

February 1987  
#69

CHINA LAKE MOUNTAIN RESCUE GROUP  
P.O. BOX 2037  
RIDGECREST, CA 93555

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

FEBRUARY 7-8	Winter Bivouac	Renta
FEBRUARY 9	Meeting	Finco
FEBRUARY 13-17	Mt. Rainier	B. Rockwell
FEBRUARY 21 - 22	Ice Climbing	Huey
FEBRUARY 28 - MARCH 1	Mt. Whitney (North Fork)	Hinman
MARCH 7 or 8	Rock Skills	Green
MARCH 9	Meeting	Rockwells
MARCH 13 - 16	Tuolumne (Ski Trip)	B. Westbrook
MARCH 18	Stretcher Hut Night	Sakai
MARCH 21	Stretcher Practice	Hinman
MARCH 28 - 29	Ski Trip	Rogers

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*"The man who climbs only in good weather, starting from nuts and never bivouacking, appreciates the splendor of the mountains but not their mystery, the dark of their night, the depth of their sky above ---. some mountaineers are proud of having done all their climbs without a bivouac. How much they have missed! And the Same applies to those who enjoy only rock climbing, or only the ice climbs, only the ridges or the faces. We should refuse none of the thousand and one joys the mountains offer us at every turn. We should brush nothing aside, set no restrictions. We should experience hunger and thirst, be able to go fast, but also know how to go slowly and to contemplate. Variety is the spice of life"*

*Gaston Rebuffat*

## OPERATION REPORTS

86-30                      10/31-11/1/86                      Search                      Horse Canyon                      Hine

At approximately 1300 on 31 October Abe Long became separated from his partner, Bob Kuntz, while dirt bike riding in the Scodie Hills area. Bob searched for about three hours before returning to town and reported him missing to the sheriff's office. Shortly thereafter the family called me and asked for our assistance. I reassured them and called the dispatcher.

The dispatcher said a deputy and BLM ranger were conducting a preliminary search. It was 1900 when the dispatcher called back and asked for a team to be assembled. I was initially unable to contact any coordinators, so the first two who answered their phones (Green and Renta) were drafted into calling the roster.

Eight CLMRG members and the subject's brother, Robert, met Deputy Ralph Angeles in Horse Canyon to set up base camp. Deputy Angeles wanted to sweep the major roads between the hills and highway 395 before committing ground teams. When no sign of Abe was found on the roads, arrangements for additional CLMRG members, IWVSAR, and a CHP helicopter were made. The plan was to start a ground search from the Place Last Seen at first light.

At 0710 an IWVSAR team nearing base reported the subject had just arrived at a camp area two miles away. Abe had started down Cow Heaven Canyon until the slope became too difficult to continue or return. He spent a cold night with his bike until daylight. Then he walked down the canyon until he met some campers who gave him a ride.

Other CLMRG participants: Adams, Lucas, Finco, Derrickson, D. Burge, B. Westbrook, Ingle, McDowell, Roberts and Rogers. Coordinator was S. Rockwell.

### Comments:

1. The omnidirectional antenna was missing its coaxial cable. On a more distant operation this would have created a major problem.
2. The new antenna stand can blow over during high winds. It should be tethered and placed away from the base camp table and vehicles.
3. Family members in base camp can sometimes be advantageous. However, care must be taken to watch their reactions to radio traffic. When Robert heard where his brother was, he was in his car and away in a flash.

86-31                      11/12-14/86                      Search                      Garlock/Red Rock Area                      Mason

On Sunday, 9 November, at noon, 29 year old Donald Freeland and 31 year old Terrance Seever left their Lomita home in Seever's new 4WD Mitsubishi Montero. Freeland was a paraplegic and Seever suffered from a blood disease. They told no one where they were going, but told Seever's mother that they would be back around 1700. On Tuesday morning she contacted the Los Angeles Sheriff's Office to report the two men overdue. During the interview it was learned that the two men had apparently spent some time in the Jawbone-Red Rock area in the past. The Kern County Sheriff's Department was advised and a search was initiated.

We were contacted on 12 November at 1910 by the sheriff to assist in the search of the area. Ron Atkins served as coordinator and a call out for 4X4s was started, followed by a general call out. Four members besides me responded. We mobilized immediately and left the hut to meet the sheriff at 2030 at the corner of Highway 14 and Garlock Road. Upon arriving, we were asked to assist IWVSAR by searching the high and low aqueduct roads toward Ridgecrest and to then secure for the night if nothing was found. We were to return the following morning at 0600 at the same location to begin a larger search of the area. Again, a call out was initiated, this time by Janet Westbrook, for more 4X4s and more members. Thirteen members met at the hut and drove to base camp, arriving at 0600. We were to search all the dirt roads leading north off of Garlock Road. This consisted of about 50 dirt roads in that area and would probably take most of the day. Besides our team's assignment, IWVSAR, BLM, and Kern Valley SAR were searching other roads near the Jawbone-Red Rock area. The NWC helo and the Kern County Sheriff's helo were also flying. That afternoon it was decided to interview Seever's mother again. It was then that the information about the subjects' return time of 1700 was discovered. Based on this information, the sheriff decided that the probability of the victims being in our area was slim and that the search should continue, but further south near the Mojave area the following day. CLMRG secured at the hut at 1600. I asked Mike Renta to take over as operation leader so that I could finish preparation for the CRMRA Rock Workshop. A final call out was made by Carol Burge for the next day's search.

Twelve people responded on 14 November. Base camp was moved to the intersection of Highway 14 and the California City road. CLMRG searched the area east of Highway 14 and north of California City. After the teams were fielded it was learned that friends of Seever's told the sheriff that they thought Seever may have gone to the Malibu Canyon area. Based on that information all teams were called back to base and the search ended at 1200. CLMRG secured at the hut at 1430.

The next day, 15 November, a helo searching for a downed aircraft spotted Seever's vehicle in the bottom of a canyon near the Saugus/Newhall area. It had apparently rolled 600 feet down a hill. Both Seever and Freeland had been killed.

Other CLMRG personnel participating: Lucas, Sakai, Mitchell, Dan Harris, Amster, Martin, Wisecarver, Castro, McDowell, Roberts, Roseman, Walker, Leiser, Ostermann, LaRoe and coordinator S. Rockwell.

#### Comments:

1. The sheriff had USGS 7.5' series maps of the area. They had been published in 1973 and updated in 1980. We should acquire some of these maps. Also, some AAA maps of the local area can be useful.
2. Some communication problems occurred because of the continuously moving vehicles and the large search area. Also, we had problems being stepped on by an ambulance radio on 155.16 Mhz.
- 3 Lt. Sparks of Kern County did a great job on this search. He organized each team well and made a genuine effort to accommodate each team's way of operating. Many news crews were on the scene and all were handled well.

S6-32

11/23/86

Mobilization

Olancha

Green

At about 1630 the pager requested that we call the Inyo County Sheriff's Office. I responded and found out from Deputy Larry Freshour that a purportedly intoxicated man was headed off through

the sand dunes south and east of Olancha. (This has to be one of our strangest calls.) There was concern for the fellow's safety and we were asked to find him. Sheila Rockwell called the roster and got commitments from three other members: Lucas, Walker and Ostermann, Before we left the hut another request came on the pager to call Inyo County. The person had been found in "good" condition and we were not needed.

Comments:

1. Our response time needs improvement. One thing that would help is more telephoners. It takes a long time to call our entire roster now.
2. The pagers are becoming more and more useful. Operation leaders should maximize their monitoring time.

86-33

11/29-30/86

Rescue

Bishop Pass

Green

The call from the Inyo County Sheriffs Bishop substation came at 2015 Saturday evening. A climber with a broken leg was at Bishop Pass and the Inyo Posse wanted us to assist in a possible carryout. A helicopter was being requested from both China Lake and "Care Flight" from Reno.

Carol Burge, with the help of Cheryl Braun and Mike Mason called the roster and got six other members. We left the hut at 2130 to meet Doug Wilson of the Inyo Posse at the Bishop substation. In Bishop. at midnight, we found that the victim. Lee Masiques, was near Bishop Pass with a certain broken leg, no sleeping bag, tent or bivouac gear. Lee had lost control while glissading from a climb of Mt. Agassiz. Five Inyo members with first aid gear and a stretcher were on the trail from South Lake towards Bishop Pass. There had been no radio contact, so their progress was unknown and the helicopter status was uncertain.

Our team was asked to hike to Bishop Pass to back up the Inyo Posse and to set up our directional antenna at a relay site near the top of Sherwin Grade. Hine, Finco, Amster, Roberts. B. Westbrook and Leiser headed for South Lake and a midnight hike while I went to work with the relay. As soon as the directional antenna was connected we were successful in contacting the Inyo Posse. They requested that our team pick up the stretcher from where they had left it and continue on to assist them. The stretcher was mounted on a wheel and Hine's team, working in pairs with one person at each end, took 30 minute turns pushing and pulling. The Care Flight helicopter arrived at the Bishop airport at 0200 and planned to fly in as soon as possible. Radio contact with both teams was possible by inter-team relay and the directional antenna to Rescue Base in Bishop. Our Midland HT managed to make contact with the relay whenever it was needed.

At 0600 the helicopter reached Bishop pass and, using a search light, spotted Lee within 5 minutes. The welcome news that he was waving his arms came over the radio. The next hour and 10 minutes involved preparing for transport and the carry to the helicopter. Lee was treated by the RN with Care Flight. She started an IV, applied a heat pack and monitored his vitals; several layers of clothing were cut through to apply the cuff. Inyo and CLMRG rescuers then moved Lee several hundred yards across a boulder field to the helicopter. Difficulties in obtaining handholds on the helicopter's stretcher were overcome by using slings.

All CLMRG personnel were back home by 1600.

Comment:

1. Our directional antenna was a vital piece of gear. Without it there would have been no communication from the hill.

For the first eight months of 1986 there had been four drowning victims still missing in the Kern River below Lake Isabella. The sheriff's office decided to have a final search when the river was at its lowest flow rate. A full-county call out was held on 7 December. Over a hundred members from the various teams assembled for the search..

The search area was a five mile stretch of river with the Upper Richbar Campground approximately in the center. This area was divided into one mile sections; each section had two teams assigned to it. One team would search up stream while the other would search down. This provided double coverage. In addition, dive teams searched pools and catchments where bodies had been known to lodge in the past.

Using the above strategy, three bodies were recovered. Two were found by ground teams (one was an alert from a CARDA team) and the third was located by a diver. In addition, numerous finds of individual bones or bone fragments were reported.

Other CLMRG members participating: Green, Sakai, Martin, D. Burge, Buffum. Nelson, Roseman, Ostermann and LaRoe. Coordinator was Nancy Aigner.

#### Comments:

1. We were advised to wear tennis shoes while searching the river. This was very useful; tennis shoes provide more traction on the wet rocks than hiking boots.
- 2 The individual teams were mixed during the search. There were two reasons for this action This provided each team with a member of the Kern Valley team familiar with river searches. The second reason was to enable the teams to become better acquainted.
3. The operation was run using the Incident Command System procedures. This was one of the first times the ICS has been utilized in a county operation. The system worked well and the participants learned valuable lessons.

Sgt. Gil Cooper from the Ridgecrest substation called us at 2136 Saturday night. Twenty three year old Michelle Miyatake, a Ridgecrest resident known to have a potential medical problem, was overdue from a hike to the summit of Black Mountain in the El Paso range. She had adequate overnight gear and so it was decided to begin the ground search at daybreak. The deputies and IWVSAR were to search the roads that night.

S Rockwell, C. Burge and Braun called the roster. The following people met me at the but at 0500: Stogsdill, B. Rockwell, Hine, Mason, Atkins, Finco. Gleason, Mitchell, Martin, Jones, D. Burge, Castro and Roseman. We left at 1515 for the base camp near Bonanza Gulch. A team of four was sent with the victim's brother to the Place Last Seen and two teams of four were assigned search areas leading up to Black Mountain from the west side. Another team of four from IWVSAR was covering the west flank of the search area. The sheriff's helicopter arrived at 0800 and started an air search. At 0850 the helicopter crew reported tracks going down a sandy wash. The tracks matched the victim's prints and we had the helicopter move a team of two trackers to follow them. The rest of the searchers continued their assignments.

The sheriff's dispatcher had been calling the victim's residence at regular intervals, just in case she had somehow managed to get there. At 0957 the message came that indeed the young lady was home, and had been there for 15 minutes. She had become lost while descending the mountain and stopped when it got dark. In the morning she headed in the direction of Robber's Roost, hiking all the way to Highway 14 by 0900. She then hitchhiked to Ridgecrest.

87-1    1/5/87    Search    Kennedy Meadows

A t k i n s

Monday morning was clear and cold, and the Sierra Nevada was beautiful with its fresh mantle of snow from Sunday's storm. At 0930 Gretchen Bryant called informing me that she had been contacted by Betty Kruk, asking for assistance in calling out the Rescue Group. Mrs. Kruk's twin 19 year old daughters, Stacy and Tracy, and a friend, Frank Greenwood, had left Ridgecrest Sunday afternoon to play in the snow and hadn't returned. A call to Mrs. Kruk revealed that the three teenagers had driven to Kennedy Meadows at approximately 1400 Sunday in their two wheel Toyota pickup. They planned to return before dark, but had failed to do so. Mrs. Kruk said that the sheriff had driven the Kennedy Meadow roads but found no trace of the kids.

I called Sgt. Cooper at the Ridgecrest substation. He was aware of the search, but had not been asked for assistance by the Tulare County Deputy, Sgt. Montgomery. We agreed that I should put the team on alert, and call Montgomery. Carol Burge got the alert going.

Deputy Montgomery was in the field checking roads in the Kennedy Meadows area when I called. A call to the Isabella substation allowed a semi-patch communication network set up. I could hear their radio conversations. Sgt. Montgomery had been checking the Long Valley and other major roads in the area, but as yet had not found anything positive. He said that if we were ready to go, he would be happy to have our assistance. I immediately called Carol to change the call out to operational status and left for the hut. Mary Wyatt assisted Carol.

Lee Lucas and I began setting up for the deployment. Sgt. Cooper was trying to get helo support. We were to meet Sgt. Montgomery at 1230 at the Chimney Peak Fire Station. Sgt. Cooper was to put IWVSAR on alert in case their Snowcat was needed. The first three teams left the hut at 1120, with three more teams soon after, giving us six teams of three ready for snow conditions in 4WD vehicles. Bart Hine was to set up a radio relay at the Chimney Peak Station, as well as to carry our snow litter, oxygen equipment, first aid gear, victim pack, and other gear. He was on the air at 1320

Daryl Hinman and the other advance teams met Sgt. Montgomery on schedule. The field teams were dispatched to check the remaining roads and spurs. One team was assigned to drive up the Kennedy Meadows road to Fish Creek and Black Rock. Accompanied by Sgt. Montgomery, they found the subjects at 1345: cold, wet, and weary, walking through two feet of fresh wet snow toward the Kennedy Meadows Store. They had spent a cold night in the truck at Fish Creek Camp Grounds. Because of the deep snow, they couldn't drive out. They had begun walking at 0800 Monday.

All teams were recalled from the field and were back at the hut at 1613. After a short debrief and stowing of gear, the operation was terminated at 1645.

Also participating in this operation were: Huey, Mason, Finco, Derrickson, Mitchell, Roseman, Amster, Wisecarver, Bonbright, Ingle, McDowell, Silverman, Walker, Leiser, LaRoe, Barbee and Ostermann.

## 1986 COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Training

**Amster**

A tracking seminar, attended by several CRMRA teams was held in April. Other tracking events included 12 monthly noontime practices and a night exercise. Several stretcher practices were conducted throughout the year at School Rocks, Fossil Falls (part of the Rock Workshop), and above Glacier Lodge (snow practice) Additionally, a four week class on stretcher evacuation was conducted. Several classroom seminars were given on SAR procedures, radios, map & compass techniques, and case studies. Technical training was conducted for orienteering, rock skills and ice climbing. Two ELT practices were held, and one helicopter practice In addition. members had the opportunity to take part in both the Kern County SAR Seminar, and the annual CRMRA SAR seminar

### Public Education

**Wyatt**

Approximately 2050 people were reached by our presentations, not including those reached through the Air Show, Emergency Preparedness Fair and newspaper articles.

Talks and demonstrations were given to: Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, Brownies, two church schools, five public schools, Bakersfield Chamber of Commerce, Naval Weapons Center Air Show, Emergency Preparedness Fair (Trona), American Legion, Beta Sigma Phi, Indian Wells Gem and Mineral Society, CLMRG Mountaineering Classes, Maturango Museum Summer Class, and the Senior Citizens' Center. Topics and number of presentations were:

Hug a Tree	14
Mountain safety and the CLMRG	7
Air Show, Emergency Preparedness	2
Basic mountaineering class	1

### First Aid

**Gleason**

The First Aid Committee conducted the usual Topic refreshers this year, Topic I in the spring and Topic II in the fall. In addition, three CPR classes were offered. The number of attendees at each is as follows:

Topic I	19
Topic II	25
CPR	38

The committee also put CLMRG first aid requirements into formal written form. This was brought before the membership for approval and is now being revised, based upon membership input.

### Equipment

**Jones**

Purchases in 1986:	Pagers (5)	\$1,332
	Stevenson tent	350
	Climbing rack	140
	Victims' harnesses (3)	89
	First aid cassettes ( class)	330
	Avalanche books (class)	115
	Altimeters (2)	88
	Stretcher hardware	137
		\$2,581

Rescues	5	Inyo County	17
Recoveries	1	Kern County	7
Searches	14	Mono County	3
Alerts	6	Tulare County	1
Mobilizations	1	San Bernardino County	1
Transits	5	Yosemite NP	3
Incidents	3	Joshua Tree NM	2

Operations involved 46 subjects:  
 30 found O.K.  
 6 found injured  
 2 not found (Saline Valley couple )  
 8 dead (3 drownings, 2 in 4WD accident, 1 avalanche victim, 1 climbing accident, and 1 missing hiker - probable heart attack)

Operations by month:	January	2	July	8
	February	1	August	5
	March	0	September	3
	April	1	October	2
	May	3	November	4
	June	4	December	2

Miscellaneous: 20,376 miles were driven, with an average of 582 miles per operation  
 4,995 hours were put in on operations, average of 143 hours per operation  
 1,101 hours (22%) were NWC excused. average of 31.5 per operation  
 members responded a total of 362 times, average of 10.3 per operation

**CRMRA ROCK WORKSHOP**

Members of the California Region of the Mountain Rescue Association (CRMRA) gathered on 15 and 16 November for a two day Rock Workshop held at Fossil Falls and School Rocks, both near Ridgecrest, California. This high angle rescue practice is held approximately every three years and was hosted by CLMRG. Several California mountain rescue teams including San Diego, Bay Area, Inyo County, Los Padres, and Sierra Madre, along with three non-MRA affiliated teams ( Joshua Tree, Saddleback, and Santa Maria) met with us to practice rescuing injured climbers off ledges and steep walls.



Saturday's events got underway with each team being assigned an individual rescue problem.

Working together



Each with its own unique technical difficulty and first aid problems. Victims (anthropomorphic dummies that simulated adult humans) were strategically placed by CLMRG members prior to the practice.

The victims were either hanging by ropes on vertical walls, lying on narrow ledges, or in the bottom of giant solution pockets. Rescuers not only had to climb and/or rappel to their victims, but had to administer simulated first aid at the scene, usually hanging free on their own ropes while fellow team members set up the complex lowering or raising systems.

After his injuries were stabilized and he was placed in a stretcher, the victim was lowered or raised (and in some cases both) to safety.

The second day was less formal than the first, with rescue groups mixing members to share their individual methods of lowering, raising, and rigging of stretchers

This year's practice went without a hitch in what many attendees called the best one ever. Several new ideas and techniques are always learned from these gatherings, and it is a chance for teams to get together, work with each other without the stress of an ongoing operation, and to have a good time. All in all, it made for a great weekend of technical rock rescue practice with everyone looking forward to the next one.

- Mike Mason, Chairman

## **SAD NOTES**

We received word from Liz Anderson of the passing of CLMRG founding member Kermith Ross. Kermith passed away on December 23, 1986. Kermith was very active during the formative years of the Group.

Don Talmadge, mayor of Bishop, also recently passed away. Don was very active in the city of Bishop, as well as a strong supporter of CLMRG

Our sympathies to the families and friends of Don and Kermith.

\* \* \* \* \*

## **DONOR'S CORNER**

We always enjoy the notes and cards received from friends during the holiday season. Thanks to each of you!

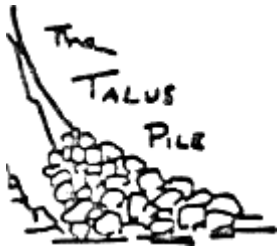
Sincere thanks go to those sending donations to the Group in recent months. Donations have been received from friends Virginia and T.M. Stirling, Maxine Scheibner, Ray VanAken, and John and Ruth Gerhart. Lois (Carl Heller's sister) and William Adamsen sent a donation in "memory of Carl Heller and his love for the CLMRG work". Esther and Fred Bode's donation was in memory of Wally Henry. A note saying "thanks for helping rescue my friend, Lee Masiques" accompanied a donation from Sheila Szmanski.

1987 CLMRG Officers

President - Toni Stogsdill  
Vice Pres. - Bart Hine  
Secretary - Bill Martin  
Treasurer - Larry Ingle  
MRA Rep - Andrew Mitchell

Qualifications Committee

Al Green  
Daryl Hinman  
Bob Rockwell



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