



July 1986
#66

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

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

JULY 1921	Mt. Whitney, East Face Routes	Adams
AUGUST 2-3	South Palisades	Hinman
AUGUST 2-10	Wind Rivers, Wyoming	Derrickson
AUGUST 9	Thor Peak, South Face	Atkins
AUGUST 11	Meeting	Roseman
AUGUST 16	North Palisade	Mitchell
AUGUST 18	Summer Party	Rockwells
AUGUST 20-30	John Muir Trail	Huey
AUGUST 23	Mt. Brewer	Finco
AUGUST 27	Night Tracking Practice	Mitchell
AUGUST 30-SEPTEMBER 1	Tuolumne Meadows	Hinman
SEPTEMBER 6	Matterhorn Peak	Derrickson

'Strong emotion is what a climber lives for. Fear and joy are the strongest of all. The climber who feels no fear is very unlucky, for this means he is simply unfeeling altogether. If he cannot feel fear, he certainly cannot feel the sublime joy of victory.'

"It is to conquer fear that one becomes a climber. The climber experiences life to its extreme limits. A climber is not a crazy man. He is not trying to get himself killed. He knows what life is worth; he is in love with living"

"We demonstrate in the most stunning way of all - at the risk of our lives - that there is no limit to the effort man can demand of himself. This quality is the basis of all human achievement in whatever field. It can never be proved enough. I consider that we climbers - that I - serve all humanity. We prove that there is no limit to what man can do."

. Walter Bonatti

OPERATION REPORTS

86-5 5/11/86

Incident

Dome Rock

Castro

On Sunday, 11 May at about 1430 hours, CLMRG member Tom Roseman fell while leading the first pitch of Sierra Club Special (rated 5.6) at Dome Rock. The fall consisted of a 40-foot slide and a 10-foot vertical drop to the ground. Tom landed on a narrow strip of soft earth between the vertical face at the bottom of the climb and a sharp flake that jutted up from the boulders we had scrambled over. It was the only relatively safe place to land in the area.

Tom's injuries included a small laceration in front of his left ear, a cut lower lip, an abrasion below his left knee, several broken and chipped teeth, and a painful back. The back injury was later diagnosed to be a compression fracture.

Tom declined my offer to get help from the other China Lake climbers in the area. He elected to walk back to the car after resting a while. A woman in the campground noticed Tom's plight and started some basic cleaning up and TLC. She gave him some homeopathic medicine called arnica. Once back in Ridgecrest, I notified Tom's wife Ann, and took him to the emergency room. Ann and the medical staff took over from there.

Sierra Club Special was new to both of us. Though presumably not so difficult as the climbs we had already done that weekend, this climb offered no protection on the first pitch during a long runout to a tree. The compound curve of the rock was such that Tom was climbing into a slope that got steeper instead of into a slope that got shallower about five feet to his left. By then, he was committed and apparently unable to move left. He was one move from a fairly secure position when he fell.

86-6 5/17-18/86

Search

Frazier Park

Mason

At 2300 hours on Saturday, 17 May, Sheila Rockwell called looking for a Leader for a search in Frazier Park, near Bakersfield. The request came from Lt. Sparks of the Kern County Sheriff's Department via the China Lake Police. We were to be at base camp at 0600 the following morning. In the meantime, Sheila had rounded up five others for the search. We met at the rescue hut at 0300 and were on the road shortly thereafter. Our team consisted of Derrickson, Wisecarver, Barbee, McDowell, DeRuiter and me. Upon arriving at base, we learned that the subject was Ricky McBride, eight years old, from Lakewood, CA. Ricky had been attending a local church camp with his five year old brother.

On the morning of the 17th, the two brothers decided to go for a short hike on a local trail. Somewhere along the way, Ricky became disoriented and decided they were lost. Ricky told his brother to stay put, and he would go for help. After several hours of waiting, Ricky did not return for his brother who by now had become impatient and began his hike toward safety. Somehow, Ricky's younger brother managed to find his way back, but Ricky did not. By now, night was approaching and the authorities were contacted.

Ricky was dressed in shorts and a T-shirt, had no gear and temperatures were in the 60's at night. Ricky had already spent one night out by now, so it was imperative that we find him that day. Several other teams from Kern County were arriving and were being deployed immediately. CLMRG was teamed with Indian Wells Valley Search and Rescue to search down a ridge to San Emigdio Creek and cut for tracks. Several other teams were busy combing other parts of the local area. Four-wheel drive vehicles along with motorcycles were driving all the roads. At 0900, as we trampled the heavy brush while moving down the ridge, word was received over the radio that Ricky had been found by a motorcycle team as he was walking down a dirt road toward camp. Ricky had spent a cold night out but was okay. With this good news in mind, we finished our descent and returned to base by 0930. Our team was released soon thereafter and we arrived home by 1230.

Comments:

1. I was unable to determine from the sheriff what maps to bring and was also unable to determine which quads were available at the Hut. I didn't like the feeling of not having maps and have since better familiarized myself with the map system. It's good to do occasionally.
2. We generally take the PT-400 radio as we did this trip. It turns out that several other teams are aware of our "Bread Box" as they call it, and were quick to ask for it to use as a relay station radio. Always a valuable radio to take.
3. There were 75 searchers on the scene during the course of this search. This makes organization difficult, especially with so many individual teams. Don't fight the system! Do what you can to help. If you have suggestions but can't inject them on the spot, keep track of them for a later time such as the critique at the end of the day. They may be helpful the following day. Things don't happen very fast with large groups: be patient.

86-7 5/26/86 Transit Joshua Tree Finco

At 1325 hours I received a call at home from the China Lake Police Department. I was told to call Jon Inskeep from Sierra Madre. Jon was coordinating an MRA call out for a search in Joshua Tree National Monument.

The search was for Juan Vadillo. Juan and his friend Lonnie Rasch, both 23 years old and both marines from Twentynine Palms, left at 0600 on May 25th to hike across the Wonderland of Rocks.

At 1800 the two separated. Lonnie, the more experienced hiker, had the map, compass and flashlight. Lonnie would stop every now and then and yell back to check on Juan. They kept in contact until 0100 on May 26th. At that time Lonnie hiked out and reported his friend missing.

At 1200 a Mountain Rescue Association call out was initiated. We left China Lake at 1450. At Barstow we called to check on the status of the search and were told that Juan had been picked up at 1530. In the dark, Juan had become stranded on a ledge. He dropped his pack so he was also without water. A helicopter spotted him and picked him up.

We were told that 52 National Park Service and MRA people responded; 3 helicopters (2 military), and 3 CARDA dog teams also helped in the search.

We were back at the hut by 1755. Members responding: Wisecarver, Ringrose, Roberts and me. Coordinators: Aigner and S. Rockwell

86-8 6/17/86 Transit Mt. Whitney Finco

The pager went off around 0545 on Tuesday, 17 June. We were asked to call the China Lake Police. I waited a minute or so (it was probably seconds) and called back on the pager saying I would make the contact.

The Inyo County Sheriffs Dispatcher informed me of a search in the Mt. Whitney area for 19 year old Brenda Schofield. Brenda and three friends had been hiking down the Whitney Trail the previous day. She was

complaining about feeling sick, and her feet hurt. At the Lone Pine Lake area her friends volunteered to carry her gear out. They hiked ahead and said they would meet her down at Whitney Portal. When she had not appeared by the next morning, she was reported overdue.

We met at the hut at 0630 and left by 0700. About 20 minutes out we received a call, again on the pager, that Brenda had walked out. We turned around and arrived back at the hut around 0745.

Members responding: Green, Huey, Hine, Mason, Sakai, Derrickson, Mitchell, Martin, Seibold, Silverman, McDowell, Walker, Leiser and me. Coordinators: C. Burge and S. Rockwell

86-9	6/19/86	Alert	Eureka Valley	Sakai
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At 1015 on 19 June a call from the Inyo County Sheriffs Office came over the pager. Hinman accepted the operation for CLMRG. Sgt. Dan Lucas asked us to be on alert for a search in the Eureka Valley for an overdue 31 year old female who was on a desert survival hike. If she was not found that day, we would be leaving early on the 20th.

Because of a prior commitment, Hinman asked me to take responsibility, which I did. At approximately 1615 hours later that day Sgt. Lucas called back to inform us that the woman had been found by a helo search crew, in good but dehydrated condition, and was being taken to a hospital for observation. The alert was cancelled.

Others responding were: Aigner (Coordinator), Renta, Mason, Atkins, Finco, Sakai, Derrickson, Mitchell, Seibold, Ingle, Barbee, Silverman, Ringrose, Roberts, Walker, S. Harris.

86-10	6/21-22/86	Search	Kings Canyon NP	Lucas
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We were alerted at 1745 on Saturday, 21 June, via our pager system by Ken Oetschow of the Inyo County Posse. Two hikers were overdue on a trip from South Lake to Cedar Grove in Kings Canyon National Park. A team call out by Sheila Rockwell got nine people for the alert (which later shrank to Green, Ringrose, VanVerst, Renta, Hine, Mitchell and me when the alert turned into an operation).

A party of four had left South Lake six days earlier and had planned to backpack to Cedar Grove, arriving Friday, 20 June. Their intended route took them over Bishop Pass into Dusy Basin, down the Middle Fork of the Kings River to Simpson Meadow, up Dougherty Creek and over Granite Pass, and down to road's end in Kings Canyon.

When they did not appear on schedule, the wife of one of them alerted Kings Canyon NP rangers. Kings Canyon asked Inyo County to check the roadhead at South Lake for their vehicle. As this was being done, two of the party showed up at South Lake.

Tony Capputi and Dave Mulqueeney reported they had become separated from Glenn Miller and John Sylvester three days earlier, about a mile southeast of Simpson Meadow. Tony and Dave camped there overnight and, when Glenn and John did not show up the next morning, decided to retrace their steps back to South Lake. The

high snowpack had made routefinding difficult and they felt more confident of finding their way back than going on without a map.

At this point it was clear we had a lot of country to cover. Kings Canyon NP was organizing a search west of the Sierra crest and wanted us to cover east of the crest. As of 2000 a helo was not available, so Ken wanted us to hike up Sawmill Pass, Taboose Pass, and up South Fork "Pass" on Big Pine Creek. Teams from Inyo would go over Bishop Pass and Lamarck Col.

At 2330 Jon Inskeep of Sierra Madre Search and Rescue called to alert us for the same operation. At the request of the Kings Canyon NP, Larry Buffalo of the state Office of Emergency Services (OES) had initiated an MRA call out. I told Jon we would be working with Inyo east of the crest.

We met at the hut at 0330 Sunday, 22 June, and drove to the Independence substation. We called Ken and conferred over the maps. Team assignments were made, with Mike Renta joining Ken in base camp at the Bishop Airport. Inyo set up a relay high on the slopes across Owens Valley to give us radio coverage.

Equipped to spend two days above 10,000 feet, we started our assignments. About 1030 we heard welcome news over the radio: Glenn and John had been found in good condition near Granite Pass by a Park Ranger. VanVerst and I drove to Bishop to join Renta in base camp, while the rest headed home.

Glenn and John were flown by helo to Bishop to be reunited with Tony and Dave and with concerned family members, so we got to hear their story. When Tony and Dave did not show up, the others decided to press on. Snow completely covered the trail and they soon lost their way. For four days Glenn and John covered the ridges around Dougherty Creek, but discovered no promising route. They were found about 5 miles south of where the party had separated. Except for having had no food since Friday and too much sunshine, they were in good shape.

Comments:

1. Inyo is using our pager system, which worked well. It would have worked even better if I had turned mine on while at home.
2. The OES call out of MRA eased my mind about being undermanned. We wondered if we wouldn't be better used west of the crest since that was the most likely area. It helped to know the west side was being adequately covered.
3. Radio communication into Big Pine Creek was marginal. Hine could hear base camp, but they could not hear him much of the time. The relay worked fine for Taboose and Sawmill.
4. I would have preferred sending 3-person teams, but since this was a trail search I felt two people were sufficient.
5. We carried one radio per person: one per team, plus a backup. The added weight would probably have been worth it, if the search had gone on longer.

