

Volume XXII, Issue XI, November 1986

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Search and Rescue

RESCUE

Mission No. 8645M

9 Nov., Sun.
Tahquitz Rock,
San Jacinto Mountains

By Bill Blaschko



The tips of the helicopter rotor blades were slicing through the night air, missing Tahquitz Rock by a mere five feet, as Brian McGoldrick was drawn into the Huey helicopter by a slim metal cable. Looking below me

I could see the rock massif tapering down to the scree slope three hundred feet below. Brian's head was covered with blood. We pulled him from the cable into the helicopter, but he was alert enough to help work himself into the waiting litter. As I began administering first aid, the U.S. Marine Corps helicopter winch was used for two more quick raises to bring Brian's climbing partner, Kevin Brennan, and U.S. Navy Corpsman Mike Anjola up to the helicopter. Just as the helicopter run to Loma Linda University Medical Center was completed, the low fuel light began to flash.

The incident had begun about four hours earlier when a rock that Brian McGoldrick had a grip on gave way, resulting in a thirty foot fall. Mr. McGoldrick struck his head, loosing about a half pint of blood as well as fracturing his spine, wrist and suffering internal injuries. Kevin Brennan, who caught Brian's fall with the climbing rope, did not suffer any significant injuries. The pair yelled for help and their distress message

had been relayed to Mt. San Jacinto State Park Ranger Mike Whitehead and ultimately to RMRU.

After being contacted by fellow RMRU member Kevin Walker and being assessed of the situation, Bud White, Henry Negrete and I hiked to the base of Tahquitz Rock on the North side, and with the help of some local climbers, voice contact was established with the party in question. Seeing that they were about 400 feet down from the top of the rock and with the light of day quickly fading we quickly hiked back to Humber Park and drove back to Camp Maranatha where base camp was now set up and the members present were waiting for the Marine helicopter from El Toro to arrive. Upon their arrival, Operations Leader Walt Walker and Kevin Walker climbed aboard and flew up with the crew to the now dark massif of Tahquitz Rock to help the Marines locate the injured party. Winds

aloft made flying tricky, but after a period of time Walt and Kevin were able to talk the crew into the right area and Brian McGoldrick and Kevin Brennan were located. Corpsman Mike Anjola rappelled down to the subjects from the helicopter. While Mike gave aid to the pair the helicopter returned to base with Walt and Kevin, and then I was flown back up to be ready to give medical assistance when the climbers were winched back into the helicopter. The helicopter crew from El Toro did some very skillful flying, and rapidly evacuated the climbers from the climbing face.

Also involved in the mission were fellow members Jim Fairchild, Joel Erickson, Ray Hussey, Mary Bowman, Jay Pion and Steve Bryant. One additional note, Brian McGoldrick was released from Loma Linda University Medical Center after about 24 hours of hospitalization in good condition.

• RMRU



RMRU PHOTO BY JIM FAIRCHILD

PRACTICE PRACTICE PRACTICE — With RMRU member Henry Negrete tied in, fellow member Bill Blaschko guides the litter as they are both raised up one of the many tall boulders on Mt. Rubidoux.



\$USTAINING MEMBERS

BY PETE CARLSON

Last month was both happy and sad for RMRU. We celebrated our 25th anniversary as a rescue unit. But the event was saddened by the death of our friend and trusted pilot, Don Landells. Donations for the month were good, but we sustained some equipment damage and loss on missions. Your donations will be spent replacing this equipment. We hope all our new sustaining members will be patient with the lateness of the newsletter. With the 25th dinner and Don Landells' death we seem to have fallen behind on everything. As you read this month's issue, you can see that we have been busy. As many of you know, the order of business in volunteer rescue is rescues first, families second, then our jobs. After that, if we have any extra time we try and get the paper work caught up.

As for November, all sustaining members this month were renewing members. That is not as unusual as one might think, as we have a renewal rate of over 90%. This month the board of directors have been looking at acquiring a new radio system so each field member can have a small radio. This may sound like a lot, but let me explain. When a team of three members goes out to search an area, they want to cover as much ground as possible. We now stay within shouting distance of one another, and all move at the same speed. If each member were to have a small radio we could spread out, cover more ground, and still be in contact with the other team members. With the new system, in a steep canyon one person could be in the bottom of the canyon while two others could be on each side of the canyon ridge tops. We now use three teams of two to cover an area like that. A new system of small radios would probably cost about \$600 per radio. We are looking at purchasing 10 small radios. We will keep you informed as our plans progress.

Technical Skills

8 Nov., Sat.
Mt. Rubidoux,
City of Riverside

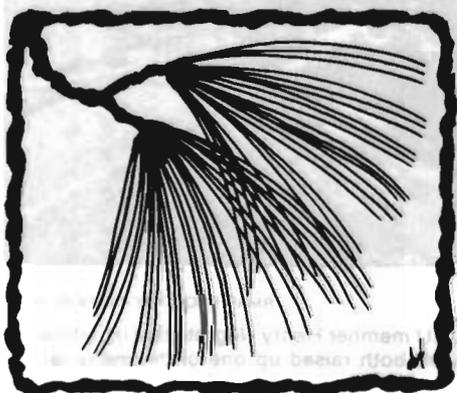
By Cameron Robbins



As was with training in October, the board of directors and training chairman Steve Bryant decided to return to Mt. Rubidoux to give instruction to new members (and old alike) on team and personal rock skills.

We met at the up-road gate at 7:00 am on Saturday morning, and after getting the gate opened (many thanks to the city that our name comes from), we traveled up the narrow road to the top of the mountain. It was a great day, with a clear view of the surrounding area below us. Steve assigned gear to be carried over to the training area, and we were soon in position to start. First Steve went over different types of anchors and ways to place them. Then we broke up into groups and practiced placing them ourselves. Then everyone had a crack at rappelling and then jumaring back up the 75 foot rock face. After lunch we worked on team skills, setting up lowering and raising systems, tying in a patient and rigging the litter both with our pre-tied system and also the old fashioned way — hand tying. There really is not much else that can be said, but the importance of practicing so that we are ready when the call comes can not be said enough. • RMRU

Volunteer Man Hours — 100



October

New —

- James & Kathy Machir
- Ada Henderson
- Christine Lore
- Donald & Sylvia Hay
- Kenneth & Anna-Marie Normile
- Denyse Racine
- M/M William John Osberg
- Judie L. Tartaglia
- William & Jeane Clark
- C. J. Alloy Products Inc.
- Coachella Volunteer Fireman's Assoc.
- V. S. Schaf-Bichett
- Joshua Tree Search & Rescue
- *Sandborn/Webb Inc.
- *Pete & Patricia Gillies

- *Beaumont Concrete Co.
- *Vernon & Teresa Bleich

Renewing —

- M/M Corbin Devalon
- Mrs. Harry C. Walton
- Richard & Karin Greenwood
- John & Betty Moore
- El Camino Real Student Body
- *Corona Breakfast Lions Club
- *Jerry Niswonger
- *Avis M. Anderson
- †San Jacinto Mountain Chapter
Izaak Walton League
- †San Jacinto Lions Club
- *M/M Bert Leithold
- *M/M Kenneth Chapman & Family

November

New —

- Joanne Karlton
- Tom Paulek
- Woody & Marye Stark
- *Brian Novak
- *Hemet Aero Club

Renewing —

- M/M Aldrich
- Dr. & Mrs. Nile I. Reeves
- M/M C. B. McMillan
- *James & Trinidad Larson
- †J. Korber Foundation, Inc.

- *Century Club, donation of \$100 or more
- †Summit Club, donation of \$500 or more
- Don Landells Memorial Fund

Notice!

The RMRU Newsletter is published 12 times per year by the Riverside Mountain Rescue Unit, Inc. It is intended primarily to inform the Regular and Sustaining Members.

If you would like to receive the newsletter on a regular basis, and at the same time become a Sustaining member, send your tax deductible donation of \$25 or more to:

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