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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Whitney SAR – John Likely, UPDATE

The search continues for missing hiker, John Likely a 60-year old man from Dumont, NJ. Likely was part of a three-person hiking group that summited Mt. Whitney on June 14th, 2014. According to information received, the group of friends have hiked together regularly throughout the years. During the decent down the trail Likely was hiking at a slower pace than the other two members of the group; this was a common occurrence in their hiking trips, so the two hiking friends went on ahead of Likely.

Once at Trail Camp the two members of the group used binoculars to verify that Likely was still continuing down the trail; he was spotted just below the cable rails on the 99-switchback section of the decent from Mt. Whitney. The two friends continued on to Outpost Camp where the group was to spend the night. Likely never made it to Outpost Camp. The two-person group searched for their friend the night of June 14th, and the morning of the 15th.

Inyo County Search and Rescue was contacted and deployed the afternoon of June 15th. Since then ground crews consisting of Mono County Search and Rescue, and China Lake Mountain Rescue Group have assisted in the search. Today additional crews have arrived and will be assisting as well. Those crews include Sierra Madre Search and Rescue and Antelope Valley Search and Rescue. Air support is being provided by California Highway Patrol helicopter H-80 out of Apple Valley, and China Lake Naval Air Base out of Ridgecrest. Sequoia-Kings National Park will be providing aerial reconnaissance, which includes imagery collection and analysis, near the Sierra crest.

The Sheriff's Office is asking for any information from hikers who may have seen John Likely. Likely is reported to be wearing a red San Francisco 49ers ball cap, a black jacket, dark colored shorts and a small backpack, he has gray hair and no facial hair. Please call Sheriff's Dispatch at 760-878-0383 if you have any information that could assist in this search.

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