

August 1984
#57

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

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

AUGUST 11, 12	Goddard/Full Moon madness	Bob Rockwell
AUGUST 11-19	Kaweahs	Tom Stogsdill
AUGUST 13	Meeting	Adams/Wisecarver
AUGUST 18, 19	Mills/Abbott	Bob Joy
AUGUST 27	Party	Westbrook's
AUGUST 25, 26	Humphreys	Howard Derrickson
AUGUST 30	Night Tracking Practice	Andrew Mitchell
SEPTEMBER 1-3	Matterhorn	Mike Renta
SEPTEMBER 8-9	Tahquitz	Al Green
SEPTEMBER 10	Meeting	Maddox/Mitchell
SEPTEMBER 15, 16	North Palisades U Notch	Mike Mason
SEPTEMBER 22, 23	Banner/Ritter	Dave Maddox
SEPTEMBER 28-30	Zion Narrows	Mike Renta
OCTOBER 6, 7, 8	Yosemite/Lost Arrow	Mike Mason

PEANUTS



OPERATION REPORTS

84-3 4/16/84 Search Lone Pine Hinman

At 1500 hrs on April 16, Bruce Albert of the Inyo County Sheriff's Posse alerted CLMRG for a possible search for a 10 year old Lone Pine boy. The boy had become separated from his father and sister while **rock** hunting in the foothills east of Lone Pine. His father had spent over five hours searching on his own before notifying the Inyo Sheriff.

Coordinator Sheila Rockwell called the entire roster in order to obtain the requested maximum response. This was complicated by the fact that many members were involved in a public education event with the Girl Scouts near Trona. At 1700 Inyo called me to say that the search was definitely on. Nine CLMRG members including Adams, Gleason, Brown, Amster, Jones, V. Anderson, Bonbright, Martin and myself arrived in Lone Pine at 1845 to learn that the boy had been found minutes earlier in good condition. We returned to China Lake and secured the operation at 2200.

84-4 5/6/84 Alert Indian Wells Canyon Green

Phelps TerHeun called me at 0800 hrs. He said that some apparent new plane wreckage had been reported and wanted to have a team put on standby in case an evacuation was needed. He was going to confirm the sighting and would get back to us. As it turned out, it was old wreckage. The reporting pilot had given the wrong location of his sighting. The alert was canceled at 1100. Barb Slates was the coordinator and the following members committed to go: Green, Don Harris, Sakai, Brown, Mitchell, Amster, Seibold, Bonbright and Van Verst.

84-5 6/12/84 Search Joshua Tree National Monument Adams

On Monday, June 11, at 1430, I received a call from the Kern County Sheriff's office, stating that the NPS at Joshua Tree National Monument had contacted them requesting CLMRG to participate in a search for a lost hiker. A callout was instituted, which was responded to by 12 members. Carol Burge and Mary Wyatt handled the coordination duties. We departed China Lake at 1700, ate dinner in Barstow and arrived at Joshua Tree at 2200 hours.

John Romos and a friend had decided to hike from the area near Intersection Rock to Indian Cove Campground, a distance of nearly seven miles. They agreed to take different routes and meet at the campground. The hike was not begun until mid afternoon. John's friend arrived at the campground and, after waiting some period of time for John to arrive, notified the NPS and a search was started. John, age 29, was apparently in excellent health, good condition (regular jogger), but his chosen route to Indian Cove Campground took him across the Wonderland of Rocks area, which is a virtual maze of extremely rough, rocky terrain.

We spend two full days searching in exceedingly difficult terrain. It is easy to visualize how a person could become lost or injured in an area such as this. The search area encompassed approximately 20-30 square miles of the worst possible search conditions. Rough, often technical terrain was filled with numerous cracks and crevices, occasionally reaching depths of

60-70 feet. Much of the search area was filled with huge piles of rocks, which, without any major distinguishing landmarks, made route finding for the searchers quite difficult. After four days of intensive air and ground searching (the search had begun two days before CLMRG had arrived) without finding any sign that could be positively related to John, the search was terminated.

We departed Joshua Tree at 1900 hours on June 13 and arrived back at the hut at 2300 and secured.

CLMRG members included: Hinman, Mitchell, Sakai, Derrickson, Wisecarver, Geyer, Seibold, Bonbright, Elam, Dan Harris, Martin, Adams.

84-6 6/27/84 Incident School Rocks Adams

Bob Bray, a student in the CLMRG summer class, was top-roping climb #12 on Flakes Rock in the School Rocks area. The climb was in the sun, the day hot (100°+) and the first 50-60 feet of the climb involved a rather strenuous chimney. About 50 feet up, after much struggling, Bob complained of nausea, difficulty in breathing, and extreme tiredness. Within minutes he lapsed into a semi-conscious state. Bob had been tied in to the climbing rope with a bowline on the coil and we were concerned about the rope unduly restricting his breathing during a lowering. CLMRG member Bob Huey climbed up to Bray, put a seat harness on him, and he was lowered to the ground. Bray was then placed into a stretcher, carried to the parking area, and transported by vehicle to the emergency room at the Ridgecrest Community Hospital. The diagnosis was heat exhaustion and Bob was released after a short observation period.

84-7 6/28-29/84 Alert John Muir Trail Green

Janet Westbrook called on Thursday (6/28/84) saying that the two Bobs (Rockwell and Westbrook) were a day late on their John Muir Trail Marathon. They were supposed to pass through Reds Meadow around noon on Wednesday. I wasn't too concerned, because their schedule was so strenuous that - in my opinion - even those two could easily be a bit late. However, the reasoning was that Westbrook had a prior commitment that allowed very little flexibility.

So, we started gearing up for a search. The plan was to start on Saturday. We felt that an earlier start would be premature because they had not planned to be out until Friday night. They could have taken a lateral trail and show up, on time but at the wrong place. In any case we put our team on alert and checked on the availability of a helicopter. The NWC and the CHP helos were ready to go (a comforting and appreciated resource).

I had planned to leave Friday morning for the Tuolumne Meadows trip planned for the weekend. As it was in the right direction, I left anyway and did some checking on the way up. At the Lone Pine Forest Service office I tried to find out how many other hikers were on the John Muir Trail. This proved to be difficult because there is no summary of how many actually went in or starting dates. I continued on to Reds Meadow where Janet had left notes for the two Bobs. The notes were gone but it turns out that the Rangers pick them up if they are not on an approved bulletin board. I then went to the Mammoth Lakes Forest Service Visitor Center and asked if they would have their back country Rangers keep an eye out for our intrepid pair.

All this behind me I went on to Tuolumne Meadows to meet Janet and the people coming up from China Lake. Fortunately, by the time I arrived the Bobs had emerged from the wilderness - at Reds Meadow - and all was well. It turned out that, due to the poor trail conditions and snow on the high passes, they didn't average 27 miles per day but only a "paltry" 21.

Our Tuolumne Meadows trip turned out to be sport climbing as originally planned. Bob Rockwell continued on foot from Reds Meadow to Tuolumne. It is rumored that he accepted assistance (in the form of a hamburger) at Reds Meadow. He arrived at Tuolumne Saturday evening and was unable to resist the chance to climb Cathedral Peak with the other peak baggers on Sunday.

84-8 6/29/84 Transit Lone Pine Mason

At 1130 hours on 29 June, Bob Karras of the Inyo County Sheriff's Posse called CLMRG coordinator Barb Slates. A downed aircraft had been spotted west of Olancho, near Muah Mountain. The initial word was that a body had been found at the scene, with tracks of a second victim leading from the wreckage. Our tracking expertise was needed.

Barb was able to get Mike Renta to try to return the call (he was unsuccessful) but Mike preferred that I assume responsibility for the operation since I had the duty for the following weekend. Barb and Sheila Rockwell handled the call out. After much difficulty and confusion surrounding the ensuing communications, we finally dispatched an advance team of trackers (Huey, Hine and Derrickson) at 1430 hours. The rest of us (Stogsdill, Buffum, Sakai, Mitchell, Finco, Seibold, Howell, Bonbright, Martin, Castro, Dan Harris, and me) departed about 20 minutes later.

Upon arriving at the Lone Pine airport base camp we learned that the plane had actually crashed 2 months earlier. Inyo County Sheriff's representatives were at the scene, assessing the information, and our services would not be needed. We returned to China Lake, arriving at 1800 hours.

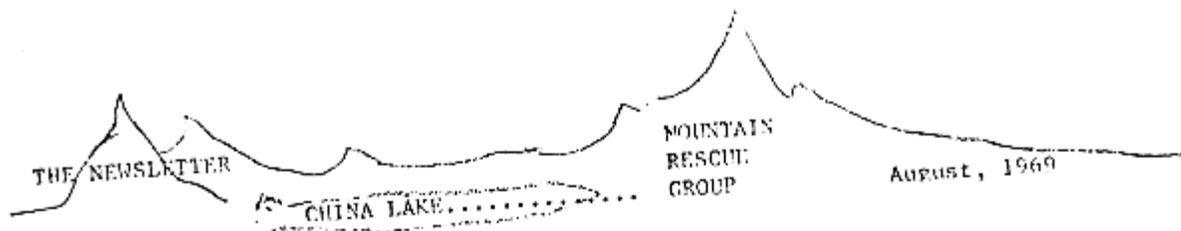
* * * * *

DONOR'S CORNER

Many thanks to Robert M. Trousdale of Reseda, CA for his recent contribution to CLMRG!

BASIC ROCK CLIMBING/MOUNTAINEERING 1984 Tom Stogsdill

The summer class presented this year by CLMRG was completed on 25 July with a gala party and graduation ceremony at Robber's Roost. A total of 45 students completed all their basic requirements and received certificates of graduation. A total of 18 lecture hours and approximately 20 hours on rocks were required this year. One day trips consisted of excursions to Candlelight Peak, Thor Peak, Independence Peak, and Dragon Peak. The overnight trips available to students this year were Mt. Whitney, Clyde Spires/Mt. Powell, and Mt. Bradley.



THE CALENDAR.....

August 11, a 2-day trip coming up. Bill Stronge is the coordinator, so call him (office: 72950, or home: 446-3289) for transportation and cook pool information. (Passenger cars can easily make the trip from Big Pine past Glacier Lodge to the road head.) After the 6-mile backpack to Mack Lake, you can expect to camp on snow along the trail. and

Happy Birthday, Talus Pile!

Fifteen years ago Elizabeth Anderson wrote our first newsletter, then called "The Newsletter". By issue #2, various names had been suggested for the publication. Among the mentionable possibilities were: Glacier Polish, Sun Cups, Polemonium, Exposure (?), Friction Pitch, Belay Point, Routefinder, Base Camp, The Open Book, Rockfall, Nubbins, Last Pitch, and The Crud Heap.

Liz continued as editor on and off (mostly on) for many years. Even now, she can't resist sending in corny cartoons for possible publication. Some are even used (see page 1).

Liz was a "1st lady" in mountain rescue in many ways. She served as secretary for California Region Mountain Rescue Association, along with being a priceless contributor in all aspects of CLMRG.

She has retired from federal service and now lives closer to the mountains in Lone Pine, CA. She continues to assist on operations in that vicinity.

We are proud to have Liz Anderson as a member of CLMRG!

The contri...
place an order for a ...

This radio will significantly improve our existing network. We have 4 1 watt GE Voice Commanders which cost \$150 each, and 1 PT 400 which cost \$865. In addition to these portable units, the CLMRG has a mobile unit in the 4-wheel-drive Mountain Rescue truck: a Motorola MOCOM 30, 15 watts, costing \$350. Indian Wells Valley Civil Defense has furnished 3 radios for this vehicle: an ARC 27 to reach military aircraft, a TCS 13 and 2 VRC 9, to reach NAF's UH-1E helicopter.

EDITOR'S CUBBYHOLELiz Anderson

This is our first attempt at the Newsletter. We are hoping it will transmit information on an informal level, as near to every 2nd month as we can manage.

We welcome suggestions and accept criticisms and a telling one.