



CHINA LAKE MOUNTAIN RESCUE  
GROUP  
P.O. BOX 5773  
CHINA LAKE, CALIFORNIA 93555

EDITOR: DIANNE LUCAS

FEBRUARY 1975 #29

#### CALENDAR

- February 9 Death Valley peak -- call Daryl Hinman (446-5242).
- February 10 Meeting, at 702-A Kearsarge (Burge's)
- February 15-17 Mt. Bolton Brown. See Bob Rockwell (375-2532) for details.
- February 22-23 Tracking with the Border Patrol, near San Diego. This session is primarily for those who have been attending CLMRG practices but have not yet had instruction from the Border Patrol. Don Harris (446-5074) is in charge.
- March 1-2 Morrison area, ski and snowshoe trip. Call Dennis Burge (446-5359).
- March 8-9 Wahguyhe and Palmer, in Death Valley. Fred Camphausen (446-5643) is the organizer.
- March 10 Meeting, at 107-B Richmond (Liz Anderson's)
- March 15-17 Palisade area (North Pal or Clyde). Let Bob Rockwell know (375-2532) if you are interested.
- March 29/30 Training, details to be announced by Lee Lucas (446-2387).
- April 5-6+ Pear Lake Hut - Sequoia (if we get it). Dianne Lucas (446-2387) is organizer.

#### OUR DONORS

The members of CLMRG are grateful to those people who have added to our equipment fund since the last printing of the Talus Pile: Dr. Ron Henry, Frederick Bode, Russ Huse, and Mrs. J.W. Gerhart. Members also wish they could thank personally and individually all those in the local area who designated CLMRG in their United Way and Combined Federal Campaign contributions. Thank you!

## New Officers

CLMRG officers for 1975 were elected at the January business meeting. They are:

|                |               |                 |             |
|----------------|---------------|-----------------|-------------|
| President      | Don Peterson  | Treasurer       | Jim Dixon   |
| Vice President | Bob Westbrook | Member-at-Large | Allen Jones |
| Secretary      | Daryl Hinman  |                 |             |

Being on the Board should keep them busy for awhile!

## OPERATIONS

#7424 Transit, "Operation Breakfast", 30-31 December Carl Heller

Some organizations have formal dinners -- we had a breakfast at Jack's Waffle Shop in Bishop. We left China Lake at 0230 on December 31, headed for June Mountain to search for two skiers missing since 1330 the previous afternoon. Mono County deputy Wilmot said the snow was neck deep, blowing strongly, and we might not be able to get north of Bishop on Highway 395. At our end of 395 the sand and gravel was moving south at 60 knots and at windshield height!

At Bishop we checked into the police station just as word came in that the skiers had been found, well, at 0436. We had our breakfast and headed for home.

#7501 Mobilization, 9 January Carl Heller

A call from LCDR Rij of NAF at 1044 gave us another mobilization practice. A helo was down above Ballarat and the NAF helo was investigating. Barbara Slates called down the roster as far as Harris and got five participants. Camphausen was ready at 1108 and Green, Burge and Harris were ready to leave the hut at 1125. Bottka was assisting as operation quartermaster. At 1128 Rij called with the news that the NAF helo had successfully picked up two survivors.

This was pretty good time to get a four-man team together and equipped. It was nice of Rij to alert us promptly, particularly with lunch hour approaching. As usual it was worthwhile to contact more people than the team needed, since someone can almost always be expected to be late. (The fifth member called in from home at 1135). And it is also useful to have someone who can't go on the operation help in the mobilization.

## TRAINING

Stretcher Practice, 15 December Lee Lucas

Early Sunday morning CLMRG members gathered for a combined tracking-technical rock practice. We learned that Bill Stronge was 'missing' and that a helo had spotted his vehicle (a large cardboard box) in the first canyon south of Indian Wells Canyon. We were handed two notes stapled closed: #1-in case vehicle cannot be found, #2-in case victim cannot be found.

Teams deployed in 4WD vehicles and searched side roads in and south of Indian Wells Canyon. After some time, the last of several wrong roads brought us all to the base of a 300' rock face. There was Stronge's effigy swinging in the breeze at the end of a climbing rope. But no box.

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Stretcher practice, continued . . .

We divided into three teams. Green, Rockwell, Camphausen, Woodman and Hinman went up the rock to the 'victim'. Heller, Joy, Pearia, B. Adams and Mason went around and up on the rock with the stretcher and 200' ropes. Lucas, Peterson and Walters went to locate the 'vehicle' and finish the tracking phase of the problem as intended. These three tracked the victim up onto the rock, where the others were setting up for a stretcher lowering. Despite a high wind and chilly temperatures, the 'victim' was pendulumed around the rock face and lowered to safety. A critique at our favorite oasis in Inyokern rounded out the day.

Comments: We could do better at locating a vehicle by stopping at each road fork and checking the tire tracks more carefully. (Camphausen) There were more people than necessary for the technical phase of the practice, but the ropes, slings and hardware that they carried were used. This is frequently true of operations as well. (Heller)

Practice Tracking Operation -- Harry Garner

A practice search operation based upon the use of tracking techniques was conducted Sunday, January 12. The scenario: A woman was missing when her husband returned to their car near Walker Pass on Saturday. After his search proved fruitless and darkness fell, he obtained help from CLMRG. In the morning the team sorted the victim's tracks from the many suspects and located the subject approximately four hours after arriving on the scene.

The operation was directed by Don Harris. Other participants were Green, Lucas, Bottka, Joy, Anderson, Dixon, T. Stogsdill and B. Stogsdill.

Public Education -- Liz Anderson

In 1974 the CLMRG Public Education programs had a chance to influence an audience of 1200. Some 265 hours were spent in preparation and presentation of these programs, requiring the efforts of 17 CLMRG members.

Adult organizations requested only 2 programs, while 155 kids in Scouting saw 6 slide shows or demonstrations. Other youth organizations exposed 120 young people to the CLMRG safety philosophy. Nine high school and college classes provided 245 students with the safety lessons and 24 grade schoolers received the simpler version of the same lessons.

The CLMRG copy of the movie on hypothermia, *By Nature's Rules*, is filed with NWC's Safety Department. The film was checked out 25 times in 12 months. Among the 750 people who saw the movie were members of NWC codes, Search and Rescue groups of IWV and Trona, college and high school classes, and employees of one Ridgecrest company. A new movie, *The Thermal Wilderness*, now ready for sale, incorporated 45 hours of CLMRG time.

One taped and synchronized slide show has been added to the CLMRG library. The Mt. Ritter Accident Report consists of the slides furnished by the Bay Area Mountain Rescue Unit (recovered from the camera of one of the victims of a sudden snowstorm which hit the Sierra on Memorial Day weekend, 1971) plus scenic slides of the Ritter area, plus a taped narrative combining the accident report with cautionary lessons for the average hiker and climber.

Encl (1)

## CHINA LAKE MOUNTAIN RESCUE GROUP 1974 OPERATIONS

| OP # | DATE       | OPERATION  | LOCATION                                 | NO. OF MEMBERS | TOTAL MAN HOURS | NWC EXCUSED MAN HOURS |
|------|------------|--|--|----------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| 1    | Jan 5-6    | Alert, Snowbound vehicle<br>Passengers picked up by NAF helo | Inyo Mts.<br>Inyo Co.                    | -              | 10              | 0                     |
| 2    | Mar 13     | Alert, Plane crash<br>36 victims                             | White Mts.<br>Inyo Co.                   | -              | 13              | 0                     |
| 3    | Mar 22-24  | Search, Lost Child (13)<br>Found later dead from fall        | Jenson Canyon<br>Riverside Co.           | 11             | 367.5           | 33                    |
| 4    | Apr 29     | Alert, Overdue motorcyclists<br>found                        | Kern Plateau<br>Tulare Co.               | -              | 13.5            | 0                     |
| 5    | Apr 29     | Search, Pilot missing from<br>crash scene                    | Kern Plateau<br>Tulare Co.               | 2              | 14              | 0                     |
| 6    | May 15-16  | Rescue, Injured climber                                      | Lower Boy Scout Lake<br>Inyo Co.         | 18             | 329             | 136                   |
| 7    | May 18-19  | Rescue, Four hikers stranded<br>above river                  | Kern River<br>Tulare Co.                 | 11             | 204             | 0                     |
| 8    | May 21     | Alert, Overdue motorcyclist<br>found later dead              | Baja Calif.                              | -              | 4               | 0                     |
| 9    | June 1-2   | Search, Two overdue fishermen<br>one found later drowned     | Big Trees State Park<br>Calaveras Co.    | 8              | 411             | 0                     |
| 10   | June 20    | Evacuation, Climbing fatality                                | North Palisade<br>Inyo Co.               | 7              | 117             | 0                     |
| 11   | June 21    | Mobilization, Overdue person<br>returned                     | NWC Ranges<br>Inyo Co.                   | 11             | 12              | 11                    |
| 12   | June 30    | Alert, Overdue hiker, found                                  | Keysan Lake<br>Inyo Co.                  | -              | 7               | 0                     |
| 13   | July 1     | Alert, Overdue hiker, returned                               | Sequoia-Kings Canyon N. P.<br>Fresno Co. | -              | 5               | 0                     |
| 14   | July 27-28 | Search, Lost children (band 8)<br>found                      | Balch Park<br>Tulare Co.                 | 8              | 209             | 0                     |
| 15   | July 31    | Alert, Lost child  | Picacho St. Park<br>Imperial Co.         | -              | 3.5             | 0                     |
| 16   | Aug 12     | Alert, Overdue climbers<br>returned                          | Mt. Whitney<br>Inyo Co.                  | -              | 13              | 0                     |
| 17   | Aug 16     | Alert, Missing hiker<br>returned                             | Lake Sabrina<br>Inyo Co.                 | -              | 9               | 0                     |
| 18   | Aug 19     | Alert, Plane crash   | Bolivia, S. America                      | -              | 6               | 0                     |
| 19   | Sept 3     | Mobilization, Missing hiker<br>found later dead              | Sequoia Nat. Park<br>Tulare Co.          | 11             | 24              | 22                    |
| 20   | Sept 5-6   | Search, Lost hiker<br>found alive                            | Yosemite Nat. Park<br>Tuolumne Co.       | 5              | 231             | 80                    |
| 21   | Oct 29     | Alert, Missing hunter  | Alpine Co.                               | -              | 3               | 0                     |
| 22   | Oct 29     | Search, Three overdue hikers<br>found, flown out by NAF helo | Bishop Pass<br>Inyo Co.                  | 3              | 20              | 16                    |
| 23   | Nov 7      | Search, Missing couple<br>found, flown out by NAF helo       | Kern Plateau<br>Tulare Co.               | 12             | 100             | 67                    |
| 24   | Dec 31     | Transit, Two missing skiers<br>found while enroute           | June Mt.<br>Mono Co.                     | 7              | 86              | 28                    |

ALERTS: 11                      SEARCHES: 7  
MOBILIZATIONS/TRANSITS: 3  
RESCUES/RECOVERIES: 3

TOTAL MAN HOURS: 2211.5  
TOTAL NWC EXCUSED MAN HOURS: 393

## Participation Data for 1974 Lee Lucas

These data show participation in search and rescue missions only. They do not reflect time spent on other aspects of CLMRG activity -- training, public education, first aid, equipment development and repair, administration, etc.

The 'busy beaver' award for 1974 goes to AJ (Al Jones), who racked up the most operation hours -- while he was also president of the Group. The position of support members and trainees on the call roster is determined primarily by their past year's participation. Any errors in these numbers should be brought to the attention of the Qualification Committee. 'Commitments' are those times the member volunteered for an operation that was later called off.

|            | Hours |            | Operations | Commitments |
|------------|-------|------------|------------|-------------|
| Jones      | 189   | Heller     | 7          | 8           |
| Heller     | 174.5 | Harris     | 7          | 7           |
| Hinman     | 170.5 | Jones      | 7          | 5           |
| Harris     | 163.5 | Hinman     | 6          | 6           |
| Burge      | 150   | Burge      | 6          | 5           |
| Moore      | 135   | Lucas      | 5          | 7           |
| Lucas      | 127.5 | Westbrook  | 5          | 4           |
| Westbrook  | 118   | Joy        | 4          | 6           |
| Atkins     | 112.5 | Peterson   | 4          | 6           |
| Brown      | 99    | Moore      | 4          | 5           |
| Joy        | 79    | Brown      | 4          | 5           |
| Dixon      | 74.5  | Dixon      | 3          | 4           |
| Peterson   | 66    | Camphausen | 3          | 4           |
| Anderson   | 60    | Green      | 3          | 4           |
| Robbins    | 59.5  | Anderson   | 3          | 3           |
| Sweatt     | 51    | Atkins     | 3          | 1           |
| Rockwell   | 40    | Robbins    | 2          | 7           |
| Camphausen | 39    | Rockwell   | 2          | 3           |
| Warschauer | 37    | stronge    | 2          | 3           |
| Green      | 31    | Huse       | 1          | 5           |
| Stronge    | 26.5  | Bottka     | 1          | 3           |
| Garner     | 26    | Warschauer | 1          | 2           |
| Huse       | 24    | Buffum     | 1          | 2           |
| Bottka     | 22.5  | Sweatt     | 1          |             |
| Zenor      | 21.5  | Zenor      | 1          |             |
| Gleeson    | 18    | Garner     | 1          |             |
| Rohret     | 18    | Gleeson    | 1          |             |
| Buffum     | 13.5  | Rohret     | 1          |             |
| Tanner     | 3     | Tanner     |            | 3           |
| E. Adams   | 1     | E. Adams   |            | 1           |

## Russ Huse - Fifteen Years of Mountain Rescue -- Carl Heller

With Russ' retirement to Thousand Oaks the CLMRG has lost another charter member. Russ began his climbing at China Lake when his son Doug joined Boy Scout Troop 41. Father and son were among the climbers who responded to Sheriff Howard's request for mountaineer aid in Inyo County.

Russ helped the group with all sorts of publicity, correspondence and visual arts layouts. In the mountains he was a strong hiker and class 3 climber. He would always accept the heaviest loads and still stay with us as we climbed to an accident scene.

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Russ Huse, continued . . .

I will remember Russ on a number of expeditions from Alaska to the Cordillera Blanca. He has continued climbing 6000 meter peaks at an age when most men have retired from even desk jobs. When in high camp he was always willing to do the hardest jobs.

Russ was a human being and had some faults. A major deficiency was a sense of direction. We used to kid him about not being able to find the mountain without a guide. He was also too big to comfortably share a two-man tent--as several of us can testify.

CLMRG and our community have been left one extra legacy by Russ. It was he that turned Lone Butte (or B Mountain) into an exercise area. He used to climb this hill by many routes, frequently starting at 0500 hours from his Wasp Road home. By now most of us have followed his example and certainly it has helped keep us physically ready to go on operations.

Altogether our rescue group's success and spirit owe a lot to Russ Huse.

President's Message --Allen Jones

Recently completing the Group annual report impressed me with the many people and agencies that support CLMRG in various ways. We were joined on 5 of last year's operations by helos and crews from Naval Air Facility (NAF), China Lake. They were directly responsible for locating and/or evacuating 11 persons from various mountain predicaments. Their ready response (with off-duty pilots and crews often volunteering on their own time), expertise, and availability for joint 'helitac' practices greatly enhance our rescue capability. Of the 2212 total man hours spent on 1974 SAR operations, 17% was granted as excused time by the Naval Weapons Center and the local business community. This liberal policy insures CLMRG of being able to respond with the necessary manpower for any SAR operation.

Staff members of Ridgecrest Community Hospital, many on their own time, taught an Emergency Medical Technician course this past spring. This, along with courses offered by the American Red Cross and Heart Association, provide CLMRG with the latest in First Aid training.

As in the past, 1974 found CLMRG receiving excellent cooperation from the various officials and other SAR groups that call for our services. Fourteen times this past year, CLMRG was on alert or enroute for a SAR operation when it was called off, usually with a positive outcome. We encourage an early alert--we'd much rather unpack or turn around than be called too late to be of help.

Our financial donors deserve special acknowledgement. Due to the generosity of our donors and all those who designated funds to CLMRG through United Way, we were able to return a portion of our allotment to that agency at year's end. These contributions enable CLMRG to acquire, maintain and replace the necessary SAR equipment.

On behalf of CLMRG, let me extend our sincere thanks to all those I've mentioned and any I've overlooked. Without your support and cooperation our task would be difficult, if not impossible.

Last, but certainly not least, a word to my fellow CLMRG'ers and families. Your response to my requests for help and the example you set in all group matters have been a great help--for that I'm sincerely grateful. It's been my privilege to serve as President this past year, and I'm sure my successor, Don Peterson, can look forward to the same dedication and cooperation in 1975.