



CHINA LAKE MOUNTAIN RESCUE GROUP

P. O. BOX 5773

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May 1972 #17

Editor: Dianne Lucas

Calendar

- May 15 Practice rescue. Meet at the hut at 1715--bring technical gear.
- May 27-29 Memorial Day weekend trip to the Minarets. Bring your snowshoes? Bill Sweatt is the coordinator (446-2891).
- June 3-4 Kern County Sheriff's Seminar. See Al Green for details.
- June 5 "Hut night"for equipment familiarization. Bill Stronge is in charge.
- June 12 Meeting, John Zenor, 208 Springside, Ridgecrest
- June 15 Start of summer classes for beginners in mountaineering and rockclimbing. NWC Training Building, 6:30. If you're interested in helping, talk to Bill Sweatt. And pass the word to anyone who might be interested.
- June 18-19 Whitney Portal for rock climbing. We will also be working with some Palmdale area young people on rock climbing safety. Coordinator: Liz Anderson, 446-2849.
- June 25 Cottonwood Creek area--beginners and family hike. Contact Dennis Burge for more information.
- July 1-4 Over Bishop Pass with Carl Heller to the Black Divide, for Devil's Crags, Citadel, MacDuffie. Carl can be reached at 446-6237
- July 10 Meeting at Rockwell's, with Tim Pearia bringing refreshments. The address is 607 Randall, Ridgecrest.
- July 15-16 Backpack for summer classes in the Whitney area, with a climb of Carillon. We will also be placing a stretcher partway up the East Face of Whitney, for emergency use. Lee Lucas will be the trip organizer (446-2310).
- July 29-30 Starr King, in southern Yosemite. Contact Bob Rockwell if you are interested. (375-2532)

OPERATIONS

#7204 Fallen Climber on Owens Ridge, 2 April Carl Heller

This rescue operation had a sad ending since we were unable to get our friend Wally Henry to the hospital in time to save his life.

Wally and Mike Cale were climbing on Owens Ridge at the same time as the Sierra Club RCS group. They had not checked in with Bill Dixon, the trip leader. They climbed an easy route on an outcropping below Rock I which is seldom climbed. Early in the afternoon they started another more difficult unclimbed route in the same area. Wally was leading and had placed 2 pins. The top pin pulled when he fell and he went all the way down to the base. The fall occurred at about 1400 hours. Mike tried to call other climbers on the rocks but, being unsuccessful, went across the canyon to the "lower parking lot". Rob Roy McDonald sent his daughter walking down the road (3/4 mile) to get Jean Dixon. Jean drove to the Homestead restaurant and contacted the Sheriff's Department, which contacted me at 1615.

Meanwhile, Rob and Mike went back to Wally with some first aid gear and a sleeping bag. They managed to attract the help of Bill Dixon and the Sierra Club group. Someone went and got the stretcher which CLMRG keeps on Rock II. I was in Michelson Lab when contacted. Al Green was home and got started with an advance team. Marlene Green and Barbara Slates did the telephoning.

The first team of Al, Bill Stronge, and Lee Lucas were enroute shortly after 1630 in the rescue truck. I contacted the OOD at NAF (Lt. Marco Renella), and he arranged for a helo. The second team of Heller, Burge, Brown, Harris, and McGinnis were airborne about 1720 with pilot Jack Pipa and ADJ2 W.D. Parker. Pipa put us down in the saddle below Rock I where St. Louis' plane crashed twelve years ago.

Al's team reached the group about 1810. Wally's condition was critical--no detectable pulse in the carotid artery and only a faint heart sound in the chest. The Sierra Club people had been giving him rescue breathing since 1625. We decided that more oxygen than we had would be needed, and Dennis Burge went to the helo which flew to NAF at 1912 for more supplies.

Wally was loaded very gently into the padded stretcher and the long traverse begun at 1900. Every 15 seconds the stretcher was stopped for rescue breathing. Team three of Wick, Jones, and Woodman joined the stretcher group.

Pipa waited at NAF for Maj. Ben Rinehart to join him as co-pilot. Bottka and Camphausen were with them with the oxygen. Joe McIntire, Marlene Green, George Craig, and Dave Matthews had a base camp set up near the hut and were maintaining a communications net via radio and phone. NAF tower was relaying messages to the helo. The helo was airborne at 2003 but came in slowly. It was a black night to feel one's way into a saddle surrounded by jagged rocks and with wind gusts of 25 knots. Luckily the winds subsided and the helo landed at 2040. Oxygen was rushed to the victim and the stretcher reached the helo at 2055. The flight to Ridgecrest Hospital was gentle and fast. Sadly, Wally had died sometime enroute.

Comments: On an operation where a victim dies while in the hands of the rescue team, the critique is particularly difficult. Actions which seemed right at the time may be debated in retrospect. The apparent severity of the injuries and lack of hopeful vital signs made it unlikely that Wally could have survived the trip to the helo, but we can find some possible minor errors and ideas for improvement.

The advance team moved rapidly, as it should have, and carried the essential immobilization kit, backboard, stretcher and lightweight oxygen. The second team brought extra headlamps for the people already on the scene, but neither the second nor the third team brought the heavy oxygen bottles. A little less hurry and more thought might have helped here. The worst aspect was that the helo flew a dangerous trip out and back and the evacuation was delayed somewhat in the process. We might do better if **we** make an oxygen pack with two tanks and the mask. This heavy item would go with the second team as a general policy.

The second team left the helo without checking that the crew knew how to use the MRA radio. Also, the helo flew out without taking the radio. At our next helo practice Maj. Pipa and I think the crews should practice with our radios as part of the training for SAR. This will give us shorter communications than via base camp, telephone, and the NAF tower radio. Also on the subject of radios, Deputy Jerry Grime felt left out without our frequency. Maybe we could persuade the Sheriff's Department to invest in one set at 155.160 MHz for this area.

Whatever errors we rescue people may have made, they were our own, and the criticisms are aimed only at improvements. The Sierra Club, Sheriff's Department, and military crew did their jobs very well indeed.

Postscript: The autopsy indicates that the cause of death was internal bleeding in the thorax. A hairline fracture of the skull was probably not involved. The fall had been backwards into an oak tree and had broken several ribs which were driven inwards.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Barbara Slates

In April we received our share of last fall's United Fund campaign receipts. Our thanks to all those who especially designated CUM for part of their United Fund donation.

We are grateful to Mrs. Beth Henry, who requested that those of her husband's friends who wished to remember him in a special way might do so with a gift to our group. The CLMRG has received a total of \$437 in donations in memory of Wally Henry. Those who have contributed include:

Frederick Bode	Building and Safety Division,
Dorice and David Williams	Department of L.A. County Engineer
Chuck Ringrose	Building and Safety - Newhall
Mr. and Mrs. B.C. Petitjean	Jim and. Jan Leigh
Robin's Garage	Ted and Margaret Sabine
John and Ruth Mendenhall	Roger Bell
Roy and Barbara Magnuson	Ken Primmer
Howland Bailey	George Runner
Madeline Payne	Paul Hungerford
Frederick Wing	Harold Lynam
Mr. and Mrs. William Bridwell	Bruce Cyr
Antelope Valley Regional Office,	Jim Miller
Department of L.A. County Engineer	George Clark
Ed and Classie Olcott	Mrs. Frances Leigh
Sierra Peaks Section, Sierra Club	100 Peaks Section, Sierra Club
Ed Kiessling	Ethel Trout
I.V. Lieberman	
Don and June Pappolee	

QUARTERMASTER'S REPORT

Bob Joy

The oxygen pack is now operational with two E cylinders--a capacity of 1280 liters of oxygen.

The Mocom radio now has a second power cord with alligator clips, for connecting directly onto an automobile battery or the base station a.c. power supply.

Both down parkas are now complete and in the hauling pack. (And both of the CLMRG 'seamstresses' are taking a long vacation!)

MEMBERSHIP

Our two new members, Doug Warschauer and Tom Waugh, are now on the Search team; and Tim Pearia is again an active member of the Technical team. Welcome back, Tim.

CARDIOPULMONARY RESUSCITATION

Janet Westbrook

Janet brings us the following notes from Dr. Norman Mellor's presentation on CPR at the California Region Seminar on April 22...

When coming upon a person whose breathing has stopped, first give 3 large lungfuls of air (by mouth-to-mouth). Then check pupils: if they contract or flicker at all, the victim is alive. Also check for carotid artery pulse. If pulse is weak or absent, or if pupils are dilated when exposed to light, cardiac compression as well as artificial ventilation is needed.

There is no way, except by using an oscilloscope, to tell if the heart is stopped dead or if it is in ventricular fibrillation--you cannot hear the difference with a stethoscope. If the heart has stopped, striking the chest with your fist often is enough to trick the heart into thinking it has received an electrical shock, and it may pick up a spontaneous rhythm immediately. This is especially valid following electrocution.

Cardiac compression must be done on a hard surface! With arms straight, rock forward over the victim, letting your body weight work for you. Chest should be depressed at least 2 inches. Use heel of hand only--never let the fingers touch the victim's chest. This can cause broken ribs! But don't hesitate to perform external cardiac compression when necessary! Be careful, but save a life first--worry about broken ribs later!

It is useful to remember that although the time lapse between clinical death (cessation of breathing and heartbeat) and biological death (irreversible damage to cells) is only 4-6 minutes, this delay can be considerable longer in hypothermia victims, as metabolism is very slow due to reduced body temperature.

(Editor's note: The above comments are intended as emphasis and additional information for persons having had previous training in cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and are by no means intended as a complete guide to CPR.)

SIERRA TRAVEL DEPARTMENT

From the Mono Herald, April 20...

New Regulations Made to Protect Whitney Trail Area

New regulations designed to protect certain areas along the Mt. Whitney trail will be in effect for the 1972 season, it was announced by Jim Arasim, dist. ranger, this week.

The regulations are:

1. No camping at Mirror Lake or the small trailside meadow above.
2. No campfires permitted between Whitney Portal and Trail Crest; portable stoves must be used.
3. No grazing of pack or saddle stock.

The area around Mirror Lake has literally been "loved" to death, Arasim said. So many people have camped there that the site is worn out, and extensive damage has occurred.

Trees have been hacked, campfire rings are everywhere, and the lake becomes polluted as the summer progresses.

He said that by closing these sensitive areas to camping, and permitting day use only, nature will heal itself in time.

The most popular areas at Mirror Lake, Outpost Camp, and Lone Pine Lake, are devoid of firewood. Bather than just closing the areas to fire, it was decided to eliminate campfires from the entire trail. In this way it will be possible to preserve, in their natural state, the few areas where wood is available.

The trail is little used by pack and saddle stock. However, Arasim said, the small amount of forage available has a higher value for aesthetic purpose than as feed for stock;

Trail register figures for 1971 showed 16,715 people hiked all or part of the Whitney Trail, which measures 10.7 miles from Whitney Portal to the summit.

Also, a reminder about the Bighorn Sheep Zoological Area restrictions. There are two general areas affected: one around Mt. Williamson and the other surrounding Mt. Baxter. Portions of these areas will be closed to all travel from June 1 to December 15, and other parts are closed during the opposite half of the year. Maps of the area boundaries and further information can be obtained from the Forest Service.