



CHINA LAKE MOUNTAIN RESCUE GROUP

P.O. BOX 5773

CHINA LAKE, CALIFORNIA 93555

November 1971 #14

#### CALENDAR

- October 23-25 Rock climbing in Yosemite Valley!! Bill Stronge (375-9239) is in charge of this one.
- November 7 Another of Bill Stronge's well-organized stretcher practices. Will he be able to top that last one? Note: This is a NEW date.
- November 8 Meeting is CHANGED..Carl Heller's, 700B Nimitz.
- November 13-14 John Wick leads the way to Las Vegas...with a little climbing thrown in on the side. Probably rt. Charleston. John's phone number is 375-2766.
- November 30-December 1  
Keep this date (take your choice), for the slide show of the CamPhausen-Huse Andean trip. Janet Westbrook is the promoter, once again!
- December 4/5/? Another stretcher practice..or maybe some local rock climbing. This time Bob Rockwell is running the show. Call 375-2532 for details.

#### PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Nick Bottka

This year the United Fund requests help in raising money from the agencies receiving United Fund Aid, according to Mrs. O'Lane, head of the local United Fund Drive. This is a new scheme to help bridge the gap between donor and recipient.

CLMRG Loaned a photograph of the Mt. Whitney operation to the ROCKETEER, for use in their double-page spread on the U.F.

And when you fill out your card with your contribution, can you mark a portion of it for CLMRG?

**Rock Creek Operation** ..... Joe McIntire

Inyo County Sheriff's Department via Kern County Sheriff's Department informed CLMRG of a possible search and rescue, and at 2100 on August 17 it was official. No local helicopter support was available, so eight of us left the hut by automobile for the road head beyond Upper Rock Creek Lake. Upon arrival at the road head, we were informed that the victim was not shoeless (as was first reported) and had signed in on peak 12,975 opposite Mount Dade. At 0820 the victim was sighted, and later reports confirmed a fatal fall.

Larrie Thompson, female, age 22, was apparently descending the peak when she fell an undetermined distance, and then left a trail of blood for 40 feet before coming to rest on a narrow ledge. The Eastern Sierra Rescue Group checked out the accident and radioed for CLMRG to bring up our equipment. Fred Camphausen, Lee Lucas, Dave Reed, and Mark Johnson left the Treasure Lakes upper base camp for the scene of the accident at 1015. Bob Rockwell, John Zenor, Dave Brown and I left a short time later for follow-up support.

The evacuation consisted of a 200-foot traverse along narrow ledges and a 40-foot lowering to the scree. Three anchor positions were used to effect the traverse, with the third anchor being used for the lowering and for a belay of the litter as it was carried down the scree.

The traverse and lowering were executed in a most professional and safe manner--a credit to the technical skills and judgement of our support and search teams. Fred, Lee, Bob, Dave Reed, Mark and I effected the technical phase of the recovery, with assistance from Eastern Sierra; and we were joined by John and Dave Brown for the carry-out to the helo. Eastern Sierra was involved during the entire operation, and the two groups worked together very well. The helo took off at 1600, after we had eaten a late lunch. The operation was secured at 1800, and we headed for Bishop for dinner kindly provided by the Inyo County Sheriff's Department, whose Lt. Dave Walizer was in charge of the operation.

**Whitney Operation** ..... Nick Bottka

September 6 started out as an ominous Monday--sandstorm, gale winds, and rain--a Labor Day operation seemed inevitable. And then the call came, at 1230: "Two climbers stranded on the Face of Whitney. Weather bad: rain and snow above 12,000'--need help urgently." All gears into motion--call Sheriff, the Forest Service, telephoners, NAF Operations for a helo; get ready. One-and-a-half hours later, two pilots (Cdr. Spradley and Maj. Rinehart) and a three-man team (Bottka, Green, and Stronge) were in the HUEY headed towards Whitney.

On the afternoon of 5 September, Michael Orton and Tor MacInnes had begun climbing the East Face, with no food, one quart of water, and no extra clothing. Below the Grand Staircase MacInnes fell. He was uninjured, but being unsure of the route decided not to continue. Night caught them at 13,000', and a weather front brought 30 knot winds, rain, and snow. Two other climbing parties noticed the stranded pair. On 6 September Troy Reiner (Bay Area) sent word out to the USFS at Lone Pine to call CLMRG. He then organized an unsuccessful attempt to reach the climbers by coming down from the top.

Whitney...continued....

Meanwhile, treacherous down drafts forced our HUEY back to Lone Pine. There we met Lucas and Rockwell, who had driven from China Lake. Leaving Lucas to establish a base camp, four of us started up the trail to East Face Lake at 1715. We were disappointed to meet the Reiner party coming out--we needed the manpower. "We are pushing our limit," I heard someone say as we reached East Face Lake at 2200. As we hit the sack and waited for the morning light, three California Region teams (Riverside, San Diego, and Sierra Madre) were underway to help us.

Back at base camp, McIntire and Anderson had arrived, bringing our base camp radio. (Communication *was* excellent with our PR 36's and the PT 400, by the way.) At 0130 the teams from Riverside (3), San Diego, (8), and Sierra Madre (3) arrived in Lone Pine and were briefed. By this time the skies were clear. Base decided to gamble on fair weather and asked the Forest Service to request a Navy helicopter through WARC. As a backup, Lucas, with four from San Diego, started up the trail at 0300.

At 0600 Tuesday, Green and Stronge started up the East Face route with extra food and clothing for the victims. Rain or shine they had to be reached as soon as possible. Luckily, the weather improved, and the *USFS* helo *was* able to bring in two fresh 2-man teams (Riverside and Sierra Madre), who eagerly followed our men up the face. At 1000 the two victims were reached and found in excellent shape, considering their two-night ordeal. With the help of a fourth team on the face (Heller and Joy, who had arrived at base with Peterson and Woodman and had been ferried up by the Navy HUEY) fixed ropes were anchored, and the evacuation began at 1030. By 1400 the two young victims had been assisted off the face, and victims and teams were down the mountain by 1600 thanks to those brave *NAF* pilot. Our appreciation to the Forest Service, especially Jim Arasim and Jim Galaba, and to Inyo County Deputy Sheriff Wayne Walcot.

And -thanks, *too*, .to the *ROCKETEER*, for a *Splendid* front-page story!

Yosemite Search for Chris Von Vlyman ..... Al Green

A call came into China Lake at about 2000, Friday, September 10 from Yosemite Park via Sierra Madre, requesting urgently needed manpower to search for a 9-year-old boy. Ten men responded and met at the hut at 0200 Saturday. Our team consisted of Green Heller, Westbrook, McIntire, Joy, Wick, Peterson, Rockwell, Brown and Woodman. After some problems in locating base camp we rolled in at 0820. As we were the first team there, we proceeded to set up a base camp and collect all known facts. Chris, now a 17-year-old, had taken a walk by himself Thursday evening and had last been seen at about 1900 headed back toward Harden Lake. This was the family's first day in Yosemite, and they had been to Harden Lake earlier in the day.

By the time the rest of the MRA teams had arrived and the initial organizational spasms were controlled, it was nearly 10 o'clock. A very respectable number of mountain rescue types showed up: 20 from Bay Area with our ex-colleague George Barnes, 10 from San Diego, 8 from Sierra Madre, and 3 from Los Padres. Don Colbert of the Mel Foundation with his dog "Clancy" had been there since Friday. An additional assist came from 18 Outward Bound young people with three instructors. They made a very good impression on all of us. In the past 20 days they had hiked 160 miles with only one resupply point, 3 days of which were spent on individual solo experiences.

Yosemite. . continued

The search was initially a strong effort to cut tracks in hopes of being able to concentrate the effort. This was a difficult problem because of terrain and the fact that Chris was wearing smooth-soled moccasins. Saturday's endeavors were fruitless. Team leaders met Saturday evening to plan *assignments* for Sunday, and a marvelous hot meal (compliments of the Park Service) preceded instantaneous sleep. On Sunday the team placement and organizational problems were in good hands (Carl Heller) and the search was going full bore. Radios are beautiful, and one of the most satisfying sounds they make is:

"The victim has been found, and he is OK". Chris had stumbled into a camp near Pate Valley Saturday evening at about 2000. It was now noon, and we had done a lot of hard contouring before the word got to us; but it *was* certainly welcome news.

Comments:

1. As usual, we seldom get the exact circumstances until we arrive on the scene. The fact that Chris was 17 rather than 9 was one of these information Gremlins.
2. Apparently we should meet at the hut at least a half hour before our desired departure time.
3. Our old 15-watt base radio with Bob Joy's directional antenna performed well. The heavy timber, however, really attenuates radio signals. The new Kaar may help matters.
4. The Park Service was extremely cooperative, and it was a real pleasure to work with them.

*EDITOR'S CUBBYHOLE* ..... Liz Anderson

*First a paragraph from a hiker's notebook: Late in September, I stopped at the Lone Pine Forest Service office, and talked to Jim Galabas who was tending -the desk that Saturday. When I asked him how the permit business was going, he gave the following cheering news: lots of permits, a fair amount of complaints over having to have permits, and information gathered on population pressure on the wilderness areas. And when I asked if it might lead on into reservations-for-hiking, he thought that it might, eventually.*

*My other hat... Public Education... -this is the month for CLMRG slide shows and safety pitches! B. J. Peck, Burroughs High, is using our shows, and our man-power -to help her P.E. classes in Camping. The CAMPING AROUND THE WORLD was shown 5 times, to classes of 50-70 kids...and CHILD LOST? -the next week to -the same classes. And the CLMRG History and Purpose goes out week after Bill Stronge -talks rock-climbing...and the last (fifth) week, Janet Westbrook shows slides on camping in Alaska... ALL of us putting in pitches for safety ought to get into somebody's consciousness.*

## A FEW COMPASS POINTERS

\*\*Note: scanning the insets was too much hassle

Nature offers us some fairly reliable direction finders. The sun rises in the east, more or less. It also sets in smog reddened splendor in the west, more or less. Using a wristwatch, orient the hour hand so that it points toward the sun. The direction of south is then halfway between the hour hand and the 12 o'clock mark, more or less.

But a more precise tool for direction finding is the compass- an instrument which responds to the earth's magnetism. A suitably magnetized needle always points to the same place on the surface of the earth, provided there is no disturbing metallic objects or an ore body nearby. The magnetic north pole is not at the geographic north pole, but lies about a thousand miles to the south in Canada. The angle of difference between "true north" and the magnetic north is called the local magnetic declination, and this is stated on most maps. Inset a. The declination, locally, is about 16 degrees east. Thus, for a compass on which the declination cannot be manually adjusted, the true north direction is 16 degrees west of the compass needle indication.

The traditional round compass, like grandpa's watchfob, has gone out of vogue. An increasing use of accurate maps by hunters, climbers, or search and rescue teams in the field has necessitated new compass designs to enable precise measurements of location. Insets (b) to (d) show some of the popular Silva brand compasses first introduced into this country from Sweden in the early 1960's.

The models illustrated have jewel bearings and are liquid filled for stable indications. The declination is settable on the Ranger model, (b) Ranger which also has a precision sighting mechanism utilizing a mirror. This mirror, by the way, makes a fine signal mirror.

All of these compasses have a housing which can be manually rotated to align a series of engraved lines with the north-south (township) lines printed in the topo map. In this way, the compass reading can be transcribed directly to the map by means of the straightedge provided on the compass holder. The Silva, and the now available Suunto compasses of similar design from Finland, permit location determinations on the order of the 1/50 inch landmark location accuracy of modern topo maps.

Can you navigate toward an unseen landmark from an unknown location? Sounds tricky but it's done all the time, and it *is* also a good example of how the compass we described is used. Here are the three steps for finding the proper bearing: (1) find first your own location by marking the intersection of two or more bearings taken on prominent landmarks, (2) reorient the compass on the map so that its edge connects this intersection with the objective, and (3) rotate the compass housing until its engraved lines are parallel with the north-south grid on the map. The compass is now set for the proper bearing.

**CAMPY**