



THE NEWSLETTER

CHINA LAKE MOUNTAIN RESCUE GROUP

October, 1969 #2

THE CALENDAR

October 11, the Quarterly meeting for the Southern California Region of the Mountain Rescue Association (SCRMRA). If you are interested in this meeting, call Dennis Burge.

October 13, stretcher practice at Fossil Falls for easy practice pitches, and perhaps simultaneously a practice for multiple-pitch stretcher lowering on the southeast ridge of Owens Peak. Call John Ohl (office: 8289, or home: 446-4165).

November 8 & 9 Thor Peak is the flat-topped peak you saw in Around the World in 80 Days. If we can't get a balloon, you can walk up to 12,300 from Mirror Lake, or climb Class 5 from Outpost Camp. The weekend will include a 2-mile backpack to the vicinity of Outpost Camp. Roman Motyka will arrange transportation and cook pools (office: 72844, or home: 446-6824).

Veterans Day is for a do-it-yourself trip.

November 17, and the schedule says Carol Burge has agreed to the meeting at 705-B Bowen Road, and 7:30 p.m.

November 22 & 23 again gives you a choice of Class 2 or Class 5. If you want to take the trail to the 10,831 ft. summit of Mt. San Jacinto or climb a choice of routes on Tahquitz, call Al Green about transportation to Idyllwild (office: 71724, or home: 446-2491).

If you want a 4-day trip somewhere, start planning now for Thanksgiving.

And if you think the Sierra Nevada is getting crowded, consider this clipping from a recent Sports Illustrated. . . .

BUT A WHY VIPER

Ever dreamed of getting away from it all and climbing the Matterhorn, of finding yourself all alone on a silent peak thousands of feet above the clash and clatter of civilization?

Forget it, friends. There are no more silent, lonely places. Less than a century after Edward Whymper first conquered it, the Matterhorn is suffering from a prime malady of our cities: traffic jams. More than 100 tourists climb the storied mountain each weekend during the peak of the season, and because of the crowd the Zermatt guides have had to declare a time limit for silent contemplation at the top. On Saturdays and Sundays, therefore, climbers are permitted only 45 minutes up there before they have to move off to make room for the next party.

You get more time than that from a parking meter.

OPERATIONS

Al Green

The Gambler's Special operation started with a request on August 9 from Inyo County Sheriff's Department, including a request for secrecy. Frank Buffum took a 3-man team to Lone Pine. They went in by helicopter with a regular deputy sheriff (the 3 CLMRG members were deputized on the spot). The idea was to guard the wreckage from thieves and souvenir collectors, but it turned out no guarding was needed in lonely upper Hogback canyon.

Momentary excitement was provided the next morning when an AF helicopter crashed, but fortunately there were no serious injuries.

After this the team and its replacements helped the large group of investigators and coroner's assistants, particularly on the upper portions of steep snow and rock. We also acted as high-altitude Sherpas in moving the filled body bags from the crash site to the heliport.

During the early days of the operation our radio network was of considerable value. John Ohl worked hard to keep our truck in operation, and even talked to the military helicopters using our ARC 27.

Carl Heller

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A 16-year-old boy - seriously injured - on University Peak. This call from the Inyo County Sheriff's office scrambled our Group at 2105 on 8/15/60. We left by 2200 and were briefed in Independence at 2330, where word had been received that the victim was dead. The packer at onion Valley provided horses to take us to Slim Lake. Several of us took advantage of this, only to arrive at Slim Lake in minutes after the pedestrians! A seemingly endless climb up a steep, loose boulder field brought us to the snow slope below the accident site, on the north face of University Peak. Some ambiguity in directions resulted in considerable searching before the victim was found. A stretcher lowering to a heliport and some anxious hours worrying about the problems of a carry-out - IF the helicopter didn't come through - completed our task.

The value of good communications was again underlined during this operation. The situation on scene can never be anticipated and it is absolutely essential to be able to communicate with Base Camp and with the officials in charge. The radio in the Rescue Truck provided this link.

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Our services were again requested by Inyo County on Friday morning, September 10. A pair of hikers who had made plans to meet on the John Muir Trail did not make connections. One man (Glenn) had started at Tuolumne Meadows and the other (Al) at Pine Creek. Glenn was a faster hiker and the intention was that he would catch up with Al. Al, however, got off route and off schedule on his way in and found himself below (south) of the prearranged message site. He was afraid that because he was late Glenn had already gone by and elected to continue south. Glenn, however, was not ahead of Al. Finding no message, Glenn proceeded to search and in desperation **returned to Bishop via the Piute** trail and alerted the authorities. He was convinced that his partner had gotten into trouble on the Italy Pass trail. Fortunately Al was not in trouble (yet) and completed his backpacking adventure on schedule.

We sent 4 men to Bishop by airplane (courtesy of NAF at China Lake) immediately after the call from Sgt. Walizer. That night after some feverish work on the White Hippo (M-37, 4WD communications truck) we sent it off to establish contact with the advance team. Several (8) other members went up Saturday morning. As things turned out, this was an unnecessary effort and we were not actually needed. However, all reports indicated that it was a real one..and we had an authentic practice scramble.

A.G.

We were called at 0230 on September 23 to assist in a search for a deer hunter who had disappeared on September 20, in the Piutes near Saddle Springs campground. This search continued through Sunday, September 28, without success. By rotating teams we kept several people in the search continuously without anyone losing more than two days work. I would like to thank Tom Boggs and his Explorers for helping out on the weekend. This is the second time they have helped in a situation where manpower was critical. And with our current frequency of operations manpower is critical.

Present man hour total is: 3274 hours of which 686 hours is NWC excused leave.

A.G.

MEMBERSHIP Carl Heller

Changes on your roster:

Ringrose, Chuck 118-A Independence Phone, 446-7269

Nicholas Bottka 1 Berlin 31 Westfaelische Str. 81 West Germany

Report from the Qualifications committee

The present set of teams are Search, Support, and Technical.

Group membership, of course, is through the secretary and must precede any team membership. Any Group member can apply for inclusion in any team through the Qualifications committee. In order to be a team member one must have indicated a willingness to be called upon for an operation.

The requirements for qualification on any one team may be obtained from the committee chairman. These requirements change slightly from time to time.

In addition to the objective list of techniques there is a subjective requirement to satisfy the judgment of the members of the committee. This relates to the demonstrated ability of the individual to be of value on an operation.

The committee now suggests a new membership category - Senior member. This is for former Technical members who do not feel like requalifying as technical and for Support members who have logged 15 or more operations or who are selected as Team leaders in the annual election. Senior membership will be recognized by the 'BRA arm patch.

Requalification of Technical members should be an annual thing each January.

A shortened list of the most important Technical requirements will be available soon. Technical members wishing to requalify should certify to the qualification committee that they have fulfilled the requirements within the previous year.

The purpose of this requalifying is to keep our members trained and to let the Team leaders know who can be sent on particular operations. October 1969

DONATIONS TO CLMRG

Nick Bottka

Once again we print out in black and white our gratitude to those who have contributed financially. Contributors during August and September include:

- Bob Gould, China Lake
- Ruth Ohler San Francisco**
- Al Nardini, Woodland
- Anonymous, Indian Wells Valley
- Sheriff, Inyo County

The GE 4-1/2 watt portable solid state radio has not yet been received, but certainly be welcome when it does arrive.

PUBLIC EDUCATION Liz Anderson

The Public Education committee has polished off another slide show. To date we have 4 slide shows available for presentation at public meetings. Each one runs approximately 20 minutes. THE CLMRG.. in which Frank Buffum tells the history and purposes of this rescue group.

CAMPING AROUND THE **World** was put together for the High School PE classes, and is a collection of slides showing all phases of camping, from car-camping in Death Valley to back-packing with porters in Afghanistan.

IT ALL DEPENDS ON YOU is the first in a series that is developing, on public education..safety, preparation, caution in the wilderness. This one is concerned with rules for backpacking and camping.'

THAT'S LIFE! is the new one, and primarily emphasizes the ideas behind survival..shelter, fire, food, water, and communication with searchers.

The last 2 slide series are being shown for the Safety Department of NWC at monthly Safety meetings.

Two more series are in the building process..one on map-reading, and a second on family-camping and control of small children in the wilderness. Any ideas that you think should he included in either of these will he considered!

If you know any groups who might want any of these shows for programs, tell. them that scheduling goes through Elizabeth Anderson (72641) or John Ohl (8289).

EDITOR'S CUBBYHOLE Liz Anderson

We hope our group image contains equal parts of reliability, efficiency on -operations:, special capabilities..a certain amount of dignity, with a dash of individuality. Our special skills are rock-climbing and the ability to travel in snow and ice, at high altitudes. Our particular area is the southern Sierra Nevada. We have accumulated a list of proposed names for this newsletter.

- Which ones seem most appropriate to You? Will each member vote for his favorite 3?
- | | | | | |
|----------------|--------------|-------------|----------------|------------|
| Glacier Polish | Sun Cups | Belay Point | On Belay | Rockfall |
| Base Camp | The Traverse | The Tie-In | The Open Book | Nubbins |
| Timberline | Middle Man | Signals | The Talus Pile | Last Pitch |
| Routefinder | Polemonium | Exposure | Friction Pitch | |

AND ON THE LAST PAGE - Something for the Ladies!



SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

COUNTY OF INYO
INDEPENDENCE, CALIFORNIA
TELEPHONE 878-2321

September 22, 1969

China Lake
Rescue Team
P. O. Box
5773
Ridgecrest, California

Ladies & Gentlemen:

I would like to extend my appreciation on behalf of my department for your assistance during the recent search operations conducted for Al Nardino of Woodland, Calif.

In my last letter of appreciation I addressed the letter to the gentlemen of the China Lake Rescue Team, because at the time I did not have access to the roster of your members which helped during the operation. However, I notice that the Ladies were very much in the fore during this recent search, and I would like to take this opportunity to commend them for their assistance.

To all of you, may I say, you are truly an asset to your community.

Sincerely,

Merrill H. Curtis,
Sheriff

D. C. Landerger
D. C. Landerger, Undersheriff

MHC:s