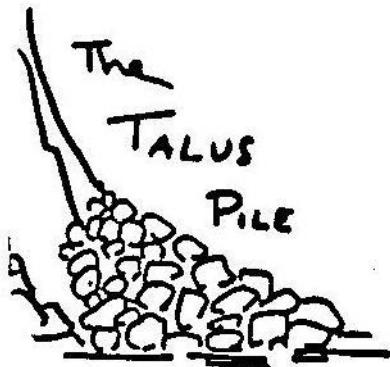


NUMBER 153

October 2012



CHINA LAKE MOUNTAIN RESCUE GROUP
P. O. BOX 2037
RIDGECREST CA 93556

TRAINING SCHEDULE

Oct	15	Meeting	Breitenstein/Roseman w/ J. Green/Myers
Oct	17	Specialized Splints Hut Night	Miles
Oct	17	Tracking	Bishop
Oct	20	Mt. Baldy	Loughran
Oct	24	Track Awareness and Fundamentals	Loughran
Oct	27	Expanded TA and Fundamentals	Loughran
Nov	TBD	Noon Tracking	Loughran
Nov	TBD	Mini First Aid	Finco
Nov	TBD	CPR	Niesen
Nov	TBD	Stretcher	Miles/Derkey
Nov	TBD	First Aid	Finco
Nov	3	Whitney Challenge	Myers
Nov	19	Meeting	Huey w/ Finco/Bishop
Dec	TBD	Mini First Aid	Finco
Dec	TBD	CPR (if members require)	Niesen
Dec	TBD	Noon Tracking	Loughran
Dec	10	Meeting	w/ Derkey

SCREE

Check our web page at clmrg.org.

Check the California Region's web page at crmra.org.

Newsletters from other MRA groups, gear catalogs, etc. are available in the hut.



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

OPERATION REPORTS

Operation 2012-03 (Search) OES # 2012-LAW-0065

19-20 March 2012

Mesquite Springs, Death Valley National Park (Inyo County)

By Linda Finco

Summary:

Search for a missing 68 year old man who walked off from a group campsite.

Narrative:

Dave Miles received a call from the Inyo County Sheriff on Monday, 19 March at 1700, but was out of town. He contacted Sheila Rockwell to act as the coordinator and find an operations leader. Sheila contacted me around 1730 as I was on my way to the airport to pick up a friend. I told her I could take the operation, but that I would not be back in town until after 10 pm. At the airport waiting I contacted Dave Miles and learned the search was for a 68 year old man missing since Monday, 12 March. Previous to his disappearance he was on a group bike trip in Death Valley. During one of the preparation rides he had fallen and sustained a head injury. On the night of his disappearance he appeared disoriented. He was last seen walking towards his campsite. The next morning it was reported he was missing. The Sheriff requested teams be at the Grapevine Ranger Station in Death Valley at 1000 on Tuesday, 20 March. I contacted Sheila and told her to give a 0700 meet time at the rescue hut. Sheila stated Nathan Simons, Bill Stratton, Eileen Loughran and Al Green committed for two days for the search.

We met at the hut and left by 0710 and arrived at the Grapevine Ranger Station at 0930. At 1000 the Inyo County Sheriff, Sgt. Terry Waterbury, briefed the search teams. The search was for George Kohler. It was reported Mr. Kohler is a fitness instructor, so in very good shape. It was also reported that he was on medication for epilepsy, but no medicine was found at his hotel room in Las Vegas, nor in his equipment at the campground. The campground, and washes in the vicinity of the campground had been thoroughly searched with no clues found. Helicopters with and without FLIR had searched the area. Possible tracks were found going north from the campground, but they also returned and headed back south. A dog did get a "hit" at the northwest end of the campground, but had no further detection. The search was suspended over the weekend due to a winter storm and the risk of flash floods in the washes. Our day would be spent covering areas beyond the washes with a tighter search grid looking for clues and Mr. Kohler.

Bill and I were teamed together and Eileen and Nathan were teamed together. Al stayed in base and assisted with communications. Bill and I were assigned a quadrant about 1.5 miles south of the campground. Eileen and Nathan were assigned a quadrant just northeast of the campground. The search areas were defined by a set of waypoints. Teams were to zigzag from waypoint to waypoint to cover their search areas as thoroughly as possible. Bill and I completed our assignment and returned to base at 1600. As we arrived in base we overheard that the subject was found deceased and the coordinates of his location were given. The Sheriff requested Bill and I bring his camera to the location for documenting the scene. We arrived at the location with other teams to assist in the carryout. Mr. Kohler was found in the quadrant Nathan and Eileen were searching. During one of the sweeps, Nathan hiked over to the rim of a wash and spotted something dark blue. He hiked a little closer and verified that it was a person down and requested Eileen descend with him to the wash for assistance. Mr. Kohler was placed in a wheeled stretcher for the carryout to the road and we were back to base by 1700. After a debrief with the Sheriff we were released and arrived back to the hut at 2030.

Operation 2012-04 (Search)

20-21 April 2012

Kernville (Kern County)

By David Miles

Summary:

Search for a missing 84 year old man who wandered off from his residence.

Narrative:

On April 20th at 1958 hrs, I received a call from Kern County Sheriff Sgt. Kenny Smith requesting our team to be on standby for a search in Kernville. I did not notice the message on my cell phone until 2130 and immediately returned his call. He requested our help in searching for a missing 84 yr old. John Fowler was last seen near the Post Office in Kernville around noon. So far search teams had been unable to find any clues. We were to meet at the Command Post in Kernville at 0600 on the 21st. I called Sheila Rockwell at 2135 to start a callout. Our team was to meet at the hut at 0430. Only 2 other members were available for the search (Tom Sakai, Paul DeRuiter).

Arriving in Kernville at 0545 we checked in and were given the assignment to search the Whiskey Flat and Bull Run trails for any sign of John. We went to his house first with Sgt. Haislip to look for tracks. We took photos of a few tracks, however, we could not positively determine if these tracks were the subjects. We then proceeded to our assignment and cleared a few miles of each of the trails. Our basic strategy was to catalog all the recent prints on the trail and find a matching set going in and one coming out. In both cases we were able to close out the last tracks by finding the people coming back out. At that point we were confident that we had an exit track for every entry track. We were back at the CP around 1130 and had lunch.

We received another assignment to search the bottom of the Cannell Trail. We started up the trail at 1230 and hiked about 2 miles up, matching entry and exit tracks. After finding the hikers that matched our last set of entry only tracks, we continued on to a saddle and then returned to the CP with no sign of our subject. Without other assignments available for the day we were released at 1530 and were back at the hut and finished at 1650. We were asked to provide a team for the next day's search, but were unable to supply a team.

Operation 2012-05 (Rescue) OES # 2012-LAW-0126

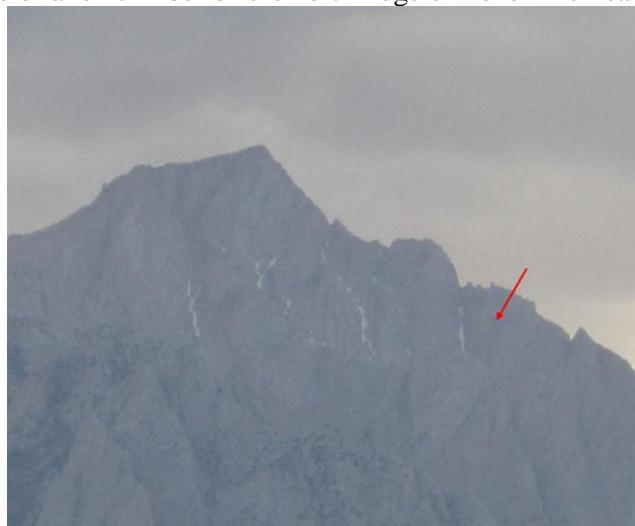
20-21 May 2012

Lone Pine Peak (Inyo County)

By Dan Bishop

Summary:

Rescue for a 25 year old fallen climber on the north ridge of Lone Pine Peak.



Approximate location of the fallen climber on Lone Pine Peak

Narrative:

Inyo County SAR requested our assistance on Sunday afternoon, May 20th, for rescue of an injured climber on the north ridge of Lone Pine Peak. I, Dan Bishop, accepted the operation and Sheila Rockwell acted as Coordinator. The subject, 25 year old Pratyush Tiwary of Pasadena, had fallen unroped 50 feet at the 11,600 foot elevation. The fall resulted in injuries to the subject's ankle, arm and back. The party of 4 that Mr. Tiwary was climbing with was on a day climb of the north ridge. The injury occurred around 1pm. According to the party, they were following a guide book that had them leave the "normal" route and drop below the main ridge by 200 feet. Since they were in cell phone coverage, they reported the injury to the Inyo Sheriff department.

Dave Miles, Bob Rockwell, Tom Roseman, and Nathan Simons committed to the effort and we departed from the hut shortly after 3pm. We arrived at the Lone Pine airport where a CHP helicopter was inserting members of the Inyo SAR team. Due to aircrew qualifications, the helo was unable to extract the subject that day and was instead dropping SAR personnel 200 feet below the Lone Pine Peak summit. At 5:30pm Roseman and Miles were on the last flight to join the 3 Inyo members in the multiple rappels to reach the victim. In the dark with heavy packs they spent the next 8 hours making their way down. The hasty Inyo medic met with the subject at 1:30am. He reported that he subject's bone was visible out of the ankle, probable broken arm and a puncture on his back. The rest of the team along with overnight gear arrived by 2:30am.

The plan was for the CHP helicopter to return in the morning and with the properly qualified crew, hoist-extract the subject from his location. While the team was descending the route Bishop, Rockwell, Simons and Gary from Inyo were preparing alternate scenarios involving a possible ground extraction. We spent the night in the Lone Pine Hostel. At 6:30am the helicopter arrived at the airport and after unloading excess gear was soon in route to the victim with the stretcher on the hoist. Thanks to Miles' mirror flash they were quickly located. After the stretcher was dropped off, the subject was packaged and hoisted alongside the cabin and transported directly to the Lone Pine hospital by 7:30am. The helicopter was near its operation limits, however, they were able to return and extract 100lbs of gear and equipment thus saving the long manual haul-out.

Bishop, Rockwell, Simons, and Kevin from Inyo hiked in on the Meysan trail to try to assist the descending team. Just before noon we met the remaining 3 members of the subject's party just coming of the 3rd class section of the climb. Simons escorted them down to the trail. Shortly after Miles, Roseman, and the other Inyo members exited the route and we assisted by taking extra gear to lighten their packs. By 2pm we were all at the trailhead and treated to lunch in Lone Pine. We arrived back at the hut by 5pm.

Operation 2012-06 (Rescue) OES # 2012-LAW-0131

20-21 May 2012

Mt. Whitney Trail, Trail Camp (Inyo County)

By David Miles

Summary:

Rescue for a 26 year old hiker complaining of acute mountain sickness and unable to descend from Trail Camp.

Narrative:

Just after 10pm on Saturday May 26th, I, Dave Miles, received a request from the Inyo Sheriff SAR Deputy Tim Winkler to assist in a rescue of a 26 year old man from Trail Camp on the Mt. Whitney trail. Sheila Rockwell coordinated the callout and the field team left at 11:30pm consisting of Dave Miles, Dan Bishop, Mike Myers, Tom Sakai, and Nathan Simons.

At 1am we met the Inyo team's radio relay on a switchback of the Whitney Portal road. A hasty team from Inyo SAR was on their way to Trail Camp to provide medical aid. Our role would be to bring more oxygen for the subject along with a litter and wheel for extraction. The China Lake team left Whitney Portal at 1:30am and arrived with the equipment at Trail Camp at 6:30am. The Inyo team had wrapped the subject in a sleeping bag and bivy sack, and were administering oxygen.

The subject, Sasikaran Ravella, was most likely suffering from a combination of Acute Mountain Sickness, exhaustion, and hypothermia. He had intentions of day hiking the Whitney trail but was unable to continue nor descend as darkness fell. Fortunately two hikers at Trail Camp had allowed him to share their tent

prior to the SAR team arrival. A CHP helicopter from Fresno was able to land at Trail Camp at 9:20am and take Mr. Ravella to the Lone Pine Hospital. Afterwards, the Inyo and China Lake SAR teams hiked down the trail and were back at Whitney Portal at 12:20pm. We had lunch in Lone Pine and then retrieved some gear at the hospital that was used to package the subject for hypothermia. We were back at the hut at 3:30pm.

Operation 2012-07 (Transit) OES # 2012-LAW-0159

29 June 2012

Kearsarge Pass Trail (Inyo County)

By Dan Bishop

Summary:

Transit to assist in the rescue of a 60 year old hiker who had fallen and been injured on the Kearsarge Pass Trail.

Narrative:

I, Dan Bishop, received calls from Inyo County SAR Deputy Winkler and Kern County Sheriff Sgt. Smith just before noon on Friday, June 29th requesting our assistance for a rescue of an injured hiker on the Kearsarge Pass trail. With no other Leaders available, I accepted the operation, however, the earliest I could depart would be 3pm. I contacted Carol Burge to act as Coordinator to begin the call-out with Terry Mitchell assisting.

The subject was a 60 year old male, experienced backpacker, hiking alone on the trail to Kearsarge Pass. He had fallen in the cliff areas north of Big Pot Hole Lake where he sustained back injuries preventing him from continuing on his own. He had used a cell phone from a bystander hiker to report his condition with the Inyo Sheriff dispatch. As our team of Tom Sakai, Mike Derkey and Nathan Simons was departing from the hut, Inyo called to inform us that a CHP helicopter was also responding to the incident. We continued to drive until we reached Lone Pine when we received word that the subject had been picked up and was in route to the Bishop hospital via the helicopter. An Inyo SAR team on scene had transported the subject 20 minutes down the trail to a suitable landing zone. We returned to the hut by 5:30pm.

Operation 2012-08 (Alert) OES # 2012-LAW-0167

3 July 2012

Twin Lakes (Mono County)

By Linda Finco

Summary:

Alert to assist in a search for a missing 45 year old hiker.

Narrative:

Dave Miles received a call from Kern County Sheriff Sgt. Haislip, around 1700 on Tuesday, 3 July. There was a mutual aid request from Mono County to search for a missing 45 year old man. The search was in the Twin Lakes area above 12000 feet. Dave contacted Sheila Rockwell to coordinate the callout and although Dave was able to commit to the search, he requested she find another Operations Leader if possible. I, Linda Finco, accepted the operation. I asked Sheila to finish calling the team and I would coordinate with Sgt. Haislip and the POC from Mono County to determine where we needed to meet at 0600 the next morning. I would also find out if any special equipment would be needed for the search. This information would then establish when I would have our team assemble at the hut.

I contacted Sgt. Haislip and he gave the additional information that we were to meet at Bryant Field in Bridgeport and the name of the POC for Mono County. I contacted the POC, but could only leave a message. Sheila called to report Dave Miles, Tom Sakai, Nathan Simons, Paul DeRuiter and Al Green committed to the search. At 1830 Sgt. Haislip called to say the subject had been found so we were to stand down. No other information was received from the sheriff on the who, what, where, when and why of the operation.

Operation 2012-09 (Search and Rescue) OES # 2012-LAW-0186

19-20 July 2012

Whitney Trail, Trail Camp (Inyo County)

By Dan Bishop

Summary:

Search for a missing 45 year old day hiker on the Mt. Whitney Trail.

Narrative:

I, Dan Bishop, received a call on July 19th at 10pm from David Miles looking for a Leader to respond to a request from Inyo County SAR in a search for an overdue day hiker on the Mt. Whitney trail. I contacted Gina Niesen to act as Coordinator and begin the call-out with an 11:30pm scheduled muster at the hut.

The subject was a 45 year old female hiking with her husband and another couple on a day climb of the Whitney trail. At approximately 1pm, just short of the summit she turned around on her own, complaining of headache and fatigue. Her husband continued and upon return to the trail head alerted Inyo Sheriff when she was not found. Mike Derkey, Jeff Green and Dave Doerr committed to the operation and we arrived at Whitney Portal at 1am. Briefed by Sgt. Waterbury, we were joined by Inyo SAR member Victor. Our assignment was to determine if the subject had taken shelter at Trail Camp. We divided first aid, victim sleeping bag, and oxygen bottles among the team. Derkey and Victor headed up as the hasty team. Overnight temperatures were mild and at 4:30am myself, Doerr, and Green stopped above Mirror Lake for a break. Meanwhile Derkey and Victor continued up and just before 6am located the subject in Trail Camp. She was in good condition. Derkey and Victor took her to the Ranger tent just below Trail Camp and gave her hot water, food, and a sleeping bag. The subject, after leaving her party near the summit, had turned to the west to Guitar Lake instead of the east back to the trailhead. At 4pm she had met a group near Guitar Lake who had informed her of her error. She opted to ascend back up to Trail Crest, however, by the time she went over the pass and down to Trail Camp it was 10:30pm and she was exhausted. Fortunately she was taken into a tent by two generous overnight campers. At first light she headed down where she was spotted by the hasty team. Around the time that the subject was found, Eileen Loughran and Tom Sakai met at the hut to drive to Whitney Portal to supplement the search effort. I was able to contact Gina to advise her of the status and have Loughran and Sakai stand down. We escorted the subject down the trail to her grateful husband at 10:20am. After breakfast at the Whitney Portal Store, we returned to the hut by 1:30pm.

Operation 2012-10 (Search and Recovery) OES # 2012-LAW-0188

24-26 July 2012

Mt. Langley (Inyo County)

By Tom Roseman

Summary:

Search for a missing hiker in the Mt. Langley area. The hiker fell during his descent and was fatally injured. CLMRG assisted in the recovery.

Narrative:

I, Tom Roseman, had just finished giving the lecture on Alpine Rescue for the summer class when I received a call from Sgt. Haislip of the Kern County Sheriff's Office. He notified me that Inyo County was requesting assistance in a search in the area of Mt. Langley. Since Gina Niesen was at the class, she agreed to serve as Coordinator. Bob Rockwell and Nathan Simons met me at the hut the next morning and we drove to Lone Pine arriving at 7am. The subject, Tom Heng, was attempting a day climb of Mt. Langley on Sunday, and was separated from his partner who last saw him around 1:00pm heading to the summit. Of note, there were very severe thunderstorms during that afternoon in the Langley area.

Our assignment was to search the rock band below Langley, and then the 'shortcuts' down near the Fin. Bob was very familiar with this area. We were flown in by H-552 from Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Park to the saddle below the summit and started out searching along with two dog teams from YOSAR. At this time, it was reported on the radio that the subject's body had been spotted by H-551 flying support out of Yosemite

National Park. Teams from Sierra Madre, San Dimas and Montrose were enroute on the ground to locate the subject near Old Army Pass. We returned to our landing zone to wait for H-551 to bring us equipment for the extraction while they extracted the dog teams. We hiked over to Old Army Pass as the ground teams on site located the body below the pass. Due to the time of day, extraction of the body was set for the next morning. We joined the Sierra Madre and San Dimas team near the top of 4th lake for the night. The Montrose team hiked out. That evening we learned that a trail crew, working in the vicinity, was the first to spot the subject and relay the information.

In the morning, I took charge, with the consent of the other team, and we worked out a plan. I asked Nathan to serve as radio relay near the outlet of the lake, as communications were not good from the location of the subject. The remaining five of us returned to the subject's location, which consisted of about 100 feet of 3rd class, on top of a rock slab. Our original plan was to lower the subject to the base of the slab, but I decided that the H-552 would be able to get close enough without moving the subject for the long line. I secured the subject and with assistance from the San Dimas team member and we prepared the subject for the extraction. H-552 arrived on site and long lined us a cargo net. The subject was secured and extracted via the long line. We all hiked out from 4th Lake to the trailhead and we joined Inyo team member Bruce and Sgt. Waterbury for an early dinner. We arrived home around 7pm.

Lessons learned:

NPS contract helicopters require leather boots.

Operation 2012-11 (Search) OES # 2012-LAW-0201

30 July – 1 August 2012

Norman Clyde (Inyo County)

By Tom Roseman

Summary:

Search for a 60 year old missing hiker in the Norman Clyde area. The hiker fell during his descent and was fatally injured.

Narrative:

After returning home late on Sunday night from a summer class overnight to Bear Creek Spire, I, Tom Roseman, was resting at home Monday afternoon when I received a call from Kern County Sheriff Sgt. Haislip with a request from Inyo County for assistance in a search in the Norman Clyde area of the Palisades. Carol Burge agreed to serve as coordinator and enlisted Mary Schmierer to help as telephonner. Luke Swanson, Eileen Loughran, and Al Green met me at the hut at 6am Tuesday morning, 31st of July. In addition, Tom Sakai was going to drive down from Mammoth to join us in Big Pine.

The subject, Dr. Gary Dankworth, age 60, of Carson City, NV had failed to return to his camp near Finger Lake on Saturday after a solo attempt of Norman Clyde. Gary's climbing partners hiked out on Sunday when he did not return by Sunday morning. We arrived around 8am at the Glacier Lodge trailhead and split into two teams; myself and Luke as Team 5, and Tom and Eileen as Team 8. Team 5 was flown to a small lake above Finger Lake with the assignment of searching the snow couloirs to the right of the North-Northeast Ridge, sometimes referred to as the North Face. Team 8 was flown to the same lake and was to search the cliff band east of Norman Clyde Glacier. CHP H-80 did the flying, doing a great job as always.

We followed Team 4 from Inyo who were going to the summit to check the register until our routes diverged. Near the top of the snow chutes we spotted, with the aid of binoculars, what appeared to be an ice axe and crampons. The bottom of the crampons were bright orange and quite visible. About the same time the Inyo team reached the summit and learned that the subject had signed in at the summit on Saturday evening at 2030. We climbed on rock to the ridge and then traversed to the notch at the top of the snowfield. At the notch we found recent tracks leading down from the notch but none going back up. We descended to the articles and confirmed that they were indeed a Black Diamond ice axe and crampons. We radioed relay to confirm what type of equipment the subject was using. After a tricky and loose traverse we joined the Inyo team at the top of the North ridge to rappel and descend back to the landing zone (LZ). By this time darkness was approaching and the trip back was slow with lots of 4th class and very loose rock. We arrived at the LZ around midnight with the Inyo

team about an hour ahead of us. All of us were flown out in the morning by a Blackhawk helicopter after it was decided not to send a team to search the bergshrun on Norman Clyde glacier as the LZ was too far away to be effective. We returned to base camp in Big Pine. We debriefed and drove home, arriving around 3:30pm.

During the same period our Team 8 (Sakai/Loughran) caught up to Team 6 from Montrose while ascending the ridge in an area deemed 3rd/4th class, which Team 6 felt was too sketchy to continue on with the limited equipment they had. Team 6 had been assigned to search the bergshrun and Team 8 from the middle of the Norman Clyde glacier and the area below. Montrose had a rope, our Team 8 did not since it was expected to be a non-technical assignment. Sakai free climbed up and the remaining team members belayed each other to the ridge sharing gear. At the top of the ridge between Middle Palisade and Norman Clyde glaciers, the decision was made not to continue with the assignment when the team's judged the descent to the west too difficult for some of the team members given the amount of daylight remaining. After searching the area with binoculars, the teams rappelled from the ridge and assisted a family friend of the subject's down from the ridge as well. The teams hiked out to Glacier Lodge arriving around midnight. Al, who had gone along as a driver, drove Eileen back to Ridgecrest and Sakai drove back to Mammoth.

I learned the next day when I called Sgt. Terry Waterbury of Inyo County that the subject had been located by H-552 (National Park helo) around 7:40pm Wednesday evening while flying low and slow on the Park side of the ridge. The subject was about 1,000ft below the notch where we found his gear, and apparently fell while attempting to get back to his gear. The subject was fatally injured in the fall.

Operation 2012-12 (Search) OES # 2012-LAW-0247

22-23 September 2012

Whitney Trail, Trail Camp (Inyo County)

By Dan Bishop

Summary:

Search for a missing hiker in the Whitney area. Search and rescue was initiated on the activation of a SPOT "Help" message. SPOT is a satellite GPS messenger.

Narrative:

I, Dan Bishop, received a call on September 22nd at 6:30pm from Inyo Sheriff Sgt. Waterbury looking for assistance to respond to a SPOT activation in the Whitney area. I contacted Gina Niesen to act as Coordinator and begin the call-out with a 7:45pm scheduled muster at the hut.

The subject was a 46 year old male with two others in his party. A SPOT "Help" message was sent to his family members at 4:30pm. The predetermined message was "Help; I am injured and need assistance". Note that this was not the SOS option on the SPOT which would have activated a 911 type of response. Family members of the subject called the Inyo County Sheriff's office upon receiving the "Help" message. The coordinates of the "Help" message were at Trail Camp. Although this was an apparent non-emergency, the Sheriff had a request from the family of the subject to investigate.

Tom Sakai and Bill Stratton committed to the operation and we arrived at Whitney Portal at 9:30pm. Briefed by Sgt. Waterbury, we were informed that the subject, Scott Woodall of Georgia, and his party, Sean Kennedy and Kelli Merrill, were day hikers. A lone Inyo SAR member, Julie, had preceded us up the trail by 90 minutes. We soon were on our way with first aid kit, victim sleeping bag, and stove. We were near the turn off to Lone Pine Lake when Julie reported making contact with the subject and his party at Trail camp at 11pm. She relayed that the "Help" activation was erroneous and that all in the party were fine, with overnight gear, and intending on summiting the following morning. We returned to Whitney Portal and were back at the hut by 1:45am.

(Julie made it to Trial Camp in 3hrs).

TRIP REPORT
Upper Exum Route (5.6), Grand Teton, WY
(13,770 ft elevation) 7/15-7/21/2012

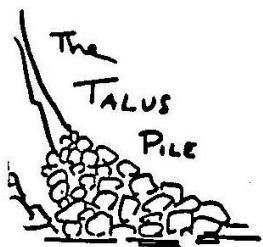
Reported by: Bob Huey

CLMRG members Bob Huey, Tom Roseman, Bill Stratton, and Dave Schonert climbed the Upper Exum Route on the Grand Teton. Huey drove from Fort Collins, CO; Stratton from Bozeman, Montana; and Roseman and Schonert drove from Ridgecrest. We met at the American Alpine Club Climber's Ranch near Moose, WY. This was an inexpensive place to stay and is open for anyone (do not need to be a member of AAC). We stayed in a bunk house (using our own pads and bedding). There was a building in the Ranch for toilets and showers and an outdoor cooking area. All camping in Teton National Park is first come first serve, and all motels in the area ran well over \$200, so the Ranch was a good decision. We all met on Monday 7/16 at the Ranch and had a great dinner near Jackson, WY.

Applications for back country permits (no charge) to camp in the Garnet Canyon area began at 8 am Tuesday morning for Wednesday entries and beyond (we had not made a reservation). You can only get a permit for entry on the next day when you go the day before. We were the 4th party in line by 7:45 am on Tuesday and the 2nd party asked for a permit for 18 people!! There are 6 camp locations near Middle and Grand Teton, and luckily the Ranger made this party split into 3 camps. Based on weather reports we decided to stay at the Garnet Meadows camp (9,300 ft) on Wednesday, advance to the Moraines (10,800 ft) on Thursday and possibly scout out the route higher, then climb on Friday (clear skies predicted). We planned on 4 days in the area at a leisurely pace. Our packs weighed in at 40 - 45 pounds with all the climbing gear. We watched clouds forming over the peaks on Monday and a short storm passed over the area on Tuesday. We had a good breakfast at Signal Mountain on Jackson Lake, prepared all our gear, and drove into Jackson for sightseeing and shopping. We had a great dinner at The Gun Barrel in Jackson and went back to the AAC Ranch for the night.

Wednesday morning we packed our gear, drove to the Jenny Lake Lodge for a GREAT breakfast, and then drove to the Lupine Meadow Trailhead at 6,732 ft elevation. At breakfast we discovered that the weather predictions had changed, showing Thursday as the only day with no thunder showers, so we changed strategies on the hike in. We hiked in 5 miles with 2,500 ft gain to the Meadows (at 9,300 ft), set up camp and then carried our climbing gear to the Moraine at 10,800 ft (1-2 miles). We cached our climbing gear there and went back to our camp at the Meadows for the night (a 4,000 ft day). We did not get rained on during the day or night.

Thursday we were out of our camp at 4 am, recovered out cache and hiked to the Lower Saddle at 11,600 feet. Just below the Lower Saddle there is a section of the trail that is 4th class, and has a fixed roped to assist hikers to get up with packs. It would be a real challenge to ascend this section with a full pack! From there we hiked and scrambled over 3rd/4th and low 5th class ledges to Wall Street to begin the Upper Exum climb. The 1,500 ft climb starts with an exposed step around off of the Wall Street ramp and continues low 5th class (5.4) with a 5.6 friction pitch near the top. At the V pitch we were slowed by other climbers in a cue to the top. We did approximately 10 roped pitches (2 very short pitches) and several 3rd class scrambles on the route. Dave and Tom led all the pitches. We made the summit at 3:45 pm (11 hrs with 3,470 ft of gain). The return via the Owen-Spaulding Route consisted of two rappels. The longest was 120 ft and had a 60 ft overhang. A single 70 meter rope (doubled) JUST reached the bottom of the rappel (the Ranger had guaranteed this to be the case). The route finding was interesting and led to one more short rappel that dropped us into the "eye of the needle" where we had cached extra gear on the way up. We arrived back at camp at 10pm (an 18 hr day!!). It sprinkled some during the night and the sky was overcast when we got up LATE on Friday. After a leisurely breakfast we packed up and hiked out. We stopped at Moose for pizza and all headed our separate ways to go home.



**China Lake Mountain Rescue Group
P. O. Box 2037
Ridgecrest CA 93556**

Address Correction Requested

