

THE NEWSLETTER (#1) (a mtn skyline freehand here) August 1969

THE CALENDAR

China Lake Mountain Rescue Group

August 11, a 2-day trip coming up. Bill Stronge is the coordinator, so call him (office: 72950, or home: 446-3289) for transportation and cook pool information. (Passenger cars can easily make the trip from Big Pine past Glacier Lodge to the road head.) After the 6-mile backpack to Sam Mack Lake, you can expect to camp on snow; mosquitoes will keep you moving along the trail, and may show up in camp. You can have your choice of the technical rock and snow climb of Thunderbolt, one of the 14,000-foot peaks of the Sierra Nevada...or you can take the trail up onto the Palisade Glacier, with views of the Palisades.

August 30, the 3-day trip into the Kaweahs, with a long (7 hour) drive around to Mineral King. Chuck Ringrose coordinates this one, and again, anyone who doesn't mind 20 miles of mountain road with unbroken exposure can drive it. Call Chuck for transportation and food pool (office: 71487, or home: 446-2772). The hike-in is strenuous, 14 miles and 2 high passes.. but Big Kaweah is a Sierra Peak Section (SPS) Emblem Peak, and a walk-up with splendid views of the other Kaweah peaks that may be scheduled climbs. The crossing of the Kern down in the Big Arroyo could be more exciting than the time your editor stepped over it!

September Barbara Slates has the meeting at 7:30, at 709 A Nimitz.

OPERATIONS Al Green

As this is our first newsletter, the rescue activities of CLMRG during the first 8 months of '69 will be briefly summarized. Space would not allow a separate discussion of each operation this year.

We have responded to 12 requests. Our involvement has varied from the victim having been found before we arrived (Big Trees) to nearly a week of searching (Balch Park). In the first part of the year the most frequent incident was "missing or down aircraft". For the last couple of months the "lost child" has been keeping us busy. This is a seasonal hazard for family campers and hikers, but this year seems to be uncommonly frequent.

The search for Michael Barron in Sequoia during the last week in July could be considered as typical of our participation in searches out of our prime area (the eastern Sierra). The Park Service requested MRA assistance to cover a difficult area that required technical ability. Our team was assigned a specific portion of this area. Fortunately, the boy was found by Park Service people on the second day after we had been called.

A total of 1620 manhours have been spent to date on these operations. This does not count the effort necessary to keep the group equipment in order and ready, nor does it count the time required to make out reports, critiques, and many other incidental tasks.

Future newsletters will hopefully come out at regular intervals and will allow more descriptive discussions of our operations.

MEMBERSHIP Carl Heller

The second version of The Roster with the new telephone numbers is out. Are you certain the old ones are all discarded?

DONATIONS TO CLMRG Nick Bottka

Community clubs and Service organizations - and even citizens of China Lake/ Ridgecrest are aware of CLMRG's activities (such as searches and rescues) through local newspapers. However, they may not be aware that the success of those missions depend on reliable equipment such as portable radios, stretchers, etc.

*We need more community awareness about CLMPG in all phases, so that we will have a sympathetic response when we do need community support.*

One way we have done this is to write letters to Service clubs, detailing our activities and reminding them that by contributing financially they CAN ALSO HELP MAKE OUR OPERATIONS successful. In response to the above, the following individuals and organizations were concerned enough to send us contributions, thus far in 1969, ranging from \$2 to \$50...and every dollar helps the equipment fund!

Bob Gould, China Lake  
Ruth Ohler, San Francisco  
China Lake Ski Club  
Elks, B.P.O.E. Lodge #1913  
Ridgecrest Veterans of Foreign Wars  
Ridgecrest Kiwanis Club of Ridgecrest

The contributions plus the profit from the slide shows have enabled us to place an order for a GE 4-1/2 watt portable solid state radio.

This radio will significantly improve our existing network. At present, we have 4 1 watt CE Voice Commanders which cost \$150 each, and 1 10 watt Motorola PT 400 which cost \$865. in addition to these portable units, the CLMRG has a mobile unit in the 4-wheel-drive Mountain Rescue truck: a Motorola MOCOM 30, 15 watts, costing \$350. Indian Wells Valley Civil Defense has furnished 3 radios for this vehicle: an ARC 27 to reach military aircraft, a TCS 13 and 2 VRC 9, to reach NAF's UH-1E helicopter.

PERSONAL ITEMS

Gill Blinn, Park Ranger in Death Valley, says his party on McKinley had a splendid trip. in June of this year..reaching the summit with no particular problems.

Quoting the July 16th-issue of THE MUGELNOOS(Rock Climbing Section, Los Angeles Chapter, Sierra Club): "We were shocked and saddened to learn of Ed Lane's death. It happened on a lower ridge of Mt. MacArthur in the Yukon, the last week of June. Ed apparently slipped on a slope, which carried him over a cliff. The expedition (which was cancelled) as planning a traverse of Mt. MacArthur to Mt. Logan, the highest peak in Canada".

Ed had been a member of our group for a couple of years, and joined in both pleasure trips and operations near Big Pine.

August 1969 Newsletter      CURRENT COMMENTS      Al Green

On Wednesday, August 6, operation leaders and telephoners met to discuss ways to cut down on time required for call outs.

Summary:

A check list for the telephoners, so the required information is transferred as efficiently as possible.

"equipment required" categories are being worked out for informing members what to bring without taking time on the telephone to elaborate, and hopefully to preclude misunderstanding and unnecessary questions.

The roster to carry notation of 4-wheel-drive vehicles and station wagons to make it easier to get the required transportation.

It is always a problem to get an operation rolling, and we hope that by working these points into the system it will be easier for all concerned. Remember that the telephoner has a big job to do in the first few minutes, after a call comes in.

EDITOR'S CUBBYHOLE      Liz Anderson

This is our first attempt at the Newsletter. We are hoping it will transmit information on an informal level..as near to every 2nd month as we can manage.

We welcome suggestions and accept criticisms. If it's a really good idea and a telling evaluation, we'll be glad to have you write it out for the next issue!

The Current Comments will carry editorial-style paragraphs, if you have ideas about Mountain Rescue, or safety practices, or any related subjects.

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