



CHINA LAKE MOUNTAIN RESCUE GROUP

P.O. BOX 5773

CHINA LAKE, CALIFORNIA 93555

FEBRUARY 1973 #21

EDITOR: DIANNE LUCAS

CALENDAR

- March 9-11 Ludlow Hut ski and snowshoe trip. About 25 people are already signed up for this trip, to a hut that only holds 15 bodies! But if you are a hardy soul and want to sleep outside, call Janet Westbrook (375-8371).
- March 12 Meeting at Rockwells', 607 Randall, R/C, at 7:30. Jim Nichols will assist with refreshments.
- March 19 Tracking practice, with Bill Sweatt in charge. For further details, call Bill at 446-2891.
- March 24-25 Manly (desert peak). Organizer is Jim Nichols (446-2042).
- March 31-April 1 Ice and snow practice, location depending on current snow conditions, popular opinion, etc. Fred Camphausen is the one to call (446-5643) for more information.
- April 7-8 To Fossil Falls, for a 5th & 6th class climbing expedition. Organizer of this trip is Bill Sweatt.
- April 9 Meeting at Elizabeth Anderson's, 107 B Richmond, 7:30. Host of-the-evening will be George Craig.
- April 14-15 Tucki (another desert peak), with Doug Warschauer as organizer (446-6932).

ELECTION RESULTS

Newly-elected officers for the coming year are:

President	w	Bob Rockwell
Vice-President		Bill Sweatt
Secretary		Dianne Lucas
Treasurer		Doug Warschauer
Member-at-Large		Lee Lucas

Committees (Qualifications Committee is elected, others are appointed by the president-elect):

Qualifications

Arold Green, chairman
Carl Heller
Bill Stronge

First Aid

Janet Westbrook, chairman
Carl Heller
Jim Nichols Bob
Westbrook

Training

Bill Sweatt, chairman
Fred Camphausen
Allen Jones
Bill Stronge

Public Education

Carol Burge, chairman
Liz Anderson
Fred Camphausen
Dianne Lucas, Editor
John Ohl

Communications-Equipment

Bob Joy, chairman
Arold Green
Don Harris, Quartermaster

Sheila Rockwell

OPERATIONS

Our first rescue activity of 1973 was an 'incident' which occurred on January 27 as several of our members were walking out to the roadhead after the California Region snow practice at San Gorgonio. The victim had sprained his ankle while tobogganing with friends and was becoming chilled as the temperature started to drop. China Lake people applied an ankle bandage and warm clothes, helped pull the man out on his toboggan, and notified the sheriff.

Operation #7302 was an unsuccessful search in Ventura County for a missing horseback rider. Heller, Joy, Brown, Harris, Warschauer, O'Handley and Charlton took part in the search for two days (February 1-2), but no clues were turned up.

#7303 Search, Cub Scout, near Lake Arrowhead, 2/3-4/73 Bill Stronge

Todd Neuens was returning from a Cub Scout hike near Crestline, in the Lake Arrowhead area, when he decided to take a shortcut and became lost. It was 3 p.m. on a foggy to drizzly day that might have seen snow if it had been a few degrees colder. Todd, who is 8, was wearing a sweatshirt, windbreaker, cap and gloves. He spent that night in the woods sleeping under a log about 1 mile from where he was last seen.

We were contacted via San Diego; and Bottka, Rockwell, Woodman, Brown, Jones, Harris and I left China Lake at 10 p.m. on the 3rd to join other MRA teams, a local rescue group and the San Bernardino Sheriff's Department in the predawn search.

The next day Todd stayed near the log until he was found about noon. A searcher traversing the ridge across from him (about 300 yards away) shouted his name and Todd called back. Though cold, he was in good spirits and excited by the helicopter ride back to town. In retrospect, 100 men searching within 12 hours after the boy was lost did the job, thanks to prompt action by San Bernardino Co. Sheriff Frank Bland.

Comment (from discussion at the February meeting): It is helpful to use a #205 bulb in your headlamp on a night search or anytime prolonged use is expected.

Lake Arrowhead Search, continued...

This bulb isn't as bright, but since it does draw less current the batteries will last longer. Carry the regular bulb, in case a stronger light is needed. Also, use alkaline batteries and/or carry an extra set.

YEAR-END STATISTICS...Individual Rescue Response

The lists below give an indication of the operational activity of members during 1972. This does not include hours spent in training activities, teaching and taking first aid classes, public education efforts, equipment maintenance, administrative duties, etc.. The commitments column indicates the number of times the member volunteered to go, when the operation was subsequently called off. Data is from the Qualification Committee's records--if you think there any errors be sure to get in touch with Al Green.

	hours		operations	commitments
Bottka	77	Stronge	9	1
Stronge	75	Brown	8	3
Sweatt	73	Bottka	7	0
Brown	65	Heller	7	4
Heller	61	Peterson	7	0
Peterson	59	Sweatt	7	0
Jones	56	Burge	6	4
Burge	50	Jones	6	3
Wick	46	Wick	5	2
Nichols	38	Woodman	5	1
Rockwell	38	Camphausen	5	0
Woodman	32	Joy	5	0
Harris	30	Rockwell	4	1
Joy	29	Green	4	0
Green	27	Harris	3	2
Camphausen	27	Lucas	3	1
Garner	25	Nichols	3	1
Lucas	17	Garner	3	0
Craig	14	Craig	2	0
Huse	12	Huse	1	1
Warschauer	10	Zenor	1	1
Zenor	10	Matthews	1	0
McGinnis	8	McGinnis	1	0
McIntire	8	McIntire	1	0
Matthews	7	Waugh	1	0
O'Handley	5	Warschauer	1	0
Waugh	1	O'Handley	1	0

On the following two pages is a summary of our operations for 1972:

CHINA LAKE MOUNTAIN RESCUE GROUP

1972 OPERATIONS

OP #	DATE	OPERATION	LOCATION	NO. OF MEMBERS	TOTAL MAN HRS	NWC EXCUSED MAN HOURS
1	1-2 Feb 72	Recovery, Climber, fatal fall	Temple Crag, Inyo Co.	16	161	91
2	14 Feb	Transit, Climber injured	Tuttle Creek, Inyo Co.	6	26	18
3	6-7 March	Transit, Lost Hiker (17) walked out	Figuerroa Mtn. Santa Barbara Co.	5	78	30
4	2 April.	Rescue, Climber (40), fall, DOA	S.E. Ridge, Owens Pk. Kern Co.	18	133	0
5	7 May	Transit, Rockfall on climber (20), dead	Whitney, Mtneer's Rte. Inyo Co.	6	21	0
6	23-24 June	Recovery, Drowned fisherman (16)	Fish Cr., Devil's Postpile Madera Co.	5	114	0
7	26 June	Transit, Mid-air Collision, F4's	NWC Coso Range Inyo Co.	10	21	9
8	30 June	Alert, Lost Child (5), Found	Bass Lake Madera Co.	8	6	0
9	18 July	Transit, 2 Overdue Climbers, Lightning fatalities •	Bishop Pass Inyo Co.	10	54	36
10	30 July	Rescue Incident, Hiker fell into fault	Inyo Earthquake Fault Mono Co.	1	1	0
11	6-7 Aug	Rescue, Injured Climber, fall	Mt. Whitney, E. Buttress Inyo Co.	5	112	35
12	13-14 Aug	Transit, Lost Child (3), found	Mammoth Village Mono Co.	8	69	24
13	3 Sept	Alert, Downed sail plane	Randsburg Wash San Bernardino Co.	6	6.5	0

CHINA LAKE MOUNTAIN RESCUE GROUP

1972 OPERATIONS

OP #	DATE	OPERATION	LOCATION	NO. OF MEMBERS	TOTAL MAN HRS	NWC EXCUSED MAN HOURS
14	5 Sept	Mobilization, 2 Stranded Hikers, rescued	Trail Crest, Mt. Whitney Mono Co.	11	20.5	0
15	11 Sept	Alert; 2 Overdue Climbers	Mt. Sill, Inyo Co.	2	2	0
16	10 Oct	Transit, Lost Hunter	Chimney Peak Tulare Co.	12	66	8
17	9 Nov	Search, Lost Hunter	Lion Meadows Tulare Co.	9	38	12

ALERTS: 3

SEARCHES: 1

RESCUES: 4

INCIDENTS: 1

TOTAL MAN HRS: 929

TRANSITS: 8

TOTAL NWC EXCUSED: 263.5

It's that time again Bob Rockwell

Several years ago, CLMRG was declared a qualified tax-exempt organization by the Internal Revenue Service because of its charitable and educational nature. One consequence of this ruling, trivial to all except your treasurer, is that we must file a special form each year with the IRS. Of a broader interest, however, is that some of your individual CLMRG-related expenses are deductible as contributions on your federal and state tax returns - if you itemize your deductions,

Now, If you do itemize, you know that contributions of cash (including the payment of assessments levied by the Group) and material property are deductible and that for the latter the fair market value, not the original cost, must be used in determining the amount to be deducted, Other conditions such as records required and statements to be included are no different than with contributions to other qualified organizations, so these general aspects won't be dwelt upon here, The intent of this article is rather to bring out the information that is more specific to members of the CLMRG.

It is well established that you may deduct unreimbursed out-of-pocket expenses incurred in taking your car on rescues, training exercises, sheriff's seminars, to present slide shows, and even to monthly meetings (the "out-of-pocket" statement excludes such items as insurance and depreciation). If desired, you can claim 6 cents per mile instead of actual expenses, Since the Group reimburses drivers at the rate of 5 cents per mile on operations only, this means that the additional penny can be claimed as a contribution. As far as the remaining costs go, meals and lodging (heaven forbid!) are also legitimate expenditures, as is the expense of any other transportation such as bus or air fares, But you cannot claim any deduction for the value of the time you actually spent on allowed activities, nor for the wages that you may have lost.

The cost of your orange parka and shirt are deductible as uniforms in the year purchased, even if worn on recreational climbs. The reason that this is allowed is because the attached emblems and patches announce to others that you are a member of CLMRG and are available in case an emergency arises - advertisement, if you will. By the way, your patches and MRA decals are themselves deductible items, as is the cost of repairing your parka, if damaged.

As you might expect, the host's expenses for refreshments at a regular Group meeting are not valid deductions. Nor is the value of the use of your home for a meeting. And while we're on the subject of disallowed items, don't anticipate being able to deduct payments for admissions to our slide shows, banquets, etc., because the fees do not generally exceed the value of the benefits, This is just a recognition of the terrific bargains that the CLMRG extravaganzas represent!

The above information is reasonably well-established in fact. But now, we get into a pretty grey area. To be perfectly safe, don't deduct the cost of any personal equipment unless you purchased it specifically and primarily for use in service with the CLMRG. This means that ropes, hardware, clothing, etc., are not deductible because they are used for recreational climbing as well as on operations. However, the IRS people are generally quite

reasonable, and some members make an estimate of the percentage of lifetime use of personal items which will be expended on rescues and claim that fraction of the initial cost on their tax returns, Others make an estimate, based on past experience, of how much dollar-depreciation per rescue or training exercise their equipment suffers, and deduct an amount based upon that figure, Whether these claims will be accepted by the IRS is dependent on two factors: (i) how reasonable are your figures, and (ii) how reasonable is the particular agent who looks over your return. As stated earlier, this is a grey area. If you do claim these wear-out type of expenses, be sure that you keep accurate records to substantiate your statements, and make it clear in your return exactly what you are doing, as well as its justification, And be prepared for a disappointment.

Note that the California State Franchise Tax Board rules on contributions mimic the federal regulations, But it is quite possible that, with regard to grey areas, one agency might accept your claim while the other rejects it, Finally you will recall that the total amount of your contributions to all organizations cannot exceed the maximum amounts established by the Internal Revenue Service and the Franchise Tax Board,

And now, there must be a disclaimer, These recommendations cannot of course represent the official views of either the Internal Revenue Service, the Franchise Tax Board, or the China Lake Mountain Rescue Group, And they are not necessarily complete in that all income tax-related items have not been discussed. They are the result, however, of (i) a rather close reading of the appropriate sections of the IRS publication 17: "Your Federal Income Tax; 1973 Edition", (ii) verbal discussions with one (and only one) representative each of the IRS and the Franchise Tax Board, and (iii) other bits and pieces of miscellaneous information,

For what it's worth,

RADIO PLACED ON OWENS RIDGE

There is now a CB radio and antenna perched atop the SE ridge of Owens Peak, an area popular with local rock climbers, and occasionally visited by climbers from other parts of Southern California. We're hoping these items don't 'disappear', since their purpose is to summon help in case a climber is injured. Formerly, this meant reaching the nearest telephone, which involves, first of all, getting down off the rocks, then an approximately two-mile hike to the parking area, followed by a drive of eight miles or so down the not-very-much-maintained dirt road to the highway. With the radio in place there's a good chance that the time saved in getting an injured person to the hospital could make an important, perhaps lifesaving, difference. ANY GROUP PLANNING TO CLIMB in this area should contact Al Green, at 446-2491 for information about the radio's location and other details. We (mostly Carl Heller) have also compiled a Climber's Guide to this area, and a limited number of copies are available.

We are thankful to Hillside Electronics in Mojave, and Kerrel Osborne, who arranged for us to purchase this radio at a reduced price. Mr. Osborne, a local CB operator, also prepared the radio for placement on Owens Ridge.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Doug Warschauer

Thanks go to Tommy Chapman and Bob O'Handley for their recent donations. We are also grateful for a contribution from the tobogganers who were assisted by members of our group in the San Gorgonio area. They are: Ronald Ivy (the 'victim'), Harold Raymond, Richard Shonley and Bill Gaudrault, all Marines from El Toro.

And we have just received a check from Stan and Lolette Dalbec, to help us purchase a copy of the hypothermia film, "By Nature's Rules" (see Editor's Cubbyhole).

Also, a very big thank you from the current treasurer to Barbara Slates, who has kept the books in apple-pie order for the past two years.

We appreciate the efforts of Mrs. Fred Essig and Mrs. Paul Dietrich, who provided consultation on bookkeeping procedures and audited our books for 1972, in compliance with the requirements of the Combined Federal Campaign (hence also United Fund).

And speaking of the United Fund: our members voted to return to United Fund part of last year's UF money which was not needed. Hopefully this will benefit UF-supported agencies which need additional funds.

MOUNTAIN RESCUE ASSOCIATION

Lee Lucas

The mountain rescue units of the California Region of MRA have offered to assist the State Office of Emergency Services with the following aspects of mountain search and rescue within the state of California:

- provide an organized and fully equipped mountain rescue team in response to any reasonable call for assistance
- recommend minimum standards for state-approved mountain rescue teams -
- train and certify mountain rescue teams according to these standards -
- provide mountain safety literature and audio-visual materials

As part of CRMRA the China Lake Mountain Rescue Group is obligated to provide a 5-man team on joint operations and to help train and certify applicant units.

Highlights of the CRMRA meeting in Altadena on 24 February: The Inyo County Sheriff's Posse has applied for MRA membership; China Lake will sponsor. Developed in England: a unit for treating hypothermia using preheated oxygen; CRMRA to have details soon. The new commander of Western RRC, Hamilton AFB, is a strong supporter of search and rescue -- Operation Leaders: be sure to have sheriff request aircraft whenever you need it. Ab Taylor of Border Patrol offered to teach step-by-step-tracking to Region teams; we said China Lake MRG would send 10 or 15 men.

MEMBERSHIP

We welcome three more applicants for rescue membership:

Robert Dinger	202 A Ellis, C/L	Code 6014	phone 446-6354 (h), 939-3962/3049 (w)
Pat Boyle	P.O. Box 5729, C/L	BHS	377-4128 (h)
Kent Johnson	P.O. Box 263, R/C	Code 127	939-2088 (w)

Also, we have a few roster changes: Jim Nichols' address is now 405 A Langley, C/L. Elizabeth Anderson's Code is now 75103, phone 939-2817. John McGinnis should be listed in the inactive section--he is away at school.

EDITOR'S CUBBYHOLE

Dianne Lucas

Carol Burge reports that our copy of the hypothermia film, "By Nature's Rules", is here and is being kept for us by the NWC Safety Department. Hypothermia is the fatal lowering of body temperatures which can occur when one is inadequately protected against the cold. When you hear about someone dying from 'exposure', this is what has happened. Anyway...we highly recommend this film -- to everyone, but especially to anyone who goes ski touring, snowmobiling, hiking, hunting, etc. If your group, class, or whatever would like to see this film, contact Billie Hise, of the Safety Department, at 939-2037.

From the INYO REGISTER, we learn that Norman Clyde, famed western mountain climber, explorer, author and photographer, died Dec. 23 in Big Pine at the age of 87.

Clyde ascended more than 1,000 peaks in his lifetime, most of them by himself, ranging from Baja, California to the Canadian Yukon, and was an acknowledged expert on high altitude flora and fauna...and contributed to knowledge of the geological history and structure of mountain ranges of the western U.S.

Clyde Minaret, Clyde's Spires, Clyde's Ledge and Clyde Meadow are but a few western wilderness features named after him.

...there are...many who climb quietly for joy,.peace, release of tension, for the pleasure of fitness and to bask in beauty. Others must test limits of nerve, strength, and skill in a way denied to the earthbound. Man seems unique among animals in such deliberate self testing. Each generation tries and often achieves, what its parents found impossible. Perhaps man must always reach beyond his grasp and be so reaching, grow, perhaps even to the day when he is at peace with others. Let climbing be such a test, a challenge, a danger, and a gauge of skill for those who wish.

Dr. Charles Houston

(we have not been acquainted with Dr. Houston, but thank the Arizona Mountaineer, for this quotation.)



"While I'm at it is, there anything I can order yon from L. L. Bean?"