



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

EDITOR: DIANNE LUCAS

APRIL 1975 #30

#### CALENDAR

- April 11-12 National Association of Search and Rescue Coordinators (NASARC) Council, Salt Lake City. Lee Lucas has more information (446-2387).
- April 12/13 Snow rescue and ice axe practice. Location and other details to be announced by Bob Westbrook (375-8371).
- April 14 Meeting, 317 Lenore (Green's), in Ridgecrest
- April 19-20 Pear Lake ski and snowshoe trip. We'll try to take an extra day, so call me (Dianne Lucas; 446-2387) ASAP if you're interested. Also, we have been asked to participate in the Scout SAR Conference in LA. Let Liz Anderson (446-2849) know if you are willing to go.
- April 26/27 Desert peak (possibly Argus). Call Dennis Burge (446-5359) for further details.
- May 3 California Region MRA meeting in Montrose.
- May 4 Rock climbing on Owens Ridge. Call Al Green (375-8012)
- May 12 Meeting, 700-B Nimitz, C/L (Heller's)
- May 17 Armed Forces Day (tentative)
- May 17-18 CRMRA Seminar -- Buckhorn Camp. Nick Bottka is in charge of our group's participation (375-9166).
- May 24-26 Brewer-- talk to Bob Rockwell (375-2532) if you're interested
- Jun 7-8 MRA Spring Meeting--Mt. Hood (Oregon). Al Jones (446-3360) will have more information.
- Jun 7-8 Gilbert, Johnson--see Fred Camphausen for details. (446-5643)
- Jun 9 Meeting, 607 Randall, R/C (Rockwell's)

## OPERATIONS

#7502 Transit, Navy man stranded at Robber's Roost, 8 February . . . Carl Heller

We were put on alert at 1545. I called for a general mobilization at the hut. The confirming call came at about 1610, and we learned that an 18-year-old was stranded at Robber's Roost. I drove to the hut, picked up three people and raced toward the Roost. Kern County Deputy Grimes met us on the aqueduct road and reported that the sailor's friends had gotten a rope to him from above.

Steve Prosser had climbed high on the rock to fly a model glider--probably around the "waterfall" route--and became stranded. Curt Barker drove from the Roost to Inyokern and notified the Ridgecrest Police--no callback number was taken. Deputy Grimes drove out, asking the China Lake Police to contact us. After getting the IWV Search and Rescue Team first, they finally called me.

### Comments:

- 1) There is still some confusion in the minds of the deputies and police, between the functions of the IWV team and ourselves.
- 2) The position of our hut, now behind the new fence, adds 10 minutes or more to travel time, which *is* important in some operations. When an operation *is* outside working hours, even more time is added checking through the sentry.
- 3) I should have sent two people straight from their homes to the Roost on the first call.
- 4) Those who remember an incident on Owen's Peak where two inexperienced sailors used a rope--and one fell to his death--are glad this incident ended more happily.

#7503 Rescue, Great Falls Basin, 14-15 February ..... Carl Heller

We've never practiced stretcher lowerings down a running waterfall, but now we know how. It all started when Tony Batista (21) of Trona went for a walk on his crutches and leg cast around Great Falls Basin, north of Trona. He *was* looking for his dog, and somehow managed to get up a few hundred feet and find the dog. He then fell, or *was* pushed by the excited and grateful dog, into the box canyon, injuring and stranding himself. Mike Sizemore and ?Christley heard Tony's calls for help from the parking area. While Christley went for help, Sizemore attempted to reach Batista and also became stranded. Two ambulance attendants from Trona (called by Christley) downclimbed the canyon to reach Tony and give him first aid, but were also stranded, having slid down a 6" water pipe and a smooth section of rock. Meanwhile, the Southern Inyo Search and Rescue Team was notified, got two climbers (Jim Mitchell and Jim Rodosevitch) started, and asked the Inyo County Sheriff to call us.

The call came to me at 1851 and I had Marlene and Sheila mobilize everyone available. An advance team left the hut for Trona before 1930, and three other teams left within 15 minutes. At base camp (2015) we learned that the victim was up the box canyon above a 150' scramble and two short but unscalable waterfalls. Mitchell and Rodosevitch had ascended on the south side of the canyon, rappelled into it and past the victim, down the upper waterfall by daylight, had left a rope on the upper waterfall, and by now had pulled a stretcher above the lower waterfall. Our advance team of Green, Rockwell, Lucas and Peterson were guided above the canyon and eventually rappelled to Tony at 2137.

Meanwhile eight of us went up to the base of the lower waterfall. Dave Brown and Frank Buffum made a wet jumar, getting a radio and ropes up to the center bench. This put eight people on top, four on the bench, several at the base of the lower falls and a small crowd at base camp.

Continued . .

Great Falls Basin, continued...

The old water pipe and rock bolts gave plenty of anchors, but also presented dangerous snags. Al Green had a difficult task on the first lowering with a horizontal rig. On the second he decided to go vertical. Any delays would get everything water-soaked and could be dangerous. Tony was wrapped in Mike Walters' poncho and Al made the descent in 15 seconds. People waded out and had the stretcher flat quickly and down the last 100' of rock scramble with a single line and brake. An ambulance was away with Tony at 0015, but it took 11 hours to get everyone down through the waterfalls. After the 35 minute drive home, we left our wet gear to dry all over the hut, reaching home at 0240. CLMRG participants not yet mentioned were Harris, Joy, Moore, Dixon and Hirschy.

Tony was admitted to the Ridgecrest Community Hospital for observation and was released on 18 February with a broken toe.

Comments:

- 1) We did a good job in unknown terrain in the dark.
- 2) Our present hut location again cost us ten minutes. We need to try for a new location.
- 3) Great Falls Basin might be a good place for rock climbing and familiarization.

#7504 Search, Haiwee Canyon, 15 March ..... Carl Heller

Three Bay area students came to the desert to enjoy a backpack up the Haiwee Pass trail. Monday night winds ripped away their tube tent, and rain soaked their sleeping bags. Cold, wet and unable to start a fire, the oldest boy, Bill Taylor (16), walked out in the morning and asked for help. From his report, Deputy Dick Muldoon thought the two youngsters, Bill Whittaker (15) and Erick Redse (13), might be in the initial stages of hypothermia.

I agreed when he phoned me at 0941 and also agreed that a fast response would be prudent. Dick and his partner, John Little, started up the trail while we mobilized for our 50 mile drive. They had a little trouble finding the boys' off-trail camp, but finally their shots were answered by a whistle. Muldoon and Little started a fire, helped gather the wind-scattered camping gear and had the boys on the trail as our advance team approached the camp. At the roadhead the boys appeared in good condition as the sun chased away the wet snowflakes.

CLMRG participants were: Stronge, Heller, Green, Rockwell, Lucas, Burge, Bottka, Peterson, Camphausen, Harris, Hinman, Moore, Brown, Warschauer, Garner, Robbins and Dixon.

Comment: This was an interesting situation in which the two younger boys couldn't or wouldn't simply walk the two miles out to their car. Eventually they did, but only with some encouragement. We wondered how much of their problem was physical and how much psychological. The physical problem of hypothermia may account for part of their attitude. Apparently their hands were numb so they couldn't handle the scattered camping gear, and their ability to think rationally may also have been affected by the cold. The reason they didn't succumb completely may have been due to the air temperature rising despite the clouds and snow flurries.

Psychologically, they thought they were 5 miles in rather than the actual 2 miles and may not have realized how much easier the downhill walk would be. Also they may not have wanted to abandon their gear. Certainly it is a little sobering to realize that people can give up any attempt to save their own lives in a situation that seems so trivial.

#7505 Search, Yosemite (Badger Pass), 5-6 April Al Green

Don Peterson woke me at 0300 Saturday morning and had to repeat everything twice (as I recall) regarding this call out. Not having a credible excuse, I accepted the team leader responsibility and asked Don to get a telephoner to call the top end of the roster. The weather was reported to be severe and we wanted experienced people--the Park Service had enough trouble already. Lee Lucas, David Brown, and Terry Moore wound up headed for Yosemite with me at 0445.

A 68-year-old man, Edgar Gordon, had been missing since about noon on Friday. He had been skiing (Nordic) with his son from Badger Pass to Dewey Point. The NPS search Friday evening and night was not successful and considerable snow was falling (about 12"). We arrived at 1230 Saturday and were put in the field on a perimeter trail immediately. A NPS coordinator *was* assigned to our team. That night we slept in the elementary school in the valley. Rick Smith (the NPS man in charge) wanted us back at Badger Pass at 0630 Sunday. We would have made it if a tree had not blown down on the valley road. As it turned out we were only a few minutes late. The snow storm had continued all night--up to two feet of fresh powder covered everything.

Rick Smith assigned a ranger coordinator to each MRA team, and sent us off to sweep trails and high probability areas. There were five MRA teams represented, with a total of about 26 MRA personnel. Our assignment was completed at 1445, and we left for home at 1515.

Comment: I believe that some procedural arrangement should be worked out with Yosemite NPS to utilize the MRA on searches. The MRA radio net was not used at all. The MRA experience at base camp coordination was not used. Also, the NPS coordinator with each MRA team may or may not be the way to optimize the search coverage.

TRAINING -- Stretcher Practice, Great Falls Basin, 29 March . . . Lee Lucas

Because of a midnight rescue (see operation report #7503) in this steep-walled canyon, we decided to return in the daylight and have a better look. Saturday morning was spent practicing with our back-packable stretchers. We divided into two teams. Each team did several lowerings down the vertical rock faces on either side of the canyon mouth. One team also rigged a 3:1 mechanical advantage and hoisted the stretcher and attendant back up the face.

After lunch teams hiked up each rim of the canyon toward Argus Peak. We met in the basin above the waterfalls and started down. Three hours and five rappels later we emerged from the canyon. The last rappel ends in a 2-foot deep pool of water. This pool was made deeper by a dam gleefully erected by the first people down. Most of us had a chance to try the large 8-ring made by Russ Anderson of Sierra Madre. It is definitely superior to brake bar setups for rappels.

For the record, Great Falls basin has seven waterfalls and contains water nearly all year. The canyon can be entered above the top (7th) waterfall class 2 from either side and below the 7th fall on the north side class 3. A trail goes up the south rim. The bottom waterfall is bypassed by a trail on the north. Descents of the falls are: 7th--30' rappel; 6th--slide down 12' long pipe (handline useful); 5th--20' wet rappel; 4th--45' rappel; 3rd--40' rappel; 2nd--35' rappel ends in pool; 1st--by pass on north. All rappels are vertical or overhung. Anchors are plentiful, since the canyon is studded with bolts. An old 5-inch pipe runs from the 5th to 2nd falls. Participants were Heller, Green, Lucas, Camphausen, Harris, Joy, Robbins, Dixon, Walters, Mason, T. Stogsdill, Bohanan, B. Stogsdill and Lauer. We were joined by Jim Mitchell, Wayne Boutzdale and several others from the Southern Inyo team in Trona.

Donors

We would like to thank

Robert B. Cates  
Shelley and Jim Mercer

for their recent donations to the CLMRG.

Public Education

Carol Burge received this nice note after showing the "Lost Child" slide show to Brownie Troop 200. Although this slide show is primarily for parents, it has proved quite popular with the youngsters as well!

*Dear Mrs. Burge,  
Thank you for coming to our troop! And for giving us the whistle and little green book. The film was nice. Love, Troop 200*

Aerobics on Lone Butte ("B" Mountain)

Here, for all you faithful followers of Dr. Cooper's aerobics point system, is Carl Heller's estimate of how many points you earn when you climb B Mountain, based on how long it takes you to get to the top and how much weight you have in your pack. So far these figures are not adjusted for age, sex, etc. Carl is interested in data points (how long does it take you?) for his 'research'.

Trail 1030'								
Weight (lbs.)		0	10	20	30	40	50	60
Time (min.)								
-36		9	11	13	16	18	20	22
36-45					12	15	16	18
45-54					9	12	13	14

West Buttress Route 1100'		(Equivalent to 3½ miles)				
Weight (lbs.)		0	10	20	30	40
Time(min.)						
22 3/4-28		17½	21	25	30	36
28 -35		14	17	20	24	28
35 -42		10½	13	16	19	23
42 -50		7	10	12	14	17

## Techniques Note

With a stationary brake system of stretcher lowering and raising such as we use, friction where the stretcher ropes run over a cliff edge has always been a problem. We have recently found that a sheet of 5 mil aluminum foil placed under the ropes where they pass over the edge is an excellent friction-reducer in both lowering and raising situations. It works much better than such things as carpet and packs which we have used, and it has the added advantage of being lightweight.

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