twenty-four hours without turning up a sign of David. We became concerned that he was injured or for some reason was unable to come out into the open to be found, or to signal to a helicopter. Searchers continued to comb the search area.

The night had been warm, hopefully helping David to avoid hypothermia, and

Monday was overcast, hopefully helping David to avoid dehydration. There was plenty of water flowing in the streams. Hopefully David was finding and staying near water.

Monday began to wear on, as Sunday had. What to do next? On searches like this it must be lonesome to be an operations leader.

2:30 p.m. Monday. The radio crackles. "RMRU base to all field units, the subject has been found." The radio continued on that the subject was in Palm Springs, that teams should now hike to trail heads or helispots. The search was over, almost forty-eight hours after David had become lost.

David was tired and hungry. He had not eaten in two days, as he journeyed farther and farther from his camp site, down the treacherous Tahquitz Canyon. After David had decided he was lost, at about 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, he had come across a deer trail that led him to a small ridge looking over the lights of Palm Springs city. David said it looked close, but he soon learned the deception of "close" in the mountains.

• RMRU

Volunteer Man Hours — 459

## CALL

**Mission No. 8627M**

**18 July, Fri.  
Inyo County**

We received a call through a joint callout of the California Region of the Mountain Rescue Association to assist in a search for a missing hiker in Inyo County. No members were able to respond from the Riverside area. • RMRU

## CALL

**Mission No. 8628C**

**21 July, Mon.  
Yosemite National Park**

We received a call through the California Region as with the previous call, to assist Northern California teams with a search in Yosemite National Park. Unfortunately no members were able to respond. • RMRU

# TRAINING



## Technical Skills & Annual Bar-B-Que

12 July, Sat.  
Suicide Rock and Fern Valley  
San Jacinto Mountains

By Ray Hussey, M.D.



We gathered at Dr. Mellor's cabin "Sky Yacht," near Humber Park in Idyllwild at 0730 and began sorting gear. Full equipment, including the Stoke's litter with the "big wheel," were carried to the base

of Suicide Rock. We had a guest observer for the training, Roger LeBrun, from the Malibu team and many different ideas were exchanged during training. Roger's team works mainly with scree slopes whereas most of our rescues are on high angle hard rock.

Bernie McIlvoy and Cameron Robbins

organized and supervised the days' training, splitting the team into manageable groups. Concentration was given to "hands on" experience using artificial anchors, improvised and pre-tied stretcher rigging and multiple MA (mechanical advantage) set-ups. The new tandem Gibbs was tried and multiple suggestions for improvement were discussed. RMRU will put into use two tandem Gibbs set-ups immediately and we hope Russ Anderson of Sierra Madre SAR comes up with an improved design. The tandem Gibbs is a ratchet device, similar to a Jumar, used for raises and hauling. It is a major source for system failure during shock loads with our static (non-stretch) ropes.

After training we hurried back to Sky Yacht to put some "shrimp on the barbie" for our annual team barbecue and get together. A good time was had by all and we wish to take this opportunity once again to thank Norm and Maggie Mellor for their most gracious hospitality. • RMRU

Volunteer Man Hours — 252



RMRU People  
By Kevin Walker

We received this photo taken of past member Craig Beasley who shared many an hour with us. This photo was taken last winter in the Wasatch range in Utah where Craig is finishing his schooling. As you can see, once a mountaineer, always a mountaineer. Oh, by the way Craig, what is that fracture line in the snow field behind you?



Hello again. As I felt the touch of the breeze I looked across a meadow and into the forest at dawn. I appreciated all of the space around me as I looked upon steep trails, hilly terrain, and plateaus. The scenery was beautiful. I thought about hikers as I kept in motion with the fresh air entering and exiting from my lungs with relative ease. I could move all day long with these sights, and at this PACE.

An individual's attention to his or her pace can make a day of hiking more enjoyable. A hiker will tire the least if he maintains a consistent pace. The tempo

one hikes on flat ground will be quicker than on a steep upward hike. With an appropriate pace the hiker will need fewer rest stops. It is good to reduce stops because it is hard to restart each time. Some hikers set a pace that allows them to hike without any stops at all. If rest stops are taken, they usually should not be any more frequent than every thirty minutes to an hour. If a hiker stops to rest or smell the roses it is best to pause for a very brief time and to remain on ones feet. Sitting down will interrupt rhythm, upset circulation, and stiffen muscles. Lean against a tree or rock while resting or stopping for a drink of water or a small snack, rather than sitting down.

Nobody in the rear should need to run and, hopefully, nobody up front will need to be impatient.

Many experienced hikers have learned the technique of conscious rhythmic breathing for conservation of energy. By this technique the rate of breathing controls the speed of movement, rather than the reverse. With this technique the hiker breathes evenly all the time and sets an efficient pace for himself.

The method simply involves taking two steps each time one inhales or exhales, when on level ground. The heartbeat tends to stay consistent. As the grade steepens breathing remains the same, but now one step is taken each time the hiker inhales or exhales. As the inclination becomes extreme, particularly at higher altitudes, one may go to inhaling and exhaling each step. The output of energy remains about the same per step, as does the heartbeat rate. Movement of the feet changes somewhat as gears are shifted on a bicycle for different grades.

The hikers instruments are his lungs, heart, and legs. These instruments should be registering within the comfortable range when the individual is at a tolerable pace that can be sustained. Well, that's how I see it from my view point.

— Remember the hare  
and the tortoise? —