

published erratically by the
CHINA LAKE MOUNTAIN RESCUE GROUP
P.O. Box 2037
Ridgecrest, CA 93555

October, 1980 #46

Well, fall is here- the leaves in the mountains are gold and the air is cold and occasional white things fall on the peaks.... Snow lasted well into September in the high places and it was a great water year. The earth around Mammoth continues to quake- if you plan winter trips in the area, phone ahead to the Mammoth Visitor Center and ask how things are backcountry! Avalanches happen enough all by themselves, but with continued quakes in the area it could be real exciting...

CALENDAR of events, always subject to modifications, so call the organizer!!

Oct. 6	Meeting, 320 Ward	DeLory 446-3753
Oct. 7	Advanced First Aid Classes start	Heller 446-6237
Oct. 11-13	annual family & climbing Yosemite Valley expedition	Walters 375-1017
Oct. 18-19	another try at Domelands	Joy 375-8171
Oct. 18-20	Zion Narrows	L. Lucas...375-5694
Oct. 25-26	Moapa, Morman (N.E. of Vegas)	Vernon 446-5724
Nov. 1-2	Rockclimbing instruction for SPS	Heller 446-6237
Nov. 8-9	Thompson Ice Shute	Stronge 446-2937
Nov. 10	Meeting, . 817 Wildflower	Atkins 446-6700
Nov. 17	Hut night	Renta 375-7536
Nov. 23	stretcher practice at Fossil Falls	Vernon 446-5724
Nov. 27-30	Baboquivari, Montezuma's Head, Picacho	Campy 446-5643
Dec. 6-7	Lamont Pinnacles	Burton 375-2025
Dec. 8	Meeting, Xmas party, 824 Graaf	Campy 446-5643
Dec. 9&16	Radio Class at the Hut	Heller 446-6237
Dec. 19	annual B Mountain Christmas Party	Rockwell 375-2532
Dec. 29-Jan 7	Mexican Volcanoes	Rockwell 375-2532
Jan. 10	Sign Cutting	Renta 375-7536
Jan. 12	Meeting, 530 Sunset	Mason 375-2244
Jan. 24-25	Kingston/Nopah Ranges	Westbrook 375-8371
Feb. 7-8	Kearsarge Pass area snow stuff	Brown 375-8744
Feb. 9	Meeting, 525 S. Erin	Stogsdill 375-7776
Feb. 21-23	Winter snowshoe to Tuolumne Meadows	Atkins 446-6700
Mar. 7-8	Joshua Tree National Monument climbing	Renta 375-7536
Mar. 9	Meeting, 945 W. Upjohn	Joy 375-8171

Sunday Morning Rock Climbing continues - call Mike Mason 375-2244

Tracking practice every Tuesday following a meeting- call Mike Renta 375-7536

Donations - these have come in from our long time friends

Stan and Lolette Dalbec

Robert Trousdale

Remember us when you think about your United Way contributions....

Operations Report:

We have had an unusually unbusy time lately - thanks mostly to our friends of the competent teams in Bishop, Mammoth and June Lake who have handled problems in that area that we used to get called for, to the Lemoore helo, and we hope to the continued efforts of Cal MRA and groups on Public Safety Education on the Mountains....

8009 - 15 June Search for 4 overdue desert hunters, Don Stewart of Ridgecrest and 3 teenaged boys. The 4 became separated when 2 of them went to get their vehicle but didn't return to pick up the others. They were in the Sheep Springs area near Black Mountain, south of Ridgecrest. One walked home and then another- who alerted the Sheriff's office of the problem. Lee Lucas and Deputy Bob Patrick went looking for the other two in the Sheriff's car, making this a vehicle search and tracking practice type thing, when they came across the missing two men with their vehicle stuck in a dry wash. All turned out well in about 3 hours.

8010 - 22 June Alert. Bob Westbrook, duty weekend person, got a call about a Navy man overdue from a party in Sand Canyon. Jones and Harris volunteered to go looking if necessary, but the man returned home early the next morning before the troops left town.

8011 - 23 July Alert for 2 40 year old females overdue 2 days on a hike in the Iceberg Meadow area of Tuolumne County. We were called by Sierra Madre who alerted several other MRA teams. Jones, Renta, Hinman, Anderson volunteered to go and Janet Westbrook did the calling on this one, but the ladies walked out just before we were to leave town.

8012 - 2 August Transit We got a call at 6:10a.m. about a lost little girl, Jennifer Powell near Blue Lake out of Lake Sabrina. One team was on the road by 7:30a.m. heading for Bishop. Also involved were the Inyo group, WOLF, Sierra Madre, June Lake, and Mammoth. Jennifer had become separated from her family camping at the lake the day before and had spent the night out alone. She was found at 10a.m. wandering along a trail toward her camp by the local packer as he was delivering supplies in the area. The teams were just about to go to the field as news of her location was reported. CLMRG folks involved included L. Lucas, Westbrook, Mason, Brown, and Ostermann. Sheila Rockwell and Janet Westbrook did the frantic calling. All returned home and to work...

8013 - 7 September Search near Big Pine for Madge, an 86 year old woman from the Sanitarium who had wandered off at 2p.m. on the 6th. We sent a team up early on the 7th of Heller, Atkins, L. Lucas, Harris in the China Lake NWC helo, followed by Green, Burge, Joy, Stogsdill, Buffum, Woodworth, Anderson, Vernon, and Bob Fletcher with the radio. These were joined by people from Inyo, June Lake, Mammoth, and Sierra Madre and Altadena teams. The groups spread out and walked the area. She was found in good condition by Dan Lucas and Carl Heller, sitting by a stream in some shrubs not far from the Sanitarium. Carl gave her some oxygen from our bottle, which seemed to help her. They then carried her to the car and returned her to her home at the Sanitarium.

8014 - 13 September Alert Chip Lancaster alerted Carl Heller that there were several climbers in Darwin Canyon with a problem. Carl found Westbrook, Jones, Moore, Joy to go and Carol Burge and Cheryl Robledo did the calling, but the Lemoore helo was able to go in and pick them up without our help.

8015 - 20-21 September A full-blown rescue!!! details from Al Green, Operation Leader

The debate between John Anderson and Ronald Reagan was pushed aside by a barrage of phone calls Sunday evening. Shortly after 7p.m. I agreed to be the O.L. for a rescue on Mt. Whitney. A return call to Deputy Boyer and a conversation with Kevin Scannel who had observed the accident provided the following scene; Robert Norton III from La Canada had fallen about 200 feet while descending an icy section near the top of the Mountaineers Route. Chris Harris had successfully crossed the difficult section and 3 companions (Kevin, John Fitzgerald, and Robert Norton IV), were waiting to cross. Voice contact was made with Robert and Chris. Robert had apparently broken his foot, was bleeding from the nose, had facial cuts, and a possible back injury.

The site was up high on the route. At least 600 vertical feet were between the victim and East Face Lake. A high probability existed for a multiple stretcher lowering and carry to East Face Lake where a helicopter pick up was reasonable. We responded by sending a team in immediately to hike to the victim to secure him for the night. Leaving

at 2115 hrs. were Mike Renta, Mike Walters, and Bob Adams who hiked all night up the North Fork trail and ledges, reaching the victim just before dawn. Meanwhile we organized the NWC helo crew and our men to leave at 4 a.m. hopefully to be at Lone Pine by first light. The helo pilot was Lt. Cdr Byron Dieckman, with Lt. Denny Wilcox copilot, Mike Szydowski crew chief, and Dave Jobson corpsman. Bob Westbrook, Dave Brown, Allen Jones, Paul Woodworth and I would be at NAF at 4a.m. Meanwhile, Bob Fletcher and radios and Greg Cote drove up to Lone Pine to set up base camp and were met there by Liz Anderson. A back up team from Sierra Madre was requested and 8 from their team drove up to Lone Pine.

Radio contact with our advance team who had hiked all night established at 6:45a.m. informed us that the victim and his partner, Chris Harris, had managed to get down to East Face Lake and were secure in sleeping bags. Norton had been belayed by Harris while he essentially crawled down the mountain. He could put no weight on his right leg. Lt. Cdr. Dieckman and crew made a "routine" pick up at East Face Lake (12,600') and brought Norton back to base camp from where he was taken to the Lone Pine Hospital.

Chris Harris saved the day on this one! If he had not managed to get Norton down to East Face Lake it would have been a full blown rescue. Sierra Madre's back up response would have been vital instead of a much appreciated transit.

Janet Westbrook and Lee Lucas spent many hours on the phone getting everything set up. Thanks to hams Fletcher and Larry Sires for great communications with the folks at home.

FOR SALE call Liz Anderson 939-3908 or 876-5367

Cleaned out my Topo map file and have duplicates to sell; package of unused, 15 min. quads for 38.00 (or best offer...) Big Pine, Blanco Mt, Independence, Manly Peak, New York Butte, Mt. Tom, Tower Peak, Ubehebe Pk, Waucoba Spring, Waucoba Wash, White Mountain.

from FM 70-10 War Department Field Manual, Mountain Operations War Dept. Sept 1947

perhaps our equipment committee should look into this??

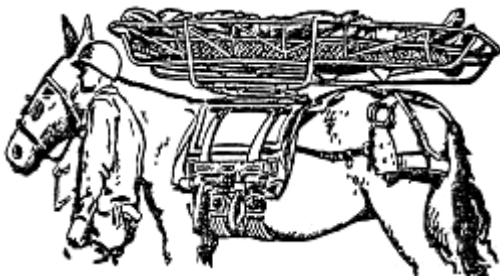
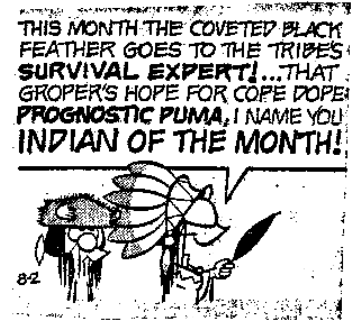


Figure 76. Carolet litter mounted on park saddle.

193. CACOLET LITTER (fig. 76). The cacolet litter may be used on a mule; however this arrangement is not considered very satisfactory for transporting seriously wounded since the motion of the litter is violent in rough terrain. A litter bearer must walk alongside the mule and steady the litter.





Gaham Wilson

“There’s another one of those abominable mountain climbers”