

Volume XXIII, Issue XI, November 1987

## Search and Rescue

### SEARCH

Mission No. 8736M

27 Nov., Fri.  
Deep Canyon,  
Santa Rosa Mountains

By Rob Gardner



It was a sunny afternoon. RMRU was called out to search for two overdue hikers. A brother and sister in their mid-twenties had been visiting relatives in Palm Desert for the holidays. They had not been hiking for many years. They decided to drive from Palm Desert up the mountain to Big Horn Sheep lookout and to then hike down Deep Canyon, which is a DEEP canyon that demands some experience from a hiker.

The reporting person was uncertain of what clothing the subjects had with them and described the subjects as other than strongly fit for a task like the one they had knowingly or unknowingly initiated.

Although the days were sunny, nights were cold. A helicopter was called to use in aerial search and to place searchers in the field. A base camp was set up at the Pinyon Flats CDF fire station. RMRU members continued to roll into base camp, as a Landells Aviation helicopter arrived. The first team quickly boarded the helicopter and was airborne.

As the helicopter vanished down into Deep Canyon, the voice of the Riverside County Sheriff's deputy assigned to the mission came up on the radio, reporting that he had contact with the subjects. The deputy had been standing by at the trail-

head. The subjects had suffered through the previous cold night and turned back, a good decision because of the impassable points that awaited them further down the canyon.

The mission started off like clock-work, and was short by good luck for all. Deep Canyon is beautiful, but only a place for the experienced mountaineer and wildlife such as the sure-footed Big Horn Sheep.

• RMRU

### RESCUE

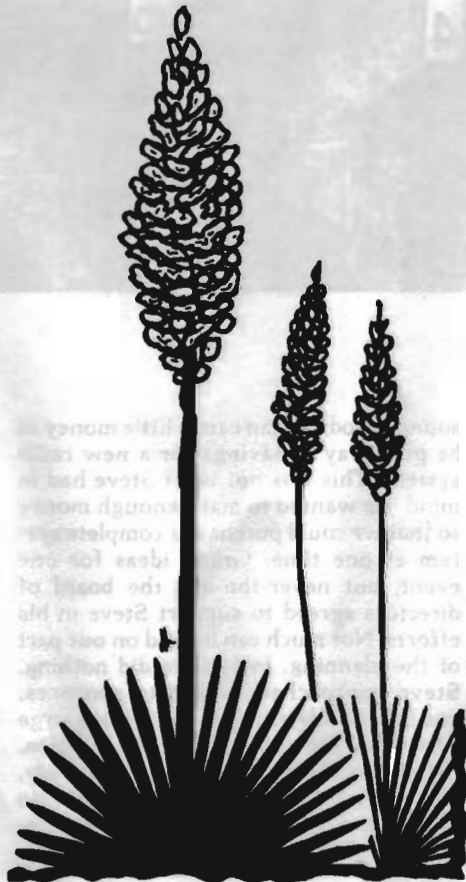
Mission No. 8737M

28 Nov., Fri.  
Tahquitz Rock,  
San Jacinto Mountains

By Kevin Walker



Dinner was interrupted by the loud howl of the pagers going off with news of an injured climber on Tahquitz Rock. The team was activated and as the off-the-hill members responded, two Idyllwild members were quickly on scene at Humber Park. Bill Blaschko and Eric Townsend put together light packs and started up the climber's trail towards Lunch Rock near the base of Tahquitz. About half way up they met up with members of the Idyllwild Fire Department as they were carrying the injured climber down. Bill and Eric assisted in the carry-out, and as the rest of us arrived at Humber they completed the carry-out. The climber was transported to the hospital and everyone turned around and drove home. • RMRU



### CALL

Mission No. 8738C

29 Nov., Sat.  
Tahquitz Rock,  
San Jacinto Mountains

We received a call from the Hemet station of the Riverside County Sheriff's Department asking us to respond to Tahquitz Rock for a stranded climber. As the call-out procedure was being initiated, we received another call informing us that the climbers had made their way off of the rock safely. • RMRU

# BANJOMANIA



## BANJOMANIA

8 Nov., Sat.  
Isomata,  
Idyllwild

By Kevin Walker



Engineer in Riverside about doing a banjo concert to raise money for a major equipment purchase, I thought, okay this

Banjomania...what the heck is that you might ask. The answer, the single largest fundraising event in RMRU's history. When I was first contacted by Steve Simpson, a Civil

sounds good, we can earn a little money to be put away in savings for a new radio system. This was not what Steve had in mind. He wanted to make enough money so that we could purchase a complete system at one time. Grand ideas for one event, but never-the-less the board of directors agreed to support Steve in his efforts. Not much can be said on our part of the planning. In fact we did nothing. Steve approached corporate sponsors, and individuals interested in making large donations. He put together the location, Isomata in Idyllwild. Got the band ready, of which he is an accomplished banjo player, and lined up none other than Sheriff Cois Byrd to be the master of ceremonies.

When Saturday, November 8th rolled around, all we had to do was show up. And so we did, and to our surprise not only was there excellent support from the sponsors, there was a great turnout of people from within the Sheriff's department and folks just out to see a super concert. All went smoothly, the banjo picking was the best, and at the intermission it was announced that RMRU would be receiving in excess of \$12,000 dollars from the event. Indeed Steve Simpson was right. With the money donated through Steve's efforts, the team has purchased 10 new Motorola radios. To Steve, we said thank you...His reply was, "let's do it again."

• RMRU