



CHINA LAKE MOUNTAIN RESCUE GROUP

P.O. BOX 2037

RIDGECREST, CA 93555

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JUNE 1980 #45

A word on snow conditions; as of this writing, June 9, the eastern side of the Sierra looks like the first of May (or April?) instead of June. The snowpack is heavy and because of the unbelievably cold May and frequent snow storms of late, the snow is still there, in all its white glory. Tioga Pass just opened. No estimate on when Devil's Post Pile road will open, but the Forest Service is still taking cross-country ski tours up to Minaret Summit. Mammoth has more snow than it did in December (you could ski #9 if it were open!). Snow is patchy from 8500 ft and solid above 9000ft. !!!! SO- before you take off on a trip, check with the ranger station about road conditions, and plan on snow camping type things until well into July. Runoff is just starting and will continue to be very *high* until August. The high passes may not be free of snow until late August.

And- Earthquakes! The Hilton Creek fault is still shaking (!!!) and the Forest Service has closed some areas to all entry- (Hot Creek swimming hole for one...) notably the area around McGee Creek and Convict Creek drainages, but the closed area stretches from near Rock Creek to Sherwin Creek. In other words, stick to the nice solid granitic rocks in the Southern Sierra and away from the crumbling metamorphic rocks east of Mammoth. Stop by the Forest Service Visitor Center at Mammoth and take a look at the seismograph and all the records since May 25. WOW! and watch quakes happen while you stand there... Anyway, check before you plan to venture into those areas. Rockslides are very much -- in evidence!  
Earthshaken Editor, Janet Westbrook

CALENDAR of events, which may be modified by snow and earthquake conditions

June 9	Meeting, 529 B Nimitz	Adams 446-6077/Burton
June 10	Pre-class rock instruction for climbing class see Training Committee	
June 14/15	Kern Peak (if the roads open)	D. Burge 375-7967
June 20	2nd annual B Mountain Mid-summer night's eve Party (longest day of the year) Be on top by 7:45p.m. to watch sunset and munch ice cream cones	J. Westbrook 375-8371
June 21-22	Lone Pine Peak, North Ridge	D. Brown 375-8744
June 28-29	Mono Pass Area- Mt. Starr, Pk 13198	C. Heller 446-6237
July 4-6	Minarets, Lake Ediza base camp (this will be very snowy!) (or somewhere else if needed-)	R. Atkins 375-5437
July 12/13	Summer Class 1 day trips Muah (easy) Independence (moderate) Candlelight, East ridge (difficult)	C. Burge 375-7967 T. Stogsdill 375-7776 M. Mason 375-2244
July 14	Meeting, 700 B Nimitz	Heller 446-6237
July 19-20	Summer Class Weekend trips Candlelight, LeConte from Meyson Canyon Bear Creek Spire (moderate) Corcoran (bivouac, difficult)	Brown 375-8744 D. Lucas 446-5175 R. Rockwell 375-2532
July 22	Summer Class party at Robbers Roost	Burge 375-7967
July 26-28	Rock Creek Area- south	Burge 375-7967

more Calendar-

- August 2-3 North Palisade and vicinity D. Lucas 446-5175
- August 9-10 Thompson C. Heller 446-6237
- August 11 Annual Summer Party -Rockwell's back yard Rockwell 375-2532
- August 16-17 The Thumb M. Renta 375-7536
- also a long one day trip to tune up for Goddard Rockwell 375-2532
- August 23 Mt. Goddard in 24 hours (came close last year,  
will make it this year...) B. Rockwell 375-2532
- August 30-Sept. 1 Brewer area, East Lake basecamp B. Westbrook 375-8371
- Sept. 6 Mt. Whitney Marathon (will start 2 mi. below the portals to  
make the entire trip equal to a 26mi. marathon..!) R. Rockwell 375-2532
- Sept. 8 Meeting, 830 Kevin Way V. Anderson 375-9669
- Sept. 13-21 Sierra 1 week trip- Shepherd Pass and  
upper Kern D. Lucas 446-5175

Summer Duty Weekends - to make sure someone is home to answer the phone, the following Team Leaders will be on duty these weekends. Should you get a call, or need assistance, here are the folks to contact...

- |                         |                     |                           |
|-------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|
| June 7-8 R. Atkins      | July 4-5-6 D. Burge | Aug. 2-3 L. Lucas         |
| June 14-15 L. Lucas     | July 12-13 A. Green | Aug. 9-10 B. Westbrook    |
| June 21-22 B. Westbrook | July 19-20 A. Jones | Aug. 16-17 C. Heller      |
| June 28-29 A. Jones     | July 26-27 A. Green | Aug. 30-31-S 1 B. Stronge |

Donations

Since the last newsletter we have received donations from the following- and we surely thank you!!

- Rock climbing section of the Sierra Club
- Girl Scout-Encampment at Trona
- Janet Hammond

The Summer Class - through Cerro Coso College - PE 34

Mondays 7-10 p.m. at Cerro Coso's "City Center" on west Ridgecrest Blvd. behind the Knights of Columbus hall, Tuesdays after work at various places. The first Tues. session will be on B Mountain- meet at the stable style at 5p.m. The next 4 times will be at School rocks (S. of Indian Wells Canyon)- meet at the main gate of NWC at 5p.m. for car pool, and the sessions from July 22 on will be at Robbers Roost (main gate at 5p.m.) CLMRG help is needed for instructors for the Tuesday sessions - Call Daryl Hinman before he calls you to volunteer. The more instructors, the fewer instructees per class and that's neat! See also the calendar for Summer Class trips - CLMRG people are urgently encouraged to come along to help shepherd the troops ...

Summer Parties - you'll note that there is one on B Mountain June 20 to say goodbye to the sun, one at Robbers Roost amid the bats and rattlesnakes, and a biggie in Rockwell's neat yard Aug. 11 for slides, dinner, and tall tales. Are there any more excuses for one???



Operations reports;

March 2 Assist in Big Pine Canyon #8003 Carl Heller

We were called by the NWC OOD at 1411 and asked for a crew to fly north to rescue a man with a broken leg. Five of us loaded into the NWC helo and took off at 1525, arriving at Big Pine at 1615. We learned that Pat Elliot and Bob Karras had reached the victim with a stretcher and were pulling him down 2 miles to Glacier Lodge in a snow storm. Dep. Dan Lucas, the SAR coordinator in Northern Inyo, drove us to Glacier Lodge and with Norm Milleron we went in mile to help pull the fiberglass stretcher out. The victim, Dr. Gary Finsted, had a boot top fracture sustained when his right ski binding didn't release in breakable crust. We accompanied him to Big Pine and turned him over to Big Pine Rescue (Fire Dept. volunteers). We started south and got as far as Olancha when LtCol Ben Adams decided the weather ahead was too dense and turned back to the Lone Pine Airport. Sheila Rockwell, our intown coordinator, persuaded Bob Adams to drive up for us and we secured the hut about 2330.

March 3-4 Search in Yosemite #8004 Bob Rockwell

On the morning of March 3 we were alerted for a search in the Badger Pass ski area for David Hoagee, age 16, of Glendora. David had failed to return the previous afternoon from a day of downhill skiing. Snow was falling and was predicted to continue for 12-18 hours. Night time temperatures were in the 20's.

Carol Burge and Cheryl Robledo began calling our winter-qualified people and Moore, Brown, Renta, Mason, Stogsdill, Buffum, Lloyd, and I were able to go. Later Sheila Rockwell would be intown coordinator.

With an afternoon phone call definitely requesting us, we departed at 1620. We had some delays enroute caused by dinner (a cook who works in sequence, not parallel), car problems (ever try to find a can of stop-leak in Fresno after 10p.m.), snow chains-(on again, off again), but eventually arrived in the Valley at 0230.

Many searchers were in evidence as the next day's efforts began. Our eight were to be joined by four from Tuolumne County and Ron Macky from the Park Service, to cover significant area near Chinquapin Run.

We had not quite assembled at the starting point of our assignment when word came over the radio that David had just walked in. He had survived two nights (one stormy) by huddling in tree wells with his jacket pulled over his head. Finally reaching Hwy 41, he had gotten a ride to Badger Pass. When I talked to him, his condition was very good, his spirits high, and his happiness with the outcome was matched only, perhaps, by ours. We left soon thereafter and arrived home at 1700 hrs.

March 8 Fossil Falls Incident #8005 Carl Heller

Nine members drove to Fossil Falls for a Sunday practice and found a bus load of Sierra Club Rock Climbing Section members camped there. Their leader, LeRoy Russ and I joked about our group being available to rescue anyone who fell. Then we practiced simple lowering and raising. Meanwhile, one climber fell, and although on belay, bent her foot upward causing pain and eventually swelling. Luckily we had brought an air splint for our practice and it proved very comfortable. *we* got a real victim to lift out of the canyon and had lots of help in carrying Dianna Each to the parking lot. A very tidy operation taking about 1 hour.

March 10 and 11 Great Falls Basin (again...) #8006 Al Green

The call came from Sgt. Bacock at Independence. Vi Swann of the Southern Inyo team had called him requesting our team. Seems an impromptu outing had resulted in a young man, Rusty Todd, getting trapped just below the 3rd falls - sound familiar?-

I asked Barb Slates to call the entire team. 'About 30 minutes later, Hinman and Brown were able to go. Because of the urgency I decided that the three of us should leave as an advanced team. Lee Lucas arrived at the hut as we were leaving and became coordinator.

The three of us arrived at Great Falls Basin and were briefed by Doc Cole and others from the Southern Inyo team. Duncan Cowie and one of Rusty's brothers led us up the trail we rappelled down the canyon which was getting darker as we were getting wetter. The rappel down the 3rd falls brought us to Rusty but refused to let go of our ropes!

Unfortunately we had no ascenders (poor planning or stupid optimism...) but we had a 200 ft. spare rope. The extra length permitted its double use as a rappel line and belay rope. Rusty proved to be a good and fearless student. He rappelled easily and quickly. The cascade of the 2nd falls was avoidable but the torrent down the first falls gave Rusty a thorough drenching (as well as his rescuers-)

We were down and back at the cars approximately 32 hours after leaving China Lake- not too shabby. The other members responding were Buffum, Lloyd, Joy, Moore, Heller, Stogsdill, Swann, V. Anderson, Osterman, Woodworth, and Al Woolam. Stogsdill, Buffum, Lloyd and Osterman retrieved the stubborn ropes the following day.

That all was one week in March! Nothing happened to need us in April or May, even over Memorial Weekend which traditionally sets records for number of rescues jammed into one time period. The weather was awful so not too many people were even backcountry when the quakes hit. However, it is summer and once again the phone jingles-

Mountain Rescue is doing its part for gasoline conservation. Wherever possible, we are trying to combine two operations for each trip - see below

June 6-7 Search at San Jac

#8007 Bob Rockwell

L. Lucas, A. Jones, D. Brown, A. Woodworth, and I had planned to leave at 1800 hrs. on Friday for the "research" for Greg Tanner (see the next operation.) At 1730 a call from Riverside Mountain Rescue Unit requested that we instead help search for James (Tim) Hoy, age 21, from Buena Park. Tim was missing in the Mt. San Jacinto State Park, 2 days overdue. For us, the difference from the previously planned operation would be the addition of ice axes and crampons to our packs, and preparations for a bivouac at 10,000 ft. instead of 8000'. This being done, we left Ridgecrest to arrive at the bottom of the Palm Springs Tramway at 2300 hrs. for the night.

Saturday morning we joined with teams from Altadena, Los Padres, Riverside, and Sierra Madre for the spectacular ride to the 8000 ft. level. Our assignment was to sweep the Wellman Divide hoping to cut Tim's tracks leading south from his campsite in Round Valley. After an hour and a half, word came that Tim had been found and was OK except for being tired and hungry. The Altadena team, traveling down the Willow Creek trail, had met him hiking up that trail. He had indeed gone south, dropped into the Tahquitz Creek drainage, and descended to the 5500 ft. level before being stopped by an impassable waterfall. After spending 2. nights there, he reversed direction and ultimately found the Willow Creek trail.

Since we were reasonably close, we elected to traverse over to help carry Tim's pack. A suitable helispot was located at Hidden Lake and he was flown out in order to close this operation quickly. In a short conversation with Tim, he admitted that he was an inexperienced backpacker, did not know how to read a map, and as we already knew, was traveling cross-country alone. -Prime ingredients for his eventual predicament....

June 7-8 Search at San Jac

#8008 Bob Rockwell

The previous operation being concluded, we arrived in Idyllwild at 1515 hrs. to begin searching for Gregory Tanner, age 20, from Rancho Palos Verdes. Greg was last seen at his home on Dec. 20 when he left to get a haircut. His car was later discovered at the roadhead to the Deer Springs Trail in Idyllwild, over 100 miles away. RMRU, with other teams, searched several days to no avail. They searched again on Jan 5&6 with identical results. Now that the snow was gone, a full CALMRA effort would make one final combing of the most significant areas. The five MRA teams of the previous search for Tim Hoy would be involved. We comprised 33 field members, 2 dogs, and 6 base camp personnel. The 33 field members would be divided into 15 separate crews.

Because of the delay caused by the previous operation, we used the rest of the day to set up and get into position for Sunday's efforts. The field personnel hiked up the Deer Springs Trail to its intersection with the Strawberry Cienega Trail to spend the night. CLMRG had opted to go light with bivouac sacks and cold meals in order to be maximally flexible... we watched with just a little envy as others cooked hot dinners and relaxed on soft sleeping bags and pads. However, we were sustained by the knowledge that a little discomfort is good for the soul.

The next morning the 15 field teams fanned out in all directions: from the west, through the south, to the southeast. Sweeping ridges and gullies, a meticulous search was conducted, with essentially negative results. One piece of clothing was found, label intact, and was potentially significant. As of this writing it had not been positively checked out.

While the discouraging effects of not finding the subject can be readily understood, we felt that working with the other teams on this broad and comprehensive search was particularly valuable. RMRU's Walt Walker, as overall Joint Operations Leader for both searches this weekend, did an excellent job. (Note; Stone Creek has a least one big, angry rattlesnake in residence!)



"According to the map, it's all downhill from here!"