



October 1994
94

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

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Oct 21-24	Picacho del Diablo	Hinman
Oct 23	NORBA	Finco
Oct 29/30	Muah & Cartago Mountains	Rockwell
Nov 5/6	Mt. Tom	Stogsdill
Nov 8	SCMA Stretcher Practice	Myers
Nov 11-13	Joshua Tree	Moneypenny
Nov 14	Meeting/Tents/Lum	Green/McCormick/Roseman
Nov 16	Stretcher Hut Night	Huey
Nov 19	Stretcher Practice	Huey
Dec 3	Rock Skills-Aid Climbing	Roseman
Dec 4	Owens Ridge	Mitchell
Dec 9-11	ASI	Moneypenny
Dec 10-11	Tin and Dry Mountains	Renta
Dec 12	Meeting/Avalanche Beacons/Sakai	C Burge/Myers/Castro
Dec 13/14	CPR	Buffum
Dec 15	Christmas Party	Westbrook
Dec 30-Jan 2	Mt. Russell	Rockwell
Jan 1	Day Hike	Moneypenny
Jan 4	ELT Hut Night	Renta
Jan 7	CRMRA	MRA Rep
Jan 7	Mock Search	Ganger
Jan 9	Meeting/Wound Care/Rindt	Rockwell/Florian/Kong
Jan 13-16	Mt. Bolton Brown	Roseman
Jan 21	Mitchell Peak	Mitchell
Feb 4/5	Desert Peak	Finco

Operation Reports

94-6 5/23/94 Transit
Pinon Creek Hinman

At 1645 on May 23, CLMRG was called to assist in the rescue of a 45-year-old hang- glider pilot who had crashed at the 9700-ft elevation in the Pinon Creek drainage near Mt. Bradley earlier in the day. With the aid of his radio and another hang-glider pilot in flight, he was able to call for help and establish his location. The Inyo County Sheriff SAR team had established a base camp and the Fallon NAS SAR helo was in route by the time CLMRG was called.

CLMRG mobilized immediately, and an advance team consisting of A. Mitchell, Rindt, Myers, Florian and myself left an hour later. The advance team was nearing Independence when they learned over the radio that the subject had been successfully evacuated by the Fallon helo. His injuries included a broken arm and sprained ankle.

The two teams met for dinner in Lone Pine and returned to China Lake where the operation was secured by 2200. The operation was coordinated by Betty Meng with assistance from T. Mitchell. Hueber and Moneypenny committed for a second team.

94-7 5/30/94 Transit
Mt Whitney Hine

China Lake responded to a request from the Inyo County Sheriff to transport an injured man to a landing zone near the Mt. Whitney trail. A 40-year-old male tried to bypass the switch backs between Trail Crest and Trail Camp by glissading down a snow field. The attempt ended with an 800 foot tumble. He sustained neck and hip injuries.

A Forest Service helicopter was available for the extraction. We were to be ready in case it could not set down near the subject. The advance team departed the Rescue Hut within one hour of the initial call. The rest of the team left twenty minutes later. As we approached base camp, the helicopter reported they were in route to the hospital with the subject aboard. We remained at base camp while the helicopter brought out the subject's wife, the Helitac crew, and Inyo team members.

The China Lake members involved were: Hine, A. Mitchell, Huey, B. Rockwell, Buffum, D. Burge, Dow, Ganger, Moneypenny and T. Mitchell. Sheila Rockwell was the coordinator.

94-8 6/10/94 Recovery
Pine Creek Canyon Sakai

Friday morning at 0855, I got a call from Sgt. (Sheriff elect) Dan Lucas of the Inyo County Sheriff's Office (ICSO). He was requesting our help in searching for 33year-old Leonard Walter Hahaj, an employee of the Stratcor Mine who had been missing since Wednesday at 0700. Sgt. Lucas said he would call OES to request our help. I got Betty Meng to start the callout. While I was trying to phone Sgt. Garry Davis to advise him of the impending call from OES, he called on the pager to say he had the request. The elapsed time from Dan's call until I had the OES number was about 20 minutes. Mr. Hahaj was last seen at 0700 on Wednesday on a dirt road leading away from the Stratcor Mine after having run away from the mine office during an administrative action. He had been taken there near the end of his graveyard shift for misconduct. Mr. Hahaj's brother, also a mine employee, spent the rest of Wednesday looking for Mr. Hahaj, but to no avail. Mr. Hahaj's brother filed a missing persons report on Thursday with the ICSO. They waited the usual 24 hours for Mr. Hahaj to reappear before initiating a search on Friday morning.

The ICSO could only get four members from its own SAR team to respond and the terrain around the mine complex is very rugged, so they requested help from CLMRG. Five CLMRGers responded for the initial team, which departed the hut at 1045. Two others followed at 1300. We went directly to the search base at the mostly abandoned Stratcor Mine located in Pine Creek Canyon about 16 mi due west of Bishop. The mining operation is shut down, but the processing plant is still functioning. When our

first team arrived, the Inyo team was searching the abandoned buildings and accessible mine shafts on the premises.

After some discussion, Sgt. Lucas and I decided that CLMRG should initially search the steep hillsides near the rocky dirt road just above the mine complex where the subject was last seen. Our two teams started searching uphill in the two nearest chutes. At 1600, Mr. Hahaj's deceased body was located in the northern of the two chutes, on the rocks about 300 vertical ft above the place he was last seen. He had apparently fallen from the steeper rock above and had been killed in the fall. From the condition of the body it was apparent he had been dead for some time. We had enough equipment and personnel to do a ground evacuation. However, because of the angle and looseness of the terrain and the lack of any reasonable anchors for belaying the stretcher, I requested the Forest Service contract helo to perform a long line evacuation. It was able to respond almost immediately, so four CLMRG members and one Inyo member climbed to the victim to prepare him for the evacuation. The body was evacuated at 1730 to the coroner's van on the road below. Upon return to Bishop, the CLMRG Jeep stopped for gasoline. When we departed the gas station, the Jeep's engine sounded bad and when we stopped at a restaurant for dinner, coolant was streaming from the engine compartment. The diagnosis was probable water pump failure. After dinner, we transferred all equipment and people to the other two vehicles and drove the Jeep to the Bishop substation to park. An ICSO person would take the Jeep to a local garage in the morning and W. Hueber would arrange by phone for the necessary repairs.

Members participating were: Sakai (OL), Hueber, Renta, Myers, D. Burge, A. Jain, Breitenstein, B. Meng (coordinator), and Fournier (telephoner).

Comments:

The Inyo team had searched part way up the chutes in the morning, but did not go all the way up to the headwall. They scanned the remainder of the chute from below. The victim was not visible from below, but was spotted by a searcher above the victim's location which was about 50-80 ft below the headwall.

The long line hook can cause serious injury if it hits someone. All personnel should be instructed/reminded to keep track of its location at all times. We had a near miss with a novice from the Inyo team who had not been so instructed.

The Jeep seems to be more of a liability than an asset. When will it fail us on the way to an operation or at some other critical time?

**94-9 6/14/94 Search
Ash Mountain Mitchell**

A pager call at 0940 on 14 June (Tuesday) from Sgt Marty Williamson requested CLMRG to call him regarding a search. I used the pager to request an Operations Leader (OL). With no success in getting another OL, I called Betty Meng to coordinate a callout and returned Williamson's call. Williamson agreed to provide return transportation if we could be flown to the search area. A call to the Ranger Headquarters at Ash Mountain filled in some details of the problem. The missing hiker was a German rocket scientist, who had gone on a day hike. Maps were available at base camp and the weather was clear and sunny.

The China Lake SAR helo committed to taking five of us and was to meet at the airfield at 1230. We were on our way at 1310 headed for the Woodlake airport, which should have been a 15 minute drive from base camp. However, because of road work and other delays, it took us over an hour. At base camp we filled out paper work and were briefed on the situation. The missing person was Raimund Ottmann, 45 years old, six feet, 175 pounds. He had gone on a day hike to Paradise Peak on 12 June (Sunday). Base felt that his footprints had been found near the summit and were heading down. We were split into three teams, each accompanied by an NPS employee, and left base camp at 1700. One team went to Paradise Peak, one to Redwood Meadow and one to Mineral King. We completed those assignments and returned to base the next afternoon (Wednesday). While in base we investigated the tracks identified as Raimund's that were near his car. Because one track was 12 inches under the car and another similar

print had been run over by Raimund's car, we informed base that it was unlikely that the print being followed was Raimund's.

The search continued the next day with no success. We returned to Ash Mountain Ranger Station at 1700 where the Bakersfield team had agreed to pick us up for the ride back to Ridgecrest. The search would continue at a reduced level, but our involvement ended. It took an hour to debrief and finish paper work. An offer to pay for our services was turned down and I explained that we were volunteers who did not want to be paid. We left at 1800 in the Bakersfield team's vehicle and arrived home at 2000.

CLMRG participants were: Roseman, Rindt, Dow, Breitenstein, Sanford, B. Meng, S. Rockwell and T. Mitchell. Special thanks to Mike Rogers and Andrew Hansen of the Bakersfield team, for driving us home. Postscript: On 18 June we learned that Raimund had walked out that morning. He had spent five days without food.

**94-10 7/8/94 Transit
Horseshoe Meadow Mitchell**

On Sunday, 19 June, the pager went off. It was Sgt. Garry Davis, KCSO, calling about a downed hang-glider at Horseshoe Meadow. We were instructed to meet Cpl. Scottsdale, of the Inyo County Sheriff's Office, ICSO at Horseshoe Meadow. I called the ICSO for further information and was informed that the Forest Service helo was on its way from Bridgeport with a rappel team. The hang-glider had crashed around the fourth switchback on the Horseshoe Meadow road.

All teams left the Hut at 1630. At 1800 we received word over the radio that the China Lake helo had made the pick-up and our services were no longer required. We returned to the hut at 1900.

**94-11 7/2/94 Alert
Mt Whitney Stogsdill**

Sgt. Garry Davis of the Kern County Sheriff's Office called me at 2450, Saturday morning, July 2, with a request from the California Office of Emergency Services (OES) stating that the Inyo County Sheriff's Office (ICSO) wanted the China Lake Mountain Rescue Group to go on alert for a probable rescue effort on Mount Whitney. My contact would be Mary Marsh, the dispatcher at the ICSO in Independence. We had an OES number, so we could roll whenever needed. I immediately contacted Mary Marsh for additional information. She said that a hiker passing through Outpost Camp on the Whitney trail had been asked to get medical and rescue personnel to assist in the evacuation of a female in her early twenties who had a seriously burned foot caused by spilling boiling water. Ms. Marsh was also requesting a helicopter through OES and believed one would be available around daylight. CLMRG was to be on alert in case circumstances prevented a helicopter evacuation. I called coordinator Mary Schmierer to do a full roster call out for the alert. She soon had nine members committed. I relayed this to the ICSO dispatcher. End of phase one.

The ICSO dispatcher called me at 0210 with orders to stand down. CLMRG would not be needed as the China Lake Navy helo would perform the rescue. Committed to the effort were: Stogsdill, Hinman, Mitchell, Hine, Finco, Roseman, Myers, Jain, Breitenstein, Wisecarver and Davis. Coordinator was Mary Schmierer with Betty Meng and Terry Mitchell assisting with the early morning phone calls.

**94-12 7/18/94 Alert
Duck Pass Finco**

We received a page from the Kern County Sheriff Deputy Marty Williamson at 0930 on Monday, 18 July. Mono County needed assistance in a search for a 55-year-old man last seen at 1000 on Sunday, when he was dropped off for a day hike in the Duck Pass area. The subject was an experienced hiker, but had gotten lost in the past. Mono County requested 8 to 10 searchers to assist. I contacted the Mono County Sheriff to let him know we would assist and left him our pager number.

Mary Schmierer coordinated the callout and told people to meet at the hut at 1030. At 0950, we received a page that the subject had been located. The following people committed to the search: Finco, Hueber, Rindt and Florian. Betty Meng helped with the telephoning.

94-13 7/27/94 Search
Sequoia-Kings Canyon Finco

Sgt. Garry Davis contacted CLMRG at 1145 on Wednesday, 27 July via our pager. OES was requesting trackers for a search in the Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Park. Richard Mohar, 47 years old, had been missing from his camp at Evelyn Lake since 1000 on Tuesday. I contacted the Park Service to find out where we needed to meet, and to determine what time they wanted us to arrive - explaining that we had at least a 5 hour drive to their area. They wanted us to arrive before dark, so we could get flown into the place last seen (PLS), and be ready to start searching the next morning. Sheila Rockwell coordinated the callout. I did not set a time, but just asked Sheila to get commitments. I wanted to try to get the China Lake SAR helicopter to fly us to the search area. I called Lt Paul Matheson and found that the China Lake helicopter was available, but that we needed to go through the proper procedures for requesting it. The procedure is for the Park Service to request the helicopter through OES. OES requests support through Langley AFB and Langley delivers the resource if available. At 1330, we got the call that the helicopter would transport us to the search area at about 1430. CLMRG and the SAR helicopter actually left China Lake at 1530 and arrived at the Ash Mountain helispot at 1630.

CLMRG was assigned to look around Evelyn Lake for possible tracks, spend the night and be ready for a search assignment the next morning. We were given hot meals and our first team was flown in on the China Lake SAR helicopter. CLMRG was fielded at 1800 and the subject was located at 1810. Mr. Mohar wandered into Hockett Meadow where dog teams were organizing for the night. The China Lake helo flew into the meadow, picked up Mr. Mohar and flew him back to the helispot.

Mr. Mohar explained that he got up Tuesday morning and walked over to the bathrooms located at Evelyn Lake. After leaving the bathroom, Mr. Mohar was disoriented, and he wandered off in the wrong direction. He yelled, but no one called back. Mr. Mohar said he never really knew where he was, but eventually made it back onto a trail into Hockett Meadow - approximately 3 miles southeast of Evelyn Lake. Mr. Mohar was a little upset that he was not allowed to hike back to Evelyn Lake from the meadow. However, we told him the Park Service would probably drive him back to his vehicle at the trailhead and his friends would carry out his gear. He still wanted to hike back to the lake since he did not get to spend any time there during this trip.

We left in the China Lake SAR helicopter at 1930 and arrived at China Lake at 2030. Members participating: Finco, Stogsdill, Sakai, Florian. Coordinator: S. Rockwell.

94-14 8/2/94 Search
Mt. San Jacinto Stogsdill

Sgt. Garry Davis called at 1520 with a request from OES that CLMRG help search for a 35-year-old male hiker lost in the Mt. San Jacinto area. Sgt. Scott Backel, our point of contact in the Riverside Sheriff's Office, revealed that the lost hiker had gone hiking with a companion on Saturday, 30 July, with a permit to camp in the Willow Creek area southeast of Mt. San Jacinto. I had Betty Meng start a full callout, asking people to be prepared for technical problems as the possibility existed that we would be asked to search the Tahquitz Canyon drainage. Before Betty could call me back, I got word from Riverside that the victim had been found. A follow-up mission revealed the story of the victim's wandering:

The intended route was from Humber Park to Willow Creek via Devils Slide Trail. This was to be a "Silent Trip"; therefore the two had very little communication with one another. Early Sunday morning, the hiker, Gordon Taylor from Glendale, CA, left camp to climb what he thought was Mt. San Jacinto. He was seen at noon on peak 9114 and from there probably went on to climb Marion Peak. From there he got lost going cross-country to where he thought his camp was, and spent Sunday night in the Willow Creek drainage. On Monday, he got to Carumba and fortunately met another hiker who directed him to Laws Camp, and away from Tahquitz Canyon. At Laws Camp he again started heading north in the

wrong direction up the Mt. San Jacinto trail. On the trail he met a tram worker around 1800 who turned him around and gave him directions back to Idyllwild. He spent Monday night above Saddle Junction and Tuesday morning, once again headed uphill in the wrong direction. Another hiker gave him directions and walked with him back to Saddle Junction where search teams finally intercepted him around 1400 and brought him back to Humber Park.

Committed to the search were: Stogsdill (OL), A. Mitchell, Hueber, Breitenstein and Castro. Betty Meng was the coordinator with Terry Mitchell assisting.

94-15 8/9-11/94 Search
Tower Peak Area Finco

On Tuesday, 9 August, Mono Count requested our assistance in a search for a 48year-old man, Gerald Dragoo. Mr. Dragoo left on a backpacking/fishing trip on Monday, 1 August and was due home on Sunday, 7 August. When Mr. Dragoo did not show up to work on Monday, he was reported overdue. Sheila Rockwell coordinated the callout. Mono County wanted CLMRG in base camp at 0600 on Wednesday. Florian, Ringrose, Lucas, and I arrived at the base camp in Bridgeport at 0040. The sheriff gave us a briefing on the subject and the search area, and then showed us to a room where we could sleep. The sheriff requested the team leaders be available at 0515 for a briefing and assignment. We got to bed around 0200.

At 0515 briefing, the following scenario was put together: Mr. Dragoo left the Bakersfield area around 1300 on Monday, 1 August. He was supposed to hike with a friend into the Dorothy Lake or Lake Ruth area (approximately 1/2 mile from Dorothy Lake). Mr. Dragoo wanted to leave a memorial or plaque on either Tower Peak or Forsyth Peak for his son. His son died a year ago in an accident. Mr. Dragoo told his secretary that if he was needed for an emergency, he could be found about 1/2 mile from Tower Peak, camped near Tower Lake. On Wednesday, Mr. Dragoo was supposed to meet with friends at Bigelow Lake. When he did not arrive at Bigelow Lake, the friends just assumed he had changed his mind about making the trip. According to his friends, if Mr. Dragoo did attempt to place a plaque on either peak, he would most likely take the path of least resistance since he was more of a fisherman, than a hiker.

Searchers had searched most of the trails leading into the Dorothy Lake and Lake Ruth areas. Tower Peak, Forsyth Peak, Tower Lake and the surrounding areas were also searched. Base wanted technical people to search the chutes around Tower Peak and Forsyth Peak. We had ropes and harnesses for moderate technical work. However, we did not have any hardware for anchors. I called Sheila to request additional technical people and searchers for Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

CLMRG would be the first team inserted into the field after the helicopter arrived and the pilot was briefed. Our assignment was to start at Dorothy Lake and search in the vicinity of the trail from Dorothy Lake to Upper Long Lake. The Blackhawk helicopter arrived around 0700. At 0800 a field team radioed to base that the subject's tent had been located at Dorothy Lake. The search assignments were changed with this new information. CLMRG, along with Fresno County Search and Rescue, two CARDA dog teams, and one WOOF dog team, would be flown into the landing zone at Dorothy Lake. The dog teams were to begin searching from the campsite. CLMRG and Fresno would back up the dog teams, depending on how the dogs reacted.

At Dorothy Lake we were to meet with Don Little of Mono County SAR (formerly June Lake Mountain Rescue). Don would organize the searchers at Dorothy Lake. When we arrived, Don had not made it to the lake yet. However, Bob Wilson (Dragoo's friend) was at the campsite. Bob and Mr. Dragoo had used this same campsite in the past, so Bob played a hunch and hiked to the area and found the camp on Tuesday evening. Based on some input from Bob, Bob MacCauley (WOOF) and I organized the dog teams and search teams. When Don arrived at the lake, we discussed what had been searched, what was being searched, and some other possibilities for areas to be searched. Don Little, along with other search teams that had been in the field Monday, and Tuesday, flew out on the helicopter around 0930.

While the search teams waited for the dog teams to search the area, we interviewed the subject's

cousin, Robin who arrived at the campsite. Based on information from him, CLMRG and Fresno County SAR began a grid search in the vicinity of the camp and on the north slopes above Dorothy Lake. Team 4 (WOOF dog team), searched in the vicinity of the camp to the west of Dorothy Lake, and the slopes north above the meadow.

Around 1300, we had finished our search, and two of the dog teams from the morning had finished their searches. The helicopter had flown in marines from the Mountain Warfare Training Center (near Bridgeport) to Dorothy Lake to try to establish communications with base camp (we had no communications with base up to this point). We began to put together a search plan for the afternoon. At 1415 we got a call from the third dog team that they had located the subject. Mr. Dragoo was found approximately 3/4 miles due south of Lake Helen near an unnamed lake. He had fallen and had a broken left ankle, cuts to the head, lower back pain, an injured right knee, and possible broken ribs on the right side. The Blackhawk helicopter flew to the area with medical gear and picked up Mr. Dragoo and the rescuers. The helicopter flew Mr. Dragoo to the Washoe hospital. All ground teams congregated at Dorothy Lake and were flown out of the field starting at 1815. Mono County treated us to dinner. CLMRG arrived at the hut at 0030 on Thursday.

It appears Mr. Dragoo was hiking to the ridge between Forsyth and Tower Peaks to either look at the peaks, or climb to one of the peaks to place his memorial to his son, when he fell. He dragged himself to the vicinity of the lake. He was wearing a t-shirt and shorts, but he did have a poncho to cover up with at night. He had a little food that lasted him through Monday. When Mr. Dragoo heard the bell on a search dog, he yelled for help. The searchers heard the yell, but could not locate Mr. Dragoo. The dog was sent in the general direction of the yell and was able to locate Mr. Dragoo.

Participating CLMRG members: Finco, Florian, Ringrose, Lucas. Coordinator: S. Rockwell. Telephoner: Fournier. Members committing for the weekend: Renta, D. Burge, Breitenstein, Stenger, Ganger, Lum, MacDonald

94-16 8/16/94 Alert
Inyokern Finco

Sgt. Garry Davis called at 2000 on Tuesday, 16 August requesting that we assist IWV Mine Search and Rescue in a search in Inyokern for a 3-year-old boy. During the telephone briefing, Sgt Davis's pager went off. He said he would call back in a few minutes. In about 15 minutes, the dispatcher called to say the boy had been found and our assistance was no longer required.

94-17 8/19/94 Recovery
Norman Clyde Roseman

As I contemplated a nap on the couch Friday evening around 1800, Sgt. Garry Davis called with the news of an 86-year-old woman with severe head injuries near the summit of Norman Clyde. B. Meng took the coordinator job. Shortly after I arrived at the hut, Betty had recruited T. Mitchell and A. Fournier and together they had already called the entire roster: Contact with the Inyo dispatcher revealed the subject to be only 68 years old. The advance party of Hine, Myers, Moneypenny and I left the hut at 1900. A. Mitchell was to pick up any others and follow. Mitch volunteered to do base camp since he was recovering from surgery.

On arrival at Big Pine at 2030, we learned from Pat Elliot, the Inyo operation leader, that the Forest Service helo had mechanical problems. After inserting one Inyo team member at Willow Lake, the helo had to abort an attempt to locate the subject and insert two more Inyo members. The China Lake helo was to fill in that evening, but due to impending darkness, would not arrive until 0500 the next morning. An Inyo team of four had started in on foot around 2000. The reporting party, James Murphy, provided us with some important information. The subject, Ursula Slager, was being given CPR when he started down at 1300 that day from the 13,000 ft level on the North Face of Norman Clyde. James pointed out the location on a map, which turned out to be very accurate. A decision was made to hike in that night with the oxygen system pack. Four of us left the Glacier Lodge trailhead at 2245 under a nearly full moon, with Mitch to support us in base camp upon his arrival.

camp equipment. The CH-47 would be assisting in the rescue. However Dep. Nixon had been unable to contact anyone to confirm their arrival time. Pat informed us that the subject was 38-year-old Brad Berdoy, from Seattle, Washington. Brad and three others were climbing the East Face Route. Near the Fresh Air Traverse, Brad got off route and in down climbing he fell and wrenched his knee on a sloping ledge. Brad was lowered to a ledge below the traverse. A friend, Lesa Duncan, stayed on the ledge with Brad while the other two left their extra gear and climbed down for help.

While we waited for the helicopter two members of the climbing party came into base camp. They confirmed that Brad appeared to have torn the ligaments in his knee (no fractures). Both stated that Brad is a strong climber and could probably be encouraged to climb if his knee was splinted. Our plan was to bring Brad to the top of a pinnacle above the ledge he was on and have the CH-47 pick him off from this point. If Brad could climb the 3rd class section with support and not need to be raised in a stretcher, this would save some valuable time.

At 0730, Dep. Nixon found out that the CH-47 would leave Stockton at 0915 and arrive at base at 1015. The CH-47 was trying to organize a Public Relations group to film and photograph the rescue operation. Dep. Nixon contacted the Forest Service helicopter in Independence to assist in the rescue. The Forest Service helo arrived at 0830 to begin shuttling people into East Face Lake. Hinman was flown in first at 0900, followed by Hueber, Huey and Rindt. Four other CLMRG members and three Inyo members were also transported to East Face Lake. Hinman and Hueber were to climb to the location of Brad and Lesa and determine their condition, and what would be required to get Brad up to the pinnacle. Huey and Rindt were to start fixing ropes along the route. The fixed ropes would be used to ferry over the stretcher and additional gear if required.

At 1254, Hinman got to Brad's location. Both Brad and Lesa were in good condition. They had plenty of food and water, and were not hypothermic from the previous night. Brad's knee was swollen, with slight discoloration. Brad could put a little weight on the leg, but he had no lateral stability. Circulation appeared normal, and there were no apparent fractures. Hinman and Hueber splinted the knee and began setting up a belay to get Brad and Lesa up to the ledge near the pinnacle. Hinman requested a total of six people to assist in getting them up to the ledge.

With a strong belay, Brad climbed the 3rd class rock to the ledge and was in position at 1500 to be picked up by the helicopter. (The CH-47 had arrived in base camp at 1100.) At 1530 the CH-47 arrived, hovered over the pinnacle and lowered a horse collar to pick up Brad. The horse collar was backed up by slings and carabiners to Brad's climbing harness. Hinman placed Brad in the horse collar, and rigged the slings to Brad's seat harness. Brad was raised through the trap door in the bottom of the CH-47.

The route was cleaned and everyone was back down to East Face Lake at 1830. The CH-47 landed at the lake, picked up everyone, and we were back in base by 1900. The Inyo County Sheriff treated us to dinner and CLMRG arrived back in Ridgecrest at 2230.

Two other friends of Brad (they climbed the East Buttress, so they knew nothing about the accident until they got down to East Face Lake), stayed and helped haul gear up to the notch at the First Tower Traverse. Ventura County Search and Rescue was hiking out from a weekend trip on Mt. Langley when they overheard the rescue operation on their radios. Ventura volunteered their assistance and stood by in base camp until the CH-47 picked up Brad.

CLMRG members: Finco, Hinman, Stogsdill, Huey, Hueber, Rindt, Davis, Schafhauser.
Coordinator: B. Meng. Telephoner: Schmierer
Comments:

The CH-47 is an invaluable resource for rescue operations on Mt. Whitney. The helicopter has the high altitude capability and the ability to do long line hauls and can carry a large number of people. Without the CH-47, the rescue would have gone on into the next day. We should get in the habit of taking our Nomax flight suits on all operations. Originally we were going to be flown in on the CH-47, but as it turned out we were transported by the Forest Service helo. The Forest Service requires Nomax clothing/flightsuits, leather or Nomax gloves, and leather boots.

94-21 10/3/94 Transit
Deep Springs Mitchell

On Saturday, 1 October at 1440, I received a request from Sgt. Marty Williamson to assist Inyo County in a search for Tim Myers, a 17-year-old male missing at Deep Springs College. He had been missing since Tuesday night, 27 September. Tim went looking for an alternate way to communicate and had taken a vow of silence. The weather was cold and Tim was reported not to have proper clothes with him. Indian Wells Valley search and Rescue were on their way and we would be joined by the Kern County Sheriff's Mounted Group in the morning.

We arrived at Deep Springs College shortly before 0800 on Sunday morning. Tim returned two minutes later. We interviewed him to find out what he did: At midnight on Tuesday, Tim started packing and left at one in the morning. His pack weighed 75 lbs. He had water, food and warm clothes. His objective was to get away and think. He had left a note saying he was not going to Las Vegas where his girlfriend lived. He would be back for his classes on Monday. If he wasn't back by then, come looking for him. He left a route description with two people.

We returned to the Hut at midnight on Monday. CLMRG members who responded: Schmierer, Renta, Kong, Schafhauser, T. Mitchell and A. Mitchell.

94-22 10/4-5/94 Rescue
Mt Whitney Green

A pager call came at 2015 on 4 October from Deputy Randy Nixon of the Inyo County Sheriff's Office. A 21-year-old female had fallen on the switchbacks below Trail Crest. I asked Terry Mitchell to be the coordinator and to put people on alert. A call back to Nixon updated the situation: reported injuries were: head lacerations, crushed pelvis and possible internal problems. There were 13 other people near the site, including an EMT and four First Responders.

(It turned out that this was a group of 16 from Western Illinois University - three had gone out for help. They were finishing a 21 day trip in the Sierra that had started at Bishop, with a planned finish of climbing Whitney and going out to Lone Pine.)

The exact location of the victim and the rest of the party was not clear. There was snow on the switchbacks and up to three foot drifts at Trail Camp. With this information, the decision was made to leave as soon as possible. Marty Williamson (Kern Co. SAR Sgt.) called with the OES number and we were clear to go.

We assembled at the hut at 2145. The first four arrivals were sent as an advance team (Finco, Myers, Dow and McCormick) at 2150. The rest of us (Green, Roseman, Burge, Breitenstein, Kong, Florian, MacDonald, Lum and Ringrose) left at 2215. We arrived at the Lone Pine base camp at 2330. Pat Elliot, Bob Wilson and Deputy Nixon had established base camp. Five members of the Inyo team were on the trail and our advance team had started in at 2335. D. Burge stayed with me in basecamp and the rest started up the trail at 0100 with a stretcher, wheel and oxygen.

The Forest Service contract helicopter (A-Star) was alerted for the morning. However, the weather was not promising. We began a long night of waiting in base camp while the field teams were struggling through severe winter conditions to reach the victim. All but one of the Inyo team turned back. Five of our people also turned back.

Communication with the field teams was very poor. Our directional antenna did not help and the only way we made contact the next morning was by driving down the highway and finding a location that worked. Contact with Roseman and his team of Breitenstein, Kong and Florian informed us that the victim was now at Trail Camp and that Myers, Dow and the Inyo team member were with her and that the rest of the stranded party was OK at this time. It was the conclusion of our advance team that the initiative and effort of this group of young people probably saved the life of the injured woman. They had improvised a stretcher and carried her down to the relatively sheltered area of Trail Camp. She would probably have died if forced to spend the night bivouacked on the switchbacks.

The A-Star arrived at 0810. The weather cleared a lot and at 0850 the victim was in the helo headed

for the hospital. With the main objective accomplished, the attention turned to evacuation of the rest of the party (13), the rescuers (7) and the equipment. A Chinook CH-47 had been requested from the Stockton Air National Guard, but the ETA was in doubt and while the snow and rain had stopped, the visibility was changing dramatically almost from minute to minute.

At 1100 the A-Star successfully picked up the equipment with a sling hoist. And, because the ETA for the CH-47 kept advancing, it was decided to evacuate three of the party of 13 who were hypothermic, with the A-Star. This was accomplished in two flights returning at 1210 and 1245. In the meantime, the CH-47 arrived at 1235. At 1340, the CH-47 picked up 13 people at Trail Camp (including three rescuers) and landed again at 1355 to pick up the final four rescuers. All of the stranded party and rescuers were back in base camp at 1410.

As usual the Forest Service helicopter and crew performed flawlessly. The performance of the CH-47 and its crew was superb. The capability of the CH-47 to land at over 12,000 ft and pick up 17 people with heavy packs saved many hours of work and potential injuries. Pilot John Clark and his crew deserve a hearty "well done".

Comments:

The arrival of backup personnel from Sierra Madre, West Valley, San Bernardino and Twin Peaks was appreciated and would have been needed if the weather had not cooperated. All of our field team learned first hand how severe the weather can be in the Sierra. It is not always a "gentle wilderness". Proper clothing and excellent physical condition are required in order to be an asset in a situation such as this.

Our base radio did not function well. Perhaps it is time to get a more powerful unit. Communication was critical and it was only after Sierra Madre arrived with their radio gear that we had reliable contact with the field teams. Sierra Madre has a 100 watt Motorola with a very sensitive front end.

We should remember that in Inyo Co. we can hit the Inyo repeaters (Channel 4 on the H-16s)

Roseman suggested that in heavy snow the Thompson stretcher may be a better choice than the Stokes with the wheel.

Donors

The CLMRG extends warm thanks to Henry A. Arnebold for his recent donation to the group.

* * *



1993 Annual Report

First Aid - Dianne Rindt

All CLMRG field team members are required to maintain certification in American Red Cross Standard (or Community) First Aid, or higher. Technical members are required to maintain ARC Advanced status, and to take a CLMRG-taught refresher course, stressing wilderness first aid, once a year. Other members choose this option to augment their skills. In 1993, 30 members took at least one of the two refresher modules, and 21 members maintained ARC Advanced First Aid certification. Additionally six members are certified as EMT-1A, with one of those also a NASAR-certified Wilderness EMT.

CLMRG member American Red Cross CPR instructors taught four CPR courses during 1993 and certified (or recertified) 30 CLMRG members in Professional CPR. Nine CLMRG members are certified by the Red Cross as CPR instructors. All active field team members are currently certified in CPR.

No major first aid equipment was purchased during 1993. Some additional cervical collars were purchased, and a second adult CPR manikin was upgraded. Various first aid supplies were purchased in bulk, on behalf of the members, in order to make it more convenient for them to obtain many of the supplies required for personal first aid kits.

[The other 1993 committee reports appeared in the last issue of the Talus Pile.]

SCREE

Since most readers of the Talus Pile contribute in some way to the work of CLMRG, the thanks expressed in these two letters is to you as well as to the active field team members.

Dear Sirs;

I would like to express my sincere thanks for all that your search and rescue team did in your efforts to help our climbing team in our time of need when an unfortunate accident occurred on August 19, 1994 on Norman Clyde Peak. Your team helped us through a very different and emotional experience that will never be forgotten. A simple thank you does not adequately convey my gratitude. Special thanks to Tom Roseman who climbed to our location and climbed out with us, to Mike Myers who met us on the ridge on the way down, and to all your dedicated members who participate behind the scenes. THANK YOU ALL.

Henry A. Arnebold [see operation 94-17]

* * *

To the rescue group involved with the Sept. 10/11 Mt. Whitney rescue:

I want to thank all of you who helped Lesa and I get off the mountain as quickly and safely as you did. Your team sure made a tough situation look easy. The professionalism that everyone showed was reassuring. The uncertainty that comes with an injury in an exposed location such as that was very scary. When Daryl and Werner showed up, Lesa and I knew we were in good hands. Thanks!!!! Getting the helicopter to pluck me off the side like it did was an event I'll never forget. Major butterflies for sure! But now I know what it feels like to be a bird - just to sail off a perch a thousand feet above the ground. It's better than an E ticket ride at Disneyland.

To update you on my injury: When I fell up there, I tore my anterior cruciate ligament and medial cartilage. I have surgery scheduled and the doc says to expect a full recovery in 6-7 months. He also told me that if I were to have attempted to get off that mountain after these injuries I could have permanently injured the knee. So I feel real lucky to have your group and the other resources available like they were. Thanks!!!

My short term plans have changed and my long term plans now include a partner. During that cold forced bivy, Lesa and I got engaged. She and I are really excited. Glad to have all of you play a part in the decision. Thanks again for everything your rescue group did for Lesa and me. Your team can be commended for their efforts. Search and rescue groups like yours are such a great asset to the climbing community. To put it in simple words... Thanks for being there. Brad Berdoy [see operation 94-20]



"Now we'll find the varmint for sure....
Red Cloud can read even the smallest trail signs."

