



CHINA LAKE MOUNTAIN RESCUE GROUP

P.O. BOX 2037
Ridgecrest
California
93555

OCTOBER 1978

#41

CALENDAR

Nov 4	Independence Pk	Camphausen
6	CLMRG 20th Anniversary Banquet	Anderson
13	Meeting at 313 Sanders, R/C	St. Denis
14	Hut Night - Group equipment	Renta
18-19	Maturango Pk/Burl Parkinson	Camphausen
	MRA Fall Meeting, Boise, Idaho	L. Lucas
26	Waucoba	
Dec 9-10	Panamint Range exploratory	Ron Jones
11	Meeting at 824 W Graaf, R/C (Tracking slide show)	Camphausen
18	Night SAR Practice	L. Lucas
22	"B Mountain Happy Hour"	Snell
30-1	North Palisade	Rockwell
Jan 8	Meeting at 624 Randall, R/C	Burge
9/10	Hut Night - Stretcher rigging	
13-14	MRA Region Meeting, China Lake (Sat) Stretcher Practice (Sun)	Atkins



TRAINING -Operation Leadership and Coordination

(Yes, this should have been in the last edition, but your well organized editor mislaid it)

CLMRG members spent four Tuesday evenings in March discussing how to lead and coordinate search and rescue (SAR) operations. Topics discussed were:

1. SAR jurisdiction - local, state, federal. The proper relationship of volunteers to authorities, and roles of government agencies involved in SAR.
2. Alert procedure - responding to a call for help - priorities, response levels.
3. Mobilization - team call-out, equipment selection, advance team location.
4. Coordination - role of coordinator - liaison to requesting agency, other agencies and other SAR teams; California MRA Joint Operation Procedures.
5. Base camp - organization, staff functions, paperwork.
6. Search and rescue leadership.
7. ELT operations.
8. Reports and critique.

About half the time was spent in "case studies" based on past operations. Members were briefed on the problem - who, what, where, when - and then asked to write down what they would do as operation leader. Later case studies used topographic maps and involved correlating interview data and making field assignments.

Discussion leaders were Heller, Green, Stronge and L. Lucas. Participants were R. Rockwell, R. Westbrook, D. Burge, Atkins, Harris, Camphausen, Buffum, S. Rockwell, C. Burge, J. Westbrook, Moore, Joy, Brown, and D. Lucas.

SAFETY FILMS - 'By Nature's Rules' and 'The Thermal Wilderness'

These two films were produced by the Seattle Mountain Rescue Council in cooperation with Safeco Insurance Co. and Lawless Motion Picture consultants. Elizabeth Anderson, of CLMRG, helped with the filming of 'The Thermal Wilderness'. Both films have made a tremendous contribution to safety. Between 30 and 40 million people have seen 'By Nature's Rules', making hypothermia a much better recognized problem than in the past. An estimated 17-18 million have seen 'The Thermal Wilderness' on TV alone.

CLMRG purchased copies of these films several years ago, to have available for any group who wants to use them. We have recently replaced the worn out copy of 'By Nature's Rules'. Either film may be borrowed from the Safety Office at China Lake.

The China Lake Training Center has a copy of 'By Nature's Rules' which they will show to groups, but they will not loan out. Contact Marie at 939-2686 for information.

POWDERED COCKTAILS - from Business Week, August 28, 1978

Taking to the great outdoors usually means leaving behind the cocktail hour in favor of K rations and a canteen. But soon, American sportsmen and travelers may be packing their cocktails in their pockets. SureShot instant powdered cocktails - just add water and stir- will be test-marketed in early October in Los Angeles liquor stores and supermarkets by two West Coast Companies that are betting that booze in a packet will soon be the Kool-Aid of the liquor industry.

HELICOPTER SURVIVAL KITS

CLMRG personnel have been asked to help select survival gear to be carried in NAF helicopters.

PUBLIC EDUCATION

The Public Education committee is re-doing our display panels and publishing an updated version of our public safety brochure.

BANQUET

All friends of the CLMRG are encouraged to attend the 20th anniversary banquet, being planned by Liz Anderson and her committee. If you didn't receive an invitation in the mail, please use this one and be sure to RSVP so a place will be set for you.

*You are cordially invited
to attend the
Twentieth Anniversary Banquet
of the
China Lake Mountain Rescue Group
on Monday, the sixth of November
NWC Commissioned Officers' Club
No Host Cocktails 6:00 p.m.
Dinner 7:00 p.m.
R S V P by October 30th
507 Randall, Ridgecrest, California 93555
(714) 375-2532*

OPERATION REPORTS

			<u>Leader/Coordinator</u>
#7810	Alert, 2 July	Inyo Co., Bristlecones	Harris
#7811	Search, 22-25 July		L. Lucas
	Dave Cunningham, 25, of Santa Barbara, went on a four day, 40 mile loop trip, presumably over Clark Pass in the Yosemite back country. The search started after he was overdue two days and MRA was called on 7/22, when he was overdue four days. The search area was over 50 square miles. Some tracks were found, but were lost at the head of Clark Canyon. Rain on 7/24 probably aged the tracks. [CLMRG learned several weeks later that the subject was found in Bangor, Maine]		
#7812	Alert, 29 July	Inyo Co., Aberdeen	/Lucas
#7813	Alert, 20 Aug	Riverside Co., Whitewater	/ Heller
#7814	Alert, 8 July	Kern Co.	/Westbrook
#7815	Alert, 27 July	Inyo Co.	/Westbrook
#7816	Contact, 1 Sep	Kern Co.	/Camphausen
# 7817	Search, 4 September 78		Camphausen and Landau

Call at 2041 on 4 Sep 78 from Carl Heller. He requested I contact Mike Elliot of Inyo Co. Posse concerning a possible need for CLMRG assistance.

A 13 year old boy, Kevin Uhlin, was overdue since noon on 4 Sep 78. He was last seen departing Black Lake. He intended to return to the Big Pine Creek hiker parking area below Glacier Lodge. As reported by his group, Kevin did not have proper clothing for the tropical storm rains that came at 1700 hours.

Carol Burge and Sheila Rockwell called down the roster and got three responses for immediate departure and several more for a follow up team. Departure was planned for 0300 hours on 5 Sep 78. I advised Mike Elliot of our team's ETA and we discussed calling additional MRA support, which he did. Marty Landau, Hank Snell, and Mike Walters were China Lake's first team.

I initiated a second call-out at 0615 and ten members were set to depart at 1300 hours. I received the message at 1120 that Kevin had been found by the China Lake team and was OK. Mike Elliot said that MRA team response was: Inyo Co. (13), Altadena (4), CLMRG (3 + 10 about to depart), Los Padres (4), San Diego (6), and Sierra Madre (6).

Comments: Kevin Uhlin's resourcefulness probably saved his life. When it was apparent to him that was lost, he didn't panic but sought shelter and stayed in one place in order to conserve his energy.

#7818	Rescue, 5 September 78		Westbrook
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At 9 pm on Tuesday, September 5, the day following an unseasonably wet Labor Day holiday, we received a call from the Inyo Co. sheriff requesting assistance. Two or four people were in trouble from hypothermia at Trail Camp (el. 12000') on the Mt. Whitney trail.

CLMRG fielded a ten person team. Don Harris and Liz Anderson set up base camp and handled communications at Lone Pine airport. The other eight of us arrived at Whitney Portals at about midnight. Sierra Madre, Los Padres and the Forest Service were still in the area for an operation which had begun the day before, and were already at least 3 hours up the trail. After checking with the advance party to determine what equipment was needed, we made tracks. We arrived at the ranger's tent at Outpost Meadow about 3:30 am to rest, dry off and get a hot drink. A team of Forest Service and Sierra Madre rescuers found the first victim, deceased, just below Trail Camp. They put up a tent at Trail Camp and rested until first light. Because of cold, wet weather, we chose to wait the hour until first light, before crossing the swollen streams at Outpost Meadow. We arrived at Trail Camp about 6 am, just after the Forest Service people had found the second victim, also deceased. The victims had come over the crest from the west side in the storm. They were wearing cotton shorts and T-shirts. One had on a wet down parka. There was food, a stove, a tube tent, and wet sleeping bags in their packs.

Another possible tragedy was prevented when two wet, cold people were found a few minutes later. They were placed in a warm, dry tent, given hot food and dry clothes and recovered enough to walk out by themselves.

We moved the two bodies to a helispot 3/4 mi down the trail and everyone was back at the Portals by 5 pm. We had a short drive home, but our friends from Altadena, Sierra Madre, San Diego and Los Padres had many hours to go before a well deserved rest.

China Lake members participating were: Westbrook, Brown, D. Lucas, Hunt, Renta, Lloyd, Swanson, Cote, Anderson and Harris. Coordinators were S. Rockwell and C. Burge.

#7819 Rescue, 5-6 September

D. Burge

On September 5, at about 10 pm, I received a call from Phil Umholtz of the Bay Area Mountain Rescue Unit. He told me that George Barnes, BAMRU member and 'life member' of CLMRG, was a day overdue in returning from a solo climb of Mt. Goddard. Phil wondered if I could make an inquiry to the Inyo Co. Sheriff to see if George's vehicle was still at the Lake Sabrina roadhead. Considering the very bad weather of the previous two days, it was not too surprising George was overdue, but I told Phil I would call the sheriff.

I then called Pat Elliott of the Inyo SAR Posse, who said some roads were out in the Bishop Creek area, but he would have the roadhead checked and have someone call Phil back.

At 1130 the next morning, we received a rescue call from the Inyo Co. Sheriff. I called back and talked with Pat Elliott again. He told me that George had come out after midnight and was OK, but that a tragedy had occurred. George had been coming out over Lamarck Col with a male and female backpacker, when problems developed because of the storm. The girl, Karen Evans, 22, of Santa Cruz, had died of hypothermia and George had left Edward Seabury, 23, of Sebastopol, wrapped in a sleeping bag, when Ed could go no further in the 5 ft dee^p snow.

A helo from Lemoore had been unable to reach the site because of wind and clouds and Pat was hoping the NWC helo could. He also wanted our support if the helo had to land away from the site. I then talked to Lcdr. Haan at the NWC airfield operations office. He told me they had already received the same request and the SAR Huey would be departing at 1150 with Lcol. Adams, Lcdr. Crume and three crewmen. He said they would plan on taking our team to Bishop in a U-9 (Aero Commander), whenever we were ready.

I got Carol to get two more rescuers while I went home to get ready. Tom Stogsdill, Gene St. Denis and I gathered equipment from the hut and went out to the airfield. *we* were flown to Bishop by Lt. Everson and Lcdr. Duncan. We arrived there at 1410, and were told by Pat Elliott, who had flown around the site in the NWC Huey, that Seabury also appeared to be dead. The helo had been unable to land anywhere in the area because of strong winds, but the position of the body indicated no hope. After some discussion, Pat said that Inyo would go back up the next day to recover the bodies, using the Forest Service helicopter. After waiting awhile longer to be sure we weren't needed to help rescue some overdue hikers near Pine Lake, we returned to China Lake by 1645.

This account of the Lamarck Col tragedy is from a letter from George Barnes to John Seabury, Ed's brother. It is rather lengthy, but I thought instructive and sobering. We might all do well to evaluate our own preparedness for bad weather - both our physical preparedness to protect ourselves from the elements and our mental preparedness to recognize the possibility of danger before it is too late. - Editor

The storm had been gradually building since the 2nd [Sept], but hit in earnest about 1100 on the 4th. I was camped at Wanda Lake that night and gradually all my gear except a down parka in a pack got wet (bivouac sack - no tent). When I got underway about 0600 on the 5th (wet gear turned 40 lb pack into 60 lb pack) the storm finally tapered off after 19 straight hours. Snowline was about 11,600 ft, as I headed north on the Muir Trail toward Lamarck Col - the shortest way out not requiring rock climbing on now snow-covered ledges. I knew I had to get all the way out that day because of the wet sleeping bag. [George was wearing Gortex rain pants and anorak over his slightly damp down parka]

About 1100, I met Ed and Karen headed south on the Muir Trail about 200 yards south of the junction with the Darwin Canyon-Lamarck Col trail. They appeared to be in good shape, although their gear was in the same shape mine was. [Ed and Karen had only light plastic ponchos for rain protection while they walked] This was their 5th day in and they had camped that night at the lake just above 11,200 ft on the Darwin Canyon drainage. They knew they had to get out, too, and had started down Evolution Valley, but found the trail flooded. When I met them, they were headed for Muir and Bishop passes many miles to the south. They wanted much more to go out Lamarck Col, but were concerned about climbing through the snow. When I told them I was going out Lamarck, snow or not, they very much wanted to come along. 'Fine', I said. Going up the trail, it was soon evident they could move much faster than I. The^y waited for me periodically and then went ahead to

their old campsite to have some lunch. I passed them and headed up Darwin Canyon and they caught me again before the lowest of the five lakes in that canyon. We proceeded on the tedious route on the north side of four of those lakes to the foot of the 1000 ft climb to the Col where I stopped for lunch about 1500. Karen spoke of being cold, so I told them to go on up toward the Col and I'd trudge behind. Visibility was not too good above us so I showed them landmarks to follow to stay on route. It was snowing lightly with moderate wind above 12,000 ft.

They were about 300 ft above me when I started up and I soon lost sight of them in the clouds. Weather deteriorated at higher altitudes and I saw them again, on route, at about 1630 about 300 ft below the Col. I saw then that I was gaining on them. Going was tedious over snow-covered talus with 1 to 3 foot depths. It was snowing more heavily and the wind had picked up. Following in their tracks, I reached them about 1715, 150 feet below the Col. Ed was doing a good job of route finding, but had to wait for Karen, who was still moving steadily, but slowly. I went ahead of Ed and broke trail to the top of the Col. When I got there, Ed called up and said he thought Karen needed help. I dropped my pack at the top of the Col and went back to Karen, took her pack, and helped her to the top, arriving shortly after Ed. When I got to her it was clear she was rapidly becoming more hypothermic. We were now in gusty, gale-force winds, driving sheets of snow horizontally. The winds were primarily from the south and my hope was to get over the Col to near the small lake on the north side which should be more on the lee side of the ridge. Just over the top and coming down the relatively steep slope to the NE of the Col, we found 1-5 feet of fine, unconsolidatable, drift snow which made descending even more work per yard than the ascent had been. Karen weakened very rapidly and by 1745 could no longer move. Ed had gotten her sleeping bag out and we wrapped it around her. I went down to the first place above the lake I could stamp out a platform which I did and Ed reached it with his pack. We got out his ensolite pad and sleeping bag (the tube tent they had blew away, but would have been of little use). He stayed there, while I went back up to the Col to get my pack. On the way back down, I checked Karen. She died about 1755.

Ed knew he was in bad shape. He couldn't walk far without support. He was shocked at Karen's death, but composed. After a few floundering steps with me (sinking in over 4 feet often) he decided that wouldn't work and I helped him back to the platform, pad, and other gear. We wrapped him up as best we could and I headed for help, promising a helicopter as soon as possible.

Going was slow down from the Col and I was in a large talus field when it got dark at about 2000. I finally reached my car a little after midnight and reported to the sheriff.

George Barnes