



CHINA LAKE MOUNTAIN RESCUE GROUP

P.O. BOX 5773

CHINA LAKE, CALIFORNIA 93555

July 1971 #12

No Editor this time?

CALENDAR

- June 14 Meeting at Buffums', 703A Nimitz
- June 15 Begin the Mountaineering Course
- June 19-20 Kearsarge Pinnacles, Rixford, etc. or Over the Pass with Carl Heller
- June 22-23 Fitzroy and Yosemite climbing movies
- June 25 Any group going into a wilderness area needs a permit
- June 26 or 27 trip for beginners' class
- July 3-5 Evolution Basin.. Goddard, the Hermit, and so on Brace yourselves, Tim Pearia will tell you why
- July 10-11 Overnight trip for beginners' class
- July 10-11 Snow qualification Test for Bay Area team
- July 12 Meeting at 607 Randall, .for directions ask Bob Rockwell
- July 17-18 Lyell-MacClure, Dennis will tell you it's really nothing
- July 31—August 1 Somewhere in the Palisades

PRETENDING he was the Secretary of the Interior in the year 2020. Richard D. Lamm, a Colorado state representative and associate professor of law at Denver University, delivered this speech to a group interested in ecology:

Hikes on wear-resistant forest paths are by reservation only, with a five-year delay from application to permission. Lots will be drawn to select 100 youngsters each year to sleep under a tree in a national park. I regret there are no longer any birds, but political necessity has made it more important to house people than to preserve wildlife. People vote. Birds don't.

The right to bear unlimited children is hereby revoked. Some ask about religious objections, but the law has dealt with this before. Religious freedom didn't keep the Water Rationing Act of 1986 from applying to Baptists. You remember that we had to outlaw the internal-combustion engine after the disaster of the Los Angeles smog inversion of 1978. And, in the controversial Multiple Houses Act, Congress prohibited building single-family residences after 1990.

With 400 million Americans, we can't allow you the freedom your fathers had with 200 million in 1970. This Administration still thinks there is a chance to save man. The President is doing all she can.

--Troy Gordon in *Tulsa World*

OPERATIONS

Helicopter Evacuation from Monache Meadows Area 7 April Carl Heller

This evacuation of a hiker with an injured ankle worked very smoothly. It took only 2-1/2 hours from the request to the hospital.

The Anchels were hiking from Monache Meadows toward Smith Meadows, when Harvey injured his ankle, on the 6th of April. His wife left him in their tent with their packs and came out the next day, 15 miles. At the Reeves Shell Station on #395 she told Mr. Westfall, who phoned the NWC for help, at 1315 Nan Hulsey at NAF Operations phoned Carl Heller while Jim Heflin was contacting Major Ben Rinehart and the helo crew.

Heller tried, or made, 16 phone contacts: to a telephoner, Barb Slates (2 times), the Kern County Sheriff's Department (3), Mrs. Anchel (3), Al Green at the hut(2), and NAF (3). At 1415 Ben Rinehart took off from NAF with his plane captain, S.J. Meni, ADRAN; Green, Buffum, Sweatt, and Bottka. They picked up Mrs. Anchel at the Shell Station and flew to the meadow near Horney's camp. It was a short walk and an easy carry back to the helo which had moved closer, Mrs. Anchel was returned to her car at the Shell Station to drive to the hospital. Harvey was flown directly to the hospital, arriving at 1545. The ankle was not broken, and he was released by 1700. Most of the rescue team was home by 1630.

This operation was technically simple and not a life-or-death matter. It gave us a real practice of the helo knowledge learned 10 days earlier. It is good to know that NAF and CLMRG can get a team airborne in 45 minutes, in case of a life-or-death operation.

For those who reached the hut and were not used, two comments:

First, we did not know how many would be needed until several calls had been made. Second, we should call more than needed in case someone doesn't reach the hut in time. The team leader will decide who goes, but usually will take the first to arrive. The back-up team this time was Peterson, Rockwell and Camphausen.

* * * * *

Search for Steven Hideout Frank Buffum

Late Saturday night, 24 April, we got a call from Sierra Madre to help them in searching for 18-year-old Steven Hideout, a hiker, missing since Thursday in the San Gabriel Mountains around Mt. Wilson. Marlene Green was up all night telephoning, trying to get a team. Most of the Group was on the ice-ax, stretcher practice at Big Pine; by 0300 Sunday Marlene was able to get only 3 men - Buffum, Stronge, and Lucas. It takes 3 hours to drive to Sierra Madre.

Larry Twedell of SM was firmly running the operation throughout. Teams were briefed thoroughly and quickly, using a large map with plastic overlay, and grease pencil for the general picture and operation history. Individual maps marked with white blackboard chalk were used for each team's daily assignment. Teams were promptly dispatched to the field. Transportation was good. We did not hang around. Larry was ahead of the operation.

On Sunday, our assignment was a helo-drop on cloud-encompassed Monrovia Peak, to come down and search a region called the Clam Shell, and then follow down Fish Creek, a strenuous 8-hour-hike. Tracking was the primary search technique. The major technical problem was Class 3 scrambling over very steep and loose dirt/grass/rock to get above and over the waterfalls in Fish Creek. This is beautiful, wild country (no nymphs were seen in the pools). No radio contact

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was possible in the canyon bottoms. Light snow and drizzle,

Sunday night, John Holcombe of SM had us to his house for drinks, dinner, showers, and sleep by the fireplace. Really great!

Monday, we had a death-defying drive to the top of Mt. Wilson and came down the roads and firebreaks to James Peak and then through brush and trails to the monastery above Sierra Madre.

Two major problems: (1) uncertainty as to the type of footwear the victim had on - the victim's family changed its mind 5 times during the search, and (2) a report initially made with absolute certainty that the victim had been seen several days before at Mt, Wilson (which led to a concentrated effort around that area before the report was later discounted).

After three days and a night of intensive searching by the MRA teams, no leads or definite signs of the victim had been found and the search was called off.

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Tahquitz Rock

Al Green

One of the spin-offs of Mountain Rescue training is the possibility of individual team members being able to assist in a rescue situation if they just happen to be at the scene of an accident. Just such an incident occurred on May 1st at Tahquitz. Stronge and I had just completed our first climb of the day when a man came past us looking for the litter. I went with him to get it and Bill went to the accident site. Turned out, a climber had fallen and suffered a badly broken ankle. His location was on "From Bad Traverse" and a technical lowering was imminent. A call was sent for the Riverside Mountain Rescue Unit and we proceeded to do what we could. Fortunately, four competent rock climbers were willing and very able, under Bill's guidance, to help effect the initial lowering. The Riverside Team arrived just before the last and longest of the three lowerings. Their presence was a welcome relief and with the specialized equipment (long ropes, splints, etc.) that organized teams carry, the rest of the evacuation was cake.

One-man Operation

Frank Buffum

On Friday, 14 May, I was heading across Angeles Crest at 0700, heading for a doctor's appointment. One mile Southwest of the Mt. Wilson turnoff I saw a police car stopped, with two CHP looking over the side with binoculars. After a moment of indecision, my curiosity won out and I stopped.

Frank: you've lost something?

CHP: a car down the slope

Frank: anyone in it?

CHP: don't know

Frank: let's go down

CHP: it's difficult terrain..we need ropes?

Frank: I just happen to a member of an MRA team

CUP: noticed your decal

So..we went over the side and down 100 feet below the road. Nice car, no occupant, no tracks, no blood, no real damage. After a few minutes, I decided that my appointment was more important than helping the CHP officer fill out his routine questionnaire, so I scrambled back to the road and drove on.

Trout Creek

Carl Heller

Call #11 came at 1633 on Sunday 30 May. A man from NAF had driven out from Trout Creek with the word that a small girl was lost. Little more information except that his family was with a group which had several jeeps parked on Trout Creek a couple of miles above Rockhouse Basin (Tulare County).

The call had come in to the NWC OOD and via the Security Police to me. I phoned the NAF man, Oliver, who was the #395 Shell Station and spoke again to Lt. Cmdr Iverson. A helo was available and Major George O'Grady would fly. Since the Trout Creek camp is 2-1/2 hours from China Lake with no phones above Highway 395, we decided a flight was worthwhile.

Marlene had gotten an 11-man team together at the hut. Four of us drove to NAF while Al started by car. Fred, Don, Frank and I reached NAF at 1750 to find some doubt about the helo, due to high wind gusts. However George thought we could take off and try it. Cmdr Will Haff took the left seat while ADRAN Lawrence Powers was plane captain as we started at 1815.

We passed over and radioed to Al's team in Nine Mile Canyon (Anderson, Wick, Huse, Craig, Woodman). Winds were strong and gusty but our experienced pilot landed us near a group of jeeps on Trout Creek at 1940. The girl's body had been found and her parents were downstream. George flew us to another campsite and I got information about how Danielle Catozella had fallen in Trout creek at 1330 and had been recovered about 1600, Her parents, of Santa Ana, Orange County, had left with the body. We flew out, meanwhile contacting Al by radio and suggesting a lockout for the family's red jeep, At Bales' Place we landed to talk to an Inyo County deputy (Little) whom we know from the Ballarat rescue. He had been up to Kennedy Meadows (Inyo County) about an auto accident and had been in contact with Tulare County Deputy Johnny McNally. He and the Coroner naturally wanted to catch the family. Al drove up, and thought no red jeep had passed him. The Inyo deputy remained at Bales' Place while we flew south to Inyokern checking for red jeeps en route.

This operation underlines a number of points which remain unsolved problems:

1. The jurisdictional problem in that area above Nine Mile Canyon is bad. We could wish that Tulare, Inyo and Kern counties would agree to station one man at the BLM office and let him act for all the counties.
2. The communications from the area are terrible. There should be emergency phones or radios at the BLM, at Kennedy Meadow, and in Rockhouse Basin... particularly if large numbers of people continue to go in there.

Some positive points are that the communications within NWC and our Group continue to work well. The helos and one of our able pilots seem to be available when needed.

It is too bad that we could do no real life saving this time. However the opportunity will come if we keep ourselves ready.

REMINDER: Summer training classes begin June 15

June 15, 17, 22, 29.. basic mountaineering & backpack
Followed by a second course...rock climbing

Search and Body Recovery on Split Mountain May 31

Carl Heller

Operation 12. The call came Monday at 1545 from Sgt. Miller, Inyo County to Al Green. Eastern Sierra Mountain Rescue wanted assistance from China Lake. As it was my duty weekend Al kindly gave it to me. Major O'Grady contacted me and said he would be flying at 1645. We met at the hut at 1630 where arrangements were made for Al, Bill, and I to fly to Big Pine, while John Wick, John Zenor and Dave Reed drove north. Marlene was to try to get Dennis to prepare a team for Tuesday.

George and Cdr. Will Haff flew us to Big Pine where Bob Thayer and the victim's climbing partner briefed us. The victim, Jim Evans, had fallen off the East side of the North ridge of Split mountain in a snowstorm at 1900 Sunday. His partner had bivouaced but had been unable to locate the victim on Monday morning when he continued out.

George flew us up and into the bowl above Red Lake where we easily spotted the body on the snow at about 12,500. Al and I thought we could bring the body to the lip of the bowl if the helo could land there. However the wind gusts were too strong for our tail rotor and autorotation almost threw the helo into the North wall. We all decided that another day would be safer.

Tuesday was calmer and we (Dennis, Bob Joy, and I) flew North with Cdr Spradley, George and the mini-airman (about 120 pounds) ADRAN Meni as plane captain. This time it was possible to hover at the bowl's lower edge and let off three men and the stretcher in two loadings. Recovering the body was simple and we were back at the landing spot by 1110. There was delay due to late arrival of the helo fuel truck (diesel oil from Bishop). At 1210 the stretcher and Chuck Spencer (E S Group) went out. A final landing took out Bob, Dennis, and myself. In Big Pine we gathered our gear, refueled and flew to NAF by 1530.

Lessons: 1. The Inyo County Sheriff's had forgotten that they are supposed to ask for a helicopter through WARC Hamilton AF Base. It is worthwhile for our operation leader to remind sheriff's deputies, of all counties, of this fact. If they do that, we can notify NAF or Edwards that such a request is being made.

2. Don't let yourself get onto a ridge in a snowstorm at 1900.

3. We need only have taken one climber North on Tuesday, as ES had six people. Somehow the Inyo Sheriff's Department had not passed this information to us.

Report by A Victim Friday, May 28

Turn about is fair play in some games, and that's essentially what happened to the two rescuers at Tahquitz Rock (page 3). We (Al Green and Bill Stronge) became slowly but surely victims during our attempt on the regular route on the Northwest Face of Half Dome. We had planned four easy days on this face because of the spacing of the best bivouac sites and our anticipated speed. The weather started turning bad on the third day (Wednesday), deteriorated badly on Thursday and on Friday morning we were greeted with 6 inches of snow on our ledge and the 400 feet of climbing which remained above us was ice-covered. The ropes which led 150 feet back to our ledge from the high point of Thursday were giant icicles. Friday morning was spent trying to keep warm

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and Friday afternoon we were dodging the well-aimed icicles. Contact with Jon Barber and Roman Motyka who were keeping track of us assured them that we were in trouble. Friday's afternoon weather was improving but still threatening and the ledges were still snow-covered. Jon assured us that help was coming and we stayed put on our Half Dome Hilton. About five o'clock on Friday a voice from the summit questioned our condition and predicted that the face would clear in ten minutes so that the voice could spot us. Miraculously, it did clear..HAPPINESS IS AN ORANGE HAULING SACK BEING LOWERED FROM THE SUMMIT! These two half-frozen climbers now fully appreciated the meaning of mountain rescue. Lloyd Price was the Angel of Mercy and through his skill, ingenuity, and a little luck in scrounging enough rope, we got a reprieve from our third night on the same ledge. The desperation ended with a 499-foot Jumar up and over the overhanging summit of Half Dome.

Jon Barber and Roman Motyka were with us all the way and their performance was outstanding. They together with about six other volunteer climbers helped Lloyd rig the hauling and Jumaring ropes. Words can't express our appreciation to all of them and to the Park Service for having people like Lloyd Price available.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Barb Slates

The CLMRG was happy to receive its share of last year's UNITED FUND campaign receipts.

We are grateful to Mr. and Mrs. R.A. Meyer for their donation. Their son Michael is the missing hiker for whom the MRG and other rescue groups searched in the Los Padres National Forest in late February.

We also want to thank Mr. and Mrs. Cox for another generous donation.

TRAINING

Bill Stronge

On June 15th we'll be starting our annual summer training program for beginners. This year we are again planning two courses. The first is an "Introduction to Mountaineering" and will cover backpacking and mountaineering in general - including some of the basics of rock climbing. There will be four lecture sessions, on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, 7 pm, at the NWC Training Building, starting June 15 - followed by 2 or 3 Tuesday evening sessions at Robbers Roost, where we'll master the basics of knot-tying, belaying, and rappelling. We've also scheduled two "field trips" to go along with the course - a one-day trip on June 26 or 27, and an over-night trip July 10-11. There will be a small fee charged to cover the cost of a book and the use of certain group equipment.

The second course will be specifically rock climbing, and will be held, following the completion of the mountaineering course, Tuesday Evenings, at Robbers Roost. Anyone can participate in either or both of these courses, so be sure to tell all your would-be mountaineer type friends about this GREAT OPPORTUNITY!

1971 OPERATIONS

SO STATISTICS

Carl Heller

On 1 June we had put in over 1000 man-hours on operations according to the Qualifications committee records. Last year we had about 750 m-hr at this time. However the increase may not be realistic since this year's sheriff's seminar was counted as an operation unlike previous years. Of course, we were searching for a downed plane albeit one down for 4 months.

Actually we should hope for some decrease as the Eastern Sierra Group assumes more of the Inyo County rescue work. Mono and Madera counties have search teams and rely on Yosemite Park for rescue teams.

Be that as it may, there are eight people with over fifty hours.

Heller	165	Buffum	67
Green	124	Joy	67
Stronge	93	Wick	66
Peterson	78	Johnson	50

As before we remember that many people have put in hours on training, equipment, safety shows and fund raising, which do not show as operation time. Who knows how many more operation hours would be needed without the Safety talks?

We have been called 12 times - two were alerts and one was an 1/2 hour assistance of the Highway Patrol. No technical rescues yet this year. Several counties are represented: Kern, Inyo, San Bernardino, Santa Barbara, Riverside, Los Angeles, and Tulare.

Garbage Mountain

After struggling for 18 days in blinding snow and biting wind to the 18,200-ft. level of Alaska's 22,320-ft. Mt. McKinley, five University of Oregon students and two teen-agers called it quits. But as the climbers saw it, the trip was hardly a waste of time. At the 17,200 ft. level they found heaps of junk discarded by previous climbers—ski bindings, socks, even underwear—plus tons of paper blown round the mountain by 100 m.p.h. winds that rake its frigid slopes.

Appalled by the litter on North America's tallest mountain, the climbers tackled the hazardous job of smashing and burning junk and backpacking as much as they could down the trail. In all, they took 380 pounds of litter to a camp at the 7,400-ft. level. Despite their good intentions, the impromptu collection barely made a dent in what is probably the earth's highest, unlikeliest garbage dump.

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4-15-71

JANET Butler

201 Mesquite

Ridgecrest, Calif

93555

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Dear Sir,

I AM IN The 5 grade,
We ~~are~~ studying about Safety,

Can you give Me information on what you do? And How many Rescues have you had.

446-7154

Sincerely yours,
Janet Butler.

Because of this one request, 140 5th graders saw our slide show about CLMRG and learned about our equipment and about safety in the mountains. John Wick and Nick Bottka answered at least 50 questions from the kids, and some of the questions were surprisingly technical. For example: what is better in case of snake bite, cut and suck or to do nothing? And: What do you do to victims with pulmonary edema or heart attack, if you are way back in the mountains.

Note: This year, 2006, we presented the "Lost...but Found" film to over 2,000 Ridgecrest area elementary students.