



CHINA LAKE MOUNTAIN RESCUE GROUP

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APRIL 1971 #11

No one claimed to be editor this time???

CALENDAR

April 10 or 11	Seems like a good time for a map-folding party for the windfall of topo maps that are waiting for folding and filing. A couple of hours in the late afternoon or evening (and a few cans of beer to encourage the labor force) and we can have the maps out of Harm's way (like from the drippings of the air conditioner). Bob Joy will be settling on further details...
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April 12	Meeting at Nick Bottka's 211 A Dibb
April 17	SCMRA Seminar at San Diego
April 24	Ice ax and stretcher practice, Big Pine Creek
May 8-9	Snow camp and ice ax practice at Brainerd Lake, Big Pine Creek. China Lake's addition to the Sierra Club (Los Angeles Chapter) Basic Mountaineering Training Course, The positive approach: since so many more people go into the mountains each year, let's help them learn the skills...all the way from ice ax arrest to snow camping to protection to the wilderness.
May 10	Meeting, John Zenor, 208 Springside
May 15-16	Middle Palisade or Norman Clyde (Big Pine, again)
May 29-31	Mineral King
June 22-23	Start your word-of-mouth publicity and warm up your ticket-selling abilities..this will be the . Chouinard movie on Fitzroy (South America), and one on Sentinel Rock (Yosemite)

OPERATIONS

Santa Barbara County Search

Al Green

A call via Sierra Madre requesting assistance to search for an overdue backpacker in the Los Padres National Forest came in at about 2100 hours on Saturday, February 20. We managed to get a team of four (Green, Heller, Peterson and Johnson) to commit themselves for up to three days, with a relief after Tuesday if required. Because of the distance involved, the policy of sending one car load at a time for several days was used.

Base camp was at San Marcos Pass, and when we arrived at 0700 Sunday morning the problems of team assignments and coordination were already under discussion. The situation was that a young backpacker, Michael Meyer, was apparently still out in the back country approximately 10 days after his anticipated return. His car was still at the road head. A myriad of possible trails, camping areas, and cross country routes presented themselves. Two days of searching covered most of the high probability areas. Except for a nearly positive report of Michael being seen in one of the camping areas two weeks earlier, nothing was found. Monday evening the decision was made to suspend the search effort by the out of town teams, and that the Los Padres team would check out the remaining possibilities. Full coverage of such a large area with such a wide variety of terrain would have been impossible. Without any leads to concentrate the search, the only logical alternative was taken.

From our point of view this effort was handled well. We were given reasonable assignments and there was very little wasted time. Helicopters were used efficiently for transport, and radio relays provided nearly continuous contact with base camp. The cooperation and support provided by the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department was 100%, and we certainly appreciated it.

Search for Jim Andrews, February 24-27 Carl Heller

This, our third operation of 1971, was again a search outside our area of primary responsibility, so we sent one team (Heller, Stronge, Joy and Wick). The victim had gone hiking up the Mt. Wilson trail behind the town of Sierra Madre on Wednesday and failed to return that night. The Sierra Madre team spent Wednesday night and Thursday searching and on Thursday night asked for help.

Friday at 0600 our team joined San Diego and Sierra Madre at the Sierra Madre police station. Altadena, Montrose, and Sylmar had not been allowed to participate by the L.A. County Sheriff's Department, but the professional Emergency Service Division was preparing to search.

The victim had last been seen on the trail, but tracks had been seen below the trail, all in the Santa Anita watershed. We spent most of Friday searching down into the watershed from the ridges above. Helicopter lifts were plentiful and sometimes exciting. Our team ended the day by searching from the western-ridge into the next watershed and then rappelling down Burley Canyon in the dark. Supper was supplied at a local church and Minor Harkness put our team up overnight at his home.

Saturday we planned to finish the spots missed earlier. A Sierra Madre team started up the Santa Anita river, intending to go up each tributary some distance. At 0930 they found the victim's body. Apparently it was in a small tributary which had not been searched by the teams coming down from above. With the search ended, all teams came marching in. We arrived home at 1600.

The search was generally well run. The country is rugged with lots of hiding places, and the victim had found a good one. It seems that the canyon tributary search might have been made Friday, but there were reasons for trying to cut tracks further out.

To an outsider the L.A. Sheriff's actions appear to be against the interests of the volunteer mountain rescue groups. Certainly CLMRG would dislike not being used on a mountain search in Kern County.

FINANCES . . .

Barb Slates

The treasury has been active the last two months,
In February we heard from Bob Gould, once again.
And in March from Mrs. Gerhart, of Oakland.
THANK YOU to both of these regular donors!

The CLMRG First Aid Instructors who have been teaching classes at the Desert Campus donated a chunk of their salaries toward the Equipment Fund. And this has already helped purchase some specialized first aid equipment.

\$767.76 was paid out for a new radio...and we would never have scraped up that amount, if it hadn't been for our good friends and contributors.
Thanks, again.

SOCIAL CORNER...Our first Recognition Party developed into a relaxed, pleasant entertaining evening for most of the CLMRG and, we hope, for our friends and donors who came to join us for the evening. We had 46 people for dinner (prime rib, baked potato, and the rest.. put on by the Elks Club). Several people came either before the dinner for a spot of social contact..or later for the program. Those of us on the inside of CLMRG had a chance to get acquainted (or reacquainted) with many of the people who help us in many ways, .and we hope the visitors know a few more of the CLMRG members, and a little more of the way the organization operates.

I thought it added a nice touch of authenticity when almost half our program was done by substitutes for the "speakers" who were out on an operation. Cool!

At any rate, WE all enjoyed it, and we hope YOU did, too..and maybe we can do it again next year!

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PRESIDENT BOTTKA SPEAKING...,

Do you feel left out?

Are you not quite sure who is doing what in our group? But you would like to know why it is done?

Do you have a brainstorm of an idea, but don't know how to make it public?
Call me at Extension 2801.

We need the member's participation and ideas.. These projects need your support:
Publicity for the public presentation of Chouinard's FITZROY, in June.
Organizing, writing, editing on further chapters of the Training Manual.
Folding and filing of maps,
Any volunteers?

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TRAINING

Bill Stronge

The weekend of March 27-23 was devoted to training, On Saturday a helicopter practice was held with the cooperation of NAF. Major O'Grady and Major Pipa flew 15 of us to "B" Mountain where we practiced exit and entry procedures. We found that the pilot's worries were reduced if we approached and departed from the front, rather than into the tail rotor, if we tied down any loose equipment (a snowshoe) rather than having it in the main rotor, and if we would assist him via hand signals, After a touchy, one-runner pickup, we returned to the field where the Huey hovered at 50 feet and hoisted people up with the winch, (The main rotor torque jumped from 30 to 33 ft.lbs. when Bob Rockwell was hoisted off the ground; Bob Joy was next and the pilot was concerned), After hoisting people we tried to hoist the stretcher. Carl Heller was tied in and winched the 50 feet up to the hovering Huey. The stretcher had been raised in a vertical, rather than horizontal position, and this resulted in a problem getting it into the Huey. The single crewman struggled for 5 minutes while Carl swung in the 90 knot breeze and grinned nervously. They finally lowered him to the ground.

We'll try again on May 2.

On Sunday there was a simulated rescue of two injured climbers on the cliffs at Fossil Falls, Joe Hot Rocks was a dummy, tied together from sticks, stones, and old pants. He had been left on a belay ledge so small that he fell off if not tied in, Above him was an overhang so that rescuers, rappelling down, found themselves hanging several feet away from the wall, Consequently, it was necessary to anchor yourself to the wall, and either operate from aid slings or use the stretcher (tied to the wall) as an extension of the ledge. It was a hassle for 3 men, dangling on ropes, to carefully lift the victim into the stretcher,

The best arrangement for working in these conditions may be to attach two aid slings to the rappel line with Jumars. A seat should also be hooked into the upper Jumar. A chest loop attached to the rappel line with a prusik knot above the top Jumar lends stability. For safety, the rescuers' swami belt should also be attached to the prusik knot. This setup provides safety, vertical mobility, and comfort while avoiding the confusion of a second rope (for belay) to each rescuer. It does require rappel anchors that you can bet your life on, (Every rappel requires this.)

The second victim was a volunteer. This time the ledge was larger but the wall still overhanging. The main problem was the victim's intransigence, he didn't want to leave the ledge. As he was loaded into the stretcher, he whined about the belay. He wanted to be belayed because he thought he might fall out, at the same time, he didn't want the stretcher and the man going down with it to be hanging from him in the event the anchor failed. So the belay was tied first to the stretcher and then to the victim in a way such that the belay was normally on the stretcher. However, if the stretcher broke apart, the victim would still be belayed,

Our next practice is April 24 on Big Pine Creek. See you there.

PUBLIC EDUCATION

The newest slide show, CHILD LOST?, has been premiered at the Safety Department.. Safety was nice enough to pay for copies of the slides, and John Ohl has taped. Carol Burge's narration. Any club or group of individuals whose members are parents of small children might be interested in this show. It is a 10-minute description of why and how to keep track on children in a campground or on the trail. And the season for lost children is coming up soon.

Both the Safety and the Survival shows are in Tacoma, Washington, where Gene Fear is working with them to see if they'll make film strips for wider distribution. We are hoping he can get them into a form for easier showing, so that more people will have a chance to see them...and perhaps benefit from some of the suggestions.

Cartoon removed

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EQUIPMENT REPORT Bob Joy

The new PR-36 has arrived and is in the hut ready to go, with a new short (loaded) antenna and a 1/2" webbing strap for the case. It has been assigned MRA #477. We now have one voice commander and two PR-36 units operational. Radio power measurements showed the PT-400 to have very low output. It is currently being repaired by Kern County Sheriff personnel. The 15 watt base camp radio is also down in power but is still usable. It will be repaired when the PT-400 is returned.

Radio operator and operation leader name tags are located on the inside of the radio cabinet door. Be sure all required accessories are included with the radios when they go out.

We have recently purchased 75' of 1" webbing and four large aluminum carabiners. This will allow one practice and two operation stretchers to be always fully equipped. The aluminum stretchers should not be used for practice.

Our light weight oxygen unit is ready for use with the regulator included and the box taped up. Supplies of flares, search markers, water, etc., appear adequate.

NOTE FROM THE QUARTERMASTER: If the PT-400 doesn't work, don't throw the batteries away: put them in a plastic bag, mark them "doubtful", and put them in the refrigerator. Recently \$7 worth of batteries were thrown out, and as it turned out, the radio was at fault.