

The logo for the Riverside Mountain Rescue Unit (RMRU) is located in the top left corner. It consists of the letters "RMRU" in a large, bold, blue sans-serif font, enclosed within a white rectangular border with an orange outline. Below the letters, the full name "RIVERSIDE MOUNTAIN RESCUE UNIT" is written in a smaller, black, sans-serif font.

RMRU

RIVERSIDE MOUNTAIN RESCUE UNIT

The background of the entire page is a high-altitude mountain landscape. In the foreground, dark, jagged rock formations are visible on the right side. The middle ground shows steep, rocky slopes with patches of snow and snowfields. In the distance, more mountain peaks are visible under a blue sky with scattered white clouds.

MISSIONS: May - December 2016

**RECRUITMENT EDITION -
Help Save A Life ... Join RMRU**

Help save a life.

Join **RMRU**



rmru.org



Courage.
Commitment.
Compassion.



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On the Cover -

Summit Mt. Agassiz (13,899')
High Sierras.

John Muir Wilderness

- *View to the southeast and the
Palisade Glacier*



strikes. The unit performs about 95% of its missions in Riverside County. However, it has traveled south into Mexico, north into the High Sierras and into Nevada to accomplish its lifesaving missions.

Our members regularly leave their jobs (or in the middle of the night, their warm beds) to respond to a call for help. They do not receive remuneration for time given to search and rescue. The members make up a small, but spirited, group of mountaineers who spend one weekend each month training to sharpen their rescue skills.

Each member must provide all of their own equipment at a cost of more than \$2,500. Beside acting as highly competent rescue workers, members also work closely with schools, clubs, church groups, and Scout troops throughout the area to teach mountain safety.

Continued on Page 8

Seeking New Team Members

**"Your Best Ability is
Your Availability"**

Founded 1961 | Over 2,000 Missions

RIVERSIDE MOUNTAIN RESCUE UNIT

Join Our Team!

We need your help.

Riverside Mountain Rescue needs additional team members to assist in our search and rescue activities.

Periodically you might read of a missing or injured hiker, backpacker, or climber found by a search and rescue (SAR) team. Are these some super humans that participate in these searches? Hardly. Just normal people from all walks of life, trained and ready to respond to wilderness emergencies.

Are you a person who is in good physical condition and prepared to search for people missing in the outdoors? Or perhaps you know of someone who might be interested in joining our volunteer search and rescue team. We could really use your assistance as some person's life could depend on it.

While we are a technical team, the vast majority of our search efforts are on foot looking for lost individuals.

The Mountains Don't Care, But We Do!

*Mountain Rescue Association
Motto 1959*

The Riverside Mountain Rescue Unit is a group of volunteers trained and ready to respond to wilderness emergencies. At any hour of the day, law enforcement agencies, national park and military officials may call upon the Unit to aid an unfortunate victim. The unit is on constant alert, via text messages, to search for and effect the rescue of hikers, skiers, rock climbers and outdoorsmen whenever and wherever tragedy

Mission Reviews

May 2016 - December 2016

The following pages contain a selection of first hand accounts of RMRU missions written by the team members involved.



RMRU volunteers are on call 24/7, to search for and rescue hikers, skiers, rock climbers, and outdoorsmen whenever and wherever needed.

High Country Rescue Hike

May 2, 2016

North Slope of Marion Mountain

Written by Lee Arnson

As I was home for a late lunch at 2:30 pm, I received a text from Deputy Eric Hannum, one of the Technical flight officers for the Sheriffs aviation unit, that they were flying over the local high country searching for a missing Pacific Crest Trail hiker, and he wanted to give me a heads up that the team might be activated. This time of year, Idyllwild and the nearby high country is inundated with hikers from all over the world as they are passing thru this area in the hopes of completing the 2,600-mile journey from Mexico to Canada. Eric then sent me another text saying the search was a "go" and to notify the team, of which I did by contacting our call captain Gwenda Yates. All we knew at this time was that our subject was a woman who had called for help.

The initial call-out was to respond to Humber Park and head to Saddle Junction and search that

portion of the wilderness. Shortly after, we were re-directed to The Marion Mountain trail head because she had been spotted by the aviation unit somewhere above the Fuller Ridge trail in an area that was still completely covered with snow.

"I finally made it to the woman, who had no injuries, but was stuck in the snow and disoriented."

RMRU RESCUER-
LEE ARNSON

The next text I received is the one that all rescuers dream of, and that was to respond to Keenwild helicopter base, where I would be met by Deputy Hannum and Chief pilot Andy Rasmussen where we would be flying in to hopefully get our subject out before it got dark and the weather changed for the worse. While this was going on, Glenn Henderson was at the Marion Mountain trail head waiting for other team members to show up and eventually get some teams in the field if we could not get our

subject out with the helicopter. While flying in with Eric and Andy, I got briefed on the situation. Eric had spotted her on a fly over earlier and locked in the coordinates, and told her to stay put. Upon arriving at the general area, we could still see her below us, but we were now faced with the task of getting me on the ground so I could get to her. There was no place to land the helicopter so it was decided we would do a hover step onto a large boulder, where I would get out and work my way down to the stranded woman. Well, as it turned out, the rock they put me onto was huge, and very tricky to get off of, and I knew there was no way I was going to get our subject back to it so she could get on board and be flown to safety. This was discouraging due to time constraints and dark clouds on the horizon. I waved Eric off, in the hopes of maybe we could get her out by a hoist instead. I finally made it to the woman, who had no injuries, but was stuck in the snow and disoriented.

MISSION REVIEWS MAY 2016 - DECEMBER 2016

Eric was now in the process of lowering the "screamer suit", a large body harness we will be using to hoist out our stranded hiker. I briefed the young lady on how this was going to work, as this point in the rescue is very high energy. There is a very strong rotor wash from the helicopter, we are knee deep in snow on a 30-degree slope, there is no room for error or time for questions, it's just go time. Because of the superb flying on Andy's part, and Eric's great timing of running the hoist cable out, the hoist hook was put right into my hands. (These guys are amazing) I clipped the subject to the hook, and her pack onto a secondary hook, and away she flew. Mission accomplished. Except Eric was now able to send me another text, the one most rescuers don't want to receive, that they could not return back to fly me out due to weather conditions. I was going to have to hike out. Not a big deal really, I know full well that just because you fly in, it does not mean that you are flying out. So after getting my bearings on where I actually was, I headed to the Marion Mountain trail head, about a two-hour hike, and all downhill. I met up with Glenn towards the end and we had a nice hike out.

RMRU Members Involved:

Lee Arnson, Cameron Dickinson, Gary Farris, Glenn Henderson, Eric Holden, and Kevin Kearn.

Riverside County Sheriffs

Aviation Unit:

Chief pilot Andy Rasmussen and
Technical flight officer
Eric Hannum

Missing Hiker-Biker

May 13, 2016

**Ortega Highway –
Cleveland Nation Forest**

Written by Glenn Henderson

AGGGGGGG!!! 01:30 in the morning again! A report of a missing hiker in the Ortega Mountains near the Orange County line. I rolled out to the station and picked up the rescue truck and met Cameron on the Ortega highway. We had trouble finding where the turn off was as it was a private community. It took two hours to find the right turn and then quite a long drive up to where the deputy was waiting. He showed us on the map where the hiker was last seen and that he supposedly still at that location. Cameron and I left one of our radios with the deputy and we took off looking to go down a trail called Bluewater Trail.

*"if I never do the
Bluewater Trail again it will be
too soon. Steep, rocky, .."*

**RMRU RESCUER -
GLENN HENDERSON**

I had never been on this trail before so took off not knowing what we were getting into. If I never do the Bluewater Trail again it will be too soon. Steep, rocky, narrow, steep, short switchbacks, and did I say steep? I found a sign at the bottom that says 1800 feet in 1.3 miles, Hard. They weren't kidding. Cameron had to go back to take care of some work related business so I continued on down the trail. I finally got down to where Dan, our

58-year-old missing person was supposed to be when two mountain bikers came up behind me. They were two friends of Dan and it turns out that it was a mountain biker we were looking for, not a hiker. They went on ahead of me and I made it out to Fisherman's Camp where I met Cameron and Tony who had driven around to meet me. I took one of their cars out and drove up to Tenaja trailhead to wait for them to come to me after clearing the trail to the trailhead.



Ray and Subject reunited with wife

Meanwhile Star 9 as well as Duke 60, the Orange County Sheriff's helicopter, was in the air searching all the trails. No luck from either one. I was wanted back in base so Star 9 landed and flew me back to base. It was now 1 PM and still no sign of Dan. I started making assignments for teams as they arrived on scene.

Judy and Gary arrived and I sent them out to cover the Bear Ridge trail. Cameron and Tony completed their assignment and I called them back into base. Ray and Eric had just arrived when Dan's wife said that she had just gotten a text that Dan was on a ridge and now had cell service. I put Ray into Star 9 with an app that located Dan's phone. Star 9 lifted off and within 30 minutes was back with Dan.



It turns out that Dan tried to hike up one of the canyons and not use the trails at all. The canyons are so choked with brush that he immediately got into trouble making his way out. He abandoned his bike and continued up the canyon finally getting cell service about 5PM when he texted his wife. He was pretty scratched up and thirsty but otherwise in good health. All teams were now back in base and we headed home at 6PM to rest up for the next mission which happened at 02:00 AM the next morning. See mission 19 – 16.

RMRU Members Involved:

Cameron Dickinson, Gary Farris, Glenn Henderson, Eric Holden, Tony Hughes, Judy Spowart, and Ray Weden.

Others Involved: Riverside County Sheriffs Aviation Unit Star 9 and Orange County Sheriff's helicopter Duke 60.

Lost Hiker – Tram to Summit to Caramba May 14, 2016

San Jacinto Mountains
Written by Eric Holden

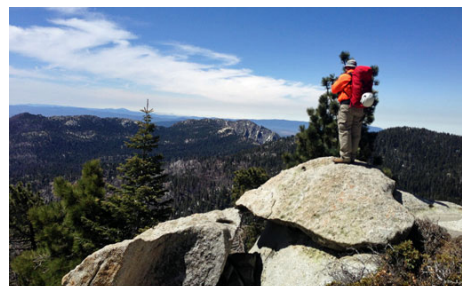
After just finishing mission 2016-018 I was looking forward to the next day's training that I had prepared, some tracking with a technical rescue, but at 2am Saturday morning we get a text to meet at the tram at 6am for a missing hiker, looks like no training today! We end up having a great turn out, Cameron, Matt, Tony, Judy, Ray, Rob, Wayne, Glenn, Mike and Gary all report that they are on their way. On the first tram up Glenn

lets me know that I will be running this mission. This would be my first time running a mission, but having recently been to ICS (Incident Command System) training, I felt ready and Glenn would be working with me giving me his expert advice.

"I called up Kirk to run a yourlo.ca/tion on the subject but unfortunately his cell phone was not turned on."

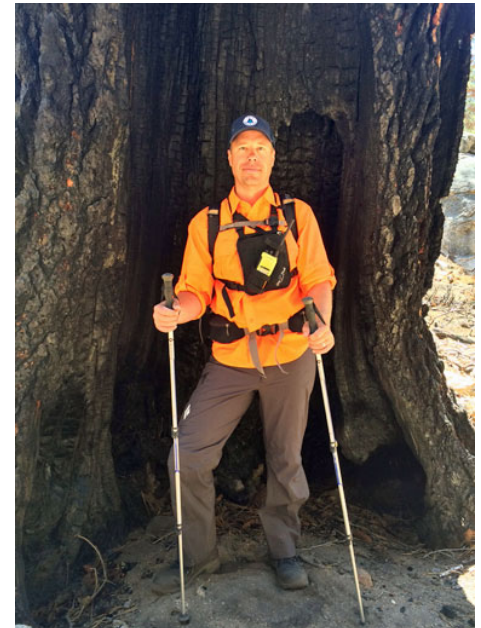
RMRU RESCUER -
ERIC HOLDEN

Our subject is Daniel De Bias, 18-year-old male, who was last seen on the trail below Jean Peak the night before. Once at our staging area up in Mountain Station we assign teams and I sent Team 1 (Cameron and Matt) up the main trail to Wellman's Divide to cut for sign, as this would be the most likely place our subject went off trail. Team 2 (Tony, Judy, and Ray) were sent up the High Trail to Round Valley. The State Parks were also sending out teams and sent members up the Sid Davis trail to Tamarack Valley. I called up Kirk to run a yourlo.ca/tion on the subject but unfortunately his cell phone was not turned on.



Tony searching near Lotus Camp
Round Valley

After about 30 minutes Rob and Wayne (Team 3) caught the Tram up and quickly got assignments. They would head towards Law's Junction to look for any sign that someone had been there recently. We got word that CHP would be flying with a State Park volunteer to provide some aerial support. State Parks also drove two volunteers over to the Idyllwild side of the mountain and started one up Deer Springs and one up Devil's Slide. The mountain was now thoroughly covered with searchers. About an hour later we got word that Team 1 spotted some fresh Vans prints heading down from Wellman's Divide. We knew from



Matt and a burned out tree

interviewing the family that Daniel may be wearing Vans, but we were not 100% sure. Team 1 would start following the tracks but due to the large amount of hikers, the tracks got over run. They would eventually drop into the Willow Creek drainage.

Team 2 was sent through Round

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Valley to do one more sweep of Tamarack while Team 4 (Gary and Mike) were sent out to go up the Shangri-La route. About an hour later Rob radios in that he has fresh Vans foot prints near Law's Junction. Rob is a great tracker and I knew he would work these tracks and get a direction of travel. At this same time Gary calls into base letting us know he ran into some of Daniel's fellow hikers from last night. He was able to confirm 100% that Daniel was in Vans. This was the moment that I heard Glenn go "Yes!" with a huge smile on his face. Rob would let us know that the tracks were about size 11 and heading toward Caramba.

"This is one of those missions that was truly a team effort. Every team on the mountain was able to provide clues....."

RMRU RESCUER -
ERIC HOLDEN

We pulled Team 2 back to work as a radio relay for the teams in the willow creek drainage. Team 3 were now diligently working the tracks while Team 1 hurried down to assist and leap frog ahead. At about 12:00 hours Star 9 let us know that they were now in the air and could assist. We quickly sent them to the Caramba area and after a few passes found our missing hiker. About 0.75mile down the waterfalls from Caramba Camp.

The next 4 hours involved a lot of hard work by Team 1 and Team 3 hiking down to Daniel while Team 2 ran radio relay and Team 4 re-

turned to base in case we needed to send them out with additional gear. Star 9 was able to land near Caramba Camp and pick up one searcher, but due to high winds, they had to swap aircraft. Eventually Daniel and all 4 team members were airlifted out of Caramba and back down to Valley Station. Daniel was in great spirits and uninjured. Team 2 was called back and we all shared in the joy from having a successful mission.

RMRU member Wayne's story from the tracking field team - We picked up his tracks by laws junction and tracked him for approximately 1/4 mile. Star 9 heard our traffic to base regarding the direction the subject appeared to be heading and they scouted the area making positive contact approximately 1.6 miles to the east of us. They were able to instruct the subject to stay where he was and give us his coordinates. Rob lead us down Caramba falls drainage directly to him using his GPS. Fortunately, he was safe, uninjured and in good spirits. We shared some of our food with him before making the short but, strenuous hike out to the Land Zone where Cam was waiting. Matt had already been picked up by Star 9 and after an aircraft change out due to some sort of mechanical issue, they shuttled us out and down to the lower tram parking area. The subjects mother and girlfriend were waiting at the tram building and they were very grateful to the team for getting their loved one out.

Daniel's Story – Daniel left the hike

the peak with friends but after it was nearing dark, he decided to run back ahead of his group to make sure they held the tram. He missed the Wellman's Divide turn and ended up heading towards Saddle Junction. He spent the night with some PCT hikers and eventually tried to get back to the tram via the Willow Creek trail. Unfortunately this trail is closed and severely overgrown from the mountain fire. This caused him to miss the Law's Junction turnoff and head down to Caramba.



Subject and Rob exit helicopter

This is one of those missions that was truly a team effort. Every team on the mountain was able to provide clues and help that lead to the rescue of Daniel and will go down as one of my most memorable missions.

RMRU Members Involved:

Kirk Cloyd, Cameron Dickinson, Gary Farris, Michael George, Glenn Henderson, Eric Holden, Tony Hughes, Matt Jordon, Rob May, Wayne Smith, Judy Spowart, and Ray Weden.

Additional Support and Thanks

California State Parks, CHP Aviation, Riverside Sheriff's Office, Riverside Sheriff's Aviation Unit, Palm Springs Aerial Tramway



As a member of the Mountain Rescue Association (MRA.org), we are not your average search and rescue team. In addition to what is expected of most SAR teams, we specialize in high-angle rope rescue and extended back country and mountain rescue missions.

If you think you have what it takes to be part of an elite mountain rescue team, please join us at one of our monthly meetings.

The Membership Process in joining RMRU

1. Attend a general membership meeting held at the Riverside County Sheriff's Valley Vista substation, 43950 Acacia Street, Hemet.

The official meeting begins at 7 pm however a training session starts at 6 pm and is a great opportunity to meet one on one with team members.

Being the meeting is held with the secured section of the Sheriff's Substation, an appointment is required. Email info@rmru.org to schedule one.

2. If interested after attending the meeting, request a RMRU membership application.

3. Complete the detailed membership application and mail or email to our membership director. Your application will be reviewed.

RMRU MEMBERSHIP PROCESS

1. Attend general membership meeting held on 1st Wednesday of every month.

2. If interested, request membership application.

3. Submit completed application.

4. Interview with RMRU Members at next general membership meeting.

5. Interview panel and BOD accepts or rejects application.

6. If accepted, complete Riverside County Sheriff's Department Application.

7. Sheriff's Department reviews application packet. Personal Interview is also required.

8. If accepted, sworn in by Riverside County Sheriff's Department.

9. Now a training team member allowed to participate in missions and training.

4. At the next general membership meeting that you can attend, interview with an a panel of RMRU members.

5. If the interview panel accepts your application the Board of Directors will vote on your application at their next monthly meeting.

6. If accepted, you will be provided with a Sheriff Department's application. Once this very detailed application is completed, return to the membership director.

7. The Sheriff's department will review the application and your background packet.

In addition, you will be interviewed by a representative of the Sheriff's Department. Also required is a fingerprint Live scan. This process will take 2 -3 months. During the review process, we encourage you to attend meetings but you cannot attend any training.

8. Once approved by the Sheriff's Department, you are sworn in by the Captain of our Hemet substation.

9. You are a training team member and can participate in all trainings and local SAR missions.

Congratulations!

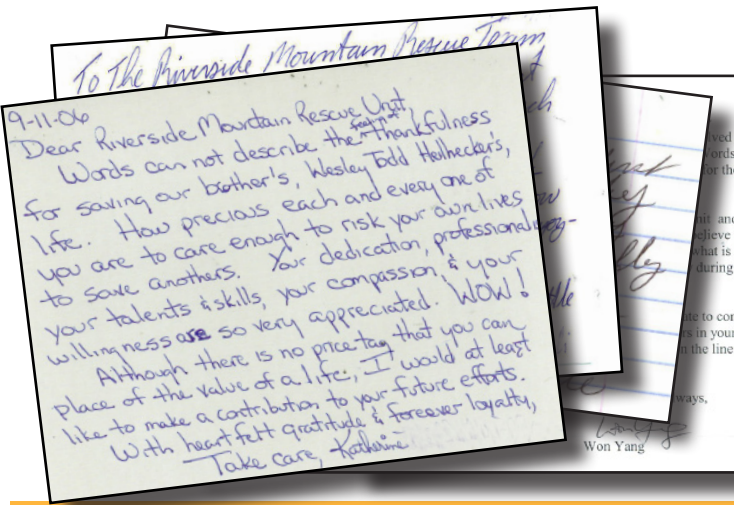
We look forward to you joining our team!

Written by: Gary Farris



Testimonials

Our Reward
are the people we help



Dear Riverside Mountain Rescue Unit,

Words cannot describe the feelings and thankfulness for saving our brother's life. How precious each and every one of you are to care enough to risk your own lives to save another's. Your dedication, professionalism, your talents and skills, your compassion and your willingness are so very appreciated. WOW!! Katherine

To the Riverside Mountain Rescue Team,

Thank you for taking time out of your night on Friday to search for my friend Heidi, and I when we lost the trail on the way back from San Jacinto Peak. While I know it is something you gladly do – and enjoy – I do apologize for taking up your time because I made a very horrible mistake. You guys are awesome! Tom

Dear Sirs,

I wanted to express my sincere gratitude to everyone involved in the search and rescue from Cabazon Mountain. Words can never even begin to express the new found appreciation and admiration I have for the jobs that each and every one of you do.

I really appreciate the quick response to your Rescue Unit and the coordination with the Sheriff's department. Because of your quick action I believe that I am here today and with my family and now have a new outlook on life and what is really important, and I thank you for that. Thank you for staying with my family during this time. Your compassions for humanity really shows. Best Regards Always, Won

Dear Friends,

I just celebrated my first anniversary of being saved by your dedicated volunteers. My hats off to you especially Sully who went way beyond the call of duty. Keep up the good works. God Bless All

Dear Sirs,

I would like to thank you on behalf of my husband and granddaughter for the assistance you gave and my son's family last night and this morning. My husband and I are not hikers (although my husband is a retired Marine) so this is something we don't ordinarily do. When we got stuck up in the forest overnight we knew we would have to fend for ourselves, but we also were pretty certain that our son and daughter-in-law would call for help. They did and you were magnificent.

I also want to thank the volunteer search and rescue team, which was following us even though we never saw them. I know that having such a group in your area gives your residents and guests a great sense of security. I know that they are not under your command, but would you please forward our thanks. Kim

Peak Hikers San Jacinto

May 15, 2016

Miller Peak Area

Written by Eric Holden

As I was returning home from an all-day search for an overdue hiker in the San Jacinto Mountains (See Mission Write-up 2016-19), a text went out to team regarding another search. It turned out that this search would be approximately in the same area as the day's earlier search. A few minutes after returning home from the first mission I received a follow-up call from Glenn Henderson to confirm whether I was available for this mission. I was, and after a quick 5-minute shower and some fresh clothes I was out the door on the road again, heading back to the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway where I departed from just an hour

"Once we arrived at the upper tram station, we quickly set up base and radio communications which would be managed by Michael George."

and a half earlier.

It turned out this search would be for 3 lost hikers. Luckily one of the hikers was able to get a brief cell signal to call 911 for help. We were also able to acquire their GPS coordinates of their location on the mountain, which placed them near Miller Peak at an elevation of 10,000ft. While in route, team member Ray Weden was able to text out a map screenshot of their location with associated coordi-

nates. Having their coordinates is great news as we knew their location right from start, as long as they stayed there and not leave that location!



(L-R) Subject, Eric, 2 Subjects, Mike, and Cameron

Once we arrived at the upper tram station, we quickly set up base and radio communications which would be managed by Michael George. Within a few minutes, Eric and I would quickly begin our hike up. We determined that the quickest way to get to them was not to take the designated trails, but to go off trail and take a straighter line approach to them. Within a short period of time, we reached our subjects.

We arrived to our subject's good spirits, and determined they needed no urgent medical attention. Just a little cold and hungry. We did provide some aid which included warm jackets, wrapped them with sleeping bags, provide some food, and hot chocolate/coffee. As they were getting warmed up, they provided us a little info on their intended hike and how they ended up off-trail. It turned out they were hiking the Cactus to Clouds Trail, and on their way down from the San Jacinto Peak they ended up walk off trail and continued into some thicker brush and unable to find back the trail

they were previously on.

Once they were warmed up and ready to start the hike, we packed our gear and headed back down the mountain to the upper tram station. We all arrived at the upper tram station at 4:00am, and took a short nap until tram was operational at 6:00am. At that time, we all loaded into the tram and headed down to the lower station where our mission would now be complete.

"It turned out they were hiking the Cactus to Clouds Trail, ... they ended up walk off trail and continued into some thicker brush and unable to find back the trail they were previously on."

Cactus to Clouds Trail

Cactus to Clouds Trail (aka Skyline Trail), which starts at the Palm Springs Art Museum and tops out at San Jacinto Peak. It has a total elevation gain of 10,300' with a length of 14 miles (one direction), making it one of the steepest hikes relative to distance in the US, and surprisingly in the world. When taking on the challenge of doing this hike, make sure you have the supplies necessary in case things go sour. Be prepared. Bring a GPS unit or map/compass on your hike which is generally good insurance to have in case one ends up off trail or in unfamiliar territory. These individuals did have a fair amount of supplies with them, but for those who are taking on challenge of an all-day hike like this one with the high elevation gains and tempera-

MISSION REVIEWS MAY 2016 - DECEMBER 2016

ture differentials, it's also necessary to carry more food and water than you would expect to ever use, a headlamp, and warmer layers in case you encounter unusual or unanticipated circumstances such as nausea/illness, sprained ankle other injuries, or getting lost!

RMRU Members Involved:

Cameron Dickinson, Michael George, and Eric Holden.

Others Involved:

Riverside County Sheriffs and Palm Springs Tramway.

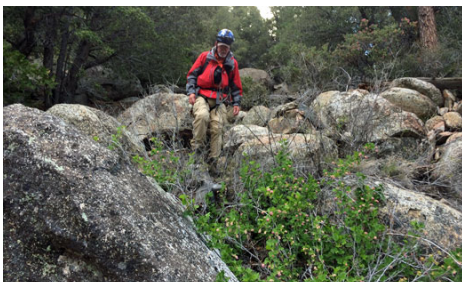
Lost Hiker and Dogs

May 18, 2016

Caramba Camp Area

Written by Eric Holden

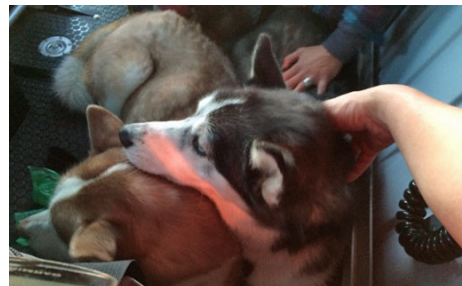
5:30pm - We get the call out that there is a missing female hiker with 2 dogs, from her cell phone ping it put her in the vicinity of Caramba up in the San Jacinto Mountains. I get the call from Glenn to meet at Hemet Ryan. Once at the airport we meet up with Chad and Ray with RSO (Riverside Sheriff's Office) Aviation Unit flying Helicopter (Star 9) and they give us the information. They have flown the area and spotted her. From her Lat./Long she is located about 0.5 miles down the waterfalls from Caramba Camp. Glenn and I suit up and head out.



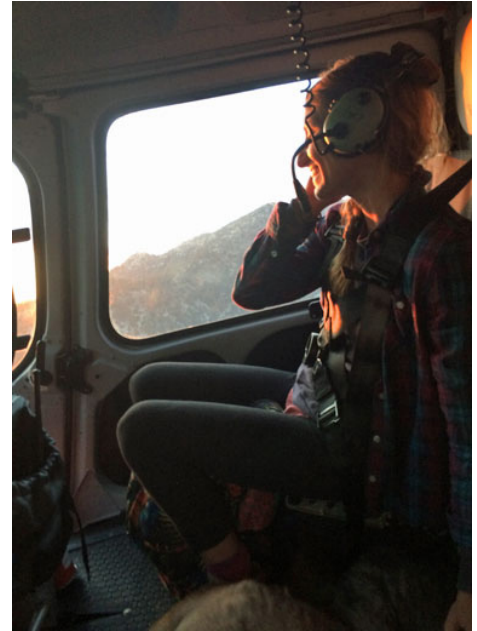
Glenn heading down to Subject

A short ride later and Star 9 lands at a clearing in the Caramba area. They shut down the helicopter and wait patiently for our return. Glenn and I start down the burn area in beautiful Caramba. I have only been here once before and it was in the dark, so seeing the beauty of this place was quite fortunate.

About 15 minutes later we find Mimi hiking up the canyon with her two dogs, Sid and Skadi. Mimi was in good health and spirits and we quickly hiked back up to the Helicopter. I anchored both dogs to the floor of the helicopter between Mimi and myself as we were not sure how the dogs would handle the trip. Turns out, they were pretty tired and just laid down quite calm for the trip to Keenwild.



After turning over Mimi to the Riverside Sheriff's Deputy we returned to Caramba to pick up Glenn, who was unfortunately getting attacked by a flock of mosquitos. Glenn hops onto the hot bird and we fly back to Hemet Ryan. On the way out we learn that Cameron and Ray Weden are hiking up Devil's Slide towards Caramba. We radio down that the subject is out and they start the hike back. A quick rescue thanks to the expert flight team of the Riverside Sheriff's Aviation team.



Subject Flying Out

Mimi's Story – Mimi left from Humber Park to hike to Tahquitz Peak. She got lost at Saddle Junction and ended up following the Willow Creek trail down until she hit Caramba. She kept going down the waterfalls and eventually called 911. This has been the third rescue out of the Caramba area in about a month.



Tahquitz Rock & Peak from the air

RMRU Members Involved:

Cameron Dickinson, Glenn Henderson, Eric Holden, Tony Hughes, and Raymond Weden.

Additional Support and Thanks:

RSO Star 9 – Pilot Chad Marlatt and TFO (Technical Flight Officer) Ray Heirs.



Massacre Canyon Hikers

May 22, 2016

Massacre Canyon San Jacinto

Written by Cameron Dickinson

Approximately 12:40am on Sunday morning a call went out to the team regarding two hikers that were stuck in the Massacre Canyon area. I was quickly on the road and on my way to the trailhead.

"As we hike into the steep ravine, we eventually stopped at a high point on the canyon and did a quick voice call-out"

RMRU RESCUER -
CAMERON DICKINSON

When I arrived at the trailhead, team member Glenn was already on scene as well as Riverside sheriff's deputies. Another team member Kirk was in route and not far behind, and would takeover radio communications once he arrived. A debrief by the deputies would explain the scenario with our hikers. We were searching female and male hiker in their late teens, stuck in a steep canyon, cold, and had no lights. They initiated their hike at 4:00pm in the afternoon. Glenn and I packed our gear, and off we went.

As we hike into the steep ravine, we eventually stopped at a high point on the canyon and did a quick voice call-out, with anticipation that we hear some response from back our stuck hikers. Sure enough, we heard "we're down here!". I shouted back to them to stay put, and that we would be

coming down to them. To get to them, we had to carefully scramble down the loose and steep hillside. It turned out they ended up hiking down to the creek wash below. We would soon reach them in good condition, however cold, and a little hungry (they did have enough water).

We provided them with warm jackets, extra headlamps, and a little food. We advised that safest way would be to hike up the hillside back to the trailhead. Because of the steep hike out, we harnessed them up for safety purposes, and slowly began our hike back out. Once we out of the canyon and back on the trailhead, we continued to maintain a higher level of caution as we traversed the trail across the hillside due to many sections of the trail being washed away likely from the previous winters rainfall. Soon we'd return back to the back to the trailhead, all safe and sound.

RMRU Members Involved:

Kirk Cloyd, Cameron Dickinson, and Glenn Henderson

Two Overdue Teens

May 30, 2016

Santa Rosa Plateau, Murrieta

Written by Raymond Weden

Shortly before 5am on Monday morning, we received a call for a search for two overdue teenage males. I was the first on scene and confirmed with the Deputy the finer details of our missing subjects. Their car was at the trailhead still and they had called 911 at some point prior to our arrival. With the

911 call we had a GPS location that put them high up in Cole Canyon just on the outskirts of the Santa Rosa Plateau.

Cameron and I headed up the trail in to Cole Canyon towards the last known point. The rest of the team split into two smaller teams and approached the GPS location via two different starting points on the plateau. As all three field teams were close to the last known location our two missing subjects, they walked up to their vehicle. They had walked out through the Plateau and continued through the city streets until they made it back around to their car.

"The rest of the team split into two smaller teams and approached the GPS location via two different starting points...."

RMRU RESCUER -
RAYMOND WEDEN

All field teams were called back to the command post and made it on time to their planned BBQ's later that day.

RMRU Members Involved:

Lee Arnson, Steve Bryant, Cameron Dickinson, Eric Holden, Tony Hughes, Kevin Kearn, Raymond Weden and Gwenda Yates.

Missing 70-year-old Woman

May 31, 2016

Desert Center, Interstate-10

Written by Glenn Henderson

The team was activated to search for a missing 70-year-old woman whose car was found near Desert Center. She was from Kingman Arizona and had been reported missing for 2 or 3 weeks. A telephone lineman found her car stuck in the sand in a ravine off of a dirt road. The car was not visible unless you drove on the dirt road and looked down the ravine. Desert Search and Rescue and Blythe SAR had been out the day before and had found prints but lost them on the south side of the dirt road.

Gary, Lew, and I reached base camp at 7 AM and received an assigned area to cover. We headed out along with some members of the Blythe team and deployed out in a line search. We searched until 11 AM when we completed our assignment. As we were heading back to base we were picked up by members of the ROVE (Riverside Off-road Vehicle Enforcement) team in some of their quads.

When we got back to base Star 9 Helicopter arrived on scene and began searching as well as members of the Border Patrol. We started figuring out new assignments when Star 9 circled around us and landed close by. We did not understand why they landed as no one had asked them to. When they got to us they told us they had found her quite a ways away and up a steep canyon.

One of the Border Patrol teams was close and got up to her after 2 hours of strenuous hiking and climbing. She had obviously been there for many days. The Patrol packaged her up and Star 9 flew her out. We were all released at 3 PM to return home.

Our sincere condolences to the family and loved ones of the missing woman.

RMRU Members Involved:

Gary Farris, Glenn Henderson, and Lew Kingman.

Missing Aircraft

June 8, 2016

Santiago Peak

Written by Eric Holden

RMRU received a callout for a possible ELT (Electronic Locator Transmitter) hit on plane that had been missing since May 28th while in route from Catalina to Van Nuys. The hit was someplace near Santiago peak. Ray, Tony and myself headed out there via the North Main Divide Truck trail. After navigating some pretty bad roads, we reached the area of the suspected hit.

"Tony and myself bush-whacked to the site and found that it was from an old lightning strike"

RMRU RESCUER - ERIC HOLDEN

We used our handheld ELT devices and found no signals. We did get lots of cross talk from the radio

towers on Santiago Peak. We drove to a lookout point that had a good view of the possible hit and noticed an area that had some down trees. Light was fading and it was decided we would come back during the day. That evening we got a callout to assist with a search in the Pinyon Pines area that would last 5 days delaying our return to the site.

On the June 13th we were able to drive back up to the area with the down trees. While Cameron worked the radios, Tony and myself bushwhacked to the site and found that it was from an old lightning strike and not a plane crash. We returned back home and the plane still remains missing.

RMRU Members Involved:

Eric Holden, Tony Hughes, Ray Weden, and Cameron Dickinson.

Alzheimer's Woman Missing

June 9, 2016

Pinyon Pines Area

Written by Eric Holden

RMRU Was called out to assist with the search for 71-year-old Josephene Youssef, out of the Pinyon Pines area. DSSAR and the Riverside Search Dogs had already been working the mission for a couple of operational periods. On our first day I met Rob and Lew at base and we had two assignments. We searched along the roadside cutting for any signs that anyone went by foot across the highway. We ended up not finding any signs. Our second assignment was a grid search of the area by the subject's house and unfortunately

did not find any clues.

The next day the search went OES (Office of Emergency Services) and more resources were called out. RMRU had another mission going on so no members responded this day. Unfortunately, no sign of Josephene was found.

"My final assignment was to assist one of the dog teams. The dogs were having a hard time as it has been 90+ degrees all day"

RMRU RESCUER - ERIC HOLDEN

On our third day, June 11, I returned to the search with Judy and Rob. Gwenda and Lew assisted in running base. We searched an old ranch that has been abandoned for some time. The ranch had many outbuildings but unfortunately we saw no signs of our subject. After lunch we returned to the field and hiked up nearby mountain to get a good view of the entire surrounding area. We used spotting scopes and binoculars to try and spot any sign of our subject. Even with the great bird's eye view, we did not spot anything.

Our Fourth day, June 12, I returned to the search again this time teamed up with Sierra Madre. We ended up searching a lot of ravines and washes without luck. My final assignment was to assist one of the dog teams. The dogs were having a hard time as it has been 90+ degrees all day and the ground was very hot for their feet.

Eventually we returned to base.

After multiple days of searching, the large scale search was called off and unfortunately Josephene still remains missing. Our thoughts go out to her friends and family.

RMRU Members Involved:

Joe Erickson, Eric Holden, Lew Kingman, Rob May, Judy Spowart, and Gwenda Yates.

Missing Woman Skyline

June 10, 2016

Cleveland National Forest, Corona

Written by Tony Hughes

Eric, Judy, and I all arrived at the bottom of Skyline Trail in Corona around 5:00 PM on Friday June, 10th. 2 Deputies were on scene and gave us an overview of what had happened thus far. A 15-year-old female had gone hiking up Tin Mine Canyon with her older sister and her sister's boyfriend. They left the trail head at approximately 5:45 AM. The group had started up the "ropes" trail and the older sister and her boyfriend decided to turn back after the 4th set of ropes. The 15-year-old continued to the top.

When the 15-year-old failed to return to the trail head and 911 was called. She had no water, no food, and no cell phone. Air 1 flew the area twice in the morning to locate the subject but did not spot her. A hiker coming down Skyline saw someone matching the subject's description near the radar tower (aka "The Golf Ball") at approximately 8:45 AM. The subject de-

clined water or food but accepted some lip balm.

A few RMRU team members received a heads-up at between 11 AM and Noon. We received the go-ahead at 4:00 PM after no further signs of the subject had appeared. Star 9 arrived on scene about the same time we did at 5:00 PM. They flew over Tin Mine Canyon, Skin Suit, and Skyline Trails. Eric, Judy, and I discussed the possible routes the subject could have taken - either retracing her steps back to the ropes, going up Main Divide, heading down Blackstar, heading out to Sierra Peak, or taking one of many offshoot trails. We decided we would head to the Golf Ball and cut for sign. The area past the Golf Ball receives limited traffic but Blackstar and Skyline are heavily traveled and it is likely our subject would be spotted on either of those trails.



Tony with Flat Tire

We started up the road and talked to several hikers and mountain bikers, none who had seen anyone fitting the subject's description. We reached the turn off for Sierra Peak and cut for sign. We had only been out of the truck for a few minutes when we received word the subject was safe at home. The dog team had gone to her residence to obtain clothing for scent and found out she had been home

for several hours. She had walked down Blackstar where Orange County Sheriff had picked her up and brought her to a Starbucks where she met her parents and returned home unharmed.

Eric, Judy, and I headed back to Skyline Trailhead to wrap things up, but our night wasn't over yet. The team truck got a flat tire and we worked with the deputy to get a tow truck to pick up the vehicle.

RMRU Members Involved:

Eric Holden, Tony Hughes, and Judy Spowart.



Missing Man Joshua Tree

July 1, 2016

Keys View, Joshua Tree

Written by Cameron Dickinson

On July 1 2016, Riverside County Sheriff's Dept. was contacted to assist in the search of a 59yr old missing in Joshua Tree National Park. In addition to Joshua Tree NP's own search team (JOSAR), resources from other counties, CHP, U.S. Border Patrol, and Desert Search & Rescue (DSAR) also came out to aid in the search.

On June 30th, a maintenance worker noticed a car parked on the side of the road that hasn't moved for a couple days. A little suspicious, the worker notified the park ranger on duty. The ranger came out to the vehicle, ran the plates, and found the vehicle belonged to a missing person out of Azusa, CA. City of Azusa P.D. reported the man missing on June 20th.

Initially, Park Service gained entry into the missing person's vehicle with the intent to find any clues that could help in determining the person's whereabouts, looking for itineraries, notes, maps, or any other evidence that could lead the searchers in the right direction. JOSAR would start by the vehicle in looking for any sign or clues of the missing person's direction of travel. Riverside County Sheriff's and CHP would fly their helicopters overhead while ground search teams would search through the boulder fields, hillsides, washes, fields, and on and around hiking trails and mines. Scent dogs were also utilized in the search.

"JOSAR would start by the vehicle in looking for any sign or clues of the missing person's direction of travel."

RMRU RESCUER

CAMERON DICKINSON

Over the course of the next several days, 9 team members Riverside Mountain Rescue Unit and other mutual aid teams scoured the park with no luck in locating the missing person. The search was eventually called off. The 59yr old man still remains missing to date.

RMRU Members Involved:

Cameron Dickinson, Gary Farris, Michael George, Glenn Henderson, Eric Holden, Tony Hughes, Kevin Kearn, Wayne Smith, and Ray Weden.



Missing Man Warner Springs Area

August 2, 2016

Warner Springs Area, San Diego County

Written by Cameron Dickinson

On the evening on August 1st, Riverside Mountain Rescue Unit was contacted to assist the San Diego Sheriff's Department in searching for a missing 83-year-old man in the Los Coyotes Indian Reservation near Warner Springs. Reservation police was notified by off-roaders who had located a car stuck in a ditch down a dirt road, with no one inside. During the police investigations, it was confirmed that the vehicle belonged to man reported missing from Orange County on June 13. It is believed that the missing man suffered from Dementia.

I drove out to the search area in the early AM the following morning. After I arrived at the command post, a group of searchers would be debriefed by San Diego Sheriff's and Los Coyotes Reservation Police with the latest information on our missing person. Soon

"We started our search in early morning, as it was expected the temperatures would reach the mid-90's. Our search area would consist of heavy vegetation"

thereafter we would be sent out to our designated search areas close to the subject's vehicle. I would be teamed up with our other River-

side County team members, Sharon Ollenberger of Desert Search and Rescue (DSAR), John Thomas of Riverside County Search Dogs and his cadaver dog, Pepper.

We started our search in early morning, as it was expected the temperatures would reach the mid-90's. Our search area would consist of heavy vegetation in rolling and steeper mountainous terrain. We spent the day combing our search area from east to west, looking for any potential print or sign of our missing person. During our search we found no clue within our designated area.

Despite all the team's best efforts and the various agencies that participated in the search, our subject still remains missing at the date of this write-up.

RMRU Members Involved:
Cameron Dickinson.

Missing 71-year-old Woman

August 5, 2016

Alpine County, CA

Written by Tony Hughes

An OES request for assistance in Alpine County went out on Thursday August 4th looking for assistance on Saturday and Sunday August 6th and 7th. A 71-year-old Female had gone missing on July 28th after she didn't return from an afternoon hike to the lake from her campsite. She had also gone missing in June near Lassen Volcanic National Park and was found the next morning. After

that incident, she always carried a flashlight with her when hiking.

Cameron Dickinson and I drove up to the Command Post (CP) in Bear Valley on Friday August, 5th. We arrived at the same time as the team from Fresno. After being briefed, Alpine County gave us accommodations in the employee housing for the local ski resort

"The Nano is a multifunction device with a satellite uplink allowing for two-way texting communications ..."

RMRU RESCUER -
TONY HUGHES

On the morning of August 6th, we joined over 200 team members from 27 agencies to search for our subject. Cam and I were paired up with Dan, Dana, and Alan from Contra Costa and given 2 search areas to cover. The search assignments were well organized. The perimeter of our search areas were loaded onto our GPSs at the CP. We also checked out a radio and a "Nano" device. The Nano is a multifunction device with a satellite uplink allowing for two-way texting communications and for the CP to monitor our location at all times.

We drove to the trailhead, hiked in about 1.5 miles to the search area and spent most of the day conducting a grid search of our two areas. We found no evidence of any recent human activity.

We returned to the Command Post

in the late afternoon, did our debriefing, and had some food. Over 100 square miles were searched with no signs of the subject. Many teams left Saturday night. Cam and I turned in early, got some sleep, and drove home on Sunday. A few remaining teams continued searching Sunday.

Alpine County Sheriff called off the search on Sunday afternoon and issued a Silver Alert for the subject in case she had driven off with someone.

RMRU Members Involved:
Cameron Dickinson and Tony Hughes.

Rescue Lost Seniors Near Seven Pines Trail

August 14, 2016

Seven Pines Trail

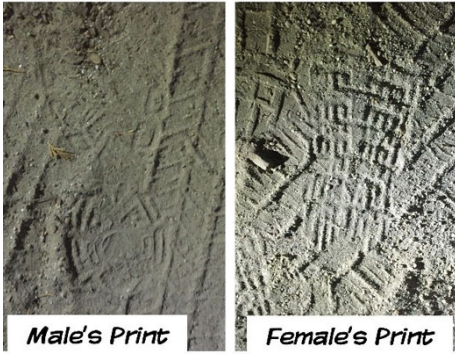
Written by Kevin Kearn

On Sunday evening, after the entire team had finished working our Annual Pancake Breakfast Fundraising Event in Idyllwild that morning, the Riverside Sheriff's Office (RSO) alerted RMRU at 8:45 pm to rescue two lost seniors east of the Seven Pines Trail. The subjects were a 67-year-old female and 70-year-old male. The husband and wife of 50 years had contacted RSO late in the afternoon after wandering off the Seven Pines Trail before their cellphone became too depleted to use.

RSO was able to dispatch Star-9(helicopter) and, in early evening, located the couple's position just east of the Seven Pines Trail. They were somewhat

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trapped in a very steep drainage. Star-9 was able to hover over the trees near their position and use their loudspeaker to tell the couple that help would be on the way and to remain in place.



Subjects Footprints

RMRU received the call later and by 9pm, Cameron, Dana, and I were responding. By the time Dana and Cameron picked up the RMRU truck from the Hemet Sheriff's sub-station, met me, and drove over backroads to the Seven Pines Trailhead, it was 11:30pm. We met with Deputy Jensen and issued him a radio while he maintained his position at the parking lot serving as our Base (Command Post). We carefully inspected the area around our subject's car and were able to determine and photograph, both the wife's and husband's unique footprint patterns. It was important to have these print patterns in case our subjects had moved and we needed to locate and pursue their tracks to find them. We were fortunate in that the area around the car had not been contaminated with other tracks.

We plotted our subjects' location on our maps and uploaded coordinates into our GPS's. Star-9's coordinates put our couple high in a

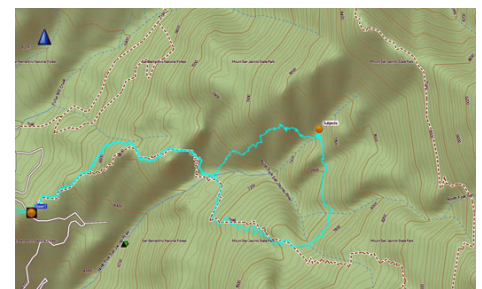
drainage/draw at almost 7,700', at least three draws north and over ½ mile from the trail. We decided the best course of action was to take the Seven Pines Trail up to the intersection of the drainage at 6,900' and attempt to ascend up to their location from there. If the couple had panicked and moved, they would likely have attempted to descend the drainage. By travelling up the drainage, we had a better chance of closing in on them in case they did displace.

"We carefully inspected the area around our subject's car and were able to determine and photograph, both the wife's and husband's unique footprint.."

RMRU RESCUER - KEVIN KEARN

Temperatures had been above average that day, and at midnight, temps were still in near 70 degrees with almost no breeze as we moved up the trail. The moon was out the whole night providing a welcomed 98% illumination. We'd anticipated that our subjects would probably be suffering from dehydration so we carried extra water as well as two spare headlamps. After arriving at the intersection with the drainage and assaulted by relentless waves of mosquitoes, we felt that the drainage itself was too strewn with debris and difficult to move quickly and safely through. We decided to travel up the north wall of the drainage and do our callouts from the edge of the walls down into it as we ascended.

We climbed up over 700' through thick brush over steep terrain until we were at the same elevation (7,700') and near the given location. With little wind our voices echoed across the ravine, but despite our strong call-outs, we had no responses. We contacted Deputy Jensen at our Base and he was able to direct Star-9 to return to the area and attempt to locate out subjects. Because of the residual high surface temperatures, it was impossible to leverage their FLIR camera to detect the subjects body heat. After twenty minutes of circling the area with their white spotlight, they were still unable to locate the subjects again. We were concerned that the subjects had moved. Star-9 also confirmed that they were not able to do any hoisting with the crew that night, were low on fuel, and going off station at 0300. It was 0225 hours when they left.



Rescue Teams Route Up and Down

After Star-9's departure, we moved up to the edge of the drainage again to do a call-out - hoping that they may have awoken if they had been asleep. This time we heard the female subject respond and reported audio contact. It took another 20 minutes to safely descend the north wall of the drainage, cross, and close with the subjects perched higher on the south wall.

Both were in stable condition, cold, and dehydrated. Cameron gave his jacket to the female and I gave mine to the male as well as the headlamps. They were extremely relieved and grateful as they consumed lots of water, warmed up, ate, and put on insect repellent. We made the decision that given the age and condition of the subjects, coupled with the steep and difficult terrain, we would remain in place until dawn when it would be safer to move.



(L-R) Dana, Woman, Man, and Cameron

It was actually cool for the three hours we stayed in place. Our subjects had the extra clothing we gave them and both huddled warmly together in a bivy sack we brought. Cameron, Dana, and I, all chillier than we expected to be, slept side by side together under a single emergency reflective Mylar blanket. We probably looked out of place and more like we belonged under a highway bridge.

When we rose at 0600, our subjects reported feeling much better. Our first choice would have been to locate a clearing and try to extract them by air but Star-9 wouldn't come on station for two more hours and it may have been even more difficult just finding a suitable clearing. We decided we would try to hike south slowly

back to the Seven Pines Trail along our current elevation contour.

Movement was extremely slow. I navigated and reconnoitered the easiest path while Cam escorted the male and Dana trailed escorting the female. Both subjects, somewhat challenged on the steep terrain, had great attitudes and remained in good spirits as we made our way back .75 miles to the trail. By 0730, we were moving down the trail and by 0915 had linked up at Base with RSO.

Lessons Learned:

Without a Light, Sit Tight at Night: Even with a nearly full moon, our subjects could not have moved safely in the rugged terrain without a flashlight. Even if you're going out for a "day hike" always pack a head lamp in case you are out later than expected. They are small, inexpensive, and can allow you to move at night with lesser risk of injury. If you find yourself in treacherous terrain unable to see without a sufficient light, try to shelter and remain in place until it's light again.

"Our first choice would have been to locate a clearing and try to extract them by air"

RMRU RESCUER -
KEVIN KEARN

When Lost, Stay Put, and Don't Become More Lost: The subjects did the right thing by staying where they were. When spotted

by Star-9, they were directed to stay where they were and that help would come. Too often, lost subjects panic when rescuers don't arrive quickly and become demoralized; this sometimes leads them to conclude that rescuers are not coming and that they must move. This almost always frustrates rescue efforts when precious resources move to the point last seen (PLS) and/or around it only to discover the subjects are not there. It can significantly extend a search when subjects move further away from their PLS.

Always Bring Small Signal Devices (Whistle and Mirror): A whistle carries much further than a human voice and is easier to do especially when one is tired or injured. Whistles can generally be heard over a ½ mile away under good conditions. Visual signal devices are equally important – day or night. A lightweight, commercial 2"x3" signal mirror is best during the day but a compass mirror can work almost as well. Strobes and Rescue Lasers are great at night but, at a minimum, a chemlight (especially whipped around in a circle on a short cord), flashlight, or signal fire are practical visual signals too. Had the subjects been able to signal Star-9 or our party across the drainage, it would have made the rescue even faster.

RMRU Members Involved:

Cameron Dickinson, Kevin Kearn, and Dana Potts.



Lost Woman - Azalea Trails

August 14, 2016

San Jacinto Mountains

Written by Glenn Henderson

We received a call from dispatch that the boyfriend of Yvonne had called in and said his girlfriend was missing. He, her 9-year-old son and she had gone hiking up the Azalea Trails planning on going to the summit of San Jacinto. They lost sight of her at 12:30 noon and it was now 11:30 at night. Lee Arnson was the only one available as other team members were on a rescue of two other hikers. As Lee got on scene he was informed that Yvonne had hiked over the summit and down to the Palm Springs Tram where she found two others that were lost. They use their cell phone and called in where they were and that all were OK.

RMRU Members Involved:

Lee Arnson and Glenn Henderson



Tahquitz Climbers

August 21, 2016

Tahquitz Rock, Idyllwild

Written by Cameron Dickinson

A call went out to the team on the night of August 21st regarding three male climbers stuck towards the top of Tahquitz Peak. Team member Lee Arnson would drive to over to Humber Park, as I would drive over to Hemet-Ryan Airport to attempt to perform a hoist with Riverside Sheriff's Aviation.

Once I arrived at the Airport, we called one of the climbers to see if

we were able to make contact with him. Luckily the climber answered the call. He stated that they reached the top of the climbing route, "The Trough" as intended, but because it was dark and they had no lights. They were unable to find the hiking route off the mountain. A few minutes later, we flew off to either perform a hoist or lower a supplies bag (contains food, water, lights, sleeping bag) to them. Due of the high winds it was determined too dangerous to perform hoist or bag drop-off, and flew back to the Airport to call our climber to discuss an alternate plan.

We called our climber, and after further discussion it was decided that they would just climb off peak at first light. Night time temps were mild, and the climbers had some food and water to sustain them until the morning.

RMRU Members Involved:

Lee Arnson and Cameron Dickinson.



Injured Horseback Rider

August 28, 2016

Idyllwild Garner Valley

Written by Cameron Dickinson

I was with fellow team member Eric Holden climbing on Tahquitz on the morning August 28th when we received the team notification of a mission. We reached the top of our 2nd pitch of our climb when we received the text, followed by a phone call about a minute or two later from our call captain asking about our availability. Luckily I was able to receive enough signal to call back once I was able to safely

anchor myself in place. I called our call captain to get the details of the mission.

It turned out that it was a horseback rider that received injuries from a fall after his horse took a tumble off the Spitler Peak Trail. Eric and I would quickly rappel back down the climb and hike back to our car not long after. Luckily Eric loaded his SAR gear into my car earlier in the morning just in case we did receive a call-out while out climbing. Sure enough, a call went out.

"... it was a horseback rider that received injuries from a fall after his horse took a tumble off the Spitler Peak Trail. "

RMRU RESCUER -

CAMERON DICKINSON

We arrived at the incident command post with Cal Fire, Paramedics, and Riverside Sheriff's already on scene. Team member Lee Arnson had already arrived, followed by Lew Kingman and Gary Farris not long after. The horseback rider was 3 miles up the trail. The extent of his injuries was to his foot with a few other scratches. His horse was upright and conscious, but had no intention of moving at all. The rider would not leave the horse, until it would either walk out under its own will, or get hoisted out. The rider had plenty of water and food with friends and family members with him, as well as a veterinarian which would tend to the horse.

Riverside's HART (Horse and Animal Rescue Team) was in route, and would supply the gear necessary in allowing a helicopter hoist of the horse. Because of weather and other safety concerns, the helicopter would not be available to perform the hoist until the following morning. The rider had decided to stay the night with horse, as well as during hoist the following morning. The next morning the horse was successfully lifted out, and its owner rode out of the canyon with his friends and family to an awaiting paramedic.

RMRU Members Involved:

Lee Arnson, Cameron Dickinson, Gary Farris, Eric Holden, and Lew Kingman.

Tanaja Falls Missing Hikers

September 2, 2016

Cleveland National Forest

Written by Glenn Henderson

Dispatch called me and reported that a female, Amy and a male, Mike had gone hiking from the Fisherman's Camp trailhead. They were 4 to 5 hours overdue when a friend called the Sheriff. As we were rolling we learned that Amy had been found and was lifted out by Star 9. She was very dehydrated and needed treatment by Paramedics. Twenty minutes later Star 9 found and rescued Mike. We all returned to the station.

RMRU Members Involved:

Cameron Dickinson and Glenn Henderson.

Pine Springs Ranch Stuck Hikers

September 4, 2016

San Jacinto Mountains

Written by Judy Spowart

Around 5:30pm on Sunday evening I received a call from Gwendal that I needed to head to the Hemet-Ryan airport for a rescue. Three hikers, two adults and one child, had been hiking around the Pine Springs Ranch area when they ran out of water. They were very familiar with the area, however, once the water ran out they started to experience physical symptoms (e.g. leg cramps) and could not continue.

".... was not immediately clear whether a hoist or hover-step would be the best way to get them out."

RMRU RESCUER -
JUDY SPOWART

Upon arriving at the airport, I boarded the helicopter with Glenn who had arrived before me. We knew the hiker's general location, but had to fly over a few times before finally spotting them. Due to their location in a rocky, brushy area, it was not immediately clear whether a hoist or hover-step would be the best way to get them out. We finally decided that the pilots would drop Glenn and I off on a large rock directly above the hikers. Once we stepped out of the helicopter it was just a short climb down to where the hikers were. We decided that I would take the child and one adult on

the first pass, which would allow me to escort the two subjects to the waiting medical personnel. I then waited in the landing area for the helicopter to return with Glenn and the other adult subject. Once all three subjects were on the ground and being evaluated by medical staff, Glenn and I boarded the helicopter around 7:30pm and headed back to Hemet Ryan.

RMRU Members Involved:

Glenn Henderson and Judy Spowart.

Fallen Climber Near Tramway

September 5, 2016

San Jacinto State Park Tramway

Written by Raymond Weden

After the long 3-day weekend was winding down RMRU received a call around 8:30pm for an injured rock climber that had taken a fall. We were informed that our injured subject had sustained a head injury after falling while climbing.

Cameron and I were directed to Hemet Ryan Airport while Matt headed to the Palm Springs Tramway. Cam and I compared our gear to ensure we had the proper medical and technical gear needed for this rescue and headed up in Star 9. After a short trip over the mountain, we located our injured subject below. The terrain was very steep and we could not be hoisted near him.

We were dropped about a quarter mile uphill and made our slow and careful down climb to him. When we arrived two State Park Rangers

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had already made their way to our injured party. Our subject, nicknamed Ice, had sustained a head injury and needed immediate medical assistance. Star 9 dropped the stokes litter to our location and we prepared to package Ice up for a helicopter evacuation.

Star 9 hoisted our injured subject and flew him directly to the hospital in Palm Springs. Cameron and I made our way back to the climbing area where the rest of Ice's party was still assembled. The State Park Rangers were going to hike the remaining uninjured climbers back the Tramway while Cam and I went back to Hemet Ryan on Star 9.

As of this printing, Ice was still in the hospital in critical but stable condition. Our thoughts and prayers are for a speedy and full recovery.

RMRU Members Involved:

Cameron Dickinson, Matt Jordon and Raymond Weden.

Other Agencies Involved:

California State Park Rangers, RSO Aviation Star 9.

Tahquitz Rock Injury

September 5, 2016

Tahquitz Rock Idyllwild

Written by Lee Arnson

This happened to be one of those rare occasions when the Team was called out to 2 separate rescues at the same time, one was at the Palm Springs Tram, while the other was for a rescue on Tahquitz Rock in Idyllwild. Since I live in

Idyllwild, I opted for the Tahquitz rescue.

Upon arriving at Humber Park at 8:00 p.m., I met with the Idyllwild Fire Chief who briefed me on the situation. They had received a 911 call from somewhere on the rock earlier in the day from a climber who had taken a short fall but had supposedly broken her ankle and was unable to get down on her own. The problem they were being faced with was that no one knew where she was on the rock or what route she was on when she fell. Members of Idyllwild Fire and Cal Fire were in the field trying to locate the subject, but time kept ticking by.

"a climber who had taken a short fall but had supposedly broken her ankle and was unable to get down on her own."

RMRU RESCUER -

LEE ARNSON

I decided to get my gear and head up the climbers trail, and eventually I met up with a Cal Fire crew that was bringing up a litter and wheel in the hopes of finding our subject. The climbers trail to Lunch Rock is ridiculously steep, and it was slow going for the Cal Fire crew in their full turnouts, plus they had the wheel attached to the litter and were rolling it up the trail.

Just before we got to Lunch Rock, we heard on the radio that our subject had been found on the South Side of Tahquitz at the base of a very famous climb called the

"Open Book". She did not actually break her ankle but had sprained it to the point she could not put any weight on it. Well by this time, there was at least 10 firefighters and myself on scene, so we all helped her take one small step at a time to the Ernie Maxwell Trail, and finally back to Humber Park and an awaiting ambulance.

RMRU Members Involved:

Lee Arnson.

Lost Hiker Skyline

Tramway

September 06, 2016

Skyline Trail, Tramway

Written by Eric Holden

Tuesday night and we get a call for a lost hiker out of the Tram. The subject was spotted by Star 9 and was determined to be in an extremely steep location on the east side of the San Jacinto Mts. I met with Glenn at the hanger, and we did some checking on the GPS and it turns out our subject was very close to the Skyline trail. The plan was to fly to long valley to be inserted but due to the high winds we had to abort and land near the bottom of the Tram. We took the tram up and quickly set out down to Grubbs Notch. We were lucky enough to have Sharon from DSSAR down in Palm Springs so that she could maintain radio contact with us and run base from her back porch.

After about 45 minutes of hiking down the Skyline trail we came upon our subject only 20 feet off the trail. He was cold, hungry, and thirsty. We quickly started getting

him warm and getting food and water into his system. It turns out that he had started hiking the Skyline trail at 6am this morning and ran out of water at 2pm, it was now 11pm. He had only brought 2.5 liters with him. Normal for this trip, in fall, would be 5 liters, this isn't fall, but still summer with temps in the low 100s down in palm springs. With no water, he couldn't choke down his super dry power bars and stopped eating about the same time, all while continuing the hike.



Glenn and Subject Resting

While getting our subject restored with water and electrolytes both his legs started cramping up. We continued to coach our subject in how to alleviate cramps and lucky for him, I give the best leg massages. After about 30 minutes of rest, food, and water, our subject bounced back and was ready to make the 1000 foot climb back up to the tram. He was able to make it all the way back to the Tramway without another break.

Normally at this late at night, I would be saying how we got back to the Tram and bedded down for the night, but not this night! The Palm Springs Arial Tramway was nice enough to hold a car for

us and we got a ride back down the mountain! Big thanks to RSO Aviation, Sharon from DSSAR, and the Palm Springs Tramway for assisting in this mission.

RMRU Members Involved:

Glenn Henderson and Eric Holden



Lost Marion Mountain Hiker

September 11, 2016

Marion Mountain Trail Idyllwild

Written by Cameron Dickinson

At home on September 11, 2016 I received a call from our Call Captain to see if I was available to perform a hoist of a lost male hiker in steeper terrain not far the Marion Mountain Trail. Team member Eric Holden received a call as well, with both of us being dispatched to meet at Hemet-Ryan Airport.

Once I arrived at the airport, I was briefed by Sheriff's Aviation regarding the situation with our lost hiker. Aviation was out a few minutes earlier and located our lost hiker just above the steep canyon, and return back Airport to pick us up. Because of the limited room in the helicopter, I would be sent out first for the hoist with Eric on standby.

We went up and headed over to the area where our hiker was previously located. Luckily the hiker stayed in place and didn't walk off. We circled an area and located a large open clearing that would be safe enough to lower myself down, and hoist our subject out. I was lowered down and hiked over

about 1/8th of a mile to where our hiker was waiting. I reached our hiker and confirmed he was safe. Evidentially he had separated from his adult children during their hike.

From there I would walk the hiker over to the clearing as Aviation would need to return back for a re-fuel. During that period, I would suit up our subject and prepare him for a hoist out. Aviation would return, hoist our subject up, and myself thereafter. From there we would fly over and land near the awaiting Deputy, which would drive him back over to a parking lot to be reunited with his family.

RMRU Members Involved:

Cameron Dickinson and Eric Holden



Rescue Hikers

September 18, 2016

Box Springs Mountains, Riverside

Written by Dana Potts

On Sunday Evening at about 9:30pm RMRU was called to foothills of Riverside near the University of Riverside. Two hikers had found themselves stuck on a rock outcropping to the west of the "Big C Trail."

Any footing they had was very loose and darkness added to the danger of attempting to climb down. Upon arrival, team members met with the Riverside County Sheriff's and spoke with the helicopter overhead to pin point the location of the two hikers. After a short hike, RMRU could provide some needed water and

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light for the subjects. A short time later, both hikers and RMRU team members were back at the base without incident.

RMRU Members Involved:

Glenn Henderson, Kevin Kearn, Dana Potts, Wayne Smith, Raymond Weden, and Gwenda Yates.



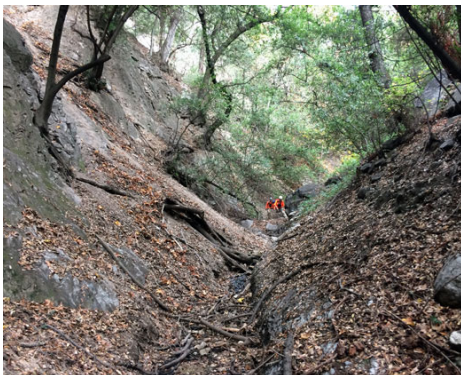
Lost Hiker Sierra Madre

October 29, 2016

Mountains above Sierra Madre

Written by Eric Holden

The team got an OES (Office of Emergency Services) call out the night before to assist Sierra Madre in a search for John King, a missing male hiker out of the Chantry Flats area. I drove up nice and early in the morning to meet Cameron, Glenn, and Tony who were already at the command post. We learned that our subject had been missing for a couple of days now and was an avid hiker in the area.



Coming Down Upper Canyon

Our call out captain had informed those running this mission that we were a highly technical team and good to go for any terrain they wanted to send us into. Our search area was Little Santa Anita Canyon from Orchard Camp all the way down to the Dam. I have done the

technical part of this canyon about 20 times and knew it well, but never from Orchard down.



First Rappel

After a four mile hike up to our drop in point we started down the canyon and quickly ran into many signs of bears such as claw marks, tracks, and scat. We would eventually run into the bear living in the canyon about 200 yards up from First Water.

The upper part of the canyon involved one rappel and one optional rappel that was done by some members of our group.

As we started descending into the technical part of the canyon we were informed by base to not complete our assigned area and to head back to the Command Post. Once back at the command post we were notified that unfortunately John was found deceased near the Hermit Falls area.

Our thoughts go out to John's family and friends in this difficult time.

RMRU Members Involved:

Cameron Dickinson, Glenn Henderson, Eric Holden, and Tony Hughes



Lost Hiker South Ridge

November 11, 2016

South Ridge Trail to Tahquitz Peak

Written by Glenn Henderson

On Friday November 11 at 5:30 PM we received a call of a missing hiker from the South Ridge Trail in Idyllwild. The report said that Clive was last seen on Sunday, November 6. Clive and his hiking partner Troy became separated with Troy making it back to the trailhead but not Clive. Troy was able to make contact by cell phone around 10 pm. Clive said he was out of water and food. He was cramping up and out of energy. Clive said he was going to bed down and hike out the next day. Troy went back to the South Ridge Trail Head looking for him on Monday and saw him about half a mile away, shouted out to him to go up the mountain and he would eventually get to the South Ridge Trail and he could hike out. He never showed up. Troy searched for Clive every day until Friday when he called 911 and we were activated. Michael, Cameron, Gary, and Tony rolled up to start the search. While driving up they heard that Clive's phone was pinged showing it to be in McCall Horse camping park which is a few miles from the trailhead. They stopped there and searched around with no luck. The team then proceeded on to the South Ridge Trailhead and searched until 2:30 am when they rolled out sleeping bags and got some sleep.

i arrived at 7 AM with information that they may have been in the

Chinquapin Flats area. Ray Wenden had arrived by then so I sent Michael and Ray up the trail to the flats area, about 5 miles and 3000' higher. I then had the other three research the area around the trailhead but no sign was found. Tony, Gary, and Cameron had to leave so I put in a call for reinforcements from Desert Search and Rescue (DSAR). While I was waiting for DSAR Matt Jordon arrived and I sent him along with Cameron, who was leaving, to look around McCall Horse Park in the daylight. Again, nothing.



Brushy Location Subject was Found

DSSAR arrived with 4 members. Still fixated on the Chinquapin Flats area I sent all four of them up the South Ridge Trail to carefully check both sides of the trail where someone may have gone off the trail or walked off the end of a switchback and gotten lost.

Deputy Frank James arrived on scene and we tried to figure out what else to do. He was finally able to locate Troy and get him to base so we could talk to him some more about where he last saw Clive. When Troy arrived, it took a little while to figure out that they were never at Chinquapin Flats but down a seldom used trail that goes

to Garner Valley. When I got that information I immediately called all field teams back to base as they were all in the wrong area. We had Troy lead us to exactly where he saw Clive last Monday. Deputy James, Matt, and I followed Troy about half a mile down the trail to a rock he said he was standing on when he last saw Clive. He pointed to a pair of large boulders about a mile away and said he was standing on them. This was not close to where any of my search teams were and when they did return to base it would take another 3 hours or so to get to the boulders due to steep terrain and dense brush completely covering the hillside.

We turned to leave when Matt said "Want to try a shout out?" Deputy James and I said ok but he has been gone from here for 5 days. We all shouted Clive's name to the southeast. Waited. Nothing. We then tried to the northeast and as soon as we shouted got a response of "HELP!!" WOW!! If Matt had not stopped us from leaving I do not believe we would have ever found Clive. Deputy James and I decided to try and hike to him but he was so far away we could not see him or get an exact location.

Deputy James then started his cop magic and got in touch with CHP to help with air surveillance. Star 9 was not on duty but did have a pilot and a TFO (technical flight officer) on standby. He got them rolling to the Hemet Ryan Hanger and get a helicopter in the air. Deputy James then got a CHP fixed wing plane that arrived

on scene and had them stay in contact with Matt. He kept shouting to Clive and then directed the CHP plane to the area. After 30 to 40 minutes of flying tighter and tighter circles CHP Officer Jennifer Earle spotted Clive with binoculars from 4000' up! WOW! She said he was waving something white but was not moving around. As soon as she reported his location we heard that Star 9 was almost ready to launch. They said they would be there in 30 minutes and wanted two RMRU members at the Forest Service Keenwild Heli base.



TFO Eric Hannum getting ready to fly

Since my other teams were still a long way from getting out of the field I quickly called Matt back to base where we both got our harness's on and left for Keenwild. Star 9 was waiting for us when we got there. After a short planning talk we lifted off. We were on scene in about 4 minutes but could not find him. Officer Earle kept sight of him from 4000' while we were only 60' foot off the deck and could not find him. It took over 20 minutes of flying in tighter and tighter circles until TFO Eric Hannum spotted him. He was wearing dark pants and shirt and blended into the bushes so well that I am amazed that Officer Earle ever saw

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him.

As Pilot, Mike Calhoun steadied the helicopter Eric hooked Matt up and lowered him to the ground with me close behind. By the time I got to Clive, Matt already had a helmet and screamer suit on him. Eric lowered the hook and away Clive went. They flew him to Keenwild and a waiting ambulance. Star 9 had to leave for more fuel so it gave Matt and I time to reflect on the day. If Matt had not insisted, we do a shout out I do not believe we would have found Clive in time or if we would have ever found him. If CHP Officer Jennifer Earle had not spotted him we may not have found him that day. We do not believe Clive would have lasted another day of cold and no food or water.

Star 9 came back and hoisted Matt and myself up and back to Keenwild. There all team members gathered to do a quick debrief and then headed home.

RMRU Members Present:

Cameron Dickinson, Gary Farris, Mike George, Glenn Henderson, Tony Hughes, Matt Jordon, and Ray Weden.

Desert Search and Rescue (DSSAR) Members Present:

Sharon Ollenburger, Mike Smith, Jacob Paull, and Joe McEuen.

Riverside County Sheriff Officers Involved:

Deputy James and Star 9 TFO Eric Hanum and Pilot Mike Calhoun.

CHP Members Involved:

Fixed Wing Officer Jennifer Earle.

**Lost Hiker
Wellman Divide**

November 12, 2016

San Jacinto Mountains

Written by Cameron Dickinson

On Saturday night, I received a call from our Call Captain regarding a lost male hiker in the Wellman Divide area, and directed me to report to Hemet-Ryan Airport. Aviation had located missing hiker right off the Wellman's Divide Trail, and through their intercom speaker asked the hiker to stay where he is as help would come to his location. Once I arrived at the Airport I was provided information on our hiker's whereabouts. Since the hiker was about 1.5 miles southwest of Round Valley, Aviation would drop me off in the Round Valley meadow which would allow for closer proximity to the hiker.

Once I was dropped off in the meadow, I began my hike up the trail. Not long after that I arrived at our missing hiker, found him mildly hypothermic, shivering and wrapped in emergency blanket that he had brought with him. Other than the emergency blanket, he had no cold weather clothing, and was out of water, food, and had no headlamp or flashlight. I quickly brought him up temperature with heavy layering, fluids, and food, and within a several minutes we began our hike down the trail. Since Aviation would not be coming back to pick us up, we would hike to the upper tram station where we would be spending the night.

During the hike, down to the tram

station, our hiker would share his story on how he became lost. His plan was to hike the Cactus to Clouds Trail, up to the summit of San Jacinto Peak, and finish his hike back down to the upper tram station. His brother and friend would meet him up there, but had planned to hike separately by hiking from the tram station to the San Jacinto Peak. They intended on meeting him at the tram station so they can reach the peak together. They did meet up at the Tramway and continued with him, hiking to the peak as planned. At some point while hiking back down from the peak, the missing hiker would separate from his brother and friend, would accidentally miss the fork in the trail, and ended up in Little Round Valley area. Once he realized he missed the turn off, he turned around headed back up the trail where he would be eventually located by Sheriff's Aviation off the Wellman Divide Trail. Earlier in evening, his brother called 911 and reported him missing, and provided information which would lead Aviation to that area.

We would soon arrive at the upper tram station. With a little more food and fluids, we were ready to call it a night. The next morning our subject would be reunited with his brother and friend exhausted, but in good spirits.

RMRU Members Involved:

Cameron Dickinson.

Other Agencies Involved:

Riverside Sheriff Department Aviation
Star 9



ABOUT RIVERSIDE MOUNTAIN RESCUE UNIT

FOUNDED 1961

MEMBER MOUNTAIN RESCUE ASSOCIATION 1963

GOVERNING BODY: RIVERSIDE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

MEMBERS: ORIGINAL: 6 | CURRENT MEMBERS: 32

ANNUAL BUDGET: ORIGINAL \$200 | CURRENT \$15,000

MISSIONS: TOTAL OVER 2,000 | AVERAGE PER MONTH: 3.33



TRAINING CALENDAR

- MRA Winter Meeting
Salt Lake City Feb 3 - 5
- MRA Summer Conference
Boise June 2 - 4
- Tracking Reaccreditation
Apple Valley March 03

Team Training

- Ice Axe: Feb 04
- Technical: April 08
- Joint SAR: April 22
- Helitac: May 06

RMRU BOARD MEMBERS

2016

Gwenda Yates - President
Rob May - 1st Vice-President
Cameron Dickinson - 2nd Vice-President
Eric Holden - Secretary
Kevin Kearn - Member at Large

Newsletter Editor - Gary Farris



SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Your Donation is deductible from both your state and federal taxes
RMRU tax ID number for Not-for-Profit status 95-2497048



NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

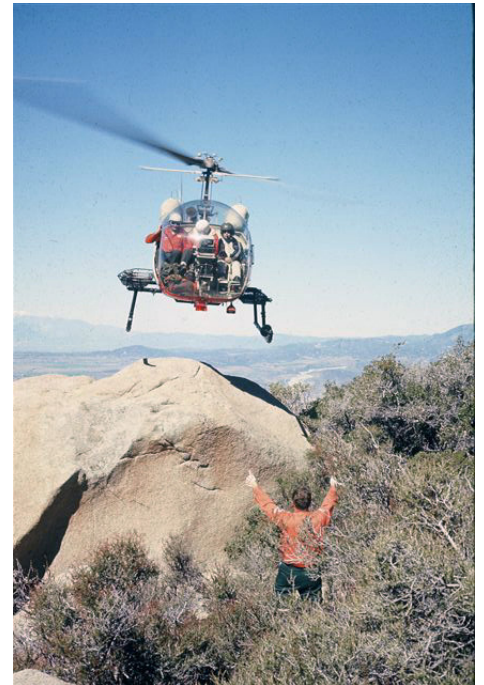
Membership Types:

- ☐ Benefactor Club \$1,000 +
- ☐ Summit Club \$500
- ☐ Patron Club \$200
- ☐ Century Club \$100
- ☐ Supporting Club \$25

Please send your donation to:

Riverside Mountain Rescue Unit
43950 Acacia Street
Hemet, California 92544

PHOTOS FROM THE PAST



Thank You!

To all that volunteer their time and financial assistance....
Countless people owe their lives



OUR SUSTAINING MEMBERS



May - December 2016

BENEFACTOR CLUB \$1,000.00 +
Brad & Sally Scott | Scott Bros. Dairy Farms

SUMMIT CLUB \$500.00+
Idyllwild Rotary Anns | Gayle Kaplan | Marvin & Mitsuru Matsumoto
Stan Sniff | Lake Hemet Municipal Water District

PATRON CLUB \$200.00+
Mary Carricaburu | Dennis & Barbara Newton
Theodore & Donna Young | Heide Rockwood

CENTURY CLUB \$100.00+
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Bill & Melody Blaschko | Donald Kramer | Christopher Conkey
Bill & Juanita Starmer | Leslye & S. Prum

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Steve Bryant - Alta Loma | **Pete Carlson** - Blue Jay | **Kirk Cloyd** - La Quinta
Cameron Dickinson - Murrieta | **Joe Erickson** - San Berdo | **Gary Farris** - Palm Desert
Michael George - Riverside | **Donny Goetz** - Los Angeles | **Glenn Henderson** - Hemet
Ralph Hoetger - Idyllwild | **Eric Holden** - Temecula | **Tony Hughes** - Yorba Linda
Matt Jordan - Palm Springs | **Kevin Kearn** - Huntington Beach | **Lew Kingman** - Redlands
Rob May - Riverside | **Kaylean May** - Riverside | **Dana Potts** - Corona
Brad Scott - Moreno Valley | **Wayne Smith** - Riverside | **Frank Snider** - Riverside
Judy Spowart - Temecula | **Ray Weden** - Murrieta
Ty Whittersheim - Hemet | **Gwenda Yates** - Hemet