Missions

November 2018 - April 2019

Thank You!

To all that volunteer their time and financial assistance....

Countless people owe their lives

OUR SUSTAINING MEMBERS

November 29, 2018 - April 30, 2019

$25,000.00 Valley Health System

BENEFACTOR CLUB $1,000.00 +
SoCal ASTA (American Society of Travel Advisors)
Brad & Sally Scott | Ellen Coleman | Gernot Gricksch

SUMMIT CLUB $500.00+
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PATRON CLUB $200.00+
Theodore Young | Lockheed Martin Leadership Association
Mitch Toftdahl | David Hadley

CENTURY CLUB $100.00+
Tuan Banh | Nancy Carter | Brian Ortiz | Rob Gardner
Alln & Nancy Rabin | Dr. Carol J. Lovatt

SUPPORTING < $100.00
Bill & Juanita Starmer | Perry Scanlon | Suzanne Steiner

RESCUE TEAM MEMBERS

Jordan Antol - Trabuco Canyon | **Chad Becker** - Palm Springs | **Steve Bryant** - Alta Loma
Michael Cara - San Juan Capistrano | **Pete Carlson** - Blue Jay | **Kirk Cloyd** - Hemet
Cameron Dickinson - Temecula | **Derek Donovan** - Temecula | **Blake Douglas** - Riverside
James Eckhardt - Riverside | **Corey Ellison -** Laguna Niguel | **Gary Farris** - Palm Desert
Michael George - Riverside | **Donny Goetz -** Los Angeles | **Josh Gould -** Murrieta
Glenn Henderson - Hemet | **Eric Holden** - Temecula |**Tony Hughes** - Yorba Linda
Kevin Kearn - Huntington Beach | **Rob May** - Riverside | **Dana Potts** - Corona
Purington, Kaitlyn - Laguna Niguel | **Shani Pynn** - Riverside | **Vinay Rao** - San Jacinto
Alex Rilloraza - Corona | **Tyler Shumway** - Hemet | **Daniel Tran** - Garden Grove
Ray Weden - Murrieta | **Gwenda Yates** - Hemet

Support Members
Joe Erickson | Kaylean May | Roger May | Brad Scott | Ty Wittersheim

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PROFILES **Pages 2, 24, 25**
- *Glenn Henderson*
- *Tony Hughes*

On the Cover -
Mount Hood, Oregon
Site of 60th Annual
Mountain Rescue Association
Annual Conference
June 7 -9, 2019
Photo: Gary Farris - RMRU

Riverside Mountain Rescue Unit Team Member Profiles

Glenn Henderson

My wife, Robin, and I moved **to H**emet in 1975 from San Diego. Robin got a job working as a laboratory technician for Hemet Valley Hospital and I transferred to Hemet with Thrifty Drug Stores in their management program. I wanted to do some type of service for our new community and I wanted it to be an active, outdoor type of service.

I joined Hemet Search and Rescue in 1978. They were a flat land four-wheel drive type of SAR team and I learned a lot about tracking and search and rescue but I wanted more so I left the Hemet team and joined Riverside Mountain Rescue Unit in 1982. Boy, did I get more!!

I was taught high angle rock rescue, search and tracking techniques and theories, snow and ice rescue techniques and helicopter

Continued on Page 24

Tony Hughes

Since you don't make any money on RMRU, what do you do for a living?
I work for a software startup.

Where did you grow up?
Born and raised in Minnesota, the 3rd flattest state in the union.

Where do you live now?
I live in Orange County and have since I moved here from Minnesota in 1997.

If I could have any job what would it be?
No idea, I've had a wide variety of jobs and the ones I enjoy are fast paced, chaotic, challenging, and engaging. Once they get routine I tend to look for something else.

What are your hobbies besides RMRU?
Pretty much anything that involves being outside and I also read a lot.

What is your favorite movie?
Real Genius. I watched this movie a ton when I was a kid and it drove me to go to college and become an engineer. Ultimately I ended up in Computer Science instead, but that worked out better considering the Internet was just getting started when I graduated in the mid 90's.

What is your music of choice?
I listen to just about every type of music. I worked in radio, TV, and as a DJ for Carnival Cruise Lines – all of which exposed me to a wide variety of music. I tell my kids I use to be a Professional International DJ as a joke. It's technically true, but not really the image that comes to mind when someone mentions the DJ on the Cruise Ship.

What kind of books do you prefer,

Continued on Page 25

Mission Reviews

November 2018 - April 2019

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.

Camp Fire Search and Recovery

November 13 - 22, 2018
Paradise, California
Written by Dana Potts (Part One)

On November 8th, 2018 a small northern California town called Paradise became ground zero for what would become California's most destructive and deadly wild fire. This small mountain community sat quietly beneath a beautiful canopy of pine trees. If you had visited this town prior to the fire, you would for sure seen more pine needles on the ground than asphalt and concrete.

Unfortunately, on November 8th, 2018 it was the perfect storm. Sadly, with the explosive conditions, many resources were unable to get into the town in time to save it. Reports of the fire spreading more than a football field a second made its way around the press.
Initial reports of more than 1,000 people missing or deceased presented the Sheriff with a monumental task of literally checking every property in the city. Overwhelmed and in need of assis

> *" As we arrived at the city of Paradise, the scale of the destruction and loss where overwhelming."*
>
> **RMRU RESCUER -**
> DANA POTTS

tance, the Butte County Sheriff's DDepartment reached out via the Office of Emergency Services for assistance. The Search and Rescue community of California responded with an overwhelming yes. November 13th, 2018 Riverside Mountain Rescue Team members Glenn Henderson, Alex Rilloraza and I responded to the Camp Fire in Paradise California. Our first real sign of smoke in the air was 299 miles south of Paradise at the 5 Freeway and Highway 41. The presence of the fire north of us was

Getting Checked in and Photo - ID

impossible to ignore.
Before I get further into this story, I will add that as a police officer of 27 years, I have work what I thought were some big deals such as the Los Angeles Riots and many large-scale warrant/tasks force search warrant services. As we arrived at the city of Paradise, the scale of the destruction and loss where overwhelming. One cannot just say I understand your loss.

Searchers quarters for the Stay

We checked in with the command post at Butte Community College and proceeded to Durham High School where we would be housed with hundreds of rescuers and soldiers from the California National Guard.

The next morning, we arrived at the Tall Pines Entertainment Center and Bowling Alley for our

volunteer search and rescue mem- morning briefing. This location was one of very few structures within Paradise that was still standing. We were advised that we would be donning full body suits and would need to utilize air filters to protect ourselves from the environmental

Morning Briefing with lots of Searchers

hazards that we would face. Our job was to respond to as- signed locations and sift through what was left of structures for human remains. When you take in the potential of the large numbers of missing at that time it was to say the least, very emotional and humbling.

For the next two days, we donned our protective suits and air filters. Our team did locate three remains at two different locations.

Before our three-day trip was over, the number of missing had con- tinued to drop as people reported in with the Sheriff's Department. However, the number of deceased also grew.

Day two, the Butte County Sheriff Kory L. Honea spoke at our morn- ing briefing. Sheriff Honea was candid and humble. Sheriff Honea passed on his deepest gratitude to what had become the largest search and recovery in state his- tory. Over 500 members, mostly bers from every county in the state wear present.

After searching on day three was complete, we left behind our soiled suits and the town of Par- adise. I'm sure I speak for all four of us that responded when I say, what I could not leave behind was the memory of the destruction, the loss of life, family heirlooms, respect for the residence of Para- dise that continue to move for- ward and promise to come back and rebuild.

RMRU members Geared Up

I continue to love my job as a volunteer and love the work we do. I have nothing but the highest level of respect for the individuals and even more the families of the volunteers' families that allow us to be out there.

Camp Fire Search and Recovery Part Two

Written by Raymond Weden

Shani and I started driving up at 0600 on Thursday November 15 morning to take over for Kirk, Glenn, Alex and Dana who have been up in Paradise since Tuesday. The 10-hour drive gives you time talk about your favorite movies, songs, etc. Most of this conver- sation is just idle chit chat to help you take your mind off the gravity

Searching and then Marking Complete

of the task you are about to take on. We were called out to assist in searching for the remains of those that did not make it out. As we crested the Grapevine Hill and headed toward the central valley the air quality became very poor. With the Woolsey fire still not fully contained in Malibu, the smoke was pushing in the too valley. The air quality would progressively get worse as we headed north with vis- ibility dropping to no more than a mile or so at times. Unbeknownst to us, this would be the last time we would see blue sky or even stars until our return home many days later.

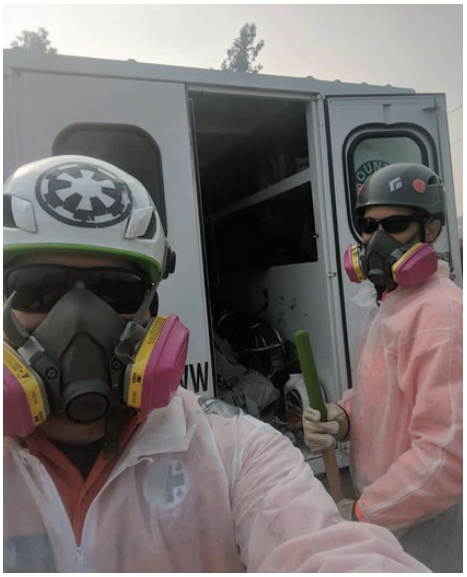
" We were called out to assist in searching for the re- mains of those that did not make it out."

RMRU RESCUER - RAY WEDEN

We arrived in Paradise, CA about 3:30pm. The drive up one of the two main roads in town left us speechless. There were more buildings destroyed than stand- ing along the main road. We met up with the team that had been there for the last several days at the command post. This was the

MISSION REVIEWS NOVEMBER 2018 - APRIL 2019

towns bowling alley that was still standing due to its metal roof and block wall construction. From here we headed in to Chico for dinner and then to the middle school for our overnight accommodations.



Ray and Shani in Personal Protective Equipment

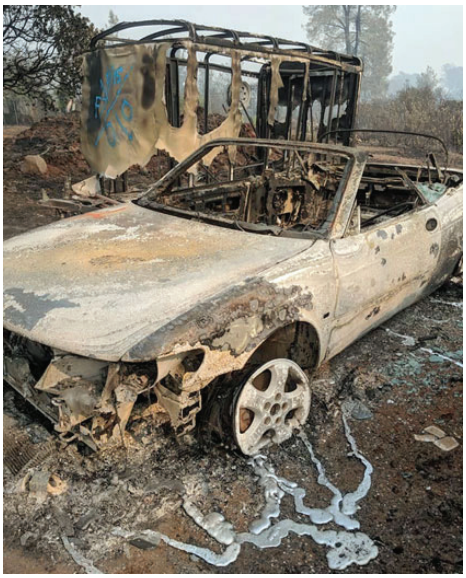
Waking up at 5:30a we headed to breakfast and then back to the bowling alley. After checking in we were given our personal protective equipment (PPE) which consisted of a protective cover suit, work gloves and an N100 rated respirator. The contents of a burnt homes and the items within it can be toxic and these items are to limit or exposure to both inhalation as well as surface contact on our skin.

At the morning briefing they stressed to be situationally aware of the surroundings for safety. Gas leaks, falling tree branches, open septic lids, and nails sticking up are just few of the hazards we encountered while here.

We did not cover much ground on the first day. The maps we were given were not clear and, not being familiar with the area, we spent a lot of time trying to find our way to the home sites we were given to search. Being our first day here we still were getting used to the process. We ended up clearing only 4 or 5 homes on day one. Day two was much more efficient as we were given much better maps which was a direct result of the previous days request. We would clear about 15 homes that day. One of the first of 15 homes we checked on was still standing. As we approached, we were greeted by the owner who let us know he chose to stay and fight the fire on his own. With just him and his garden hose managed to save his house though his decision to do so was ill advised. He also let us know that he believes most of the neighborhood was evacuated in time which was comforting for us. We still searched every home diligently as if we did not hear that information all well hoping he was right.

> *"they stressed to be situationally aware of the surroundings for safety. Gas leaks, falling tree branches, open septic lids, and nails sticking up"*
>
> **RMRU RESCUER -** RAY WEDEN

This fire was hot, so most homes were burnt all the way to the ground with nothing more than a chimney standing tall. To give perspective on how hot the fire was, aluminum melts at just over 1,200 degrees. Most of the cars we saw that had burned had pools of melted aluminum which flowed downhill like rivers. This meant we needed to sift through several feet of ash and debris in order to clear the home. Being this was a figurative needle in a hay stack, we were told to focus on high priority areas and spend more time searching around recliner chairs, mattresses and bath tubs. These items were only identifiable by their metal frames at this point.



Car and Melted Aluminun Wheels

The drive home was surreal as we processed the last few days of activity and prepared to go home to our friends, families and jobs. Like the drive, up we kept our conversation light to keep our minds from wandering.

Ray Marks Cars after clearing them

Glenn, Ray, Dana, Kirk, Shani, and Alex

Our spirits were lifted as we started back down the Grapevine in to LA and we saw the blue sky mixed with our typical layer of smog. We were both amused on how we were grateful to see our smog filled air.

Part 2 RMRU members and Part 3 DSAR members

I am writing this several weeks removed from our service and since then I have been asked, so how was it? This is not a question that can be simply answered with a "good" or "bad" as it was both at the same time. The only simple way to answer this question is that this was an experience… one that I will never, ever forget.

RMRU member Tony Hughes met up with DSAR members as the third group of Riverside Country Sheriff's volunteers to help in the search. They were there for 4 days.

RMRU Members Involved:
Kirk Cloyd, Glenn Henderson, Tony Hughes, Dana Potts, Shani Pynn, Alex Rilloraza, and Raymond Weden.

DSAR Members Involved:
Mike Smith, Mike Fogarty, Rick Feliciano and Sharon Ollenburger.

Idyllwild Alzheimer's Search

November 26, 2018
Idyllwild Area
Written by Eric Holden

On the evening of November 26th, 2018, the team was called out to assist with a missing elderly male with Alzheimer's out of Idyllwild. David Bradish had left his home earlier that day with his dog and had not returned by evening. Multiple Dog teams, RSO deputies, and RMRU members Kaitlyn and Mike responded and search throughout the night without sign of David.

Knowing weather was on the way the mission went OES and multiple agencies from surrounding counties came in on the 27th. Glenn, Sharon with DSSAR, and myself would be assigning grid areas to search for the ~70 searchers that responded today. Unfortunately, no sign of David was found.

On the 28th the mission continued with Glenn, Shani, and I running base while we sent out another ~80 searchers. Unfortunately, no sign of David was found. The mission was halted that evening. This would be the largest search in the history of Idyllwild with over 3,330 acres of land searched.
The search concluded the following week, see mission 2018-033.

RMRU Members Involved:
Mike George, Glenn Henderson, Eric Holden, Kaitlyn Purington, and Shani Pynn

Lost Hiker Tramway

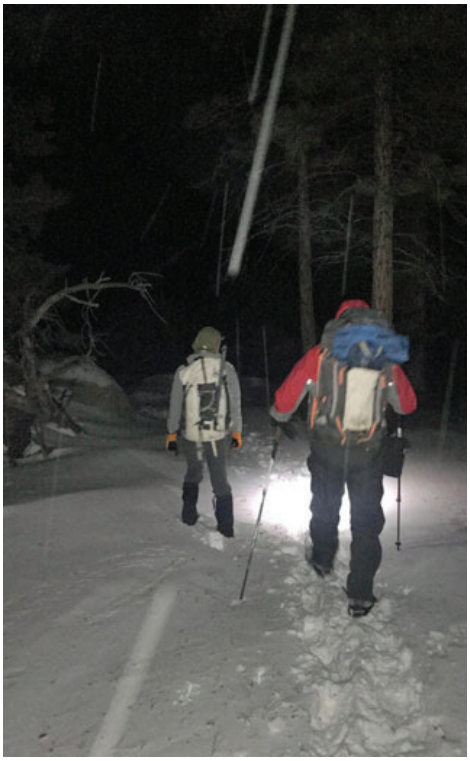
December 01, 2018
Tramway to San Jacinto Peak
Written by Corey Ellison
(Saturday Night Team)

We received a call out at the RMRU Christmas party for a lost single male subject.

Background, the subject had left at approximately 10 pm the night before to complete the cactus to clouds trail. Subject was hiking with three friends. Subject and friends reached the tramway at approximately 9 am. Approximately one hour after passing through Tamarack Valley Campground, the subjects hiking partners continued without him, with the plan that they would meet up at the summit.

After reaching the summit the subjects three hiking partners stayed approximately 15 minutes before continuing down to the tram station. They did not see their friend on way back and assumed he had turned back and made way towards the station. After arriving at the tram station and being unable to locate their friend, the three subjects notified

emergency Dispatch and Riverside Mountain Rescue was called out.



RMRU members searchering late at night

The initial responding team consisted of myself, Kaitlyn, Gary, And Tyler. We arrived at the tramway around 10 pm. The subjects hiking partners were able to provide a very detailed list of the gear and equipment that the subject was equipped with. This equipment included an extra layer of insulation, headlamp, stove and fuel, and hard shell. With this information we were reassured that the subject would be able to survive the night if need be.

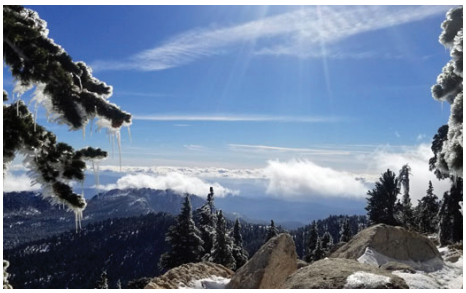
With the minimal resources available, we split up what command thought would be the two most likely options for the subject. State parks would make their way to the summit of San Jacinto to check the Summit Hut, And RMRU would head towards law's camp on the chance that the subject got turned around at a junction. After heading out, approximately 30 minutes into the hike our team put on our crampons due to icy conditions. After moving through deep snow on an unbroken trail our team made it to Round Valley Junction at around 1:45 am with no sign of the subject. At this point decision was made to turn back and regroup at the tramway to renew the search in the morning.

Part Two Written by Shani Pynn (Sunday Morning)

I arrived at the Palm Springs Tramway at roughly 6 am Sunday morning and met up with Donny and Ray before taking the tram up to relieve the rest of our team mates. At the upper tram station, they briefed us on the current status of the search and we discussed the best way to divide our team and search for the day. Shortly after, Mary with State Parks arrived, and she and Glenn determined our starting plan.

Donny talking to Hikers

Donny and I were to hike to the peak by way of the Sid Davis trail and search all outhouses along the way as they have been known to be shelters to lost subjects in the past. We would also look for tracks leading down the beginning of the drainages leaving Tamarack Valley in case he had gone down one of them. Ray was to search towards Laws Camp and then down to Humber Park with Dana, who would be arriving shortly.



Morning after storm

So, at about 8:30 am, Donny and I set out in to the snow towards Sid Davis. Once we were on the trail, we stopped every few minutes with breaks in the wind to call out and look for signs of our lost subject. Later in the morning we heard Star 9 above us as they called out for him as well. They were not able to stay in the area long due to high winds, but they covered what area they could. During the morning, around 10 am, Command received a report from some campers that a person resembling our subject was hiking towards the peak from Tamarack the previous day. So, we checked and followed fresh tracks in that area as well as checking the outhouses.

Later in the morning, Command received word that some campers had found our subject sheltering in an outhouse near them in Little Round Valley. As a state parks volunteer was closest to their location, he went to pick our subject up and hike him back to the tram. Donny and I hiked to Wellman's Divide to meet up with them on

their way back, arriving at roughly 12:30 pm. While we were waiting, we chatted with some hikers and took in the amazing view.

Not long after, at about 1 pm, Royce from State parks arrived with the subject, who was in good health. He had gone the wrong way off the peak and was down in Little Round Valley when he slipped and slid off the trail. Not wanting to hike in the dark, he had sheltered in an outhouse for the night from the wind. He was a little sore from all his hiking, but not too worse for wear and in good spirits. We hiked back to the Ranger Station with him and Royce by about 2:30 pm without incident and he was reunited with his family at the Tram station shortly after.

RMRU Members Involved:
Corey Ellison, Gary Farris, Mike George, Glenn Henderson, Dana Potts, Kaitlyn Purington, Shani Pynn, and Tyler Shumway.

Santa Ana River Hoist

December 06, 2018
Riversidea
Written by Glen Henderson

I got a call from call captain Gwenda Yates that there was a hoist rescue in the Santa Ana River of four people stranded on an island in the middle of the river. Tyler and I met up at Hemet Ryan airport and got ready to lift off. Other members were responding to the sence on the ground. As we were loading up screamer suits for our subjects, word came over the radio that the fire department was able to get to them on foot. Mission cancelled.

RMRU Members Involved:
Mike George, Glenn Henderson, Rob May, Dana Potts, Shani Pynn, and Tyler Shumway

Research Idyllwild Alzheimer's

December 06, 2018
Idyllwild Area
Written by Eric Holden

On the Evening of the December the 6th David's dog Ginger was found in town. The Idyllwild community came together and conducted a searched on the 7th but unfortunately no further sign of David was found.

On Dec 8th approximately 30 people from RSO Mounted Posse, DSSAR, Riverside County Search Dogs, RSO Deputies, and RMRU would search for any other signs. Through multiple clue finds, David was found deceased, high up on the mountainside later that afternoon. While this kind of result was expected, it was hard for all those involved, but we were glad that we could bring closure to David's family. Our thoughts and prayers go out to all his friends and family.

RMRU Members Involved:
Corey Ellison, Eric Holden, Kaitlyn Purington, Shani Pynn, Alex Rilloraza, Tyler Shumway, and Raymond Weden.

Ortega Highway Rescue

December 08, 2018
Above Lake Elsinore
Written by Glenn Henderson

In the Ortega Mountains, near Lake Elsinore. I gathered up my gear and met Tyler at the heliport. As we were loading up a call came in for a 211 (armed robbery) in San Jacinto. Since our subject was not injured, we went with Pilot Chad Marlatt and TFO (technical flight officer) Jerry Osterloh and circled the crime scene for three hours looking for the robber. We thought we would be able to find the robber and then go to the stranded girl.

Meanwhile Cal Fire was able to locate our stranded girl and walked her out to safety. Star 9 finally needed fuel, so Tyler and I went home from there as the helicopter went back to continue the search.

RMRU Members Involved:
Glenn Henderson and Tyler Shumway.

Thomas Mt. Search

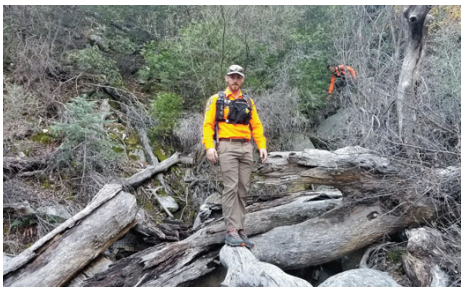
December 15, 2018
Garner Valley
Written by Kaitlyn Purington

On the 15th of December, members of the team conducted a search out near Thomas Mountain, close to the Ramona Trailhead. The purpose of this search was to search for a man who had been missing since the summer. This subject's car was found in the Tool Box Springs Campground after he had been reported missing in the summer. Due to the recent fires

in that area, a search by our team was not able to be conducted until this date.

Tyler with Garner Valley in the Background

Eric, Shani, and Tyler made up one team that searched in one of the north drainages that lead from tool box springs campground. Corey and I searched another drainage more toward the east of the campground with the help of two DSAR members. Unfortunately, these drainages were very overgrown with oaks and manzanita, and were very difficult to make our way through.



Tyler and Shani Searching Drainage

As we continued down the drainage, we did not see much evidence that anyone had wandered down there anytime soon. Only seeing a few beer cans and a water bottle at the beginning near the campground. Glenn and Steve also conducted a search that included a flatter area near the campground. Tyler, Shani, and Eric when they were finished with their drainage, continued down one of the trails that continued toward the highway. Corey, I, and the DSAR members searched the trail next to the drainage as we made our way back to the campground. As we searched, Gwenda ran base and communications between the teams.

Unfortunately, in our searches, we did not find much evidence of the subject.

RMRU Members Involved:
Steve Bryant, Corey Ellison, Glenn Henderson, Eric Holden, Kaitlyn Purington, Shani Pynn, Tyler Shumway, and Gwenda Yates

Rescue San Jacinto Hut

January 4, 2019
Palm Springs Tramway
Written by Tyler Shumway

The team received a call out at 7:00pm Friday night while we were gearing up for training at the Ski Hut on Mt. Baldy. We were informed that two subjects were stranded at the summit hut on San Jacinto Peak. Ray, Kevin, Shani, Kaitlyn, Josh, Donny and I reported to the Tram while Tony, Dana and Gary turned around since we had enough people.
We were briefed by the Sheriff Deputy that the two subjects were able to maintain contact via cell phone. It was confirmed that they sheltered in the summit hut, were cold and were not prepared to stay the night. Shani, Kaitlyn and I would hike up while the others would run base and be on standby in case further resources were needed.

Rescuers ready to leave base (Shani, Kaitlyn, and Tyler)

Our hike started at 10:30pm with full packs containing extra food and warm gear for our subjects. We made it to the hut at 2:30am and both subjects were found in emergency sleeping bags provided in the hut. Subjects were not suffering from hypothermia or cold related injuries. Hot tea, warm clothing and food was provided to lift their spirits. We learned that they took the first tram up at 10:00am and took 6 hours to get to the peak. By this time the sun was already setting, and they started to get cold feet. They found the summit shelter and decided they were not comfortable descending and activated 911.

"Hot tea, warm clothing and food was provided to lift their spirits"

RMRU RESCUER -
TYLER SHUMWAY

After melting snow for water, it was decided that we would hike out back to the tram. Temperatures have been extremely variable on the summit over that past week and luckily, we had mild temps in the mid-20s. Subjects were given down jackets, wind

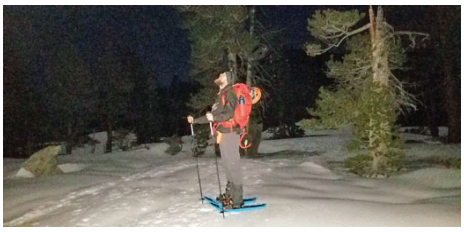
pants, thick wool socks and micro spikes for the hike out. The team made it back to the tram station without incidence by 7:00am.

RMRU Members Involved:
Gary Farris, Donny Goetz, Josh Gould, Tony Hughes, Kevin Kearn, Dana Potts, Kaitlyn Purington, Shani Pynn, Tyler Shumway, and Ray Weden

Search Caramba Area

January 19, 2019
San Jacinto Mountains
Written by Josh Gould

On Saturday January 19, 2019, RMRU received a call around 5:30pm about a hiker who got lost while hiking on Mt. San Jacinto. Everyone met up at the bottom of the Palm Springs Ariel Tramway around 8:00pm. After discussing the situation with the Sheriff Officers, we learned the approximate location of the subject and that he has received a drop bag with food, water, and some shelter equipment. We headed up the tram to set up base camp at the top of the Tramway.



Josh calling out

After packing the appropriate gear Eric and Josh headed out for the long hike ahead. Leaving around 8:30pm. Ray, Daniel, and Blake stayed in communications from base with us. We headed for the area around Caramba which is around a Seven-mile hike. Checking in with base about every half an hour and checking the GPS every fifteen to twenty minutes to make sure we were on route. We would try to find the faster way to the subject while trying not to get to far of trail in the ice and snow.

Around 1:15am, we were approaching the area the subject was in. A half hour later, we contacted the subject and evaluated his condition. The subject, Brian, was in good health and high spirits, while wrapped up in traps and a sleeping bag. Brain was in happy to see us. We radioed into Base and acknowledged that we had found him and that we were going to set up camp and stay the night. While thinking of the hike ahead we realized that the added drop bag with an all uphill climb was going to be a long and difficult climb, so they decided to request for assistance from STAR-9 in getting out of the area and back to an area closer to the Tramway.

At 6:30am Base put in the request for STAR-9s assistance. In case that STAR-9 was not able to assist, a second team of two was sent out part way and stayed on standby to wait for a response from the Riverside Sheriffs. This team included Shani and Blake and their goal was to assist with carrying the extra weight if the helicopter couldn't come. To prepare for the arrival of the helicopter, we and Brian packed everything up, grabbed the drop bag and headed to an area that the helicopter could land in for the evacuation. After a mile or two of hiking we had found a landing zone. After some time and convincing from our Base, we received confirmation that there will be a helicopter heading towards Team us soon.

Subject bedded down with gear from Helicopter

At 10:30am, the helicopter arrived above our heads. The pilot and co-pilot decided to circle around the area just in case there might be a better landing zone. After a short time, they had found a landing zone just north of where we were. Team One hiked up to the new spot and assisted with getting Brian into the helicopter. The first trip included Brian and Josh, while Eric waited for the second trip. Taking a short flight to Long Valley, where Josh and Brian were dropped off. STAR-9 returned to the original landing zone to pick up Eric.

Once we regrouped in Long Valley, we headed to the ranger station

Shani, Blake, Eric, Subject, Ray, and Josh at Uppder Tramway

for a debriefing. While there Shani and Blake arrived. After the debriefing, both teams escorted Brian up to the tram to meet up us the rest of the search team. Once base was packed up, we headed back down the tram and met up with the Sheriff Officer. This is where RMRU and the subject parted ways. This was a great mission all around. The team work between RMRU, the Sheriffs and the Park Rangers was the key to a successful rescue.

RMRU Members Involved:
Blake Douglas, Josh Gould, Eric Holden, Shani Pynn, and Ray Weden.

Deer Springs Rescue

January 25, 2019
San Jacinto near
Little Round Valley
Written by Tyler Shumway

We received a call out at 3:00pm Friday afternoon for 2 lost hikers along the Deer Springs Trail. Glenn, Gary and Vinay were first to arrive at Deer Springs Trailhead. Josh and I couldn't make it till 5:45pm and the team decided to wait for us. We moved base to Marion Mountain Trailhead and were briefed by Deputy Chris Waters and Frank James. The two subjects had cell signal and were able to get a 911 call out. Star 9 was able to locate them and provide coordinates but due to high winds a hoist was unable to be performed. They stated they were cold but had emergency sleeping gear, food and water. Their location was just above the Fuller Ridge Trail at 9,000ft next to the N. Fork San Jacinto River.

Josh, Gary and I began our hike up Marion Mountain Trail at 6:45pm. The steep trail was full of ice beginning at 7,000ft which slowed our pace. Once we arrived at Fuller Ridge Trail junction, we decided to continue up Deer Springs Trail till 9,200ft in hopes of finding where they dropped down. We found tracks wandering off trail and down into the drainage but quickly were lost due to the wind-swept slopes. We post holed up to our hips while descending and were able to make voice contact with shout outs which led to us to their location.

Map of where Subject was found

They were both wrapped up in their emergency blanket a little cold but in good spirits with no injuries to report. They were experiencing mild hypothermia and were provided warm clothing, dry socks and traction devices for their boots as well as hiking poles. Within 15 minutes we were up and moving and made our way back to Deer Springs Trail via Fuller Ridge Trail. This section of trail had not been traveled so far this winter and to our surprise the traverse was easy to follow with only minor post holing among deep snow drifts. In hind sight we should've taken Fuller Ridge instead of dropping down in from Deer Springs. Nonetheless, we safely made our way back to Marion Mtn Trailhead and arrived at base camp at 3:30am.

> *".. both wrapped up in their emergency blanket a little cold but in good spirits with no injuries to report"*
>
> **RMRU RESCUER**
> TYLER SCHUMWAY

Hikers plan: Two hikers left Deer Springs Trail early morning in hopes of getting to San Jacinto Peak. They made it to about 9,500 feet and decided to turn around. They lost the trail shortly after and started following the North Fork pf the San Jacinto River drainage towards Fuller Ridge Trail. They were not equipped with any traction devices or hiking poles and quickly realized they were in trouble in the steep icy terrain. Luckily, they were able to get a cell signal to call for help. They did have emergency sleeping gear which proved to be very effective at preventing severe hypothermia.

RMRU Members Involved:
Gary Farris, Josh Gould, Glenn Henderson, Tyler Shumway, and Vinay Rao.

Little Round Valley Rescue

January 27, 2019
San Jacinto near
Little Round Valley
Written by Eric Holden

The call came out that two were needed for a hoist near Little Round Valley on Mt. San Jacinto. Three 18 to 19-year-old males were stuck in very icy conditions. I quickly meet Glenn at the Hemet hanger and we find out that a hoist isn't going to be possible due to the wind conditions, but they have found a landing spot.

Eric leaving Helicopter

The plan was to fly us up, land near Little Round Valley and then we would hike about 0.25 miles to the subjects and bring them back. We quickly loaded up our gear, boarded the helicopter and were heading up too Little Round Valley. After multiple passes and attempts at landing we didn't have enough power. We went back down to Lake Fulmer and dropped Glenn off. With the lightened load we were able to land.

I strapped on my snowshoes and within 5 minutes was at the young men. The conditions were super icy, completely slick, and their Vans didn't offer any type of traction. I put one pair of micro spikes

3 Subjects, TFO Jerry, and Rescuer Eric

on of the subjects and held the other's hands. Myself being about 6'2" 250lbs I was able to act as crutch, leaning post. and life line as we slowly made our way out of the gully they were in and back to the helicopter. At one point along a traverse I had to move with them one at a time to ensure no one slipped down the steep slope. In about 15 minutes we had reached the helicopter.

After a few loads of flying out, everyone was back safe. Big time thanks to the expert flying of the Riverside Sheriff's Aviation Unit. The landing spot they found was tight, but they were able to make multiple landings without issue.

What Happened: The subjects had gone for their very first snow hike and were quickly in over their heads. Vans shoes, no navigation tools, 1 flashlight between them all, improper clothing. All the mistakes of a beginning hiker. Always be prepared. Do your research and practice on smaller hikes before attempting a 10,800ft mountain in winter.

RMRU Members Involved:
Glenn Henderson and Eric Holden.
Sheriff's Aviation Unit:
Pilot Manny Romero and
TFO Jerry Osterloh.

Plane Crash

February 5, 2019
Highway 62
Written by Glenn Henderson

On Tuesday, February 5 we received a call from call captain Gwenda Yates of a plane crash in the mountains west of highway 62 on the way to Morongo Valley. The plane had left the Los Angeles area bound for Las Vegas. The plane had disappeared off Palm Springs radar and no ELT (electronic locator transmitter) signal had gone off. Sheriff's helicopter Star 9 had located the wreckage and reported that it was snowing with high winds.

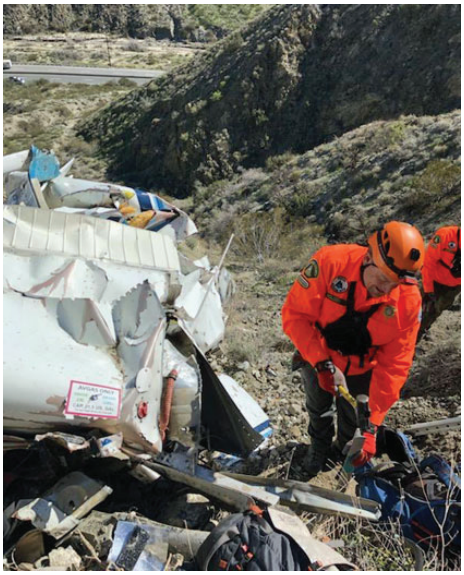
Plane Looking back at Highway 62

We responded to Hwy 62 and sent a hasty team to climb a steep and crumbly canyon to the site. It was determined that there were no survivors. All teams were recalled to the trucks where it was decided to return the next morning.

Eric, Vinay, and I returned Wednesday morning along with Sharon and Mike from DSSAR (Desert Sheriff's Search & Rescue). Because of the extreme steepness and bad rock, we pounded steel pickets and fixed 400 feet of fixed rope for the FAA, NTSB and the

Eric with Pack and Wreck

coroner to use to get up and down safely. The team would like to express our sincere condolences to the families of the two people on the plane.



Putting in Picket to Anchor Safety

RMRU Members Involved:
Blake Douglas, Michael George, Glenn Henderson, Eric Holden, Kevin Kearn, Shani Pynn, and Vinay Rao.

DSAR Team Members Involved:
Mike Calhoun, Rick Feliciano, Allen Langenbahn, Sharon Ollenburger, Mike Smith, and Kevin Wahlstrom.

Car Swept Away

February 15, 2019
Wilson Valley Rd., Anza
Written by Shani Pynn

At roughly 8:30 AM on Friday the team was called out to help with a coordinated search of a recently flooded creek where two vehicles washed downstream from a road crossing. I had just settled in to a nice quiet day of catching up on things at work, but hey, that's how it goes sometimes. So, I checked in with the bosses and headed out towards Hemet to pick up the truck. Josh and Vinay were also responding, and I let them know they would be arriving ahead of me.

After picking up the diesel and navigating around some other flood closures I arrived at the command post at about 11:30 AM. There, I learned two vehicles had been washed downstream from the nearby road crossing. The people in one of them had gotten out safely. One person, presumably from the other vehicle, wasn't so lucky. So, unfortunately, a recovery team would be picking that subject up later with the coroner.

Josh with Flooded Stream

The three of us, two from Search Dogs, and several folks from Posse were set to search for other

Truck in Wash

possible passengers from that second vehicle. We were to hike down either side of the drainage, so the dog team split up and Mike and his dog Journey came with Josh, Vinay, and I to search the far side. We hiked near the water's edge where possible and climbed around larger terrain obstacles where necessary.

We searched the vehicle as well since it was accessible from that bank and previous searchers had been unable to see in from that side. While we had been searching, Glenn, Chad, and Michael had come and conducted the recovery of the one deceased subject found earlier. Mike, Josh, Vinay and I continued searching downstream until the deputies called the search due to dangerous weather coming in just before 3PM. No other subjects were found.

RMRU Members Involved:
Chad Becker, Blake Douglas, Michael George, Joshua Gould, Glenn Henderson, Shani Pynn, and Vinay Rao.

Search Idyllwild Man

February 19, 2019
Idyllwild, CA
Written by Eric Holden

We got the call out the night before to meet in Idyllwild at 6am for a missing male, Piotr Hopper-Jasinski. Unfortunately, due to the major storms on Feb 14th, two of the three roads were impassable to the mountain town which made simply accessing the town difficult.

I was first on scene and found out that Piotr had left his house yesterday and not been seen since. The weather was near 15 degrees last night and a major winter storm was due to hit around 1pm later in the day. Because of this, this mission went OES the night before and RSO called for additional resources from nearby counties.

Teams from DSSAR, RMRU, Search Dogs, and San Diego County all assembled, and we put together a search plan based upon the subjects point last scene.

After about 3 hours of searching Piotr was found, unfortunately deceased. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the friends and family in these hard times.

RMRU Members Involved:
Blake Douglas, Glenn Henderson, Eric Holden, and Alex Rilloraza.

Search Joshua Tree

March 1,2019
Joshua Tree National Park
Written by Pete Carlson

Park rangers were notified of Kenney's disappearance on Thursday when concerned friends found his vehicle in the parking lot of the Pine City backcountry board. Rangers began an immediate search, and eventually found Kenney's campsite and personal items. Despite finding his campsite and belongings Thursday evening, rangers did not immediately locate the missing man.

Searchers from the Joshua Tree Search and Rescue, Riverside and San Bernardino County Sheriff's deputies, and RMRU, resumed the search the next morning Friday March 1.

RMRU could only send a few searchers as most of RMRU members were driving north to Lake Tahoe for a Mountain Rescue Association Snow and Ice Recertification on Saturday March 2.

Teams searched out in all directions from his campsite and discovered the missing man's body before noon. RMRU members came back to base and headed home.

RMRU Members Involved:
Blake Douglas, James Echardt, Vinay Rao, Alex Rilloraza and Daniel Tran.

Jurupa Missing Woman

March 12, 2019
Idyllwild, CA
Written by Glenn Henderson

I went to bed at 10:30 and was sound asleep when the text message came through at 11:30. A missing at risk person in the Jurupa area of Riverside. I met one of our new members, Vinay, at the Hemet Sheriff's station to pick up our truck and drove to the Incident Command Post arriving at 1 AM.

> *"There were around 150 searchers involved including RMRU, Desert Sheriff's Search and Rescue, Search dog teams..."*
>
> **RMRU RESCUER -**
> GLENN HENDERSON

I gathered information from the Jurupa police and found that we were looking for Janice, 69, a former army ranger that liked to walk but had gotten lost before. Her family said she was in pretty good shape and had scaled a six-foot fence last time she wandered away. This made our assignments a little more difficult as we would normally not worry about fenced in areas, but this information changed things.

Jurupa PD had patrol cars out checking the city streets around her house, so we did the same thing on foot as well as some open fields that were nearby. A light rain was falling making it a more desperate need to find her as soon as possible.

We searched throughout the night until some of our members had to leave for work at 8 AM. At 9 a call came in that a patrol car had located her just a few 100 feet from the Command Post. She was brought in, checked out by paramedics and released to her family in good health.

RMRU Members Involved:
Blake Douglas, Glenn Henderson, Eric Holden, Shani Pynn, Vinay Rao, and Alex Rilloraza.

Missing Hiker

March 17, 2019
Skunk Cabbage Meadow, San Jacinto Mountains
Written by Josh Gould

On the morning of Sunday March 17, 2019, we got a call for a lost hiker in between the Caramba trail and Willow Creek trail. Five of the RMRU members responded. The plan was to meet up at the ranger station in Idyllwild. I was the first to the station.

Kevin, Mike George, Dana, and Blake drove up together in a caravan from the Sheriff station. While waiting the sheriffs on site were discussing possible rescues situations. We decided that we would fly in on a helicopter. We relocated the meet up point to the Keenwild Helipad off hwy-243. Upon arriving, we went over the situation and Kevin gave the instructions. Mike George and I were to fly in on the helicopter, land in the Skunk Cabbage Landing Zone and hike about a mile to the subject. Kevin and Blake would be on standby if we need help. We packed up our gear and headed out.

Mike G and Josh after Exiting Star-9 Helicopter

After landing in Skunk Cabbage, we planned the fastest route to the subject and headed out. After hiking about a mile, we located the subject. He was in high spirits for staying out all night and not having quite the gear to do this. We gave him some food, water, and a change of socks. Once he was ready to head back, we were off. On the way back, he told us his story. He found himself on the same paths of a set of bear prints and mountain lion prints. Later in the day he came across a bear cub and decided to split. He got off course and ended up a few miles off trail. As the day turned to night he hunkered down for the night. The next morning, he started to head back.

Star-9 Shut Down in Skunk Cabbage Meadow

After about forty-five minutes of hiking, the three of us got back to the helicopter. We sent the subject back with STAR-9 to the helipad first. Then Mike George and I went back on the next trip. Upon landing at the helipad, medics from the fire department and paramedics were already there to evaluate the subject's condition. He was still in high spirits but a little cold. Overall, this mission was a success and had great team work from the parties involved. This includes the STAR-9 pilots, RSO of the Hemet station and RMRU volunteers. Thank you everyone for a great rescue.

RMRU Members Involved:
Blake Douglas, Mike George, Josh Gould, Kevin Kearn, and Dana Potts

Evidence Search

March 18, 2019
Temescal Valley, CA
Written by Glenn Henderson

The team was called for an evidence search in a criminal case. We searched all afternoon and did not find anything of interest.

RMRU Members Involved:
Michael Cara, James Eckhart, Glenn Henderson, and Kevin Kearn.

Continued on Page 18

Black Mt. Road Search

March 20, 2019
Black Mountain Road
Written by Glenn Henderson

We got a call to meet up at Hemet Ryan airbase to be flown in to a location near Black Mountain campground in the San Jacinto Mountains. Alex and I would be searching for John who has been missing since January 5 in Oceanside, California. His truck was located near the 7000' level and had been covered in snow for weeks. The truck had been found by US forestry personnel. The truck was empty and locked. We were flown in above the truck and started searching down to the truck. We located it and searched for a mile down the road to the end of the road.

We retraced our steps back to the truck and hiked another half mile past the truck to a clearing off the side of the road where Star 9, Sheriff's helicopter, picked us up. We did not find any sign of our subject.

RMRU Members Involved:
Glenn Henderson and
Alex Rilloraza

Missing PCT Hiker

March 23, 2019
Fuller Ridge Trail
Written by James Eckhardt

I had just returned to my car at 10:00PM after celebrating picking a lab for my doctoral research and was thinking about the gear I would need for my first training with the team Saturday morning when I got the callout. It was for a German PCT hiker (Julian), who had activated his Garmin inReach device on Fuller Ridge.

As this was my third mission and first rescue, I didn't know how involved I would be with the rescue. However, I packed my gear and headed to Hemet with Blake where we would meet up with the rest of the team and drive up to the Marion Mountain trailhead on the still closed highway 74. After arriving at the trailhead and packing, we (Blake, Josh, Daniel, Shani and I) set out on the trail with Glenn at base at 1:30AM. We were briefed that Julian no longer had his backpack, so it was important we reached him as it was below freezing, and air support was not available due to cloud cover.

Star-9 Heading down to Land in Meadow

We followed the Marion Mountain trail up through the night, but due to increasing snow depth, following the path became difficult. From that point, we hiked through semi solid snow navigating by GPS to the PCT Marion Mountain Trail junction. This steep 2.8-mile hike is not easy in dry conditions and exhausting in snow. Upon reaching the junction (5:30AM), Blake, Josh and Daniel stayed put to rest and stand by in case Shani and I needed help. Shani and I then headed out on the PCT towards Fuller Ridge. Sunrise brought beautiful views of Gorgonio, Baldy and the Santa Anas above the clouds as we slowly hiked on.

We initially tried to follow the trail, as we found tracks of what may have been Julian, but we left them for a better route across the west side of the ridge, close to where the trail would have been. As we hiked along the ridge, the terrain became steeper, and we neared a creek crossing. The deep snow made this crossing impossible, so I found a snow-covered log, probing with an ice axe as I crossed. We traversed the continually steepening ridge side, necessitating self-belaying with our ice axes.

When we came to a section where we needed crampons, it was, of course, too steep to put them on, so we carefully continued kicking steps into the hard snow to a flat rock. We put on crampons and came to another creek and crossed via snow bridge. I led, again probing, and Shani crossed behind me. Shani probed after getting off and found a very thin area nearly where I had just stepped. Thankfully this was our last crossing. The crampons sped our traverse, which in some places was an exciting 40 degrees and over 30 degrees for half a mile. At one point we again crossed tracks, this time in the form of a slide rather than footsteps. This worried

us that Julian may also be injured by the fall in addition to being without a pack.

We finally reached the ridgetop (Fuller Ridge) and were met with less technical terrain, a welcome thing, but were also met with wind. Around this same time, Glenn radioed two good pieces of news, Star-9 was on its way to search and Julian had recently sent out a message. This indicated to us he was still alive. We began to call out about ½ mile from the Garmin inReach GPS point, but the wind made the chance of hearing a reply nearly impossible. Star-9 began circling overhead but was not able to spot Julian. Shani and I spread out (keeping visual contact) to maximize the chance of hearing a response to our calls, and I made visual contact with Julian around 9:30AM.

I made voice contact confirming it was Julian. He was excited to see us after spending a long, dark, cold night, but he was cold. Thankfully, he was visibly shivering, indicating he had not slipped too far into hypothermia. After asking about any major injuries, a fear we had from seeing his sliding tracks, and receiving a reply in the negative, I gave him food, water and an extra jacket while Shani radioed the good news to base.

Julian had lost his backpack after setting it down to look for a campsite the night before, losing all food, water and clothing. He had activated his beacon when it became too dark to search for his pack and then made two beneficial decisions: 1) Stay where he activated the beacon, 2) Stay active all night to keep warm enough. Shani and I were both thankful for this as we were tired after our technical night hike; we were prepared to begin searching, but glad we did not have to. At this point, we hoped for a quick hoist, but Star-9 was unable to find a good position due to the wind. We got word that LA Air Rescue 5 was available and could perform the hoist in an hour.

Air-5 Crew, James, Subject, Shani, and Air-5 Crew

At this time Riverside Sheriff's Aviation was able to pick up the other team members by landing in a meadow and flying them back to Keenwild base.

We moved to a more sheltered location and Shani made tea for Julian as well as checked for frostbite. In an hour we heard that LA Air Rescue 5 would be to our location in one more hour and during this time, Shani and I looked for alternative hoisting spots while the subject warmed in my sleeping bag. Additionally, this was my first hoist, so Shani explained what I would need to be aware of. Upon arrival LA Air Rescue 5 lowered their medic and I was first to be hoisted. Shani was next up and then Julian and the medic together. We had a quick flight to Hemet-Ryan Airport, and after Julian was taken to a local hotel by a deputy, Shani and I napped in the comfort of the hanger. After standing by at the trail junction for much of the duration of the mission, Blake, Daniel and Josh were flown to Keenwild by Star-9.

I want to especially thank LA Air Rescue 5 for their expert flying, Riverside Sheriff's Aviation, and Shani for guiding me on my first rescue mission.

RMRU Members Involved:
Blake Douglas, James Echkardt, Josh Gould, Glenn Henderson, Shani Pynn, and Daniel Tran.

Missing Hiker Backpack

March 24, 2019
Fuller Ridge Trail
Written by Pete Carlson

Gwenda received a call that a PCT hiker separated from his hiking partner had found his backpack off the trail but could not find his partner. As members called in and started getting ready to head out to Idyllwild, Gwenda got more information and asked that the hiker be sure it was his partners pack. It turned out it was the backpack of the German PCT hiker form the night before (See mission March 23).
In the next few minutes the PCT hiker kept hiking and calling out and he found his partner who was just fine. RMRU members stopped getting ready to head out and

went back to bed.
As a note the next day Jon King of Idyllwild hiked up and brought the missing backpack back and gave it to the German Hiker who was rescue (March 23) and he is continuing his PCT hike.

RMRU Members Involved:
Kevin Kearn, Kaitlyn Purington, and Gwenda Yates

Stranded Hiker Skyline

April 1, 2019
Grubs Notch Tramway
Written by Eric Holden

We received a call out for a stuck Skyline hiker. Word was that he was stuck on a rock and couldn't go up or down at about 8,100ft. This was the exact description of a rescue I had done a few months ago, see Mission 2018-24.

I met Tyler at the hanger and the plan was to do a hoist if possible, or be drop off and hike/climb to get to him. While we were waiting, the State Parks was able to hike to him, and turns out, he was past Coffman's Crag and almost to the top, just tired. State Parks hiked to the subject and hiked him back out.

Tyler and I sat at the hanger for about an hour comparing climbing gear. Mission accomplished, big thanks to California State Parks!

RMRU Members Involved:
Eric Holden and Tyler Shumway

Idyllwild at Risk

April 4, 2019
Idyllwild, CA
Written by Glenn Henderson

RMRU was called out for an at-risk elderly person missing in Idyllwild. Blake, James, and myself responded. As we were driving to Idyllwild, we heard over the radio that the person had been found and transported to the hospital.

RMRU Members Involved:
Blake Douglas, James Echardt, and Glenn Henderson.

PCT Broken Ankle

April 4, 2019
Desert Divide, Apache Peak
Written by Blake Douglas

It was just after the morning traffic rush on a Thursday, and I was driving back to Riverside with fellow RMRU trainee James Eckhardt following mission 16. We were less than ten seconds from parking the car when our phones went off. Again. Evidently the universe didn't want us to go to our jobs today.

Our subject was a PCT hiker who fell in the exact spot that team member Tyler Shumway had warned us about at the monthly meeting the night before: the north side of Apache Peak, where a steep angle and lingering snow and ice made conditions perfect for untrained or unequipped hikers to take a potentially devastating fall. All we knew was that our subject had some sort of leg injury; further attempts to communicate had been unsuccessful.

While in route we reviewed terrain maps and conferred with the team via Slack to determine the best path to take, settling on Spitler Peak Trail per Tyler's recommendation. James and I were assigned to "get up there and figure out what's going on" while Glenn Henderson and Vinay Rao ran base. Hoisting the subject out via Star 9 would be ideal, as is often the case, but weather was making this look unlikely. A technical extraction would involve, at the least, carrying the subject down the mountain in a litter.

Star-9 at Apache Saddle

Spitler Peak Trail begins in sandy chaparral conditions, climbing steadily across the western slopes of Spitler Peak and transitions to shady oak woodlands along the north. After crossing Spitler Creek, it ascends quickly in a series of switchbacks through the skeletal remains of hundreds of oak trees gutted by the 2013 Mountain Fire, although we saw signs of slow recovery. As we ascended the switchbacks, we were advised that Star 9 was preparing to take off with Tyler aboard - welcome news, since Tyler is a former EMT, and would be better able to evaluate the subject than James or myself. We also received word that Eric Holden and Shani Pynn were now

on the trail as Team 2, carrying the litter. They were joined some time later by Team 3, consisting of new members Derek Donovan, Jordan Antol and Michael Cara, who would be essential in providing backup and relief if we had to go through with the technical extraction and carry-out.

A short scramble up the final switchback deposited us on the Pacific Crest Trail atop the Desert Divide, with an excellent view of both Coachella and Garner Valleys; a view we enjoyed just long enough to catch our breath before proceeding north. We were, after all, determined to beat Star 9 to our subject.

Star 9 passed over us as we approached Apache Peak East, where the trail curves around the east face, with our subject's coordinates on the opposite side. Star 9 located the subject but departed again to configure for a hoist. Rounding a curve in the trail we sighted three hikers at our coordinates, but none of them were our subject. Two were PCT hikers who had stopped to help if possible, and the third was our subject's adult son, who had been hiking with him when he fell. We were pointed in the general direction in which the fall occurred, but there was no obvious sign of the subject from the trail itself.

James and I descended around 100 feet of a 40-degree slope strewn with flat, loose rock, quickly reaching a small promontory overlooking a nearby drainage, but still with no sign of our subject. We decided to stay put and wait for the hoist to locate the subject for us, rather than risk descending in the wrong direction. James returned to the trail to communicate with our subject's son, establish a radio relay, and ensure that no one else descended the slope.

Everyone from RSO and RMRU at Lake Hemet Helipad Base

Within five minutes Star 9 arrived and approached closely enough for Tyler and me to share a wave before he hoisted down. The subject was 100 feet directly below me in the drainage, but invisible from my vantage due to the steep angle and substantial amount of detritus. Star 9 departed as I descended, and I found Tyler already tending to the subject, with two other uninjured subjects nearby.

It turned out these were not really subjects, but simply more PCT hikers who had descended to render what aid they could Tyler quickly assessed the subject and we radio-relayed up to James that the subject had a leg injury and needed a hoist; all others would walk out. Thanks to the expertise of Tyler and RSO aviation, the entire sequence from hoist-in to hoist-out only took around ten minutes. While Tyler negotiated the hoist, I gathered the other two hikers to me, having them secure their gear and shield themselves from the rotor wash while we waited for the helicopter to depart.

Although lightly equipped and untrained for the conditions, they were in good shape, confident and cooperative, and they graciously packed out the gear belonging to our subject's Son. As they ascended, I descended to Tyler's location to assist him in retrieving his own gear, as well as that of our subject; both packs had fallen another 100 feet down the canyon.

Once all gear had been retrieved, we reconvened on the trail and headed to the Apache Peak saddle, where Star 9 had landed to await our team. We thanked and bid farewell to the PCT hikers, and Star 9 took Tyler and our subject's son back to Hemet. James and I made a quick hike to the top of Apache Peak while we waited for Star 9 to return, enjoying snacks and rest while we watched clouds pile ominously over the ridgeline, threatening to cancel our easy exit, but Star 9 returned just in time to avoid the worst of it. We met up with the team at Lake Hemet and had a well-earned dinner at the Paradise Valley Cafe.

NOTE: *More details on this mission can be found on the team's webstie rmru.org*

RMRU Members Involved:
Jordan Antol, Michael Cara, Derek Donovan, Blake Douglas, James Echardt, Glenn Henderson, Eric Holden, Shani Pynn, Tyler Shumway, and Vinay Rao.

Two Stranded Hikers

April 6, 2019

South Ridge Trail, Tahquitz Peak

Written by Cameron Dickinson

A call went out to the team late on the night of April 6th, 2019, after two females called 911 and reported being stuck on the side of a steep icy slope close to the South Ridge Trail just east of Tahquitz Peak. Both females were somewhat well equipped for the colder conditions, however one wasn't equipped with adequate traction (crampons, micro spikes, etc.) to walk on the icy and snowy terrain. They made the right decision to stay put and wait for searchers to reach them and guide the out safety.

I and two new members in Training (Vinay, and Derek) where first to base and we became team 1. We also had another mission going on at the Tramway and lots of member out in Joshua Tree doing Technical Rock Training. Riverside County Sheriff's Aviation had previously done a fly over, located our subjects, and relayed the coordinates back to our Deputy. We started up the South Ridge Trail and hiked up to an overlook near the Tahquitz Peak Lookout Tower. As we look to our east down in the canyon, we can spot a light from below. Looking at their location on our GPS device, we can see that the light put the location in proximity to our hikers. We shouted down the them and confirmed that these are the hikers that we were looking for. They said they where OK and warm, just need help getting off the ice.

We found ourselves on a steep, rocky, and iced over hillside. We decided to stop here because the two hikers where OK and I was with two new members in training and they did not feel comfortable going into the ice. Remember another mission going on and members in Joshua Tree. We decided to wait for Team 2 who was made up of members who could hike safely on the ice. As rescuers we need to always be sure we are safe before trying to help others. As Team 1 (First members at base) we had made contact and confirmed the subjects where OK, just stuck. Now it would be up to Team 2 to get them.

Josh, Subjects, Tyler, and Dana at Base

Written by Tyler Shumway

Josh and I responded to a call out for 2 hikers stranded on the Tahquitz Traverse. We had just finished a multi-day technical rock training in Joshua Tree and made our way to South Ridge Trailhead just at dawn. Dana Potts and the Sheriff Deputy on scene briefed us about 2 hikers who were stranded overnight on steep terrain on snow and ice. They had food, water and enough gear to stay warm with no injuries reported. Team 1 had made contact but need more highly trained snow and ice members. They did have micro-spikes and poles but given the current conditions of the traverse and no trail broken, ice axe and crampons are required to safely navigate. Josh and I (Team 2) started our hike up South Ridge and made our way to Tahquitz Peak. We stayed on the ridgeline after the fire tower until we were directly above their known location. With crampons and ice axe we were able to safely descend to the hikers. They were tired after spending the night in a tree well in steep and icy terrain but otherwise in good spirits. The hikers were doing the PCT and their goal was to exit via S. Ridge to resupply in town. However, it was getting dark the night before and they found themselves in icy conditions on the traverse to Tahquitz Peak.

They had come from Chinquapin Flats, so we decided to hike them out to Humber Park via Devils Slide. With the warming temperatures and morning sun the snow had soften considerably and allowed us to chop and kick steps for the subjects to safely navigate along the traverse back to the PCT. We made it down to Humber Park without incident.

RMRU Members Involved:

Chad Becker, Cameron Dickinson, Derek Donovan, Josh Gould, Dana Potts, Tyler Shumway, Vinay Rao, and Ty Wittersheim.

Lost Peak Hikers

April 7, 2019
Wellman Divide
Written by James Eckhardt

We were enjoying an evening of climbing and socializing after a productive day of technical rock training with the team at Joshua Tree when a team member received a message through their inReach device to call Gwenda. Donny and Blake had to drive to the park entrance to get signal and came back with the news that we had a rescue for three lost hikers at the tram. Since team members not at the training were already responding to another mission, we would need to cut our stay at Joshua Tree short.
We (Blake, Donny, Tony and I) arrived at the top of the tram at around 11:30PM. Tony stay at the top to run base from our radio room in the back of the Tramway. Blake, Donny and I began hiking to the location of the subjects, a few hundred feet below the Willow Creek Trail near the state park boundary.
When we reached them, we warmed them up with hot food as they were cold from just wearing shorts and light jackets. We learned the subjects had hiked towards San Jacinto Peak but turned back due to lack of adequate clothing for the still snow-covered trails. On their way back they lost the trail and finally found a spot with cell phone service and called for help.
Due to the difficulty of the hike back up to the tramway, the trail was covered in snow, we instead headed to Saddle Junction and down Devil's Slide trail, arriving at Humber Park around 6:00AM. The lesson from this rescue is to always carry enough clothing, food and water to survive an unplanned night on the mountain. Additionally, always carry a headlamp and some form of navigation.

RMRU Members Involved:
Blake Douglas, James Eckhardt, Donny Goetz, and Tony Hughes.

OES Mt. Baldy Search

April 9-10, 2019
Cucamonga Peak
Written by Glenn Henderson

On April 8 the team was activated to help with an out of county search for 2 missing hikers on Mt. Baldy. They had been reported missing on Saturday night April 6. RMRU responded with 3, Dana Potts, James Eckhart and Daniel Tran on Tuesday morning April 9. They arrived at the IC (incident command) at 7 am and were sent 3.6 miles up Icehouse Canyon to the saddle to run relay. They spent the entire day in cold and wind passing information to the IC from teams all over the mountain. At the end of the day they returned to IC at 7 PM without any sign of the missing hikers.

Another call was sent to neighboring teams for another 7 AM start on Wednesday April 10. I was the only one that could respond and was teamed up with 3 members of the West Valley team. Our assignment was to hike up Ice House canyon almost to the saddle and then climb up the many ice chutes on the north side of the ridge. This required crampons and ice axes to complete.

The terrain was steep and extremely icy. There was no room for falling. We climbed up the first chute and then across the ridge between chutes and then down the next chute and then up the next one. We did not find any sign and started hiking back to the trail and out to the trail head.

West Valley Team Members Hiking up Trail to come down Cutes

Just as we got to the parking lot at 6:30 we heard the call that the couple had been found alive and well. Great news as after 5 days hope was waning that there would be a good outcome to this search. A team from Sierra Madre was descending Cucamonga Canyon and had found two sets of tracks. They followed them down and called for a helicopter. The helicopter found them trapped in the canyon and hoisted them out and back to IC. A truly great day!!!

RMRU Members Involved:
James Eckhardt,
Glenn Henderson, Dona Potts, and Daniel Tran.

Apache Peak Injury

April 11, 2019
PCT Trail below Apache Peak
Written by Eric Holden

I had just gotten home from work, when @1630 the call came out for an injured PCT Hiker near Apache Peak. This immediately made me think of a rescue just 7 days ago, see Mission 17-19. I start on my way to Lake Hemet and we get the subject's lat/long. Turns out they are on the other side of the mountain, the west side, the easy side, the one that will take us 2 hours to get up and 2 to get back. "Thankfully this mission isn't in the same place as last time," I thought to myself, knowing how difficult of a rescue this would be if it was.

After arriving at RSO's Mountain Station at Lake Hemet I met with Cameron and we spoke with Cal Fire who was attempting to perform a hoist of the subject. "Even better," I thought, "the mission will be over soon." Unfortunately, they could not perform it due to high winds, but would be willing to land us about ½ mile away from the subject. When they came to pick us up, we received a briefing of what they saw. They spotted him about 200ft down a snow slope… wait snow… there is no snow on the west side. I ask Cal Fire to show me on map where the subject was and sure enough, it was in the exact same location at the mission 7 days ago. I quickly repack all my gear making sure I have my ice axe and crampons. With daylight fading, Cameron and I boarded the Cal Fire helicopter and got dropped near the saddle of Apache peak in 40-50mph winds. Good job to the pilot for landing us in some white knuckled major chop. They flew back down to try and drop Blake and James off, but even after multiple attempts, the winds were just too strong.

Cal-Fire 301 at Base with Subject on Board

With Glenn running base, Cameron and I started hiking to our subject, knowing we would be out of radio contact until team 2 hiked up. We crossed the snow slopes and found our subject, Ross. He had fallen ~120ft down a 40-degree snow slope and was only stopped by the large amounts of chinquapin bushes. Luckily, two PCT hikers had watched him fall and were already with him rendering aid. He had multiple lacerations, an injured knee, an injured foot, but nothing seemed broken and Ross thought he could hike back out.

NOTE: *For additional details on this missions visit the team's website rmru.org*

RMRU Members Involved:
Cameron Dickinson, Blake Douglas, James Eckhardt, Glenn Henderson, Eric Holden, and Shani Pynn

Evidence Search

April 17, 2019
Anza Area
Written by Glenn Henderson

RMRU was called to assist in an evidence search in the Anza area. Vinay and I responded. We met in a remote location with Sheriff's deputies and coroner personnel including Craig Wills with the coroner's office. Craig is a former RMRU member from a few years ago, but when he got a new job with the department, he was forced to leave RMRU. We all hiked down to the bottom of a steep ravine and recovered a few items. We worked for 6 hours before being released. It was fun to see Craig again and catch up on each other's lives.

RMRU Members Involved:
Glenn Henderson, and Vinay Rao

Hoist Rescue

April 21, 2019
Dawn Peak in Anza Borrego
Written by Glenn Henderson

At 1 AM Easter morning the phone rings. Never a good sound and sure enough it is call captain Gwenda Yates. She asked if I can be at the hanger by 6 AM for a hoist rescue? I said sure but why wait? The winds were too high so we hoped that early morning would be a little less wind.
It seems that Scott had driven up a dirt ravine and left his truck to go hiking. This is in San Diego county. He then hiked to the 6100' level of Dawn peak in Anza Borrego Desert State Park. Once he got there, which is now in Riverside County,

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RMRU TEAM MEMBER PROFILE - GLENN HENDERSON

rescue with Landells aviation and now with the Riverside Sheriff's helicopter bureau.

I've been elected to the California Region of the Mountain Rescue Association as Region Chair for four years and served on the Mountain Rescue Associations Board of Directors. I've served on the RMRU board of directors for almost 20 years and been team president for 10 years.

Over the years there have been a lot of blood, sweat and tears on a few hundred rescues.

One mission I'll never forget.
On May 16/17, 1987. We were called out at 11 pm for a young 5-year-old boy missing out of Black Mountain campground. As I was driving to the search, I thought of my own 9 and 7-year-old boys asleep at home. As I got to the campground my best friend, Kevin Walker and my self were given an assignment by Walt Walker, Kevin's Dad and one of the founders of the team. Our assignment was to check the stream that passed through the campground and check the pools as we worked our way down the canyon in the dark. As we searched, I realized that we got what I thought was the worst assignment possible. We were looking for a small body

in the water. About 4 am I found what I thought was a small footprint and then Kevin another that was a sure thing. Our hopes soared. We had been shouting Dean's name but now with renewed hope and we moved faster. Within half an hour we got a response and found little Dean on top of a rock, cold and hungry but otherwise in good health. We radioed back to base, put some of our clothes on him and carried him back to base safe and sound. I had been on the team now for five years and been on many SAR missions but this was the first one I had ever been on that I was on the team that found someone.

I've been on many missions in the past 30 plus years. I worked with Thrifty Drugs for 25 years and then became a high school algebra/geometry teacher. I retired in 2011, bought a sail boat and now do a lot of sailing in my off time.

Our two sons are now grown up. Travis is a teacher in Hemet and Jeremy is a fire captain in Ventura city. We now have 3 grandchildren.

After 40 years in SAR I've seen many changes and they have been for the good. I'm still "Rolling Out" and plan on doing so until I can't:)

Glenn Henderson
RMRU Member since 1982

RMRU TEAM MEMBER PROFILE - TONY HUGHES

and do you have a "must read" favorite book?
My "Must Read" book is "The Intelligent Investor" by Ben Graham. Changed my life from a financial freedom standpoint. I tend to read mostly non-fiction books. They are usually financial, investing, economics, math, science, psychology, and climbing/rescue related. The only non-fiction I tend to read is futurist.

What was your first missions?
My first mission was to look for a missing hiker on Black Mountain Road. She was doing a 3 day hike had spoken to her mom to pick her up at the bottom of the road. She didn't show up so the mom called for help. Another party was confident they had seen her at the top of the rope so we scoured the road and all the spurs to see if we could find here. We also went up nearby Dark Canyon and hiked across to Black Mountain Road to see if we could spot any clues.

After several hours we did not find her and headed down to base to swap out teams. Another group was getting ready to head out and she was found shortly there after. She had hiked off the road and into the woods to sleep for the night. She had her headphones in and didn't hear us calling at all.

What has been your most memorable mission?
Definitely when I went up to the "Camp Fire" in Paradise, CA. The size and scope of the damage is impossible to convey and is overwhelming when you see it first hand. The amount of resources form different agencies and the logistics involved were also crazy.

What was your hardest rescue, most intense, physically or mentally?
Anything in the winter that involves going high on the mountain is always a physical butt kicker.

What has being an RMRU member meant to you?
I originally joined as I wanted to help people first hand instead of through a fund raiser or donation. RMRU definitely provides personal interactions with people that definitely need assistance. What I didn't expect was gaining a close family or fellow SAR members, both on my team and other teams.

What have you learned being on RMRU?
Way too many things to list. One big thing is how people band together in time of emergencies and really help each other out, even when they are total strangers.

What advice would you give someone wanting to get involved with RMRU?
Definitely come check us out. Search and Rescue isn't for everyone, but if you think it is for you it is definitely worth exploring. It can be tough physically and mentally but it is worth every moment and you will meet people that will become your family.

Tony's Blue tarp which he always carries. Used as prank at the 2018 MRA Conference in Canada

With your unique combination of outdoor skills and rescue experience, what advice do you offer to any would-be wilderness travelers?
It is always better to be over prepared and safe. Know your personal boundaries, know where you a going, tell someone, and have enough gear with you to survive for 1 night.

Tony Hughes
RMRU Member since 2015

from Page 23 **MISSION REVIEWS** NOVEMBER 2018 - APRIL 2019

he could not figure out his way back down and was running out of water.

Star 9 tried to get to him on Saturday night, but the winds were too strong. They talked to Scott and he said he was ok to spend the night as he had some water, food and shelter.

I met pilot Chad Marlatt and TFO (technical flight operator)/pilot Ray Hiers at 6 AM. Due to low cloud cover we could not lift off until 7:30. We flew to Scotts location where I was hoisted down to Scott. I quickly put a "screamer suit" on him and Ray hoisted him into the helicopter. Ray then sent the hook back down to me and hoisted me back inside.

We had to land in San Diego county and met one of their sheriff deputies who took charge of Scott and was to drive him back to his truck. We flew back to the hanger and I got to go home while Chad and Ray finished their shift ending at 6 PM. Another tough rescue made easy by the expertise of Riverside's pilots and crew.

RMRU Members Involved:
Glenn Henderson

Lost Hikers Tanaja

April 30, 2019
Tanaja Trail,
Cleveland National Forest
Written by Vinay Rao

On Tuesday morning RMRU received a call about two lost hikers in the Tenaja Falls/Fishermen's Creek area. The previous day, Monday afternoon, two brothers (16 and 21) had parked their car at the trailhead and were planning on doing a short scouting hike. When they did not return by late Monday evening, and were out of communication with the family, the parents became worried.

Sheriff's, Windy (K9), RMRU members, Subjects, and Family

The father along with a friend decided to look for the two brothers and hiked from the trailhead to Fishermen's Camp where they found what they thought were the boot prints of one of the brothers. Unable to go further the family decided to call for help. The team was activated around 4:45am on Tuesday and we responded and met up at the trailhead at approximately 6:30am.
Eric ran base and Glenn hiked a few miles in with James and Vinay to assist with comms relay. James and Vinay continued down to Fishermen's Camp to look for footprints; several were located. In the meantime, a K-9 (Windy) along with the handler and a deputy were heading down the trail to Fishermen's Camp so we waited for them to arrive.

Upon arrival the K-9 appeared to have picked up a good scent on one of the ridge trails. We went with the K-9 team and the deputy for approximately a mile when we heard voices calling out for help from the creek bed. Unable to establish whether the voices were our subjects, and after looking at the topo map, we determined that the best option was for the K-9 team and the deputy to continue along the ridge trail and the RMRU team to try and bushwhack down the ridge to the creek bed. We made it through very heavy brush and shrubs to within 20-30 feet of the subjects but were unable to continue further due a cliff. Fortunately, we were able to confirm that the individuals were our subjects and that they were unhurt. We decided to retrace our way up the hill and return to Fishermen's Camp to follow the creek to the subjects. After about a ½ hour in the creek bed we located the subjects.

We assessed them for injury (they were uninjured) and gave them some warm clothing and food and fluids to drink. While were with the subjects, the K-9 team and the deputy had returned to Fishermen's Creek. The two subjects and RMRU were then all able to then return via the creek to Fishermen's Camp where we met up with the deputies and hiked back to trailhead.

The family was very happy to see that their sons were safe and sound!

RMRU Members Involved:
James Echhardt,
Glenn Henderson, Eric Holden, and Vinay Rao.

ABOUT RIVERSIDE MOUNTAIN RESCUE UNIT

FOUNDED 1961
MEMBER MOUNTAIN RESCUE ASSOCIATION 1963
GOVERNING BODY: RIVERSIDE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

MEMBERS: ORIGINAL: 6 | CURRENT MEMBERS: 34
ANNUAL BUDGET: ORIGINAL $200 | CURRENT $15,000
MISSIONS: TOTAL OVER 2,000 | AVERAGE PER MONTH: 3.33

TRAINING CALENDAR

Team Training

- MRA Conference, Timberline Lodge Mt. Hood , Oregon	June 7-9
- Technical Rock	July 13
- GPS / Map and Compass	August 10
- Mock Mission	September 7
- Tracking	October 5 - 7
- **Night Helitac**	November 9

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2019

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