



November 1984
#58

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

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

NOVEMBER 3, 4	Piute Pass Area	Howard Derrickson
NOVEMBER 6, 8, 13	CPR	Janet Westbrook
NOVEMBER 10, 11, 12	Pichacho Del Diablo/ Joshua Tree	Derrickson/Seibold
NOVEMBER 17	ELT Practice	Phelps TerHeun
NOVEMBER 19	Meeting	Atkins/Hinman
NOVEMBER 24, 25	Desert Peak	Lee Lucas
DECEMBER 1, 2	Onion Valley Area	Howard Derrickson
DECEMBER 4, 11	Avalanche Class	David Maddox
DECEMBER 10	Meeting	Rockwell/C. Burge

HERMAN By Unger



DONOR'S CORNER

Maxine Sheibner (El Cajon, CA),
we enjoyed your recent letter and
appreciate the donation to CLMRG!

Thank You!

"Have you done the north slope?"

OPERATION REPORTS

84-9

7/8-9/84

Rescue

Charlotte Dome

Hinman/Mason

Hinman begins:

On the morning of 7 July, Renta, Brown, Green and I (all CLMRG members) began our ascent of Charlotte Dome. We were doing a 5.8, grade IV route called Charlotte's Web. We climbed in two roped teams with Green and me in front.

Climbing went well until the 5.7 eighth and last hard pitch of the eleven pitch climb. Here, Renta fell while off route and injured his ankle and ribs in a 20 foot tumbling fall. Brown lowered Renta and took over the lead. Brown was on route, above the crux section, when he fell 15 feet to a ledge, severely injuring his ankle.

Meanwhile, Green and I had moved through the progressively easier climbing, unaware of the team which was out of sight below. After an hour waiting on the summit, we descended third class to where we could see the injured climbers two pitches below.

I rappelled twice to the top of the eighth pitch, pulling my rope down as I went. I fixed a single rope rappel and descended to the injured climbers. Brown prusiked up my rope, while hauling their rope which he fixed at the top. Renta then prusiked up one rope, while I free-climbed and self-belayed on the other. From the top of the eighth pitch, I led with both ropes, rejoining Green at the top of the ninth. We belayed Brown and Renta while they simultaneously climbed the easier ninth, saving valuable time. We proceeded to the summit, with Green and me simultaneously leading and belaying Brown and Renta. We continued this process through the third class required to get off the summit. Progress down slabs and boulders and eventually back to camp was slow, but steady.

At camp we assessed the situation. We had made it off the face of Charlotte Dome and back to the security of camp with great pain to the injured climbers. It was clear, however, that although Renta could walk the 13 miles out to the road head without a pack, Brown would be unable to make it with or without a pack. Green and I left the following morning (with light packs) to get the required help. Brown and Renta moved themselves and our gear to a potential landing zone (LZ) a quarter mile away to await a helo pickup.

Mason continues:

At 1230 on 8 July, Green phoned me from the Inyo County Sheriff's substation in Independence, requesting assistance in obtaining a helo to evacuate Brown and Renta. I called the NWC OOD to alert the helo crew that the Inyo Sheriff would be calling them for the rescue. I also called Barbara Slates to have a CLMRG team put on alert.

The NWC helo was airborne at 1350 to pick up Green at Independence before heading for Charlotte Dome. The helo spent the next few hours attempting to land at the LZ. The site was good, but because of some mechanical problems and the 12000 foot elevation, even after off-loading Green and most of the crew, the helo was still unable to land. The helo let Green off in Lone Pine at 1700 on its return to China Lake.

I began trying to get another helo. I was now working with the Fresno County Sheriff's Office since the operation was in that county. No helo was available that late in the day, but they were attempting to get the National Park Service helo for the following day. Because its availability was uncertain, it was decided to send a ground team *in* that night. Green (now in Independence) and Hinman arranged for a packer to bring out Brown.

The CLMRG team arrived at the base camp in Independence at 2400 joining Green and Hinman. They had been notified that a National Park Service helo would be available at first light. Based on the previous day's experience, it was decided to proceed with the ground team and packer anyway.

The ground team consisting of Huey, Gleason, Hine, Sakai, D. Burge, Finco, Seibold and Castro left the roadhead at 0100. With them was Stogsdill who set up a radio relay at Kearsarge Pass. Hinman, Derrickson, Amster and I stayed in base camp. Green left the roadhead at 0500 with the packer.

The ground team reached Brown and Renta at 0700 and within a few minutes the helo arrived. Renta, Brown and their packs were flown to base camp. Brown's ankle was very swollen and discolored (later it was found to be broken) and Renta's ankle was very sore.

Meanwhile the packer continued in. The ground personnel met the packer on their way out and he packed out the packs of Hinman and Green. The tired team was back in base camp by 1540. The operation was secured at the CLMRG hut at 1800 hours on July 9.

84-10 7/24-26/84 Search Tuolumne Meadows Green

We were placed on alert by Arnold Gaffrey of Sierra Madre at 2050 hours on Tuesday, the 24th of July. I had Barb Slates start a full callout. She got Carol Burge to help and they were able to get eight more people ready. (Gleason, Amster, Wisecarver, Maddox, Bonbright, Van Verst, Martin and Dan Harris). Our search would be for missing Anne Coleville, 5 years old. The decision to leave for the search area *was made at* about 2145 hours. We met at the hut at 2400 and got on the road in less than 10 minutes. We called Yosemite just before leaving and again from Bishop to ensure that the search was still on.

We arrived at Porcupine Flat at 0430 on the 25th and managed to get a bit of sleep before the briefing at 0615. Meade Hargis of YOSAR laid out the plan for the day and by 0730 all the personnel were in the field. Dog teams had worked most of the night and trackers were trying to make progress from Anne's campsite. A containment area was being marked and grid searches of the perimeter were planned. However, a helo flyover convinced the operation leaders that a line search of the entire containment area would be appropriate. Four from CLMRG worked on marking the containment area, two helped with the tracking and three became part of the line search. All of us spent a very full day of search activity.

At about 2015, when all of us were tired, frustrated and terribly concerned about Anne, word came in that she had walked out to the highway three miles up the road. Somehow Anne had eluded all our efforts and managed to get out by herself.

Needless to say, we were tremendously relieved and happy that the little girl was safe. A search of this sort is extremely difficult and going into the second day without a definite lead was a frightening situation.

Comment: A line search is a last resort procedure. A huge amount of discipline and coordination is required. We should practice this occasionally to train newer members and to refresh the needed skill and patience.

84-11

8/4/84

Alert

Long Lake

Harris

The Inyo County Sheriff called CLMRG requesting help for a 16 year old male victim with altitude sickness near Long Lake. I notified the NWC helo and they evacuated the victim without any assistance from CLMRG.

84-12

8/5-6/84

Rescue

Norman Clyde Peak

Hinman/Green

Hinman begins:

Tom Sakai, Larry Gleason, Mike Elam and I (all CLMRG members) began our ascent of "Clyde Peak" on the early morning of Aug. 5. Elam and I were on a 5.8 route called the "Twilight Pillar" and Sakai and Gleason were on a 5.4 route to the right called the "Eagle Face". Elam and I were on the summit by 1200. Sakai and Gleason were several pitches below on their route, which diagonals left near the top to join our route. Careful route finding is required in this section to avoid both difficult and unprotectable climbing. It was in this section that Sakai was leading when he fell. Unhurt, he tried again and fell again, this time severely injuring his ankle. This was at 1400 hours. It took almost 3 hours to get Sakai to the summit. He was able to painfully prusik up a fixed rope, with help from a tight belay rope. Elam and I left our water, food and extra clothing with Sakai and Gleason and began our descent, while they prepared for a cold bivouac at almost 14000 feet. We proceeded to base camp, packed our gear and hiked out to the roadhead by 0100 on Aug. 6. We drove to the Sheriff's substation at Independence where I called Al Green to inform him of the accident.

Green continues:

Daryl's middle of the night call seemed unreal. How could we have two accidents so close together? Apparently, we were having a string of bad luck. In any case, we had a serious problem. "Clyde Peak" is a treacherous summit with no easy approach and an abundance of loose rock.

Don Harris had the weekend duty and I called him to be the operation leader. He had Sheila Rockwell call the roster while I requested helicopter support. A team of Harris, Green, Adams, Hine, Mitchell, Wisecarver, Seibold, Martin and Woodworth assembled and drove to arrive in Big Pine at first light. A back-up team of Jones, Sinclair, Rogers, Castro, Dan Harris and Joy started up a bit later.

The NWC helo landed at the ball field in Big Pine at about 0730. With Sakai and Gleason on the summit at 13,920 ft. this was going to be a marginal pick up. LCDR Buz Massengale approached this with a really "can do" attitude and immediately had his crew stripping the aircraft off all unnecessary gear. Adams and I went in on the first flight. The conditions were good at the summit and Buz, with the professional's knack of making the difficult look easy, hovered above a table size rock at the summit's edge. Adams and I carefully exited the helo and climbed down the 30 ft. to Sakai and Gleason. We splinted Sakai's leg and helped him back up to the "helispot". Several trial exercises of how we would enter the helo resulted in a sequence that seemed best. At just before 1100 the helo returned and repeated its amazing performance. The loading sequence worked and all four of us were headed toward the Bishop hospital. A fine job by Buz and his crew of Beavers, Lewis and Smith!

The contingency plans for the rescue, had the helo been unable to make the pick up, were the following: Two two-man teams would be flown in to the base of the peak and ascend the fourth class route up the northeast ridge. One team would bring Gleason down the descent route that Hinman and Elam took. The other team, consisting of Adams and me, would lower Sakai down the vertical face to the left of the "Twilight Pillar" route to meet a third team with a stretcher at the base. This was to be done by a series of rappels and lowerings and without the aid of a stretcher for Sakai. By descending the vertical face and using a small team we hoped to minimize the extreme rockfall danger. Fortunately, we didn't have to do this. It would have been very painful for Sakai with the multiple fractures of his ankle, and very dangerous for all involved.

84-13 8/15/84 Flood Assistance Ridgecrest Green

We were called in the morning by Sgt. Gill Cooper of the Kern County Sheriff's Office because of imminent flooding of the Ridgecrest and China Lake areas. I contacted Sheila Rockwell to call the roster for 4WD vehicles and a team for each driver. I then called *Daryl* Hinman and asked him to be the backup O.L. in case I could not be reached. All of these phone numbers were given to the Sheriff. The members responding were Stogsdill, Adams, *Joy*, and Wisecarver with 4WDs and Hinman, B. Rockwell, D. Burge, Don Harris, Mason, Hine, Mitchell, Finco, Amster, Jones, Seibold, Bonbright, Castro and TerHeun.

Contacting people was complicated when the actual callout came because some of them were trying to drive the flooded streets to get home to flooded houses, the Lab was being evacuated and the phone lines were very busy. At about 1300 Adams called me and said that 4WDs were needed. From that time on we had four teams responding to requests coming into the Sheriff's Office. The requests were coordinated by the IWVSAR team and included checking on flooded mobile homes, stranded vehicles, road damage assessment and delivering medication to Red Mountain. Phelps TerHeun operated the base radio in the rescue hut and did a fine job of keeping track of our teams, relaying messages for IWV and the Sheriff's Office.

84-14 8/19/84 Rescue Thor Peak Buffum

As weekend Operation Leader, I knew that any phone call at 5:30 on a Sunday afternoon in August was bad news. The call was from Sgt. Goodrich, Inyo County Sheriff's Office. Three fellows from Fair Oaks had tried to climb Thor Peak from the north early Sunday morning (19 Aug.). The route they attempted proved too difficult, and they were descending to find an easier route. Near the bottom of the descent, on class 3-4 terrain, 11,200 feet and 0900 hours, Terry Halmo (33) jumped 3 to 4 feet down onto a block. He made a bad landing and broke his left tibia just above the ankle. Terry's companions settled him near the accident location and one went down to get help. The Sheriff sent a contract Forest Service helo in during the afternoon but they could not pick up Halmo from the accident site on the cliff. Stormy/ cloudy weather and approaching night precluded further helo attempts. Sgt, Goodrich called to ask for us to move Halmo to a place where the helo could pick him up in the morning.

None of the regular coordinators was available, so I had my son, Mark Buffum, call the roster. (Huey and Wyatt would be able to coordinate later on.) We met at the rescue hut at 1900 hours for our immediate departure. A field team consisting of Joy, Mitchell, Finco, Bonbright, Van Verst, and me left the Portals at 2230. Base camp at Lone Pine airport was run by Stogsdill and Liz Anderson, with Fletcher on radio and Lloyd Brubaker as the Ridgecrest radio contact. Continuing our tradition of chivalry, we let the girls carry the stretcher, wheel, and heavy stuff up the hill. Immediately after reaching the top of the waterfall above Lower Boy Scout Lake at 0200 we saw a flash (the electronic flash on Halmo's companion's camera) and homed in. We arrived at the victim; he was wrapped in a tent amongst the waterfalls. Mitchell and Finco splinted him and we turned in to await daylight.

We were up at 0600 and readied the stretcher lowering system. Halmo was tied in to the stretcher and the lowering commenced. By 0725 we were at "LZ#1", about 1 mile away. The terrain was the best available within a reasonable distance, but not flat. When contacted, the helo pilot said they would not make a one-skid pick up. The only other semi-flat place was at least another 1/4 to 1/2 mile away and through very thick and high brush, and across a healthy stream. As we contemplated the tough work ahead, Joy spotted a Sierra Club group with 11 members, which we immediately hailed and recruited. We got Halmo to "LZ#2" (10,400 ft.) at 0920. In the meanwhile, Stogsdill had called to see if the China Lake helo was available. It was, and arrived at Lone Pine at 1000, piloted by Lt. Greg Friedrichsen. The day temperature was 80° with clouds, a dropping ceiling, broken good to zero visibility, and off and on rain.

The helo took off again immediately, missed the North Fork turn due to clouds, and searched for us for an hour. The weather was rapidly deteriorating and we were afraid we might end up with a manual carryout. I asked that the rest of our team at China Lake meet at the hut just in case.

At 1110 the helo returned to Lone Pine. After a brief hold due to weather, it took off with Stogsdill aboard and flew directly to us. The helo hovered as we put the victim in at 1145, and departed as the clouds rolled in and visibility went back to zip. The ground team walked out and we were back in Lone Pine by 1420.

The back up team at the hut consisted of Green, Hinman, Gleason, Derrickson, Amster, Maddox, Wisecarver, and Hyde.

Analysis:

- (1) Victims shouldn't make big jumps.
- (2) Especially in spotty visibility, one of our members who is familiar with the terrain and its features should ride with the helicopter on any flight with reconnaissance aspects.
- (3) If the helo does not have the MRA radio frequency, one of our radios should be sent along to allow ground teams to communicate directly with the helo crew.

84-15 9/2-3/84 Transit Yosemite Valley Rockwell

About 1630 hours on Sunday, Sept. 2, young Russell Dizon (age 7) became separated from his party on the trail back to Happy Isles from Half Dome. The Park Service was notified and alerted the MRA teams. We received the alert call via the Sierra Madre SRT at 2050, followed by the definite "go" at 2115 hours. An hour later we were on the road.

After breakfast in Fresno, we arrived at the Yosemite Valley SAR cache at 0600 Saturday, expecting to go immediately into the field. Instead we received the happy news that Russell had been found shortly after midnight

by the NPS search teams. (An excellent testimonial for searching at night whenever possible.)

We arrived back in Ridgecrest at 1400 hours. Responders were Huey, Gleason, Geyer, Dan Harris and me. In town coordinator was Mary Wyatt, assisted by Janet Westbrook.

84-16 9/3-4/84 Search Mt. Tom Rockwell

Charlie Shore of the Inyo County Sheriff's Posse called me at 1600 hours Sept. 3, a scant 2 hours after we had concluded the Yosemite transit (#84-15). Walter Hill, age 42 of Bishop, had not returned from a day climb of Mt. Tom on Sept. 1. He carried 2 quarts of water, some cheese, and snack food. Inyo had searched that day to no avail, and wanted our assistance the next morning.

Ten of us assembled at the hut at 0430 hours the next day, left shortly thereafter, and arrived at the Bishop airport base station about 0730. Helo support via the Forest Service would be available soon.

Upon assessing the previous day's efforts, we concentrated on sweeping the drainages on the west and northwest sides of Mt. Tom as the high probability areas. We laid plans for a broad perimeter cut around Walter's camp at Horton Lake as soon as more manpower arrived. This would hopefully rule out the possibility that he had headed off in a different direction.

The first team departed base camp around 0930 by car to begin hiking up Gable Creek from the Pine Creek road. The helo began emplacing searchers above Hanging Valley Mine at 0955. A radio relay was positioned on Pk 12224 west of Mt. Tom, and other teams were taken southwest of the summit to start their descents into their respective drainages.

I must admit that, after 3 nites out with virtually no food or overnight gear, none of us held much hope for finding Walter alive.

However, at 1134 hours, the Gable Creek team reported a possible sighting of the victim. Subsequent events proved this to be true, with the helo viewing Walter waving at them 20 minutes later. The helo swooped down for a pickup as the first Hanging Valley team watched from 1500 feet higher; their assignment would have had them at the victim's site an hour or so later.

At 1212 hrs. Walter was landed at Northern Inyo Hospital. They pronounced him fit and did not detain him further.

Evidently, he had reached at or near the summit of Mt. Tom around sunset. After descending some distance he decided that he was lost and then did what we all preach: stay where you are and wait for someone to find you. For three days!

We arrived back home at 1700 hours. CLMRG members responding: B. Rockwell, Adams, Huey, Hine, Gleason, Finco, Derrickson, Jones, Seibold, TerHeun. Coordinators were J. Westbrook and Wyatt.

Lessons learned:

- (1) While it is hard to argue with success, we should have traveled to Bishop Monday night. We were told at 4 p.m. that we were definitely needed. We could have arrived at base camp and laid the following day's plans Monday night, getting some teams in position on Tuesday several hours before the expected arrival of the helicopter.
- (2) Communications between our Midland base radio with directional antenna and teams on the mountain were excellent when near line-of-sight conditions existed. The relay with our PT-400 on Pk 12224 served otherwise.

84-17

9/4/84

Alert

Mt. Whitney

Rockwell

While wrapping up the Hill search (#84-16), word came through the Independence Sheriff's Office of a woman with three children a day overdue from a climb of Mt. Whitney.

Since Lone Pine was on the way home, and we had planned for a multi-day search for Walter Hill, it would be little additional effort to divert our people for a search on Mt. Whitney. Sgt. Lucas and the Inyo team agreed, but the call cancelling the alert came in a half hour later.

84-18

9/8/84

Mobilization

Kearsarge Pk

Rockwell

Sgt. Lucas of the Inyo Sheriff's Office called Sheila Rockwell at 10 p.m. CLMRG member Dan Sherman had just reported that his climbing partner, Delores Holladay of North Hollywood, was missing on an ascent of Kearsarge Peak (near Onion Valley). They had gotten separated near the summit and when she did not appear at their vehicle in a timely manner, Dan drove to Independence. After reporting the incident, he returned to Onion Valley.

Sheila called me at a neighborhood party (she had shown better sense than me in going home early): was I in sufficiently good health to lead the operation? After pleading the fifth amendment, I requested a full callout. Members should bring technical gear because some of the terrain on Kearsarge can be severe, and we would probably be searching at night. (The moon was nearly full.)

I was at the rescue hut before 11, with others arriving immediately thereafter to begin selecting ropes, radios, stretcher, etc. for immediate departure. Ten minutes later Pat Elliott of the Inyo County Posse called to report the good news that Delores and Dan had been reunited.

Delores had descended the northeast side of the peak, toward Sardine Canyon. Upon realizing her error, she traversed over to the Onion Valley road, intersecting it well below their vehicle. She was hiking back up when Dan met her around 10 p.m.

Thirteen field members responded: B. Rockwell, Renta, Adams, Huey, Atkins, D. Burge, Don Harris, Joy, Gleason, Amster, Dan Harris, VanVerst and V. Anderson. Janet Westbrook helped Sheila with the callout.

84-19

9/21-22/84

Rescue

Mt. Sill

Rockwell

Richard Abrams, age 31 of Goleta, was descending after an unsuccessful attempt of the Swiss Arête route (Grade II, class 5.4) on 14,162' Mt. Sill in the Sierra Nevada of Inyo County. His climbing partner was Neil Gray of Santa Barbara. A short distance away, John Fischer of the Palisade School of Mountaineering was descending the North Couloir with a group of clients and observed the Abrams party heading off-route and into a very difficult area. They were unroped and not wearing helmets. He called to them to indicate the correct direction, but they did not appear to comprehend Fischer's instructions.

As Fischer watched, Abrams fell approximately 100 feet on steep terrain. He bounced off of two ledges and finally hit hard and stopped on a third ledge. The time was 1245 on Friday, Sept 21. The altitude was 13,500 feet.

Fischer ascended third class rock to reach the severely injured climber. He did a quick survey of the obvious injuries, noting deep head and face lacerations, left shoulder pain, bleeding from the right ear and unequal pupil sizes. Remarkably, Abrams was still conscious. Gray stayed with the victim and Fischer descended for help.

Fischer ran virtually the entire way back, reaching the roadhead in well under 2 hours (normal fast time for a hiker with pack would be 4 to 5 hours).

He contacted Sgt. Dan Lucas of the Inyo County Sheriff's Office at 1535 hours. Dan alerted the China Lake SAR pilot, LCDR Buz Massengale, 10 minutes later, and Buz requested 2 CLMRG personnel to accompany the helicopter to Mt. Sill. Bob Adams accepted leadership, and began calling people who might be able to leave immediately.

The wisdom of keeping ready packs in our rescue hut paid off once again, as Linda Finco and I grabbed our gear, changed, and arrived at the cold line about 25 minutes after being called. Proving that speed is almost as good as a ready pack, Adams showed up just before liftoff, at 1655.

We flew to Sage Flat on the Glacier Lodge road west of Big Pine and debriefed Fischer and Inyo Deputy Jamery Ray. With as much gear as possible left behind, the helo departed for the accident site at 1815 with Adams and Finco from CLMRG aboard, and the helo crew. The victim was sighted still on the ledge with his climbing partner, approximately 500 feet above the snowfield of Glacier Notch.

Adams and Finco were deposited at Glacier Notch. Clearly demonstrating the value of altitude conditioning, they reached the victim 20 minutes later and placed him in a Miller Body Splint. Abrams was by now extremely dehydrated and in considerable pain, but still alive. At 1907, officially 20 minutes after sunset, Buz Massengale was able to complete a spectacular hover pickup.

Ideally, five people on the ledge would not have been too many to safely lift Abrams into the waiting helicopter. The shifting footing caused by loose rubble of the ledge, and the necessity for raising the victim to arms' length overhead, contributed to the possibility of further injury. The noise and down-wash of the hovering helo, punctuated by Abrams' loud complaints as the rescuers struggled, added to the stress of the situation.

Finally, with the main rotor tips disturbingly close to the rock, and requiring almost herculean strength by Adams, Finco and Gray, Abrams was lifted aboard. The near-certainty that he would not last the night in such an unprotected location without adequate cold weather clothing and medical treatment necessitated these dangerous maneuvers.

A few minutes later and he was at Northern Inyo Hospital in Bishop. Because darkness precluded another helo flight, the CLMRG team would have to endure a cold bivouac at Glacier Notch and walk out in the morning with Neil Gray.

I had remained behind at Sage Flat, and now helped load the extra gear into the Sheriff's Bronco for transportation to the Bishop Airport and a rendezvous with the helo and crew. I called Sheila to get someone to drive to the roadhead and await Bob and Linda; Bill Martin would turn out to be the lucky one who would voluntarily forfeit a night's sleep. The helo arrived back at China Lake at 2300 hours.

While there was a slight chance that Bob and Linda might walk out in the darkness, I was not too surprised when Bill Martin reported no sign of them by 0900 the next day. Nevertheless, at 1100 I put our people on Alert and at 1230 decided that we should mobilize for an immediate departure. Under normal circumstances this might be considered a few hours premature, but I wanted to be in position at the roadhead to initiate a search if the two were still missing by midafternoon.

Finally, at 1315, Martin called me at the hut. Bob had just arrived, with Linda perhaps an hour behind. They had opted to assist Neil Gray in bringing down his and Abram's considerable equipment, besides their own. The 70 pound loads had slowed them down significantly.

Helo personnel: LCDR Buz Massengale, AE3 Barry Beavers, AMHAN Kevin Conger, HM3 H. Michael Buckelew / CLMRG on mobilization: Huey, Sakai, Hine, Mitchell, Amster, Rogers, Wisecarver, TerHeun, B. Rockwell; N. Hinman, coordinator

P.S. On Saturday morning, Sept. 22, Northern Inyo Hospital reported that Abrams was doing well, with no apparent evidence of brain injury by that time. His lacerations had been patched up, his separated shoulder had been treated, and he was on the mend. A very lucky guy, for whom several individual events during the rescue process just happened to go almost miraculously well for him. Anything less and he most certainly would not be here today.