



CHINA LAKE MOUNTAIN RESCUE GROUP

P.O. BOX 2037

RIDGECREST, CALIFORNIA 93555

Editor: Carol Burge

JUNE 1978

#40

CALNDAR for June, July and August

JUNE 19 Summer Class begins (6 weeks)
24-25 Matthes Crest

JULY 1-4 Muir Pass Loop
1-2 Laurel Snow Chute
4 North Palisade
10 Meeting at Rockwell's
8-9 Summer Class one day: Trail or Cirque Peak
Independence Peak
15-16 Summer Class overnight: Temple Crag
Mallory-Irvine
22 Russell, Whitney, Muir
29-30 Olancha

AUGUST 5-6 Family Trip -Tuolumne area
19-20 Ritter
26-27 Four Gables, Basin
28 Party

DONORS

Our thanks to ex-member of CLMRG, Chuck Ringrose for his donation.

OPERATIONS

78-4 Alert, Big Pine Lakes, 30 January . . Lucas
78-5 Alert, Angeles Mountains, 17 March . . . Lucas/Atkins
78-6 Alert, Mt. Tom, 20 March . . . Heller/Burge
78-7 Alert, Crag Peak, 26 March . . Heller/ Rockwell
78-8 Alert, San Jacinto, 7 April . . Heller/Camphausen

Don Harris and I assisted in the search for a lost 10 year old hiker in Tuolumne County. We had conducted training sessions in tracking and search strategy with the Tuolumne County Search and Rescue Team on Saturday, May 20. For Sunday morning, we planned a mock search problem: but the real thing intruded on our supper Saturday night.

Word came at 7 pm that Jimmy Hughes had disappeared while hiking with a group in the upper drainage of Turnback Creek, a tributary of the Tuolumne River. He was last seen about 4 pm. The creek was surrounded on three sides by roads and ranch houses. Jimmy was described as overweight and not very energetic. We had enough people for three field crews, with a few more expected later.

We decided that Don and I would join a crew to cut the creek about half way down in an attempt to find tracks. A second crew would follow the creek down from where Jimmy was last seen and meet us, while a third crew would search the upper drainage area.

Rocks and brush along the creek bottom made tracking difficult, but around midnight the crew going down the creek found a footprint - a lone nine inch tennie, in an area seldom visited. It did not resemble the track described to us initially (not uncommon), but seemed worth following. Some concerted detective work by base camp confirmed that the track found was indeed Jimmy's.

Meanwhile, Don started to track. It was extremely slow going - bent grass, flat spots on the steep hillside and bits of lichen scuffed off rocks. Led by Harris, we followed Jimmy's trail down the creek drainage for over five hours, until we found the next track. Jimmy had twice almost climbed out of the drainage, and then had gone straight down to water again.

About 1 am, the second crew left the tracking and returned to base to await word from us on Jimmy's probable course. They would then try to intercept him.

Around 5 am, we became convinced that Jimmy was headed down to the Tuolumne and asked the intercept crew to head him off. About 7 am, we received word they had found him heading the wrong way on the Tuolumne. Jimmy had traveled about 6 miles over extremely rugged terrain. We all agreed Jimmy's father should reassess Jimmy's energy level.

Comments

1. Don and I could not have devised a more convincing demonstration of the value of tracking if we had planned it. We had a total of about 15 people available to cover a potential search area of 12-15 square miles of very rugged country.
2. The Tuolumne team is a competent, highly motivated group. They ran a tight base camp. Their crews found the initial footprint and found Jimmy. We all came away feeling very good about this operation.
3. Don and I were flown up on Friday night in a China Lake Flying Club aircraft. Flight time from NAF to Sonora was 1 hour 20 minutes. It appears that we can provide effective backup to northern California teams.

List of 1977 CLMRG Operations

Type	#	Date	Location - Problem - Primary Group	CLMRG Leader
SAR	1	21	Piute Pass - two backpackers in storm. 1 alive	Posse Stronge
A	2	211	Shasta - two climbers in storm. 1 alive.	BAMRU Heller
A	3	23111	Palisade Glacier - overdue climbers	Posse
S	4	5-7IV	Tahquitz Canyon - hiker	RMRU
A	5	2V	Whitney - two hikers	Posse
R	6	29V	Red Rock Canyon - Wayne Hughes on cliff	Kern Rockwell
Tr	7	29V	Hall Canyon, Panamints. 3 hikers	- Heller
A	8	IVI	Madera Co.-overdue hiker	?
S	9	9-12 VI	Nevada state. Camper lost	MRA Lucas
A	10	9 VI	Shepherd Pass - 3 chilled hikers	Posse
R	11	20 VI	Whitney - overdue climbers - helo	Stronge
A	12	11 VII	Portals - overdue hiker (Bob Hunt)	CLMRG Heller
A	13	17 VII	Bishop Pass	Posse Campy
A	14	15VIII	Cottonwood - Lost 70 yr old camper	Posse Lucas
SAR	15	15VIII	Mt. Irvine - Cowie and Nutting	CMG Atkins
R	16	15VIII	Keeler Needle - 2 injured climbers	MRA Harris
A	17	20VIII	Clyde Minaret - Lemoore helo	Burge
A	18	4-5 IX	Mendel ice chute - Lemoore helo	Buffum
A(s)	19	10IX	Mono Co. - lost person - no CL response, error	JL?
S	20	21IX	Kern Plateau - Lost Lapd camper	SM Heller
R	21	16X	Tioga Pass road - car and cycle over edge	JL Heller
S	22	17X	Tulare deer hunter	CLMRG Lucas
A	23	24X	Panamint Valley - overdue photographer	CLMRG Heller
A	24	2XI	Onion Valley - two hikers	Posse Heller
A	25	6XI	San Jacinto - overdue park ranger	RMRU Lucas
SAR	26	13-14	University Peak - Richard Robinson overdue.	Posse Lucas
		27 23XI	FORBIDGE CREST - Greg Nichols lost - returned	Sequeira
R	28	25XI	Great Falls Basin. Lopez and Haggen stranded	'So Inyo Heller

The list of operations is published to help members remember just which operations they were on. Try to check off those you were committed for or went on. This should equal the number you are credited with by the Qualification Committee. If not we will try to correct the records.

Carl Heller

1977 Personnel Record

The personnel records in 1977 were not kept extremely carefully as the record keeping changed hands thrice. The records, as kept, were counted for total operations and total hours. Those as In-town Coordinator were kept to distinguish these from field operations and commitments.

The NWC hours are 23% of the total and represent 11 man weeks. Perhaps we should keep records on business hours lost by those members who do not work for the Navy. Operation leaders can put this data on their reports if people will inform them.

NAME	OPERATIONS	AS COORDINATOR	HOURS
Heller	16	2	98
Moore	15	0	116
L. Lucas	13	2	155
Brown	11	0	154
Joy	11	0	72
Atkins	10	0	116
Harris	10	1	113
S. Rockwell	9	9	15
C. Burge	9	9	14
D. Burge	8	0	81
D. Lucas	8	5	65
Jones	7	0	106
St. Denis	7	0	99
R. Rockwell	7	0	15
Lloyd	6	0	60
Buffum	6	0	52
Stronge	6	0	34
R. Westbrook	6	0	43
Camphausen	5	0	19
Hunt	5	0	27
Stogsdill	5	0	80
Renta	5	0	79
J. Garner	4	4	8
Holden	4	0	36
Walters	4	0	64
Mason	4	0	9
Anderson	4	0	16
Davis	3	0	76
Landau	3	0	7
Gleeson	3	0	10
Daniels	3	0	52
J. Westbrook	3	3	4
Slates	2	2	4
Robbins	2	0	6
H. Garner	2	0	2
Swanson	1	0	27
Dixon, Fletcher, Brubaker, Turner, Zenor, Schultz, Miller			0

Total Hours 1934
 NWC Hours 436

The Ultimate Operation
Summary 1977

#	1	2	3	4	6	7	8	9	10
Type	SAR	A	A	S	R	Tr	A	S	A
Date	1-I	22-II	23-III	5-7 IV	29-V	29-V	1-VI	9-12 VI	9-VI
Agency	Inyo	Siskiyou	Inyo	Riverside	Kern	Inyo	Madera	Nevada	Inyo
Place	Piute	Shasta	Palisades	Tahquitz	Red Rock	Panamints			Shepherd
Safe	1	1	2?	2		3	1		
Found									
Rescued									
D & Ev	1	1		1				1	
Missing								1	
CLMRG Hours	60	26	0	240	34	18	7	728	1
NWC Hours	0	0	0	64	0	0	0	128	0
Other		BAMRU	Inyo	SM	Calif			MRA	Inyo
Victim		Climber	Hiker	Hiker	Camper	Camper	Hiker	Camper	Hiker

Key: A Alert
S Search
Tr Transit
R Rescue or recovery
D & Ev Dead and evacuated
Hiker includes
backpacker
Driver - auto or
cycle
Climber - rock or
mountain

The Ultimate Operation Summary,
Cont.

#	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Type	R	A	A	A	SAR	R	A	A	S	S
Date	20 VI	11 VII	17VII	15 V	15 VIII	15 VIII	20 VIII	4-5 IX	16 IX	21 IX
Agency	Inyo	Inyo	Inyo	Inyo	Inyo	Inyo	Madera	Sequoia	Mono	Tulare
Place	Whitney	Portals	Bishop Pass	Cottonwood	Irvine	Keeler Needle	Clyde Minaret	Mendel Chute	Convict Lake	Kern Plateau
Safe		1	?							1
Found				1			5	2		
Rescued	2				2	2	1			
D & Ev										
Missing									1	
CLMRG Hrs	17	9	2	1	306	2	1	8	2	34
NWC Hours	9	0	0	0	100		0	0	No field	23
Other Groups	Inyo		Inyo	Inyo		MRA	Lemore Helo	?	team-error June Lake	SM LAPD
Victim Type	Climber	Climber	Hiker	Camper	Climber	Climber	Climber	Climber	Hiker	Camper

The Ultimate Operation Summary, Last page

#	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	
Type	R	S	A	A	A	SAR	S	R	
Date	16 X	17 X	24 X	2 XI	6 XI	13 XI	23 XI	25 XI	
Agency	Mono	Tulare	Inyo	Inyo	Riverside	Inyo	Kern	Inyo	
Place	Lee Vining	?	Panamint Valley	Onion Valley	Long Valley	University Peak	Ridge- crest	Great Falls	Totals
Safe		1	1	2	1		1		18
Found						1			1
Rescued	4							2	13
D& Ev									2
Missing									1
CLMRG Hrs	2	78	3	10	1	222	28	66	1908
NWC Hours	0	39	0	7	0	66	0	0	436
Other Groups	June Lake			Inyo	RMRU	Seq.Pk. Posse	R/C Police Volunteers	S. Inyo	
Victim Type	Drivers	Hunter	Camper	Hiker	Hiker	Climber	Driver	Walkers	

Summary of the Ultimate Operation Summary for 1977

Location	Total	Alerts	Transits	Search	Rescue/ Recovery	S.A.R.
Inyo Co	15	8	1	1	3	3
Siskiyou Co	1	1				
Riverside Co	2	1		1		
Kern Co	2			1	1	
Madera Co	2	2				
Nevada State	1			1		
Sequoia Park	1	1				
Mono Co	2			1	1	
Tulare Co	2			2		
	<hr/> 28	13	1	6	5	3

Types of victims:

Backpackers	10
Climbers	8
Campers (including fisherman)	6
Drivers	2
Strollers	1
Hunters	1
	<hr/> 28

Fate of victims:

Walked out	18
Body evacuated	2
Rescued	13
Found	1
Missing	0

Hours spent: Personal 1934

NWC 436

Our summary of operations shows that the total number is not growing, although we are not quite ready to disband as yet. We get many alerts, which is a good sign. It has meant that on many operations we get away faster because we have gotten our people ready in advance.

The areas we get called into are about as usual - at least no completely new state. Nothing from Mexico or Santa Barbara in 1977.

The types of victims are always of interest. Many overdue or lost backpackers. Some overdue, stranded or injured climbing parties. Several campers or people out for a stroll who got lost, hurt or stranded. The drivers are unusual -one by happenstance on the Tioga Pass road and one injured and wandering in the Ridgecrest vacant lots. No fliers **in** 1977, although this was quickly changed in January, 1978.

Carl Heller



Today's Chuckle:
Do you know why mountain
climbers tie themselves together?
Not for safety - it's to keep the
sensible ones from going home.

"Mother was right You just married me for my body"