

CHINA LAKE MOUNTAIN RESCUE GROUP

P.O. BOX 5773

CHINA LAKE, CALIFORNIA 93555

JANUARY 1972 #15

- January 10 Meeting at Nick Bottka's, 706Randall, Ridgecrest. It's time to elect new officers, team leaders, etc.
- January 29-30 A desert peak--Kingston, Amagosa Range, Death Valley. Nick Bottka is the organizer.
- February 14 It's Valentine's Day, and the Rockwells are real sweethearts to have the meeting at their house! Come to 607Randall, Ridgecrest
- February 18-20 Time for our annual ski tour/snowshoe trip. Let Bob Westbrook know if you are interested (375-8371).

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TREASURER'S REPORT ..... Barbara Slates

Our thanks to Clifton Chandler and to Joan and Roy Leipnik for their donations. Last month we spent \$833 for a radio and \$125 on other group equipment, so we really appreciate the donations we receive from friends of the Rescue Group.

Copies of the book "Emergency Care and Transportation of the Sick and Injured", published by the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons, can be obtained from the treasurer for \$5.

ITEMS FROM AN OPERATION LEADER'S NOTEBOOK:

1. All people who have the white bunny boots stashed at home should return them to the hut. A wide assortment of sizes available at the hut will insure that a man going on a winter operation will have a pair to fit him.
2. We have received our new PR-36. This makes three PR-36's available for our communications net.

OPERATIONS

ABORTED PIUTE MOUNTAIN DEER HUNTER SEARCH ..... DENNIS BURGE

On Sunday, Nov. 14, a call from the Kern County Sheriff's Office mobilized the group to look for a 27 year old deer hunter missing in the French Meadow area of the Piute Mountains. Seven of us drove to Sageland where we met Sgt. Bob Dennis. He briefed us on the victim's description and circumstances of his loss. We then started driving up the Harris Grade Road to establish a base camp near Wolstaff Meadow. Less than a mile up the road we met the victim and his partner driving down. Thus ended a mobilization and transit, to quote Frank Buffum.

The briefing brought out a point which we should remember for future operations in this area. The topo maps are not at all up-to-date for showing roads and trails in this area. The maps put out by the Sequoia National Forest are nearly current and we should have several available.

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SHASTA ..... AL GREEN

On Monday evening (about 2245 hours) the 27th of December a call came, via the Security Police, from the Bay Area Mountain Rescue Unit. Two young men had been hiking and climbing on Mt. Shasta with a return date of 24 December. They were still out. We called eleven people (selected for experience and proven capability on ice and snow) from our list of 29 active S&R members, and obtained 5 definite commitments. On my return call to BAMRU the discussion of the situation led to the decision to request additional experienced climbers from the Southern California teams and for transportation assistance from WRCC, Hamilton. Larry Tweedel of Sierra Madre responded to a midnight phone call with surprising sagaciousness. A call to WRCC to determine the possibility of air transportation was negative because no official request for assistance existed at that time. A call to the Siskiyou County Sheriff's representative to explain our willingness and capability to assist did not alter the situation.

To me, at least, this was extremely frustrating. All the information indicated that several experienced teams should be searching for these young men. However, without an official request our hands were tied.

The Bay Area Team searched on Tuesday and Wednesday. Thursday evening the pair walked out by themselves. Both were hospitalized but luckily

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Shasta..continued...

they only suffered from exposure and frostbite. A happy and fortunate ending to a very possibly tragic set of circumstances.

**\*Note the name of the subject on Shasta - now a "famous" photographer.**

Item from UPI  
Bakersfield Californian  
January 7, 1972

MOUNT SHASTA --- Vern Clevinger, one of two 16-yearold Eagle scouts who went on a camping trip and spent 12 days in blizzards and freezing temperatures on Mt. Shasta, on their safe return:  
"I'm glad we made it down. It would have been embarrassing if we had to be rescued."

Stretcher Practice (Dec 5) .....Bob Rockwell

Bill's voice was urgent: "Two people failed to return yesterday from Fossil Falls - better get moving." Fortunately, the Training Committee had already scheduled today's stretcher practice there and 16 CLMRG members and two guests were assembled at the hut. A fast transit to Fossil Falls and an initial glance down into the canyon revealed two ominously still forms. They had apparently fallen vertically the full 80 feet. With the clock indicating 0930 we split into two teams. Each team immediately dispatched a man to the bottom while the rest began preparations for the raising operation. At 1000 both victims were reached.

Oddly, the victims bore striking resemblances to the two guests who had come along - but no time to wonder about that when there's work to be done. Both were unresponsive but still alive, a remarkable fact in view of the circumstances. The only outward signs of injury were the girl's fractured arm and the man's fractured leg, for which splints were fashioned from materials found nearby. The possibility of additional injuries, indicated by the unconsciousness, dictated extreme care in the procedures which would follow.

By 1030 the victims were secure in the litters and all was in readiness for raising. It was soon to be apparent that Mechanical Advantage is a concept less believable in practice than in theory. "Grab hold, boys, and pull for all you're worth:" ..... 10 feet, 20 feet, 30, 35, 38 feet, 40 feet... "Tighten the prussik - we gotta rest:" "Not bad - four or five more efforts like that and we'll be finished' How far did the stretcher come?" ...."It's still on the ground."

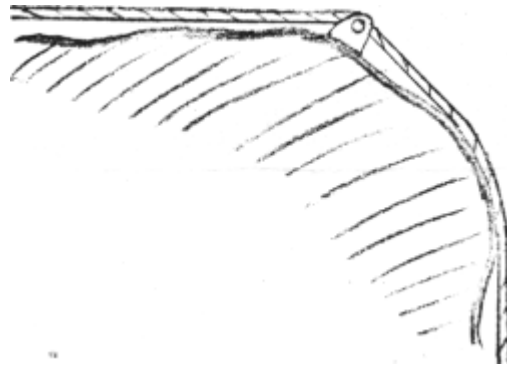
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Stretcher Practice, continued.

An hour later the stretchers had reached the top. Amazingly, the victims appeared to have recovered completely. We adjourned for lunch and a critique of the activities. Afterwards the group, now reinforced by assorted wives, children and dogs, adjourned to practice jumar techniques and to attempt various interesting little climbs in the area.

Observations:

1. The elapsed time (1/2hour), from sighting the victims to rappelling down to them, would probably be reduced markedly in a real situation.
2. A winch would have been nice.
3. The nylon carpeting placed at the edge of the cliff to reduce rope friction worked well - but a judiciously placed pulley was even better. Fashioning a small stand to ensure that the pulley remains in place might be a worthwhile investment.



4. There was a real problem in the final stages of getting the litter over the lip of the cliff to safety. At this point the rope is pulling nearly horizontally into the side of the cliff while there is still some vertical distance to be negotiated.

5. Raising the litter (vice the usual lowering operation) was a valuable educational experience.

NOTICE...Khaki windbreaker, a residue of the stretcher practice, may be retrieved from Bob Rockwell.

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From the MUGELNOOS...

"Old ecologists don't die; they just recycle."

1972 Election coming up...

Nominating committee presented the following slate to the members present

at the December CLMRG meeting: President ..... Lee Lucas  
 Vice President .. Don Peterson  
 Nominations can be made Treasurer ..... Barb Slates  
 from the floor, also. Secretary ..... Janet Westbrook  
 Member-at-Large ..Nick Bottka

(Look's like the nominating committee struck a blow for Women's Lib!)

SAFETY EDUCATION REPORT ..... Liz Anderson

30 times during 1971, CLMRG did something somewhere, talking Safety.

\*\*\* Sorry about this mixture – but be convinced of a lot of public Education CLMRG present

Date	Group	Number exposed	Program Offered	CLMRG present
Jan 25	Rockhounds	35	Safety slides	3 2
Jan 28	Kiwanis	45	CLMRG purpose	5
Feb 10	Safety Dept.	10	Lost Child slides	4
Feb 17	Retired Officers	30	Lost Child slides	
Mar 22	IWV Safety Council	15	Lost Child	
April 22	Enlisted Men			
	Safe Driving	30	Safety slides	(Safety Dept)
		30	Lost Child	2
	PTA Desert Park Code 501	35	Safety	3
			Lost Child	
May 20	Safety Dept 10	AAA Club	Lost Child	4
May 24	Richmond School	300-350		(School)
	4th, 5th grades		Lost Child	
May 24	Girl Scouts	25	Lost Child	2
Apr 25	Station Library	?	Display panels, Books	
	2 wks,		Backpacking/10 Essentials	
May 10	Armed Forces Day ?		Pitch for summer classes	
	NAF		Panels, displays	
June 8	Groves School	150 ch		2
	Citizenship Day	30 adults	Lost Child	10
June-	CLMRG	30	Safety, Survival,	
July	Summer Classes		Camping	18
June 17	Maturango Museum	18	Camping, demonstration	
	Summer School			1
July 22	Station Library	25	Talk, rescue, safety	
	Story Hour			2
July 26	Code 40	40	Lost Child	2
July 27	Optimists	15-20	CLMRG	
August 10	Campfire Girls	75	Survival	
		40	Lost Child	
			Movie, CLMRG	
Aug 19	IWVSAR	37	Discussion, structure of	1
	Ca.Fish & Game		searches, mountain rescue	

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Date	Group	Number Exposed	Program Offered	CLMRG
Oct 28	Burroughs PE classes	5 classes 35 each	CAMPING, equipment	5
Nov 3	same		Rock Climbing	2
Nov 8	same		Mountain Rescue	
Nov 12	NAF pilots	10	Winter Survival	1
Nov 18	Code 35	20	Hypothermia movie	1
Nov 18	Beta Sigma Phi	12	Hypothermia	1
Nov 19	PE classes	35 x 5	Hypothermia	(school)
Nov 15	First Aid	30	Hypothermia	2
Nov 30				
Dec 1	Slide show	250	Panels, equipment	

We finished the LOST CHILD slide show, put it on tape...and beside showing it to 11 different groups, are in the process of turning it over to the AAA (Auto Club) to see if they can use it in Spring safety Programs. And Gene Fear has our Survival (THAT'S LIFE) show, turning it into a film strip. Maybe, in 1972, we will have time to build a new show. But the idea that will spark enough enthusiasm to overcome inertia has not struck us yet. What subject do you think we should try this next time?

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A  
Los Angeles Herald-Examiner, Thursday, June 24, 1971

Best Of Europe

From Italy



'Maybe a bit slow but he's the safest guide in the Italian Alps'

