



CHINA LAKE MOUNTAIN FESCUE GROUP

P.O. Box 5773

China Lake, California 93555

CALENDAR

#9 December 1970

December 14 . . CLMRG meeting, at Bob Rockwell's, 55-B Burroughs, 7:30

January 9 & 10. . Climb, in Death Valley area, perhaps Grapevine or Wahguyhi. Jim Nichols (446-2042) will arrange details.

January 11 . . Meeting at the Dennis Burges', 705-B Bowen, 7:30

January 30 & 31. . Snow rescue practice, and if that's not clear to you, call Bob Westbrook (375-8371).

February 1 . . An informal gathering of CLMRG members, wives, friends, and donors. We will try to describe Mountain Rescue to these people who help in various ways. Anyone have any idea where we should meet? Drawing Room for pizza? Community Center with a catered bar? Perhaps we can show lots of slides..of practices, operations, workshops. And Janet may have her movie on high angle rescue work ready to show.

At the December meeting, the Nominating committee will present their slate for 1971 officers. Any member may nominate a candidate from the floor at either the December or January meeting.. the only requirement is that he will have talked it over with his candidate before the nomination. Elections will be held at the January meeting.

President	Nick Bottka
Vice President	Jim Nichols
Treasurer	Barbara Slates
Secretary	Janet Westbrook
Member-at-Large	Dennis Burge

(That slate looks as though Women's Lib has hit Mountain Rescue!)

And speaking of elections - local boy makes good - and Carl Heller is the regional president of the California Region Mountain Rescue Association.

A quote from the latest Litter Letter, from San Diego:

"You are reminded that there are only four ways to answer a call-out: YES - You can meet at the rendezvous on schedule.

NO - You cannot go on the mission under the present circumstances.

POSSIBLE - You can probably go as soon as certain details are cleared up... In this case you must . . . make the rendezvous.

LATER - You can go at some future time or date (SPECIFY). This is primarily for members whose jobs forbid them from leaving now.

Please, no excuses during the call-out, save them for the critique."

OPERATION 17

Body Evacuation, 11 October, Peak 12,866 (near Morgan Pass)

An early phone call (0530 hours) from Deputy Nash at the Inyo County Sheriff's office started Sunday morning for many of us. Two climbers had fallen on Saturday and the probability of fatal injuries was high. No contact had been made in spite of a strong effort by climbing companions. We asked Deputy Nash to call out the Eastern Sierra Team to assist us and to alert Sierra Madre. Our team (Stronge, Bottka, Motyka, Burge, Anderson, Rockwell, Sweatt and Green) rolled from the Hut at 0640. Base camp was at the Rock Creek roadhead and the Eastern Sierra team (Olcott, Bob and Jaki Thayer, Helmbolt, Blanchard, Kiene and Kelby) arrived almost simultaneously with us; a preview of the cooperation and meshing of the two groups which continued throughout the entire operation.

We were met at the roadhead by friends of the victims and with one of them as guide the advance teams left immediately (1000 hours). Anderson and Olcott were left to handle base camp and the remainder of the rescue personnel started in. After about an hour we met a man coming from the accident site who reported that the victims had been located and had been fatally injured. We proceeded -- reluctantly, methodically --most of us fully aware of the unpleasant but unavoidable task ahead,

The two climbers had fallen approximately 600 vertical feet, and were located approximately 400 feet up from the base of the North side of Peak 12,866. The terrain was moderate class 2 and 3 but rockfall was a definite hazard, and with two victims all the problems were doubled. One anchor and two 200-foot ropes brought the stretchers, one at a time, off the mountain. With 13 Mountain Rescue people and two victims we had little time to waste in order to make the Morgan Pass trail by nightfall. With a mixture of Eastern Sierra and China Lake on each stretcher and a little healthy competition we reached the trail at 1845 hours. Bob Thayer and Smoke Blanchard volunteered to remain with the victims until pack animals arrived to complete the evacuations. We gratefully accepted and all the rest of us headed for home.

OPERATION 18

Carl Heller

Search and rescue, 19-20 October, Plane Crash near Vidette Meadows

The plane crashed Saturday and was located Sunday by the CAP. A helicopter evacuated the pilot and left some NPS personnel to search for the missing passenger. MRA teams were called Monday and helped find the passenger on Tuesday morning after he had spent 3 nights wandering above 10,000 feet!

The request came from WARC Hamilton Field and was received by the Security Police who first called Sam Wyatt. In calling the CLMRG during the lunch hour, Dave Matthews was the first on reached. Dave called me, and I immediately called WARC.

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WARC gave me information including coordinates for the crash site -- right on Red Kaweah! At their direction I phoned Chief Ranger Pete Schust, but could not reach him immediately, Carol and Barbara volunteered to phone for a mobilization and I went home to pack. At the hut at 1355 I finally reached Sequoia HQ and Ranger Schust requested us to help search the Kearsarge and Junction Pass entries to Center Basin. He located the crash at 11,200' near Great Bear Lake. I said we would cover Kearsarge and University Passes if he would get Sierra Madre, who were already alerted, to cover Junction Pass. He said a helicopter lift would be available Tuesday and the helicopter would also drop into Onion Valley that afternoon.

Enroute we stopped in Lone Pine at the Forest Service office and borrowed a radio. I wanted to send two people into Junction Pass that night by helicopter if possible, but their helicopter was away. At Onion Valley we split into four groups. Wick and Sweatt were Base Camp with a mobile radio. Frank's team (Buffum, Peterson, Huse, Johnson) headed for Kearsarge Pass with a Voice Commander. Four of us (Heller, Joy, McIntire, Stronge) started for University Pass with the new GE. Motyka and Rockwell with the Motorola awaited the helicopter for possible airlift. When the helicopter did not arrive they started up into Robinson Canyon. It probably would have been better (in hindsight) for them to have followed Frank and brought him the more powerful radio.

All groups stopped for the night, but Frank and Don started again at 0130 and reached the crash early. Around 0900 they started searching with the NPS personnel (4), and shortly after that Frank heard answers to his shouts. He thought it probably the second CLMRG team, but by radio told the NPS team about the shouts. They had heard, too, and shortly after found the passenger.

The NPS team had searched the crash area for 1-1/2 days looking for tracks. They had found blood drops and had searched that sector thoroughly. They searched uphill (where the victim was found) only on the third day after thoroughly checking out the lower sectors.

Our team at University Pass and the Sierra Madre team enroute to the Junction Pass area were turned back in worsening weather, i.e. snow flurries. The victim was carried 1/2 mile to shelter and Frank's team was released to walk out over Kearsarge Pass. Newspaper accounts indicate that the victim was flown out through a break in the weather that afternoon.

Comments: 1) Obviously a call on Sunday night would have helped. We could have gotten teams into the area on Monday afternoon and would probably have found the victim then.

2) A man can survive 3 nights at sub-freezing temperatures with little clothing. Keep searches going for at least one week.

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QUALIFICATIONS Carl Heller

It is part of this committee's Job to keep records of each member's participation in rescue activities. In attempting to decide the number of operations and number of hours we have had to make some definitions and assign numbers. Some of these may be of interest to other members and rescue units.

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(QUALIFICATIONS....)

We now recognize 5 types of activities: Operations, Incidents, Mobilizations, Alerts, and Practices,

ALERTS involve phone calls so the telephoners and operations leader's time will be counted.

MOBILIZATIONS will include any activity from the time of reaching the Hut until leaving the roadhead. Thus if we don't actually set foot on the mountain, a MOBILIZATION will be counted. Time for each member will count from the phone call, or roughly from 1/2 hour before reaching the hut.

INCIDENTS are missions not necessarily involving mountaineering training, but involving our members helping someone (assisting a traffic-accident victim or bandaging a campfire burn in the Sierra might be classed as INCIDENTS).

OPERATIONS are any assistance of a search or rescue nature performed in the mountains. (The most trivial might involve helping a youngster off a boulder in 15 minutes. In that case the 15 minutes counts. If the assistance involves the entire weekend the entire time of the trip will be counted although people went out for the purpose of a pleasure climb.) The most clear-cut OPERATIONS occur when the group is called out by some official agency.

PRACTICES will involve any group trip or training activity.

The OPERATIONAL activities are divided into searches, rescues, and body evacuations. PRACTICES can include stretcher training, mountaineering, and rock climbing practice, familiarization climbs and many others. The committee tries to record how much such practice all members are getting.

The results of adding up the entire groups' activities for 1970 are shown in the accompanying outline (see last page). We list 18 operations, 4 mobilizations, 5 alerts, and 0 incidents so far this year. We do not count victims for alerts or mobilizations. On operations that we have been on, there have been 21 victims of whom 16 lived, 3 were dead and 2 are still missing. A total of 2750 man-hours has been spent.

Our method of Adding operations, victims and man-hours is far from perfect, but it is better than we have done in previous years. Hopefully it will be continued and will provide a real measure of how much our activities increase or decline from year to year. Certainly any suggestions for improvements will be welcome.

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Right in step with Carl's philosophy on experience, we'll quote from the ROADRUNNER in the RMRU Newsletter: "Suppose you are the Operations Leader for a difficult mission. Fifteen men arrive, ready for action. You must know each man's previous experience, strengths and weaknesses, abilities on technical terrain, in tracking, first aid, and so on. Assignments must be made in the light of what you know. Would it not be much easier for you if every RMRU member continuously and diligently sought to improve his present skills and develop new ones so you would have fewer negative -considerations when making assignments?"

FINANCES

During November, we have received donations from 2 individuals: Clifton J. Chandler, P.O. Box 1117, Ridgecrest

Jack Latimer, 139 Balsam Street, Ridgecrest

Our thanks to these men..and we'll use the money wisely, toward buying the equipment most necessary to rescue operations.

Chairman Janet Westbrook gives her report on the Annual slide show:

We've done it again! Our 6th great show! Just put on a show, and the people are waiting to come!! We had 120 come on Tuesday night, and 150 on Wednesday night..which is at least equal to the past 2 years' "house". however, this year, thanks to some vigorous advance ticket sales, our profits (after deducting \$20 expenses) have totaled \$335, including a few contributions. (that means a lot of people just bought tickets to help out the MRG).

It was again an interesting, exciting, and entertaining show, thanks to the hard work done by Russ, Frank, and Fred with the slides and script. Bob and Don worked hard to gather interesting items for displays. And special thanks to the Beta Sigma Phi sorority and Mrs. Rockwell for the delicious, home-made cookies at intermission!

Note to future expeditions - please keep this fantastic money-making project in mind as you plan and execute your trips. An annual, or biennial show is not all that much work, and we are practically guaranteed \$300 each time we do it! Our audiences come every time, and seem to eagerly wait to see what we can come up with. Apparently, they love to travel with you in spirit!

Congratulations to all who helped in any way..a job well done, again!

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EQUIPMENT

Bob Joy

The Quartermaster advises us that he has enough plastic water bottles for the present.

One new item listed under Equipment is a directional Base Station Antenna, to be used with the Motorola 15 watt Base, with the PT 100, and with the 4-1/2 watt GE

We need to fold maps for storage. Our windfall of topo maps need to be folded into quarters and filed. How about a Folding Bee some evening, or Saturday afternoon? With appropriate refreshments, of course.

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WASHINGTON — A consumer food product originally designed for and taken on the Apollo 11 moon flight has been successfully used in improving diets of undernourished children in an orphanage in Lebanon. The food, known as Space Food Sticks, increased the rate of weight gain of one group of the children as compared with that of a control group of the same size who ate the regular orphanage diet.

During the first five weeks of a 20 week study group of youngsters, ages 3 1/2 to 5 years, were allowed as many sticks as they wished at morning snack time.

Some ate as many as 15 at one time. The average number taken over a period of weeks was approximately 6 per child per day.

The space food is processed by the Pillsbury Company which began producing it in 1964 for use in space travel studies.

1970 OPERATIONS AND INCIDENTS

Date	#	Type	Place	Situation	County	Alive	Dead	Manhours
28 Feb	1	SAR	5 Fingers	2 sailors stranded	Kern	2		52
23 March	M1	Planned search	Whitney	climber late	Inyo	(1)		44
18 April	2	Rescue	Virginia	Boy stranded	(Va.)	1		1/4
7 Feb	A1	Planned rescue	Tyndall	Climber fall	Tulare	(1)	1	2_
19 May	3	Search	State Park,	child lost	Tulare	1		120
?	A2	Alert	--	Snakebite		(1)		2
5 May	A3	Alert	--	Pilot		(1)		2
23-26 May	4	Body evac.	Quincey	Fisherman fall		1		384
30-31 May	5	Rescue	L.P.Peak	Climber fall	Inyo	1		120
20 June	6	Rescue	S.E. Ridge	Pearia, Fall	Kern	1		4
12 July	7	Rescue planned	Whitney		Inyo	1		25
25-26 July	8	Search	Yosemite	John Went lost			1	380
30 July	9	Search	Mendocino	Boy- lost	Mendecino		1	288
29 August	10	Rescue	San Mack	2 climbers stranded	Inyo	2		6
30 August	11	Search	Palisades	1 hiker lost	Inyo	1		120
31 August	M2	Search planned	Madera Co.	Scout lost, found	Madera	(1)		70
6-7 Sept	12	Rescue	East Lake	Climber hurt	Inyo	1		27
"	13	SAR	3rd Needle	Climber stranded	Inyo	1		176
"	M3	Mobilization	Isabella	Boy lost	Kern	(1)		7
"	14	Search	San Berdoo	Boy lost	San Bernardino	1		288
27 Sept	A4							2
28 Sept	M4	Search planned	Kern	Lost hunter	Kern	(1)		22
"	15	Rescue	Ballarat	Stranded Hiker	Inyo	1		65
3 Oct	16	Rescue	S.E. Ridge	Climber fall	Kern	1		34
11 Oct	17	Body evac	Peak 12,866	2 climber fall	Inyo		2	154
13 Oct.	A5	Hikers overdue	Palisades	Zenor, Chandler	--	(2)		4
19-20 Oct.	18	SAR	Center Basin	Flyer lost	Fresno	1		352