



CHINA LAKE MOUNTAIN RESCUE GROUP  
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OCTOBER 1977

#38

CALENDAR for November and December

OCTOBER 29-30 Mendel, Darwin

NOVEMBER 5-6 Rescue/climbing practice/ ICE& SNOW on Dana Glacier

- 14 Regular meeting at Bob Joy's
- 21 Monday evening sign cutting practice
- 24-26 Picacho del Diablo

DECEMBER 3-4 Desert peak

- 12 Regular meeting at Campy's
- 19 Monday night, search & rescue practice
- 31 Happy New Year, hopefully on Mt Williamson

JANUARY 12 Regular meeting with elections

BOOK REVIEWS

MAN TRACKING, by Roland Robbins of CLMRG, published by Search and Rescue Magazine is on the market.

The text describes the uses and techniques of the Step-by-Step method of tracking as taught by the Border Patrol. Robby has written descriptions that cover many types of terrain, and warnings of the problems and pitfalls in the tracking game.

Robby put in some 400 hours of his time on the manuscript. In addition, he suffered from advice, criticism, and general static from his fellow trackers. But he has put together a thoughtful, carefully organized and clearly expressed book, with drawings and photographs to emphasize and enhance verbal descriptions.

All SAR team members who track or operate with trackers or possibly confuse trackers will be interested in this new publication.

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The BURNING OF BILLY TOOBER, by Jonathan Ross, is a police procedural mystery set in an English town. It has this description of any operation leader's dilemma: "Police cars were arriving now, and uniformed men saluting him, waiting on his instructions. If he was not to be too early immersed in the overwhelming detail of routine enquiries, he had to narrow his attention to the basics first and refuse to be pushed into considering initially unimportant matters."

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TRAINING Helitac Practice 13 July

Lee Lucas

CLMRG Participants: L. Lucas, Westbrook, Brown, Moore, Joy, Woodman, Stogsdill, Walters, Renta, Holden, Daniel, D.Lucas, Swanson.

Teams were flown to various spots on B-Mountain and clambered out of the hovering helo. Teams moved up mountain and selected pick up spots where hovering would again be required.

## Comments:

1. Pilot LCDR Dale Hahn made the practice as realistic as possible. He had scouted B-Mtn from the air for cliff areas to let us out. My particular crew dropped 5 feet to ground from the skid while helo hovered and blades cleared rocks with only a few feet to spare. Two crews selected very realistic pick up spots to see if pilot was willing to try them. He was.
2. We need to improve our gear handling. Wear packs and as much gear as convenient, to speed up getting on and off hovering helos. Many ropes caught on tie-down rings, because they were not properly coiled for helo loading. Whenever you return ropes to the hut, make sure they are properly coiled for transport.
3. We will practice with hoist next time.

OPERATIONS

The Editor's apologies for the gap between the last operation (29 May) in the June TALUS PILE and the first one in this issue. Our List-by-Grapevine was receiving only intermittently. The person who regularly lists operations (Bill Stronge) has been "climbing in Europe" for months, and his surrogate was hidden from us in the mists. As a weekend editor, we make the choice between (1) an incomplete TALUS PILE to the printer this week, and (2) a possible 100% accurate operation report sometime in the future. Cut for losses and publish, right?

00-00	1 June	Standby for lost hiker	Lucas
00-00	20 June	Evacuation stranded hikers, Trail Crest/Whitney Stronge	
00-00	? ? ? ?	(If Op Ldrs will send me reports immediately, it will help)	
77-13	16 June	Alert	Campy

1618 hrs: call from Sgt Baker ICSD, Bishop. Standby, rescue female hiker at 11,300 ft just S of Bishop Pass, possible head injury, helo arranged. Coord: Dianne Lucas, Jones, Harris, Buffum, Moore, Daniel, placed on standby.

2012 hrs: call from Mike Elliott, stand down. Subject evacuated to Bishop hospital by LeMoore helo, her injuries not serious.

77-14	15 August	Alert	Lost 70-year-old, Cottonwood Lakes	Lucas
77-15	15 August	Rescue stranded climbers	Mt Irvine	Ron Atkins

On Monday morning, I received a call from Mrs. Cowie that her son Tom was overdue from a weekend climb of Mt Whitney. She didn't know who he was climbing with or where they were climbing, but she thought they were going to climb Mt Whitney by one of the East Face routes.

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(Mt Irvine continues)

A call to Sgt Gaulen in Lone Pine dispatched a car to determine if Cowie's car was at the roadhead. Joann Garner called the roster to put CLMRG on alert. No permit had been issued to Tom by the Lone Pine office of the Forestry Service. Since Tom had recently been climbing with Geoff Nutting I called his work phone, and his supervisor said Geoff had not reported to work Monday morning. A quick recheck with the Forestry Service determined that a permit had been issued to Nutting on Saturday.

At 1230 I alerted LCDR Hahn at NAF of a possible SAR mission. A second call at 1430 to Sgt Gaulen determined that Cowie's car was at the road head. The team assembled at the hut at 1530. Earlier (1420) an advance team (Atkins, Heller, Brown, D Lucas and Holden) was airborne in the NAF SAR helo piloted by LCDR Hahn. A ground team of L Lucas, Harris, Buffum, Renta, St Denis and Swanson departed for Lone Pine at 1700.

The advance team examined the face route on Whitney from the helo. No climbers were seen, but two climbers were descending the Mountaineers route. The helo deposited Atkins, D Lucas and Holden along with winch and excess gear at the Whitney Portal Road. Heller and Brown were landed at East Face Lake where interrogation of climbers there determined that Cowie and Nutting were not in that area. Airborne again, the search was directed to Meysan Canyon. Hahn sighted a camp, and landed Heller and Brown. Clothing there had Nutting's name tag. The helo, low on fuel, returned to China Lake. As the noise from the departing helo quieted, voices were heard from the east face of Mt Irvine. Because of the failing light, the subjects were not visually located.

As Heller and Brown climbed, voice contact indicated that Cowie and Nutting were stranded on a ledge halfway up the face. Their rope had been summarily executed by a large falling block dislodged as they were descending. In the dark, the rescue team climbed up and past the ledge. and to the summit. Feeling that it was too dangerous to rappel down in the dark, they bivouacked on the summit ridge. The ground team had started up the trail at sundown. The radioed message about bivouacking reached us at 2400, and encouraged us to stop walking and sack out.

Tuesday and in threatening weather, Gene St Denis reached by Class 3 rock, a diagonal crack system one pitch below the victims. Atkins, D Lucas and Swanson joined him there. St Denis belayed by Lucas climbed up to the two young men with water, food and down parkas. It was raining and spitting ice crystals intermittently.

Gene set an anchor and lowered the victims 150 feet on an Eight-Ring, to a second anchor system, where they were lowered another 40 feet. They were belayed to the saddle above Meysan Lake on easy class 3 rock made slippery by rain. After hot soup at 1230, they were evacuated by NAF helo. The ground team was off the mountain (by foot) by 1600 for dinner in Lone Pine..and home to China Lake by 1930.

CLMRG hours: 350

NOTES:

1. A. Jones, the intown coordinator called for backup support. Sierra Madre, June Lake, and Bay Area teams responded. Bay Area was flown in by Civil Air Patrol aircraft - a first for an MRA operation.
2. The Inyo Posse couldn't respond. They were already committed to a search for a 72-year-old camper missing in the Cottonwood Basin. This victim was found, deceased, by tracking.

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Mt Irvine  
Notes continued..

3. When back-up teams arrived on Tuesday, it was obvious they were not needed on this operation. They were diverted to a concurrent operation. (Next report).

4. This operation underlines the lessons in Safety in the Mountains: Cowie and Nutting neglected to leave a trip plan, and to carry adequate food and clothing on their climb. Luck, the luxury of an available helicopter, and a certain amount of detective work by the members of the rescue team made possible a happy ending to the story.

77-16 16 August rescue, Keeler Needle Harris, by Anderson

Don Harris was running CLMRG Communications for the Mt Irvine operation, at the Lone Pine airport. By virtue of being on the spot, Harris became the coordinator for a second operation in the Whitney area.

At 0500, 16 August, a rock "the size of a house" fell off Keeler Needle and shattered at the base. Two people camped near the base (ready to climb at sunup) were hit by flying fragments. One received serious spinal injuries. A nearby camper ran down to the store at Whitney Portals for help. At 0700, a sheriff's deputy at the airport intercepted the CB message requesting help, and relayed it to Harris. By 0900 when the confirmation of the rescue operation arrived, 9 mountain rescue personnel and two helicopters were ready. Sierra Madre (5), June Lake (2), and Bay Area (2) had been waiting as backup for Mt Irvine.

They were transported to the Keeler Needle area by a Navy helo from NAF and a Forest Service helo commandeered from a forest fire near Bishop. The victim with spinal injuries was taken directly to the Lone Pine hospital by helo, The man with head injuries was evacuated to the airport. The last helo flight brought out victims from Irvine, and 3 team members from Keeler Needle, arriving at Lone Pine airport at 1430.

77-17	20 August	Alert, Clyde Minaret	Burge
77-18	4 September	Alert, Mendel ice chute	Buffum
77-19	16 September	Callout, Mono Search, no response	Burge
77-20	21 September	Transit, Steven Fisk, LAPD	Heller

Ac a recent board meeting, the CLMRG Board decided that members can run ads to sell or buy mountaineering equipment. (First time for everything)

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**INSTANT BEER may be a reality soon if Global Marketing Services gets federal approval to distribute Japanese-developed beer, wine and cocktail bases in the U.S. The powdered drink mixes are made by encapsulating liquid alcohol within particles of a flavoring agent. One needs only, to add water, stir and drink, says Global.**

This book was written for women managers in businesses. It can apply to women in other areas. Certainly it is true that a woman in SAR activities needs to find a style, to survive as a working individual.

Ed. (Liz Anderson)

Finding a style that will work effectively, that doesn't come across as too "masculine" (hard, tough, aggressive, unfeminine) or too feminine (not tough enough, overemotional, too hesitant not enough of an initiator) is Catch-1501 for women in male work groups. How do you set standards for the quality of relationships you expect subordinates to meet if you are uncertain about the style you should yourself adopt?



Often an extremely competent woman must develop a working relationship with a man, and he can be boss, peer or subordinate, who challenges her right to be there. He may systematically attempt to force the relationship into traditional masculine feminine roles. He's a leader, she's a helper. She's a woman, not a manager.

When this happens the best strategy she can use is to keep bringing the issue back to the Job to be done. Persistently. Presenting herself as someone whose central priority is the highest level of task achievement, she gives him two choices: either to accept her premise as the basis for the relationship or to withdraw.

Through it all, if you are the woman involved, you need to keep the closest guard you can on how you feel. Don't get angry. If you do, don't show it. Anticipate that incidents will occur and think through beforehand how you will deal with them.

If these incidents typically occur in a group in which you are the only woman (and they often do) it is even more important not to respond. If you do, hoping for support from the other men in the group, typically you won't get it. At best you will get silence from the others, and that won't help how you feel. At worst one or two will actively support your attacker, particularly if you respond in a way that seeks to put him down.

If you want support from men on this issue you will find you get it not by asking for it, but by proving you can weather the strain.

A woman joining a male group for the first time: Is there an implicit challenge to the status of masculinity itself—sexual, social, intellectual? How will a group of men respond?

Depending on a man's own feelings of status security—sexual, social and intellectual, with all of their complex interrelationships—his response may range from welcoming a newcomer with potential brains and ability, to curiosity as to whether she will make the grade, to a need to test whether or not she can, to—in the worst cases of primary sexual insecurity—a determined attempt to put her back where she belongs, to drive her out, to maintain the status of the group as male, as masculine, and thus avert the threat to a precarious sense of masculine sexual identity which the presence of a competent woman evokes.

A woman's presence will change the group's identity. The traditions we have grown up with mean that a woman's presence will be seen and felt (not necessarily thought through) as lowering the social and sexual status of the group. To what extent will they give priority to the task to be done? To what extent will they instead concern themselves with a sensed diminution of the other aspects of their former status? They are for the most part emotional, self-esteem issues rather than rational ones. So they will test her, and they will test her on all three dimensions—intellectual, social and the explicitly sexual.

Reprinted from the book, "The Managerial Woman." Copyright 1976, 1977 by Margaret Hennig and Anne Jardim. Published by Anchor Press/Doubleday.



**TRIP PLAN**

(File this page with a responsible person before you venture into the mountains or the desert)

DESTINATION \_\_\_\_\_

ROUTE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE AND TIME OF EXPECTED RETURN \_\_\_\_\_

(Allow 12-hour interval before notifying authorities, unless health or weather make rescue operation urgent)

VEHICLE LICENSE AND DESCRIPTION \_\_\_\_\_

ROADHEAD WHERE YOU PLAN TO PARK \_\_\_\_\_

PEOPLE IN PARTY (NAMES, TELEPHONES) 1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

REMEMBER, CLOSE YOUR TRIP PLAN ON RETURN.