



MAY 1982
#51

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

SAM WYATT (August 23, 1921 - January 23, 1982) Indian Wells Valley Search and Rescue Team We remember Sam, memories from the days when the early IWV S&R and the fledgling CLMRG were learning ways to fill the need for volunteer search and rescue. Sam was part of it, the sharing of experience and information, and the working together. CLMRG, too, will miss Sam.

THANKS TO OUR DONORS

Fred Bode	Clifton Chandler	Tommy Chapman
Chuck Ringrose	Ruth Henry	Janet Hammond
The Gerhardt Family	Sam Van Gundy	Angeles Girl Scout Council

Our thanks to all of you. You know we depend on donations such as yours for our equipment and equipment repair. Thanks, again.

SCHEDULE OF COMING EVENTS

May 8	California Region MRA Meeting, at Altadena
May 8	Snow Training, Renta
May 10	CLMRG Meeting Huey, 330 South Rancho
May 15-16	Kern County Sheriff's Seminar, Camp Condor
May 15-16	Mount Williamson
May 19	Mini-stretcher Practice Westbrook-Stogsdill
May 22-23	San Gorgonio
May 29-30-31	Picacho del Diablo, Mexico (or) Basin, Tom & Four Gables

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IRAN BANS MIXED CLIMBING. Iran's Islamic regime has banned boxing and mixed mountain climbing by men and women. Tehran radio stated "Because of numerous complaints, the sport of mountain climbing is to be segregated soon between men and women."

—from an anonymous clipping

159 December 1981 AA News

The Height of Diversity
They say they climb mountains because they "are there."
I wonder if it would astound them To know that the very same reason is why The rest of us go around them.

S. Omar Barker.

OPERATION REPORTS

81-22 Search, Deer Hunter, Tuolumne County 29-31 Oct 1981 Lee Lucas

(This operation report did not appear in the appropriate spot in the sequence) Jim Shephard, a Tech Sgt at Castle AFB, left home at 3 a.m. on 27 October to go deer hunting in the Trout Creek area near Long Barn. He was reported missing about 10 a.m. on 29 October. The weather had been cold and stormy: rain on the 27th and soggy snow on the 28th and 29th. The Tuolumne Sheriff's Office started a search immediately. The subject's car was found, and his tent, collapsed by snow. Mountain rescue and search dog units were called in. CLMRG was called at 1640 on the 29th by Arnie Gaffrey of Sierra Madre. A call of the roster netted nine people, (who dwindled to six by the time we met at the hut). Arnie was arranging for a C130, which could land at NAF and pick us up. I discussed it with Al and Dennis and decided to drive; air transport had left us stranded in the past.

Six of us (Renta, Brown, Vernon, Huey, Derrickson, and Lucas) left in two vehicles at 2220, to arrive at the search base in Long Barn at 0600 on the 30th. The search area was covered by 2 feet of fresh snow. But the weather was clear. We were thoroughly briefed by Search Boss Jim Mendonca and Section Leader Jim Weldon. We were given maps and driven by 4WD to our search assignment. We split into two teams of 3, and searched the Twentyfive Creek and Brushy Creek drainages, between 3N83 and an abandoned railroad grade. This area was about 4 miles south of the subject's LKP (Last Known Position).

Meanwhile, 70 other searchers from Tuolumne SAR, Sierra Madre Search and Rescue, Bay Area MRU, Bay Area Explorer SAR, WEOF and CARDA search dog units, and Castle AFB were also in the field. Nothing turned up Friday. We returned to Base, were treated to a yummy dinner and prepared for an early start the next morning.

Saturday (10/31) the search concentrated on the area surrounding the subject's LKP. We searched the western slopes of Peak 6254 above the Clayey River from Road 3N21 to 3N94. About 1300 the subject was found, an apparent hypothermia victim, on Rock Creek about 0.2 mile east of the Clayey River, and less than 1 mile from his camp. We returned to Base camp, were debriefed, and headed for home. CLMRG manhours: 282 Vehicle miles: 1400.

COMMENTS

1. Coordination of this multi-unit search was excellent. We were thoroughly briefed and debriefed. Planning was done methodically. All search coverage was logged on a master map. Some problems in transportation on Friday were completely corrected on Saturday.
2. The area where the subject was found had been searched on the 29th, but the body was probably covered with snow. The plan for Friday had been a wide-ranging hasty search, just in case the subject had survived. Saturday, we returned to close-in search of the LKP. This was a good plan.
3. My decision to drive turned out to be unwise (this time). Air transport got Sierra Madre on Scene several hours before we arrived.

CLMRG 1982		OFFICERS & COMMITTEES 1982
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E 5850 CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—Extensions of Remarks

HEROIC RESCUE EFFORT

HON. TONY COELHO

OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 1981

• Mr. COELHO. Mr. Speaker, last summer a 14-year-old girl named Stacey Arras disappeared while camping at Sunrise High Sierra Camp in Yosemite National Park. An exceptionally well-coordinated rescue effort was mounted immediately upon discovery of her disappearance thanks to the dedicated, skillful efforts of concerned individuals and groups in the area. Tragically, Stacey was never found despite the valiant efforts of the searchers. I would like to take this opportunity to bring this heroic effort to the attention of my colleagues, and to thank the participants for the time and energy they put forth. Following is a list of those who helped:

- Mr. Charles McIntosh. San Diego Search and Rescue, San Die
- Mr. Tim McGru Saddleback Search and Rescue, Tustin.
- Mr. Arnold Gaffrey, Sierra Madre Search and Rescue, Sierra Madre.
- Mr. Wayne Campbell. Bay Area Mountain Rescue. Oakland.
- Mr. Pat Elliot, Inyo Co. Search and Rescue. Bishop.
- Mr. Ben Schifren, Tuolumne Co. Search and Rescue, Pinecrest.

December 15, 1981

- Mr. Timothy Fives, Sylmar Search and Rescue. Valencia.
- Mr. Bruce Parker, Montrose Search and Rescue, Glendale.
- Mr. Mike Edwards, San Jose Search and Rescue, San Jose.
- Mr. Doug Magee, June Lake Search and Rescue, June Lake.
- Mr. Maury Ducasse. San Mateo Search and Rescue. San Mateo.
- Mr. Richard Burns, Altadena Search and Rescue, Altadena Sheriffs Office, Altadena.
- China Lake Mountain Rescue Group, Ridgecrest.
- Mr. Walt Walker, Riverside Mountain Rescue. Riverside.
- Mr. Mike Peterson. Los Padres Search and Rescue. Santa Barbara.
- Mr. Van Williams. Malibu Search and Rescue, Pacific Palisades.
- Ms. Sandy Bryson, WOOF, So. Lake Tahoe.
- Capt. J. M. Gleim, Commanding Officer, Naval Air Station, Lemoore.
Headquarters, ARRS/AFRCC, Scott Air Force Base, Ill.
- Mr. Don Roberts, Inyo National Forest, Bishop.
- Mr. Aubrey Majors. Chief. Central Division, Calif. Highway Patrol. Fresno.
Wing Commander, 146th Tactical Airlift Wing, Van Nuys Air National Guard, Van Nuys.
- Mr. C. J. Johnson, Dist. Manager. Pacific Telephone & Telegraph. Fresno. •

81_24

28 December

CACHE PEAK SEARCH

Carl Heller

On Saturday after Christmas (26 Dec), William Lokos from Chicago became lost while bear-hunting with four friends from Palmdale. They last saw him about 1400 on Cache Peak, shouted to him to rejoin them, then lost sight of him; finally they searched for him, without success. Sunday (27 Dec) the Boron team with Bill's companions searched for Bill and/or his tracks, in 70 mph wind gusts and clouds.

Monday, all the Kern posses were called out. 15 members of CLMRG left the Hut at 0500, drove to Mojave substation, and were briefed by Captain Sparks.

This was a difficult search to organize because of the terrain, the distance from a good road, and radio transmission problems. The command structure added to the difficulty. Deputy Paul Montgomery was nominally in charge, although his superior, Capt Carl Sparks, was present. Paul then went into the field with the advance tracking team (IWW SAR Team), while Sparks brought up the rest of the troops. There was no base camp staff assigned. Eventually Sparks, with no base camp staff assigned, was running an operation using two radio frequencies (?), and two aircraft, several vehicles, the advance team and one unidentified team.

Tracks were followed into Indian Creek where Westbrook and a sheriff's car picked up the advance team. Bill walked out on Monday afternoon, at the ACI camp about 5 miles from Cache Peak. (It is possible that he had gone down toward Indian Creek and then back over several ridges to the southwest drainage, away from the direction in which the early tracks led).

COMMENTS

1. Observing this operation being run, reinforced my opinion that our (CLMRG) organization methods (developed over 20 years) are both efficient and effective. If Montgomery was truly "in charge" he should have sent someone else to take charge of the advance teams. He should have run Base Camp with a staff consisting of Sparks, myself and leaders from the IWW and Boron teams. An assistant leader (perhaps Rockwell) should have been sent to climb Cache Pk; with radios on all channels this person could have provided communication with all teams. (Mason did get onto Cache Peak and helped by locating and identifying team heading NW toward the Indian Creek road.)

2. Search tactics are also a topic of interest. The advance tracking team was rightly given freedom in the NW quadrant. Track-cutting teams seemed to be obvious tools for use in the SW and NE quadrants. A lower probability of victim's tracks in the SW quadrant existed because Bill's friends had been searching there. The cliffs of Cache Peak were an obvious area for hasty search for a possibly injured victim. Other than that, there were many (200?) square miles of brush where someone 20 feet away was invisible.

Continued . .

(Cache Peak, continued...)

3. Because of my experience in running searches over large, rough areas in the Sierra, I tried to help Carl Sparks on this one. However, I lost control of my words at one stage and he was justifiably angry. An operation does need to be run by one leader. Later in the day, I was giving him some staff assistance and hope I helped close off the operation properly. If Bill had not walked out, we had made reasonable plans for Tuesday's search.
4. Lokos' companions were very concerned and responsible once they had lost their inexperienced comrade. They stayed on and helped search for two days and were ready to continue. It was very pleasant to see their faces light up when word of his safety came through.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

"Dear Editor Liz,

In reviewing the article in the December Talus Pile for the Dragon Peak Operation (26-28 August) for which I submitted a write-up to you, I note a significant omission which should be corrected. The write-up as submitted included Al Green's description of the recovery on Friday the 28th. This was omitted in the printed article. I believe it should have appeared since it completed the story and gives credit to Chip Lancaster and his helo crew, who wound the operation up in good style when it looked like there would be real problems in getting the body out.

Dennis Burge"

We're guilty of losing Al's report. Remember reading it, Sorry, Al! Ed.

Personal Experience (or Pay the Piper)

E.Anderson

Recently, I trundled off to Sansum Clinic. After a check for hearing loss, the audiologist told me I had lost the higher frequencies. This, he said, would only occur from being subjected to loud, continuous noise. As a matter of interest (since nothing can repair the nerve damage) we discussed the possible causes.

Be advised: riding around in helicopters without suitable ear protection is bad for one's aural apparatus.

SUMMARY

1981 OPERATIONS

CHINA LAKE MOUNTAIN RESCUE GROUP

1 Incident	11 - Inyo County	2127 Total Manhours
7 Alerts	4 Kern County	513 NWC Excused Manhrs
1 Mobilization	2 - Riverside Co	7100 Vehicle Miles
5 Transits	2 - Sequoia NP (Tulare Co)	
8 Searches for 9 people	2 - Yosemite NP (Mariposa, Tuolumne Counties)	
2 found alive	1 - San Bernardino County	
5 found dead	1 - San Diego County	
2 not found	1 - Tuolumne County	
2 Rescues		

CHINA LAKE MOUNTAIN RESCUE CROUP 1981 OPERATIONS

OP #	DATE	OPERATION	LOCATION	# OF MEMBERS	TOTAL MAN HRS	NWC EXCUSED MAN HRS
1	25 Jan	Alert, lost person, walked out	Yosemite Park Mariposa Co.	2	1	0
2	6 Feb	Search, kidnapped hitchhiker, not found	Mojave Kern Co.	12	78	40
3	12-13 Feb	Alert, lost person, found by others	Mt. Palomar San Diego Co.	4	6	0
4	3 Mar	Alert, 3 overdue skiers, skied out	San Jacinto Park Riverside Co.	2		
5	17 April	Transit, injured jogger, walked out	Lone Butte San Bernardino Co.	6	8	0
6	17 May	Transit, injured climber, helo'd Out	Independence Peak Inyo Co.	5	19	0
7	30 June	Alert, missing climbers, walked out	Mt. Whitney Inyo Co.	2	2	0
8	1-3 July	Search, missing hiker, found dead	Pear Lake Tulare Co.	7	240	80
9	4 July	Incident, injured hiker, twisted knee	Tulainyo Lake Tulare Co.	3	15	0
10	11-12 July	Search and recovery, fallen climber	Mt. Williamson Inyo Co.	8	191	0
11	12 July	Transit, climbers believed in trouble, OK	Lone Pine Peak Inyo Co.	1	1	0
12	14 July	Alert, overdue climbers, returned OK	Lone Pine Peak Inyo Co.	2	3	0
13	18 July	Rescue, injured climber, lea, pelvis, internal injuries	Whitney Face Inyo Co.	6	50	0
14	24-26 July	Search, missing girl, not found	Tuolumne Meadow Tuolumne Co.	9	420	8
15	31 July	Alert, injured hiker, ankle, unknown conclusion	Whitney Trail Inyo Co.	3	1	0
16	20 Aug	Rescue, fallen climber Head injury	Whitney Face Inyo Co.	10	78	32
17	26-28 Aug	Search, hissing hiker, found dead	Dragon Peak Inyo Co.	16	327	129
18	12 Sept	Mobilization, heart attack victim helo'd out	Darwin area Inyo Co.	7	15	0
19	19 Sept	Alert, possible injured person, unknown conclusion	North Lake Inyo Co.	3	5	0
20	19 Sept	Transit, 2 overdue hikers, walked out	Owens Peak Kern Co.	7	10	0
21	15 Oct	Search, 2 missing hunters, one found OK, one dead	Big Pine Creek Inyo Co.	10	140	72
22	29-31 Oct	Search, missing hunter, found dead	Cherry Lake Tuolumne Co.	7	282	48
23	31 Oct	Transit, missing child, found OK	Rancho California Riverside Co.	6	30	0
24	27 Dec	Search, missing hunter, walked out	Cache Peak Kern Co.	16	202	101

SEARCH AND RESCUE TRACKING SEMINAR 26-27-26 March Tuttle Creek

CLMRG



Tom Stogsdill stars in the INYO INDEPENDENT photo/news report of the tracking exercise. The Tracking Seminar was coordinated by Inyo County Sheriff's Posse, and attended by 69 people. Groups represented included the California Fish & Game, U.S. Forest Service, Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Park, Death Valley Monument, Bureau of Land Management. Members of search and rescue teams came from Sylmar, Mammoth, June Lake, and San Bernardino County.

A CLMRG slide presentation introduced the basics of Step-By-Step Tracking, the Method taught by the Border Patrol. Various tracking problems allowed everyone to practice tracking over difficult terrain, i.e., hardpan in dry lake bottoms. Night-tracking, sign-cutting, and a "model" search operation furnished more opportunities for realistic practice.

CLMRG planned and presented the training plan, assisted by trained trackers from other groups in attendance. 10 members from China Lake took part.

82- 01 Mobilization 28 February Great Falls Basin Al Green

At 1600 Sunday, Al Green received a phone call saying that a youngster was stranded in Great Falls Basin. Nine people mobilized at the Hut. Twenty (20) minutes after the first call, the first team was ready to go.

Another phone call with the welcome news that the boy had been extracted from his perch and was on the way to the hospital ended the callout.

82- 02 13 March Alert Carl Heller

"Someone on a Death Valley peak", and the helo pilot called Rockwell. "We need a CLMRG person to go with the helo" The catch: the helo left in 5 minutes.

Eight climbers from Cambridge and five from Oxford had been climbing ice in the gullies and N. ridges of Ben Nevis for several days. We were staying in the old Scottish Mountaineering Hut below the N. Face. It was snowing every night and blowing during the day so this scuzzy old stone hut was welcome. Ice on the buttresses was thin but hard. The gullies, though were coated in a sugary frosting that tools just sliced through.

It was a stormy day when we left the hut to grope our way through the cloud to what we hoped was the right chimney. 5 pitches of ice-encrusted rock led to the top. I knew it was the top cause it went down the other side --you couldn't see 20 feet. After climbing back up from one wrong gully we found a descent that seemed to go. Below some cliffs it opened up and we made fast progress to a dead end - the top of a huge corniced cliff. A bit of map and compass work, and our best guess was a 1000' climb back up along this edge to a descent into a different canyon. It was a long plod and we stayed back from the edge. Ian was a little faster than me but waited so we didn't lose contact.

I was 15 feet from the edge when I heard the crack. I knew it was the cornice and I was falling on top of this huge slab of snow (it extended 40 to 50 feet ahead of me). I dropped about 20 feet and almost stopped. My hopes rose as I thought it might hold, - then the surface began breaking up and the falling began. I seemed to be on top of things, pushed from below with huge blocks of ice and snow. Then I was down in it with huge chunks all around me. Suddenly, we were flying free - a spacy feeling. It lasted for several seconds and I grabbed the straps of my helmet, expecting the end. I don't recall landing, just flailing to keep my head above the snow. Then the bumper car ride was gone and I was sitting near the bottom of a canyon. I was coughing up blood and hurting, but I was alive - which really surprised me.

The choking stopped but I was worried about shock. I still had my pack, and put on another sweater and my cagoule. Ian was shouting far above me. I tried to shout back but he didn't seem to hear. Then he was gone and I thought "He's gone for help." It was almost dark and I thought about trying to walk down the canyon. Oh-h-h I couldn't even stand. Painfully, I sat on my pack, tucked my cagoule around me and prepared for a cold night. What injuries did I have? Could I make it through the night?

After awhile there were voices. I yelled "HELP HELP HELP". Soon they were to me. Ian had found two other climbers wandering in the cloud and together they found the normal descent route that led to me. One went to the hut for a stretcher and more people. I had fallen 1000' down an ice climb called Bob Run.

A radio at the hut was used to call the local mountain rescue. Soon after my friends had pulled me back to the hut through soft snow. It was an easy ride. Mountain rescue appeared with about 8 men shortly after we got there. They were more hill runners than technically trained rescuers. One was an M.D. who was soon checking me over and started an intravenous injection that was for internal injuries. They called for a military chopper through a direct radio link to the RAF. Forty-five minutes later this winking, blinking monster swept up the barren slope to a helipad below the hut. (The ceiling was 3000' and the hut's at 2200) This scene from Star Wars starred a big Sea King helo with multiple landing lights. I was nervous when they left the door open for takeoff but didn't tie my stretcher in. No one seemed worried by my screams. By midnight I was in the the hospital emergency room, trying to save what clothing I could from the surgeon's scissors. Damned lucky. Bill

(At the time Bill wrote this letter to Al Green, he had spent 5 days in the hospital at Fort William, and expected to stay another week. 8 broken ribs)

OPERATION REPORTS, continued

82- 03 Search IW Valley 15 March Carl Heller

A local resident, Bill Alltop, left his home at 11 a.m. on Monday morning to go jogging. At 8 p.m., when he had not returned, his wife called for help in locating Bill.

CLMRG received the call at 8:10.. By 8:20, the advance team was on its way. The Ridgecrest Police and Sheriff s office had been alerted. The China Lake Police had patrolled the roads around B Mountain. Eighteen CLMRG members were in the field; the field consisted of various portions of the Valley where Bill had been known to park his car, and go jogging. Many unknowns created a difficult situation in setting up a search pattern. "Someone at work" thought they had seen Bill during the day.

Fortunately, and happily, a call from Alltop's house at 9:30 said all was well. Bill had driven up Short Canyon, locked himself out of his VW, and had had to walk out to the Homestead's telephone.

From the WOOF NEWS, an excerpt from an article on Cold Injury

Rule 1. for treating someone with hypothermia is DO NOT LET THEM EXERT THEMSELVES. Do not let cold people walk or struggle.

Rule 2. Handle cold victims gently since PHYSICAL TRAUMA TO THE HEART WILL CAUSE FIBRILLATION. Don't handle a litter roughly or drop it while carrying. If you find someone frozen "dead" with no heartbeat and you are within an hour of transporting them to a hospital, transport without CPR.

(You may want to read the article with more details, although the WOOF article is in itself a synopsis. Dr. Cameron Bangs on Cold Injury, is the title)

EDITOR S CUBBYHOLE

Once again, this Editor is saying goodbye (as Editor). Ed, is retiring from Federal Civil Service, and will be living in Lone Pine.

Rod Willer, Code 3853, will take over. He will have all sorts of help from his Public Education committee.

Good Luck, Rod, and I hope you enjoy the job as much as I have.

Liz Anderson