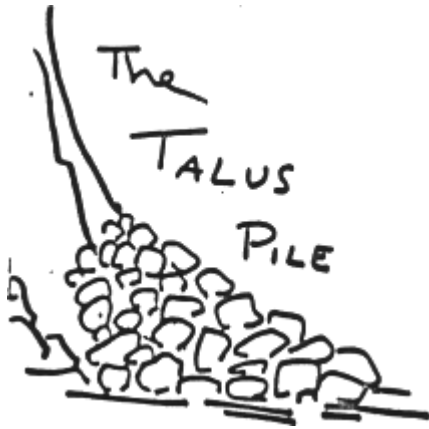


November 1982  
#52



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

WINTER SCHEDULE 1982-1983

DEC 1	Radio Hut Night	
DEC 4,5	Lamont Pinnacles	Derrickson
DEC 11,12	A desert peak	Sherman
DEC 13	Meeting	Joy
DEC 23	Al's Hill Xmas Party - Westbrook's afterwards	
DEC 30, JAN 1,2,3	Mt. Sill (Palisades)	Rockwell
JAN 8,9	'Accupalco'	Derrickson
JAN 10	Meeting	Green
JAN 15,16	University Peak	Maddox
JAN 22,23	Langley (on skis)	Brown
JAN 29,30,31	Death Valley Junction	Peterson
FEB 5,6	Cottonwood to Kennedy Meadows (on skis)	Hinman
FEB 12,13	Mt. Whitney	Rockwell
FEB 14	Meeting	Heller
FEB 18,19,20,21	Mammoth to Tioga Pass (Skiing)	Adams
MAR 5,6,7	Bolton Brown	Rockwell
MAR 11,12,13,14	Pear Lake (Hut trip)	Maddox
MAR 12,13	Tracking Practice - Tuttle Creek	Stogsdill
MAR 14	Meeting	Burge

## OPERATION REPORTS

NUMBER	DATE	WHAT	WHERE	LEADER
82-4	5/2	Mobilization	Spanish Needle	Heller

A phone call from Sierra Madre's Bob Howry alerted us to an overdue Sierra Club party. I contacted Marlene Ernstberger of the Sierra Club at Indian Wells Valley Inn at 9:30 who said 11 people were overdue since 4 p.m. from Spanish Needles Peak. No info was available as to the roadhead used. I got Sheila Rockwell working on a rescue team and contacted Inyo and Kern Sheriff's Department who were trying to decide which county the lost party was in. The peaks are in Kern County although routes to the peak lead through both Tulare and Inyo County and the party could be in any one. Don Glennon, Kern County Sheriff's Ridgecrest Sub-Station took responsibility and dispatched deputies to check vehicles. I had an advance team (Green, Burge and Renta) go to the hut. About 10:23 Gary Gonnell phoned to tell me the RP reported everyone out.

82-5	5/8	Alert	Tahquitz	Heller
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Al Andrews from the Riverside Mountain Rescue Unit phoned on Wednesday to set up a possible CALMRA search for a man lost from the top of the tram at Palm Springs Saturday. He was lost Monday and a Tuesday search of the canyons was unsuccessful. We got 13 definite commitments and several possibles. The lost man walked out of Tahquitz Canyon Thursday leaving RMRU uncertain of how they missed him.

82-6	5/31	Transit	Yosemite	Green
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A 0130 call from Lee Lucas broke the inactivity of my duty weekend. Lee had been called by Sierra Madre for our assistance in a search at Wawona Campground in Yosemite. A 7 year old (Teri Rae Heiser from Catheys Valley) had been missing from the family campsite since 1800, 5/30/82. A full search was being organized to begin at daylight. Sheila Rockwell and Lee telephoned our roster and got Dave Brown, Bob Huey, Larry Gleason and Bart Hine. We met at the Rescue hut and left at 0300. Our arrival at the park entrance was greeted by the welcome news that Teri had walked out approximately 15 minutes ago. We drove on down to Wawona for a debriefing. A loop trip down through the Valley over Tioga Pass and down the east side completed our transit.

82-7          5/31                      Mobilization                      Palisade Glacier                      Stogsdill

Jim Randall of Inyo Sheriff Posse called me at 9:30 a.m. and asked if CLMRG would standby for a possible rescue of an injured hiker, stranded on the lower portion of the Palisade Glacier. He was also in the process of securing a helicopter to assist in the rescue. He asked for four rescue members equipped for lowering the victim off the glacier. Jim also stated that an EMT was with the victim at that time and the word was that the injuries consisted of a broken leg. I called Sheila Rockwell to initiate a callout for people. Five minutes later, Jim Randall called me back saying that the rescue was on and that the China Lake rescue helicopter would be waiting for our team. He would meet us with a team from Inyo Posse at Sage Flat. Sheila called almost as soon as Jim hung up with Bob Westbrook, Bob Adams and Daryl Hinman as commitments to the rescue. They were to meet me at the rescue hut within 15 minutes. At the hut, gear was selected and loaded and then transported to NAF where we met with LTCOL Smith, the duty rescue pilot for the day. Smith was in the process of talking with the Inyo Sheriff for more information. The new information that he received was that the victim's injuries consisted of a broken ankle, but the rescue was still on. A decision was made that the chopper could only accommodate three rescuers and the crew would have to reconfigure the helo in order to do that. The removal of a rack of stretchers and installation of three seats was accomplished, gear loaded, crew briefed and all set to take-off on the mission, when the Inyo Sheriff called. A new report on the victim's condition indicated that the CLMRG rescue unit would not be required, but the helicopter was needed. Apparently the victim was in a position that a stretcher was not needed. We disembarked from our newly installed seats, secured our gear and headed back to the rescue hut to try and salvage the remainder of our Memorial Day weekend.

82-8          6/15                      Transit                      Whitney                      Renta

I received a call from NWC at 2200 hours Tuesday June 15 requesting that four CLMRG personnel accompany the NWC helo to assist in a technical rescue. Departure from NWC was to be at 0500. The victim was reported to be a man 400 feet below the summit of Mt. Whitney. He was thought to have a broken leg and possibly other injuries. We were to be flown to Lone Pine Airport where we were to be briefed by Jim Randall of Inyo Posse.

By 2300 hours we had the names of ten people who could respond to the call out. I decided that Green, Hinman, Adams and I would go with the helo and a second team of Stogsdill, Willer, Hine, Peterson, Mitchell and Fletcher would drive to Lone Pine Airport with base radio and stretcher and setup a base camp. An additional 7 people were put on alert.

Stogsdill and company left the hut at 0315. They arrived at Lone Pine Airport by 0445. Green, Hinman, Adams and I left the hut for the cold line at 0415 arriving there in 10 minutes. By 0450 the pilots had not arrived. Green and I questioned the personnel on duty and they assured us the flight was still on. At 0530 we were informed that the helo had been cancelled at 0230 hours by the Inyo Sheriff Posse and that the Lemoore helo would handle the call. We (Renta, Green, Hinman, and Adams) drove back to the hut and began making phone calls to determine if our help was still required. The Inyo Sheriff Station

in Independence informed us that the Forest Service had taken responsibility for the operation. The deputy did not believe that our help was required. I made additional phone calls to members of the Inyo Posse but I was not able to verify the information. Stogsdill in Lone Pine had received the same information that I did and was also not able to verify the information through the Forest Service in Lone Pine. We therefore called off the operation at approximately 0630 hours.

We later found out that it was Sequoia National Park and not the Forest Service that had taken responsibility for the operation. The Lemoore helo had problems and was down upon reaching a helo pad within the park and therefore the victim spent a second night on Mt. Whitney.

#### COMMENTS

1. I should have made two more phone calls Tuesday night, to the helo pilot to let him know who was in charge of the CLMRG team, and find out what time he wanted us at the helo. Then call Jim Randall, the Inyo Posse member in charge, to get more information on the location and condition of the victim, this would also assure that he would know who in CLMRG to call if any changes in the situation occurred.
2. Four of the five most experienced technical members responding were scheduled to go in the NWC helo. Had the operation continued and the NWC helo had trouble Stogsdill would have needed more technical people to run a rescue on the face or buttress routes of Mt. Whitney. I should have sent either Green or Hinman with Stogsdill.

82-9	6/27	Alert	U-Notch	Stogsdill
82-10	7/4	Search	Piute Pass	Atkins

After a quiet 4th of July weekend, the anticipated call came at 0830 Monday morning. The China Lake Police Dept had received a call from the Inyo Team requesting our assistance in a search for a lost backpacker that was overdue on a loop trip originating from North Lake. The initial request was for winter qualified team of ski mountaineers. Because of our limited number of skiers, I asked Mary Wyatt to call all the winter qualified personnel on the roster. The first team, consisting of Atkins, Renta, Jones, Joy and Peterson left China Lake at 1030. After a quick briefing at the Bishop Sheriff's station and a fast lunch in Bishop, we arrived at North Lake at approximately 1430. Pat Elliot and Jim Randle of the Inyo team were logging in the MRA Teams as they arrived. The overdue hiker was a 50 year old lady, Inga Bertuch, of Scottsdale, Arizona. She and two male companions had been on a six day loop trip over Piute Pass into the Desolation Basin area. On Saturday (7-3-82) the party had left their last camp to hike out over Piute Pass. Inga's two male companions had left her at Hutchinson Meadows, and gone on ahead, telling Inga to keep the creek on her right, and to follow the trail over the pass. Inga had had little experience in hiking in high mountains such as the Sierra Nevada, and this fact, compounded by quite a bit of late snow made following the trail difficult. From the debriefing, it is most likely that she followed

Piute Creek East, keeping it on her right, and when she reached the confluence of the streams draining south from the Desolation Lakes area, she turned north, again keeping the creek on her right as instructed by her companions. She proceeded North all day Saturday toward Four Gables Peak, and crossed over the crest to the East side of the crest. After descending several hundred feet, she found herself unable to proceed or retrace her route, and realized that she would have to await assistance.

When Inga failed to come out on Saturday, her two companions hiked back to the Hutchinson Meadows area searching for her. When they did not find her, they hiked out on Sunday p.m. and notified the Sheriff, and the MRA call out was initiated. Several teams were already in the field when we arrived. Pat asked me to assist him in base camp and operate the base radio. We were using the Lemoore SAR Helo, and also had a contract Helo for transporting teams into the field. The China Lake teams were in the field at 1530 Monday afternoon. Their assignment was to sweep North and West along the Pacific Crest from the lakes below Mt. Humphries toward Four Gables above Desolation Lake. As other teams arrived, they were given assignments in the area where the victim was last seen. All the field parties were equipped to spend the night out and continue searching Tuesday morning. Several potential tracks were picked up on Monday afternoon, but none panned out. Several aerial surveys of the Pacific Crest from Pine Creek Pass to Piute Pass were made during the search, with emphasis on checking the East Side to make sure Inga had not gone over the Crest. In spite of these (Inga reported she had seen Helos on Saturday, Sunday and Monday) these aerial surveys were not successful. Tuesdays efforts were concentrated along the creek drainages coming south out of the Desolation Lake area and along Piute Creek in the vicinity where Inga was last reported. On Tuesday, teams from the Bay Area, ESAR, Los Padres, Mammoth, June, Inyo, Riverside, Sierra Madre, and China Lake were in the field. Also seven woof teams from Tahoe and the Bay Area were being used in the search for Inga. The China Lake SAR Helo flown by LCDR Byron Dieckman with LT Brent Norman assisted by Crew/Chief John Schatz and Corp/Person Stephanie Bright had replaced the Lemoore Helo. We were also continuing to use the contract helo.

By midafternoon on Tuesday, no positive signs had been turned. We were sending teams into areas for the 3rd or 4th time, and beginning to look at long shots. To compound the problem, the weather was beginning to deteriorate, and it looked as if we would have to pull the teams out of the Basin early in the afternoon. At 1350 the field teams were asked to continue their assignments, but to be looking for good helo spots for later helo evacuation. The Mammoth Lake #1 team had spent the morning searching the drainage from Piute Creek North toward Desolation Lake. After finding and loosing several promising tracks, they reached the southern end of Desolation Lake. Their second assignment was to search the West side of the Desolation Lake area, and examine the small pothole lakes that ring the West side of the Lake. Early in the afternoon, about 1430, they called in requesting a new assignment. Even though the drainage coming South from Four Gables had been searched before, they were assigned to recheck this area and proceed North toward Four Gables, checking the creek and looking for a helo spot for evacuation. This team did more than they were asked, and climbed all the way to the Pacific Crest retracing Inga's path. At 1700, just as we were dispatching a helo to evacuate them, they made voice contact with Inga. After an anxious hour, with the assistance of the contract helo, Inga was airlifted in good condition to base camp. All teams were airlifted out of the search area by 1830, and the operation was concluded. Other members of the CLMRG participating were Sakai, Gleason, Huey, Heller, Hines, J. Sherman, Derrickson, Green and Sires.

82-11      7/10                      Alert                      Mt. Emerson                      Burge

I received a call at 0650 via the China Lake Police, to contact Bob Karras of Inyo County SAR. He asked us to standby for a possible operation. They had sent a team up from North Lake to check out a report that there was a possible stranded climber on Mt. Emerson, since shouts had been heard the night before. Acting as coordinator, Daryl Hinman called and got 6 more people for the standby. At about 0900, I learned from Inyo that the subject had returned to his camp. However, they asked us to remain on standby until 1700 since they felt they were shorthanded if anything else came up. The standby was called off at 1710.

82-12      7/14-15                      Recovery & Rescue                      Whitney                      Green

The call was received from Inyo County Sheriff's Deputy Lutze at 1900 Wednesday. A climber was hanging upside down from his rope at the 13,300 ft. level of Mt. Whitney. He was reported unconscious but alive. Barb Slates called the roster and got 4 more climbers - Dennis Burge, Bob Huey, Corinna Peterson, and Rod Willer. The helicopter piloted by Chip Lancaster could take only 4 so the last to arrive (Corinna) got to drive up with the backup team - Don Harris, Larry Cleason, Bart Hine and Kenny Pracchia.

We were literally racing the sun and in spite of getting airborne within 68 minutes of the initial call it was nearly dark when we landed at Lone Pine. Chip, however, was willing to make a try at getting us to East Face Lake. He did try, but it was so dark by then that even picking a landing zone was extremely hazardous. A decision was made to go back to Lone Pine and wait until first light and try again.

Back at Lone Pine we met with 4 members of the Inyo Team (Paul Heal, Rick Ackerman, Clay Kelsey and Bob Wilson). A plan developed and team assignments were made. The first team was inserted at Iceberg Lake at 0545 and the rest followed within 1 hour.

The victim, just as initially reported was hanging below a ledge, which we now identified as the large ledge leading over to the "Fresh Air Traverse". Three people were on the ledge, his climbing partner and two other climbers who had aborted the Keeler Needle to help out (Shawn Curtis and Nick Byderic - Brad Fouchey who was also a part of the Keeler Needle climb had gone out to initiate this rescue).

After reaching the scene we found that Nick and Shawn were very competent climbers. They had climbed up to the accident site with all their gear and had done everything possible. Their help and concern was greatly appreciated. At this time we learned that George Evans was the victim and Bill Smith was his climbing partner.

We accomplished a vertical raise approximately 50 feet, a horizontal traverse about 100 feet and another vertical raise approximately 50 feet, to reach a ridge where a helo pick-up was possible. At about 1300 the helo arrived and picked up the victim and myself (I had managed to get requested to board the helicopter to help pull the stretcher **in**). All but two of the remaining people were also picked up from the same ledge. Huey, Pracchia had already started down with Bill Smith. They would be picked up at East Face Lake along with Paul Neal and Shawn Curtis who cleaned the route and collected fixed ropes as they down climbed.

Comments: I should have had the break down stretcher sent in instead of using the resident Mt. Whitney stretcher. Climbing with the litter on a backboard would have been faster. Also, the pulleys would have been on the stretcher and they were needed. I should have double checked on the decision to use the winch and had people ready to load the stretcher. The helo came in without the winch and I had only assigned one person to hook it up. This caused some confusion.

The value of a good "wall climber" on operations like this was clear. Paul Neal did an excellent job of leading, rappelling, jumaring, etc. - well done Paul.

82-13      7/17                      Alert                              Calaveras County                      Harris

At 0015 I was called by Arnold Gaffery, Sierra Madre. There was a region callout for a 54 year old man and son missing in Calaveras County near Arnold on Highway 4. Air transport was being arranged. Called Janet Westbrook to start callout. She got Dave Brown, Bob Joy, Tom Stogsdill, and Rod Willer. At 0830 operation was called off when subjects were found.

82-14      7/18                      Rescue                              Mirror Lake                              Green

A phone call from Janet Westbrook at 0900 offered me another helo ride. A hiker was stranded on a rock ledge near Mirror Lake. Because of the early hour and the fact that LCDR Dieckman was ready to fly, it promised to be and was - a piece of cake. Dave Brown was the other half of our climbing team.

A quick flight to Lone Pine, check with the Deputy and then to Mirror Lake. Another hiker directed us to an LZ then pointed out the stranded hiker. Dieckman suggested that we hoist him with a horse collar. It worked beautifully. They lowered me to the ledge, I traded places with our victim (George O'Connor) and they hoisted him into the helo. The horse collar came back down and up I went. Modern technology is great, with a super pilot and the experienced crewmen: A03 Hill, AMS3 Clenney and HM3 Buckelew.

George O'Connor had got himself in trouble by glissading down from Trail Crest Saturday afternoon. He picked every promising looking patch of snow and slid to its end. The last one led him to some very steep rock. Traversing and climbing around completed his entrapment. George had shorts, tee shirt and camera. I believe he is lucky to be still alive.

82-15      7/19-20                      Search                              Morris Peak                              Heller

A Cessna Skymaster crashed at about 1800 on Monday 19 July 1982. The pilot was able to report the crash but his radio soon went out while the ELT was left on. CAP (George Turner and Leon Ammerman) got airborne, but were turned back by an AF helo from Edwards AFB who circled the crash, but departed without loading or reporting a location useful to ground crews. CLMRG (D. Burge) had been on standby and was also turned off by NWC control tower. The IWV SAR team then was given the job to rescue the injured pilot and passenger, but without good location.

At 2254 CLMRG assistance was requested by Kim W., Sheriff's office, since the terrain was proving not as flat as expected. At 2326 the first team under Al Green (radio 21) was enroute and other teams were sent as people arrived at the Base camp at the hut. At 1139 contact with IWV base in Indian Wells Canyon gave indication that this was still a search and that the Elper would help. We sent our Elper and contacted Phelps TerHeun of CAP to join one of our teams with his Elper. Rlee Peters, CAP, joined based and we began a telephone search for Turner, Ammerman or the AF helo pilots to help us fix the crash location. The Elpers gave confused signals from outside the Indian Wells Canyon, but eventually pointed into the gully descending east from the saddle north of Morris Peak. We broadcast this info at the same time one Elper team was trying to direct teams into the correct gully in the dark. Some teams moved into incorrect gullies but at 0307 team 21 (four man) located the crashed aircraft. The story from here belongs to the ground team's efforts to get first aid and stretchers to the victims, to haul the stretchers uphill to a road and the pickup by a helo from Lemoore. At 0652 the victims were delivered to Ridgecrest Hospital and Don Harris with Rlee Peters went out to pickup our gear. Some teams stopped for breakfast others were back at 0800.

#### COMMENTS:

1. This successful search helps justify our theory of Elper searches. Rather than Elper teams conducting individual searches we ran a combined operation with the Elper teams sending locations and directions, the base camp staff making predictions of the ELT location and fast field teams with voice radios proceeding to the ELT location. In this type of operation, the Elper teams must be unselfish, moving even away from the ELT to give good readings. They must also be precise about their locations. Base staff must be strong with good map handling. In this case Don Harris drew a circle very close to the actual spot. Any team, IWV or CLMRG, could have found the victims if they had a map. One CLMRG team was close but did not have a map - a bad mistake.
2. After the search phase, the rescue phase involved getting stretchers and warm bags to the victim's location. Here I wish Don Glennon had been at base camp to help direct operations. Twice stretcher teams were directed away from the correct location by deputies in the field while base camp was trying to get them together. When finally the victims were reasonably comfortable and warm in stretchers a similar problem occurred with the helo. Al Green who has been working in the Sierra with Navy helos regularly wanted the stretchers on an open ridge, but the actual pickup was on a crowded hillside. The best operation is run with the director in base camp and experienced SAR leaders in the field.

#### DESCRIPTION OF ELT SEARCH

Our first readings were from the highways outside Indian Wells Canyon. These gave what proved to be erroneous locations due to wave bounce. One Elper in Freeman Canyon gave no signal telling us the aircraft was not on or over the crest in Indian Wells Canyon. From Powers Well (the windmill) our two Elper teams gave very different readings one of which was correct and one wrong as shown later. We do not know exactly where each team stood to take the readings.

From up canyon we had trouble getting exact locations, but soon had a few readings pointing up the gully leading to the saddle north of Morris Peak. TerHeun used his Elper vertically and suggested an elevation between 6000' and 6500'. The oval we drew was fairly large from a ground team's viewpoint



but the aircraft was inside it. With the victims alive and vocal, there was no problem once the team got within 1/4 mile.

Once again Elper team location is very important and in any practice this should be stressed. As evidenced from the Powers Wells readings it can be useful if a team takes readings from two or three spots within 50' of their nominal location. If these are not nearly equal there may be radio or compass anomalies suspected.

82-16          7/23                  Rescue                          Trail Crest                          Renta

At approximately 1400 hours July 22, Paul Nakamoto, 20 years old, took a missed step and either broke or badly sprained his right foot. The location of the accident was between Trail Camp and Trail Crest on the Mt. Whitney Trail. One of Paul's two companions, Michael Legg, went for help at 1500. The second companion, Jeff Bender, stayed with Paul on the trail. Legg took about three hours to get back to his truck at Whitney Portals. CLMRG was contacted by Dan Lucas of the Inyo County Sheriff's Department at approximately 2230 hours.

A team of me (Renta), Adams, Stogsdill and Brown was formed. Lucas arranged for the China Lake helo with a crew of pilot LCDR Dieckman, co-pilot LT COL Smith, ADAA Clark, HM3 Harrington, and A03 Schatz to fly us to the location of the accident. Take-off was to be at 0700 hours, July 23.

We met at the hut at 0600 hours, loaded our radios and gear into two vehicles and drove to the cold line. Take-off was delayed a little over an hour while some last minute adjustments were made to the Huey. Take-off was at 0815 hours. We flew to Lone Pine Airport where we were briefed by a sheriff's deputy. We then proceeded to Outpost Camp where Adams, Stogsdill, Brown and Harrington were let out to lighten the helo. The rest of us flew to the switchbacks above Trail Camp to find the victim and determine what was to be done. Because of the large number of people on the trail we had trouble finding Nakamoto from the air. We therefore landed on top of the ridge south of Trail Crest at 13,700 feet. From there I was to walk down the trail and find Paul. Before I reached the trail the helo crew located him, I went back to the helo and we flew down to the trail about 30 feet below Paul and let Clark and me out of the helo. We then went up to Paul, and placed him in the horse collar lowered by the helo at about 0950 hours. The helo flew Paul to Outpost Camp. The helo then returned and picked Clark and myself off the trail two switchbacks above the spot Paul had been picked up. First aid was administered at Outpost Camp by Harrington with Brown and Adams assisting. An attempt to splint Paul's foot with out air splint was unsuccessful due to a leak in the splint, so wire splints were used.

With the first aid completed everyone loaded back into the helo and flew to Lone Pine Airport where Legg drove Paul to the hospital for treatment. We arrived back at the hut at 1215 hours.

COMMENTS:

1. Paul said that he and Jeff had asked a lot of people for help but all he got was an old ski pole.
2. Stogsdill was able to contact the sheriff's deputy on the sheriff's frequency using the 'B' channel on the new Wilson radio from Outpost Camp.

82-17

9/2-3

Search

Whitney

Hinman

Early in the morning of September 2, CLMRG received a call from Jim Randall of the Inyo County Sheriff's Posse for assistance in a search for an 84 year old hiker on Mt. Whitney. Burr Stalnaker, of San Diego, had left his wife at Trail Camp the morning of the previous day (Sept 1), for his solo summit attempt. Mrs. Stalnaker became concerned when climbers descending from the summit had not seen her husband on the trail. She hiked to the Portal and notified the Inyo Sheriff that evening.

Randall sent a three-man team up the trail the following morning. At that time the NWC helo and a CLMRG team was also put on alert. The Inyo team hiked to Trail Camp, where they found Stalnaker's pack, and then on to Trail Crest. One member continued over the crest to search the area of Guitar Lake.

Unable to locate Stalnaker Inyo notified the NWC helo at 1230 to proceed to Whitney with a CLMRG team. Unfortunately neither Inyo nor NWC notified CLMRG, so the helo flew without the team. An hour later CLMRG was finally notified and ten members (Adams, Mason, Brown, Joy, Huey, Peterson, Hine, Sakai, Amster, and I) drove to Lone Pine Airport, arriving at 1600. The helo had just returned to the airport from an air search, so some hasty decisions were made for deployment of CLMRG personnel during the remaining daylight. The helo, piloted by LCDR Dieckman, dropped Huey and I at Trail Crest and evacuated the two Inyo team members to Lone Pine. Four other two-person CLMRG teams were dropped in the areas of Guitar Lakes, Crabtree Meadows, and Hitchcock Lakes. These four teams were to make hasty searches of the trails and camping areas, contacting as many of the numerous backpackers in the area as possible. I was to act as an advanced base from trail crest. I sent Bob Huey to the summit to check the register and summit trail.

At 2000, Huey called to report that Stalnaker had been located about 200 yards west of the summit trail, on a steep boulder slope near Day Needle. He was alive, but suffering from hypothermia and numerous lacerations, especially on his head and feet (he had removed his shoes). Stalnaker had been found with the aid of three backpackers who heard him respond to Huey calling his name from further down the trail. Because of darkness, it was decided to stabilize Stalnaker there and evacuate him with the helo in the morning from a location on the crest south of Trail Crest (about a two mile evacuation). When I reached Huey's location, Stalnaker was safely tucked away into a sleeping bag. His wounds had stopped bleeding and he was responsive, but not totally coherent. The backpackers, Huey and I took turns sleeping with Stalnaker as we passed the night sharing food over the fire (some people actually carry wood in their packs).

The morning light was well anticipated and found Stalnaker in a more coherent state. It appeared feasible to do a one skid pick-up in the immediate area and when the helo appeared at 0800 I requested the same. Brown had joined us by then (Adams was on the crest acting as a relay to base) so we had six people to lift Stalnaker into the helo without the aid of a stretcher. This proved to be hazardous at best, but was finally accomplished on the second try. Stalnaker was taken to Southern Inyo Hospital where he was found to also have a head concussion, broken rib, and separated shoulder. Everyone, including the backpackers, was evacuated by helo to Lone Pine by 1130. Carol Burge and Janet Westbrook acted as coordinators for the operation and Nancy Hinman assisted base camp at the Lone Pine Airport.

COMMENTS:

1. I should have contacted the Helo pilot during the alert stage of the operation to prevent the Helo from leaving China Lake without our team.
2. Considering the age of the victim Inyo should have mobilized CLMRG much sooner. It is very doubtful that Stalnaker would have survived his second night out considering his state when found.
3. Stalnaker was last seen proceeding down the John Muir Trail from Trail Crest towards Guitar Lake. This is why the searching was concentrated over the crest as opposed to the Summit Trail. It is a mystery how he got to where he was found from his last known location, without being seen on the busy trail. Proceeding cross-country would have been extremely difficult considering his age and the terrain.
4. Considering his injuries, Stalnaker should not have been loaded into the helo without a stretcher. I should have insisted that the helo take the time to go get a stretcher.

82-18            9/5-6                    Search                            U-Notch                    Stogsdill/Jones

Inyo County SAR (Bob Karnes via CLPD) called at 7:05 p.m. Sunday 5 September, requesting a team of six(6) to assist in the possible search/rescue for a party of two(2) overdue in the vicinity of Palisade Glacier (U-Notch). They were expected to exit Palisade Basin via the U-Notch and hike out to Glacier Lodge. (Subsequent investigation by Inyo County found the subjects had exited o.k. via Bishop Pass).

Two teams of three (Stogsdill, Peterson, Woodworth and Buffum, Huey, Gleason) were readied and on the way by 9:00 p.m. to Glacier Lodge. Inyo County was coordinating Navy and/or Park Service helos for use at daybreak. (Mason was ready to go with CL Navy helo). CLMRG teams and Inyo County were made aware of CLMRG climbers (Green, et. al.) in the Palisade area (Elinore Lake, S. Fork Big Pink Creek) should their help be necessary. China Lake received word that the operation was secured at 9:45 a.m. on Monday and the teams were home by noon Monday. The Navy helo crew received word just prior to take-off and diverted to a separate SAR in the Mojave area. (Mason aboard, he will file separate report).

82-19            9/6                            Search                            Red Rock Canyon                    Mason

This operation was a result of the previous nights search to investigate the climbers overdue at the U-Notch. I, like everyone else, was called by Carol Burge on the evening of 9-5-82 to respond to the above. I declined to go that night because of illness, but volunteered to head a second team the following day. Late that evening, I learned LCDR Lancaster and his helo crew had been requested to fly the following morning, and that I could catch a ride if so desired.

I decided to go and arrived at NAF at approximately 0730 only to learn that the U-Notch operation had been wrapped up and people were heading home. Almost simultaneously, the helo crew was requested by the Kern County Sheriff to fly and search for a lost man (John Sathoff, 34, Palos Verdes), who was hiking out of Jawbone Canyon after wrecking his 4 wheel drive truck. After being requested by LCDR Lancaster to accompany them, and since I was already packed, I decided to represent CLMRG.

At 0830 we arrived at base camp near the mouth of Jawbone Canyon and were greeted by approximately 25 members of Bakersfield Sheriff Posse and nearly all of IWVSAR. Needless to say, I felt slightly out of place in my orange shirt among all the red jumpsuits. I informed them that I would do anything to assist. They in turn told me that EMTs and trackers were present to assist me if so desired. CLMRG is obviously well respected. During a short briefing, we were informed that the victim had driven his 4 wheel drive off the Jawbone Canyon road, and had left a note on a \$10.00 bill (this was on 9-4-82) that he was injured and walking out. I decided to stay with the helo crew and search from the air. We began flying all the canyons looking for tracks in soft sand or objects that John might have dropped. This continued for approximately 1 1/2 hours.

At 1100 it was decided that one more canyon would be searched and then fuel would be needed. Suddenly at the top of this last canyon, a pencil flare shot up in front of the helo. All eyes focused on the ground until a person was spotted in the shade beneath some small trees. The helo crew and I were dropped off above John on a ridge with a Stokes litter and first-aid equipment. We descended to the victim while Chip returned to base for fuel. It was determined that the victim had hit his head on the truck windshield and sustained a slight head wound. He was semi conscious and very dehydrated. His vitals were determined, an I.V. was administered, his head wound was treated and he was loaded into the stokes for the trek up the hill to a loading zone. LCDR Lancaster having refueled, returned for a quick one skid pickup and off we went to the Antelope Valley Hospital.

At 1300 we returned to base for a quick debriefing and a bite to eat. With egos running high, the helo crew and one CLMRG member returned home.

COMMENTS

Be in the right place at the right time and anything can happen.

82-20

9/8-9

Search

Whitney

Heller

Mrs. Scheibner, 71 years old, climbed Whitney Wednesday by herself after her daughter-in-law turned back to Trail Camp. When Maxina failed to return to camp at 1900, Helene notified a USFS employee who radioed out to the Sheriff's office. We were called before 2200 by Jim Randall and asked to send a small team up the trail to investigate. The age of the subject made the danger higher and the immediate response more urgent.

C. Burge got Rockwell, Brown, Derrickson and I as a team, Jones to help at the hut, and Liz Anderson to meet us at the Lone Pine Airport. At 0140 we left the Portals complaining about operations that start after the evening's bedtime drink. We found the USFS employee, Lori Comeran in her tent above Outpost Camp and got some additional info including that Maxina was still lost at 2000.

I had three volunteers to stay there as liaison with the Forest Service and we continued to Trail Camp by 0620. Helene Scheibner was glad to see us and told us more about her mother-in-law.

Rockwell and Brown continued toward Trail Crest while Derrickson and I established radio contact with Base Camp. A helo was due about 0900. Maxina had been seen descending from the summit but not at or below Trail Crest so the Muir Trail was a high probability. The Lemoore helo "Angel One" came over about 0910. When the pilot couldn't land at Trail Camp he decided to investigate the Muir Trail. About 0930 he landed at Hitchcock Lake and found someone who said a lost, elderly woman had slept with a group near them and was now hiking over Trail Crest to Trail Camp. About 0935 Rockwell met people at Trail Crest with the same message. Rockwell and Brown went down to her. and were back at Trail Crest in radio contact at 1100. They said she was in good shape so the helos were sent home (helo 52 from the Sequoia Park had shown up) by Pat Elliot. She was very slow descending so at 1330 decided to accept a \$400 ride out with the contract helo. The two women left at 1440 and we hiked out and drove home by 1900.

Backup teams had been called Thursday morning before Maxina was located and drove in from Bishop and Ridgecrest. A communication glitch occurred when Elliot didn't pass along Anderson's message about our radio equipment which was left in Lone Pine as we drove home.

82-21	9/25	Alert	Chimney Peak	Renta
82-22	9/26	Alert	Alpine County	Rockwell
82-23	9/29-30	Search	Rock Creek	Renta

Bob Joy received a call from some of his friends from Texas Instruments (TI) at about 1100 hours 28 September. They stated that one of their co-workers Claude Wood and his wife Bev were three days over due returning from a week long backpacking trip in the Sierras. They thought that CLMRG should go out and look for them. Claude who was 52 years and Bev 50, were both experienced backpackers, their equipment included down parkas, sleeping bags, a tube tent, and some light rain gear, with the exception of the tube tent all the equipment was green. The people at TI thought that the Woods intended route started at Mosquito Flats then over Mono Pass and up the Second Recess to the Lake Italy-Bear Lakes area. Their return would take them over the north ridge of Bear Creek Spire and back down the Little Lakes Valley to Mosquito Flats and their truck. Bob was also informed that two of the Woods sons were in the mountains looking for their parents and that the Inyo County Sheriff had not been contacted.

With this information Joy started calling down the roster looking for an operation leader to start organizing the search and to talk to the Inyo County Sheriff since we could not officially start the search unless asked to by the Sheriff's office. At 1300 hours Bob contacted me (Renta). I told Bob that I would be the operation leader but it might be better if an operation leader who was more familiar with the Sheriff's department and their personnel were to call the Sheriff. At about 1400 hours I received a call from Bob Westbrook. He had informed the Sheriff's office of the situation and that CLMRG could field a team if required. The Sheriff's office had by this time been called by relatives of Claude and Bev Wood. Westbrook was informed that although the trail head was in Inyo County the majority of the route was in Fresno. They would therefore have to contact the Fresno County Sheriff to find out who would be responsible for the search. We would be called if our help was required.

A call out was started at 1600 hours and every one was put on alert. At 1800 I was contacted by Jim Randall of Inyo County Posse, he told me that our help was required and that we would, at least in the beginning, be completely on our own. The Posse was very busy with other operations caused by the very heavy rain of the previous two days. Jim also said that a helo had been requested to assist us which would probably come from Lemoore.

A team consisting of myself, D. Burge, Adams, Joy, Huey, Gleason, Peterson, Willer, Mitchell, Hine, Pracchia, Wisecarver, Amster, and Brainerd left the hut at about 0300 hours the following morning. We stopped at the Sheriff's substation in Bishop to speak to the deputy in charge and to Lee Wood and his brother who had been up in the Little Lakes Valley the previous day. We then continued up to Mosquito Flats to establish a base camp. The sky over the mountains was overcast and it began to snow as we arrived at base camp at 0800.

After base camp was set up two teams (Burge-Peterson and Adams-Pracchia) were sent into the Little Lakes Valley to search the area as far as the north-east base of Bear Creek Spire. A third team of Joy and Wisecarver was sent over Mono Pass and Huey and Amster were sent to Mt. Starr to establish a radio relay to maintain communication with Joy-Wisecarver after they crossed over the pass. Two teams were held at base camp in anticipation of improving weather conditions. Clear skies would allow us to put both teams into the Lake Italy area where we thought the Woods would have been in when the rain started. By 0950 it had been snowing for two hours and it was apparent that the weather was not going to improve so an additional team of Willer and Mitchell were sent over Mono Pass.

Weather conditions remained poor through out the day with white-out conditions reported by all the field teams between 1200 and 1300. Several groups of backpackers and hunters had come out during the day, none had seen any sign of the Woods. Due to the weather conditions and the size of the area that needed to be searched we decided to call Ridgecrest for additional help and a call was made to June Lake and Sierra Madre Search and Rescue Teams for assistance.

None of the field teams had found any sign of Claude or Bev. By 1730 the Adams-Pracchia and Burge-Peterson teams were back in base camp and the two teams sent over Mono Pass had joined together and had made camp for the night near the Fourth Recess after having searched as far west as Third Recess. The radio relay had set up their tent on Mt Starr.

After debriefing the field teams everyone in base camp except Hine and Gleason went down to Bishop where we informed Deputy Dan Lucas of the results of the day's effort and discussed plans for the next day. We then went to dinner and briefed the CLMRG team of D. Hinman, D. Lucas, Mason, and Brown. They had arrived in Bishop at about 1300 with the China Lake helo piloted by LCDR Chip Lancaster. Later that evening a third group from CLMRG consisting of D. Lucas, N. Hinman, Sakai, Buffum, and J. Sherman, and eight members of the Sierra Madre Search and Rescue Team arrived in Bishop. Four members of the June Lake Team were to arrive at the base camp in the morning.

The next day (29 Sept) was clear and the helo would be able to fly so we decided to take two teams made up of D. Hinman, Sakai and D. Lucas, Sherman and fly over the route the Woods had planned to use before placing the team in their assigned search areas at Lake Italy. While flying over Fish Camp at the north end of Second Recess they spotted a bright object on the ground. The two CLMRG teams were out on the ground to investigate. They found a note wrapped in colored plastic. The note was written by the Woods stating that they had been there on the 27th and that they were going east to Mono Pass. The information was relayed to all the field teams. The ground teams began walking the trail between Mono Pass and Fish Camp while the helo flew over the trail. While flying over the end of the Third Recess the helo saw two people in orange jackets. The helo assumed them to be one of the teams that had spent the night at Fourth Recess since the Woods were reported not to have had any brightly colored clothing. After a few radio transmissions between the teams of Joy and Willer and the helo it became obvious that the people sighted by the helo were not the searchers. The helo then went back and confirmed that the people in orange were the Woods, the time was 0920. The Woods were picked up by the helo and brought back to base camp at Mosquito Flats. The Woods were unhurt but quite hungry since they had been without food for three days.

All the field teams were heloed back to base camp and base camp dismantled by 1200. Every one returning to Ridgecrest by 1700.

Manhours: 709; Vehicle mileage: 2485

COMMENTS:

1. All field teams found the footing poor with up to 8" of fresh snow covering icy rocks.
2. The temperature got below four degrees F at base camp during the operation, probably colder for the field teams.
3. At the time the Woods were found they were heading for Lake Thomas A. Edison not wanting to attempt going over Mono Pass with the snow on it.
4. On the night of the 29th the Joy and Willer teams were camped within a quarter to half mile of the Woods, the poor weather prevented the two groups from finding each other.
5. In case you lost count there were at least 47 people involved in the search; 28 from CLMRG includes the coordinators C. Burge, Wyatt, and Slates and Fletcher who was the Ridgecrest end of the radio link between Ridgecrest and base camp. There were eight people from Sierra Madre, four from June Lake, two from Inyo Posse and five in the China Lake helo crew.

82-24	10/10	Alert	Trail Camp	Jones
82-25	10/10	Alert	Palisades	Jones
82-26	10/12	Transit	Kernville Area	Heller

The call came from the Ridgecrest Sheriff's Office at 0830. Eight members responded and an advance team of Mason, Willer, and Brown were enroute at 0930. The young (23 years old) hunters walked out before 0955.

Comment: One hour is somewhat slow to get an advance team going. We need a few more people with ready packs and clothes at the hut.

82-27	10/12	Search	Yosemite	Renta
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I got back from four days of MRA seminar and rock climbing at Yosemite National Park at 2000 hours. I got to sleep at 2300. It was not midnight and the phone was ringing. It was Lee Lucas looking for a team leader to go on a search for a lost hiker in Yosemite. Unable to think of one valid reason why I couldn't go I told Lee that I would be team leader. We decided that the team should meet at the hut at 0300 hours.

After hanging up I began collecting the pack, sleeping bag, and all the other odds and ends that I thought I might or could use on the search. After everything was packed it was a little before one in the morning. It didn't seem worth trying to get back to sleep again so got dressed and sat down with a cup of hot chocolate (I can't stand coffee) and counted the minutes until it was time to leave.

I arrived at the hut a little before the appointed time and found that Ken Burton was already there with his Therm-a-Rest pad spread out on the hut floor. We began gathering the group equipment we thought we would need on the operation. When Howard Derrickson arrived a few minutes later, our team was complete so Ken and I grabbed our packs, radios, and etc and threw them into Howard's pickup truck and began our six hour drive at 0315, 12 October. We arrived at the Badger Pass base camp at 0930.

After checking in with Arnie Gaffery of Sierra Madre Search and Rescue we were briefed by the Nat'l Park Service. The victim, Dan Selidonio, had been camped at Ostrander Lake, seven miles east of Badger Pass, with a friend. They had decided to take a day hike to Hart Lake, one mile east of Ostrander. They started hiking together but separated, Dan electing to go over a ridge that stood between Hart and Ostrander Lake and his friend went around. Dan never reached Hart Lake.



After the briefing we were teamed with Doug Nidever of June Lake Search and Rescue. We were told that we would be heloed three miles above the junction of Illilouette Creek and the Buena Vista trail and then walk the Creek until we crossed the trail. At about 1105 we got in the helo and took off. While we were circling around looking for a good landing spot a message came over the radio saying that Dan had been found by one of the Wolf teams heloed in a little earlier, the time was 1120.

After landing back at Badger Pass we waited for the rest of the teams to be brought back for the debriefing. We then drove to the Valley and had lunch at the rescue cache, courtesy of the Park Service, at about 1430 we started driving home, arriving at 2045 hours.

Manhours: 56 ;vehicle mileage: 600

COMMENTS:

1. Instead of leaving at 0300 we should have left at 0130, neither of the three of us got any additional sleep after receiving the call from Lee. Starting at 0130 would have allowed for a decent breakfast along the way and a little less frantic driving.

**ODDS ON RESCUE**

When someone is lost in the desolate Sonoran Desert of southern Arizona, the Pima County sheriff's department usually calls on more than 100 people. The search effort involves ground vehicles, horseback riders, helicopters, and search dogs. But now one more member has been added to the rescue team—a University of Arizona mathematician armed with a specially programmed calculator. •

As the search progresses, John Bownds uses probability theory to figure out the likelihood of finding a missing person in each particular area. "It's the same as computing the odds on a certain horse at the race-track," says Bownds. "These techniques are already used by the Coast Guard, but my colleagues and I have adapted them to an

open desert terrain, where a person could go in virtually any direction."

Since the search area can cover some 4,000 square miles, the numbers that Bownds churns out on his calculator help the sheriff's department assign teams where there is the highest probability of a rescue. When the probability of detection gets low enough, the search is canceled.

The mathematical search formulas have been used during half a dozen rescue efforts over the last year, but Bownds cannot yet estimate how much this scientific approach actually improves the efficiency of a search. "But if our analysis saves just one more life," he says, "that's enough, isn't it?"—  
Marcia F Bartusiak

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*"Trees are your best antiques."*

*---Alexander Smith*

## How Does Your Weekend Fitness Run Rate ?

We're all looking to get more out of life. If that weren't the case, you wouldn't be reading this, I wouldn't be writing it, and we would instead be lying alone in separate darkened rooms, analyzing lint.

In our very human desire to gobble up and savor as much as we can of our particular pie slices of existence, we are rapidly moving away from the boring conventional and toward the electrifying challenge. Jogging and swimming are good and nice, but downhill skiing (at night) is even more of a thrill. And the rush of hang gliding packs an even better *pow*.

We pile on the exhilarations, gasp by gasp ... and risk by risk. And while some of these supercharged diversions are experiences beyond compare, you're only kidding yourself if you think they're getting you or keeping you fit.

In the chart below —adapted from one by Arnold E. Reif, D.Sc., in *Sports Injuries—The Unthwarted Epidemic* (John Wright-PSG Inc., 1982)—some popular week-vacation-time recreational highs are graded, school-

style: A is excellent, B is good, C is fair, D is poor, E is very poor, and F is forget it.

Dr. Reif points out that the smart participant weighs the thrill against the physical danger. For instance, three sports with the highest grades in exhilaration, challenge and expertise—hang gliding, mountain climbing and parachuting—also have exceptionally high death risks, whereas skiing and surfing, both rated high, are very low risks. To add insult to mortal injury, hang gliding and parachuting are lousy fitness training activities. The riskiness of activities, in descending order, are: mountain climbing (dedicated), hang gliding, parachuting, mountain climbing (all climbers), sailplaning (gliding), scuba diving (nonprofessional), snowmobiling, downhill skiing (racing), downhill skiing (recreational), surfing.

Go after that big thrill—life should not be lint—but balance the risks and the gains, be reasonable, be smart, be safe. But, mostly, be around a long, long time. end and

	Exhilaration	Challenge	Opportunity to exhibit expertise	Social rewards	Fitness training provided	Obesity, smoking discouraged	Self. image
Hang gliding	A+	A+	A	C		D	A+
Mountain climbing (dedicated) (all climbers)	A+	A+	A	C+	A	A	A+
Mountain hiking	A	A	A	B	A	A-	A
Parachuting	B	B-	D	A	A	0+	B+
Sailplaning	A+	A+	A	B	D	D	A
Scuba diving (nonprofessional)	A+	A	A	B	D	D	A
Skiing, downhill	A	A	A	A		B	A
Snowmobiling	A+	A	A	A	A-	C	A
Surfing	B	C	C	A	C	D	B
	A+	A	A	B-	A	B	A

SOURCE: Adapted from *Sports Injuries—The Unthwarted Epidemic*, edited by Paul F. Vinger, M.D., and Earl F. Hoerner. Copyright 1982. Used with permission of John Wright-PSG Inc.

## Snow and Ice Practice

On May 8th an ice axe/stretcher practice was held near Glacier Lodge by CLMRG. The day started at 6:00 a.m. with the drive from Ridgecrest. Self arrest skills were learned or sharpened and snow anchors were placed in the morning. After lunch a stretcher practice was held which consisted of lowering an injured victim (Al Green) three pitches on 30 degree snow. Problems showed up in the victim handling and exchanging the lowering lines between the anchors of each pitch. At a critique after the exercise had ended it was agreed by all that more work is needed on snow stretcher lowerings. The practice ended at 3:00 p.m.

## 2

INYO INDEPENDENT, PROGRESS-CITIZEN-THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 1982

**whitney hiker, 71, grateful**

I wish to commend the task force set in motion when I was reported missing Sept. 8 on my climb of Mt. Whitney. I was not lost . . . just took the wrong turn into the John Muir Trail and end up in the meadows where some fine folks shared their tent and fare with me and got me back up to Trail Crest to be met by your magnificent search and rescue team. To each and every member of this search and rescue team, including the helicopter crew, I commend you and thank you. —Maxine Scheidner, 345 El Monte Rd., El Cajon CA 92020. Phone 714-447-7357.

Ed. Note: Mrs. Scheidner, age 71, climbed Mt. Whitney for the cause of Huntington's disease. She was reported missing by her daughter-in-law, Helena Scheidner.

## EDITORS CUBBYHOLE

I would like to take this opportunity to thank those members who helped make the Talus Pile distribution possible. Mary Wyatt and Joyce Sherman donated a lot of their time to typing the operation reports, and I appreciate the cooperation I received from the leaders in obtaining their reports. Leaders, please continue to turn in your reports as soon after the event as possible. My biggest thanks go to my better half, who has spent a lot of time helping me with a very time consuming job (he's also a good advisor). Thanks again.

Nancylee Hinman