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## Search and Rescue

### CALL

Mission No. 8636C

1 Sept., Mon.  
San Jacinto Mountains

Through the wife of a friend of one of RMRU's members, we received a call that two hikers were overdue from a day hike in the San Jacinto Mountains. Two of our members responded to where the cars were parked, and after some looking around in the area the pair of hikers were located in good shape; no official action was needed. • RMRU

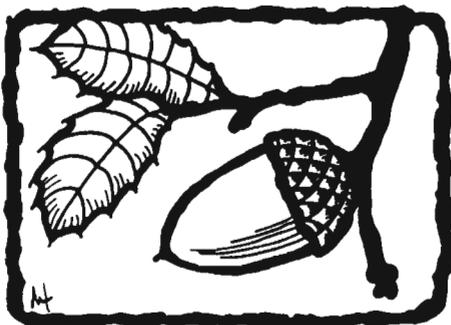
### CALL

Mission No. 8637C

2 Sept., Tues.  
Yosemite National Park

We received a call through the California Region of the Mountain Rescue Association for a manpower report for a search in the Yosemite area of the High Sierra.

• RMRU



### RESCUE

Mission No. 8638M

4 Sept., Thurs.  
Devil Slide Trail,  
San Jacinto Mountains

By Kevin Walker



As is the norm, the last thing I said to fellow member Glenn Henderson as he prepared to leave from Arrow Printing with his two sons, and their friend Danny for an over-nighter into the San Jacinto Mountains was betcha a twelve pack we have a rescue while you are gone. Almost always I lose these type of bets with Glenn, but this would not be the case this time.

Just as I was walking out to my place for lunch, my dad Walt yelled out the office door, "We got one!" It was great, a beautiful clear and warm day, I was fairly caught up with my work, and the best part of all was that the person who sent word down

to call for RMRU was a Glenn Henderson who came across a hiker coming down the Devil Slide who indicated that his girl friend had fallen and injured her ankle on the trail below Saddle Junction. Don't get me wrong, it is not that I was waiting for someone to go out and get hurt or something, but it was rather enjoyable to know that Glenn's bragging came back around and bit him.

It was unusual that no Idyllwild field members were available for this mission. Mary Bowman was at Humber Park though and had gathered the pertinent information (while I don't have at this time.) Since the weather was great and I was the only one there, I went ahead and put the wheel on the litter and with the help of the informant started up the Devil Slide. It was a beautiful day to be hiking, even with the litter in tow. Not long after I had left base Walt arrived. As I hiked we discussed what additional gear would be needed, and then Walt started out also. Then behind Walt, Joe Erickson arrived, loaded a small pack and took off. After about 40 minutes we met up with Glenn who had come down a short distance to wait to help with the litter. As we hiked



RMRU PHOTO BY GLENN HENDERSON

WHEEL OUT — RMRU members and a Mt. San Jacinto State Park aid wheel out the injured young woman down the Devil Slide trail to Humber Park.

the final quarter mile to the subject we argued our bet which after discussion with other members, Glenn lost. Soon we were with the young woman in question. Glenn had made her comfortable already and had examined her ankle, which indeed was swollen, and she was in some pain, especially if the injury site was touched.

The mission went quickly and smoothly. We applied an air splint to her ankle, then when Walt and Joe arrived, placed her in the litter, secured her with tie ins and then started out for Humber. As we started down the trail, we were joined by a Mt. San Jacinto State Park aid who helped with the guiding of the wheeled litter. A little further down we were joined by Jim Fairchild and Mary who had hiked up. Mary was able to sneak out of base as Melody Blaschko took over at the radio controls. Everything went well and soon we were back to Humber. Our subject was loaded into her car and her boy friend drove her to the Hemet Hospital (fortunately X-rays showed no fractures), Glenn was continuing with his hike and we were on our way back to work. • RMRU

Volunteer Man Hours — 54

## RESCUE

**Mission No. 8639M**

**28-29 Sept., Sun.-Mon.  
Strawberry Creek,  
San Jacinto Mountains**

By Glenn Henderson



Sunday evening — just sitting down for dinner when the pager goes off; "all RMRU members 10-21 Walt Walker for an Idyllwild rescue." I think there must be a law somewhere that says the pager may only go off at dinner time or in the middle of the night. Walt says that there is a hiker stranded on a ledge in the Grotto area below Isomata school. I tell Walt that I *MUST* be at work at 8:00 am Monday morning, and what do you think? Walt says "hey — no problem, a couple of hours and we'll be out." It's 8:00 pm now so double what Walt says and I should be home by midnight at the latest so I roll.

The team met at the Isomata outdoor theater where Kevin Walker took charge as operations leader. He quickly found out the scenario — two men; Hal Ingram and Scott Minesinger had left highway 74 at the Strawberry Creek bridge and were going to hike up the creek to Idyllwild. They were attempting to bypass a large waterfall when Hal became stranded in a small ledge unable to go up or down. Scott was already past this point and had no

equipment to help his friend out. He took off, continuing on upstream for a short ways, then cutting up to the top of a ridge and on out to Idyllwild for help. Scott said that it only took a little over an hour to hike out so we determined that he couldn't be too far down canyon but he must be past the Grotto area. Team members Henry Negrete and a man from the Isomata staff tried to find Hal by going down the ridge and calling out but to no avail. They were also not able to determine exactly where Scott had come up to the ridge top.

Kevin decided to send out four teams and drop them into the canyon at different intervals from the Isomata area starting at the top so as to be positive that we didn't miss Hal. My team was Bernie McIlvoy, Ray Hussey and Scott who insisted on going along on his own to try and help us locate the area his friend was in. We were put in as the furthest downstream team. Bernie had been in the Strawberry Creek area numerous times so he kept us high on the ridgetop to go around major waterfalls before we dropped down into the stream bottom. We kept on going down at a pretty good pace. We had been hiking for over three hours when we got to Hal.

We radioed out to base that we had made contact with the subject and to stop all teams where they were. We were so far downstream that we wanted to assess the situation to see if we could get him out with the personnel and gear we had with us. We decided we could do the job but kept all field teams where they were in case of a problem.

Bernie got set up to rappel down to Hal as Ray and I set up anchors for him. The fall line went directly down the waterfall and below Hal, but Bernie thought he could stay dry and then climb up to him via a small fingertip size crack in the rock wall. Bernie did this making it look easy but I know it was an extremely hard lead to get to Hal. Bernie took some of our gear down with him, so he quickly had him in a sit harness, helmet and extra clothing as he was in good shape but extremely cold.

To get Bernie and Hal back up to us looked like a problem as the route went through the waterfall. We opted for plan two which was to have Bernie lower him down about 40 feet to the creek bottom, cross the creek where we would pull up the ropes and toss them down to them on the other side. Using the rope as a toprope they both climbed up to our position.

Since Ray and I both had to be at work at 8:00 am we all quickly packed up our gear and headed back up canyon. We followed the stream bed until we ran into an impassable falls where we climbed out and headed up for the ridgetop where we figured we could make better time back to base camp. Well — good idea in theory,

bad idea in practice. The brush was so thick that we gave up trying to find a way around it and started taking turns crashing through it. The brush was continually grabbing and tearing at anything that was loose — sleeves, headlamps, packs, arms, etc. It was real slow going but finally we made the top where we ran into the other field teams waiting for us in the cold. They looked strange all bundled up in their down winter gear, and us clad in shirt sleeves like it was summer time.

Well, the sun would be up soon so we all took off for the 15 minute hike back to the vans. Someone had some hot coffee waiting for us which was greatly appreciated. After a short critique of the mission we all headed home for some much needed sleep. I got home at 6:30 am. My wife Robin, got me up at 7:15 and got me off to work so that I was there by 8:00 am. All I can say is "Thanks Walt!" At least I did get to work on time but your credibility is teetering on the edge of a bottomless pit. • RMRU

Volunteer Man Hours — 90



## Mock Mission

**6 Sept., Sat.  
Strawberry Creek  
San Jacinto Mountains**

By Steve Bryant



Saturday, September 6, dawned bright and warm in Idyllwild, and RMRU was there to enjoy it. This training was to be a mock mission, involving a search and rescue of a 14-year old boy, Brandon Lindholm, who was supposed to have left Buckhorn Camp the previous day for a hike down to Camp Emerson. Two teams of two were sent down Strawberry Creek from Buckhorn to Emerson — a fast team to try to catch up with Brandon, and a slower team to search the area and call for him in case he was stuck or injured. In addition, a team was driven around to Camp Emerson, to try to find tracks at the place where he was supposed to have finished his hike.

After the fast team got down to Camp Emerson and met up with the team already there, the operations leader decided to have both of these teams continue the

search down Strawberry Creek towards Isomata. If Brandon had not recognized Camp Emerson, or had been in a side branch of Strawberry Creek, he could have continued down towards "the Grotto," an area of Strawberry Creek near Isomata where there are waterfalls and large boulders. In the 25 years of RMRU we have rescued a number of people from the Grotto, some severely injured.

The combined teams hiked on down toward the Grotto, calling Brandon's name. Not too far into the rocks, they heard an answer, and quickly climbed down to him. He had indeed gone farther than Camp Emerson, and had gotten into the rocks. In trying to climb out on the side of a rock face, he had fallen and broken a leg, sprained an arm, and suf-

fered numerous cuts and bruises. RMRU members gave Brandon proper first aid treatment, splinted his broken leg, and called back to the operations leader for the wheeled litter and other equipment necessary to extricate him from the canyon bottom.

Soon the rest of RMRU joined the first teams, and brought down the necessary equipment — ropes, carabiners, pulleys, and goggles for Brandon, as well as the wheeled litter. We loaded Brandon into the litter by picking him up carefully and sliding the litter underneath him, then lowering him carefully down into the well-padded litter bed. Four of us then lifted the litter up while another two RMRU members attached the big low-pressure wheel to the bottom of the litter.

Meanwhile, three other members were scouting out the best route out of the canyon, and when found, started setting up a belay rope for the litter. When all the preparations were completed, six RMRU members started pushing, pulling and sometimes carrying the litter over the rocks, trying to keep it level while climbing up the steep rocky slope.

We finally got the litter to the top of the slope, where the mock mission was declared over. RMRU then adjourned to Henry Negrete's house in Idyllwild for a critique and lunch. Later that day, we had a most wonderful pool party, complete with barbecued chicken and fixin's, courtesy of Henry and Sheryl Negrete. Thanks to both of you for the wonderful time!

Volunteer Man Hours — 160

• RMRU

## Olden Days by Walt Walker



RMRU PHOTO BY BILL SPECK

LEFT to RIGHT — Walt Walker, Jim Fairchild and Mike Daugherty work at the strenuous and delicate task of evacuating the injured girl from the bottom of the canyon. Editors note: The majority of the team was above the point shown in the picture hard at work operating the 6 to 1 mechanical advantage that was doing the job of raising the victim.

## RESCUE

7 July, 1969

Tahquitz Canyon  
San Jacinto Mountains

By Jim Dodson

At 0215 Monday the ringing of the phone ended RMRU's eleven day midsummer lull. A teenage girl, age 18, was reported to have fallen in Tahquitz Canyon and was immobilized somewhere between the first and second falls.

The team started arriving at the bottom of the canyon by 0330 and was on its way by 0400. Daybreak found us down in the canyon between the falls interrogating various hippie colonies to no avail. After working our way up to the bottom of the second falls, word was received that the victim was only "a few hundred feet" above the top of the first falls. We then descended the canyon and at 0830 came upon the girl.

While Walt Walker, Jim Fairchild and Bill Speck rappelled down the side to her and administered First Aid, the rest of the team under the direction of Art Bridge readied a helispot and marked out an evacuation route. Since the victim had broken ribs and a badly lacerated and bruised leg it was apparent that she would be a litter case. The litter, rope and other technical gear was flown in by Western Helicopters Inc. The first touchdown gave us all some very anxious moments as the tail rotor drifted dangerously close to rocks. As Art and I were struggling with getting the gear off the chopper, Mike Daugherty was having his hands full getting out of the bird and wound up in the uncomfortable position of straddling a runner.

Below, the members with the victim proceeded to tie the girl into the litter for a horizontal lift, and then carried her across waist deep Tahquitz Creek; while above the rest of the team rigged up a mechanical advantage. While Jim stayed below with the litter, the others climbed up to join the rest of the team, and the litter was hoisted up the face. Then, a short carry to the helispot, another chopper touchdown, and the victim was on her way down to Palm Springs Hospital. The team was then flown out, but not until Art Bridge got to coil 300 feet of rope impregnated with cactus thorns — ouch! • RMRU

# \$USTAINING MEMBERS

BY PETE CARLSON

Your new sustaining membership chairman is finally getting caught up on thank you letters and is beginning to get organized again. Taking over in July, I got off to a slow start. On July 15th my wife gave birth to a baby girl. This doubled our diaper work, as we also have a 20 month old boy. Somehow in between diaper changes we managed to load all the names and addresses of RMRU sustaining members into our computer. We created some thank you letters and wrote a program to address the letters to the right people. Hopefully everyone received a letter who should have; some may even have received two. All the bugs should now be out of the system. Once a month we will update the files and print thank you letters.

Donations in June, July, August, September and October have been great. All our monthly bills (gasoline, phone, van insurance, etc.) have been paid. We have purchased 4800 feet of rope, two new radios, climbing chocks, and some first aid equipment. We have some money left over and are looking at purchasing new equipment for technical rescues, small field radioes, and more first aid equipment. More on the new equipment in future newsletters.

We welcome all our new sustaining members and hope that after reading the newsletter for a while you will decide to join our renewing members who have continued to support us throughout the years. Our renewing sustaining members can, as before, read of the rescues and know that they are doing their part for RMRU in helping to save lives.

## MAY

### New —

Robert Denny & Family  
40 Plus Singles  
\*The Shay Corporation  
Harry Warren  
Hundred Peaks Section  
(Los Angeles Chapter Sierra Club)

### Renewing —

\*Circle City Hospital  
\*William Stewart  
\*Ruth Peters  
John Bouma  
Douglas Ayer  
Betty & Kelley Harrison  
Milo & Alice Hefferlin  
C. O. Barker, Jr.  
John & Medina Freitas  
Keldon Paper Co.  
\*Banning Womans Club

## JUNE

### New —

Nicolette & Geo. Pohlers-Pior  
D & E Lovelee  
Ramona Pageant Association  
Science Camp  
Ray Castilonia

### Renewing —

Harry & Olga Hein  
Fred Camphausen  
Elva Bess Cook  
Richard Elliot  
John Podolsky  
Banning Mini Storage  
Nuvview Union School District  
Helen Harvey  
\*Dr. & Mrs. Norman Mellor

## JULY

### New —

Julie L. Gang  
Mountain High, Ltd.  
D. S. Carburetion  
Jon & Olivia Simonds  
Janes & Thais Sadoyama  
John J. Pope, M.D.

\*Ralph & Nancy Gang  
\*Franklin R. Collbohm  
\*Dr. & Mrs. J. Burdette Nelson, Jr.  
\*Carlsbad Union Church  
\*Orco Block Co., Inc.  
\*Idyllwild Firemen's Association

### Renewing —

Fred C. James  
Barbara & Lloyd Allen, Sr.  
Ruth Wright  
Josephine Modica  
M/M Roy L. Haglund  
Keldon Paper Company  
David Westheimer  
Marydoris Powers  
Frank Williams  
David & Patricia Randel  
M/M Richard E. Fleming  
Jay & Jeanne Wallis  
Cooper & Joy Lindley  
John G. Fast, M.D.  
Diann Coate  
Fran & Dave Hall  
Martin Trudeau  
Dr. & Mrs. John A. Murphy  
Ralph Glenn  
Frances L. Gray  
Lloyd & Ann Allen  
John G. Gabbert  
Gene & Barbara Garlinger  
M/M H. E. "Jeff" Divine  
D. Robert Johnson, M.D.  
\*Art & Catherine Bridge  
\*R. A. Dewees  
\*M/M John Gilbert  
\*Dave & Cheryl Hadley  
\*Jack Bamberger  
\*Lester & Shirley Albertson  
\*Rubidoux Grange No. 611, Inc.  
\*M/M Kenneth N. Andrews

## AUGUST

### New —

Jacqueline A. Dunn  
M/M R. O. Ridenour  
Dale & Barbara Huseboe  
Hank & Carlyn Schmel  
Lester W. Eischen  
Thomas & Betty Robinson  
Donald & Mary Jo Shinkle  
Theda R. Simpson  
J. R. J. Kolenich  
William & Maryann Wickett  
James & Susan Stauts  
Idyllwild Property Owners Assc.  
Hemet Breakfast Lions Club  
Rev. & Mrs. Maxwell Vague  
Steve Bryant  
Mariam Edwards  
\*M/M Malcolm Alexander, Jr.  
\*Buckhorn Camp  
\*Rotary Club of Idyllwild

### Renewing —

Sylvia Broadbent  
Tony Applegarth  
\*M/M John Pohlers

## SEPTEMBER

### New —

Town & Country Apartments  
Mrs. Ruth Echols  
\*Mr. Milton M. Levy

### Renewing —

Herwil M. & Genie C. Bryant  
\*Circle City Hospital  
\*Circle City Auxiliary

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

\* *Benefactor*