



CHINA LAKE MOUNTAIN RESCUE GROUP

P.O. BOX 5773

CHINA LAKE, CALIFORNIA 93555

EDITOR: DIANNE LUCAS

JULY 1975 #31

CALENDAR

- July 14 Meeting - Brown's new house (ask Dave for a map!) Bohanan assisting.
- July 19-20 Vacation Peak scheduled, but fairly remote due to Bighorn Sheep restrictions. Call D. Lucas (446-2387) if you have a better idea.
- July 19 We're participating in a SAR demonstration sponsored by Inyo Co. Sheriff's Dept.--also a chance to ride up in a C-130, and work out coordination with AFRRS March AFB. Lee Lucas has details.
- July 26-27 Clyde Minaret--Daryl Hinman (446-5242)
- Aug 2-3 Mt. Whitney, East Face routes--Ron Atkins (375-5437)
- Aug 9-10 Mt. Keith--Bob Joy (375-8171)
- Aug 11 Meeting - Bottka, 706 Randall, R/C - Garner assisting.
- Aug 16-17 Mt. Lyell--Dave Brown (375-8744)
- Aug 30-Sep 1 Kaweahs--Liz Anderson (446-2849)
- Sep 6-7 Tracking, San Diego--Harris (446-5074)
- Sep 8 Meeting - Lucas, 7-B Wasp Circle, C/L - Hinman. assisting.
- Sep 13-14 Matterhorn/Whorl - Camphausen (446-5643)

FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO CLIMB TELESCOPE PEAK Dianne Lucas
Four dedicated (i.e. crazy?) CLMRG climbers encountered a hitch in their plans to climb Telescope Peak from Shorty's Well recently, when they discovered that the entire road along the west side of Death Valley was locked shut. After a 9 p.m. start (from the gate at the north end of the road--they decided the walking would be easier than the shorter, cross-country walk from Badwater) they trudged into Mahogany Flat at elevenish the next night. LESSON: If you have an inclination to do this sort of thing, find out in advance if the road is open and arrange to get a key. I found out later that the rangers will issue keys to "people that are knowledgeable of the dangers and who have the equipment needed to survive".

7506 Search above Kennedy Meadows, 27 May Lee Lucas

This operation may be subtitled "the snipe hunt", since the subjects drove home without ever being seen by the searchers. I received a call about 0930 from Jim Maclay of the Sierra Madre team that a friend, Ted Meyers (56) and son Rick (32) were overdue from a backpack/fishing trip in the Kennedy Meadows area. I asked Sheila to get people with a 4WD to investigate, and to put other CLMRG people on alert.

The next hour alerted TerHeun for a CAP flight to locate the Meyers' vehicle, checked with the Forest Service at Kernville, contacted Lt. Teller of the Tulare Sheriffs office, alerted NAF about a possible helo flight while Sheila called two more people.

The advance team (Bottka, Camphausen and Joy) set up the KAAR base and directional antenna at the hut, and left for Kennedy Meadows at 1045. At the hut at 1130 the second team of Green and Peterson took the Mocom base and omni antenna (in the event we might have to move base). They planned to meet Inyo deputy Muldoon from Olancha at Kennedy Meadows.

Since we might have to comb the South Fork of the Kern from Monache Meadows to Dutch John Flat, I asked Sheila to get everyone to the hut for a 1330 briefing-- Jones and Heller joined me at 1315 at the hut.

Before CAP mission pilot Turner and observer Ammerman left for Inyokern at 1315, we had a second operation to worry about (see No. 7507). Things became hectic, two operations from one base at the hut, although Harris and Anderson arrived to assist.

At 1420 Green radioed that the advance team had located the Meyers' vehicle at 1300 on the road above Troy Meadows near the Black Rock Ranger Station. Forest Service people had talked with two backpackers matching the description of Ted and Rick Meyers in Smith Meadows around noon. The Meyers planned to hike south along Fish Creek to their vehicle. The CAP plane, which had just taken off, was diverted to the other search.

We felt we should stay with the Meyers search until the subjects actually showed up at their car. Green, at the head of 9-mile Canyon to get radio contact with base, went back to confer with Bottka at the Ranger station. Bottka and Joy stayed at the Meyers' car. The other three headed home with radios that we might need for the second operation.

About 1500, Deputy Montgomery at Fairview called with information that the subjects were out and on their way home. As it turned out, that information was not correct. Ted and Rick Meyers did not reach their car until 1810, after doubling back via Beach Meadows, missing Bottka and Joy, who were searching up Fish Creek. Base camp learned of this at 1930, too late to intercept the Meyers' on their way home. They had extended their fishing trip from two to three days, not considering themselves lost or overdue. Additional members responding: Westbrook, Buffum, Moore, Gamer, Dixon, Gleeson, Adams, Hirschy, Mason, Stogsdill, Bohanan, and Lauer.

Comments:

1. Two vehicles, a fixed wing and the whole team mobilized may have been an over-reaction to the problem: two fishermen, well equipped and overdue just one night in mild weather. But we were acting on Ted Meyers' reputation as a reliable outdoorsman who always met his timetables. One of the subjects reportedly told the Forest Service people that their wives had been warned that they might stay "an extra day or two". This was not the understanding that Maclay got from an anxious Mrs. Meyers. A written trip plan would have saved Mrs. Meyers worry.
2. An early decision that a radio on Bald Mountain was unnecessary for this low-key effort may have been wrong. Poor communications hampered coordination of this search. An hour's delay in getting word to Base that subjects had been seen in good condition at Smith Meadow resulted in launching an aircraft needlessly. Also, the two vehicles up on the plateau were unable to talk to each other when more than a couple of miles apart. A relay radio on Bald Mountain would have saved time and road mileage.
3. The topo maps are very misleading as to roads in this area. There has been much construction since the mid 50s when the maps were published. The Sequoia forest map is up to date. Also, the packer at Troy Meadows is very knowledgeable of local roads and trails and is willing to help.
4. Diverting a CAP plane in mid-flight from one mission to another is a no-no without first clearing it through the CAP coordinator. CAP must have a mission number from the Rescue Coordination Center for the mission they are flying in order to have insurance coverage.
5. Staying with the operation until the subjects are confirmed safe by searchers on the scene is generally a good idea. This is especially true of the Kern Plateau area above Nine-Mile Canyon, where no one - Sheriff, Forest Service, or BLM - has full-time people on duty.

#7507 Search and Rescue, N. Kern River, 27 May Carl Heller

In the middle of the Meyers search, we were phoned at 1330 by Deputy Allen Montgomery at Fairview to assist in finding a lost backpacker. Ed Fohler (32) was with two friends, hiking to Durrwood Camp on the Rincon Trail. They had lost their way Saturday and had descended to the Kern River, south of Durrwood Camp and about opposite Peppermint Creek. Fohler became separated, and his friends were rescued by rope from across the river by Forest Service people. They reported Fohler's plight to the Deputy. At this time, of course, no one knew where Fohler was, and Montgomery expressed fears of having to search from the river up to Beach Meadows.

My appraisal suggested air support, and we used the CAP plane already in the air for the Meyers search. Turner flew the length of the Rincon Trail. A Navy helicopter, flown by Lt. Col. Don Miller, took our team of Buffum, Dixon, Garner and Brown to Fairview to find Fohler's last known location and begin tracking him. The helo flew the canyon with Buffum and Dixon aboard and spotted first the abandoned packs of the group, and then Fohler, who had worked his way back and was waiting for rescue.

Fohler was pulled into the helo by horsecollar hoist from a sandbar. Then Frank heroically jumped from a skid into the river and waded ashore to rescue the packs. Lt. Col. Miller was doing a difficult job of hovering above the roaring river in the turbulent air close to the trees and cliffs. But all went well and at 1635 we learned by telephone that the rescue was over--just in time to stop another crew of Lucas, Adams, Moore and Gleeson from taking off on a helo with Lt. Ian Refo and a ground crew of Heller, Jones, Westbrook, Atkins and Stogsdill from driving over. The helo got its team back at 1730.

Comments:

1. If the Kern County or Forest Service helos had been available, we probably wouldn't have been needed.
2. This area of the Kern is rugged and is attracting more people--this is our third operation between Pyles Camp and the highway bridge. Perhaps we should plan some climbing trips along the Kern's cliffs to get better acquainted with the area.
3. Our trackers were disappointed. Dave Brown had visions of following class 5 tracks on class 5.5 rock!
4. The CAP planes are not good for searching for people in this type of terrain. However with a good radio they can, and are willing to, provide a relay into the Kern Plateau from China Lake. This communication problem is really important, as Lucas and Green can testify from the Meyers search.

#7508 Search, Colusa Co., Three Lost Children, 9-10 June Don Harris

At 0602 Monday 9 June, I received a call from Dianne Lucas that three children were missing overnight from Letts Lake in Colusa County. Bay Area MRU was requesting Region assistance via Daryl White of the San Diego team. While Daryl was trying to get air transportation from AFRCC without success, Sierra Madre was able to arrange for transportation from the Air National Guard at Van Nuys.

At about 1230 a C-130 with The Sierra Madre team and their communications van, and Dennis Kelley from Montrose, arrived at NAF to pick up our team of Westbrook, Brown, Dixon, Robbins and myself. We were flown to McClellan AFB, Sacramento; then the USAF flew us to Colusa in a helo. Colusa County Sheriff's Deputies gave us a ride to the search area, about 30 miles west of Maxwell. As we drove through Maxwell, we heard over the radio that the two older children (James Wanzie, 11, and Rajnell Ettel, 9) had walked out about nine miles from Letts Lake. They had left the youngest (Edward Ettel, 7) about four hours ago.

Colusa County Search, continued...

When we arrived at about 1830 where the two had walked out, we found no sign of a base camp or anyone who knew what was going on. San Diego and the Border Patrol, arriving just ahead of us, were backtracking the older two children. It was suggested that the other MRA teams run out all drainages from Letts Lake toward the backtrackers. On the road to Letts Lake, our driver stopped to give us a view of the search area. We decided that instead of starting at the top of the mountain, CLMRG would cut straight across the area. If we crossed three sets of children's tracks, then Edward was between us and the backtrackers. If we cut only two, then Edward was above us. We cut the tracks about 6 feet from where they went down a steep bank to the stream. As we were trying to count the tracks, we heard over the radio that James Wanzie had said that they separated where they went down a steep bank to the stream. That's where we were!! Moments later, Roland Robbins heard Edward call. Edward was found about 150' above the stream. Tracks indicated that an adult had been down the canyon between Edward and the stream only hours before. By 2030 we had Edward on board a helo for a ride out.

After a long drive out to Maxwell and a critique, starting at 0200, we got some sleep--at least somebody did, by the sound of the snoring! Up at 0600 for breakfast and a ride to Sacramento by church bus, we arrived at McClellan by 0900. After a three hour wait for the National Guard C-130's, we were told that we needed to be listed on a passenger manifest. Now they tell us! All we had to do was to get everybody's name, serial number, have our baggage inspected, and give them a copy of our travel orders!! Since of course there were no travel orders, and our packs contained just about everything on the list of items not allowed on aircraft, we had a bit of a problem. Finally, after two hours of negotiations, the pilots came in and signed for us as cargo "as is". After an hour's flight, we were back at NAF.

#7509 Rescue, Litter evacuation by Helo, 10 June Bill Stronge (Excerpts from CLMRG OPERATION SUMMARY)

Subject: Kevin Knudson, 13, of Bakersfield.
 Problem: Fell while scrambling, an estimated 20 feet onto hard-packed sand. Injuries: Broken tibia or ankle - splinted. Location: Manter Meadows, Domeland, Tulare County. Officer in Charge: Deputy Windsor

Agency: Sheriff

1900 CLMRG called	Participating Groups	Number
1930 Advance team on way	NAF helo crew	4
2030 Subject in helo	CLMRG	5
2130 Subject in hospital		

#7510 Search, Thousand Island Lakes, 27 June Fred Camphausen

On Friday, 27 June, Fred Camphausen, Daryl Hinman and Ron Bohanan joined in a search for Karen Johnson (21) and her brother Bryan (16), who had been missing since the previous Monday in the vicinity of Thousand Island Lake, near Mammoth. The pair was found shortly after the CLMRG team arrived on the scene. They were some distance from their planned route, but in good condition, despite a summer storm that featured snow and high winds.

#7511 Alert, Baja, 30 JuneBill Stronge

Helitac Briefing, 15 May

Lee Lucas

Members gathered at the Operations Hut for a helitac practice to learn that the Huey was not flying that day. However, LCdr Rij and (?) "Zeke" briefed us on helitac procedures. Besides the familiar "keep clear of the tail rotor" and "follow directions of the pilot and crew chief", I picked up two things I didn't know:

1. The doors are made to be kicked out and will not hold you in the bird--stay tied in at all times.
2. Rotor thrust will pull the helo over at 17° maximum tilt, so a helispot really has to be almost level--or suitable for a one-skid hover.

Other items of review: Main rotor cuts 44' circle so make big helispots; keep ground-to-air signals simple (not fancy like in helirescue manual); take off pack just before entering helo; when being hoisted, don't try to help yourself into the helo--you may accidentally hit the guillotine switch; when off-loading on a ridge you may have to go class 3 over the side to avoid main rotor uphill and tail rotor downhill; take our own break-down stokes litter, even if helo crew says they already have one (theirs is not rigged like ours). The helo practice was rescheduled for 20 May.

Present: Stronge, Heller, Lucas, Westbrook, Bottka, Peterson, Camphausen, Harris, Joy, Hinman, Moore, Brown, Atkins, Warschauer, Dixon, Tanner, Adams, Walters, Mason, Stogsdill.

Sheriff's Seminar -- Critique of "Where's Bobby?"

Lee Lucas

For the 1975 Kern County Sheriff's SAR Seminar CLMRG demonstrated search base camp organization and operation. To give base camp something to do, Dennis took his son Bobby and got lost. We then had an hour to set up base, deploy teams and find Bobby. We didn't make it.

The search took place in a campground in the Greenhorns. The area was laced with roads--existing maps were of little value. One team (and possibly two) crossed subjects' tracks without seeing them. Later, several of us went back and cut these tracks with little difficulty. As operation leader on this exercise I learned:

1. Don't mix trackers and non-trackers to get more tracking teams. Use best trackers together to cut perimeters and investigate last seen location. Use non-trackers for blocking and hasty search assignments.
2. Don't try to cut perimeters along blacktop roads (just because they are on map) when dirt roads are nearby.
3. Cut several concentric perimeters around the last seen point, in case one team misses the subject track.
4. Before sending teams into the field, put numbers and letters on all copies of maps, so base can keep track of where teams are.

Our subject information form needs to be revised to emphasize subject description, habits, psychology and experience. Participants were: Stronge, Heller, Green, Lucas, Camphausen, Harris, Joy, Sweatt, Brown, Atkins, Garner, Robbins, Adams and Walters.

QUALIFICATIONS

We welcome Lloyd Brubaker as a Special Skills Support member. Lloyd is an amateur radio operator, and is the emergency coordinator for the Amateur Radio Relay League in this area. We're also glad to have Hank Snell, Richard Davis and Brent Stogsdill as new trainees.

Roland Robbins, one of our intrepid trackers, is now on Special Skills Support, and Pete Woodman and Bill Sweatt are back on the Rescue team for the summer. Doug Warschauer *is* inactive--he's in Washington D.C. for six months.

FINANCIAL

We apologize to Stan and Lolette Dalbec for omitting them from our list of donors in the last issue of the Talus Pile. Our recent donors have been:

Robert M. Trousdale	Ruth Redse	Ken Seaman
Fred Camphausen	Arold Green	

CLMRG is a member team of the California Region MRA. At present, the Cal/MRA President is from China Lake, Other CLMRG members have also held regional offices. On occasion CLMRG members attend national MRA meetings or SAP-related conferences. All these activities are part of the structure that makes Mountain Rescue a practical way of operating.

At the 9 June CLMRG meeting, a special fund was established (contributed to by interested members) to help defray travel expenses of members involved in region or national MRA meetings. Thus, funds from United Way and other donors would be used only for expenses more directly related to rescue operations.

First Aid -- UPCOMING COURSES

Month	Course	Hours	Instructor	Place	Date	Day	Time
July	CPR	8	Lucas	ARC	10 July	Thursday	1900-2100
Aug	Std (Multimedia)	8	J. Westbrook	Cerro Coso	27 Aug	Wednesday	1700-1900
	CPR	9	Holley	ARC			
	Std	14	Westbrook	CC	28 Aug	Thursday	1900-2100
Sep	EMT	81	Forrand	CC			
	Inst. (Prof. Teacher)	4	Heller	ARC	6 Sep	Saturday	0800-1200
Oct	ADV (portion)	10	Camphausen	ARC			1900-2100
	Std (Multimedia)	8	Westbrook	CC	28 Oct	Tuesday	1700-1900
	Instructor, vol:CPR	12	Heller	ARC		Tuesday	1900-2100
	Std Adv						
Nov	CPR	9	Wilson	ARC			
	Std (Multimedia)	8	Westbrook	CC	3 Nov	Monday	1230-1430

PUBLIC EDUCATION

Elizabeth Anderson

The Public Education Committee announces happily that we (CLMRG) now have our own copy of the movie "The Thermal Wilderness". Several members were involved in the opening scene of the movie, as hikers in Indian Wells Canyon. NAF personnel are in another brief scene. The story tells of hikers who suffer various forms of disorders caused by heat.

The movie is available for use by persons and organizations who need programs on wilderness safety. Call Elizabeth Anderson (939-3908 or 446-2849) to schedule the film. Later we hope to store it with the Safety Department.

SOCIAL NOTE

Charter member, John Ohl, announces a great change in his life. After years devoted to mountaineering, skiing, and wandering in the wilderness, John has adventured into marriage. John and his wife Virginia are the only 2 people who are not surprised!

All of John's "climbing friends" wish him -- and Virginia--all kinds of happiness.