

CHINA LAKE MOUNTAIN RESCUE GROUP  
P.O. BOX 2037  
RIDGECREST  
CALIFORNIA  
93555

JUNE 1977

#37

CALENDAR for June and July

JUNE 4-5	Region Search/Tracking workshop (See first Operation Report in next issue!)
11	Olancha Peak
13	Meeting, 246 Sierra Vista RC          Atkins, 375-5437
14 (Tuesday)	B Mountain climbing class + instructors
18-19	MRA meeting (Oregon)
JULY 2-4	Darwin Canyon area (Darwin, Mendel, Lamarck)
9-10	Thor Peak, 2 separate class trips
11	Meeting, 624 Randall RC          Burge, 375-7967
16-17	Meysan Canyon, Dragon Peak, class trips
23-24	Bear Creek Spire
30-31	Mt Whitney, North Fork routes

DONORS

Our thanks to donors Elizabeth Henry and C.E. Meinhardt

Life Membership in the China Lake Mountain Rescue Group

Bob Rockwell.

In the years since CLMRG was formed, many people have helped us in various ways. Some as rescue team members and some by providing us with services and favors of different kinds. We deeply appreciate each of our many supporters.

In order to provide some measure of recognition to those who really stand out among all our friends, we have instituted a LIFE MEMBER category in CLMRG. We have taken a considerable period of time to decide how restrictive the qualifications for LIFE MEMBERSHIP should be, and how extensive the benefits. The upshot of approximately

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three years of discussion on the subject has resulted in the following ten people being honored in this new category:

GEORGE BARNES - George joined CLMRG shortly after the Group was formed. A member for seven years, he was very active on field operations and was a leader in the Group. After leaving China Lake George formed the Bay Area Mountain Rescue Unit.

TOM CHAPMAN - Formerly with the Safety Department of NWC, Tom was instrumental in obtaining equipment for us. By using our slide shows in Safety sessions for the Navy, he did a lot to publicize our Group. Tom has given us many personal donations over the years.

RUSS HUSE - A charter member of CLMRG, Russ was active until his retirement in 1975. He was chairman of the Public Relations Committee for many years.

JIM NICHOLS - A longtime member of CLMRG, Jim was president for two terms and was very active in First Aid Training.

GEORGE O'GRADY, USA - George flew several missions with us while stationed at NWC. He helped get helo practices started. He and Jack Pipa have been CLMRG's friends among the helo pilots.

JOHN OHL - Instrumental in forming the California Region of MRA, John was a charter member of CLMRG. He was an active First Aid Instructor, and did considerable work in maintaining our equipment.

JACK PIPA, USMC (ret.) - Jack has flown us on many SAR missions, several quite difficult. He helped in many ways to enhance our helo skills. He and George O'Grady advanced our strength in this respect by several notches.

BERNIE SWORD - Associated with Civil Defense, Bernie was instrumental in getting us space in our rescue hut, plus some equipment. He brought us into Civil Defense so we would be covered by workmen's compensation on SAR missions.

RAY VAN AKEN - A charter member of CLMRG, Ray taught other early members their first rock climbing skills.. He was instrumental in getting United Way support for CLMRG. Ray has continued to help publicize our Group even though he is no longer active in search and rescue.

SAM VAN GUNDY - A former Operations Officer at the Naval Air Facility, Sam did much to establish good relations between NWC and local SAR groups. He helped develop the Navy's willingness to call us on mountain SAR missions.

These people, and others so designated in the future, will each receive a lifetime subscription to the Talus Pile, a letter of notification and commendation, and a suitable certificate.

As part of this policy for recognizing our special friends, the Group also decided to present extended subscriptions of the Talus Pile to anyone who gives a donation of \$100 or more. This amount could be a onetime donation or...

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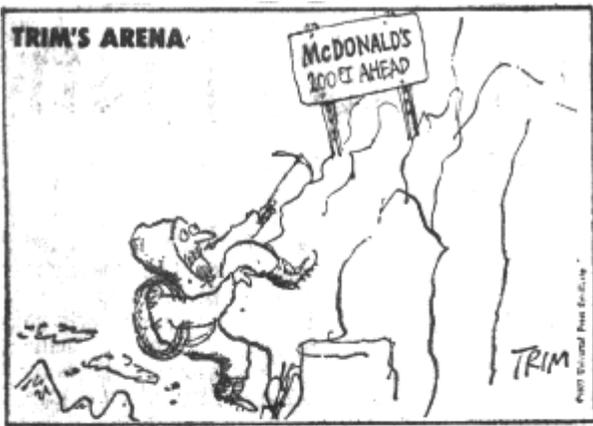
Life Membership, continued....

several smaller ones given over a period of time. The donor would receive the Talus Pile for as long as he desires. (All donors receive the Talus Pile for the year after their donation).

Periodically the Talus Pile mailing list is reviewed and is altered occasionally in reference to cash donations. Spring 1977 is one of these periods. To those of you who are not in the category described as LIFE MEMBER, and who have not written to us recently: You can make sure you'll receive the Talus Pile by making a (small) donation in 1977 and following years.

FROM THE EDITOR'S CUBBYHOLE .....

Liz Anderson



Men who live in the mountains are substantially less likely to die of heart disease, a study published in the New England Journal of Medicine found. The researchers said it's probably because moving around at high altitudes takes more exertion. The differences weren't found in women.

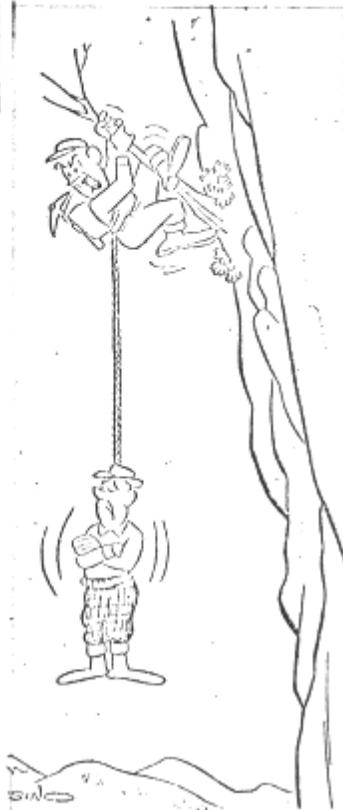
## Hiker Who set Record Dies

### BACK-TO-NATURE trend gains momentum as more campers hit the trail.

The National Park Service estimates there were more than 58 million outdoor campers in the U.S. last year, up from a scant 17 million 10 years ago. Solo backpacking—which is considered the "purest" form of roughing it—has an estimated 10 million adherents alone. For this year, the Park Service predicts 80 million Americans will answer the call of the wild.

Robert R. Jacobsen, superintendent of Shenandoah National Park in Virginia, says gains in leisure time, affluence and education levels all have contributed to an increased awareness of the wilderness. Development of lighter-weight camping gear and freeze-dried foods also encourages the camper. One company, Marshall Foods Inc., produces a six-ounce package of dehydrated eggs that is the equivalent of a dozen fresh eggs.

*The low cost of a camping vacation also is a powerful incentive, but it isn't the whole answer. Surveys by camping publications indicate their average reader is 30 years old and has an annual income of \$25,000.*



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FRESNO (AP)—Edward Quincer, noted for hiking the 219-mile John Muir Trail in a record four days and 22 hours, has died at a local hospital. He was 74.

Quincer, who accomplished this marathon hike in 1951, spent much of his life climbing in the Sierra Nevada and other ranges, a friend said.

There had been an accident and a woman moved through the crowd and started to kneel by the victim, only to be pushed aside by a man who said, "Step back—I've had a course in First Aid."

The woman stood a moment and watched the man fuss around, then tapped him on the shoulder and said, "When you get to the part about calling a doctor, I'm here."

—Dealer

CHINA LAKE MOUNTAIN RESCUE GROUP 1976 OPERATIONS

OP #	DATE	OPERATION	LOCATION	NO. OF MEMBERS	MAN HOURS	
					TOTAL	KWC EXCUSED
7500	10-13 Jan	Recovery for hiker, fatal fall	Picacho, Baja Calif., Mexico	3	195	16
2	5-7 Feb	Transit for six hikers, stranded	Half Dome, Yosemite NP	5	142	40
3	8-9 Feb	Alert for two 4WDs stuck	Long Valley, Tulare Co	11	6	-
4	3-4 Mar	Search for two overdue hikers	San Jacinto, Riverside Co	4	180	70
5	19-20 Mar	Search for lost cyclist (8 yrs)	Rand Mtns, Kern Co	16	151	-
6	27 Mar	Evacuation of sick hiker	Fish Cyn, LA Co	2	4	-
7	15 Apr	Alert for missing hiker	Cachuma Saddle, Santa Barbara Co	12	8	-
8	16 Apr	Evacuation of sick hiker	Meysan trail, Inyo Co	11	117	59
9	28 Apr	Search for plane crash victims	S of Bradley Pk, Tulare Co	12	206	96
10	10 May	Alert for missing hiker	Bearpaw Mdw, Sequoia NP	5	5	-
11	24 May	Search for lost hiker, found ok	N of Jordan Pk, Tulare Co	8	113	56
12	27 May	Recovery of air crash victims	Echo Pass, Inyo Co.	4	48	28
13	3-6 Jun	Search for overdue hiker, not found	Andreas Cyn, Riverside Co	11	434	40
14	6 Jun	Alert for pilot missing from glider crash	Racetrack, Inyo Co	1	1	-
15	8 Jun	Alert for overdue hikers & children	Bishop/Piute Pass, Inyo Co	2	2	-
16	18-19 Jun	Search for elderly hiker, found ok	Stoney Crk, Tulare Co	7	174	-
17	21 Jun	Search for lost hiker, found ok	Smith Cyn, Kern Co	15	180	71
18	21 Jun	Alert from BMRU, could not respond	?, Riverside Co	-	-	-
19	23 Jun	Alert for helo crash	Coyote Flat, Inyo Co	1	-	-
20	3 Jul	Alert for balloon crash	Funeral Range, Death Valley, Inyo Co	4	6	-
21	4 Jul	Alert for injured hiker	Monache Mdw, Tulare Co	1	1	-
22	4 Jul	Alert for overdue climbers	N Palisade, Inyo Co	4	6	-
23	6 Jul	Alert for 2 overdue fishermen	Kennedy Mdwe, Tulare Co	5	10	-
24	3 Aug	Alert for plane wreck - old wreck	Owens Pk, Kern Co	5	5	-
25	10 Aug	Alert for plane	Near Kearsarge Pass, Seq-Kings NP	1	1	-
7626	12-13 Aug	Transit for missing child	Lower Twin Lk, Mono Co	13	59	-
27	7 Sep	Recovery of fallen climber	Mt Abbot, Inyo Co	4	66	32
28	19 Sep	Alert for stranded hikers, false alarm	Bishop Cr, Inyo Co	5	5	-
29	30 Sep-1 Oct	Alert for overdue hiker, ok	Mt Whitney, Inyo Co	9	26	8
30	9 Oct	Rescue of stranded hiker	Great Falls Basin, Inyo Co	1	3	-
31	7-8 Nov	Rescue of injured hiker	Mt Whitney trail, Inyo Co	10	196	64
32	27-29 Nov	Recovery of climber, fatal fall	Fourth Recess, Fresno Co	7	306	56
33	29 Nov	Alert for overdue hikers	Mt Whitney, Inyo Co	7	4	-
34	29-31 Dec	Evacuation of two injured climbers	Mt Whitney trail, Inyo Co	16	301	88
35	30 Dec	Rescue incident, 3 hikers alt sick	Mt Whitney trail, Inyo Co	2	6	-

2967 724

Vehicle miles: 8845

Alerts 16 Transits 2

Rescues 5 Recoveries 4 Searches 7 Total field ops 17

Victims 22 ok 9 Injured 4 Dead 8 (5 in plane crashes) Not found 1

Editor's Note: On this issue's Operation numbers (77-?), I have tried to indicate that these are not the Group's Statistician's labeling. Everyone who might have the correct listing is away.. somewhere near Tonapah, Nevada.

77-03-? Alert 23 March Bob Rockwell

At 2100 hours Mike Elliott of the Inyo County Posse alerted CLMRG for two climbers overdue near Mt Gayley in the Palisades area. With a storm approaching, we were not looking forward to this operation. Nevertheless, twelve of our winter-experienced people were ready to go when the climbers fortunately showed up the next morning.

77-04-? Tahquitz Canyon Search 6&7 April Allen Jones

The call came Tuesday evening from Riverside MRU. They had been searching in Tahquitz Canyon since Monday noon for Derrick Bouma (19) who had not returned from a weekend hike. RMRU was asking other region teams to assist. Six from CLMRG joined teams from Sierra Madre and San Diego (including two Border Patrol trackers) at the Riverside base camp at 0500 Wednesday morning.

Teams were then deployed by helicopter and foot to various locations in the canyon to look for tracks, equipment and any other sign of Derrick. A good description of his footgear, backpack, tent etc. along with a description of his dog made everyone optimistic that he would soon be found. That afternoon his dog was located at about the 4000' elevation (this canyon ranges from approximately 500 to 8000'), and positively identified. The search was intensified in this area, but the day ended without a find.

The following day was essentially a frustrating repeat. A conference was held that evening with all teams and the sheriff's office represented. It was decided to suspend the large effort. RMRU would continue surveillance of the canyon and the interrogation of hikers leaving the canyon after the Easter holiday.

CLMRG team: Jones, Brown, Moore, Hunt, Renta, St. Denis

[Note: Derrick's body was found several days later in a pool of water, apparently a victim of a fall/drowning.]

Comments:

1. Base camp was efficiently operated by Jim Fairchild and John Dew of RMRU and Capt Canova of Riverside County Sheriff's Office. Maps were available for teams not familiar with the canyon. Two ridgetop relays along with the MRA frequency in the helo provided excellent communications. Several meals were graciously provided by the sheriff's office and a nearby Sambo's.

2. A five-place helicopter skillfully flown by Don Landell's was used extensively. One-skid landings on tight places were typical, putting our helitac training and experience to a good test. The many overflights of the canyon transporting teams provided lots of opportunity for "air searching". (Make sure your 'sight-seeing' is put to good use when flying over the search area.)

3. Tahquitz Canyon is a rugged, desert canyon with several hazards - waterfalls, steep polished rock, impure water, rattlesnakes, ticks, seasonal high temperatures, and sunbathers. [Be Prepared]. Sand collected at the base of dry waterfalls with steep confining walls make excellent 'track traps' [check them carefully].



QUALIFICATION IN CLMRG

Carl Heller

Occasionally a trainee asks how long it will take to qualify for Support. It can take years, but a thoughtful scheduling of practices can cut that time significantly. I have jotted down a schedule which would take only a few months.

INDOOR Basic Mountaineering Course	24 hours
Standard First Aid	14
Classes and meetings	
[radios, ELT, stretcher rigging]	20
Refresher First Aid [optional]	10
	70 hours

OUTDOOR	
Stretcher practice	1/2 day
Ice ax practice	
[perhaps at base camp]	1/2
Tracking	1/2
Owens Ridge [class 4-5 rope practice]	1/2
Le Conte, Middle Pal or Ritter [class 3]	2
Mountaineers Route on snow	
[snow and class 3]	2
Two operations	3 - 4
	<hr/>
	10 - 12 days

This schedule could be covered in three months. The snow practice and climbing seems to provide the main problem for many trainees. One needs to be aggressive in finding an opportunity to practice and climb on snow.

Another obstacle can be the two operations during the winter, since most trainees do not have winter clothing and equipment. However if a trainee gets this gear and a W after his name on the call roster he will be called.

The qualification requirements are meant to guide people into the proper training schedule so as to make them useful on operations. Read the list carefully and make up your own schedule in conjunction with the Group schedule. Consult training or qualification committee members to help design your own program. Participation on Group trips is important, because we want people on teams to know each other's skills and abilities. Keep in condition by a reasonable program of exercises. Very few will reach Support in 3 months, but 12 months should suffice for most members.

\* \* \* \* \*

One more issue of the Talus Pile ready for the printer..

CLMRG contributors: 6      Manhours: ?      Typing time: 4-1/2 hrs