

CHINA LAKE MOUNTAIN RESCUE GROUP

P.O. BOX 5773

CHINA LAKE, CALIFORNIA 93555

EDITOR: DIANNE LUCAS

APRIL 1974 #26

- April 27-28 Youth program and family day hike, to Pinyon Peak, near Walker Pass. Carol Burge, 446-5359.
- May 4-5 Laurel Mtn., near Convict Lake. Fred Camphausen, 446-5643.
- May 11 Rescue '74, an exhibit put on by California Region MRA at the ABC Entertainment Center. China Lake is putting together a display on high-altitude and winter rescue. If you have ideas or are willing to help, call Liz Anderson (446-2849) or Dianne Lucas (446-2387).
- May 13 Meeting, at Lucas', 7 B Wasp Circle, at 7:30 p.m.
- May 16 Tracking practice. Meet at 5:00 p.m. at the South Gate. Steve Tanner, 375-2474 is in charge.
- May 18 Tracking practice. Meet at the hut at 6:00 a.m. Lee Lucas, 446-2387 is in charge. Also on this date--Armed Forces Day--we'll be doing a demonstration at NAF.
- May 19 Technical stretcher practice, at Owens Ridge. Dennis Burge, 446-5359.
- May 25-27 Memorial Day weekend trip to either Brewer (Class 2-3) or Clarence King (Class 3-4). Fred Camphausen, 446-5643.
- June 8-9 Rock climbing (Class 5) at Tahquitz. Nick Bottka, 375-9166.
- June 8-9 National MRA Spring Meeting, at Boise, Idaho. Bob Westbrook, 375-8371.
- June 10 Meeting, at Rockwell's, 607 Randall, Ridgecrest, 7:30 p.m.
- June 11 Summer mountaineering class begins.
- June 15/16 Summer class day hike, to Telescope Peak. Ron Atkins, 446-7038, or Liz Anderson, 446-2849.
- June 22-23 Summer class overnight, to climb Candle Light or Mallory. Ron Atkins is in charge.

OPERATIONS

#7402 Alert, Plane crash near Bishop, 13 March Carl Heller

Commander Gary Bailey phoned at 2220 saying that NAF helos were flying at dawn and probably would want rescuers aboard. I got Carol, Marlene and Janet to set up an 0530 mobilization at the hut and they found 17 people. I notified Sierra Madre to alert the CALMRA teams for possible backup assistance (73 people including CLMRG).

About 2330 Gary phoned that a helo had flown over and the crew was certain that there were no survivors. Inyo County Search and Rescue felt they could handle the evacuation with some helos from McClelland AFB. We asked people to stay on alert throughout Thursday in case help was needed.

The plane apparently took off from Long Valley airport for Burbank. In turning south it hit the White Mountain escarpment at the 7500' level and burned.

#7403 Search, Cabazon, 22-24 March Carl Heller

China Lake was called in to assist the Riverside Mountain Rescue Unit on a search for a 13 year old boy who had fallen in the mountains behind Cabazon, near Banning. Our phase of the search was unsuccessful and the body was not found for a week.

Al Green got the call at 1330 Friday. Ten CLMRG members mobilized at 1430 and drove to Banning, where we met Walt Walker, the operation leader. We were briefed about the operation during supper.

Saturday morning *we* were airlifted from base camp to the plateau. We searched for tracks above the area where tracks had been found. By noon I was fairly certain no one had gone that high, and we began searching the cliffs below the plateau--steep canyon walls.

We had planned to stay overnight on the plateau, but rather suddenly we were asked to walk out--down Poison Oak Canyon. *We* were not very efficient at this, being inhibited by our worry about the poison oak (especially so since no shower would be available that evening!). Most of the local searchers with us were also shy of the oak and perhaps tired as well. Peter Frickland (RMRU) was the one person who went through the brush at the base of the cliff. He came very close to the body, which was on a ledge overgrown with the poison shrubs. We were quite demoralized by the extra hike and the unavoidable contacts with the poison oak, so we decided to drive home and wash up. It was confirmed that there would be enough searchers present from other teams to continue the next day. We arrived in China Lake by midnight. Several people later reported rashes from the poison oak.

The body was eventually found by a team which had arranged beforehand to get a shower immediately following the search. This seems like an almost required tactic in dealing with poison oak.

Walt Walker also mentioned not getting a good report about our search down Poison Oak Canyon. Since RMRU had a team leader along, I hadn't felt it necessary to stay for the evening debriefing and planning. Perhaps this points up the usefulness of having a staff man debrief each team as it arrives in base camp.

Taking part from CLMRG were: Heller, Lucas, Westbrook, Joy, Anderson, Jones, Warschauer, Atkins, Robbins and Hinman.

ELECTIONS

New officers elected to serve for 1974 are:

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| President | Allen Jones |
| Vice President | Bob Rockwell |
| Secretary | Sheila Rockwell |
| Treasurer | Doug Warschauer |
| Member-at-Large | Bob Westbrook |

Committees: * denotes chairperson

The Qualifications committee is elected, with the chairman appointed by the President. The remaining standing committees are appointed by the President.

| | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Qualifications | Climbing and Rescue Training |
| *Al Green | *Bill Stronge |
| Carl Heller | Dennis Burge |
| Bill Stronge | Don Harris |
| | Dave Brown |
| Public Education | Ron Atkins |
| *Elizabeth Anderson | Steve Tanner |
| Dianne Lucas - Talus Pile Editor | |
| Fred Camphausen | First Aid Training |
| Jim Dixon | *Janet Westbrook |
| Janet Westbrook | Carl Heller |
| | Jim Nichols |
| Techniques | Fred Camphausen |
| Al Green | |
| Carl Heller | |
| Bill Stronge | Communications and Equipment |
| Lee Lucas | *Bob Joy |
| Doug Warschauer | Don Harris, Quartermaster |
| Bob Joy | Roland Robbins |

Roster Changes Al Green

Russ Huse is now on Support team. Russ is an experienced member who dropped from-Technical to Search at his request. Outside demands have decreased to the point where Russ wants to become more active--good show, Russ!

Dave Matthews and Lori Nicholson, of the Search team, are going inactive. Because of space problems, it has become necessary to omit the 'Inactive' category from our call roster.

Since the last issue of the Talus Pile, we have welcomed five new members - all of them have now qualified for the Search team.

| | | | |
|-----------------|----------------------|----------|-------------------------|
| James Dixon | 304 A Thompson | 446-5338 | Code 4092 939-3431 |
| Steve Tanner | 626 Coso, P/C | 375-2472 | Code 5535 939-2687/2795 |
| Daryl Hinman | 1106 N. Randall, RIG | 446-5242 | Code 3344 939-3931 |
| Ralph Rohret | 43 B Ashworth | 446-4285 | BHS |
| Richard Gleeson | 109 R Blandy | 446-4981 | Code 3121 939-2720 |

Also, some address changes: Lee and Dianne Lucas have moved to 7 B Wasp Circle, and Al Jones now resides at 34 A Ashworth.

CHINA LAKE MOUNTAIN RESCUE CROUP

1973 OPERATIONS

| OP # | DATE | OPERATION | LOCATION | NO. OF MEMBERS | TOTAL MAN HRS | Excused MAN HRS |
|------|-------------|---|---|----------------|---------------|-----------------|
| 1 | 27 Jan 1973 | Rescue Incident, Injured tobogganer | Mt San Gorgon, San Bernardino Co. | 6 | 10.5 | 0 |
| 2 | 1-2 Feb | Search, Missing horseman, not found | West Bark, Ventura Co. | 7 | 322 | 96 |
| 3 | 3-4 Feb | Search, Lost child (8), found alive | Crestline San Bernardino Co | 7 | 112 | 0 |
| 4 | 18 Mar | Search, Overdue hiker, found injured and evacuated | Chuckawalla Mt., Kern Co. | 14 | 43 | 0 |
| 5 | 24 Mar | Search Incident, Family separated, reunited | Lone Butte (B Mountain) Kern Co. | 2 | 3 | 0 |
| 6 | 26 Mar | Alert, Missing hiker (21), found alive | Figueroa Guard St., Santa Barbara Co. | 11 | 8.5 | 0 |
| 7 | 30 Apr | Alert, Two overdue hikers, walked out | Argueberry Point, Death Valley | 12 | 6.5 | 0 |
| 8 | 8-12 May | Search, Overdue climber, found dead | Ontario Peak, San Bernardino Co. | 12 | 528 | 144 |
| | 14 May | Rescue, Injured climber | Lone Pine Pk., Inyo Co. | 10 | 65.5 | 43 |
| 10 | 26 May | Search, Lost child (5), found alive | Stoney Creek, Sequoia NP, Tulare Co. | 10 | 178.5 | 0 |
| 11 | 27 May | Search, Lost child (6), found alive | Cedar Slope, Camp Nelson Tulare Co. | 9 | 143 | 0 |
| 12 | 28 May | Alert, Injured hiker (20) | Taboose Pass, Inyo Co. | 5 | 11 | 0 |
| 13 | 1 June | River search for 5 drowning victims, not found | Lower Kern River, Kern Co. | 10 | 168 | 80 |
| 14 | 10 June | Transit, Lost child (12), found alive | Camp Angeles, San Bernardino Co. | 5 | 33 | 0 |
| 15 | 16 June | Salvage of downed aircraft wreckage | Cirque Pk., Inyo Co. | 10 | 94 | 0 |
| 16 | 6 July | Alert, Lost Boy Scout (13) found alive | Bench Lake, Kings Canyon NP, Fresno Co. | 7 | 14 | 0 |
| 17 | 8 July | Rescue, Three amateur prospectors | Cloudburst Canyon Kern Co. | 9 | 161.5 | 0 |
| 18 | 13 July | Rescue, Overdue climber, found dead and evacuated | Carson Pk., Mono Co. | 12 | 204 | 80 |
| 19 | 23 July | Search, Overdue climber, found injured | Lundy Canyon, Mono Co. | 15 | 318 | 96 |
| 20 | 2 Sept | Alert, Lost Boy Scout (13), found alive | Cuddeback Lake, San Bernardino Co. | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| 21 | 14 Sept | Search, Lost child (6), found alive | White Wolf, Yosemite NP, Tuolumne Co, | 11 | 189 | 88 |
| 22 | 9-10 Oct | Search, Three overdue climbers, walked out | Sixty Lakes Basin, Inyo Co, | 16 | 71 | 16 |
| 23 | 24-25 Dec | Rescue, Two overdue climbers; one frostbitten, one dead from fall | Mt, Whitney, Inyo Co, | 8 | 120 | 0 |

ALERTS: 5

SEARCHES: 10

RESCUES: 4

INCIDENTS: 2

TOTAL MAN HOURS: 2805

TRANSITS: 1

TOTAL NWC EXCUSED MB: 643

ECOLOGY PROJECTS: 1

Trackers Carl Heller

On a rescue operation the leader can easily pick his best climbers to work on a wall rescue. The system of grading climbs 5.0 - 5.9+ has permitted this. Most members and leaders know what grade they can lead and can tell the operation leader.

How about tracking? Is it possible to grade tracks? Certainly a man walking across a sandy desert after a rainstorm might make a 5.0 track. An infant in an open pine forest might make a class 5.9 track!

As CLMRG and MRA members begin to improve their tracking ability it would be useful to have such a grading system. Presumably the Border Patrol are up in the 5.5 - 5.9 range. I may be a class 4.9 with my glasses on. How about the rest of you? Can anyone set up a useful system of classification?

Participation Data for 1973 Al Green

These numbers give a rough idea of the rescue members' activity on actual operations. They do not reflect the hours and efforts spent on any other aspect of CLMRG activities--training, public education, administration, first aid, equipment, etc. The commitments column indicates the number of times the individual had volunteered to go on an operation that was subsequently called off.

The position of a support or search team member on the roster is in general determined by the past year's participation. Any errors in these records should be reported to the Qualifications committee.

| hours | | | operations | commitments |
|----------------|-------|----------------|------------|-------------|
| Warschauer, D. | 169 | Lucas | 15 | 3 |
| Harris | 164 | Jones | 14 | 2 |
| Lucas | 162.5 | Heller | 12 | |
| Jones | 162.5 | Warschauer, D. | 11 | |
| Brown | 161.5 | Harris | 10 | 2 |
| Moore | 148.5 | Brown | 10 | |
| Heller | 136 | Burge | 9 | 1 |
| Joy | 132 | Moore | 9 | 1 |
| Woodman | 127.5 | Woodman | 9 | |
| Stronge | 115 | Green | 8 | 1 |
| Burge | 110 | Stronge | 7 | 2 |
| Green | 98.5 | Joy | 7 | 1 |
| Atkins | 80.5 | Sweatt | 6 | 1 |
| O'Handley | 78.5 | Buffum | 6 | |
| Buffum | 71.5 | Peterson | 5 | 1 |
| Camphausen | 70 | Atkins | 5 | 1 |
| Bottka | 67.5 | Bottka | 5 | |
| Peterson | 59 | Rockwell | 5 | |
| Craig | 58.5 | Anderson | 5 | |
| Rockwell | 55 | Craig | 5 | |
| Charlton | 45 | Charlton | 4 | 2 |
| Dinger | 41 | Westbrook | 4 | |
| Wick | 40 | Hirschy | 4 | |
| Sweatt | 38 | O'Handley | 3 | 2 |
| Robbins | 38 | Camphausen | 3 | 1 |
| Johnson | 38 | Huse | 3 | 1 |
| Warschauer, J. | 38 | Wick | 3 | |
| Huse | 35.5 | Dinger | 3 | |
| Westbrook | 35 | Garner | 3 | |

Participation Data, continued...

| | | | | |
|----------|------|------------|---|---|
| Garner | 33.5 | Johnson | 3 | |
| Hirschy | 22 | Matthews | 2 | 1 |
| Zenor | 17 | Robbins | 2 | |
| Anderson | 14 | Warschauer | 2 | |
| Matthews | 11.5 | Mayne | 1 | 3 |
| Nichols | 7 | Nichols | 1 | |
| Mayne | 3.5 | Zenor | 1 | |

FINANCES

We have received donations of money or equipment from Mr. and Mrs. J.W. Gerhart, Carl Heller, Ken Horwitz (the 'subject' of a successful rescue last spring), Jim McCoy, and Roy Miller. Thank you! We are also indebted to the following people for donations in memory of Eric Eichmann, who was fatally injured while climbing Mt. Whitney last December:

Virginia and Terry Stirling
John M. Graham III
Mesa Court Association, UC Irvine

We have recently purchased two more reconditioned HT-220 radios, to replace a couple of ancient "Voice Commanders" for which we can no longer get parts, so your financial assistance *is* greatly appreciated!

OTHER THANKS...

...to Charlotte Bishop, who has been working with our various mailing lists. This is a tremendous help to the President, Secretary, Editor, and others.

...and to Padgett's Chevron Station on Inyokern Road, which has agreed to open up after hours if gas is needed for an operation.

Editor's Cubbyhole -- When Wilderness and Population Meet... Dianne Lucas

A limit of 75 persons per day for overnight camping has been set for the John Muir Wilderness portion of the Mt. Whitney Trail. This limit will be in effect from Memorial Day through September 30. Camping limits have become necessary because of sanitation problems (the Forest Service had to remove the outdoor johns to comply with the Wilderness Act) and a general loss of "wilderness quality". All previous regulations--wilderness permits, no campfires, grazing, etc.--are still in effect.

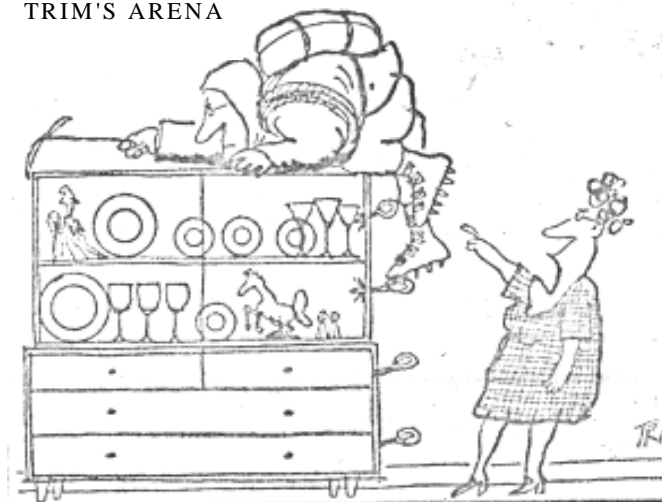
I checked with the Forest Service office in Lone Pine and was told that the camping quota also applies to the North Fork trail, although they are allowing one additional overnight party on this trail after the 75 person limit has been reached. So anyone planning to camp, say, at East Face Lake for a climb of Mt. Whitney needs to have a reservation. I wonder what John Muir would have thought...

You can get a reservation, first-come-first-served, by writing, phoning or showing up at the Forest Service office in Lone Pine. Address is: U.S. Forest Service, Mt.

Whitney Ranger Station, P.O. Box 8, Lone Pine, CA 93545. Phone: 876-4660. Written applications must be received at least 10 days before trail departure date.

A brochure containing specific information regarding the Mt. Whitney Unit Plan currently under study can be obtained by writing to: Inyo National Forest, 2957 Birch Street, Bishop, CA 93514, Attn: Public Information Officer.

TRIM'S ARENA



"Plant a flag up there and it'll be the last time you'll practice in this house."