

China Lake Mountain Rescue Group

Talus Pile #116 November, 2000

TRAINING SCHEDULE

Nov 4-5 Sat-Sun Map and Compass Gates
Nov 8-12 Wed-Sun Baja California Davis
Nov 10-13 Fri-Mon Jepson, Palisade Crest Rockwell
Nov 13 Mon Meeting (avalanche transceivers--Myers) Botham/Botham/Botham
Nov 15 Wed CPR Schafhauser
Nov 15 Wed Avalanche transceiver practice Training Committee
Nov 18 Sat Whitney Rockwell
Nov 19 Sun Rock skills Hinman
Nov 23-26 Thu-Sun Ruskin, Vennacher Needle Rockwell
Nov 29 Wed Stretcher practice hut night Roseman
Dec 2 Sat Owens Ridge climbing Roseman
Dec 3 Sun Stretcher practice Roseman
Dec 6 Wed CPR Schafhauser
Dec 8-10 Fri-Mon - Red Rocks w/ Zion rangers
Dec 11 Mon Meeting (TBD) Breitenstein/Rindeau/
Dec 13 Wed Christmas party Westbrook
Dec 16 Sat Dynamic belay practice- Roseman & Training Committee
Dec 17 Sun Desert Peak Schafhauser
Dec 22 Fri Local Peak Runkle
Dec 25 Mon Open
Dec 30-Jan 1 Sat-Mon Hitchcock Rockwell
Jan 5-7 Fri-Sun North Palisade Huey
Jan 8 Mon Meeting (ELT--TerHeun) Rockwell/Castro/DeRuiter

SUNDAY ROCK CLIMBING coordinated by Bud Gates

CLMRG is funded in part by United Way of Indian Wells Valley.

OPERATION REPORTS

Tom Sakai

00-06 30 Sep 00 Search Palm Springs 2000-OES-0465 Walter Runkle

On Thursday, 28 September, Mike Myers called me at work and asked me if I could take a search operation that weekend near the Palm Springs Tram. Joshua Best, a 32-year-old male, had been missing for 19 days. He was reported to be in good physical shape but bipolar schizophrenic. There had been a search when he was initially reported lost, but his wallet had recently been found in the area, which instigated this second search. Mike described the area as consisting of steep technical ridges and said we should take ropes and whatever rappelling gear was necessary. The requesting party was Deputy Dennis Keene of Riverside. Mike gave me the OES number and told me it was Bob Gerber at OES who requested us.

Sheila Rockwell was my coordinator. I asked Sheila to do a callout that night and let me know later that same evening who was available. I told her we would not need to be in Palm Springs until 0730 on Saturday, 30 September and we would probably meet at the hut early Saturday morning. Sheila soon called back and gave me the names of Daryl Hinman, Bob Rockwell, Bud Gates, David Doerr, and Paul DeRuiter. Mike Myers had already told me that he would be going.

Mike, Dave, Bud, Paul, and I decided to drive down Friday night instead of getting up early Saturday morning. Daryl and Bob decided to drive down on Saturday morning and meet us at base camp.

The five of us met at the hut at 1900 and got the gear together. We left about 1930 with Mike and me going down in my Bravada and Bud and Paul going with Dave in Dave's Yukon. On the way, we tried the talk-about radios as a means of communicating between the vehicles, and they worked very well. They had a range of several miles even in town. We arrived down in Palm Springs about 2245 and pulled off the road right after turning onto the Tram Parkway because the gate across the road was locked for the night.

We awoke the next morning about 0530 and drove to Denny's for breakfast. At base camp, we met Daryl and Bob, who had already arrived. I checked our team in at 0730. About 10 minutes later, Jim Fairchild from the Riverside team gave everyone a brief on Joshua (the missing man) and the search results so far. He gave us a photocopy of the 7.5-minute San Jacinto quad and instructed us to take our time, move slowly, and make safety our top priority.

Paul and I were one team, Daryl and Dave another, and Bob and Mike a third. Bud was put with Arnold Gaffery from Sierra Madre MRT. Paul and I rode the tram to the top while the others were flown in by helicopter. We were all to search on a ridge called Leatherneck Ridge that runs to the northeast from the top of the tram.

Paul's and my assignment consisted of searching some steep, rocky, brushy gullies

running east from the very top of Leatherneck Ridge. We never had to use the rope for rappelling, but there were some very steep, loose sections that we avoided by going either high or low. We saw no sign other than tracks and red marking tape left by previous search parties.

Bob and Mike were placed farther northeast on Leatherneck Ridge at a lower elevation. They found some very good tracks and followed them down until the tracks left the ridge and disappeared. Eventually, they hooked up with Dave, Daryl, Bud, and Arnold.

Dave and Daryl were initially placed off to the east of the ridge at the same elevation as Bob and Mike. When Bob and Mike reported finding tracks, Dave and Daryl were moved farther down the ridge to cut for sign.

Bud and Arnold were initially about 1000 feet above Bob and Mike. Bud found one set of old prints heading down the ridge. These were the same prints that Mike had found. Bud and Arnold progressed up to where a higher team had started and were then flown out on the same helicopter that had picked up Dave and Daryl. The four were dropped below Bob and Mike, where they split up and searched in four different directions. They met back at the drop site and hooked up with Bob and Mike, who had come down the ridge. All were flown back to base camp.

I reported to Riverside that I thought there was only a 20 to 30 percent chance at best that we would have found an unresponsive person in our search area. It was just too brushy and rocky, and there were too many places an unresponsive person could have been and not been visible. Riverside thanked us, and we were soon on our way back to Ridgecrest. We stopped for dinner on our way home and got back to the hut about 2130. We had a short debrief, put away the gear, and headed home.

00-07 22 Oct 00 Transit Bodfish Tom Sakai

Fifteen CLMRGers were at a scheduled stretcher practice on B Mountain when Carol Burge drove up to inform us that Sgt. John Diederich of Kern County Sheriff's Office (KCSO) had called on our pager at 1020 asking for assistance. Since we had left our pagers in the cars, none of us heard the page. Sheila Rockwell, who was at home, heard the page and responded to Sgt. Diederich and then asked Carol to retrieve us from the mountain. It was a little after 1100 when she arrived.

Since I was the first operations leader to talk to Carol, I got the honors. Sgt. Diederich wanted us to help search for an overdue deer hunter, Ramon Navarro (age 42) of North Hills, in the Paiute Mountain area southeast of Bodfish. He and four friends had gone out at 0600 on Saturday, 21 October. They had gone separate ways to do their hunting. Ramon had not returned by dark, and his four friends started searching for him that evening. In the process, they had obliterated Ramon's tracks in the area of his vehicle, which made footprint identification by KCSO searchers nearly impossible. After several hours of fruitless search, they finally called KCSO about 2020. Sgt. Diederich immediately initiated a search with the Kern Valley team.

By morning, Sgt. Diederich realized he would need additional help, so he called CLMRG at 1020 Sunday morning. Seven of us at the stretcher practice--Bob Rockwell, Al Green, Werner Hueber, Dennis Burge, Eric Toler, Curtis Davis, and I--and Bill Rudy, who had just returned that morning from deer hunting, committed to the search. The others had to work Monday and could not commit to a potential multi-day search.

We grabbed some lunch, got our gear together, and met at the hut at 1300. Shortly after passing Bodfish, a Sheriff's vehicle passed us going the other way. It was Sgt. Diederich going into town for fuel and food for the searchers. He suggested we wait for him at the turnoff to the dirt road that led to the search base. Shortly after that, at 1445, he informed us by radio that Ramon had been found uninjured and in good condition. Ramon was just very tired and dehydrated and had a few scratches. Sgt. Diederich told us to turn around and meet with him in town for an informal debrief before returning home. After a short chat, our team was on the road home by 1500 and at the hut at 1620.

FROM OTHER SOURCES

Lost man survives in California woods for one month

Tuesday, October 31, 2000

©2000 Associated Press

GORMAN, Calif. (AP) -- A 25-year-old man who wandered into the Angeles National Forest a month ago and got lost has been found alive, police said. Sean Kelly, who was reported missing Sept. 30, was found by a hunter Monday in the Knapp Ranch area of the forest, about 60 miles north of downtown Los Angeles, sheriff's Deputy Michael Lorenci said. Kelly was too weak to walk out, so rescuers airlifted him to Henry Mayo Newhall Memorial Hospital, where he was treated for exposure.

Kelly told the hunter he had been lost for about two weeks and survived by eating roots and bugs, Lorenci said. To survive, he covered himself with dirt and branches at night to keep warm. "We're all surprised that he'd been out there for 30 days and that he survived," Lorenci said.

FROM THE MEMBERSHIP

Steve Walker
Bob Rockwell

A recent edition of the Investor's Business Daily has an article on this new technology of tiny moveable mirrors on a chip--MEMs, for micro-electro-mechanical chips. A current applied to a mirror changes its orientation, which changes the path of a reflected light beam. MEMs are expected to be the next breakthrough in optical telecommunications devices.

Steve Walker's company, Integrated Micromachines in Pasadena, is one of the three companies highlighted, and "Steve Walker, senior applications engineer, etc." is quoted in a couple of places.

Steve is one of CLMRG's Honorary Life Members. He joined in 1987 and became a Leader in 1992. Steve was one of our best rock climbers, became Winter qualified, and moved away in 1994.

A Financial Glance at the CLMRG

Mike Myers

The China Lake Mountain Rescue Group recently went through an exercise examining the past few years of our income and expenses. We had been noticing a decline in donations and wanted to get some insight into the seriousness of it. Also, we wanted to take a look at the trends of our expenditures to see if some belt-tightening might be warranted. Some information from this exercise may be of interest to Talus Pile readers and is included in the hard copy of the Talus Pile and the e-mail document sent by Loren to the membership.

Summary

Going through this exercise has had beneficial results. It gave us additional insight into what it takes to finance our rescue group in a more global sense. We brainstormed ways of increasing our exposure to the community, which may result in increased donations. And we identified some expenses that may be curtailed without overly impacting our near-term effectiveness in mountain SAR.

Finally, we prioritized our next-year's budget, item by item. For example, our initial expense estimates for 2001 totaled about \$18,000. It can be seen that by projecting the top line in Figure 1, this far exceeds what we expect to receive for the year. By focusing on only the most critical items, we were able to come up with a "bare-bones" budget of about \$10,000, which should allow us to temporarily perform our basic mission with full effectiveness. The other items of a less-critical nature will be tended to as we see how our finances evolve throughout the year.

A cautionary note: If our numbers of SAR operations return to the higher levels of a

few years ago, we will not be able to continue within the guidelines of our proposed budget, and we may need to begin an aggressive campaign to elicit additional donations.

2000 OFFICERS

President Mike Myers 375-6801 MyersMB@navair.navy.mil
Vice-president Bob Rockwell 375-2532 rockwell@ridgecrest.ca.us
Secretary Eric Toler 446-6100 TolerET@navair.navy.mil
Treasurer Steve Florian 371-3996 FlorianSJ@navair.navy.mil
MRA Representative Werner Hueber 375-2165 hueber@ridgecrest.ca.us

2000 CONTACTS

Public Education Terry Mitchell 375-0168 MitchellTA@navair.navy.mil
Training Walter Runkle 377-5931 RunkleWD@navair.navy.mil
Equipment Werner Hueber 375-3073 hueber@ridgecrest.ca.us
First Aid Ellen Schafhauser 375-4043 locoweed@iwvisp.com
Qualifications Bob Rockwell 375-2532 rockwell@ridgecrest.ca.us
Qualifications Tom Roseman 375-1030 RosemanTW@navair.navy.mil
Qualifications Tom Sakai 375-7404 tsakai@ridgecrest.ca.us
Sheriff's Office Al Green 375-9189 agreen@ridgecrest.ca.us
ASTM Representative Dennis Burge 375-7967 dennis93555@yahoo.com
Emergency Services Linda Finco 375-7951 FincoLJ@navair.navy.mil
Summer Class Bob Huey 375-0168 huey@ridgenet.net
Stores Carol Burge 446-7038 cburge@ridgecrest.ca.us
The Talus Pile Loren Castro 375-3279 lfc32@earthlink.net
Web page Janet Westbrook 375-8371 jwest@ridgenet.net

THE ONGOING WHITNEY CHALLENGE

Bob Rockwell

CONTEMPORARY Time Age **CONTEMPORARY** Adjusted

Walter Runkle (MR) 3:35 46 Tom Roseman 3:09
Tom Roseman 3:38 50Walter Runkle (MR) 3:12
Curtis Davis (MR) 3:38 34Curtis Davis (MR) 3:37

Mike Myers 4:11 48.....Mike Myers 3:45
Tom Sakai 4:50 54Bob Rockwell 4:09
Bob Rockwell 5:20 63Tom Sakai 4:12
Bud Gates 6:37 40Al Green (MR) 5:35
Al Green (MR) 7:10 68Bud Gates 6:24
Jeanette Rudy (MR) 7:30 34Jeanette Rudy (MR) 6:44
Dave Doerr 7:40 36Dave Doerr 7:38

HISTORICAL..... HISTORICAL Adjusted

Terry Moore 1979 3:11 35Terry Moore 1979 3:10
Dennis Burge 1979 3:40 43Dennis Burge 1979 3:33
Bob Westbrook 1979 3:40 37Bob Westbrook 1979 3:39
Bob Rockwell 1979 4:05 43Bob Rockwell 1979 3:57
John O'Connor 1999 6:22 42John O'Connor 1999 6:09

CONTEMPORARY = 1999 or later by current CLMRG members.

HISTORICAL = Ancient times or former members.

MR = Mountaineer's Route.

Adjusted = Times are adjusted for age and sex using the Age Equalizer™ interactive calculator at Peak Running Performance's web site www.peakrunning.com. The standard used here is a 34-year-old male's time for running a marathon (26.2 miles).

Mt. Whitney, as we afterwards called it in honor of our chief, is probably the highest land within the United States. Its summit looked glorious but inaccessible.

-Clarence King (July 7, 1864)

EDITOR'S LEAD

Loren Castro

A little extra space in this issue allows me to print the recipe for something called hike-bike bars that I found in a newspaper many years ago.

Hike-Bike Bars

In a large bowl, cream together 1/3 cup butter or margarine and 1/2 cup chunky peanut butter

Stir in 1/2 cup light or dark molasses
and 1 cup sugar
and 2 teaspoons vanilla extract

Add 4 eggs
one at a time, beating well after each

Add 1/4 cup Grape-Nuts or wheat germ

On wax paper, sift 2 cups flour
with 1 teaspoon baking powder
and 1/2 teaspoon salt
and 1/4 teaspoon baking soda

Add flour mixture alternately with 1 cup mashed ripe banana
stirring after each addition until just blended

Stir in 1 1/2 cups semi-sweet chocolate bits
and 1 cup chopped salted peanuts

Pour into a greased 15x10x1-inch baking pan.
Bake in a 350-degree oven for 30 minutes or until firm to the touch.
Cool in the pan on a wire rack.
Cut into bars.
Store in a dry place away from marmots.

Notes: This is close to the original recipe. Over the years, I've modified the original to suit my own tastes and lazy ways. The taste of molasses gets old fast, so I use honey. I do not sift ingredients, stir alternately, or chop the peanuts. Two bananas is about right. This stuff freezes well. Some of my batches stay in the freezer for a couple of months. I take them out as I need them.

SCREE

For information on ropes, contact the Cordage Institute, 350 Lincoln St., Hingham, MA 02043. The definitive view of ropes as they are used in cave exploration, rescue, and industrial occupations can be found in the book *On Rope*, by Bruce Smith and Allen Padgett, National Speleological Society. It costs about \$35.50 postpaid from On Rope Inc., 6313 Jan Lane Dr., Harrison, TN 37341.

Check our web page at <http://www.clmrg.org>.

All telephone numbers in *The Talus Pile* are area code 760 unless noted otherwise.

Editor: Werner Hueber provides the following information:

The Sheriff gave the Group a Nokia digital cellular phone to replace one of the Motorola phones. The new phone has a phone book. I entered the phone numbers (home, work, cellular, pager) of Commander Moe and Sgt. Diederich, the phone numbers (home, work, cellular) of the coordinators, and the cellular phone numbers of the members who have them. Feel free to enter more numbers if you think we may use them. I recommend that the Motorola phone be used by the coordinators. It works fine around Ridgecrest.

11/11/00