



**CHINA LAKE MOUNTAIN RESCUE GROUP**

**P.O. BOX 5773**

**CHINA LAKE, CALIFORNIA 93555**

**March 1972 #16**

**Editor: Dianne Lucas**

**First 15 edited by Liz Anderson**

- CALENDAR Meeting of all team leaders and telephoners at Carl Heller's, 700 B Nimitz, 7:30 p.m.
- March 27 Rock climbing with Sierra Club RCS on Owens Ridge. Meet at the hut at 0700. Nick Bottka (375-9166) is in charge.
- April 1 Meeting at Al Green's, 67 B Rowe
- April 10
- April 22-23 CRMRA Seminar at Idylwild. We are responsible for Saturday evening's entertainment and a stretcher set-up demonstration. Dave Brown is the trip organizer,(375-3744).
- April 29-30 BMTC snow camping experience trip. This year CLMRG will again be in charge of one of these trips--part of the Sierra Club (Los Angeles Chapter) Basic Mountaineering Training Course. This is an excellent opportunity for us to help others learn winter mountaineering skills and wilderness preservation... "public education" on a person-to-person basis! You can assist as a "staff member", or just come along, for the trip. Talk to Carl Heller (446-6237) for further information.
- May 8 Meeting, Barb Slates, 709 A Nimitz. Bill Sweatt will bring goodies.
- May 13-14 A trip to the Domelands area will be organized by Bob Joy (446-2248).

ELECTION RESULTS.... the NEW ESTABLISHMENT

President .....	Lee Lucas	Vice	Secretary .....	Janet Westbrook
President....	Don Peterson		Member-at-Large .....	Nick Bottka
Treasurer'.....	Barbara Slates			

Committees:

<u>Qualifications</u>	Al Green, chairman	<u>First Aid</u>	Jim Nichols, chairman
	Carl Heller		Carl Heller
	Bill Stronge		Bob Westbrook
			Janet Westbrook
Training	Bill Stronge, chairman	Public Ed	Elizabeth Anderson, chairman
	Dave Brown		Frank Buffum
	Dennis Burge		Carol Burge
	Bob Rockwell		Dianne Lucas, Editor
	Bill Sweatt		Janet Westbrook

Communications-Equipment John Wick, chairman  
 Arold Green  
 Don Harris  
 Bob Joy, Quartermaster  
 John Ohl

## OPERATIONS

As in 1971 this year's operations will be numbered consecutively--including alerts, transits (aborted missions) and actual field operations.

#7201 Recovery, 1-2 February, Fallen climber on Temple Crag . . . . Carl Heller

We were alerted at 2135 on 1 February. A two-man Eastern Sierra Mountain Rescue team was headed up the South Fork of Big Pine Creek to look for a fallen climber. Winds were keeping helos grounded. We got 16 men (Green, Stronge, Burge, Bottka, Nichols, Wick, Peterson, Joy, Rockwell, Camphausen, Brown, Woodman, Huse, Jones, Garner, and myself) to Glacier Lodge by 0700 Wednesday, and two teams started up the canyon in the now calm weather. The White Mountain helicopter soon went by and picked up the body of the victim. The ESMR team was just below the victim at this time. (161 manhours 91 excused by NWC)

Lesson: We should have sent a team up immediately to walk in overnight, following up the two-man ESMR team. Our teams would have been several hours late for supporting them if the helicopter had been unable to fly.

#7202 Transit, 14 February, Injured climber near Tuttle Creek . . Carl Heller

An alert came from Inyo County Deputy Sheriff Hearnberger at 0935 Monday, and a definite request came at 1045. A six-man team left NAF at 1130 with Maj. Jack Pippa as pilot. As we flew into Lone Pine airport, Bill Stronge monitored a radio conversation between an ESMR team and "Tony" in the White Mountain helicopter. After several passes the chopper lifted out the victim (who had broken a leg while hiking downhill) and flew her to a hospital. We headed home. Other participating CLMRG members were Joy, Rockwell, Sweatt, and Brown. (26 manhours with 18 hours excused time)

#7203 Transit, 6-7 March, Overdue hiker near Figuerroa Mountain . . . Carl Heller

We received a call on Monday night from the Santa Barbara County Sheriff, via Sierra Madre, that a 17 year-old boy, Joe Marra, had been lost since Saturday afternoon. A five-man team -- Stronge, Wick, Jones, Harris, and myself -mobilized at midnight and drove via Santa Barbara to Figuerroa Guard Station. We arrived at 0600 and received a briefing and field assignment. A Sierra Madre member arrived at base camp with a story about a boy he had met on the road who claimed to be the lost victim. Operation leader Rick Mohun and Marra's family went down the road to check out the story, and indeed there was Joe, who had walked out to the roadhead as planned--only 3 days late. (78 manhours, 30 excused)

Lesson: Always rescue anyone who claims to be a victim--don't wait for base camp authorization!

WINTER SURVIVAL TRAINING TRIP (January 8-9)

Bob Rockwell

Twelve brave souls left the Convict Lake roadhead on skis and snowshoes at 1130 on Saturday, January 8. The plan was to spend the better part of the afternoon in constructing snow shelters of various sorts, according to individual

choice. The educational phase of the trip would come later in the evening, when, being required to endure the fruits of our labors, we would be wishing that we'd built things differently. Like bigger, or deeper, or less drafty. Items like sleeping bags and down gear were optional, depending on how realistic (or masochistic) individual tastes were.

By 1400 the party had reached an area which seemed to possess an adequate depth of snow. Logically segregated by cookpool considerations into three teams, we all independently decided that 4-man igloos would be most attractive. However, by 1630 it was clear that two of the three igloos were doomed to incompleteness. This fact quickly lent a degree of authenticity to the survival training trip: we had perhaps one hour of daylight in which to construct shelters.

The snow being too shallow for snowcaves, thoughts and activity immediately turned to trenches. A variation of the traditional snowtrench was invented in the interest of retaining the integrity of the cookpool for the evening meal. The final result, referred to by some as a "Peterson Pyramid", exhibited considerable advantages and is worth describing. Instead of the individual trenches being dug in random locations, they were arranged like spokes on a wheel, the hub also being hollowed out for a communal kitchen. The whole was then covered over with snowblocks (igloo-fashion) as opposed to the traditional snowslabs, and looking rather like a band of moles had congregated for a meeting. Since the snowblocks need only span a three-foot trench, no chinking was necessary. A few shovels full of snow on the structure served to seal the cracks, and an igloo-like entrance was provided.

In somewhat less than one hour, we had constructed a shelter which provided all the warmth and security of an igloo, if not quite the volume. Several other desirable features were also apparent, and can best be appreciated by independent discovery. Additional lessons were learned by the other members of the party, and it was generally agreed that the entire exercise was well worth-while. The next morning, McGee Mountain yielded to the onslaught of the survivors. By eight o'clock Sunday evening, all were safely home.

#### NIGHT TRACKING PRACTICE (28 February)

In an effort to become more proficient at nighttime tracking, 14 members attended a session held south of Trona Road. After a ten-minute briefing, the searchers split into two teams and began following several convenient sets of tracks. Two techniques were used: 1) one or two men on the tracks, with wing men, and 2) leap frogging using two 2-man teams. Head lamps proved almost too bright, washing out details. However illuminating the tracks from the side at a low angle improved visibility, giving good relief to even poor tracks.

After nearly an hour of pursuing the elusive victims, the trackers hit pay dirt-- footprints led to several six-packs and other goodies. There was also a visit by NWC Security, who had evidently received reports of some mysterious lights flashing about on Navy property!

CLMRG members present were Stronge, Burge, Bottka, Nichols, Lucas, Wick, Joy, Camphausen, Sweatt, Brown, Craig, Jones, Harris, and Waugh.

Comment: Only two radios were used. Four would have given more effective contact-- essentially one radio for each set of tracks.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Barb Slates

We want to thank Mr. and Mrs. J.W. Gerhart for another generous donation.

Following is a brief financial summary for 1971:

Balance, end of 1970		\$1255.21
INCOME		
Donations	385.75	
United Fund	865.00	
Slide show profits	448.75	
Climbing instruction	81.85	
Interest	22.37	
Total Income		1803.72
EXPENDITURES		
Communications equipment	1808.43	
Other equipment	329.35	
Operations	137.57	
Administrative expenses	40.64	2315.99
Total expenditures		742.94
Balance, end of 1971		

## QUARTERMASTER'S REPORT

Bob Joy

We now have our Kaar DT-37 base camp radio, which is presently undergoing modification. Our thanks to Ray Smith of Sierra Madre for obtaining this radio for us, and also for inserting the crystal.

## EDITOR'S CUBBYHOLE . . . Change of ownership

Dianne Lucas is the new editor; previously a member of the Search team and now the mother of two, Dianne has apparently decided that a typewriter is one instrument for keeping in shape.

For the past year, Dianne has handled the addressing of the bi-monthly copies and done part of the typing, but this March issue is the first she's turned out by herself. I'm sure the operation leaders and officers are grateful for a new face (or a new voice on the telephone) harassing them for items by the always imminent deadline.

The Talus Pile is predominantly a source of information, factual and otherwise, from the operation leaders and officers:

- (1) To members of CLMRG, passing along items that someone feels should be emphasized, ideas that need not be belabored at meetings, and both specific and general critiques of operations.
- (2) To donors and otherwise interested bystanders, under the heading of public relations--items that might interest those who help us from a distance, to show them some of the underlying structure of the CLMRG.
- (3) Information to be exchanged with other mountain rescue groups and official organizations--facts and/or fallacies that we hope will facilitate cooperation and understanding on future operations.

And when there's an opportunity, we give a pitch for conservation of the wilderness, and one for safety.

I hope Dianne finds it all as entertaining as I have.

And thanks for everything.

Liz

\* \* \*

Thanks also go to Liz--for the outstanding job she has done as editor of the Talus Pile since it came into being over two years ago. (It was Liz who originally conceived the idea of our having a newsletter.) Increasing demands on her time have forced her retirement as editor; however, she continues as chairman of our Public Education committee. Putting together this issue has shown me just how much work is involved--it will be a tough act to follow.

Dianne

THE TIE-IN

President Lee

I speak for the entire group in thanking past president Nick and his fellow officers for a job well done in 1971. The work must not be too disagreeable because Janet and Barb agreed to serve again, and Nick is now Member-at-Large. Speaking of work...there is always enough to go around. If you want more, holler. Also, we solicit your ideas, suggestions and gripes!

Looking over our operational summaries for past years, I counted the following yearly totals for field operations (excluding alerts and transits): 1965 - 4, 1966 - 7, 1967 - 8, 1968 - 11, 1969 - 16, 1970 - 18, 1971 - 15. Totals for alerts and transits are: 1968 - 4, 1969 --5, 1970 - 9, 1971 - 9. Perhaps the demand for our services is finally leveling off after an exponential growth from 1963 to 1969. At any rate we seem to be getting our message across that an early start increases our chances of finding lost or injured persons alive--we would rather turn around en route than be called too late.

TELEPHONERS GIVEN NEW STATUS

At the March meeting the membership granted the CLMRG telephoners the right to vote in the yearly team leader and Qualifications committee elections. Previously only search and rescue team members had been so privileged. It was pointed out that the telephoners, in the course of performing their duties, acquire sufficient knowledge of team members/ organizational abilities to be able to vote intelligently in this election. (For those readers unfamiliar with CLMRG's methods of operation, it is the telephoner who acts as a sort of home base coordinator--liaison between the team members in the field, those still 'in town', and other rescue teams or agencies being alerted or asked to assist--and as such can be considered a legitimate part of the operational structure.)

In addition, telephoners tend to be quite active in the group--holding offices, participating in committee work, and taking part in practice climbs. No audible opposition was raised, perhaps owing to the lateness of the hour (the president deserves a measure of credit for putting this item last on the agenda) and the motion was passed.

MEMBERSHIP

Peter Woodman has been advanced to the Support team. We also have two new members: Tom Waugh, who joins us from the Rocky Mountain Rescue Group, and Douglas Warschauer.

HUMOR DEPARTMENT



*"To be honest, with a scent like that I don't care if we never find him."*

NOT-SO-HUMOROUS DEPARTMENT

According to a recent L.A. Times article, wilderness camping in three national parks--including Kings Canyon National Park in the Sierras--will be restricted this summer in an experimental program aimed at protecting the areas from overuse. Camping restrictions in certain wilderness areas in national forests in California will also be instituted this summer.

"In Kings Canyon the popular Rae Lakes area along the John Muir Trail will be limited to 15,000 visitor days for the summer season. Previous restrictions in the area limited camping to one night and limited stock grazing because streams were becoming polluted, meadows and lake sides trampled and green wood stripped from trees to make fires."

The Park Service will this year join the U.S. Forest Service in the permit program begun by the Forest Service last summer. Information obtained from this program will help point out areas which are being used excessively, and group size, length of stay, and no camping restrictions will be placed on areas which show "heavy physical deterioration".

Forest Service officials are saying that statewide wilderness rationing--a "last ditch management stance"--,will be inevitable in California in two or three years if present trends continue!

SUMMARY OF 1971 OPERATIONS AND MANHOURS

Al Green

The following lists summarize the "individual rescue response" for 1971. Data has been obtained throughout the year as accurately as possible by the Qualifications Committee. Any errors or omissions should be brought to our attention. A firm commitment to go on a rescue is in some respects the same as actually going. Just because the operation was called off before departure doesn't mean that it rates a zero. So the list under "Commitments" reflects this and indicates that the member said, "Yes, I'll go with the first team."

	Hours		Operations	Commitments
Stronge	340	Heller	11	3
Joy	325	Green	10	3
<b>Wick</b>	314	Stronge	7	3
Heller	289	Lucas	7	1
<b>Lucas</b>	280	Peterson	6	4
Green	254	Joy	6	3
Johnson, S.	246	<b>Wick</b>	6	1
Peterson	186	Rockwell	5	3
Rockwell	128	Bottka	5	2
Bottka	121	Buffum	5	1
McIntire	114	McIntire	4	1
Westbrook	113	Woodman	4	
Zenor	97	Camphausen	3	4
Brown	93	Burge	3	2
Woodman	83	Westbrook	3	1
Buffum	67	Brown	3	1
Van Aken	48	Zenor	3	
Camphausen	47	Johnson, S.	2	1
Burge	38	Anderson	2	
Anderson	29	Craig	2	
Craig	29	Huse	2	
Huse	29	Johnson, M.	2	
Nichols	29	Nichols	1	2
Johnson, M.	27	Jones	1	1
DeMay, T.	25	Sweatt	1	1
DeMay, S.	25	DeMay, T.	1	
Jones	5	DeMay, S.	1	
Harris	5	Harris	1	
Sweatt	4	Van Aken	1	
		Garner		1
		Matthews		1

This adds up to a Grand Total of 3,390 human hours, compiled on 24 operations or alerts. We had 10 searches, 5 rescues or recoveries, 2 transits, and 7 alerts.

The following two pages contain a summary of our operations for 1971.

CHINA LAKE MOUNTAIN RESCUE GROUP --- 1971 OPERATIONS

OP #	DATE	OPERATION	LOCATION	NO. OF MEMBERS	TOTAL MAN HRS	NWC EXCUSED MAN HRS
1	1-2 Jan	Search for Tina Peterson (10) found later, dead	San Bernardino Mts.	12	242	0
2	21-22 Feb	Search for M. Meyer (21) late return	San Gabriel Mts.	4	194	32
3	26-27 Feb	Search for Jim Andrews found dead	Sierra Madre Mts.	4	154	32
4	28 Feb	Alert, woman solo climber	Picacho del Diablo Mexico	1	2	0
5	5 Apr	Alert, hiker	Molokai, Hawaii	1	16	0
6	7 Apr	Helo evac. H. Anschell sprained ankle	Kern Plateau	5	17	12
7	25-26 Apr	Search for S. Rideout, not found Rescue, climber, broken ankle	San Gabriel Mts. Tahquitz Rock	3	120	24
8	1 May	Search, car off road	Angeles Crest Hwy.	3	27	0
9	13 May			1	1	0
10	14 May	Search, down military pilot not found	Tejon Ranch Kern Co.	12	294	0
11	30 May	Transit, baby lost, drowned Recovery, climber fell, dead	Trout Cr., Tulare Co. Split Mt., Inyo Co.	10	35	0
12	31 May-1 June			8	67	24
13	1 June	Alert, climber lost, found	Inyo Co.	1	1	0
14	27 June	Alert, climber late	San Jacinto Mts.	1	1	0
15	16-18 July	Search boy (9), found dead two weeks later	Sequoia Park	4	199	0



## CHINA LAKE MOUNTAIN RESCUE GROUP --- 1971 OPERATIONS (CONT'D)

16	16-23 July	Search boy (8), not found	Adirondack Mts., N.Y. State	5	987	200
17	27 July	Alert, lost boy, returned	Sadelter Lk., Madera Co.	1	2	0
18	2-3 Aug	Search, lost boy (14), alive	Kern Canyon, Tulare Co.	3	190	48
19	17-18 Aug	Search/recovery woman, dead	Rock Cr., Mono Co.	8	154	28
20	6-7 Sept	Rescue, two stranded climbers, alive	Face of Mt. Whitney Inyo Co.	11	266	84
21	11-12 Sept	Search, C. Von Vlyman found alive	Yosemite	10	448	0
22	21 Oct	Alert, hunter overdue	Kern Co.	1	2	0
23	14 Nov	Transit, hunter lost found alive	Piute Mts., Kern Co.	7	38	0
24	26 Dec	Alert, two scouts, returned	Mt. Shasta	2	8	0