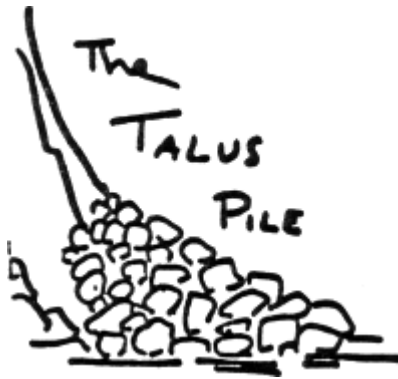


May 1984
#56



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

SCHEDULE 1984

MAY 14	Meeting	Buffum/Derrickson
MAY 19,20	Ice Axe Practice	TC
MAY 26,27,28	Brewer/North Guard	Linda Finco
JUNE 2,3	MRA	Bob Adams
JUNE 4	Summer Class	Tom Stogsdill
JUNE 5	Wagon Wheel	Bart Hine
JUNE 9,10	Telescope Peak	A. Mitchell
JUNE 11	Meeting	Tom Stogsdill/Hine
JUNE 16,17	Needles/Dome Rock Chamberlin/Pickering	Daryl Hinman Bob Joy
JUNE 20	Stretcher Hut Night	TC
JUNE 30/JULY 1	Tuolumne Meadows	Mike Renta
JULY 7,8	Charlotte Dome	Daryl Hinman
JULY 9	Meeting	Bob Joy/Renta
JULY 14,15	Class Day Trips Thor Dragon Candlelight Independence	Linda Finco Mike Mason Howard Derrickson Frank Buffum
JULY 21,22	Class Overnight Trips Whitney Bradley Clyde Spires/Mt. Powell Bear Creek Spire	Howard Derrickson Tom Stogsdill Bob Rockwell Dave Maddox
JULY 25	Class Party/Wagon Wheel	Linda Finco
JULY 28,29	Whitney/Russell	Bob Adams

* * * * *

BASIC ROCK CLIMBING/MOUNTAINEERING 1984

DATES: June 5 - July 17
Tuesdays and Wednesdays

COST: \$10 per student

PARTICIPATION:

Limited to 50 students
Must be at least 16 years old

REGISTRATION:

Pre-register by mail
beginning May 15. Address
to: Tom Stogsdill, P.O.

Box 2037, Ridgecrest, CA 93555.
Include name, address, and
registration fee. First come,
first served. Registration will
be on a space available basis at
first class meeting. (NWC
Training Center, Room 205).



War Department Field Manual
MOUNTAIN OPERATIONS - 1947

* * * * *

83-24

9/21/83

Search

Olancha

Stogsdill

At the request of the NWC Public Affairs Office, the China Lake Mountain Rescue Group (CLMRG) participated in a search for an off-range launched Skipper missile. The search was in the area west of Haiwee Reservoir and Highway 395 between mid-Haiwee and the communities of Olancha/Cartago, CA.

The operation was started on the morning of 21 September 1983 with a briefing by LCDR Nelson and LCDR Smith of VX-5. A call-out for CLMRG members was initiated by 0930 with responses from 20 CLMRG members. An additional 8 members from the Indian Wells Valley Search and Rescue Team joined CLMRG in the search. By 1445 all teams were fielded and a line search was started along the missile flight path. At 1700 the Search and Rescue helicopter from China Lake joined the search to cover areas not already covered by the line search. At approximately 1800 the helicopter crew spotted a crater and several missile parts. Speculation was that they were parts of the Skipper (later confirmed) and the operation was secured at 1820.

CLMRG members included: Adams, Amster, Ayers, Bonbright, Brown, Finco, Gleason, Harris, D. Hinman, Jones, Mitchell, Renta, Sakai, Seibold, Sinclair, Stogsdill, TerHeun, Wisecarver, Howell, Fletcher. Coordinator was Mary Wyatt.

83-25

10/19/83

Rescue

Whitney Switchbacks

Buffum

I received a call at 1830 on 19 October 1983, from Jim Randall of the Inyo Posse that Fred Green, 35, had hit ice while glissading on the Mt. Whitney switchbacks and slid 500 feet onto the rocks below. He reportedly had possible broken back and legs. The first team left Ridgecrest at 2100 and reached Whitney Portals at 2250. The team consisted of Frank Buffum (Operations Leader) Finco, Huey, Willer, Joy and Trowell. They carried the stretcher, first aid kits, Hare splint, backboard, stove, and overnight gear. Bob Fletcher ran base camp from the Lone Pine airport. We reached the victim at 12,200 feet at 0800 on the 20th. Willer and Trowell examined him. Vital signs were good, but he had a shattered knee, possible sprained wrists, possible head injury, many bruises and sore areas, and much pain. We received permission from a physician at Lone Pine to give him codeine. The victim was placed into the stretcher and slid downhill across snow approximately one quarter mile to await the helo at a safe pickup area.

The back-up team left China Lake at 0430, reached the trailhead at 0650, and arrived at the victim at 1030. This team consisted of Mason, Seibold, Geyer, Sakai, and Gleason. They brought gear to transport the victim downhill in the event the helo could not make it (wheel, wheel mounts, ropes, etc.) Additional teams from June Lake and Mammoth were put on alert.

A UH-1N helicopter from NAS Fallon (LT Earl Gay, pilot) arrived at Lone Pine at 1035. The helo made a recon flight (with Dennis Burge acting as sky marshall), picked the victim up at 1127, and landed at Lone Pine airport at 1138. The helo was low on fuel and could not return. We carried the victim's backpack and escorted his friend (Gary Polhamus) out. We arrived at the Portals at about 1600, were treated to dinner at Bobo's by the sheriff, and were home by 1900.

Critique:

1. Things went well; however, the first team should have carried rope in the event lowering was required. Ski Patrol experience shows that splinting a broken knee cap and ice pack will immediately alleviate much pain.
2. If the radio doesn't work, try putting in a new battery (carry spares always). Also, a radio should have been taken with the helo.
3. All rescue personnel should brush up in taking blood pressure readings each year so it is done with finesse, inspiring confidence in the victim.
4. We found that in spite of the enthusiasm of the team, Bob Huey's Toyota doesn't run on diesel fuel.

Coordinators were Barb Slates and Nancy Hinman.

83-26 10/30/83 Rescue Whitney Stogsdill

Dan Lucas, Deputy Inyo County Sheriff, called me midday Sunday, 30 October, wanting the names of the duty CLMRG operations leader for the weekend. I informed him that we assign our duty weekend leaders only between Memorial Day and Labor Day and it was catch as catch can the rest of the time. Dan said "Gotchya". Dan's information was that two climbers, one male and one female, had started climbing the East Buttress route on Mt. Whitney early on Saturday, 29 Oct, and had become stranded on a ledge about two thirds of the way up. By the time CLMRG was called, the party had already spent 30 hours stranded in snow, fog, and rain. The prediction was for worsening weather. Two 4-man CLMRG teams left Whitney Portals at 1730 Sunday and arrived at East Face Lake on Monday morning at 0245. Locating a tent and shaking the occupants awake to inquire as to the where-abouts of the two stranded climbers, brought about the happy discovery that the tent's occupants were, in fact, the two stranded climbers, Ms. Mari Calhun of San Francisco and Andrew Warren from New York. Both were well, warm, uninjured and had been sound asleep. With the prospects of climbing the East Buttress in the dark of night dashed asunder, both teams expressed their unhappiness by immediately hitting the sack and sleeping until 0800, Rescuers and victims then descended, to arrive at Lone Pine for a debrief at 1430. As it turned out, the victims had rappelled to safety at about the same time our team had left Whitney Portals the previous day. None the less happy about the rescue effort, the ex-stranded climbers showed their appreciation by buying the rescue team a case of Henry's. The operation was secured at 1730 on 31 Oct allowing us time to arrive back home to pass out candy to all the monsters and goblins. Participating in the rescue were: Brown, Hine, D. Hinman, Huey, Gleason, Joy, Lucas, Maddox, Mason, Mitchell, Renta, Siebold, TerHeun, Fletcher and Stogsdill. Our intown coordinators were Carol Burge and Mary Wyatt. A total of 379 man hours was expended, with 980 miles of vehicle travel logged.

84-1 2/5/84 Rescue Whitney Renta

It was Saturday, February 4. Rob Heineman, 22, of New York, and Charlie Freeman of Redwood City had just finished the East Face of Mt. Whitney and started

the descent by the third class Mountaineer's route. Upon inspection they decided to rappel the top few hundred feet of the route due to the presence of ice and snow. During the first rappel, at 14,300 feet elevation, Rob's foot broke through the snow into a crack in the rocks below and he fell over backwards, breaking the fibula and a bone in his foot. With Charlie's help, Rob was able to get down to their camp at East Face Lake (12,500 feet elevation) where Charlie proceeded to make Rob as comfortable as possible. Rob was now disoriented and confused and was periodically passing out and regaining consciousness. It was getting late so Charlie decided to stay the night with Rob and in the morning would go for help, leaving him alone.

I had been spending my Sunday cleaning the kitchen, something I had been putting off doing for the last six months, when Janet Westbrook called at about 1300 hours. She had been contacted by Bob Karras of the Inyo Posse, who said that our help would probably be needed. I accepted responsibility and called Bob. He was trying to get a helo through Scott AFB - National Air SAR Coordinator, and if he was successful, we would not be needed. I told Bob that I'd start getting a team together and call him back to find out if a helo had been identified.

After a short while we had 12 people able to go and I relayed this information to Karras. He told me that the China Lake helo was responding and therefore Inyo could handle the operation without our help. I told him that we would stay on standby until 1600 hours just in case.

At 1630 I called the NWC quarterdeck to determine the state of the operation. I was informed that the China Lake helo had never left due to mechanical troubles. I then called Karras. He said that he was just about to call me. They were trying to get the Mammoth Heliski helo but he doubted that it would arrive before dark. I told Bob we would be on our way ASAP.

We met at the hut at 1730 to collect the new Thompson stretcher, radios, ropes and other tools of the trade we might need. Others responding were: Huey, Atkins, Mason, Buffum, Mitchell, Derrickson, Sakai, and Seibold.

We arrived at Lone Pine Airport a little before 2000 hours and met Pat Elliott of Inyo Posse, Sgt. Dan Lucas of the Inyo County Sheriff's Department, and Charlie Freeman. The Mammoth helo was at the airport and would leave at first light to go in after the rescuee. After a discussion with Pat, Dan, and Charlie, we decided to go up that evening, since Rob was injured and unattended. At 2015 hours I sent Huey, Buffum, and Sakai in with "light" packs, and the rest of us followed at 2140. Derrickson handled base camp.

Both groups found the going slow. The advance team's progress was hindered by all their headlights except one going belly-up. For the rest of us the stretcher slowed us. We had planned to split the stretcher and divide the load between two of us. We found it would not split (our first operation with a new piece of gear). We then decided to tow it behind us, Mt. McKinley style. The underbrush we encountered while losing and regaining the trail in the darkness made the going difficult. So at 0130 we decided to bivvy until daybreak.

At 0630 the sun rose and with it the sound of the helo working its way up canyon. At this time the advance team (now reduced to Huey and Sakai; Buffum had flamed out at Clyde's Meadow, 11,500 feet) was less than a quarter mile from East Face Lake. Rob was in the hospital 20 minutes later.

We all received word over our radios to start walking out. However, after a few growls by Huey, the helo was sent back to give Huey and Sakai a well deserved ride. The rest of us reached Lone Pine by 0930. After a much appreciated breakfast, courtesy of the Inyo County Sheriff, we arrived back at Ridgecrest by 1230.

Man Hours: 175.5 Total Vehicle Mileage: 720

COMMENTS:

1. **We** needlessly spent a great deal of energy taking our Thompson stretcher up the mountain, when in fact all we needed to take was a cover for the bottom of the Stokes stretcher which we keep permanently at East Face Lake.
2. An advance team should have been sent to attend to Rob much sooner.
3. With summer light packs it takes as little as five hours to reach East Face Lake from the Portals. Under winter conditions, it took Bob and Tom 10 hours.
4. Everyone is reminded to carry extra batteries and bulbs for their headlamps.

84-2 3/15/84 Mobilization Bill's Butte Renta

Mike Mason and Rod Willer, CLMRG, had gone to Bill's Butte the afternoon of March 15 to set up a problem for the stretcher practice the following weekend. Due to darkness and high winds, they were delayed returning home. Penny Willer notified me at 9:30 p.m. Because of the late hour, an immediate callout was initiated. The operation was called off at 9:50 p.m. when Penny phoned stating that Rod had just called from the Homestead stating that they were fine.

Responding members: Green, Hinman, B. Rockwell, Stogsdill, Adams, and Finco. Nancy Hinman was the coordinator.

Anyone wanting to know what it's like to climb 5.8 friction at night with 50 m.p.h. wind gusts, please **see** Mike and/or Rod!

1983 COMMITTEE REPORTS

PUBLIC EDUCATION

CAROL BURGE

Twenty-five CLMRG members made 14 public education presentations in 1983. This represents approximately 115 person-hours. About 2900 people were reached by these presentations. A large, but unknown, number of people were reached at the Armed Forces Day exhibition.

Nearly everyone in the Group helped in some way with the summer class. Seventy students were instructed in the basics of mountaineering at our annual summer class.

An addition to the public education repertoire was made this year. The "Hug a Tree" slide show was purchased and 13 members trained to give it. It is

a program to help prevent children from getting lost and to take care of themselves if they do. It has been shown to most of the elementary children in our district.

FIRST AID

JANET WESTBROOK

1983: We believe strongly that all our members should learn first aid and remain current in both Advanced First Aid and CPR. We taught our annual two-part Advanced review in April and November as usual, and members were able to catch various CPR courses. For 1983 then, 23 of our members renewed their CPR cards, 3 took the complete Advanced F.A. course, and 13 participated in the Advanced reviews, while a grand total of 26 of us are completely current in Advanced First Aid. Good show!

1984: We have ordered a new stethoscope which is amplified and should work even in noisy helicopters and through some clothing. We are getting final specs on a new portable oxygen system to replace our very heavy cylinders and the little canister which no longer have much oomph. Four of our people were certified to teach Multimedia First Aid and we now have a total of 8 first aid instructors in the group - Derrickson, Gleason, Green, Maddox, Mitchell, TerHeun, Westbrook, and Willer (of the 21 instructors in the Indian Wells Valley).



**"Well, I guess both Warren and the cat are okay
... But thank goodness for the Heimlich
maneuver!"**

TRAINING

MIKE MASON

It has been an active training schedule to say the least. Each year the training committee manages to keep members busy with minimum training requirements. In 1983 we had the following:

2 Practice Operations	- Death Valley, Saline Valley
4 Stretcher Practices	- Fossil Falls, School Rocks, B Mountain
3 Hut Nights	- Stretchers, general equipment, radios
1 Snow Practice	- Glacier Lodge
1 Helo Practice	- NAF, B Mountain
1 Horse Collar Practice 1	- Heller's Yard
Dynamic Belay Practice 1	- Heller's Yard
Tracking Seminar	- Tuttle Creek
1 Night Practice Operation	- B Mountain

In addition, first aid classes and regular tracking practices have been held.

1983 EQUIPMENT PROCUREMENTS TOM STOGSDILL

1. PT 400 batteries
2. Stretcher rack (brake)
3. Kelty parts for snow stretcher pack
4. Set of Friends plus stuff bags (2)
5. Two eight rings plus stuff bags
6. Belt and shoulder straps for stretcher packs
7. Two 200 ft. non-stretch ropes
8. Dead bolt and keys for hut
9. Three REI seat harness (for stretchers)
10. Fastex buckles for stretcher rigging
11. Two new multi channel portable radios
12. One new multi channel base radio

This represents approximately \$2600.

SAR OPERATIONS

DARYL HINMAN

OP#	DATE	OPERATION	LOCATION	IOF MEMBERS	TOTAL MAN HRS	NWC EXCUSED MAN HRS
83-1	23 Jan	Search, Man and child stranded with vehicle in snow, found okay and helo'd out	Rock House Basin Tulare Co.	21	121	0
83-2	31 Jan	Search, overdue climbers, found okay and helo'd out	Panamint Butte Inyo Co.	12	19	4
83-3	1 Mar	Transit, stranded people during heavy rains, helo'd out	Jawbone Canyon and Cantil area Kern Co.	24	82	47
83-4	1-2 Mar	Alert, diaster alert for possible tornado, didn't happen	Indian Wells Valley Kern Co.	33	3	0
83-5	2 Mar	Search, possible stranded miners during heavy rains, they had already gotten out	Last Chance Canyon Kern Co.	7	32	20
83-6	1-2 Apr	Search, section of Navy missile lost off airplane, found	Lone Pine Inyo Co.	14	81	0
83-7	24-25 Apr	Rescue, climber with broken leg, lowered on snow and helo'd out	Meysan Canyon Inyo Co.	25	305	64
83-8	15-16 May	Rescue, backpacker on trail with knee injury, carried out	Haiwee Canyon Inyo Co.	10	137	28

83-9	19-20 May	Rescue, stranded climber, lowered to ground	Robber's Roost Kern Co.	11	91	80
83-10	28-29 May	Search, missing climber, found dead from fall, lowered on snow and helo'd out	Mount Whitney Inyo Co.	9	142	0
83-11	2 Jul	Rescue, climber with broken ankle, carried to LZ and helo'd out	Meysan Canyon Inyo Co.	8	45	0
83-12	10 Jul	Alert, body recovery, Inyo Team handled	Treasure Lakes Inyo Co.	8	16	0
83-13	16-19 Jul	Search, missing backpacker, not found but walked out on own 22 July	Duey Basin Fresno Co.	9	488	72
83-14	23-24 Jul	Transit, overdue climber found by others	Picacho Del Diablo Baja Calif, Mexico	4	100	0
83-15	27 Jul	Rescue, stranded climber, belayed up rock and helo'd out	Mount Langley Inyo Co.	10	137	58
83-16	28-30 Jul	Search, missing hiker, found dead after fall	Yosemite Nat'l Park Mariposa Co.	12	614	88
83-17	5 Aug	Alert, overdue USFS rangers, found okay	Mulky Meadows Tulare Co.	6	3	0
83-18	5 Aug	Transit, missing camper, found okay	Plumas Nat'l Forest Plumas Co.	6	41	20
83-19	7 Aug	Transit, overdue climber, walked out on own	Mount Whitney Inyo Co.	11	60	0
83-20	7-8 Aug	Rescue, climber with broken leg, lowered on snow and helo'd out	Mount Sill Inyo Co.	11	208	100
83-21	25 Aug	Rescue, hiker on trail with broken ankle, carried to LZ and helo'd out	Mount Whitney Inyo Co.	10	98	72
83-22	1-2 Sept	Rescue, backpacker with altitude sickness, walked him out	Golden Trout Lake Inyo Co.	9	112	72
83-23	4 Sept	Alert, injured hiker, Park Service handled	Bishop Creek Inyo Co.	11	1	0
83-24	21 Sept	Search, Navy missile accidentally launched from aircraft, found	Olancha Inyo Co.	21	176	82
83-25	19-20 Oct	Rescue, fallen hiker, lowered on snow and helo'd out	Mount Whitney Inyo Co.	14	264	96
83-26	30 Oct	Rescue, stranded climbers, climbed down on own next day	Mount Whitney Inyo Co.	17	379	96

SUMMARY

10 Rescues	16 - Inyo Co.
6 Searchs for 9 persons, 7 found alive and 2 persons found dead	4 - Kern Co.
2 Searchs for 2 missiles, both found	2 - Tulare Co.
4 Alerts	1 - Plumas Co.
4 Transits	1 - Mariposa Co.
	1 - Fresno Co.
	1 - Baja Calif., Mexico
3,755 Total manhours	
999 NWC excused manhours	
12,798 Vehicle miles	

THE 1983 CHINA LAKE MOUNTAIN RESCUE GROUP EXPEDITION
TO DENALI (MT. MCKINLEY)

by Bob Rockwell

At 20,320 feet in Denali National Park, Alaska, the highest peak in North America is an obvious attraction for all mountaineers. Because of **its** proximity to the North Pole, the extremes of weather conditions can exceed even those in the Himalayas. The last CLMRG expedition to Denali occurred in 1967, so the time seemed ripe for another. We laid initial plans, and each began saving our pennies, in late 1982.

For several reasons, the trip didn't formally gel until 2 months prior to departure - a short time by any standard for a climb of this magnitude. We felt confident, however, because our party would be small and planning, gear selection and logistics would be simple. Also, since we climb regularly, we were all in good physical condition.

When the day finally came, it was a small party indeed. Mike Renta, Rod Willer, Terry Moore and I left Ridgecrest at 4 a.m. on June 27 for Anchorage by way of LAX.

Two days later found us on the "moose gooser", affectionate name for the local train to Talkeetna which is the jumping-off spot for Denali National Park. After a four hour ride, we checked in first with the National Park Service, and then with K2 Aviation who would fly us to the park boundary via ski plane. The next day was fine for flying, and in two trips we and our 700 pounds of food and equipment were transported to the East Fork of the Kahiltna Glacier: altitude 7300 feet.

Our original plan was to climb the little-traveled South Buttress route, and according to the NPS we would be the first party of the year to do so even though this was near the end of the climbing season. However, we soon discovered that four people were just not sufficient to trade off breaking trail in the deep snow day after day. We diverted to the more popular West Buttress route the third day on the mountain.

As with most climbers on Denali these days, we pulled sleds as well as carried packs. Therefore, we could transport 60 to 70 pounds of food and equipment with each carry rather easily. Multiple carries are always necessary for expeditionary climbing, but this meant that we would nominally need only two carries to establish each camp. Still, depending on strength of party and weather conditions, statistics show that the climb would require between 15 and 30 days.

The notes from my diary for a typical day (July 5, day 6) may give some idea of the conditions on the mountain, and of the problems faced on a climb such as this:

"We arose at midnight. We need to descend to Cache 2 at 9900 feet and transfer it to what will be Camp 4 at 14,100 feet. However, it will be a help to leave behind some bamboo wands and our extra 600 feet of rope (which some descending climbers tell us is not needed), and 6 boxes of food.

"We'll carry 12 boxes of food on up, each box providing food for one day for the entire party. According to our plan at this moment, we hope to be able to reach the summit on July 10, weather permitting. That requires 5 boxes of food, and the 7 extra boxes will easily stretch for 10 additional days if we have to wait out the weather that long. We agree that we are not willing to wait longer than that. We placed the food and gear in a protected spot at 14,100 feet and returned to Camp 3 at 10,950 feet.

"Roped climbing on the glaciers day after day is a pain. The chest and waist harnesses are a bother, especially at rest stops and when nature calls. Generally speaking, there is little danger now from falls into crevasses. So, in order to make things a little more pleasant with only a small increase in exposure to danger, we have lapsed into a mode where we will climb roped up for the first time over a particular part of the route. Thus, having 'decreed it safe', we will dispense with the ropes until we reach new territory again.

"We are working hard. Every day seems to involve about 10 hours of climbing with limited visibility in the thick clouds and blowing snow. Every day finds us having to break trail in freshly fallen snow, carrying up to 90 pounds each, for altitude gains of 3000 to 4000 feet. We have had no rest days. We feel that we should keep making progress while the weather is permissive. But we're getting tired. I almost wish for a short storm, severe enough to force us to stop."

On July 7 we were able to place Camp 5 at 17,300 feet, and were immediately subjected to the storm I had thought about. Finally, on July 10, the weather was sufficiently clear and calm for a summit attempt. While the winds had been gusting to well above 50 knots, the previous night had been relatively quiet and we had rested well. We felt suitably acclimatized by now, and the high winds seemed to have consolidated the new snow. We left camp at 10 a.m., heading first up the steep wall to Denali Pass, a thousand feet higher. From camp to the summit itself would be a long 21/2 miles, with an elevation gain of 3000 feet.

After Denali Pass, the exposed terrain was extremely hard consolidated snow. The angle was mostly gentle, sometimes a little steep, but never severe. While the wind for most of the day was generally only around 20 knots or so, I was worried about the increasing cloud conditions. We were never directly threatened, but the presence of lenticular clouds on almost every summit in sight as well as back at Denali Pass was extremely disconcerting.

It was around 7 p.m. when we finally reached the summit. What a thrill! The only places higher than where we stood were many thousands of miles away on the other side of the world. Depending on the mountaineering activity on those other peaks, and excluding air travelers, it was likely that we were well above every other person on earth. The temperature was 15 degrees below zero.

We did not tarry long, perhaps only 20 minutes. At that altitude there is less than half the oxygen to breathe as there *is* at sea level. Therefore one travels so slowly that the view from the summit is not that much different from the view one has had for the previous several hours. Turning around for the descent, we arrived back at camp at 1:30 the next morning, fifteen hours after we had left.

Danger abounds on a day like we had just experienced. Safety dictates that we go light and fast in order to return to the safety of camp as soon as possible. Safety also dictates carrying along sufficient extra gear in order to accommodate all possible eventualities. These are obviously conflicting requirements and a happy medium must be sought.

We carried essentially 11/2 days worth of food, and about two liters of liquid apiece. Each person had a bivouac sack. For the group we carried one shovel, a stove with fuel, and a pot for melting snow. Each person had abundant cold weather clothing. We had a radio transmitter.

The rest of the trip was relatively uneventful. In two days, we once again reached the East Fork of the Kahiltna Glacier, ready for K2 to fly us back to civilization. While most of the party was relatively unscathed by the conditions, my feet managed to contract a case of frostbite, presumably caused by the rigid Koflach boots and neoprene socks I wore.

After reaching Talkeetna, Jim Okonek of K2 flew me to Anchorage, where I was put under the care of Dr. William J. Mills, frostbite expert par excellence. While the original prognosis was loss of 5 toes, the combined effort of his expert care, one week in the hospital, and vast quantities of money provided by my health insurance, had much better results. I only lost the tip of my large right toe.

Weather conditions are severe on Denali, and frostbite strikes about 15% of the climbers. Furthermore, evidence is gathering that the frequency of frostbite is noticeably higher among those who wear rigid plastic boots with neoprene liners, as I did. The theory is that as one ascends, the gas cells in the socks expand and make them thicker. Because of the rigid boots, the net effect is increased pressure over the entire foot, slowing down the peripheral circulation. Blood stays in the foot longer and so is subject to longer periods of cooling. Over a number of days the damage accumulates even though the tissues never actually freeze solid.

If the theory is correct, a simple fix would be to loosen and retighten the boot laces several times a day during the ascent. Also, my experience suggests that climbs of up to a week or so would be safe since my problems weren't really noticeable until the 12th day.

Our climb's final statistics included: 11 days for the ascent, 2 days down. All made the summit. Good weather, good company, good climb. Must do it again sometime.

* * * * *

DONOR'S CORNER

The Group is most fortunate to have people recognize its efforts year after year. Many of the following donors are past members and/or life members. We thank you so much for your contributions! Thank you to: Neal Nelson, Russ Williams, Maxine Scheibner, *Dean and Gabriele Scofield, *Stan and Lolette Dalbec, *Desert Dancers, Terry and Virginia Stirling, Frederick Bode, *Chuck and Linda Ringrose, John and Ruth Gerhart, *Russ and Edith Huse, *Ron and Mary Ann Henry, Janet Hammond, and Allan Pietrasanta.

*In memory of CLMRG Founder, Dr. Carl Heller.

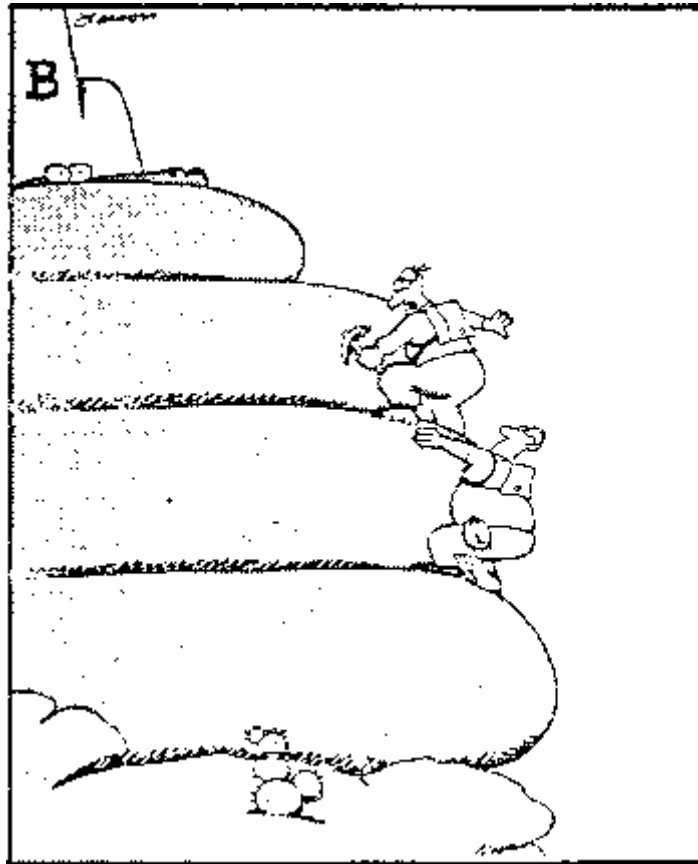
EDITOR'S CORNER

We recently "cleaned up" the mailing list for the Talus Pile. Who does receive it? Roster members, life members, agencies (sheriffs, other MRA groups, etc.), and donors (usually for one year).

If you are aware of anyone left off who should be included, please give me a call (375-2532).

Happy Climbing!

Sheila Rockwell



"Freeze, Earl! Freeze! ... Something rattled!"