



CHINA LAKE MOUNTAIN RESCUE GROUP

P. O. BOX 5773

CHINA LAKE, CALIFORNIA 93555

DECEMBER 1972 #20

Editor: Dianne Lucas

CALENDAR

- December 18 Training -- stretcher rigging practice at the equipment hut, 7:30 p.m.
- January 6-7 Overnight snowtrip. Golden opportunity to practice making igloos or whatever. Don Peterson (446-3159) is the organizer.
- January 8 Meeting, 107-B Richmond, 7:30. ELECTIONS (See below.)
- January 20 Rock climbing on Spanish Needle. Talk to Nick Bottka (375-9166) for details.
- January 27-28 Just scheduled -- a California Region snow practice, to be held on Mt. San Gorgonio. Lee Lucas is the coordinator (446-2387).
- February 12 Meeting, 208 Springside, Ridgecrest, 7:30. *

ELECTIONS COMING UP

The nominating committee has announced the following slate of candidates for the election of 1973 officers, to be held at the January meeting:

President	Elizabeth Anderson Bob Rockwell	Secretary	Al Jones Dianne Lucas
Vice President	Bill Sweatt	Member-at-Large	Lee Lucas
Treasurer	Doug Warschauer		

In addition, any member may nominate a candidate from the floor at the January meeting, provided he has obtained the consent of his candidate before the nomination.

OPERATIONS

#7216 Transit, Lost Hunter, Chimney Peak Area, 10/11/72 - Al Green

A call from Glenn Stewart at the Nine Mile Canyon BLM Field Office requested our assistance to search for a missing hunter (Ben Frese) and a BLM man (Joe Merjil). Joe had not returned from the preliminary search. Ben was an elderly man and his son was very concerned that his father would be in severe trouble if forced to spend the night in the below-freezing temperature without adequate protection. The call came at 2220 and Barb Slates had a team of 12 committed by 2300. We left the hut at 2325.

At the BLM Field Office the plan developed to send teams by vehicle to three strategic locations. Two teams had the anticipated base camp as their destination and would begin searching at first light. One team in a 4WD would return to base in the morning rechecking the road on the way. The fourth team would be near the prime area and was to begin searching at first light.

We were about 15 minutes into the plan when father, son and Joe came driving down the road in a Blazer. This, of course, ended the need for our presence. Three of the four teams were easily turned around, but the fourth, because of terrain or speed, could not be contacted. The BLM people agreed to take one of our radios and follow them until they could be called off. Green, Burge, Bottka, Wick, Peterson, Joy, Camphausen, O'Handley and Brown got back to China Lake at A 0300 and Stronge, Craig and Jones returned at ~ 0500.

Comments:

1. It was a little uncertain how much we could do on a dark night in this terrain. However, I believe we responded correctly and if the victim had not walked out with Joe, we would have been prepared and in position to cover the prime area quickly.
2. With several cars going different directions it is difficult to maintain communications. We should use gutter-mount antennas and monitor continuously.

#7217 Search, Lost Hunter (again), Lion Meadows, 11/8-9/72 - Carl Heller

The first call came at 2115 from Cdr. Gary Bailey. NAF had been asked to use its helicopter to search for a lost hunter in Tulare County near Lion Meadows. Bailey wanted some CLMRG personnel in the helo. A second call from Deputy Johnny McNally to NAF gave the information that the hunter was starting his second night out, so I volunteered a four man first team plus backup. The Forest Service was to have two people at Beach Meadows to meet the helo in the morning. Al Green offered to handle the backup effort, and Carol and Janet phoned the entire list.

At 0700 Thursday our team met Lt. George Baland and Crew Chief Bob Lemon at the ready shack, discussed the situation and took off at 0717. A landing at 8200' required some fuel use so we surveyed the terrain from Smith Mountain to the Fork of the Kern and back up Rattlesnake Creek. At 0817 we landed at Beach Meadows and discussed the problems with Don Thane and Mark Johnson. A plan was made to land Peterson and Woodman on the Kern, have the helo search for awhile and then head home for fuel and the second team (Burge, Brown, Jones and Harris). Meanwhile Bob Joy, and USFS men and I would contact the hunter's friends and plan further action.

Lion Meadows Search, continued . .

About 3 minutes up the road to Lion Meadows we met two of the party who gave us the good news that Harry Grosskreutz had been found. We contacted the helo and had it return to Beach Meadows. I went to Lion Meadows to get Harry's address and story.

He had become separated about 1500, 7 November and quickly decided to settle for the night, during which it snowed. On the 8th he cautiously explored his surroundings but returned to his fire for the night. The 9th was a better day and he was exploring again when his four comrades met him about 0815. He was in good shape -- no frostbite -- but rather dehydrated since he had no container in which to melt the snow.

Comment: We should make sure that the Cannell Meadow District, particularly the Black Rock Station has our call list. Also, Johnny McNally should get a list.

TRAINING

Joint Stretcher Practice with Eastern Sierra, November 4

Five members of the Eastern Sierra Mountain Rescue Group joined eleven CLMRG members for a combined stretcher raising and lowering exercise near the Cottonwood Creek roadhead. A touch of realism was provided by the weather--the practice began in a snowstorm, but skies did clear up during the afternoon. The group split up into three teams: Team 1 lowered the stretcher, Team 2 raised it, and Team 3 repeated the lowering, all three teams working at different locations.

The stretcher raising served as a test of the new pulley system. And the entire practice was a particularly useful experience in working with the Eastern Sierra group. The teamwork practiced here will undoubtedly pay off in the future--on a real operation.

CLMRG members in attendance were Heller, Burge, Bottka, Lucas, Peterson, Joy, Brown, Harris, Warschauer, Atkins, and Charlton.

QUALIFICATIONS

Don Peterson has advanced to the Technical team, and Scott Charlton had been added to the Search team. Frank Buffum, who returned from Korea last summer, is back on active status--he has requested to be listed on Support, for the time being. And Joe McIntire has requested a change to the inactive category.

Other roster changes:

Bob Joy new address 313-A Langley

Doug Warschauer work phone and code 2302, Code 60402

We have three new applicants for rescue membership: Chris Beasley, Kim Mayne, and Marc Hirschy. Welcome to CLMRG and we hope to see you on the Search team soon. The Qualifications Committee is considering the possibility of assigning a senior member to each new member as a sponsor. Any comments on this would be appreciated.

MRA Fall Meeting, Tempe, November 25 - Lee Lucas

Reports from Regions and Committees: Rocky Mountain's training manual is nearing completion. Alpine has 8000 (continuous) feet of cable on 8 backpacks. The Ski Patrol, which holds a developmental license on 155.16 MHz (MRA frequency) has promised to use it on SAR missions only. The FCC is said to no longer require written radio logs on 155.16 -- but nothing in writing yet. Doug Black (Central Arizona) has developed a rope/cable friction block; Yosemite has one. A membership application from San Dimas is in. The Equipment Committee distributed forms on which member teams can report innovative gadgets. Walt Walker has agreed to edit the MRA newsletter; regional correspondents are needed. Gene Fear's new book on wilderness safety is available at \$2.10 per copy in lots of 10 or more.

Business items: Bay Area was voted to full MRA membership. MRA adopted royal blue armbands on an international orange parka as the (recommended) official MRA rescue parka. Alternatives to the Washington MRA waterproof parka are OK. The 1972 National Safety Award went to Gene Fear in recognition of his energetic promotion of wilderness survival courses. The By-Laws amendment providing for associate membership at the regional level failed to muster the required 2/3 rds majority. The vote (counting proxies) was 11 for, 3 against and 3 abstaining. One mail ballot for the amendment was disqualified. The important aspect of this roll-call vote is not the outcome but the fact that 22 of 1+0 member units made no effort to exercise their right to vote.

A thorough report on the Outward Bound tragedy in Oregon will be made available to each team. MRA declined to either commend or criticize the O.B. program. National MRA officers wish to establish closer liason with the national offices of other organizations involved in search and rescue. This will cost money--problem: how to get money for travel, correspondence, newsletter. Idaho--Boise commented that they collect \$1 from each team member for the MRA mewsletter. Committees are being realligned on a regional basis to facilitate working together. Operations Statistics will probably be centered in California.

Coming attractions: The MRA Spring Meeting at Boulder will be a winch and cable seminar. Long rope evacuations will also be tried. The Fall meeting will coincide with MRC-Seattle's 25 th anniversary. The first international Mountain Rescue Seminar in December 1973 includes climbing two of Mexico's volcanos: Popo and Ixti.

FINANCES

Barbara Slates

We are glad to report a donation from Clifton Chandler, who has contributed several times in the past; and also a contribution from member Don Peterson. Our thanks to both of these men--financial help is always appreciated!

"I like camping out", said Tom, intently.

MERRY CHRISTMAS
FROM THE
CHINA LAKE MOUNTAIN RESCUE GROUP